

FOCAL POINT #4 is a fanzine of news, views and reviews, edited and published by rich brown & Mike McInerney at the Piebald Palace, 268 E 4th St., Apt. 4c, NYC, NY, 10009. Published biweekly & available for news, trades, sometimes comments or 3/25¢. Our Overseas Agent is Peter Singleton, Ward 2, Whittingham hospital, Near Preston, Lancashire, England. Overseas subs are 10 for 7/- (or 10/- Air). Circulation: 230. March 6, 1965. EASTERCON IN '65, CLEVELAND IN '66 and NEW YORK IN '67!

FP NO LONGER SUPPORTS TERRY CARR FOR TAFF and for good reason, since the TAFF deadline is now past, the results are in; Terry won the race hands down. We received unofficial word of this on Monday, March 1st, 1965, when Wally Weber reported it to Terry Carr via a long distance phone call. HURRAH, HUZZAH & CONGRATULATIONS, for, about and to Terry; also, congratulations to Bill Donaho and Jock Root for having been fine and honorable candidates. The official tabulations, as they were received from Weber, are as follows:

	Terry Carr	Bill Donaho	Jock Root
American vote:	168	71	95
European vote:	39	18	19
TOTAL:	207	89	114

The Piebald Palace awaits with baited breath the fine convention report Terry is sure to write; the convention is still several months away, but we're waiting with expectant...er, ah... expectation anyway.

THE WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION will be held in Lovely Ol' London this year; fans attending will meet British and American fans and authors (including TAFF delegate Terry Carr)...and, who knows, they might even meet the editors of Focal Point (one of us, at least, will be there so we can continue to be the latest to bring you the latest in What's Haopening in our very own little Microcosm). If that last prospect doesn't frighten you and you're still planning to attend, you might be interested to know that a group flight to London is in the process of being organized. \$325.00 round trip, your money must be in by May 15, 1965; you must be a member of the convention on or before February 28, so please give your membership number and send a stamped, self-addressed envelope when you apply. There will be no cancellations. If interested, contact Judy Blish, 202 Riverside Drive, New York, New York.

OTHER CONVENTION NEWS: The 1965 MidWestCon will not, repeat, will not be held at the North Plaze Motel this year. Duncan McFarland reports that the motel is going out of business and various alternatives are under discussion by the Cincinnati Fantasy Group; there will definately be a MidWestCon this year. Keep an eye out for further developements. Duncan also has some Disclave news: there will be a program from 2-6 on Saturday, but there will not be a banquet as the motel demands prior notice on the number attending. :: IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE EASTERCON, PLEASE NOTE -- The Eastercon parties will not be held at the Hotel Edison; instead, they will be held in room 232 of LOEW'S MIDDTOWN MOTOR INN, between 48th & 49th on Eighth Avenue, a block and a half from the Hotel Edison. The Party rooms will be open from 6-12Midnight both days, and will be closed on Saturday afternoon so as not to interfere with the Lunacon, which is still being held at the Hotel Edison.

THE OTHER SIDE OF COVENTRY: "I'd like to take this opportunity to, if not set the record straight, at least present another viewpoint on the affair. To begin with, let's put the Coventry mess in perspective: Back in the Fan Hillton days, Coventry was a basis for actions and reactions on the part of a large number of LASFSians, that approached the disasterous "Blow-up" of 1948. Luckily, things were saved from going the full route and we didn't have another Blow-up. Several

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persons stopped attending LASFS because of it. :: The coventry thing died down, and was pretty well allowed to lie fallow. It had been the cause of a number of large, raw wounds to various persons' emotions, and everyone pretty well considered that it should be shoved into the background fast. :: So when SLA #70 appeared under Ted's editorship, containing a Coventry story, and promising more to follow, a number of spectres of '60 and '61 were reawakened. Those of us who had worked the hardest to build Shaggy into a going concern after the Solacon were shocked, hurt and mad, all at once; here at one blow was a re-awakening of a matter better left dead, along with the desecration of good ol' Shaggy in the process. :: And we reacted. I told Ted that I personally did not want to receive any more Shaggies containing Coventry stories (I couldn't have cancelled my sub; I never had one). Al Lewis got even madder. The whole thing became rather heated, with Ted and his partisans reacting to our reactions, and getting quite mad themselves. The 10 p.m. curfew at the Silverlake Playground luckily put a halt to things that evening. Those of us who were anti-Coventry left with the idea of doing something to insure that this reawakening of the Coventry hassel was nipped in the bud. :: Now, there was no concerted, co-ordinated effort to 'impeach,' or 'remove' Ted as editor of Shaggy. That was the tack Al Lewis chose to take, and he pretty well spoke for the anti-Coventry group at the next (1435th) meeting, being the most strongly affected of the group. The measure that he called for was stronger than those advocated by the rest of us, but since we had not talked to each other about the matter in the interim, we were hardly co-ordinated. Bjo and I did drive over to Cal Tech (on our way to a party in the valley) to talk to the people there. But this was to explain our side of the question, and why we felt the way we did, not to "tell them it was their duty to LASFS to censure Ted." As a matter of fact, it was one of the Cal Tech contingent, Fred Hollander, who suggested the moderate amendment to Al's motion which changed it from a motion for removal to one of "no more Coventry material in Shaggy." :: The thing is over; Ted is still editor of SLA, and there'll be no more Coventry stuff in the LASFS o-o (or any riders with it). A compromise. Perhaps both sides won, perhaps no one won; but what could have developed into a very divisive and explosive issue has been laid back to rest."

--John Trimble

FOR THE NEWEST IN NEWS the editors of FOCAL POINT heartily recommend RATATOSK, available at 3/25¢ from Bruce Pelz, Box 100, 308 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, California. (Bruce is a good newszine editor when he isn't out chartering planes with SAPS Treasury Funds so as to steal typewriters from promising young East Coast fans who might otherwise provide him with competition.) The most recent issue is #7 and it contains only two minor errors -- attributing Fecal Pint to yhos's (which was reported to him in good faith by John Boardman, who was mistaken) and the mention that the MidWestCon would be held at the North Plaza motel (which was probably true enough when Bruce published it). Oh, well, that's showbiz: usually, RAT (as we affectionately call it) is more reliable than we are. Try a few copies and see for yourself.

APA CORNER: The FAPA mailing reached the East Coast with 404 pages of high-quality stuff (though the recent postmailings of two Null-F's, a Lighthouse and a Jesus Bug add considerably to both pages and quality), including a Fantasy Rotator from Richard Eney, confirming the rumor we had heard that all members of FAPA had been made members of The Cult in response to Rick Sneary's proposed amendment to have all Cultists, past & present, banned from FAPA. A nice ploy, that. :: In the meantime, puzzlement and confusion continues unabated over the recent blackball and semi-reinstatement of the entire FAPA wl. The FAPA member of our Editorial Staff has protested Pavlat's decision (though it sounds much more reasonable in print than it did over the phone; for which rich brown would like to take this opportunity to apologize to Bob) and circulated a petition for a Special Rule to legally reinstate the wl. :: Richie Benyo reports that the April mlg. of APA 45 will be a big one; Richie has over 150 pages of material in it himself. Shade of the Old Days of SAPS!

The Wigglemizzle

RECKONER

focal point's
fanzine reviews
by Frank Willmczyk

AMRA Vol. 2 #31; Dec. 64 (aperiodically) 20 pp. (35¢) Dick Eney, 417 Ft. Hunt Rd., Alexandria, Virginia, 22307

AMRA is a fanzine I must blushingly admit I've never seen before--primarily because I'm apathetic towards Sword and Sorcery, and decided without checking that this fanzine was not for me. I think I was wrong, even tho editorially this is an atypical issue, consisting primarily of a rambling, fannish editorial. Most notable, however, are the Krenkle illustrations (in the artist's St. John vein, mostly, with some Kley and Brangwyn thrown in), which are numerous and are also better than most of what we get in the prozines. Also of interest is Bob Leman's amusing parody of Old Norse poetry, and L. Sprague deCamp digging up a minor parallel in Conan and Fu Manchu stories.

THE VERMILLION FLYCATCHER #3; Jan. 65 (quarterly) 42pp (20¢, Loc, Trade, Contribution); Ron Wilson, N. 3107 Normandie St., Spokane, Wash. 99205

This is that rara avis--a fanzine that's a distinct pleasure to see. That is, it's most pleasing to the eye. Besides neatly reproduced text materials, it features excellent illustrations (by Rotsler, Jeeves, Eddie Jones) and tasteful use of color mimeography. In appearance, it's a top-notch job. The text material is dominated by a 12-page letter column, somewhat limited in scope, but good. I imagine there'll be more expended discussion next issue, stemming from Bill Warren's article IMAGINATION AND S-F, a contribution (in the form of a psychology class research project) to the ever-continuing Why Is a Fan? colloquy, sort of working from the outside in. One thing that occurs to me is that the correlation between bright students and reading sf is simply that bright people generally read a lot, and tend to be more catholic in their tastes; so they wind up reading a little of everything -- including sf. Arjay Wilson contributes a competent, precis-like rundown on T.E. Lawrence. Unfortunately, it lacks a point of view, and isn't apt to turn anyone on, and omits mention of Lawrence's most fannish project: his translation of Homer. Which sort of suggests an angle that could be worked up: a comparison of Lawrence with his prototype, Sir Richard Burton, who was every bit as colorful a character as Lawrence. Also here are a pair of stories, one of which (by Jim Knotts) is so amateurish as to be embarrassingly out of place in this context. The editorial is a flip account of a swing through NYC which might have been overdone, but was not. In all, the content is not up to the format, but that's not a serious criticism: it's not very far behind.

DIFFERENTIAL #27, #28, #29; Oct. Nov. Dec. 64 (monthly, sort of)
2pp each issue (3¢, LoC, Trade) Paul Wyszowski, Box 3372, Sta.
C, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Dif is probably the most-difficult-to-classify fanzine going, and on a per-page basis probably covers more territory than most full-scale zines. Subjects range from poetry, to science, and even fandom (not too much, though). Paul also distributes Fancom, which you get with Dif, and a letterzine, TRANSMISSION. A packet containing any of these is always welcome here.

ENTROPY #1; Nov. 64 (quarterly) 25pp (25¢) Terry Carr, 41 Pierrepont St, Brooklyn, New York 11201

Fanthologizing is a precarious business, when you consider the paucity of worthwhile fanzines at any given time, and the casual approach to the written word which is inevitable in so ephemeral and limited an institution as fandom. Moreover, the reader (in my case, at least) tends to approach any anthology with a more critical eye than he would a current piece of writing. What's so special about this? he asks, even before he starts reading, and is ready to denounce anything that is less than immortal. Considering these drawbacks, I'll have to give Entropy an enthusiastic recommendation. The selections may not be immortal, but they are literate, amusing when meant to be, and in one essay (Dean Grennell's), poignant. There is material by Bob Tucker, Sam Youd, Dave English, Walt Liebcher, Jack Darrow and Mal Ashworth, spanning more than two decades, with a brief introductory note for each selection.

Incidentally, though this issue is dated Nov. 64, it's reviewed here because: 1) it was distributed with the Dec. 64 SAPS mailing, which makes it recent, sort of; and 2) because I believe projects such as this deserve as much support as they can get.

STARLING #4; no date (quarterly) 38pp (25¢, LoC, Trade, Contribution) Hank Luttrell, Rt. 13, 2936 Barrett Sta. Rd., Kirkwood, Mo. 63122

The lead-off story here is titled "Fiction," which seems indicative of something or other. It is followed by a brief paean to the Action Story by Clay Hamlin; a how-to article by Dwain Kaiser on Forming a Science-Fiction Society; book reviews by Roger Cox; and a rundown of several old SF magazines by the editor. The letter section comprises 19 pages -- and though I'm a devotee of fanzine letter columns, I found this a bit too much. Possibly some of the letters were cut down for publication, but it doesn't look that way. Some vigorous editing out of irrelevancies and banalities could have sliced this section at least by half, and improved it considerably. Clay Hamlin's comment, "I think Starling might turn out to be the next champ," is a pretty imaginative projection.

---Frank Wilimczyk, 1965

MOVIE NEWS: Terry Carr (The Very Same Terry Carr Who) confirms, "Oh, and about that Bradbury Fahrenheit '51 movie: It is being filmed, yes, and the producer and director should pass you. Producer is Walter Shenson, who did A HARD DAY'S NIGHT; director is Jacques Truffaut (sp?) who did SHOOT THE PIANO PLAYER, JULES ET JIM, THE 100 BLOWS, etc. It should be a first-class picture." We are passed. :: Alan Dodd reports, "Robert Bloch's THE SKULL OF THE MARQUIS DESADE is being filmed here at the moment, starring Peter Cushing, with director Freddie Francis of KISS OF THE VAMPIRE. Christopher Lee isn't in it as far as I know because he is making THE FACE OF FU MAN-CHU -- in Ireland, of all places!!! I suppose it will be a fiendish Chinese Irish Fu Manchu film. Lovecraft's The Color Out Of Space is being filmed at the same studio as the Bloch film, under the title THE HOUSE AT THE END OF THE WORLD. Later this summer, Lovecraft's The Dunwich Horror will be filmed here too. American International has moved all their horror making films to England now and are retaining their Hollywood studios for teenage musicals and comedies, etc."

PROS(E)VILLE: James Ashe (R.D. 1, Freeville, New York, 13066) is now the American Editor of BASRA (British Amateur Scientific (Research?) Association); interested people are encouraged to contact him, since he takes subscriptions, contributions, &c. Jim has also recently sold three articles to 73 Magazine. :: Larry Ivie, New York comics & sf-fringe fan, is writing bubblegum cards. Yes. So far, he has written a series on Daniel Boone (which he hated) and King Kong and three on Superman. Larry is also currently writing for the Marvel Comics Group (their Super Heroes series are the best comics going, overshadowing everything else in the field), some by-lined stuff for STRANGE TALES and some help he gave Wally Wood for DAREDEVIL. :: Joe Greene's THE LOAFERS OF REFUGE is out from Ballantine, with the dedication, "To Buz and Elinor, who helped so much." Joe was a co-editor of CONFUSION in '51-'52; he moved to Seattle a few years ago, so it's not hard to figure out that he was talking about Buz and Elinor Lipschultz, of Fabulous Seattle Fandom. :: While we're at it, we understand Ted White's THE MURDER MACHINE (no other title has been decided on--yet) will be out from Ace in July. Having now read the completed work, we recommend this book highly--it is good: it's well-plotted, fast-paced, and full of fanisms that don't interfere (but rather help) with the story at all. :: New SF books forthcoming from Ace in April: THE DARK WORLD by Henry Kuttner, 40¢; THE GALAXY PRIMES by E.E. Smith, 40¢; THE REPAIRMEN OF CYCLOPS and ENIGMA FROM TANTALUS (Double), both by John Brunner, 45¢; and the 10th in the BEST FROM P&S series, edited by Robert P. Mills, 45¢. Go out and support your favorite Hugo-winning science fiction book publisher; Do It Now.

THERE WILL BE MANY CHANGES beginning with this issue of Focal Point. As you can see, most of the issue has been multilithed; since we haven't done any of the multilithing at this sitting, we don't know if it will be any good or not. (The first two pages were multilithed on mimeo paper; the results are bad, so we have junked them and are now ready to Try Again on another type of paper.) If it is, future issues will continue to utilize the process, so long as it remains in our power to do so. With this issue, also, we begin cutting our mailing list. We are liberal enough, we think, that piddle who express an interest once in a while can continue to receive it. But with this issue, some 20-30 of you will be dropped for non-response to our first four issues; next issue will bring approximately the same number to the same brink. We Will Miss You. However, considering the extreme expense of mailing this mess out every other week, We Won't Miss You That Much -- especially if we cannot get so much as a postcard of response every couple of months or so. So... consider yourselves Warned. :: Thank for the several offers, but we already have all the riders we need.

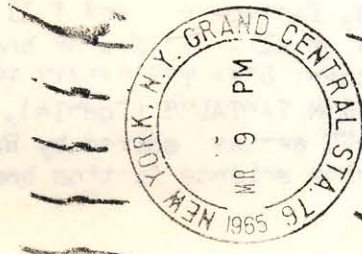
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This is your Last Issue Unless You Do Something.

According to our Astronomical Calculations, the last issue of Focal Point you will receive will be issue # 6. (A 'P' in that space means that, for some reason, you are on our Permanent List -- but we'd still like to hear from you once in a while.)

Our reason for sending this to you is:

X You are a Good Man. ___ You are a Good Woman. ___ You are Good Pipple. ___ We Trade.
___ We Trade? ___ You are a Subscriber and therefore a Good Man, Woman or Pipple, as the case may be. ___ You are Mentioned. ___ You are Reviewed. X You are part of an International Plot to Take Over Fandom, and we want to keep on your Good Side. ___ We have our own Reasons.



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