

FOCAL POINT # 6 a fanzine of news, views and re-views, is edited and published by rich brown & Mike McInerney (180 E 88th St, New York, New York). Published biweekly on the Pieblad Plonker Press, available for news, trades, comments or 3/25¢. Our Overseas Agent is Peter Singleton, Ward 2, Whittingham Hospital, Near Preston, Lancashire, England; subs thru him are 10 for 7/-. Circulation: 220. March 30, 1965. EASTERCON IN '65, CLEVELAND IN '66 and NEW YORK IN '67.

FLASH NEWS: Focal Point has just learned that at the end of April Ace Books will publish THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING by J. R. R. Tolkien. The books will be 450 pages long and will sell for 75¢. It will be published complete and unabridged including the small map of the shire, but not including the fold out and paper map. Jack Gaugan will do the cover and title page illustrations. If the sales of this first volume are good, the next two volumes will be published later. So everybody should buy 5 or 6 copies of THE FELLOWSHIP. (Thank to Steve Takacs and Terry Carr.)

DAVE KYLE REPORTS: "After Dave Kyle attended the ESFA meeting Sunday, March 7, plugging for the worldcon in Syracuse in 1966, he started back upstate Sunday night. BUT he didn't leave NYC that Sunday night because his white Cadillac was stolen. Monday he drove to Syracuse with Ruth and the two children in a rented car. And when he got to Syracuse that evening, he was informed the car had been found, 20 blocks away from its starting point in the 20th precinct. Fortunately, it had only a smashed vent window and missing clothes and tape recorder. The thieves, we note with interest, refused to take any of the Science Fiction books he had in the trunk."

Your diligent FOCAL POINT staff has been unable to confirm or deny the rumor that Bruce Pelz chartered a plane (with or without the aid of SAPS Treasury funds) to accomplish this deed; we will present fuller developments as they develop.

TERRY CARR TELLS US that he got a letter from Alex Panshin mentioning that Panshin has written a 75,000 word book on Robert Heinlein for Advent. But Robert Heinlein would not look at the manuscript. Heinlein reserved the right to sue if he did not like the finished product, and so Advent has cancelled the book. Advent had liked the chapters they had already seen, but they did not want to take a chance on being sued. So Alex is left with a completed manuscript and no publisher. FP hopes he finds a publisher soon.

FANZINE REVIEWS are printed in the March 1965 issue of NEW WORLDS SF, English sf magazine. It has been several years since prozines carried fanzine reviews and FP is glad to see them return. The reviewer is unidentified. This issue reviews BEYOND, DOUBT, NIEKAS, and ZENITH. Also in this issue is a short story by Arthur C. Clarke, film reviews by Alan Dadd, and an Atom ille.

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A CHECKLIST OF SCIENCE FICTION ANTHOLOGIES is available from Walt Cole (1171 East 8th St., Brooklyn, New York, 11230) at \$7.50 per copy postage-paid (or 25¢ more outside the U.S.). It lists over 200 anthologies published from 1927 through 1963, 2700 stories that appeared there, representing over 500 authors including their pseudonyms; the CHECKLIST is 390pp including an introduction by Theodore Sturgeon.

WE WERE A LITTLE CROGGLED when we heard that Harriet Kolchak intended to put out another Fancyyclopedia; but it turns out the whole thing was a misunderstanding. She does, indeed, intend to put out an "Encyclopedia of fandom," but it won't be another Fancy II. "Fancy II is a dictionary not an encyclopedia. I will not even follow the same format," she reports. This project is still in its formative stages, too; suggestions can reach her at 2330 N. Hancock St., Philadelphia, Pa, or write to Fred Lerner, who is her New York contact.

RATATOSK 9 (from Bruce Pelz, Box 100, 308 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, California; 3/25¢) contains all manner of news we've not printed in FOCAL POINT (though we're thinking of cribbing if he keeps it up). We are all in favor of having every one of our readers subscribe to RATATOSK; not only would it help in sifting Truth from our Outrageous Lies, it would also keep Bruce too busy (what with his other activities--acting as OE of both SAPS and FAPA, chartering planes, etc.) to defend himself from our Vicious Unwarranted Attacks.

NEWSCLIPPING A DAY mostly from John Boardman, whom we've about decided to nominate for Head of the FOCAL POINT Clipping Service, starts out with the March issue of The White American (of all places) in which the TV show "The Munsters" is panned because the evil Jews behind the show used it to force vile non-segregational propaganda on children. They ask, "Can anyone look at the face of Herman Munster and claim that all men are 'created equal'? Ugh!" That last, one-word sentence pretty well sums up our opinion of the paper. :: The New York World Telegram & Sun, 8 March '65, reviews the TV-program "Bewitched" and comes up with more substantial criticism; mainly, that Samantha is trying to become a mere mortal, when sorcery has it over humanity in just about every way. :: The New York Times, 14 March '65, reports that the American film, "Doctor Strangelove" was accorded a most singular honor; Zygmunt Kaluzynski, an imminent Polish critic, was allowed to write a praising review, even though the film itself may not be shown in Poland. :: NYT, 17 March '65, gives an interview with Boris Karloff, in which he separates Terror and Horror films. It also mentions his latest, "The House At The End Of The World." :: NYT, 26 March '65, mentions that reruns of "Twilight Zone" will replace "For The People" on CBS Sundays 9-10 P.M. :: Finally, two impressed reviews for Pierre Boulle's GARDEN OF THE MOON appeared in The New York World Telegram & Sun, 16 March '65, and The Wall Street Journal, 26 March '65. :: John also mentions that Ted Sturgeon's review column in the 9 March '65 issue of National Review includes a favorable mention of Walt Cole's checklist and that he (John Boardman, that is) will have a paper at the American

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Physical Society meeting in Washington (26-29 April) entitled "General Relativity in a Round World."

BEING ECONOMICALLY-MINDED, Joni Markwood (One Fonthill Park, Rochester, New York, 14618) is wondering if there is another girl (likewise economically-minded) who would be interested in sharing a double room at Lunacon/Eastercon. If so, write to the address above; she says if she gets multiple replies, she'll even see how many she can match up together.

COLLEGE LIFE a new magazine being distributed mostly to colleges, but also getting some news stand distribution will hit the stands in a week or two. The first issue contains an article by John Boardman from "Science Made Too Easy," and a story by Robert Rohrer called "Keep Them Happy," which originally appeared in the April 1965 F & SF. On the staff of the magazine is Jim Sanders. :: Jim also conducts an FM radio show of some interest to fans over WKCR FM. The show which is called "Gabfest" is on Friday nights from 12 mid to 2 PM and has featured several fans and pros including Ted White, John Boardman, Larry Jannifer, and almost Rich Brown.

FABULOUS FANNISH FAN TED WHITE finally has a title that ACE can use for the book he recently sold them. Android Avenger was the title finally decided upon; a heck of a lot better than the suggested Frankenstein Effect or (shudder) Frankenstein 2065 A.D. We have something rather unfortunate to report about Ted's book, too; all the fannisms are being taken out. While it's as good a book without them as with them, this move removes Ted's book from the category of books that might be of extra-special interest to active fans. We are saddened at this unfortunate turn. :: Also coming from ACE soon are the following (recommended) titles: Rogue Queen by L. Sprague de Camp, What Strange Stars And Skies by Avram Davidson, and Gahan Wilson's Bedside Manner a collection of cartoons. :: Bob Silverberg has recently sold an sf juvenile to Holt Rinehart & Winston called Conquerors From The Darkness. Bob has two novelets coming up in GALAXY titled Blue Fire and The Warriors Of Light. He's working now on a third one to be a sequel to the first two. Bob says that Mrs. Judy Lawrence Blish has drawn the maps for his upcoming non-fiction Chilton book, The Great Wall Of China.

COAs:

Tom Armistead, Shimer College, Mt. Carrol, Ill., 61053  
Phil Castora, c/o Ted Johnstone, 619 S. Hobart, Los Angeles, California (Temporary)  
Ron Haydock, 1248 1/2 North Cherokee, Hollywood 38, California  
Mike McInerney, 326 E. 13th, Apt. 7, New York, New York  
Leland Sapiro, Box 82, University Station, Saskatoon, Sask, Canada  
Walt & Madeline Willis, 27 Clonlee Drive, Belfast, North Ireland

Fans move around too much; fans Drive Us Crazy.

the wigglamiggle-heckoner....

.....  
.....Frank Wilimezyk

(fanzine reviews)

SHANGRI-L'AFFAIRES #70; Jan.-Feb 65 (quarterly) 28 pp (25¢. con-  
tribs, grades, LoC) Ted Johnstone, 619 Hobart Blvd., Los Ang-  
eles, California 90005

This is the controversial issue of Shaggy. Ted Johnstone, in  
reviving a long-respected club organ, aroused the ire of the  
LASFS membership by including in it a Coventry story by Jack  
Harness. As readers of Focal Point already know, the controversy  
has been resolved, and perhaps we can hope for a more chatty,  
lighter Shaggy following in the tradition established in past  
years. Club politics and tradition aside, I have yet to read a  
Coventry story (including this one) that didn't turn me off  
completely. Jack Harness is a superior fanartist (as evidenced  
in this issue of Shaggy), as well as a good informal writer, but  
like most Coventranians, when he turns to fiction, he is virtu-  
ally unreadable. Here you can find constructions like "the warm  
sun ... made thick the air with vapor", and "Although, confess  
Myself must, in him the silver it is that is allowed to burn  
but an hour a day ", and suchlike; and the two initial chapters  
of the story get exactly nowhere. # Alexei Panshin, in an art-  
icle, questions the raison d'etre of series and sequels in sf,  
but tries to cover too large a subject in too small a space. With-  
out listing the pros along with the cons, he concludes "most of  
the time series and expansions, sequels and fake novels are dead  
ends." Nevertheless, it's an article that ought to generate  
some discussion in the letter column. # Ross Rocklyne contrib-  
utes an article about a series, in A LETTER ABOUT BUDROUGHS. #  
Ruth Berman and Harry E. Stine add to the Farnam's Freehold  
literature. Ruth has a straight review, and Stine a rebuttal  
from what I take to be an Objectivist orientation. Ruth's review  
is perhaps not as well stated as it might have been, but I tend  
to agree more with her attitudes. # There is also a too-brief  
review of Pangborn's DAVY by Stephen Barr, and an interest-in-  
spiring one of David Ely's SECONDS, by Jock Root. # Finally  
there is a two line letter section, which I suspect will be ex-  
panded to three or four lines next issue. # Ted Johnstone is  
capable of better than this, and I have little doubt that next  
time around he'll produce a Shaggy that's more in line with what  
we're used to.

QUARK (#9?); Jan 65 (irregular) 22 pp (25¢, trade and ((qualified)  
LoC); Tom Perry, 4018 Laurel Ave., Omaha, Nebraska 68111

Tom Perry is one of the few fans with a decent respect for the  
written word; at the same time, he has a whimsical, irreverent  
sense of humor. As a result, Quark, a personalized fanzine, is  
at the same time serious and tongue-in-cheek. Aside from the  
editorial stuff and an excellent letter column, Tom has a Willis  
column logging a week in the mundane/fannish life of Walt Willis,  
with some nice insights; a biting reductio ad absurdum by Norm  
Clarke titled Why Is Ann Drayn?; and finally a column by Joe Piloti.  
#Generally, a simple listing of contents would imply a negative,  
but in this case, it just ain't so: Quark evokes not a review but  
a LoC.

TRUMPET #1; (irregularly-quarterly) 38 pp (50¢, trade, contrib, LoC) Tom Reamy, 6010 Fidor, Dallas, Texas 75214

At first glance, Trumpet doesn't look like a fanzine. For one thing, it's too professional a production job (offset printing on coated stock, and all the trimmings). For another, the cover looks like one of those weird magazines that 42nd St. newsstands are practically weather-proofed in. Once you get past the cover, though (and it is well-done, even though inappropriate), you find that this is, after all, a genuine fanzine, with fan-ish editorial matter; an article by Marion Zimmer Bradley; Christmas cards by the late Hannes Bok; and material by others whose names are unfamiliar to me. Gilbert Shelton's FUNNIES, 4 pages of surrealistic comic strips, are vaguely disturbing, but at the same time oddly amusing series of non sequiturs. # Of the three pieces of fiction, I liked Portis' THE ALTRUIST best, even though it is not SF or fantasy -- it is a straight war story. For some reason I had decided beforehand that this was mundane fiction, so I didn't have a sense of frustration that I might have had otherwise. It's a decent piece of writing, though its significance is ambiguous. That is, I can see two alternative interpretations, and though I feel I know which one the author intended, I'm not quite positive. # There are some horror movie reviews, illustrated with stills from the pictures; and professional quality drawings by Reamy, and an EC-type back cover by John Schoenherr. # It occurs to me that there must be a law of diminishing returns when it comes to fanzines. I mean, up to a certain point, the quality of a fmz' format enhances its content. Beyond that point, it tends to invite comparison with professional publications, much to its detriment. Trumpet is, I'd say, just this side of that indeterminate point -- though maybe not 50¢ worth.

-- Frank Wilimczyk --

GREYHOUND PAYS UP FINALLY! Fandom's travelling Giant from North Ireland, Walt Willis, has received from the Eastern Greyhound Lines of Cleveland Ohio payment of \$225.00. This sum, which according to the bus line "represents the maximum liability on any single piece of baggage transported by the company.", is a cash settlement for the loss of the Willis' suitcase during his trip to the Chicon in 1962.

WE ARE LATE but that's hardly news. What with both of us moving out of the Piebald Palace, it shouldn't really be too surprising. Next issue, maybe we'll get back on schedule. Or, as we say, maybe not. Either address listed for FP (the one at the beginning or the one at the end) is valid, but even though we've mentioned it we expect to get confused letters anyway -- not necessarily about the two addresses. We are also thinking pretty hard about Cutting Down On Our Mailing List. We'll let you know what we've decided in a few issues or so...if you're still with us.

FOCAL POINT: FOUR

BARBARA AND THE BOHEMIANS is the name of a new Rock & Roll group being formed in New York. The group consists of Barbara Main guitar and vocal, Ted White on saxophone, Mike McInerney on harmonica & clarinet, rich brown on organ, and Kenny Gerber on drums. Larry McCombs has written a half dozen songs for B & TB, so Look Out Beatles!! :: One sad thing happened during our first rehearsal with the Bohemians, while we were at Ted's place practicing ~~by~~ robbers were at work removing Andy Main's stereo turntable & amplifier, typewriter and radio. The typer was the only one of its kind in the world since it had been made with special letters and characters. This typer could type in 6 languages and should be recovered if anyone ever tries to pawn it. The loss was in excess of \$3000.00.

NEWSGABBLE: On Friday, April 9th, the Evening Session Science Fiction Society of CCNY will show the film classic "1984." A fifty cent charge will be made to non-members (thus giving them associate membership status) at the film; room 217, Finley, at 8:00 P.M. :: Avram Davidson offers us a not-quite-news-yet item: The Davidsons may be moving to San Francisco, only not to the same address. Also a Disclaimer (which we here-with quoth): "I Avram Davidson disclaim any responsibility for the Atrocity appearing on TV's A. Hitchcock show as 'Thou Still Unravished Bride' based on a story by Avram Davidson. 'Based' is perhaps not the precise word. Or verb. But we don't want to get FP banned from the UC campus." He also offers to trade us an old sock for FP, since he isn't publishing anything these days. And here we were hoping for a mint, autographed, leather-bound, rag-content paper edition, hand-set in eight point goudy type for ten numbered copies, of "Or All The Sea With Oysters." \*Sigh\* :: Papa Bob Tucker reports: "Terry Carr has fired me with ambition. I, too, have started reprinting the glories of Fandom Past, and am preparing a fanzine devoted to the 1940 Chicon. (There is not truth to the rumor that I'm going to reprint all 30 issues of Spaceways.)"

CONS HERE & THERE: The MidwestCon this year will be located at the Holiday Inn - North, 2235 Sharon Rd., Cincy 45241. The motel is alongside Interstate 75, two miles south of Bypass Interstate 275. Turn off on the Sharon Road exit. (This address is several miles north of the old North Plaza motel & midtown Cincy.) Dates are June 25-27. :: DisClave -- May 7-8, Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, Viers Mill Rd & University Blvd, Wheaton, Md. Write Banks Mebane, 6901 Strathmore St., Chevy Chase, Md., 20015 for more info. :: Eastercon & Lunacon you shd already know about; shame on you if you don't.

You receive this because  You are a BNF. Your last issue is # P

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