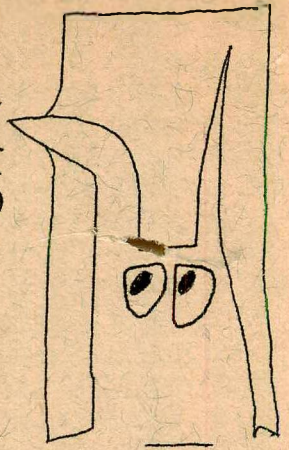


And last.

The thing that most amazed me about the mail I've received since the ninth Bane is that most people are more maudlin about the magazine's passing than I ever could be. I briefly considered printing some of the compliments and condolences, but passed it off as a hokey idea; and it logically followed that if I wouldn't let others do my reminiscing, I couldn't very well myself. So there's none.

BA NE  
9.5



I wish, for the contributors' sake, that the response had been heavier; but, under the circumstances, it was gratifying enough, and I want to thank those who did bother to write. The letters, I think, are fairly representative, and do a reasonable job of wrapping up loose ends. At least three of the loosest ends -- the Coulson and Tucker columns and my own "Homily" -- have been tied up elsewhere: specifically, in Paul Williams' Within

- - - - - Vic Ryan

Dear mr. Ryan-

I am 9 years old and in the 4rth grade. I know who you are because one time in the summer when I was at my grandmothers house in Springfield we came over to your house and chased lightning bugs in your front yard. Now you know who I am to. I have met lots of fans and know all about fans because fans come to visit my Dad and drink his ber. I am not going to be a fan when I get big because I don't like ber.

A fan named mr. Hickman used to come and see us all the time but now he don8t come here anymore. One night my Dad came home from work real late and mr. Hickman was sitting at the kitchen table drinking ber with my Mom and they was saying funny things. My Dad said Hello how long have you been here? and mr. Hickman said Oh, I got here a little while ago. But that was a fib because he had come in right after breakfast and staid all day and I told my Dad. Golly but my Dad got mad then. He went right out in the drive way and pounded four nails in mr. Hickman's tires and now he dont come anymore.

Well I was going to tell you about reading your fanmag bane, the one with the picture of Rock man on it. I read it first because I saw my Dads name in it and then I read the story mr. Boggs printed called a Fanzine Fable for Six years olds, only I am 9 yyears old but I read it to. It was a real keen story and I tried to do what he said. I went outside and flied my kite beside the burch tree and pretty soon it got stuck up at the top of the tree, so I went and told my Dad and told him to get a lader. I said get my kite down out of the tree please. But what happened next wasnt like in the story mr. Boggs wrote.

My Dad said if I wanted my nasty word kite I would have to nasty word up the tree and get it myself, and he went right on daly-ing with my Mom. We don't have any maids. Their is a pretty woman across the street named Besy but my Mom dont let her come over here anymore. Well, I wanted to do like mr. Boggs said and get 20 million dollars for fandom but I didn't know what to do.



And then it happened in a funny way. If you ever come to our house you'll see a big cave out in our back yard, you know like Dorothy had in the Wizard of Oz that she didn't get into. It's for cyclones and storms and we hide in it, only my Dad calls it a bomb shelter and he says we'll have to use it any day when the Russians crack the zip code. Well my Dad goes down into the cyclone cave almost every day to count his bottles of cough syrup he's got there and makes a test to see if any of them have spoiled. My Dad says all the fans drink cough syrup only big fans drink more than little fans but everybody does at the conventions.

Once I asked my Dad what he did at conventions and he said he got up on a platform and made a speech and then everybody clapped real loud. He said if they didn't clap loud he would poke his middle finger up in the air.

Well I was telling you about what happened to my Dad. This morning before I went to school he was down in the cave testing his bottles and I snook up and shut the door hard and then locked it. Then I ran around to the back real quick where an air pipe sticks up out of the ground, and stuffed a rag in the pipe. Then I went to school. When I came home about supper time there was a truck in the drive way and some men were carrying my Dad out of the cave. His face was all blue and his hands were so stiff they couldn't get the bottle out. My Mom looked at him and said Well, there goes 2 cents, so I guess we don't have 20 million dollars for Mr. Boggs at all. Tell him I am sorry. I liked his story real good.

Your s truly

David Tucker  
9 years old.

-----  
Harry Warner, jr.  
-----

It is a novel and unhappy new custom, that of writing letters of comment on the final issues of fine publications. It isn't easy to remember many cases in the past years where a fanzine's final issue was publicized as such in advance and maintained or surpassed in that predicted issue its regular quality.

I'm glad to see that you've recanted a trifle on the Neofund. The obvious flaws with the project can hardly be averted, no matter how legal the language in which its rules are drawn. But I can't help feeling that this is another example of the inner core of fandom resenting a proposed innovation simply because it wasn't introduced by a real big name. Suppose that Harriett had proposed to raise \$1,000 to bring the Willises to the United States to attend the Chicon and had asked all fandom's help in the name of E. Everett Evans. I can imagine myself objecting on the grounds that the proposals would get more backing if top-rank fans were used as fronts for their introduction, but I can't see that they should be decided because of sponsors of modest fannish achievements. ( I suspect the "modest fannish achievements" and the innate puerility of the Neofund have a common cause. )

It's been a long time since I've seen a lengthy fanzine article on literature with which I'm not familiar -- Vardis Fisher's -- that provided me with so much fully comprehensible information. Andrew Offutt explains enough matters to remove the mystification that normally occurs when you read about novels you haven't read. My acquaintance with the Fisher novels is limited to about half of the Vridar series and The Golden Rooms. I lost interest in the Vridar tales for a trivial reason. It happened when the hero did some petty shoplifting and got so convulsed with fear and emotional upheaval over what he'd done. It struck me as awful overwriting of an episode that was trivial in comparison with some of the genuine perils and crises



that Vridar had undergone earlier in his life.

"The Southern press purposely refrains from mentioning Negro civil rights activities so as not to stimulate other Negroes into acting to achieve the freedoms..." Well, Hagerstown is below the Mason-Dixon line, it has two newspapers, and one reporter from each was thrown out of a NAACP meeting here a few days back. I was in charge that night, the editor being out of town, had to choose between writing a story telling of the ejection of getting facts about the meeting from another source, and chose the latter recourse. I imagine that the rather brief news story which appeared about the meeting has caused some more people to believe that the Southern press is deliberately giving poor coverage to the local NAACP chapter.

- - - - -  
Jerry Pournelle

- - - - - Having read the comments on my piece on censorship, I have decided that I never should have written it. Although my contribution wasn't the best thing ever to have appeared on the subject, I thought that it did raise a few significant questions, and that there might be one or two "liberal" fans who would reply to a theoretical argument on the level on which it was written.

This did not occur. I have been attacked as a totalitarian; called various names; accused of being intellectually dishonest because I raised a question, in passing, that important scholars have been debating for thousands of years without settling it; misquoted; and subjected to an "analysis" which did not even touch on the problems raised. Nowhere did anyone have anything to say about the issues.

I strongly like being lectured to as if I were an undergraduate. I particularly dislike it from people who are not themselves qualified to lecture to undergraduates. I would like to do my opponents the honor of treating them as participants in a debate. However, if they must act as if they held a commission to pronounce on what is intellectually dishonest, unfair, etc., without treating the issues raised in the article, then I must ask from whom they hold that commission, and by what right have they become the arbiters of what is to be admitted to the class of intellectual honesty. I can, if forced, produce a credential or so myself on that score; although I cannot claim any authority over the readers of Bane. It would seem that there are those who do.

I must protest again that my piece on censorship was intended merely to raise some questions. First, I asked what is the justification for government at all? If it is based on God's Law, or dynastic legitimacy, then I again state that it is per se a government of limited powers. Mr. Breen seems blissfully unaware of the fact that totalitarian governments, like democratic ones, base their right to rule on the General Will, Will of All, or some other democratic principle. Franco's Spain and some of the other little autocracies have their own theories; but basically, the right to rule boils down either to the "Will of the People" or some moral or ethical absolute. If an absolute is involved, there are LIMITS to power, because the basis of power cannot be transgressed -- in theory. And it was political theory that I was talking about.

In the case of governments based on "will of the people," there is a second problem: how do you justify refusing people what they want? This strikes me as a rather important question, although hardly original.

My next point was that this problem is difficult if not impossible to solve on a theoretical level. Therefore, a compromise on the practical level may be inviting. Briefly looking at how people



live, I tentatively concluded that local option on such questions as were suitable for local option -- in particular censorship -- offered advantages, among them being that many people lived in "freedom"; defining freedom as the state which exists when you can do about as you like, whether the law requires you to do it or otherwise. A man is free under a theocratic rule if he is a believer... he obeys the laws and likes it.

From that, I went on to say that perhaps even on the theoretical level there is a case for censorship. AND I EXPLICITLY STATED THAT THERE COULD BE NO ANSWER VALID for all times and places UNLESS one accepted the tenets of natural law.

And I was damned careful in the section on theoretical justification of censorship to say that this was opinion only, an emotional argument; that I thought the issue an emotional issue.

So what happens? No one really comments on the problem of curbing the General Will. I am not surprised.

The argument for expediency was glossed over, or treated as if it were an argument from theory. Mr. Speer acts as if my treatment of political activity in a small city were a theoretical consideration; I assure him that it was based on "practical considerations and on a (humble attempt at) knowledge of what experience has shown!" The experience is both personal and derived from about seven years in graduate school in social psychology.

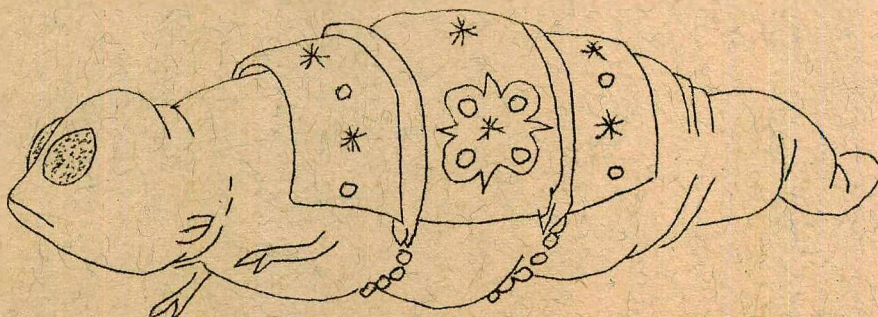
Vic, I am through. It is not possible to be rational in fandom. I don't ask that anyone agree with me (and I guess no one did.) I don't ask that anyone like me. I don't ask for intellectual adulation, as at least one of my detractors seems to do. I do ask that serious issues be treated seriously, and that a modicum of civility be retained in debate. This is not to be found in fandom. I also ask that fans stop acting as if a proof that a person is not "liberal" is tantamount to a proof that he speaks nothing but nonsense.

-- -- -- -- --  
Len Moffatt

-- -- -- -- --  
I Got Those Ryan Has Gone and Folded Bane Blues  
I Got Those Ryan Has Gone and Folded Bane Blues  
His Reasons Are Quite Sane  
But We Gonna Miss Ol' Bane  
So I Got Those Ryan Has Gone and Folded Bane Blues.

Buck, Burroughs did leave an "explanation" (intentional or otherwise) of why Tarzan has lived for so many years, through so many adventures, without showing his age -- which would be 70 some years now. In one of the "lost city" stories, Lord Greystoke and friends wind up with a number of "immortality pills" in their possession...

It's always fun to time-travel with Tucker.





- - - - -  
Jerry DeMuth

- - - - - Vic, you inexcusably changed the ending to my article on Viridiana. It should read: "Robinson Crusoe ends with Crusoe leaving the mutineers behind in the stockade on his island. They have his buildings, he points out, and his tools, and his farms and animals and grains -- all the things he did not have to begin with. But, most important, they have each other." You changed "they," meaning the mutineers, to "Crusoe and Friday." (Apologies)

The three amendments Wells refers to were, at first, ignored. No one who knew of them -- and this included the state Bars -- thought they would be passed. But suddenly state legislatures started passing them and now the state Bars are making statements against them. It's like the John Birch society, which no one thought could be successful, but which is still gaining strength and which virtually controls the Wyoming state legislature. In a way, I used not to care if the conservatives did take over. Middle-of-the-road-do-nothingism is getting us nowhere. "Liberals" in Congress are incapable of really being liberal. Senator Young opposed the March on Washington. Senator Humphrey opposes the sale of wheat to Cuba. Senator Douglas is a powerful figure in the Formosa lobby and once even signed his name to a piece of propaganda turned out by one of Chiang Kai-Chek's Madison Avenue agents. And so on. So, I used to figure, let the conservatives make a mess of this country. Then maybe people would turn to true, uncompromising liberalism. But now I doubt if that would happen. In danger, Americans would not turn to the needed liberal reforms as was done in the US in the '30's. They would do as was done in Germany at that time -- turn to Fascism.

Sid Birchb, makes the usual mistake of reading only the screaming headlines at times of crisis. Thus, at the time of the so-called Chinese invasion of India he missed the reports which told of Indian troop movements into Chinese territory. This resulted in defensive attacks by the Chinese which became offensive when the Indians began to retreat. (See the New York Times.) Re: Cuba, there was not one shred of evidence that the missiles in Cuba had nuclear warheads, yet that is what all the conservatives were yelling about.

National vs. community censorship: censorship in this country is usually of the community nature...and look at all the damage that a bunch of crazy nuts do! Community censorship is much more powerful and destructive than national. With community censorship not even an "underground" publisher has much of a chance. However, national censorship -- under "anti-Communist" laws -- is gaining strength and power in this country; e.g., I don't know why I have to be registered just to receive a film magazine from a so-called Communist country.

- - - - -  
Al Kracalik

- - - - - I think Vernon McCain's remarks should have been a little more qualified. What he couldn't seem to understand is that young people, as a rule, are ambitious -- far more ambitious than capable in some cases, perhaps. Because we're younger, most of us have a greater range of vision when it comes to activity of any sort, and we tend to picture life as a limitless whirl of accomplishment. So maybe we're impulsive and lose interest in some things faster than others, but, in the long run, I think we manage to retain the more essential facets of life and creativity. Many of the younger fans, I know, have their eyes set on professional writing of one sort or another. We're not easy to satisfy, and fandom can't possibly satisfy all of our creative urges.



Maybe we're dreamers, but we like to think of fandom as a stepping-stone to prodom in some fantasy-oriented field or as a side or supplementary activity that parallels some professional interest. We can't see fandom as a "way of life." And while I'm not trying to cut up fandom here -- perish the thought -- I don't think many of us see it as a "goddamned hobby" either. As for me, it's hard to explain just how I see it -- but I think it's an integral part of my life's activity as a whole.

As for leaving fandom after a sudden flurry of activity -- I don't think many of us will ever be able to leave it completely. Fandom is one of those unique situations from which it is nearly impossible to divorce oneself entirely. It's really too early to tell exactly how we teenagers are going to conduct ourselves fan-nishly in the future. Let's not forget that fandom itself is still a young institution, its life-span not yet having reached the expectancy of the Average Man -- fandom itself is still in a state of impulsiveness, it seems to me, and doesn't show any sign of settling down to a pattern for any length of time in the near future.

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Buck Coulson

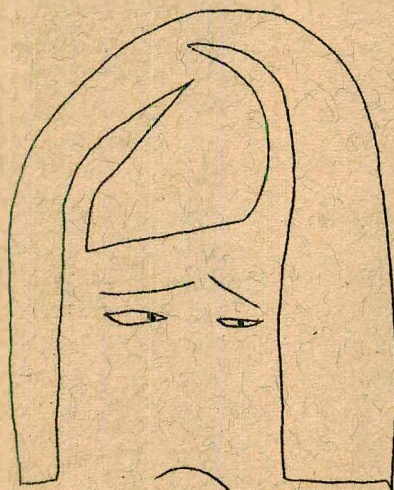
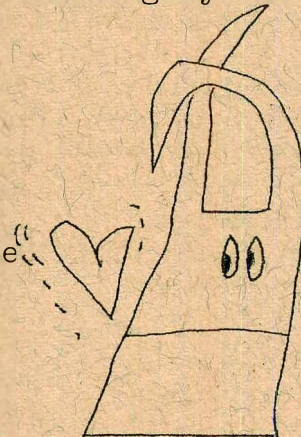
----- As a Vardis Fisher enthusiast, I thoroughly enjoyed Offutt's article. (I might mention that my enthusiasm is restricted to Fisher's writing; after reading the Pyramid edition of Orphans in Gethsemane I lost whatever desire I might have had to know Fisher as a person. Among other things, I dislike a person who complains for chapters about the horrors of his childhood and then deliberately condemns his own children to exactly the same thing because he doesn't have enough of a sense of responsibility to do better by them.) Incidentally, while Fisher's chronicles of human actions and thoughts are impeccably scholarly, I found half a dozen places in Darkness and the Deep in which the paleontological background is a long way from accurate, according to our best researchers. (This is a strictly minor drawback in a novel about people, but I think it explains some of the early criticism of the early Testament books as "guesses.")

One addendum to the appendix: Pemmican has also been published as a Cardinal paperback, #C-253 (1957). It's even seen a reprinting by Cardinal (1958). Also, Offutt intimates that all the hardcovers are from Swallow; my copy of Love and Death was published by Doubleday, and I got it for \$1 or so from their Book Club.

Harriett...if your statement { about being unaffected by drugs } is true, I'm sure the American Medical Association would be interested in you.

-----  
Mike Deckinger

----- Once again I'm forced to agree with most of Coulson's opinions. Dell has given us A Fall of Moondust in the novel category, which proves they don't rely upon Judy Merrill's putrid anthology as a base for their stf output. Belmont, of late, seems to have acquired the reprintrights to Bob Lowndes' defunct magazines, and has issued three or four collections under such absurdly misleading





titles as Prize Science Fiction, Rare Science Fiction (as rare as 5 years old), and Novelettes of Science Fiction (which includes a five-page novelette.) These collections are undoubtedly aimed at the newer sf fan who is unaware of what he's buying. The label of "misrepresentation" is a little strong to apply here, but there is a definite attempt to con the ignorant buyer into accepting something which isn't quite what the title says.

I also agree with his remarks concerning Burroughs. No matter what the packaging a Burroughs story still seems to crawl along entirely on a comic book level with no indications of having been written for an audience that could conceivably be above this age bracket. In spots ERB can be just as clumsy a practitioner as R.M. Williams or C.E. Maine, which is a distinction not many can claim.

- - - - -  
Norm Metcalf

- - - - - I don't know in what sense of candor you intend to categorize Laney. Impartial he was not. Outspoken he was. As for his honesty, I'll leave that to others who knew the events whereof he wrote. I'm entertained by Laney's writings, quite a bit more entertained than I am by the writings of some of those who profess their adulation and emulation of Laney. A point often overlooked by his would-be imitators is that Laney usually had a point to make. That he was caustic in making this point was secondary. There are too many fans -- one is too many, for that matter -- who feel that denigration is sufficient to put them among the followers of Laney, that by denigrating anyone different from themselves they are helping to preserve fandom from "serconnishness." I wish they'd read carefully what Laney had to say. He was one of the most "sercon" of all fans. "If we ran the misfits out of fandom, we might end up with a hobby we could claim proudly as our own." That was Laney speaking on page 129 of Ah! Sweet Idiocy!

Bane is no more. It's a good thing, too. Come next full moon I won't be impeded by locating my Bane file.

...And Shorter Quotes

Andy Offutt: I think we have every reason to be pretty damned proud of ourselves. { I agree completely. }

Arne Sjogren: I wish those "experts" on Sweden would stop talking about our magnificent civil defense system. I suspect that they have been reading Reader's Digest or some other well-informed, optimistic magazine. For the nth time, our civil defense system is about as good as yours, which ain't much. There are a lot of shelters in cellars and so on, but these are cluttered with bric-a-brack, and are mostly left over from the last World War. There are evacuation plans of a sort, but I doubt they'll work.

Sid Birchby: Thursdays I usually had a hangover...

Dwain Kaiser: The only travelling neos will do on the Neo Fan Fund will be out of state where Harriett won't be able to get her money back from them.

Rob Williams: As one would treat a treasure, I intend to treat "Orphan with a Gun;" that is: put it in a readily accessible place, take it out often and marvel at it, show it as an answer when anyone asks the question "Why fanzines?"

Durk Pearson: If you know anyone who wants to hang a Zeppelin...



...Finally, thanks are also due: John Boston, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Maris Cizevskis, Juanita Coulson, Ray Cummings, Dave Ettlin, Vardis Fisher, Mike Irwin, Richard Mann, Archie Mercer, Tom Perry, Dannie Plachta, Bill Rotsler, Sam Russell, Paul Williams, and James Wright.

+ + + + +

Our local boy G. Gordon Dewey answered his office phone the other day in his capacity as a writers' agent. The woman on the other end asked him if he would publish her book. He explained that he would read it and if he thought it salable would try to market it for a 10% commission. She thought this over and said she would be right over with the manuscript. This was about five o'clock and he was thinking of closing up shop and going home, but she convinced him to wait.

Upon her arrival, she asked him if he would publish her book. He explained that he would read it, and if he thought it salable, he would try to market it for a 10% commission. She thought this over and seemed to think it satisfactory. Dewey noticed that she had a thin manilla envelope in her lap -- hardly space for a book-length manuscript. "How long is your book?" he asked.

"Nine-hundred words," she said.

"That isn't long enough to make a book," said Dewey.

"It isn't?"

"No, that would be a filler in a magazine."

"Well, if it's not long enough, I can add a couple of paragraphs. How long a book would that make?"

"Oh," said Dewey, "about four pages."

She appeared crestfallen at this. "How can I tell how many words my story has to have to make a book?"

"Go buy a book about the size you want yours to be," said Dewey, "and count the words."

She thanked him for his help and went away.

- - - - - Charles Burbee  
Reprinted from Burblings 5.



# EGOPOLL<sub>2</sub>

This is the second annual Bane egoboo poll, an admittedly crude but completely sincere effort at evaluating the relative popularity of the material which appeared in the four 1962 issues. Please vote; a completed ballot will be worth an issue or more to lagards, perhaps as little as simple gratitude to others -- but rest assured I very much appreciate your efforts. Note: in each and every category you have ten points to bestow, as you see fit: ten points for one offering, one point for each of ten, or any manner inbetween. Mailing instructions are on the back. Thankee.

## ARTICLES:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Robert Bloch, "I Went to a Playboy Party for the FBI and Found -- Charles Beaumont?" (#8)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Marion Bradley, "The Ultimate Fanzine -- Revisited" (#5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Walter Breen, "Censorship: The Deal Issues" (#6)
- \_\_\_\_\_ J.E. Pournelle, "On Censorship and Democratic Government" (#8)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vic Ryan, "For Our Great Folly: The Ethics of Fan-Editing" (#s 7&8)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Don Thompson, "Newspapermen Meet Such Interesting People" (#7)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Shelby Vick, "I Remember Willis" (#6)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Harry Warner, jr., "The Little Dog Laughed" (#5)

## COLUMNS:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Buck Coulson, "Wheel of Fortune" (#s 5-8)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bob Tucker, "Beard Mumblings" (#s 5-7)

## FICTION:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Mike Deckinger, ".....And Tired" (#7)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vic Ryan, "The Tell-Tale Duplicator" (#5)

## ARTISTS: (Astericks indicate cover artists.)

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ ATom (4*)             | _____ Terry Jeeves (8)   |
| _____ Dick Bergeron (1*)    | _____ Al Kracalik (1)    |
| _____ Joni Cornell (1*)     | _____ Frank Mattson (5)  |
| _____ Gary Deindorfer (1)   | _____ Andy Offutt (1)    |
| _____ Mike Dominguez (1)    | _____ Dave Prosser (1*)  |
| _____ Dave English (4)      | _____ Bill Rotsler (22*) |
| _____ Robert E. Gilbert (5) | _____ Dick Schultz (5)   |

## FEATURES:

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| _____ Articles     | _____ Fiction         |
| _____ Artwork      | _____ Fillers         |
| _____ Ballots (?!) | _____ Interlineations |
| _____ Columns      | _____ Letters         |
| _____ Editorials   | _____ Poetry          |

OPINION: The greatest single, external threat to mankind as we know it is:

\_\_\_\_\_ Nuclear war      \_\_\_\_\_ Communism      \_\_\_\_\_ Other:



LETTERWRITERS:

\_\_\_\_ Brian Aldiss (2)  
\_\_\_\_ John Baxter (2)  
\_\_\_\_ Sid Birchby (3)  
\_\_\_\_ Jim Blish (1)  
\_\_\_\_ June Bonifas (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Marion Bradley (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Terry Carr (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Bill Conner (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Buck Coulson (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Avram Davidson (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Gerry de la Ree (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Jerry DeMuth (2)  
\_\_\_\_ Tom Dilley (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Dave English (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Colin Freeman (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Fred Galvin (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Les Gerber (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Art Hayes (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Pat Kearney (2)

\_\_\_\_ Jim Knotts (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Betty Kujawa (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Larry McCombs (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Don Melton (2)  
\_\_\_\_ Len Moffatt (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Derek Nelson (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Ted Pauls (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Bill Rotsler (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Les Sample (2)  
\_\_\_\_ Arne Sjogren (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Jack Speer (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Bob Tucker (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Harry Warner, jr. (3)  
\_\_\_\_ Charles Wells (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Ted White (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Walt Willis (1)  
\_\_\_\_ Don Wollheim (3)  
\_\_\_\_ Floyd Zwicky (1)

COMMENTS:

...And a final feature:

Somewhere, either on this ballot or on a small sheet of paper, would you please draw a face: nothing elaborate; any view, either sex, any age, but just one, and don't bother much with it.

To Mail: Please either enclose this in a standard envelope, or fold it in thirds, so that it's 8½" long, securing the flap and pasting the appropriate postage on the outside. It's properly addressed. The deadline is Feb. 1, in all probability.

FROM

FIRST CLASS

TO

Vic Ryan

Box 308

2309 Sheridan Road

Evanston, Illinois