

## PROJECT TWO: WHY IS A FAN?

When we ran the "Who Killed Science Fiction?" survey last year I thought nothing could get me to do another; but what is the use of having a tradition that isn't perpetuated?

We are seeking support or denial of a theory of James O'Meara: "Fans are first born and/or only children who enter the fantasy world at a very early age." Jim did some groundwork on this theory through SAPS and personal contact with fans, as did Miri Carr, Bob Pavlat and others.

We want to know what is a fan to this extent:

1. In your family, are you an only child (or first born)?
2. Do you feel that this has any bearing on your being a fan?
3. Are you a 2nd generation fan (was there a retrograde reaction)?
4. At what age did you enter the fantasy world (and with what)?
5. At what age did you enter fandom (and how)?

Far more important, we are seeking to know why is a fan:

6. Why do you stay in fandom?
7. What do you get out of fandom?
8. How long do you expect to stay in fandom?
9. What does fandom mean to you?
10. Why do fans gafiate, and are these reasons sufficient to make you gafiate?
11. What other pertinent remarks do you want to contribute to the study?

The final results of this survey will be available only to the contributors and SAPS (but I'm willing to listen to any FAPAN wishing to assume the additional cost of publication for FAPA).

In selecting the people to receive a copy of this questionnaire we have attempted to pick a representative cross-section of trufandom. We realize it is impossible to cover the entire field and last year there were horrifying omissions. This year could not possibly be any different. It is your opinion we are interested in -- that is why we are sending it to you. Please don't re-circulate this questionnaire.

Your contributions should be mailed not later than Saturday, December 24th, 1960. The report will be abstracted and the findings published on April 15, 1961. It is understood that all contributions are subject to publication, but this depends on their quality. The least we will definitely deliver is the abstract report.

There will be no interim report or follow-up letters and you probably won't hear another peep out of us until April. Just to be on the safe side we'll run in one long, loud plug for GO ChicaGO - - 1962, and close by wishing you and yours all the best for the holiday season.

yours,

