

LEADING ARTICLE

Being personal editorial comment, an unusual step, probably backwards.

Now that I'm about to hand over the British side of the TAFF administration to Eric Bentcliffe, I feel free to nominate a TAFF candidate of my own. This I have already done. I've nominated Ron Ellik because I believe his work in fandom proves him worthy of the honour of being chosen as TAFF delegate, because I believe that, should he win the ballot, he'll make an excellent delegate and because he's a thoroughly likeable person. Ron is far more modest than the engineered tone of mock superiority in FANAC would have one believe. He's a good mixer and would prove a most popular attendee at any convention.

For those who see SKYRACK and FANAC constantly at one another's throats, I hasten to say that this isn't so. The editorial staff of both newszines, once personal pride is disregarded, admit SKYRACK to be far superior, he says. There's a sort of unwritten understanding, and a most healthy one, that while we'll each try to scoop the other, we'll see that fandom itself doesn't suffer and news is sent quickly from one zine to the other. For example, last year Ron sent me the results of the FANAC poll by air before they were actually published in the FANAC Anniversary issue.

Whilst I have prided myself in the fact that SKYRACK does not comment on news, but merely tries to present the facts per se, it would hardly be fair to Ron (the surname Ellik is pronounced Ee-lick) whose nomination I am so heartily supporting if I did not use the facilities of SKYRACK to shout his worth and glory at every available opportunity. Accordingly, with SKYRACK from now on, it's a banner waving slogan of RON ELLIK, the fan's fan, FOR TAFF.

It might be hair splitting and I'd like to have opinions on the matter, but I'm surprised at a move taken by the Seattle fans who are putting on the 1961 World Convention. In raising the convention fees from two to three dollars, the group have once again kindly reduced the initial convention registration fee to \$1 for overseas fans who wish to join the convention without actually attending. However, should any overseas fans make the trip to the convention, which is extremely unlikely, they will have to pay the additional \$2. This is not a lot of encouragement to make the trip. Whilst the additional two bucks is only fourteen shillings and a couple of coppers and is not going to break anyone, it puts the initial reduction on a charity basis with a nasty tang behind it. We're not interesting in your attending our convention, it implies, but we are out to hook you for your dollar for literature alone; if you can afford to travel to Seattle, then you can afford the extra two dollars. This attitude, implied if not intended, is a far cry from the initial \$2 registration (\$1 to overseas fans) with the additional \$1 for each attendee, whether from home or abroad that might have been expected.

-- Ron Bennett.

TRANS-ATLANTIC FAN FUND.....New campaign to bring US fan to 1962 British con. Nominations to Don Ford or Eric Bentcliffe. Closing date 30th November. Ron Ellik and Dick Eney already nominated. Dick Ellington not standing. Bentcliffe takes over administration from Bennett 1st November. \$140 already on hand, a great start. ***Ford's TAFF report on sale at \$1.25. Madle's TAFF report in preparation. Bentcliffe's report to be published by Norman Shorrocks. More details next issue.

DREAM QUEST 2(Peter Mansfield, 14 Whiteford Road, Slough, Bucks; Summer, 1960; 28pp). This zine is of special interest to devotees of Burroughs but is likeable to the lay reader for its light touch. Peter presents his zine complete with dust cover because of a proposed title change. Best items are the editorial and "Who Will Take His Place?" by Frank Vernon Lay. With more attention paid to artwork, DREAM QUEST could become a British AMRA.

BSFA NEWSLETTER 3(Jimmy Groves, 29 Lathom Rd., East Ham, London E6. Free to members of BSFA). This third newsletter contains a little friendly chitchat from Jimmy and Ella Parker, a listing of items added to the BSFA Library and a listing of latest pbs to appear on the market. Riding along with the Newsletter is the first newsletter of the Young Science Fiction Readers Group, which hopes to encourage young fans. Interested youngsters should contact Jim Linwood, 10 Meadow Cotts, Netherfield, Notts.,

NORTHLIGHT 11(Alan Burns, Goldspink House, Goldspink Lane, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 2; undated; 32pp). Much of this issue is given over to well received informal editorial ramblings on a diary basis. It might be surprising to find such a critic of the former Inchmery fandom adopting the diary format, but Northlight is no Ap^g. The issue also contains many interesting letter snippets on a variety of subjects, an article by Dick Schultz full of facts about the Detroit gang, a short piece on Gerfandom and a wonderfully analytical piece on Swedish fandom.

BUNYIP 1 (John Martin Baxter, 29 Gordon Road, Bowral, N.S.W., Australia:1/- or 15¢; 33pp). The latest offering from Australia's leading light on the zinescene is a replacement in title only for his popular QUANTUM. It's a neat, light zine which reads well and makes for entertainment. Material by the editor(the piece on Blighty cartoons deserves a place in any "Best" anthology), Bruce "Whittington" Burn, Michael Baldwin, Mike Deckinger, Don Tuck and John M. Foyster. Loads of letters and a fanzine review column that describes Ella Parker as being "all sweetness and light."

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POSTCARD DEPT: Card from Terry & Valerie Jeeves, S.Remo, Italy, followed by much appreciated wedding cake on their return home. Many thanks.** Card from Neo-Beardnik Alan Rispin recently on hitch tour round Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, France and Austria. **Card from Jugoslavia where 5 Shorrocks, Stan Nuttal, Marjorie Denton, Norman Weedall, Audrey Eversfield and Keith Freeman have been on holiday. One stamp unfranked. Want it back for re-use? ** Card from Egypt picturing Rome where sender Sandra Hall suggests we hold next con.**Two cards from Dick Schultz from Pittcon signed by over 100 different fans. Many thanks, Dick.

Publicity campaign. Sent as a flier, and naturally free(though money would be appreciated)is 2nd issue of Scotton Scribble. Editor Colin Freeman asks for letters of comment, subscriptions and most certainly contributions. You out there, respond!

For the record, SKYRACK beat FANAC on Pittcon news, thanks to various spies and cables. FANAC, dated 4th Sept was mailed 7th. SKYRACK, dated 6th was mailed 5th.

Brian Jordan to be reached at 86 Piccadilly Rd, Burnley, Lancs. His 81 Crawford Rd, Sheffield address now completely invalid.

An X appearing here means your subscription has expired _____

NEWS FROM LONDON: Ella Parker pleasantly surprised when Joe Pat-
rizio rolled in. Everyone except Ella knew he was due and Ella
says she wouldn't be surprised had I had the news on stencil be-
fore Joe actually reached London. Well, er..... Joe has now
begun work in London and is sharing the flat with Ted Forsyth at
11 Ferndale Rd., SW 4.*Mal & Sheila Ashworth spent a few days in
London with the Potters.* Bruce Burn has a job with the Graydon
Bureau which also employs Ella and survived employing Ron Bennett.
*Sat 10th Sept saw a BSFA Committee meeting with Jim Groves and
Ella present and Archie Mercer and Peter Mabey getting into town.
Meeting turned into a party with the arrival of the Potters, the
Ashworths, Bruce Burn, Don Geldart, Ted and Joe and John Phillif-
ent.* Ian McAulay surprised everyone by showing up at Ella's one
evening when by rights he should have been in Belfast. Until Xmas
his address is c/o Walt Willis.* Ella has been ill with ear
trouble. Now happily recovered.* Ella, Jimmy, Potters, Don and Brian
Burgess went along to first Flying Saucer Convention ever held in
Briatin (Russell Hotel - ha! - 24/25th September. Jimmy Groves
sends along a programme, various pieces of duplicated literature
and a draft editorial for VECTOR on the gathering, which he desc-
ribes as a "nut cult." I'll leave it to VECTOR and ORION to cover
the event more fully. (EAP;JG)

ARCHIE MERCER read last issue's account of Bruce Burn meeting and
sends a cartoon idea, "You are Mr. Bruce Burn and I claim the SKY-
RACK prize." ***George Locke at present on holiday in Belfast. ***
John McGovern due to be posted from Weston-super-Mere. Address re-
verts to c/o Jones, 51 Oxfangs Ave., Colinton, Edinburgh 13. John
mentions rising radiation level and says he killed a 3" long spid-
er on the camp last week. Genetic mutation marches on, he says.***
Ivor Mayne now living in Sweden. Bergviksvagen 45, Bromma, Sverige.
***Apologies to Arthur Thomson whose name was mistakenly left out
of TAFF voting list a couple of issues back.***Brian Aldiss now at
Priory House, 12 Paradise Sq., Oxford. Mentions new collection, "Best
of Gerald Kersh" (Heinemann 16/-) and the "Author's & Writer's Who's
Who" which lists Aldiss, Clarke, Maine and Asimov and the BSFA.

SKYRACK 24
Ron Bennett
7 Southway
HARROGATE
Yorkshire

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Berkeley's RON ELLIK FOR TAFF!