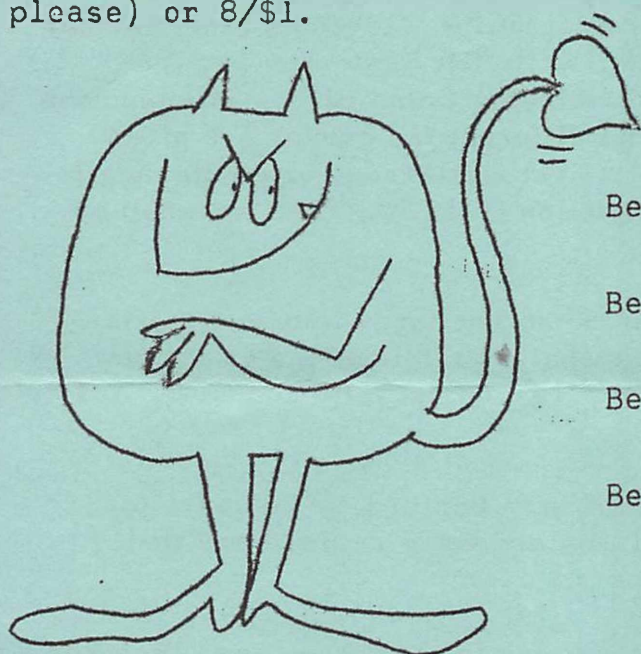




FOCAL POINT

FOCAL POINT Volume 2 Number 1, a fanzine of news, views and reviews, is edited and published by rich brown (410 - 61st St., Apt. D-4, Brooklyn, NY 11220) and Arnie Katz (Apt. 3-J, 55 Pineapple St., Brooklyn, NY 11201) with help from Colleen Brown. Editor emeritus: Mike McInerney. Published bi-weekly, it is available for news, all-for-all trades (both editors, please) or 8/\$1.



SFWA'S 1970 NEBULA WINNERS

Best Novel: LEFT HAND OF DARKNESS
by Ursula K. LeGuin

Best Novella: A BOY AND HIS DOG
by Harlan Ellison

Best Novelette: TIME CONSIDERED AS A HELIX
OF SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES
by Samuel R. Delany

Best Short Story: PASSENGERS
by Robert Silverberg



SFWA Awards Banquet Report
by Ted White on page four

TAFF Bill Rotsler, Elliot Shorter, and Charlie Brown are the candidates in the TAFF election to send a deserving American fan to the Heicon. Because of a generous donation by Jack Gaughan, all TAFF voters will be entered automatically in a lottery with a Gaughan original as prize. The voting deadline is July 15th. Full particulars will be found on the ballot riding with this issue. Vote!

FOCAL POINT dormant since the mid-sixties, has risen like the Pheonix from the ashes and is again in the news business under the editorship of Arnie Katz and rich brown. FOCAL POINT will be mailed out first class every other Monday to its vast, though not infinite, readership. The editors exhort their many friends and well-wishers to start doing interesting things and Write Them Up.

MOONLIGHTING Science fiction people scored victories in the 1970 elections of The Mystery Writers of America. Robert Bloch was elected president for the coming year. Hans Stefan Santesson, new editor at Walker Books, was named regional vice president for New York and Allen

Kim Lang won a similar post for the Midwest. In addition, Sam Moskowitz and Chris Steinbrunner were selected for the board of directors.

TOM DISCH we are informed by our Trusty Sources, decided several months ago to activity in the sf field. Trouble with Doubleday over their handling of the paperback sale of "Camp Concentration" was apparently the catalyst for Tom's decision. Latest word from our Trustiest Source of All is that Tom may yet do at least one more sf novel, so stay tuned, Tom Disch fans!

CONS East Coast fans are looking forward to the Lunacon-Eastercon, to be held April 10-12 at the Hotel McAlpin, Avenue of the Americas and 34th Street, New York City. Membership is \$2.50 at the door. If you hurry up and act NOW you could get your membership for \$2. by sending your check (made payable to the New York Science Fiction Society) to Devra M. Langsam, 250 Crown Street, Brooklyn, New York 11225. The Lunacon, consisting of the weekend's more formal aspects is sponsored by the New York Lunarians, while the Eastercon parties this year will be put on by the Los Angeles in '72 Bidding Committee. The Lunacon remains under the auspices of the Lunarians, but different fan groups are given the opportunity to "sponsor" the Eastercon. The first Eastercon, under the aegis of the Fannish and Insurgent Scientifiction Association (FISTFA), was spawned by FOCAL POINT during its first incarnation.

APAc FAPA (yes, there still is a FAPA) #130 at 390 pages is one of the largest mailings in several years. Jack Chalker's MIRAGE #9 is the biggest zine in the bundle which also includes a Bergeron art folio and GRUE #33 from Dean Grennell.

BORN Dominick James Benford to Jim and Hilary Benford on January 30th. January 30th is also the birthday of Jim and Greg Benford and will henceforth be known as Benford Day.

MOVING Dick and Pat Lupoff have purchased a home in the BArea near Dick and Pat Ellington and will be moving out there in June::: Harry Harrison plans to leave soon on a grand tour of Europe and will be gone for about the next year. ::: Anne McCaffrey has tentatively decided to relocate in faroff Ireland to take advantage of the tax incentives that country offers writers.

LOVED Joe Staton, shaking the dust of the Sotuh from his boots, has moved to the New York area; he is temporarily c/o Steve Stiles, 427-57th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11220. After just two days of job hunting, Joe was able to find a job -- designing inflatable rubber ducks. (He's submitted a design for a figure remarkably like the character in the cartoons he does for QUIP representing FOCAL POINT co-editor Arnie Katz. Should this model be rushed into production, fandom will be hastily notified via these pages.

NEW PROZINE Samuel R. Delaney and Marlyn Hacker will be co-editing a quarterly paperback sf magazine for Paperback Library. called WARP. Chip is looking for speculative literature and graphics, fiction of approximately 3-20,000 words. The editors intend the magazine to be a blend of both new and established talents. Payment is 3-4¢ a word, on acceptance. Submission to:

1067 Natoma Street, San Francisco, California 94103. (Source:SFWA Bulletin)

ACE SPECIALS are "Year of the Quiet Sun" by Wilson Tucker in May and "Nine Hundred Grandmothers", a collection of shorter works by R. A. Lafferty the following month. Also from Ace is Harlan Ellison's "The Glass Teat" an anthology of his T. V. column of the same name that has been running in the L. A. Free Press

MINICON 3 Progress Report number 2 just arrived in time to tell you that it will be held April 3-5 at the Hotel Dyckman, Sixth Street between Nicollet Mall and Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis. Chairman appears to be Jim Young. Featured speakers at the Minicon 3 include Gordon Dickson, Clifford Simak, and Lin Carter. Other highlights are a Saturday night banquet and a slide show by Morris Dollens.

CALVIN DEMMON has sold another magnificent story to the Public Prints. It's called "Who Dares?" and will appear in the August FANTASTIC. Mr. Demmon has also had the great good fortune to have Rich and Colleen Brown's new kitten named after him when "Biff" was selected over the stiff competition of "Fafred".

NYC "Parsec City", a drawing by Mike Hinge is on exhibit at the Architectural League of New York, 41 E. 65th Street, NYC until April 3. Andy Porter, who checked out the scene for FOCAL POINT, reports that there are other items of special interest in the show as well.

THANKS are due Steve Stiles (logo), Bill Rotsler (cartoon on page 5), and Andy Porter (clippings).

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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YOU TOO can be a FOCAL POINT BNF. All you have to do is move and then send us your CoA. A week or so later and -- presto! -- your name in print! If you move every month, your name may get mentioned more frequently than Colleen Brown.

SFWA AWARDS BANQUET, N.Y.C.

BY TED WHITE

After a cocktail "hour," the SFWA's Nebula Awards Banquet at New York's Les Champs restaurant got off to a crawl with what was easily the worst food and worst service this restaurant has yet provided. (The first banquet at Les Champs was superb; each subsequent year the food has deteriorated in quality and quantity, and this year the service was glacially slow as well.) After a fruit cocktail, a motheaten salad, and a demitasse of black bean soup (the soup was good, but gone before one knew it), the main course turned out to be paper-thin slices of "chicken" (undoubtedly turkey; chickens don't come that big or that dry) served over a bed of broccoli with a cheese sauce atop it. The cheese sauce was good. After this appetizer, we waited for what seemed at least an hour, and were finally served coffee and small goblets of ice-milk with Hershey chocolate sauce and grated coconut scattered over it.

I'm afraid this set the tone for what was to follow. Isaac Asimov had an off-night as toastmaster, and the only high spot in the evening was Carl Sagan's slide-talk on Mars, illustrated with some fine Mariner photographs of Martian landscapes. Unfortunately -- and more in line with the tone of the evening -- one slide-projector couldn't be made to work, thus halving the number of slides to be seen, and the remainder were all shown backwards. Nonetheless, Professor Sagan was an engaging and fascinating speaker.

Judy-Lynn Benjamin, who followed, was not. In a smarmy twenty-minute commercial for GALAXY and IF, larded with references to her close friendship with Asimov and the other Greats and Near-Greats of sf, she revealed herself as a "groupie" of the sf fraternity and said absolutely nothing worth repeating. (In the duration of her talk I reflected upon the fact that previous speakers at NYC SFWA banquets have included only Ed Ferman and Fred Pohl from the sf magazines -- pretty well betraying the officership's bias in this direction.)

Finally, as the evening wilted to its conclusion, Gordon Dickson presented the Nebulas. Presumably this was the capstone, the climax of the banquet, but Dickson rushed through them so quickly that the awards became a distinct anti-climax. Without mentioning the nominees, he simply announced the third, second, and first place winners in each category, beginning with the novel, and concluding with the short story. Applause was scattered; only the LeGuin and Silverberg awards were applauded to any extent. In the presentation of citations to the publishers of the winners, Dickson announced that LEFT HAND OF DARKNESS had been "simultaneously" published by Walker and Ace, and handed out the Walker citation first -- to Hans Santesen who accepted giving credit to Walker editor Toby Roxburgh. In fact, Walker reprinted the book from Ace, and Terry Carr deserved sole credit for its publication as an Ace Special. But once again the SFWA officership betrays its prejudice.

Although it had been announced that the after-banquet party would be held at the restaurant, everyone tramped over to the Algonquin to Anne McCaf-

frey's traditional suite, where again there was an enormous squeeze until someone discovered another, empty room beyond an unlocked door. The party broke up around three, when Anne announced her intention of going to bed for the night, and another SFWA Nebula Awards Banquet quietly bit the dust.

Each year I've asked myself why -- at accelerating prices and with deteriorating enjoyability -- I keep coming back. The answer thus far has been "hope." But as I hear reports of the sort of imaginative programming that attends the West Coast banquet, I keep wondering why I bother.

--Ted White

TO OUR READERS...

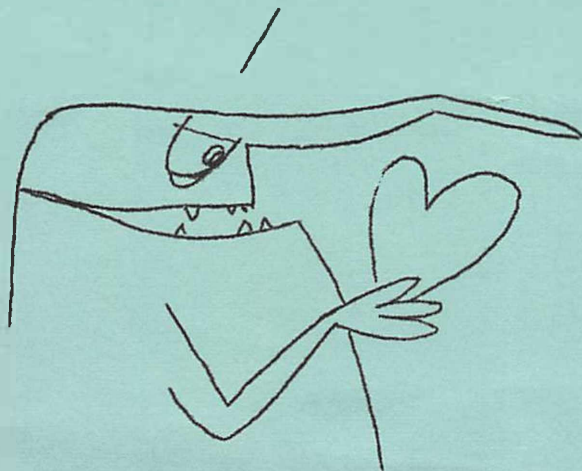
You may have actually pulled out the staples (with your teeth, of course, like the trufans you are) before you noticed that this wasn't the latest issue of LOCUS. If this immediately caused Great Joy to course through your body, like an unendurable pleasure indefinitely prolonged, no further explanation should be necessary. We await your subscription.

It is to the rest of you that we would like to speak at this time. We decided to revive FP because, for us, the newszine field was empty. We don't discount the possibility that our tastes are out-of-step with today's fandom, but we do know LOCUS doesn't roll them in the aisles around here much. There may be dozens and dozens of fans who adore 3/4-page colophons. We don't. Veritable legions may dote on pedestrian accounts of trips to Boston. We don't. (In fact, rich and I have promised each other that we won't even go to Boston, much less write about it as the feature story in FOCAL POINT.) The whole fan world, for all we know, may simultaneously reach orgasm every time "SMOF #1" goes into his ego-tripping song and dance. We don't. So FP won't have long colophons, dull reports of non-events, or attempts to impress you with how many pros we know. As to what we will be doing, well, we'd rather show you than tell you. So everyone will get the first three issues, and you can judge for yourself. We hope you'll like it and stay with us after that.

SUPPORT!

Your hard-working FOCAL POINT staff has unanimously decided to throw its combined weight behind the candidacy of Wm. Rotsler for TAFF. It seems to us that Mssr. Rotsler, a writer par excellence and cartoonist of professional caliber, is not only the best bet as a representative of what is Good about U.S. fandom, but is also the most likely to turn out an interesting, well-written, profusely illustrated TAFF report -- which would serve, we feel, to spark more interest in TAFF, which has gone downhill of late. Rotsler is linked in story and song with fannish greats like Burbee and Laney, but he is still very much a fan of his time, and worthy of your support. That's why we urge you to vote ROTSLER FOR TAFF!!!

WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN
ME INTO?



LATE NEWS

HEICON 70 which some cynics declared had dried up and blown away, has issued Progress Report #1, which features parallel columns of text in English and German. Guests of Honor are Robert Silverberg (US), E. C. Tubb (United Kingdom), and Herbert W. Franke (Germany). Heicon requests that henceforth all convention business be addressed to HEICON 70, 6272 Niedernhausen, West Germany. There has already been one post office foul-up, and this new address is intended to prevent repetitions. Attending memberships are DM 20 and supporting memberships are DM 14. Please check the exchange rate at your local bank before sending checks. Also included with the Progress Report were a reservation form and the Hugo nomination ballot. Regrettably it's too late to prepare the ballot for mailing with this issue of FOCAL POINT, but we hope to have it for you next time.

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