



FOCAL POINT Volume 2 Number 3, a fanzine of news, views and reviews, is edited and published by rich brown (410 - 61st St., Apt. D-4, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11220) and Arnie Katz (Apt. 3-J, 55 Pineapple St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201) with help from Colleen Brown. Editor emeritus: Mike McInerney. Joyce Fisher, Indian Agent. Published bi-weekly, it is available for news, all-for-all trades (both editors, please) or 8/\$1. Illustrations by Jay Kinney, William Rotsler and Joe Staton. April 27, 1970.

THE LUNACON was the largest regional in history, with a paid attendance of 737 and a total registration of 789. Highlights of the program were Lester Del Ray's reading of the absent Larry Shaw's Guest of Honor Speech and an editors' panel consisting of Terry Carr, Ted White, Bob Lowndes, and Don Benson. On the less formal side, more fans took rooms in the hotel this year and consequently there were more and better room parties than in past years. Possibly the most important bit of news to come out of the affair was the fact that the Eastercon will be no more. The Hotel McAlpin continued to be a refreshing change from the usual run of convention hotels; it features a courteous staff and faultless elevators.

#### LASFS MAKES \$10,000

As of the end of March, Bruce Pelz reports, the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society Building Fund had reached its goal of \$10,000. This means that the LASFS, the second-oldest regularly meeting fan club in the U.S., now has the necessary cash to purchase (or, inflation being what it is, make a down payment on) a meeting place of its very own. The Committee to Gouge Money Out of LASFS will not doubt take a short but well-deserved rest while negotiations for a building go on. LASFS began in the earliest days of sf fandom as the second organization to join Hugo Gernsback's Science Fiction League, was one of the major fan centers during the 1940s when it had one of the first and most famous of all the slan shacks, is probably most famous for the band of insurgents it inadvertently created in the late 1940s (Charles Burbee, Francis T. Laney and William Rotsler, among others) and may have been the last fan center in the 1960s to still have a slan shack going.





HANS STEFAN SANTESSON is in Bergen Pines Hospital, Paramus, New Jersey, suffering from a mild heart attack and jaundice. He is listed in fair condition. Hans was scheduled to assume the editorship of Walker Books April 1. His last previous work in the sf field was as editor of FANTASTIC UNIVERSE; in the interim he worked as an editor in the mystery field. (source: LOCUS)

MORT WEISINGER long editor of National Comic's Superman line retired April 1. Julius Schwartz will assume direction of SUPERMAN and WORLD'S FINEST, the remaining titles to be parcelled out among National's other editors. Weisinger's sf career has been a long and illustrious one. His first association with the field came in the early thirties when he edited THE TIME TRAVELLER, the first major fanzine, with Allen Glasser and Julius Schwartz. When THE TIME TRAVELLER was suspended after nine issues, Weisinger became part of the editorial combine which produced FANTASY MAGAZINE, the focal point fanzine of First Fandom. After he had started selling to the prozines, Weisinger and Schwartz founded The Solar Sales Agency, which could boast Stanley G. Weinbaum among its clients. In 1936, Weisinger left agenting to become editor of THRILLING WONDER STORIES for Standard Magazines. Eventually he arrived at National where he directed the books associated with Superman until the present day.

COMIX WORLD'S FINEST will no longer feature the stories about the Superman-Batman team as it has since its inception. Henceforth, Superman will be teamed with a different super hero each issue:::Dan Adkins will be inking for Neal Adams on GREEN LANTERN:::Gray Morrow will be doing a western comic for National:::In a front page by-lined article in the April 15 WALL STREET JOURNAL, Richard J. Howe examines the modernization and radicalization of the comic book industry. The thousand word article deals extensively with the updating of super heroes and the financial success of comix undertaking such policies. The article cites GREEN LANTERN and several Marvel comics including SPIDERMAN, FANTASTIC FOUR and SILVER SURFER as those which have been made more relevant to our times and thus of more interest to college-age kids. Most younger people have been lost to TV the article said in explaining the move. By having their super heroes deal with problems ranging from social ills to alienation to acne, Marvel's circulation has risen from 28 million five years ago to 46 million today. While complete reports are not yet in on the April issue of GREEN LANTERN (in which GL is led to see that evil is all around him "disguised as familiar, everyday persons and places"), that issue has already generated 700 fan letters, compared with an average of 25 for previous issues, the article states.

COORIDORS OF TIME a conference stressing the accademic aspects of science fiction was held April 17 and 18 at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Among the featured speakers were Poul Anderson, Greg Benford, Peter Beagle, and Quinn Yarbrow. Anderson's speech stressed the importance of science fiction as the bard of science. SF, he suggested, will be remembered in future ages as an expression of Science, which he characterized as the signal achievement of our age.

DISCLAVE '70 Will F. Jenkins, perhaps better known to all you science fiction freaks as Murray Leinster, will be the Guest of Honor at Disclave





From UNCLE".

**PgHLANGE II** Contrary to popular rumor (or "Focal Point"), PgHLANGE II was never called the PittCon. What your FOCAL POINT editor meant to say before his mind slipped a gear was that the PgHLANGE is also called the Pittsburgh Science Fiction Conference. PgHLANGE II will be held July 17-19 at the Chetham Center Motor Inn, Pittsburgh. Registration is \$2. For information: Linda Bushyager, 5620 Darlington Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa 15217.

**SFWA** Contrary to popular rumor (or "LOCUS"), Norman Spinrad is not running for SFWA Vice President. Kate Wilhelm and Tom Purdom, however, will contest for that office. Quinn Yarbrow, who only recently has become a full time pro, will run for Sec-Treas, while Harlan Ellison will be pitted against Gordon Dickson for the presidency.

**BILL (\*TAFF\*) ROTSLE** and Harlan "Papa Hugo" Ellison are currently touring the Deep South and Environs with the rock group Three Dog Night on assignment for SHOW magazine. Our on the scene reporter has promised us the exclusive story for an upcoming FOCAL POINT: watch this space.

**THE N3F** Rick Sneary, speaking for the National Fantasy Fan Federation as one of its directors, turned thumbs down on a proposal by Gary Labowitz that the club donate \$200, of the N3F's \$1,200 surplus to TAFF. Rick's reasoning was that

'70, to be held May 15-17 at the Skyline Inn in Washington, D.C. (The hotel has free parking). Perhaps due to the success of the Art Show at the recent Boskone, the Disclave, too, this year will feature an Art Show, its first. Another feature will be a musical production, "Inside 200 2001", scripted by Alexis Gilleland. For further information: Jack Haldeman, 1244 Woodbourne Avenue, Baltimore Maryland 21212.

**WESTERCON 23** A.E. van Vogt will preside over a roundtable discussion of the methodology of writing. David McDaniel will chair a similar roundtable dealing with the special problems involved in writing original novels for a pre-set framework, like "The Man



TAFF was not particularly relevant to the N3F, and that the N3F could find things of more benefit to its members to spend its money on.

TAFF 70 ballots have been received thus far by the US administrator Steve Stiles. Remember, the deadline for ballots is July 15::Those who had been following Steve Stiles' TAFF report "Harrison Country" in QUIP (currently in suspended animation) will be glad to know that Steve will resume recounting his adventures in FOCAL POINT, most likely next issue unless crowded out by the TAFF flyer Steve just promised.

ADVENT will publish another book of sf criticism by William Atheling, Jr. (James Blish) in November. Also planned early next year: a three volume work, "The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction" by Donald Tuck. Another volume of fan history can't be contemplated until Harry Warner finishes writing it, according to Ed Wood. Among recent purchasers of All Our Yesterdays was Dr. Frederick Wertham. For information about Advent books write: Advent Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 9228, Chicago, Ill 60690.

BERKLEY BOOKS May releases are "The Long Twilight" (Laumer) and "SF: Authors' Choice 2" (Harrison) another anthology of the favorite stories of a dozen famous sf writers including Bester, Silverberg, Aldiss, and van Vogt. Of possible interest also is "Purple Aces", the second G-8 book.

ACE BOOKS will issue "The Prisoner #3" by Hank Stine in June. Other releases for the month are "Our Friends from Frolix 8" (Dick), "The Dream Master" (Zelazny), "Swordsmen in the Sky" (edited by Wollheim), "The Ships Durostorum" (Bulmer) b/w "Alton's Unguessable" (Sutton), and the previously announced Ace Special, "Nine Hundred Grandmothers" (Lafferty).

COVEN 13 will be taken over by Bill Crawford, publisher of SPACEWAY. The first issue of the revival will be out this fall, and all outstanding subscriptions will be honored.

TV A television special written by Isaac Asimov entitled "Unseen World" is scheduled to be shown on ABC on May 3. Asimov will have an article in that week's TV GUIDE to tell you how it all came about. His title for the TV GUIDE article was "How I Lost My Purity", although he doesn't expect it to remain that.

MUNDANE PRESS REVIEW Alex Panshin has articles coming up in LIBRARY JOURNAL and AMERICAN LIBRARIES. The latter is an annotated bibliography of critical and reference works in sf. The former is a basic bibliography of science fiction, worked up by James Blish, Damon Knight, Joanna Russ, Andre Norton, Jack Williamson, L. Sprague de Camp, and Bob Silverberg, under Alex's direction, plus a short history and critical review by Alex:: Rotsler (for TAFF) has the first installment of a comic strip called "The Adventures of Acidman" in the current ADAM STAG HUMOR. Also, he has more sex cartoons coming up in SCREW:: Marion Zimmer Bradley and Larry McCombs both appear in the March WHOLE EARTH CATALOGUE:: Paul Williams' poem Time Between was printed in the April 17th issue of FUSION:: Hank Stine will soon commence doing book reviews for CRAWDADDY.



BORN Erik Ross Bigglestone to Clint and Janet Bigglestone on March 20:::  
Mitchell Edward Lewis to Albert and Linda Lewis on April 2. Congrat-  
ulations! (source:WINNIE)

NYC Jay Kinney, artist for FOCAL POINT, FANTASTIC, and various under-  
ground comix is doing a program on the Pratt dorm radio station  
WPIR-AM. If you put your ear to the wall, you can hear "Magilla Guerilla":::  
Joyce Fisher stayed on in New York after the Lunacon until Saturday April 18th  
with rich and Colleen brown:::Greg Benford, VOID boy, stf pro, bon vivant, and food  
eater visited New York this weekend, taking time out from a business trip to see  
all his New York friends:::Ross Chamberlain was elected treasurer of the 50 East  
First Street Corp. Ross found himself living in a lower east side building that had  
been abandoned by its owner (a common plight in certain parts of the city). After a  
winter without heat or hot water, he and his fellow tenants got together to make  
the building a co-op:::Charlie and Marsha Brown, after a separation, were divorced  
at the end of March:::Ted White's novel, "By Furies Possessed", serialized in  
AMAZING will be a June pb release from Signet (source: LOCUS):::Bob Toomey  
has sold "A World of Trouble" to MacDonald in England and is negotiating with Berkley  
for American release of the novel (source:LOCUS):::Steve Stiles has sold a drawing  
to Ted White for use in FANTASY ILLUSTRATED, FANTASTIC's comix section:::  
Joe Staton, the rubber duck king, has gotten an apartment in lovely Brooklyn and is  
about to move in. New address next time.

BAREA The Little Men just held elections, April 10. Fred Hollander was elected  
Chairman, Randall Millen was chosen Vice-Chairman, and Alva Rogers  
made it eleven years as Sec-Treasurer:::Cynthia Goldstone, noted artist, has turned  
stf pro by selling a short story to F&SF:::Bob Lichtman wrote to say that recently  
he has also bought groceries in Half Moon Bay, Daly City, Palo Alto, Mendocino,  
and -- yes! -- San Francisco. Happy shopping, Bob!

L. A. Jane Gallion has been selected as Guest of Honor for the 1970 LASFS  
Fanquet on the strength of her Essex House book "Biker" (which was  
pretty strong). The Fanquet is a dinner given annually by the LASFS to honor one  
of their number who has crashed the pro market:::Jim Schumacher and Jim Keith  
have, as Pat Richards a book out with the charming title "Lust of Satan" (source:  
WINNIE):::A LArea news sheet cum adzine may be in the offing from the Trimble  
(source:WINNIE)

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Judith Buxton, 3315 Laguna Ave., Oakland, Ca 94602  
Earl Evers, 1327 Leavenworth, San Francisco, Ca 94109  
Mike McInerney, 1292 Page St., San Francisco, Ca  
Felice Rolfe, 2815 Forest Ave, Berkeley, Ca 94705  
Michael Ward, Box 41, Menlo Park, Calif 94025





# LUNACON REPORT

--BY RICH BROWN--

JTS

NEW YORK CITY, April 10-12---The 1970 Lunacon-Eastercon was the largest regional since the Beginning of Time, with 737 on hand and 789 registered.

It was curiously satisfying, for such a large regional. It began for me the day before it was officially designated to start: Ray and Joyce Fisher, Arnie Katz, Bruce Telzer, Sandi Gerber, Pete Nimzek and my wife, Colleen, got together in mid-afternoon Friday, largely so that Colleen and Joyce could work out arrangements for Joyce's post-convention stay with us, and the crowd of them waited while I toiled to put out another issue of "The Daily Bond Buyer of New York" before going out to eat.

We returned to the Hotel McAlpin, partied quietly in our room, and were joined at various times by the Panshins, the Whites, Steve Stiles, Jay Kinney and his girlfriend, and Jon White. It broke up indecently early for a convention party -- about one in the morning -- but in other ways it set the tone and the atmosphere of partying events to follow.

A number of New Yorkers, it seems, took rooms in the hotel. This is worth mentioning because this has not been too common a practice in the past. The vibrations of Lunacons-Eastercons generally have been marred by a sense of discontinuity caused by local fans disappearing during the late hours to return home -- being, at most, an hour or so away from the con hotel by subway -- and picking up the convention when it begins late the following afternoon. Such are the hazards of efficient modes of transportation.

This year, however, local people tended to stay at the hotel, which meant the parties started earlier, lasted longer and there were more rooms in which to hold them.

In reporting on the SFCon in the last issue of FOCAL POINT, Greg Benford mentioned how much sf (much to the surprise of fannish fans of the late 50s) has not only become THE topic at programs and parties, but an interesting one as well when the people are attuned to it right. While the Lunacon program items were not generally of a sort to tickle the fancy of this particular fannish fan of the late 50s, sf came into the room parties frequently and was far from an unwelcome visitor.

The Lunacon program fizzled.

It's no reflection on the Lunarians that it did. They have enough experience in hosting Lunacons that they're sometimes criticized for having things run too smoothly, and while from year to year they may have some newcomers helping out, they have enough experienced personnel to keep from coming down with a case of First Convention Blunders.

But this year the whole damned program gang aft agley.

The first item was Hal Clement, who gave a slide talk. At one in the



afternoon. "And here we see an exceptionally fine photo of the sun's corona," he said -- only no one could. The facilities weren't set up so that sunlight could be effectively filtered out. I wandered in, saw a screen that looked like someone was shining an odd-shaped flashlight on it, and walked out. Later, people told me that the talk had been ok. A few words were worth a thousand pictures.

Larry Shaw, the guest of honor, was unable to attend. Lester del Ray read Larry's speech while I was out eating. Sorry about that.

The editor's panel got off to a late start, as Ted White was the only one to show up on time. When Terry Carr, Bob Lowndes and Don Benson arrived, the four clambered up onto the speaker's platform and batted around "The New Wave," which has unfortunately become Old Hat at conventions. Ted and Terry strove mightily to say something original about the topic, and might have had more success if Benson and Lowndes had been able to say anything besides, "Well, this year I'm buying..." The panel also suffered in that it was used as something of a space-filler: They were supposed to carry the ball until five, when Asimov was to speak, and it ran out of steam too soon. To add insult to injury, fifteen minutes before the hour they were told the room would have to be cleared at five.

This left Asimov with fifteen minutes to speak. So, naturally, he dragged Harlan Ellison up to the platform with him. (Harlan, who had reportedly sworn off conventions, managed to get Terry Carr to drag him to the Lunacon under Strong Protest.) The banter was about as good as you could expect from two quick-witted people skulling it for fifteen minutes: about one out of four hit their marks and were really humorous, and the rest got laughs because people could see that Harlan and Ike were trying to be funny, anyway.

I didn't attend the Eastercon bidding session; I had already learned that there would, officially, be no Eastercon next year. The official reason was that there seemed to be little interest in either hosting or attending it, now that room parties are popping off our chests like the slings and arrows of an outrageous good fortune. I heard speculation that the Real Reason may have been that Brian Burley (a Lunarian who'll be heading up a bid to hold the worldcon at a university campus) might find it embarrassing to be 'hosted' at an Eastercon party by a group he might be bidding against. Personally, I tend to doubt this: if he's not embarrassed to make such a ridiculous bid in the first place . . . Q.E.D.

Meeting and talking to people, at parties and in hallways, was great. I enjoyed telling Elliot Shorter why I thought LOCUS wasn't making it as a newszine, and Tony Whatsisface why I thought hiking the Boston worldcon membership rates was extortionate. The best party, I suppose, was the second-night stand in Arnie's room, a crowded affair with Colleen & myself, Arnie, Bruce Telzer, John White, the Silverbergs, Carrs, Panshins, Fishers, Whites, Denny O'Neill, and for a short while the Lupoffs, Steve Stiles, Harlan Ellison & girl. It wasn't an all-night affair, either, but the conversations, ranging from sf to comix to horticulture to fandom, were fascinating.

Then too, after the con was over, Colleen and I were fortunate to have Joyce Fisher stay on with us a week. This was all part of the Insurgents Plot to get Ray and Joyce Fisher to Move to the East Coast, of course, but it kept a part of the Lunacon with us, allowing us to savor our good times while the memories tapered off, rather than ending abruptly like this report.

--rich brown, 1970



# Among the Cosmen



-- ARNIE KATZ --

I lied to you in the last FOCAL POINT, and it pained me to do so. Indeed I would not have done so had the situation not been utterly beyond my control. Now I have been encouraged to make a clean breast of things. Fenster Fogg, despite what I said, did not tell me his scheme to make a fortune in the Heicon membership market over the phone. Fenster actually revealed his plan to me at a meeting of the Inner Circle Secret Masters of Fandom Club or, as we call it more familiarly, The Cosmen. The Cosmen, until now, has been a top secret club composed of a select group of local fans whose custom it is to meet every Friday evening in a coin laundry in a remote section of Brooklyn. But at the most recent meeting, all this was changed. As Ophelia Barris so eloquently put it repeatedly that night, "What's the good of being a SMOF if no one else knows it?" Accordingly it was decided that our club should reveal its existence to fandom. After a spirited speech by Ophelia, the membership requested that I should, from time to time, bring news of our doings to the fan world at large.

In this connection, I overheard a most interesting conversation at the last meeting which I think worthy of passing on. I was standing in front of the dryer, watching my towels whip around and around when the voices of Webley Whitlock and Bob Dingle broke in on my serenity. They were talking about the latest issue of EGOBOO.

"And do you know, Bob," said Webley Whitlock, "that Andy Main sent John Berry his entire fanzine collection after receiving a letter full of kissy comments from him?"

"Wish it'd been me. I like fanzines."

"I know just what you mean," Webley replied. "I was so depressed about the whole thing that I invented an entirely new form of humor." I realize that it could be readily argued by the reader that in this, the Leaden Age of Fandom, what is needed is greater skill with the species of humor already extant. I would have you hold such thoughts in abeyance, however, for the good of progress and innovation. Webley is our master of wit and repartee, and when he invents a new form of humor, I feel we are all the richer for it.

"How does it go?" Bob Dingle asked him.

"It's very simple. Pick a fan, any fan at all, then --"



"Bill Rotsler," Dingle blurted. "How about Bill Rotsler?"

"All right, Bill Rotsler. Then imagine yourself writing a letter full of kissy comments to him. Finally, imagine what the fan in question -- Rotsler -- would send back if moved by the wildest transports of generosity." He paused. "I wrote a letter full of kissy comments to Bill Rotsler, and he sent back a naked lady and 47 cartoons."

"That's good. I like that about the naked lady."

"Well, Bob, how about, I wrote a letter full of kissy comments to Charlie Brown and he sent back a TAFF ballot? Sent a letter of kissy comments to Piers Anthony and he sent back a provisional membership in the Piers Anthony Fan Club!" Whitlock's voice was now distinctly audible above the rumble of the washing machines. Heads began to turn in his direction as he continued. "Wrote to Hal Hughes and he sent back a case of Coco Rico. Wrote a letter of kissy comments to Ted White, and he sent back a bibliography of his fanzines! Wrote to Andy Porter and he sent back a letter on Heicon stationery offering to sell me the inside back cover of the next worldcon program book!" Here Whitlock, carried away by the scintillations of his own mind began to prance around among the ironing tables. Each specimen of his new form of humor was punctuated by a ringing blow delivered on the nearest table. "Wrote a letter of kissy comment to Robin White and got back a kitten!" Thump! "Wrote to-to Dean Head and he sent back three lids of gold!" Thump! "Wrote to-to-to, uh..."

"I have one, Webley," Bob Dingle offered. Webley Whitlock looked down at Dingle from his perch atop a soap dispensing machine where his fit of humor had led him. "I wrote a letter full of kissy comments to Mike McInerney and got back nothing." Dingle smiled. Whitlock looked at him quizzically as he nonchalantly climbed down from the machine.

"Nothing? But Mike McInerney is one of Ghu's saints. I don't get it, Bob." Whitlock settled into one of the hard plastic seats.

"Nothing," Dingle assured him. "Mike never answers letters."

I went back to watching the dryer.

-- Arnie Katz

THE CODE NUMBERS on your labels Mean Things. A number is the last issue which you may be sure of receiving. "T" is trade. P means you're with us for the duration. N means that you're a steady source of news. With other numbers, letters or messages you're pretty much on your own. This is the last of our three issue free trial, and while we would like to thank the majority of our readers for the fantastic reception given FOCAL POINT, some of you may be reading your last copy if you don't do something positive quick. We're too soft-hearted to lop off all the deadwood at once, but it will all be gone in a few issues, so if you've enjoyed FP I hope you'll do something that will keep you with us.



# FANZINES

LOCUS #51, Charlie Brown, 2078 Anthony Ave., Bronx, New York 10457, 10/\$2, mimeo, 10pp including insertions.

I was told at the Lunacon that Arnie had been much too harsh in his critique of LOCUS in the first issue of FOCAL POINT; although I'd only seen other peoples' copies and only glanced through them, I didn't think so. Now that I have a copy for review, I still don't think so. The sole item of news on the front page is that Hugo ballots are enclosed (unless you consider the fact that LOCUS took in \$1350. in subscriptions news). The rest is the colophon and Charlie's recommendations of what to vote for on the ballot -- it continues into the second page. To be fair, there's some good first-person coverage of recent conventions, and a number of items we felt it necessary to pick up for FOCAL POINT. But again, some of the more interesting items are buried under general titles, and Tony Lewis' SF MAGAZINES March 1970 rider and the Hugo ballot are stuck between pages 4 and 5 (which wouldn't have been so bad if page 4 hadn't ended with "Heicon Progress Report 1 is out and has a handsome cover by". Perhaps if we point this sort of thing out often enough, LOCUS will become a better fanzine. Perhaps even enough so that Charlie's suggestion here, that it be voted a Hugo could be taken seriously. Wait and see. (rich brown)

FOCAL POINT

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