

FOCAL POINT, Volume 2, Number 12, a fanzine of news, views and reviews, is edited by Arnie Katz (Apt. 3J, 55 Pineapple St., Brooklyn, NY 11201) and rich brown (410 - 61st St., Apt. D4, Brooklyn, NY 11220). Assistant Editor: Colleen Brown. Invaluable Help: Joyce Fisher. Published bi-weekly, it is available for news, all-for-all trades (both editors, please) or 6/\$1. Illustrations by Ross Chamberlain, Steve Stiles, Jay Kinney and Bill Rotsler. SUPPORT THE SHAW FUND! August 31, 1970.

HUGO WINNERS!

NOVEL

LEFT HAND OF DARKNESS
- LEGUIN

NOVELLA

SHIP OF SHADOWS
- LEIBER

SHORT

TIME CONSIDERED....
- DELANY

PROZINE

F & SF

FANZINE

SF REVIEW

FANWRITER

BOB TUCKER

ARTIST

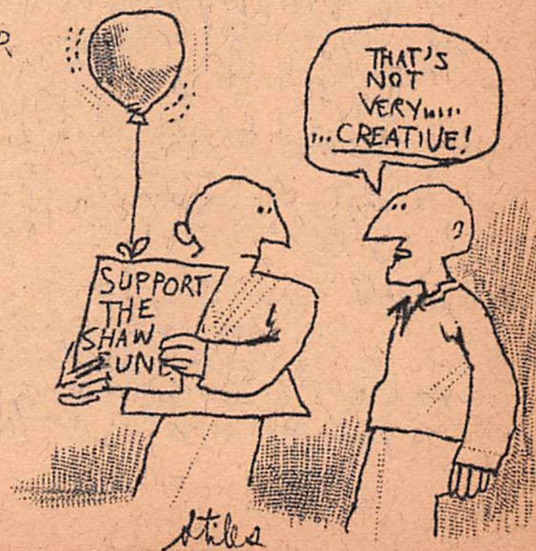
KELLY FREAS

FANARTIST

TIM KIRK

DRAMA

APOLLO XI



LOS ANGELES WINS WORLDCON The Los Angeles in '72 bid won an unopposed victory at the Heicon. It had been expected that there would be at least one other bid from the Barea, but it never materialized.

ROTATION PLAN CHANGED At the Heicon business meeting, the Worldcon Rotation Plan was again changed, this time back to the familiar three-year swing. Out-of-the Northern American continent bids will henceforth be allowed any year, rather than having a slot every five years in the rotation.

TORONTO FAN FAIR HUGE SUCCESS The Toronto Fan Fair was successful almost beyond the sponsors' dreams when 360 fans appeared at the King Edward Sheraton Hotel the weekend of August 21-23 instead of the approximately 200 who had been expected. The Art Show was an obvious beneficiary of the high turnout as more than 200 entries were displayed. Though there were many fine paintings shown, the best work was generally thought to be that of Alicia Austin, George Barr, and Derek Carter. The Banquet was a buffet brunch at which fans learned that maple syrup and scrambled eggs are not a good combination and heard an outstanding speech by Alex Panshin. Alex talked on the Gernsback Delusion, the idea that science fiction is important because of its predictive aspects. Naturally Alex maintained that speculative fiction has other qualities that are more important.

There was an amusing incident involving the House Detective. It seems that he came upon a group of fans occupying the balcony overlooking the lobby at 2 am Sunday morning. "It's Sunday morning," the guard said, and then ordered people to disperse. The fans were quite reluctant to do so. The House Dick proceeded to the room where all-night movies were in progress. "You've all got to get out of here" he told the audience. Then he looked up on the screen where "Forbidden Planet" was just beginning. "Hey," he said, "I never saw that one!" So he sat down and watched the movies until 5 am.

AGACON was held in Atlanta August 14-16 at the Howell House Hotel. Though a registration of 155 was claimed, eyewitness X-2 said there were never more than 70 people visible at any one time. The convention was rather disorganized, but despite this the consensus among attendees was that Chairman Glenn Brock put together the best DeepSouthcon yet. Guest of Honor Sam Moskowitz was awarded the 1970 Rebel Award, given for service to southern fandom, primarily giving the Atlanta group The Immortal Storm to publish in the early fifties. Phoenix Awards, for the best professional writing and illustrating by a southern fan went to Richard Meredith for We All Died At Breakaway Station and Jeff Jones for his many fine paintings. The program featured a speech by Sam on new research he's done on WEIRD TALES and a panel on the New Wave vs. Old Wave which was interesting, despite the fact that no one on it really wanted to defend New Wave science fiction. The 1971 DeepSouthcon was awarded to New Orleans.

AGAIN DANGEROUS VISIONS POSTPONED According to Doubleday Editor Larry Ashmead, Again Dangerous Visions will not be published this year as originally announced. While all the stories are in already, Harlan has not yet completed his introductions. The book is now scheduled for May 1971.

BAREA NEWS Calvin and Wilma Demmon, long time residents of Los Angeles, have decided to move North to the Barea within the next month. ::: Another Non-con will be held at the home of Bill Donaho over the Labor Day weekend. Expected attendees are the same as for the last one, surprisingly enough including F.M. and Elinor Busby who, we are told, will make yet another trip down the Coast for the event.

BOB SHAW FUND NEWS

The Bob Shaw Fund is moving along very nicely; the number of people pledging their help and support has been especially heartwarming both to the committee and to BoSh himself. We're also beginning to see a significant amount of money coming in, which is especially nice. A bank account has been started by co-chairman and treasurer rich brown, and a progress report on the finances of the Fund will be in the next regular issue of FOCAL POINT. Keep your contributions coming into him (address in the colophon), and see "A SPECIAL NOTE," below.

FOCAL POINT'S BOB SHAW ISSUE will be published sometime before the next regular FP appears in two weeks. Work on it is progressing well, and the line-up already includes Calvin Demmon, Ted White, Steve Stiles, Arnie Katz and Redd Boggs, with other pieces expected to arrive momentarily. FOCAL POINT 12.5 is available only one way, unless you are a contributor to the issue. You must send \$1 in cash or check to Arnie Katz (address also in colophon). Remember, this issue will not be sent to regular subscribers, and all money collected will be donated to the Fund. Only a limited number of copies above the advance order will be printed, so order yours Right Now.

THE ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR, the allegorical faan fiction piece authored by Bob Shaw and Walt Willis is being sold at \$1 per copy, again with all proceeds going to the Bob Shaw Fund. This is a new edition with illustrations throughout by Ross Chamberlain. At present, it is only a few pages short of being completely stenciled, the roughs for the illos have been approved and the first few chapters have already been illoed. If you haven't got a copy of TED, this is a golden opportunity to possess a superb piece of fanwriting out of print for many years. If you already are familiar with the piece, the edition is worthwhile just for the illos. Orders should be sent to Arnie Katz.

OTHER SPECIAL ISSUES PLANNED

MICROCOSM #14 will be a Special BoSh issue, obtainable for 50¢ from editor Dave Burton (5422 Kenyon Dr., Indianapolis, Ind. 46226). Guaranteed to be a stellar issue of an always entertaining fanzine.

BEABOHEMA will publish a special BoSh issue within a matter of months; the editor, Frank Lunney (212 Juniper St., Quakertown, Pa. 18951) will be publishing another regular issue before he goes to college, and that issue will probably be in the mails about the same time as this issue of FP. Frank is rounding up some special material to make the issue special in more than name only. Send \$1 to him to reserve a copy NOW. More details will be forthcoming.

INFINITUM #5 edited by Dave Lewton (735 E. Kessler Blvd., Indianapolis, Ind., 46220) will be a Special Bob Shaw issue, too. Fine contributions are already on hand and more are being sought to make this another sterling contribution of Indy fandom to the BoSh Fund. 50¢ cash.

A SPECIAL NOTE Terry Carr has offered to send 20 fanzines of recent years to anyone who contributes \$1 or more to the Bob Shaw Fund. This, of course, does not include such things as purchasing special Bob Shaw issues of fanzines, The Enchanted Duplicator, auction items, etc., but only bona fide across-the-board donations. Send those donations to rich brown, and he'll send your name to Terry.

AUCTIONS FOR THE SHAW FUND

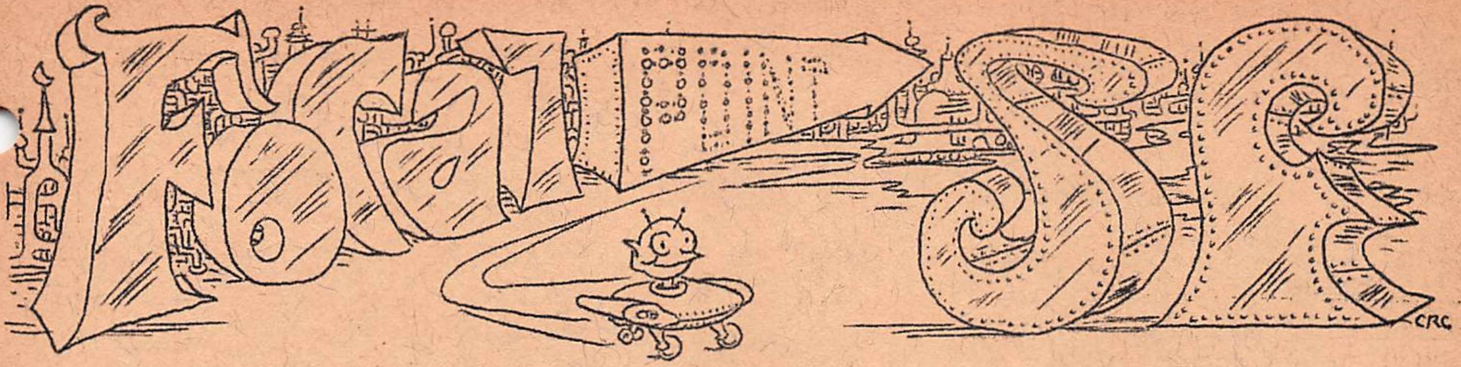
ALL BIDS for the auctions listed below, both old and new, should be sent to Colleen Brown (same address as rich brown, see colophon) by the deadlines stipulated below. Send no money, just a bid on the item or items you want.

OLD AUCTION: Three fanzines were placed up for bids in the last issue of FOCAL POINT. They were INNUENDOs Nos. 10 and 11, and QUIP No. 13, contributed by loyal BoSh supporters Terry Carr and Arnie Katz. Only about 150 copies of INNUENDO #10, the Innish III, were printed, and within a few months of publication copies were changing hands for \$2. There were 90 pages or so of material by the likes of Willis, Bloch, Leman, Warner, Grennell, and the editor, Terry Carr. One of the best single issues of a fanzine ever published. The high bid received was \$15, submitted by George Senda. INNUENDO #11, another classic fanzine, contains articles about Town-er Laney by Alva Rogers and Charles Burbee, a faaan fiction piece by Carl Brandon, Ron Ellick's history of FANAC, and a cartoon battle between Ray Nelson and Bjo. The top bid received, again by George Senda, was \$20. QUIP #13, although of more recent date, is an extremely rare fanzine which only a handful of fans have actually seen. It contains material by Warner, Berry, Benford, Atkins, Burbee, and the editor, A. Katz. The high bid received, from George Senda, was \$19. The top five bids on QUIP #13, one for each copy offered, will be considered, with the minimum bid remaining at \$1. The deadline for the bids on the above fanzines will be FOCAL POINT #13, two weeks hence.

NEW AUCTION: A file of SLANTs, donated by BoSh himself, goes on the auction block with this issue of FOCAL POINT. The complete run of SLANT, which was letter-press printed, contains some real fannish classics -- Clive Barnes' "A Swordsman of Varnis," linoleum block cuts by James White and Bob Shaw, Walt Willis' first pun, and of course BoSh's classic "Fansmanship Lectures." One of your avaricious FOCAL POINT editors, taking the bid in his teeth so to speak, will pay \$15 for the set if no one outbids him. :: Next in line is a block of fanzines we might call (and in fact, will) "A Terry Carr Sampler," donated by Terry Carr. Minimum bid is \$1. The sampler contains OMEGA #1, March, 1953, one of the first fanzines he ever did, with material by Gregg Calkins and Dave Rike. THE GOLDEN GATE TO SCIENCE FANTASY, published in 1954, a collection of stuff from San Francisco fanzines of the time, with Dave English, Dave Rike, and Dean Grennell ("Art Wesley"). THE BNF OF IZ by Carl Brandon, written in 1958 by Ron Ellick and Terry Carr and later published by Ted White. KLEIN BOTTLE #5, August 1960, published by Miriam and Terry with material by Rotsler, Atom, Nelson, Bjo, and the editors, including the first draft of the story that later became Terry's first sf sale (to F&SF). THE EXPURGATED BOOB STEWART, a collection of writings and cartoons by one of the lesser-known writers of Carl Brandon's material, published by Terry in 1960 with anecdotes about Boob. HOBGOBLINS 3 and 4 from 1960 and TROLL CHOWDER #1, 1962, featuring critical fmz reviews by Terry. HOBGOBLIN #15, July 1965, a SAPSazine with Nelson, Aldiss and Atom plus book reviews and fannish fiction by Terry; DIASPAR #11, November, 1968, a FAPazine featuring "A Modest Manifesto" which had subsequent appearances in WARHOON and Fantastic, and "The Gafiated World," the beginning of a J.G. Ballard parody by Carl Brandon. This is all one package. Deadline for bids on the above (the SLANTs and the Sampler) is FOCAL POINT #14.

CLUBS JOIN IN

THE DALLAS SF SOCIETY has gotten into the drive by announcing a series of "coin parties." According to Larry Heardon, attendees will be required to donate their change to the Bob Shaw Fund. DaSFS thus joins Insurgents and Fanoclasts in the Fund Raising game. And what of the other bidder for 1973? Is Minneapolis going to let Dallas prove itself the truly fannish bidder? And the rest of you: When it comes your time to face that Great BNF In The Sky and he opens your book of fannish deeds, will it show you to have been a contributor to the Shaw Fund? Will you be qualified to participate in That Great Oneshot Up There?



--RICH BROWN--

BY FURIES POSSESSED by Ted White (Signet T4275 - 75¢)

Ted White has gone beyond Tuckerisms with his new novel, By Furies Possessed.

Tuckerisms, for those who don't know, are the creation of our own Arthur Wilson ("Bob") Tucker. They are the mention of fan names, as minor or passing characters, in a professional book. A Joe Kennedy, a "Red" Boggs or a "Buz" Busby, thrown into a book by One Of Us, is a point of amusement not only to the fan who is so named but by the rest of us who are In The Know. In itself it won't make a bad story good, but in a good story it's an amusing plus. At least, I've never heard it said that they detract from the stories.

Tucker is not the only fan-turned-pro who has used the device -- with varying degrees of success -- but like a lot of things, it started with Tucker, and hence the practice is named after him.

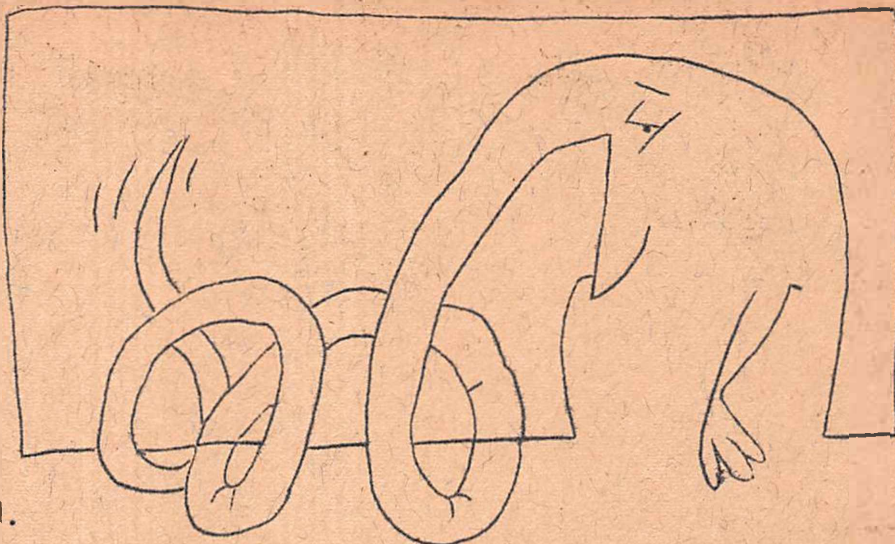
But it all gets out of hand, I think, when one or more of the major characters -- as in By Furies Possessed -- is so obviously a real fan. In this instance, it's a midwesterner named Tucker. Later in the story, we learn his name is "Arthur," that his wife's name is "Fern," and because this Tucker is a compulsive chaser of women, he's having marital difficulties. He's a father figure to the protagonist, Tad Dameron, and he even uses Tucker-like figures of speech.

Leaving aside whether or not the real Tucker is a compulsive woman chaser (or perhaps just jovially lustful) and whether or not he's having marital difficulties as a result of this (I have no indication that he is), there's not much more that could be done to make this character identifiable as BT Himself aside from making him a motion picture projectionist and sf-mystery writer on the side. And either way, true or untrue, the use rankles and leaves a bad taste in one's mouth -- and detracts from the enjoyment of the book.

"Jim Benford," a relatively minor character, is much closer to what Tuckerisms should be, even though he has some Benfordesque things to say and is further identifiable as Our Own Jim Benford by location: he lives in Northern California. He has a tendency to pontificate beyond even Jim Benford's, but this is partially accounted for by the fact that when we first come across him in the story, he is already one of the "alien" humans. All the "alien" humans tend to be a bit stiff when they are supposed to be coming across cool and relaxed. The attempt to make this con-

tradiction workable is one of the few failings of the book.

If there are some things to dislike about By Furies Possessed, there are far more things that deserve to be praised. Because, even with these faults out in front, this is one of Ted's best books -- and that's no hollow compliment, because Ted has written a number of very enjoyable books indeed.



The protagonist, Tad Dameron, a paranoid, anal-compulsive individual who relates to people as if they were objects (he has a few bad points, too . . .), has a "talent" which is his only weapon against the "alien" humans. The talent is the ability to organize data systematically in such a way that a previously hidden fact becomes apparent to him in the form of a "hunch." This talent is made so believable that one could imagine Tad Dameron walking around, right now, with just such a talent. The analytical quality of the talent is perfectly in keeping with the character's paranoia. And the talent, like present-day ESP, is fallable, subject to human fatigue and insufficient (or wrong) data, and occasionally it comes too late or nearly too late to be of any use.

The strong point of By Furies Possessed is its devoted attention to detail, strung-out in a tightly-woven thread throughout the book. It's this attention to detail, whether it's in defining the limits of the hero's abilities or painting a picture of the society extant when man is going to the stars, that makes the book so believable, so real.

There are thematic similarities between Furies and both The Puppet Masters and Stranger in a Strange Land. Dameron's boss, Tucker, is even called The Old Man. They're both in government service (the Bureau of Non-Terran Affairs), and Dameron is pitting his talent against humans who've been "taken over" by white, slug-like parasites. Bjonn (another Tuckerism), the first "human" to return from a colony beyond our solar system, is not sneakily attaching these slugs to human's backs, as in The Puppet Masters, but is promoting them as part of the communion in his "church," ala Michael Valentine Smith in Stranger.

But Furies is, if anything, the antithesis to both Heinlein books. Sam, the hero who battles the slugs in The Puppet Masters, comes close to perfection in his role as government agent; he's something of a precursor to Ian Fleming's James Bond. Dameron, on the other hand, is riddled with as many neuroses as Swiss cheese is with holes and is just short of incompetent on many counts. His personality defects put as much of a limitation on his one talent as anything else -- although it finally saves him in the end -- and the one time he's forced to kill to save himself, it's good fortune and instinct which guide his hands rather than years of training.

In The Puppet Masters, the characters merely assume all the authority necessary to combat the "menace" of the slugs. In Furies, after being hounded by The Old Man into doing the best job that anyone can possibly do, Dameron is finally stopped from following through on his assignment by a lack of sufficient authority to do so; no one is willing to put their government job on the line to follow-up his "hunch" that he has the alien humans contained in a limited area -- world menace or no. This unbelievable touch makes the Bureau (from which, after all, we get the word bureaucracy) more believable.

The differences between Bjonn and Michael Valentine Smith are even more striking. The saintly Michael Valentine, who murders ("disincorporates") more people in his little escapade than Murder, Inc., and with less reason, brings humanity yet another placebo -- the "water of life," which will magically bring compassion to humanity (although not enough, it seems, to stop killing "the bad guys") and the language that will make humanity think more clearly. There are no placebos, no sop offered to cure all of humankind's ills -- that, ultimately, is still up to humanity, just as it has always been -- in Furies. Bjonn is more human (despite his alienness) than saintly, and his church is less a church.

By Furies Possessed is a finely-knit combination of several things. It is a well-plotted, finely-detailed action-adventure story. Its pacing is professional, and it has no unglued edges, no unnecessary trivia. It is a relevant, detailed character-study -- and it is equally important, to the story, whether the hero saves the world from the aliens or solves his own personal hang-ups; they are, in the course of the book, shown to be the same thing.

Ted White is something of a rarity among present-day science fiction writers. He has produced roughly a dozen tightly-written, well-plotted sf books, and By Furies Possessed, as I've said, is no exception. If anything, it's better conceptualized and has both more delineated characterization and intricate plotting than anything Ted has done thus far. While he has always done well with his central characters, Furies for the first time succeeds in conveying this strong sense of believability and reality to other characters as well, including those who are far from the center of the plot.

I've touched on a few of the elements I think good about Furies; its real strength is that all of these elements are skillfully blended together into an integrated novel -- in the real sense of that word.

I've also touched on a few of its faults. For all of these, this is still Ted's best book to date -- and for that reason, I thoroughly recommend it.

--rich brown, 1970



One day not too long ago I was talking with Skip Williamson, cartoonist and former fan. "Hey, guess what?" I said to Skip.

"What?" said Skip thru his beard.

"I was just voted Best New Fan of 1969 in the Egoboo Poll. And I've been in Fandom for 4 years!"

"Ah ha!" replied Williamson. "Calvin "Biff" Demmon was voted Best New Fan when he had been in fandom already for 10 years!"

Now I suspect that Skip's fannish memory may have gotten a little exaggerated over the years since he gafiated and went on to bigger and better things. But my point in relating the above genuine conversation is this: Fans are human. Humans are subjective beings. Fan Polls thus are subjective polls. You start fiddling around with subjectivity, boy, and who knows what you're going to come up with?

In the latest issue of GRANFALLOON, Linda devoted a page (aptly titled GRUNTLE, though why she added LE is beyond me...) to her gripes about the recent EGOBOO poll. Her complaints deserve a reply and as one of the objects of her distain I was miffed just enough to make this attempt. Now down to particulars...

Linda carped about George Barr being voted 2nd Best Fan Artist. Now I don't much feel like arguing over the prostrate body of Barr. So he hasn't filled pages and pages of fanzines with his drawings recently. OK. It's conceivable, though, that some fans might consider one Barr illo worth 20 by any other. I didn't note any time limit on the EGOBOO poll. It wouldn't be too hard to argue that the Barr cover on TRUMPET #9 was one of the best single pieces of fan art published in the last 5 years. Barr deserved some homage for it. So be it.

From here on down, though, Linda's carps get harder to digest. She berates Ted White's placing 2nd in the Best Fan Writer category when he supposedly "hasn't written a column in months". I don't think Linda has the facts quite right. Ted has managed columns in numerous issues of EGOBOO over the past year, plus writing for his FAPA zine and various other items such as the 9-page article in BEABOHEMA #9. I would remind

Linda that every fan can't receive every fanzine and be aware of every piece of fan writing around. Linda...you ain't no exception.

Similarly, some fans are more aware of some facts than others. It was common knowledge among many New York fans over the past year that Richard Bergeron was spending hefty amounts of energy preparing the next two issues of WARHOON...one of them to be a 200+ pager reprinting all the Willis "Harp" columns and much more. This makes WARHOON, by my standards, an ongoing fanzine, with big gaps between issues maybe, but certainly worthy of my vote and respect. Seemingly, Linda considered WARHOON dead and not deserving of placing in the poll as it did. I trust that when the latest issue comes out she'll change her opinion. Drastically.

Finally, Linda denigrates the poll for receiving only 33 ballots, many of them, "no doubt: from friends of Berry and White." This, it seems to me, is more the fault of fandom at large than of the poll itself. If a poll, published in ECCEBOO and reprinted in the revered SFR can summon only 33 ballots...whose fault is this? Certainly not the poll's. As for friends participating... Jesus, Linda, what d'ya want? I'm in fandom because of the people in it. Some I've become close to, some not. My votes (and I trust MOST fans--especially those in Pittsburgh...) were made on the basis of quality. I begin to question YOUR standards, though, when you question QUIP's placing in the poll for instance. QUIP was never just a "humor zine" (Bushyager's words)...but much more. With the likes of Warner, Willis, Atkins, Busby, Lupoff, the TAFF report and other top features and talents in its pages, it was a fanzine made to last. Its placing in the ECCEBOO poll as 5th best fanzine was not without reason, I think. I find its absence in the Granfalloon listing of best fanzines a bit odd.

So, where does this leave us? If there had been better participation in the poll, then, perhaps, the results would have been more to Linda's liking. Maybe not. I dunno. Was I the Best New Fan of 1969? Maybe for some fans I was. For me, 1967-68 was pretty much wasted in the N3F. No doubt to some people I'm still a new name. Probably the REAL Best New Fan of 1969 is some unknown genius who won't get known until 1973. What are you going to do?

Why don't you take your OWN poll, Linda? I'm tired. Excuse me, I gotta take a shit.

-- JAY KINNEY

SUPPORT
SHAW!
DO IT NOW!!

MORE NEWS

NOREASCON As of August 1, some 474 people have joined the Noreascon (Box 547, Cambridge, Mass. 02139). New York leads the list with 61 registered and Massachusetts is second with 54. The committee would also appreciate hearing from anyone knowing the whereabouts of Fred Clsin, formerly of Columbia, Mo., whose mail was returned.

PAPERBACK LIBRARY Science fiction releases for September are Cosmic Engineers (Simak) and Black in Time (Jakes). Of interest to sf film fans will be Science Fiction in the Cinema by long-time fan John Baxter.

COAs

Mike Barrier, Box 5229, Brady Station, Little Rock, Ark. 72205
Richard Llewellyn, 229 N. Main Street, Wake Forest, N.C. 27587
Milton F. Stevens, 130 S. Oxford Ave., #8, Los Angeles, Calif. 90004

THE AXE Effective with this issue, it's the grim headsman Himself who gets it in the neck. Now, and in the future, we will depend upon our readers to read their labels and act accordingly. (Negotiations to trade him off for a happy footman were unsuccessful.)

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