



FOCAL POINT, Volume 2, Number 14, a fanzine of news, views and reviews, is edited by rich brown (410 - 61st St., Apt. D4, Brooklyn, NY 11220) and Arnie Katz (Apt. 3J, 55 Pineapple St., Brooklyn, NY 11201). 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 Steve Stiles, Bill Rotsler, John Berry and Jay Kinney. SUPPORT THE SHAW FUND!! September 28, 1970.

#### DELANY INELIGIBLE FOR HUGO?

Rumors to the contrary, no one as yet is challenging Samuel Delany's "Time Considered as a Helix of Semi-Precious Stones" which received this year's Hugo in contradiction to the rules. ("Time Considered..." was first published in NEW WORLDS in 1968 and reprinted in "World's Best SF" in 1969.) The time for this to have come up, to save embarrassment to all concerned, was before Hugo balloting, but it leaves us with an interesting question if someone had bothered to contest the award: Would it be better to stick to the rules or save those concerned from the distasteful task of taking a Hugo back? If the ballots, which are of course Australian, were still around, it might be possible to re-run the race by eliminating Delany and taking those who voted him in first place and use their second-place vote. (For those who might be wondering, "Time Considered..." was eligible, under SFWA rules, for the Nebula which it won. Did someone say fans are sheep?)

#### PETE WESTON TO STAND FOR TAFF

Pete Weston, editor of SPECULATION, is definitely a candidate for TAFF this year. Greg Benford, who has been promoting Pete's candidacy for over a year now, reports that without a TAFF race this year, we might have been deprived of the opportunity to bring Pete over here, since he had said he wouldn't be able to run after next year. If there were not a TAFF race, that in itself would be reason enough to hold one, say we.

#### MYTHCON

Mythcon, the first convention held by the Mythopoeic Society of California, held in conjunction with Tolkien Conference III, took place Sept. 4-7 on the campus of Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, drawing about 200-225 attendees. Program items included papers on Tolkien, Lewis, Williams, and other fantasy, plus some films, panels, music, theatre, tournaments, a masquerade and an exceptional art show. The film programming was termed excellent, and the recently-formed Performing Arts



Workshop of the Mythopoeic Society presented two fine programs at the con. Mythcon II has been tentatively scheduled for either Thanksgiving or some weekend in August at the Riverdale Mission Inn.

MINICON The Minicon will be held at the Curtis Hotel June 18-20, 1971. Registration is \$2 in advance (to Jim Young, 1948 Ulysses St. N.E., Minneapolis, Minn. 55418) or \$3 at the door. The hotel has two swimming pools (one enclosed) and free parking to registered guests. The first progress report is scheduled to be published the last week in September.

OPEN ESFA The Open ESFA meeting will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark, N.J. The meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. and will feature Walker science fiction editor Hans Stefan Santesson as GoH. Other featured speakers include Isaac Asimov, Lester Del Rey, and John L. Nanovic, the first editor of the DOC SAVAGE and SHADOW pulps. Admission is \$2. The banquet commemorating the 30th anniversary of the first worldcon to be held in conjunction with the Open ESFA will be held Sunday, Oct. 4, 12:30 p.m. at the same hotel. Isaac Asimov will be toastmaster, and others including Sam Moskowitz, will speak. If you haven't already made reservations for the banquet, you're too late.

SFWA The SFWA Banquet & Day Program will be held in Berkeley again in 1971, breaking the usual rotation between the Bay Area and LA. The over-riding factors would appear to be a combination of more interest in putting on the affair in Berkeley and the fact that a lot of members prefer the Bay Area location for meetings. Greg Benford, boy scientist and sf pro (add: FOCAL POINT columnist, beginning maybe Next Issue), will be putting it on, with Alva Rogers arranging hotel, banquet, etc. with the Claremont. The general plan will be the same as last year.

COMIX Dick Giordano's resignation from National is official. He'll depart Oct. 9, to resume the life of the freelance artist, inking and probably pencilling for National:: Charles McNaughton, production editor of Warren Publications (CREEPY, EERIE, VAMPIRELLA, FAMOUS MONSTERS), has resigned to continue his careers as writer-illustrator. McNaughton is the author of Mindblower, "porno sci-fi apocalyptic wordweb par excellence." His replacement is Billy Graham (no relation to the bible thumper), whose sword & sorcery art has previously graced the pages of Warren mags.: National plans to hire a woman editor and give her all the romance titles. Giordano's action-adventure books, at least as of mid-September, were to be divided between Murray Boltinoff and Joe Orlando, thereby filling the holes in their schedules caused by the unnamed lady's assumption of their romantic duties ....

FAPA ELECTION RESULTS Greg Benford is the new President of FAPA, news to practically no one, since he was the only one to file. His slate of officers include Dick Lupoff, Vice President; Bill Evans, Secretary-Treasurer, and Gregg Calkins, Official Editor. The only part of the race that was anything of a contest was for the post of Vice President, where Dick beat Dave Hulan on a vote of 18-to-10. Write-ins for President, with one vote each, were FMBusby, Dian Pelz and Harry Warner. Write-ins for Sec-Treas. were Karen Anderson and Roy Tackett. Fred Patten received two write-in votes for OE. Rumor has it that Greg



Benford has some radical changes in FAPA procedure planned.

FILM: The Universal film based on D.F. Jones' Colossus, originally titled "The Forbin Project," has been re-titled "Colossus: The Forbin Project," largely after fairly good reviews. :: "Beneath the Planet of the Apes," despite uniformly bad reviews, is out-grossing "Planet of the Apes" on a world-wide basis--and "Planet of the Apes" is one of the all-time great money-making films. :: Vic Morrow, late of "Combat," will appear on the only new sf series of the TV season, "The Immortal," based loosely on James Gunn's novel. Despite a Hugo nomination for the pilot, which aired last season, the series bears more resemblance to "Run for your Life."



BArea Avram Davidson will be teaching a course, in Sausalito, in the writing of science fiction and science fantasy. The course, to last 10 to 12 weeks and consist of one three-hour workshop each week plus one three-hour private session for each participant, will cost \$100. There will be a limit of 15 people in each class, with as many classes held as necessary. Meeting days and times to be decided, with the first meeting set for Oct. 26. Interested parties write him now: Avram Davidson, Far Fetch, 824 Sutro Ave., Novato, Calif. (source: WINNIE) :: David Book was married Sept. 20 to a girl named Zebra. No kidding. :: Bill Donaho had an automobile accident while trying to avoid a dog, rolled his car but escaped with no damage to his large person.

MINNEAPOLIS The next Minn-Stf Writers Conference is coming up in October; the tentative date is Oct 23-25. Gordon Dickson and Clifford D. Simak will again preside as mentors over the would-be pros during a session of "discussion and whatnot." :: Area fans Walt Schwartz and Norm Rigor started a bookstore in the Lake Street area of South Minneapolis. Jim Young says it's mostly used stuff, with a leaning towards stf.

#### COAs

Mark Barclay, P.O. Box 39, St. Charles, Missouri, 63301  
John D. Berry, Mayfield House, Stanford, California  
Ed & Jessie Clinton, 9 Sussex Court, San Rafael, California 94903  
D. Douglas Fratz, University of Maryland, Cumberland Hall E (Rm. 207),  
College Park, Maryland 20742  
Frank Lunney, Box 551, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015  
Larry Nichols, c/o Jon Stopa, Wilmot Mtn., Wilmot, Wisconsin 53192  
Lawrence W. Propp, 3127 N. Sheridan Road, Peoria, Illinois 61604  
Felice Rolfe, Box 395, Berkeley, California 94701  
Bill Rotsler, 2925 Hollyridge, Los Angeles, California 90028  
James Saklad, 266 Slates Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02906



# BOB SHAW NEWS

\$183.15 is the current balance in the Bob Shaw Fund bank account, which is growing nicely under the eye of rich brown. You can help the fund meet its \$1000. goal and bring Bob Shaw to the Noreascon by sending a donation to rich at 410-61st. Street, Apt. D-4, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11220.

LIFETIME SUBS TO SFR are now being sold by Dick Geis, Box 3116, Santa Monica, Calif. 90403 for \$30. All money collected from this offer will be donated to the BoSh Fund.

NOPE #12 Jay Kinney informs us, will be a Special Bob Shaw Issue. NOPE ia always a fine fanzine, and this special issue will be even better than usual with such material as a comic strip by Steve Stiles, art by Crumb and Deitch, and a host of articles by writers like Ted White. You can reserve your copy by sending 50¢ to Jay Kinney c/o rich brown.

FOCAL POINT #12.5 is available from Arnie Katz, Apt. 3-J, 55 Pineapple St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201 for \$1., all proceeds going to the Bob Shaw Fund. FP #12.5 is 52 pages of material by such as Shaw, Burbee, Demmon, Colleen Brown, and Stiles.

THE ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR written by Bob Shaw and Walt Willis will soon be published in a new edition illustrated by Ross Chamberlain. Copies are \$1. and money to reserve yours now should be sent to Arnie Katz. A fine way to support the BoSh Fund and obtain a fannish classic at the same time.

MICROCOSM 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.

INFINITUM #5 will soon be available from Dave Lewton (735 E. Kessler Blvd., Indianapolis, Ind. 46220) and is shaping up nicely. Faan fiction by Jim Lavell, fanzine reviews by Lee Lavell, and material by Arnie Katz, Leon Taylor and Lewton himself highlight the zine. Your 50¢ not only gets you this issue, but also brings Bob closer to Boston.

BEABOHEMA #12 Frank Lunney (212 Juniper St., Quakertown, Pa. 18951) has a Special Bob Shaw Issue scheduled. He's rounding up material to make this BAB extra special. The issue is available for \$1.

20 FREE FANZINES from recent years will be sent to anyone who donates \$1 or more to the Bob Shaw Fund. When sending rich your contribution, simply indicate that you want the free fanzines, and we'll pass your name on to Terry Carr who's making the offer.

## A U C T I O N S

ALL BIDS for the auctions listed, both old and new, should be sent to Colleen Brown (410-61 St. Apt. D-4, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11220). Send no money, unless specified, just a bid or bids on the items you want.



OLD AUCTIONS The copies of INNUENDO Nos. 10 and 11 donated by Terry Carr, and QUIP 13 (five separate copies) donated by Arnie Katz were sold last issue. George Senda, top bidder (INNUENDO #10: \$15; INNUENDO #11: \$20; QUIP 13: \$19 or the lot for \$54.) has not yet sent in his money. Neither has Don Fitch (QUIP 13: \$5) or Dave Burton (QUIP 13: \$2). Money must be received by Wednesday, October 7, 1970 in the form of checks, money orders, cash, etc. or it will be my unpleasant duty to declare unpaid auction items up for bids again. So, please make good your bids now. Thanks go to Bergeron and Harisimides for their prompt payment. Their items are in the mails now.

AUCTIONS STILL ON The complete file of SLANT, famous printed fanzine of the late 40's and early 50's produced by Willis, Shaw, and White is the object of furious bidding. Current leader is Richard Bergeron at \$27. There's still time to top him and get a run of one of the best fanzines of all time.

A Terry Carr Sampler donated by Terry Carr contains OMEGA #1; THE GOLDEN GATE TO SCIENCE FANTASY; THE BNF OF IZ; KLEIN BOTTLE #5; THE EXPURGATED BOOB STEWART; HOBGOBLIN 3 and 4; HOBGOBLIN 15; TROLL CHOWDER 1; and DIASPAR 11. Greg Benford has bid \$7, the highest bid so far. This auction will be closed if no bids are received by Wednesday, Oct. 7.

A file of WARHOON from issue #7 to issue #26, inclusive has been donated by Dick Bergeron to the Shaw Fund auctions. The 20 issues of this Hugo-winning fanzine, contain in approximately 900 pages of material by Bergeron, Rotsler, Calkins, Eney, Tucker, Jerry Pournelle, Virginia Blish, Aldiss, Charles Wells, "William Atheling," Philip K Dick, Harry Warner Jr., Ted White, Bloch and Ellison. WARHOON columnists include such as John Berry, Walt Willis, Redd Boggs, James Blish, Robert A.W. Lowndes, Walter Breen, John Baxter, Bob Shaw and Terry Carr. FOCAL POINT editor Arnie Katz has entered a bid of \$20 on the set.

DIMENSIONS #14 and #15; ELFSON WONDERLAND #1 to #3; CRYSTAL BALLING SCIENCE FANTASY BULLETIN; and VECTOR donated by Lee Hoffman. Incredibly we have not had a bid yet on these rare examples of Harlan in his fannish glory years. Harlan is far from the only attraction. He had an uncanny ability to drag contributions from pros like Fletcher Pratt and Andre Norton who made virtually no other appearances in fandom. This stuff is a steal at the minimum of \$5.

FANHISTORY #1 to #4. The first three issues were done by Lee Hoffman in 1956. #1 deals with Jack Speer; #2 treats Numbered Fandoms; #3 salutes Damon Knight. #4 was published by Ted White, John Berry, Terry Carr and Arnie Katz in 1968 and consists of VOID #29. FANHISTORY #1 to #3 were donated by Lee Hoffman, #4 was given by Ted White. Minimum bid is \$4.

THE COMPLETE FAAN containing choice material by BoSh fellow Belfasters, John Berry has been donated by Ed Reed. Minimum bid is \$1.

HARLEQUIN a large fanzine written by John Berry and illustrated by ATOM published to boost Arthur's TAFF candidacy. Donated by Ed Reed. Minimum bid is \$1.

MOJO-NAVIGATOR ROCK & ROLL NEWS #s 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, donated by Greg Shaw, the original rock paper which inspired the foundation of ROLLING STONE. Greg was co-editor. These are very rare and considered collectors' items by rock fans. Minimum bid is \$5.

CRAWDADDY, two issues: No. 9, May '67 and No. 14, April '68, donated by Greg Shaw. They are in fairly good condition, not mint, but scarce enough to be worth something to rock buffs. Minimum bid is \$2.

Two Books: INFORMED SOURCES: DAY EAST RECEIVED by Willard Bain, published by Chester

CONT SECOND PAGE FOLLOWING





Once upon a time, before I had heard of fanzines or knew what a trufan was, New York fandom lived in Manhattan. Most fanzine fans, at the beginning of the sixties, lived in or near the Village. They clustered around Ted White's place, dubbed Towner Hall in honor of Francis Towner Laney. The other significant fan concentration was centered around the penthouse apartment of Dick and Pat Lupoff uptown.

Then Ted closed Metropolitan Mimeo and with it Towner Hall and moved way down to Brooklyn, 339-49th Street.

At first Ted complained that people no longer came to visit him with the frequency of his Village days. When Fanoclast meetings started on an upward spiral in 1963, it was slightly better, but still not the slan-shack-like atmosphere that had prevailed in the heyday of VOID.

Ted White is an old fan. Ted White knows fandom, its ways and traditions. So he bided his time. He waited for what he knew must surely come, the New York Fan Migration.

Every few years, active members of New York fandom are seized with a case of thirsty boots. They have to move. They have to move NOW. No delays are possible. Some flee across the country to Berkeley, and some are driven to Staten Island where they are never heard from again by the living, but they move. To move, that's the important thing.

Ted watched as a ripple of movement swept New York in 1966, sweeping the Gerbers and rich and Colleen Browns out to Staten Island and the Lupoffs to the middle class fastnesses of Poughkeepsie. A lesser man would have panicked then and made plans to join the happy hardhats in Staten Island, but Ted held firm and remained in Brooklyn. His keen insight could detect the minute difference between the periodic relocations which occur in all fandom from the New York Great Migration Syndrom.

His patience was justified. Almost imperceptably he whispered in our ears of the joys of Brooklyn living. The Carrs had moved to Brooklyn Heights, and when Alex Panshin came to the city, it was only natural that he locate there as well. Then, in defiance of all probability, the Browns emerged battered but determined from the maw of Staten Island (where rich had been editing a shopper newspaper called something like The Great Kills Frog) to settle on 61st street, a dozen blocks from Ted.

Soon I found myself looking for an apartment in Brooklyn Heights with Andy Porter. Then Steve left uptown Manhattan for 57th Street, just 4 blocks from the Browns. Jay



Kinney came to Brooklyn to attend school and Joe Staton arrived to work as an artist. Both naturally fell into the trend and obtained living quarters in Brooklyn.

Though the current Great Migration has hurtled one group of New Yorkers to places like Mexico and the Barea, most of the rest of the fanzine fans are concentrated in one sector of our beloved borough. When Ted and Robin leave for Virginia, Steve will move right into their apartment, and fannish tenants for Steve's place are already queuing up.

Ted and Robin White are moving to Falls Church, Virginia. That must give one pause. What will become of New York fandom now? Can it be that Ted will again grow lonesome for us?

That is a sobering thought, indeed. Will the master puppeteer of New York Fandom for over a decade insidiously wean us from the copious breast of Mother Brooklyn?

Will letters and fanzines pour forth from the qwertyuiopress extolling the delights of gracious southern living? Will a fabulous faanish fanzine emerge from a new hotbed of fanac located in the Washington area? What plans does Ted White have for the next New York Great Migration, anyway?

Well, I want to put it down right here that I love Brooklyn. It is the jewel in God's navel, the cap on Ghu's cosmic corflu. This is my home. It is where I intend to live out my days. You'll never get me, Ted White. You can tell me about the weather and the trees and all that stuff until your voice gives out, and still I will stay.

The lease I just signed on my fabulous new Brooklyn Heights apartment will be up in two years. I tremble. If you see me heading South, I am not in my right mind. Stop me for my own good. Offer me a pepsi. And send me home. To Brooklyn.

-- Arnie Katz

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#### BOB SHAW FUND NEWS CONT

Anderson and the Communication Company, contributed by Greg Shaw. Minimum bid is \$5. Also donated by Greg Shaw, INFORMED SOURCES: NIGHT EAST RECEIVED, the sequel to the above, also published by ComCo, in a limited edition of 100. Minimum bid is \$7.

NEW AUCTIONS FUTURIA FANTASIA #1, is the first fanzine published by Ray Bradbury, now up for bid due to the generosity of Lee Hoffman. Not only is the fanzine a must for Bradbury fans, but Hannes Bok partisans will want it just for the cover. Minimum bid for this rare fanzine is \$3.

THE SCIENCE FICTION FAN, edited by Olan F. Wiggins was the focal point fanzine of second fandom. John Nieminiski has donated the first issue of this famed fanzine for the auctions. SF FAN #1 is printed and includes material by Don Wolheim and Forry Ackerman among others. Minimum bid is \$3.

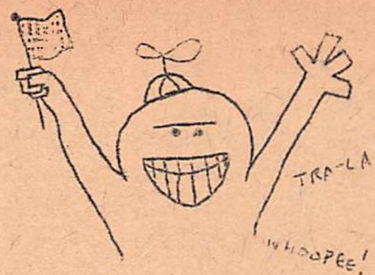
Three issues of THE GOON GOES WEST, John Berry's 180+ page report on his trip to America as a result of the Berry Fund, have been given for auction by Buz and Elinor Busby. THE GOON GOES WEST is ranked second only to THE HARP STATESIDE as a trip report and should be in every fan's library. Minimum bid is \$2 each.

Keep those auction items -- and bids -- coming.

--Colleen Brown



# TAFF



## and the BOSSH Fund

--BY TED WHITE--

One of the saddest things in the world is to see something you believe in with an altruistic idealism kicked around as some kind of a political football.

Fandom has, for the most part, remained free of this sort of thing. So many of Fandom's most enduring and popular institutions were born of just this sort of idealism, and TAFF is just about the most important. All the efforts which went into TAFF's early administration were altruistic, and even the squabbles that erupted in the late fifties were idealistic in motivations: two(or more) conflicting notions of what best suited TAFF's high ideals.

The 62nd issue of LOCUS carries a series of intemperate blasts at the Bob Shaw Fund by Charlie Brown. He speaks as a spokesman for TAFF; he seeks to torpedo the BoSh Fund in the name of TAFF. This has to be about the most distasteful act recently committed in the service of the ideals to which TAFF obtains--and it is totally inappropriate to the history and traditions of TAFF as well as TAFF's ideals.

In 1958 the TAFF race was between John Berry (of Ireland) and Ron Bennett. Berry lost, and as a direct consequence a fund was gotten up, primarily through the pages of CRY, to bring him over the following year. The Fund was successful, and Berry toured the U.S. in 1959.

In 1961, Ella Parker decided it was time she had a look at the U.S., and announced that she was soliciting money for the prospect. Her Fund was less publicized (for reasons that will follow), and also conducted largely in the pages of CRY, but it was successful enough that she attended the Seacon that year.

In that same year, VOID announced and AXE was formed to promote the Tenth Anniversary Willis Fund, a fund to bring both Walt and Madelaine Willis to the 1962 Chicon--ten years after his first trip to the U.S. (and the 52 Chicon) served to provide the impetus that kicked off TAFF. The TAWF was overwhelmingly successful, gained fandom-wide support, raised over \$1,600.00, and culminated in the Willises' eventful tour of the U.S.

Throughout this period--1958-62--TAFF continued unabated. In 1960 Don Ford made the trip to London, after a furiously fought campaign that lasted the whole of 1959, and the same year Eric Bentcliffe came over to the Pittcon. In 1962 Ron Ellik made the overseas trip and again, the same year--the year of the TAWF--Ethel Lindsay came over for the Chicon.

In other words, while three special funds were gotten up to bring over specific British fans, four successful TAFF races were run. What's more, the funds for Ella Parker and the Willises were overlapping and occurred simultaneously with the TAFF trips of Ellik and Lindsay.

That brings us up to date on past Funds and their relationships to TAFF. Now let's look at the way TAFF itself has been run.



The following are the years in which TAFF has elected a representative to cross the Atlantic for a convention:

1954--Vincent Clarke  
1955--Ken Bulmer  
1956--Lee Hoffman  
1957--Bob Madle  
1958--Ron Bennett  
1960--Don Ford  
1960--Eric Bentcliffe  
1962--Ron Elik  
1962--Ethel Lindsay  
1964--Wally Weber  
1964--Arthur Thomson  
1965--Terry Carr  
1966--Tom Schluck  
1968--Steve Stiles  
1969--Eddie Jones  
1970--Elliot Shorter



If you check out these dates you'll find an odd occurrence: occasionally a year was skipped, and on other occasions there were two trips in a single year. The reasons had mostly to do with two factors: conventions and funds. Although Lee Hoffman won in 1966, she used her own funds for the trip to the British national convention, and another race was held for the American to attend the world convention in London the next year. Since the British national conventions were held over Easter, a year and a half elapsed between Ron Bennett's Solacon trip and Don Ford's British trip, while only a few months followed Ford's trip to Bentcliffe's Pittcon trip. Etc. Gradually a pattern evolved of spacing two trips fairly close and then skipping a year. This pattern was interrupted only when, in 1965, the Worldcon again went to London, and, in 1970, to Heidelberg.

Since the Madle trip, TAFF has been administered, serially, by its winners (before that time the U.S. administrator was Don Ford and the British administrator Walt Willis). This has created a situation in which policy is arrived at by overlapping administrations, each administrator serving during the latter half of his overseas predecessor and the first half of the next overseas winner. Thus, American administrator X will work with overseas administrators Y and Z, and policy agreed upon by X and Y is still open to modification by Z with X.

More specifically, until the TAFF race was concluded this summer, TAFF was administered by Eddie Jones and Steve Stiles. It is now administered by Elliot Shorter and Eddie Jones.

When the Bob Shaw Fund was still in its early talking stages, the subject was broached to both Jones and then-administrator Stiles. Both stated that TAFF would skip a year, and there would be no overseas TAFFman at the 1971 convention in Boston. This was at that point TAFF policy and it was in accord with this policy and with the full approval of the TAFF administrators that the Bob Shaw Fund was launched.

When Elliot Shorter won his race and became the next in line for American administrator of TAFF, he was also queried, in advance of any official publication of the Shaw Fund. Shorter said he would not commit himself on the subject of a TAFF race in 1971, wanting to discuss it with Eddie Jones, but that he saw no reason why it would matter. He saw no conflict between TAFF and a BoSh Fund--no more than had existed between TAFF and earlier funds.

Thus, the Fund was launched, with appropriate fanfare. It is, after all, almost ten years since the last major fund was launched, and few more worthy recipients of such a fund could be imagined. (I'm of the opinion that we should, either at once or serially, bring over--for our enjoyment, if not theirs--all of the famous British fans who made SLANT and HYPHEN such memorable fanzines. That includes James White and Chuque Harris, as well as Bob Shaw.) Accordingly, to the Fund committee's best know-



ledge, they had the good wishes of TAFF's administrators.

Now, like a bolt from the blue, comes a Pronouncement. It comes from Charlie Brown, editor of LOCUS, and follows on the heels of a spirited, if covert, feud between Brown/LOCUS and the FOCAL POINT crew. Although Charlie lost the TAFF race this year, you'd hardly guess it from the tone with which he speaks:

"This is in direct contradiction," he says, in announcing a new, 1971, TAFF race, "to the story in FOCAL POINT's last issue which, to be charitable, I'd call sadly mistaken. (They seem to have forgotten to ask the present administrators before publishing their denial of TAFF. More on this later.)" Thus, a neat slur on the competition. Charlie seems to have forgotten to ask if they had indeed queried the "present" administrators of TAFF.

The "later" in which Charlie lays on yet "more" is to be found four pages further on, in a paragraph which begins, "FOCAL POINT has started a fund to bring Bob Shaw to the 1971 convention in Boston. While there's nothing wrong with a fund outside TAFF (it's been done before), this one seems to be off to a bad start because one of the reasons for the fund was the false one that there was no TAFF race this year." Again, Charlie flogs the same all-but-irrelevant horse. He gives no one the benefit of doubt; he plainly labels the BoSh Fund "off to a bad start"--despite its considerable publicity and success in the short time since it was launched.

He continues by urging that Shaw withdraw from the Fund and run for TAFF, and concludes, "it seems silly to have an extra fund which may split the votes and cause both to fail." (Since there are no "votes" in the Shaw Fund, that point is totally irrelevant, of course.)

It's not hard to read between the lines, here. Had, say, SFR or EGOBOO or even YANDRO launched the Shaw Fund, I very much doubt we'd have seen this sort of bitchy catscratching going on in LOCUS. Charlie totally overlooks the fact that since Pete Weston is already standing for TAFF, if Shaw also ran for TAFF only one of them could win, and that neither would be likely to stand for a third race, thus ultimately depriving us of the company of one of these two fans. Having met them both, I'd like to go on record as wanting see them both at Boston; they are fine people and it seems silly (to use Charlie's phrase) to deny ourselves the company of one or (if someone else won TAFF--as so often happens) both.

More important, Brown has significantly lowered the tone of both TAFF and the BoSh Fund by his intemperate criticisms, and his willingness to bring inappropriate feuding into such an arena. Fandom's best moments are to be found in TAFF and the special funds. Both have easily coexisted in the past and both are of the highest altruism in ideals.

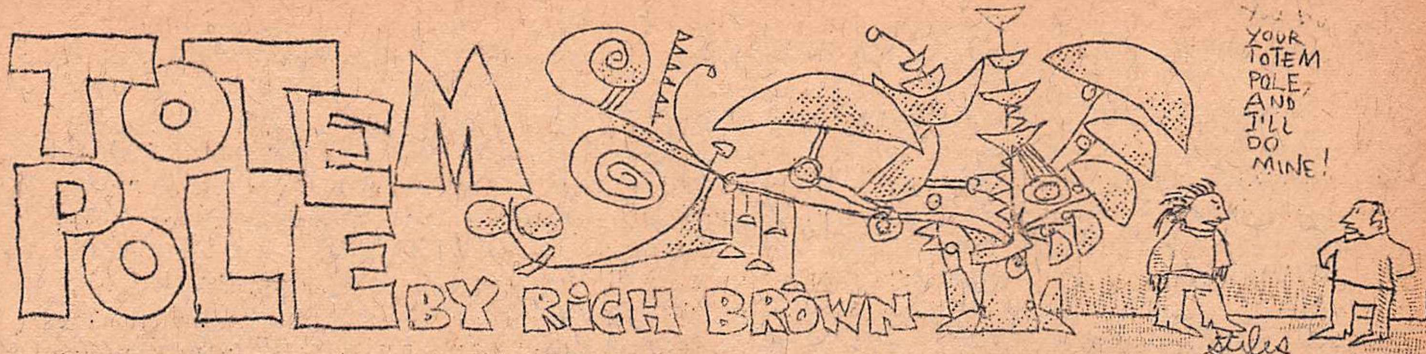
Hopefully, this kind of petty sniping will not continue--a word or two from the actual TAFF administrators might be effective here--and we can get on with the business at hand: bringing over two fine fans we all want a lot to meet for our next world convention.

--Ted White

EDITOR'S NOTE: A point of clarification. After a solid week of trying, we were finally able to contact Elliot Shorter -- after that FOCAL POINT had been stencilled, but before it had been mailed out. We had written the announcement of the Shaw Fund from that point of view, along with the facts as we then knew them. When we finally did succeed in contacting Elliot, his comment was that he could see nothing wrong with the Shaw Fund and TAFF running simultaneously, if necessary. He wanted to hold off to talk to Eddie Jones before deciding on whether or not to hold a race this year -- but this did not change the fact that the then-current administrators had previously said there would not be one.

--rich brown





Read Ted White's "TAFF And The BoSH FUND" in this issue before you read this column. Ted did such a fine job with that article that I threw away a similar article --similar in theme, at least; it was also about three times as long and didn't say quite as much -- which I'd originally intended to fill this spot. You'll notice that Ted's piece is followed by an "Editor's Note" by me.

I had thought this would exhaust my comments on the matter. But I was wrong.

Charlie says the Shaw Fund is "off to a bad start because one of the reasons for the fund was the false one that there would be no TAFF race this year." But this has never been one of the reasons for the Shaw Fund. Admittedly, it seemed convenient at the time because, as I told my co-editor, Arnie Katz, "At least we won't have to waste people's time with articles about how Special Funds don't interfere with TAFF."

So much for my foresight.

As it is, I'm delighted, as I'm sure all the people on the Fund Committee are, that there is going to be a TAFF race this year, and that we'll have the opportunity to have two fans to honor for their contributions to our hobby.

Ted has thoroughly covered how putting BoSh up for TAFF at this time would deprive us, probably forever, of either the company of Bob Shaw or Pete Weston--or of both, if both lost this year's TAFF contest. Putting Bob up for TAFF at this point, however, would also cause some other problems which I'd like to bring up.

I don't know what Charlie Brown considers a "poor start", but we've collected (as I write this--there will probably be more by the time we put the amount in under "BoSh Fund News") over \$170 for the Fund, up from \$90.86 just two weeks ago. Assuming Bob were to be put up for TAFF at this point, there would be no problem about direct contributions. We've kept track of who sent what and it would require just the expenditure of postage to return them.

But then there's the people who've given us things to auction. Valued old fanzines which have been donated by fans and pros alike, possessions given gladly for the purpose of bringing Bob Shaw to attend a convention in this country--an honor they and we alike feel he deserves.

Then again, there are the fans who've paid \$1 for FOCAL POINT 12.5 or The Enchanted Duplicator and bought the special BoSh issues of NOPE, BEABOHEMA, INFINITUM, and MICRO-COSM, all of whom paid that price gladly for a specific purpose: to have the pleasure of Bob Shaw's company at Noreascon. And don't forget the fan editors who are publishing these zines unselfishly, trying their damndest to make them worth the price, who have also committed themselves to this goal. Without asking, we know Elliot Shorter's opinion of "Clarion Workshop" solutions to such problems. Besides which, if he proved



the hypocrite, which I very much doubt, and these moneys were turned over to TAFF, would or should these people's "Contributions" be counted as votes for BoSh for TAFF?

"With only 200 ballots in the last election," says Charlie in LOCUS, "it seems silly to have an extra fund which may split the votes and cause one to fail." As Ted pointed out, there are no votes in the Shaw Fund, and special funds have never interferred with TAFF. My quibble is that Charlie misplaced about a hundred votes--there were closer to 300 votes cast in the last election--to make his point. I know of no one who's thinking of slighting TAFF because of the Shaw Fund, and TAFF has, at last estimate, something of a surplus. (Elliot received about \$800, and there was a couple hundred in European funds. If Elliot took an "average" trip, that should leave maybe \$400 on hand.) TAFF is in no danger, since both clubs and conventions make regular donations.

We've perhaps been hard on Charlie and LOCUS. From the very outset FOCAL POINT has said that Charlie's method of editing a newszine leaves something to be desired--and we've tried, with FP, to show how we think it can be done better. Whether we've actually succeeded or not is a moot question and one not directly to the point. But whether Charlie believes it or not, our criticisms have been honestly come by and represent our true feelings. They've been expressed without remorse, and we feel no remorse for having expressed them now because they've always been out in front, honest and unmasked. We have never involved, hurtfully, an innocent third party in our disagreements with him. We say that with some measure of pride.

Are you proud, Charlie Brown?

-- rich brown

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