

FOCAL POINT, Volume 2, Number 15, a fanzine of news, views and reviews, is edited by Arnie Katz (59 Livingston St., Apt 6B, 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 Jay Kinney, Steve Stiles and Bill Rotsler. SUPPORT THE SHAW FUND!! October 12, 1970.

VENTURE FOLDS VENTURE, the companion magazine to The MAGAZINE OF FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, will cease publication effective with the issue currently on the stands. Poor sales is reported to be the major factor determining the second demise of F&SF's sister magazine. It is reported that sales on VENTURE never went over 20,000.

VISION OF TOMORROW ALSO FOLDS VOT, the fledgling prozine edited by England's Phil Harbottle and published by Ron Graham of Australia, will not survive its September issue. Reports are that, though it was highly regarded by many, it just did not have the distribution to make continuation economically feasible. SWORDS & SORCERY, a projected companion magazine scheduled to debut this fall, has also been scratched along with a planned line of paperback reprints. (source: NORSTRILIAN NEWS)

JIM TRUBIN LEAVES SIGNET Jim Trubin, science fiction editor for Signet Books, left that firm this month to join Fawcett as editor in charge of their Premier-Mentor line, which is similar to Signet's high-quality Gold Medal line.

ON THE SICK-LIST Colleen Brown, Assistant Editor and sometimes columnist for FOCAL POINT, and also wife of FP editor rich brown, underwent a bilateral subtotal thyroidechtomy (part of her thyroid was cut out) on Monday, October 5, in Brooklyn's Victory Memorial Hospital. After a week of hospital rest she'll return home, maybe even in time to stick a gummed label or two on this issue of FP. :: Hans Stefan Santesson, editor of Walker Books, is in St. Luke's Hospital with edema. His stay there, if all goes according to schedule, will be limited to two weeks. :: Ron Graham, publisher of the just-suspended prozine VISION OF TOMORROW, has suffered a heart attack. Our FP rePorter informs that Graham is pulling through and is expected to make a full recovery.

COMIX Sol Brodsky, long-time Production Editor at Marvel, is a partner

in Skywald Publications, a new comics publisher. The first two books from the company will be black & white magazines called NIGHTMARE and PSYCHO. The latter is supposed to be on sale by the time this issue of FOCAL POINT arrives. Skywald also intends to do four all-in-color comics, two each in the romance and western fields. Gardner Fox will be scripting the two romance zines. :: The Academy of Comic Book Arts has begun asking members to pay their first year's dues, \$35. Money will go for the awards, publications, artists' agency service, and suchlike. Rates for associate memberships (publishers, engravers, printers, etc.) and sustaining memberships (fans) have not yet been set.

OPEN ESFA was held October 3 in Newark, N.J., with 85 registered and most of them on hand. Lester Del Rey got the program started with a talk about how fans used to try to turn pro but now seem to be more of a self-perpetuating group; Lester preferred it the old way. John Nanovick, the first editor of the DOC SAVAGE/SHADOW pulps, and Isaac Asimov also spoke, and a plaque was presented in absentia to Hans Santesson. (Hans, you may realize, if you've been reading your FP as ghod and its editors intended, was not able to attend due to illness.) There was a small cash-bar party that night at which between 45 and 50 local fans were in attendance. At the banquet Sunday, commemorating the 30th anniversary of the first worldcon, Asimov introduced everyone present, or nearabout, and Sam talked and called upon people to reminisce about the first worldcon. The banquet food was received with favor, our Burley reporter tells us, which must surely be some kind of a First.

SECONDARY UNIVERSE III will be held Friday, October 16, through Sunday, October 18, at Queensborough Community College in Bayside, Queens, N.Y. Attendees will include Jack Williamson, Alexei Panshin, Joanna Russ, Gordon Dickson and Poul Anderson, among others. The program will consist of panels, seminars, films, an art display, a dinner dance (banquet), and a costume contest. Three \$25 prizes will be awarded for the costumes, one each for originality, beauty and effectiveness. Tickets for the banquet and costume ball are \$5; registration for the Conference will be \$6. For brochure and further information contact Secondary Universe III, Virginia Carew, English Dept., Queensborough Community College, Bayside, L.I., N.Y., 11364. Informal inquiries may be addressed to Fred Lerner, 7 Amsterdam Avenue, Teaneck, N.J. 07666 (phone: 201-TE-7-2756).

AUSTRALIAN CONVENTION The 10th Australian SF Convention is scheduled for January 1 and 2 in Melbourne. The committee, composed of John Foyster, Lee Harding and Leigh Edmonds, plans to have a smaller, more intimate affair than last year's con, held at Easter. Despite dissatisfaction with the handling of the Ditmars (Australia's sf and fan awards) at the 9th convention, they are being retained. Nominating ballots have been distributed to eligible Australian voters. For further information contact John Foyster, 12 Glengariff Dr., Mulgrave, Vict. 3170 Australia. (source: NORSTRILIAN NEWS)

PRESICON The Presidents' Day Science Fiction Conference (PresiCon) will be held February 12-15, 1971, at the Airport Marina Hotel (8601 Lincoln Blvd.) in Los Angeles. (The zip, for reservations, is 90045. Emil Petaja will be Guest of Honor at the four-day affair. Advance membership is \$3 until Feb. 1; thereafter and at the door it is \$5. For further information contact Bruce Pelz P.O. Box 1, Santa Monica, Calif. 90406.

FANZINE MARKETS The first edition of a listing of "fanzine markets" is now available for a large-sized stamped, self-addressed envelope. The listing, prepared for the N3F Manuscript Bureau by Gary Labowitz, strives to give current needs of fanzines. Publications not yet listed should request a check-form from Gary at 1100 Betzwood Dr., Norristown, Pa. 19401.

APAc Leigh Edmonds scored a convincing victory in ANZAPA's annual ego-boo poll, the Anzapopoll. Leigh placed first in 2½ categories (or two firsts and one tie). John Foyster and Bruce Gillespie were runners-up. The poll was conducted by last year's winner, John Bangsund. :: The second non-mailing of APA-NOVA contained 30 pages.

FANOCLASTS HOLD GOOD-BYE WHITES MEETING Since the Fanoclast meeting of September 25 was the last one hosted by Ted & Robin White, it was turned into a good-bye party. Among the attendees were Mike Hinge, Andy Porter, Joe Staton, Hilary Wolford, Alan Shaw, Denny & Ann O'Neil, Elliot Shorter, Steve Stiles, rich & Colleen Brown, Joyce Fisher and Arnie Katz. Pepsis flowed freely, people stuffed themselves on cakes baked for the occasion by Colleen, and wit and wisdom filled all the spaces not occupied by cartoons. Steve Stiles, who has moved into Ted & Robin's old apartment at 339 -49th St. in Brooklyn, will be the new Fanoclast host.

LOS ANGELES The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, as part of its Writers' Retrospective Film Series, will present "The Day The Earth Stood Still" on October 13. There will be a panel discussion of the film moderated by Ray Bradbury.:: Larry Maddock and wife Marilyn were divorced in August; Larry, aka ex-LASFSer Jack Jardine, has moved back to LA.

AUSTRALIA About 40 people attended the second meeting of what is now called The Nova Mob, at the Bangsund schloss on September 4. Bruce Gillespie addressed the Mob on the writings of Philip K. Dick, and spirited discussion ensued -- some of it actually on that subject. The last guest was poured under the door at 3 a.m. Among attendees were Wynne Whiteford, George Turner, John & Elizabeth Foster, Peter Darling (spy from the Sydney SF Foundation), Gillespie, Edmonds, Binns et al. The third meeting was set for October 2 at Degraives Tavern, city.

MARRIED John Ayotte, mainstay of Columbus fandom, married a non-fan named Teresa September 12 in Columbus while home on leave. John has since left for overseas duty in Germany, his new bride to follow in December.

FILM Production started in mid-September on Stanley Kubrick's production of Anthony Burgess' The Clockwork Orange. Kubrick has written the screenplay and will produce and direct the picture for Warner Brothers. :: Ed Pressman and Paul Williams, producer and director of "Out Of It" and "The Revolutionary" expect at least one of their next three pictures to be based on either Player Piano or The Sirens of Titan, both Kurt Vonnegut novels. :: "House of Dark Shadows," the MGM film version of the TV soap opera "Dark Shadows" was reviewed in VARIETY: "a slow-moving, old-fashioned non-shocker, hyped with new-fangled explicit gore (rated GP, naturally) and laced with a bit of limp camp."

BOSH FUND NEWS

\$250.00 is currently on hand in the Bob Shaw Fund bank account, up from \$183.15 in the last reporting period. This is a nice jump, but YOUR help is still needed to meet the fund's \$1000 goal to bring BoSh to the Noreascon. You can do your part, and have your name written in Golden Letters in that Great Oneshot in the Sky, by sending your contribution to rich brown at 410 - 61st Street, Apt. D4, Brooklyn, NY 11220

SPECIAL BOSH FANZINES

MICROCOSM #14 the Special Bob Shaw issue, is out, impeccably mimeographed in a fannish shade of blue and containing material about Bob Shaw by the Irish John Berry, columns by Calvin Demmon and Greg Shaw, material by Lee Lavell, Earl Evers, and Arnie Katz. This stellar issue is obtainable for 50¢ from editor Dave Burton (5422 Kenyon Drive, Indianapolis, Ind.) -- and all proceeds, of course, go to the Bob Shaw Fund. Do not delay!

FOCAL POINT 12.5 is available from Arnie Katz (Apt. 6-B, 59 Livingston St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201) for \$1 -- but not for long. This 52pp fanzine contains material by Burbee, Boggs, Bob Shaw, G. Gordon Dewey, Calvin Demmon, Ted White, Steve Stiles, rich brown, Colleen Brown, and Arnie Katz. Destined to become a collectors item and in limited supply, when the issue is sold down to 50 copies, the price will automatically go up to \$1.50. All proceeds, of course, go to the fund.

THE ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR written by Bob Shaw and Walt Willis, a fannish classic long out of print, will soon be published in a new edition superlatively illustrated by Ross Chamberlain. Copies are \$1, and money to reserve yours now should be sent to Arnie Katz, address above. All stencils are typed and all but two of the illustrations are ready to run. A fine way to support the Shaw Fund -- again, all proceeds go directly to the Shaw account -- and at the same time obtain a brilliant piece of fan writing that should be in every fan's collection.

BEABOHEMA #12 will be a Special Issue for the Fund. Editor Frank Lunney (Box 551, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa. 18015) will soon have the material to make this BAB an extra special fannish issue. It will be available for \$1 from the editor and -- need we say it? -- is another fine way to support the Shaw Fund.

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 and rich brown, fmz reviews by Lee Lavell, and other material by Arnie Katz, Leon Taylor and Lewton himself highlight the zine. Your 50¢ not only gets you the issue but also brings Bob closer to Boston.

NOPE #12 will be yet another Special Issue for the benefit of the Shaw Fund. NOPE, always a fine fanzine, will be even better than usual in this special issue 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 yours by sending 50¢ to Jay Kinney, 215 Willoughby Avenue, Apt. 1212, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11205)

OFFERS

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

LIFETIME SUBS TO SFR are now being sold to benefit the Shaw Fund by editor Dick Geis (Box 3116, Santa Monica, Calif. 90403) for \$30. SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW, which has won two Hugos, is one of the most widely read fanzines in current-day fandom. Need we say more?

BACK ISSUES OF FOCAL POINT are being sold, at 5/\$1, first-come first-served (so in any list of five, please name two alternates) to benefit the Shaw Fund. The issues that are available are Vol. 2 Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. For this offer, send your cash, checks or money orders to rich brown, specifying the issues you want.

AUCTIONS

ALL BIDS for the auctions listed, both old and new, should be sent to Colleen Brown (410 - 61st St., Apt. D-4, Brooklyn, NY 11220). Send no money, unless specified, just a bid or bids on the items you want. To expedite matters we are asking that bids be submitted in increments of 50¢ on items under \$10, and of \$1 on items over that. For example, if you want to bid on an item that already has a bid of \$3 on it, you must bid at least \$3.50 to top it. If you wish to bid on an item which has a top bid of \$15, you must bid at least \$16.

OLD AUCTIONS The copies of INNUENDO Nos. 10 and 11 (donated by Terry Carr) and QUIP 13 (five separate copies) have all been sold. All recreants have Paid Up--except George Senda, who sent a Hefty Retainer, instead, having just moved and all--so these items are now considered to be in the All Sold Column.

AUCTIONS STILL ON:

The complete file of SLANT, famous printed fmz of the late 40s and early 50s produced by Willis, Shaw and White, is the object of furious bidding. Terry Carr is the current high bidder with an offer of \$37.50.

The Terry Carr Sampler, donated by Terry Carr, contains OMEGA 5, THE GOLDEN GATE TO SCIENCE FANTASY: THE BNF OF IZ: KLEIN BOTTLE 5: THE EXPURGATED BOOB STEWART: HOBGOBLINS 3, 4 and 15; TROLL CHOWDER 1, and DIASPAR 11. Don Fitch has bid \$8, the highest so far. This auction will be closed if no further bids are received by Wednesday, October 21.

A file of WARHOON Nos. 7 to 26 inclusive, donated by Dick Bergeron, is also the subject of furious bidding. The 20 issues of this Hugo-winning fanzine contain approximately 900 pages of material by Bergeron, Rotsler, Calkins, Eney, Tucker, 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, Bob Shaw, Redd Boggs, James Blish, Robert A.W. Lowndes, Walter Breen, John Baxter, and Terry Carr. Robert Whitaker has entered a bid of \$35 on the set.

FUTURE FANTASIA 1, the first fanzine published by Ray Bradbury, donated by Lee Hoffman, is up for furious bidding. This 1940 fanzine is in absolutely perfect condition. Not only is it a must for Bradbury fans, but Hannes Bok partisans will want it just for the cover. Robert Whitaker leads a crowded field with his \$20 bid.

DIMENSIONS 14, 15, ELLISON WONDERLAND 1-to-3, CRYSTAL BALLING SCIENCE FANTASY BULLETIN, and VECTOR, donated by Lee Hoffman, has received a number of bids, the highest being \$10 from Don Fitch. These are rare examples of Harlan in his fannish glory; not only is Himself present as a very strong personality, but Harlan had an uncanny ability to drag contributions from pros like Fletcher Pratt and Andre Norton who made virtually no other appearances in fandom. You still have time to top Don's bid!

FANHISTORY Nos. 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 the legendary VOID 29. FANHISTORY 1-3 were donated by Lee and #4 was given by Ted. Top bid is \$5.15 by Chester E. Lee.

THE COMPLETE FAAN containing choice material by BoSh's fellow Belfastter, John Berry, donated by Ed Reed, has received a bid of \$1 from Joseph Pate. (Another \$1 bid was submitted, so the decision was made on the earliest postmark; this may sound unfair to pipple on the West Coast, but Joseph beat out someone on the East Coast, so...)

HARLEQUIN, a large fanzine written by John Berry and illustrated by ATom, published to boost Art's TAFF candidacy. Donated by Ed Reed. Top bid submitted is \$1.55 by Chester E. Lee.

MOJO-NAVIGATOR ROCK & ROLL NEWS Nos. 8-13, 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. Chester E. Lee came through with the top bid thus far of \$6.35.

CRAWDADDY, two issues: No. 9, May '67 and No. 14, April '68, donated by Greg Shaw. In fairly good condition, although not mint, these are scarce enough to be worth something to rock buffs. Don Fitch has entered a bid of \$6 for the two.

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 Wollheim and Forry Ackerman, among others. Dick Bergeron has submitted a bid of \$3.

Three copies of THE GOON GOES WEST, John Berry's 180plus page report on his trip to America as a result of the Berry Fund, have been donated for auction by Buz & Elinor Busby. TGGW is ranked second only to THE HARP STATESIDE as a trip report and should be in every fan's library. The minimumbid is \$2 each. We have bids of \$5 (Joseph Pate) and \$2 (Gary Labowitz). Remember: the top three bids will win these copies.

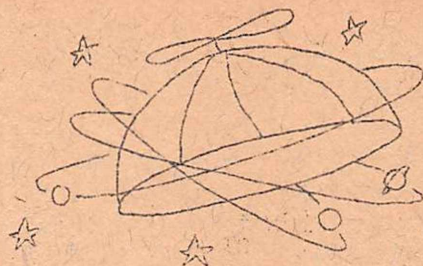
NEW AUCTIONS

QUANDRY #10 donated by its editor, Lee Hoffman, is up for auction. QUANDRY was the focal point fanzine of Sixth Fandom, an age that abounded in superlative fanzines and writers of shining wit. This issue of Q contains material by the editor, as well as Willis, Shelvy, Boggs, Tucker and Silverberg, among others. FOCAL POINT editor rich brown has entered a bid of \$5 for the issue.

THE PANIC BUTTON #16 is up for auction (again, thanks to Lee Hoffman). PB, edited by Les Nirenberg, was perhaps the first fanzine to go pro. It drew heavily from fandom's wittiest writers and artists -- this particular issue containing material by Calvin Demmon, Jerry DeMuth, Jay Lynch, Gary Deindorfer, Bbob Stewart, Norm Clarke and Elmer Perdue among fans; but it also used Big Names, as for example, Lenny Bruce and Tuli Kupferberg in this issue. FOCAL POINT's rich brown has submitted a bid of \$5 for this one.

The Infinite BEANIE

by Terry Carr



bits and pieces from correspondence

I think it was in BEABOHEMA's lettercolumn that Harry Warner proposed one of the more useful fannish neologisms I've heard, and I wonder if anybody else noticed. He made up the term "prohh" to serve as a kind of analog of "faaan" as spake by Tucker, i.e. to indicate obnoxiousness. The prohh is the guy who harangues everybody with tales of everything he writes or sells, or plans to write or sell, or counts the number of words he's sold including "pseudonymous" novels, or otherwise keeps going on pro-writer ego trips.

Maybe we ought to have analogous terms in the pro field for all the fannish ones. Not just "neopro" to go with neofan, but things like "fakepro" for people like Chelsea Quinn Yarbro. Gafibm for getting away from the typewriter. "All Star Issue" for annish.

And, of course, "relevant" for sercon.

Actually, fandom must be in a bad way indeed, for that issue of BEABOHEMA drew only two unenthusiastic letters, which constituted the lettercol of the latest issue. I hope the fannish fans around aren't so busy organizing a coherent, working subfandom around three or four interlinked fanzines to notice when things of worth and moment happen in unlikely places, as I too thought BEABOHEMA was till recently. But that same un-commented-on issue of BEABOHEMA also contained the most mindboggling thing I've run into in a fanzine in quite awhile: it was a letter in the midst of the usually dull&bitchy lettercol in which instead of Piers Anthony arguing with Dean R. Koontz I found Frederic Wertham arguing with Konrad Lorenz. (One was more pedantic, was all.)

And I know a lot of people gave up reading YANDRO even before they swore off SFR, but of late there's been a column in there by someone named, as I recall, Liz Fishman, and she writes some of the nicest stuff to be found in fanzines of any persuasion.

While Carol and I were in San Francisco last year Lou and Cynthia Goldstone gave a party for us and invited Emil Portale, a school friend of mine from high school who had a story in my second fanzine about eighteen years ago and whom I hadn't seen since graduation a couple of years after that. When I heard he was coming to the party I asked about him and amid other things less startling I heard he'd also been dealing dope. Emil Portale dealing dope? I wondered. Emil Portale used to wear sneakers and immaculate cashmere sweaters.

So I looked forward to seeing him again even more than just to see an old friend again. And lo! he came into the room, walked over and sat down next to me, and he was wearing sneakers and an immaculate cashmere sweater. If somebody'd told me they were the same sneakers and the same sweater,

I'd've believed him, too. Then we talked, and it was fascinating seeing how my friend who'd been president of the Honor Society had adapted as a head. Wow. When it comes to protective coloration, compared with people chameleons might as well be peacocks.

Ted White's Amazing and Fantastic are really much better magazines than anyone figured to be able to produce these days. But he's done just about everything you could ask of an editor: he's got back to an almost totally original-stories policy, has instituted live features by the bushel, even cleaned up the godawful type-filled mishmashes on the covers. His editorials are usually the best things in the magazines, and despite an occasional slip into self-congratulation (as somebody satirized it, "I'm kind of proud and humbly pleased about the entirely new 'w' key we use this issue") they strike me as the most direct editor-reader communication since Ray Palmer, but on a considerably higher level of intelligence. All this and even some good stories -- it doesn't figure that Ted should publish any good stories (Malzberg never did), but he gets them surprisingly frequently, with Gordon Eklund's Dear Aunt Annie the best among the ones I've read.

Bob Toomey was over visiting awhile ago and we were remarking over the homogeneity of the "group" whose stuff appears in Amazing and Fantastic. One issue recently had the names Greg Benford-Terry Carr-Ted White down one side of the cover, and I wondered where O. Wertyuiop was. Even more than that, the other names tend to be people like Lee Hoffman, Dick Lupoff, Gordon Eklund, Bob Toomey, Bob Silverberg... It's getting so that you look at the contents of one of Ted's magazines and not only are the writers all friends of one another, half of them have tripped together.

In the latest METANOIA, Greg Shaw wonders aloud while talking about old fanzines, "Does Terry Carr still get phone calls from Jeff Wanshel?" The answer, I was going to say, was no, but then the other night he called on the phone from Kennedy Airport, where he was embarking to London to do whatever comes up there or in Europe. I hadn't heard from him in years before that: see, as every trufan knows, things written on stencils have magic in them. We quickly got caught up on each other and began speaking of chemically enhanced experiences. "I was in the Caribbean islands that way at dawn," he said, "so I went down to the beach to watch the sun come up, and it was silent and empty and beautiful and the sun came up on the other side of the island but I didn't care."

He had a Rockefeller Grant or some such for the play he wrote that was produced at Lincoln Center earlier this year, so he has a little money to mess around on this year. He was going to London on a plane leaving at 10:00, which happened to be the same time Mike Moorcock was taking a plane back to London that night, so we told him to look for Mike and frighten him to death by being a stranger who knew his name.

Yesterday Tom Purdom called: he was in town to buy some sheet music for recorder, because New York City is apparently the only place you can get good sheet music for recorder. Most people you ask them "What're you doing in town?" and they tell you something boring like their sister's getting married: Tom Purdom you ask him that he says he's here to buy sheet music for recorder.

We were talking about blurbs on books and I fell to fantasizing about doing blurbs that really tell why the book's being published. Notes from the editor, that kind of thing. "This novel is no damn good, but there's doing to be a movie based on it." "We had to buy this stupid short-story collection to get this author's real neat novel The Ecology of Infinity -- now that you should read." "I commissioned this book because I wanted to know something about the subject myself. I wonder if anyone else is interested?"

Carol and I are both complete 'Antonioni freaks: I'll bet if we were to make up a specially-written wedding ceremony for ourselves as several sensible fan-couples have been doing lately, it wouldn't be based on stuff from Tolkien or Gibran, but more like this:

Terry appears at doorway to church, looks in uninterestedly, wanders away. Comes back a little later, drifts down side aisle, examining the walls idly. Minister hurries to Terry, shoos him to altar: he complies readily enough, but begins to talk quietly about his experiences as a boy supporting his six younger brothers by taking pictures of flattered U.S. matrons in piazzas. He's looking at a point somewhere to the left of the minister's shoulder all the time he talks.

During this Carol appears at door, stands motionless for ten minutes, framed there with a perfectly powder blue sky behind her. "Ach, she is impossible," exasperates minister, who goes down aisle and pulls her by the hand up to the altar. Carol's face is emotionless, blank, beautiful: she idly runs her fingers through her long hair. Churchbells sound from above: Carol jumps, shivers, rubs her arms as though cold. Terry goes over to holy water fount, leans into it, says, "Pronto?"

Minister brings him back to altar. "Now, do you Terry Carr etc." Terry gazes at him, considering it, or perhaps wondering if he should tell the minister about the greying businessman he saw shot in his back yard that morning. Minister makes impatient gesture, changes question to "Do you Terry Carr not take this..." Terry doesn't answer: satisfied, minister turns to Carol, repeats, "Do you not take..." Carol is listening intently, as though the intonations of his voice might give her the key to an existential enigma she hasn't thought of in years. But she's not surprised to learn nothing from him, so she whispers, "Yes, why not?"

"I now pronounce you man and wife," says minister. "You may kiss the --" But Carol and Terry have both wandered away: they're surrounded by well-wishers none of whom they know, who take them to a reception at which the minister becomes lost and the whole wedding party spends the night searching with candles through a dark and empty castle. The minister is found, but Carol and Terry aren't. LOCUS reports the incident on page 5, in the same paragraph with a list of what's coming next month from Belmont Books.

Somebody told me recently that when William Burroughs was in England a year or so ago he got interested in Scientology, took it up and was declared clear in a couple of weeks. (Sounds to me like an honorary degree.) Burroughs' new book is a novel about Scientology from the inside, about which he apparently had second thoughts, so that the book's mostly anti-Scientology. But since nobody understands Burroughs' stuff anyway, all people will notice is that Burroughs is writing about Scientology experiences so they must be hip. Wow.

"Everybody's talking so much about the New Wave," I said to Sid Coleman, "that you ought to make up one of your famous witty insults to raise the caliber of the arguing." Sid thought for five seconds and said, "Vermillion Sands is the Levittown of the New Wave."

Calvin Demmon says I shouldn't fret about how much crud there is in fanzines, just enjoy the good stuff and ignore the rest. Which of course I try to do, but working in science fiction gets me involved so much I often try to read the reviews in fanzines, and I find things like "Roger Zelazny writes science fiction with the burning, blistering white-hot heat of a supernova painted by Van Gogh" and "A thoughtful analysis of the work of Aussie speculative fiction writer Jack Wodhams shows..." Stuff like that can eventually wear you down.



Ted White, 339 49th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11220

While I certainly appreciate the many good things you had to say about By Furies Possessed, I very much regret a couple of conclusions you drew from it, and I'd like to disavow them herewith.

My use of "Tuckerisms" in the books and stories I've written has been purely a matter of fun between me and the people whose names I've used. I've never intended to imply anything more than that, and I certainly didn't in BFP. It's a handy way to name people, and one less likely to draw lawsuits than most (such as resorting to phone books, etc.), since fans are generally pleased to have their names used.

For that reason, there's a girl in BFP named "Terri Carr". She's not a very attractive person, but that's beside the point. I recalled that soon after Lee Hoffman turned out to be female a few fans began speculating about other ambiguous names and someone wondered aloud if "Terry Carr" might not also be female...this in the early 50's, before he made it obvious he was not. Bjonn is an extension of Bjo which I liked simply for its quasi-alien qualities. Etc. Jim Benford appears in memory of a fine weekend he spent here in New York City a year ago. (I made no effort to make the "Jim Benford" in the book resemble the real one--I don't even think he was a twin.)

Most of these bit-character useages (did you catch Robert Moore Williams in drag?) are simply amusements, and nothing more. However, when I used Tucker I did so with rather more forethought. Tucker, after all, is the man who started all this, and you will recall that he was the original protagonist of my first solo novel, Android Avenger--before editorially expurgated. He will also be the protagonist of my forthcoming Dell book, The Game of Life and Death, -- along with Lee Hoffman.

However, although he plays a major role in BFP, he does so as a character--as a created personality fitted to the role of the story. The "Tucker" in my book might be construed as "a compulsive woman-chaser" (although it hadn't been my intention to make him out that way--even within the context of another century's mores)--but I had no intention of implying that Bob Tucker--our Tucker--was anything of the sort. In fact, it hadn't occurred to me that anyone would think so until I read your review. Bob Tucker, as I know him, has a twinkle in his eye and a gentlemanly appreciation for the well-turned female figure, but I've never observed him woman-chasing, compulsively or otherwise, in all the years I've known him (which is since he married Fern).

What really bothers me is that Fern might think I was saying something of that sort about Bob--because I genuinely like Fern, I've been a guest in her home, and it would be an impertinence on my part to suggest or imply such a thing.

Therefore: I have used Bob in my stories purely in the spirit in which he himself has used fans in his stories--and as a direct consequence thereof. The "Tucker" who appears in my stories is not in any respect a reflection of the real Bob Tucker except whereby a coincidence of story-requirements makes it possible. (Things like the way "Tucker" wore

glasses, etc.) The character of the "Tucker's" in my stories is completely dependent upon the structure of the stories and that is all. Okay? I make this point simply for clarification for your readers--I assume Bob takes it for granted.

And--oh yes: "Tad Dameron" is the name of a jazz musician rather famous in the 1940's (although he's still around)--whose name has fascinated me for years.

((I accept what you say as true and I'm sure Tucker does. But I hope my point was not entirely lost on you. When you give a fictional character a real person's name and some of his characteristics, you can't be too surprised when someone--myself, in this instance, although I may not be totally alone--wonders if other characteristics are meant to apply, too. "Tuckerisms" have been, as you note, a handy way to name characters without drawing lawsuits. Partly this is because fans consider this a form of egoboo. (I know I've enjoyed it when you, and Lee Hoffman, have thrown my name into your books.) But this is also, I think, partly because the person in question and people who know him realize that the use of the name is not related to the real person...for example, Redd Boggs is less likely to take offense at the use of his name on, say, a fictional character who is a cheap hood who says "dese" when he means "these" than he is if the fictional character is an erudite hood. The real Redd Boggs neither says "dese", nor is he a hood, so the usage passes as a harmless joke. However, the real Redd Boggs is erudite--so by combining a "real" Boggs characteristic with an unreal one, the implication Redd might infer is that the writer thinks he's a hood--in which case the writer could have a libel suit on his hands, whether the writer meant to imply that or not. To someone like myself who knows Tucker only through his writings and a few informal chats at Midwestcon, the division between what was intended to be like the "real" Tucker and the Tucker made necessary by the story-line is rather overlapped into grey--and I felt disturbed enough to write about it, despite my overwhelming approval of By Furies Possessed. :: Tadd Dameron was a fine pianist, composer and arranger. He died of cancer a few years ago. ---rwb))

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FOCAL POINTS has moved, as has been mentioned about five different places in this issue. The magazine has moved to larger quarters, taking along one of its editors, Arnie Katz, for company. Mail will be forwarded from the old address, but using the new one from now on would certainly be appreciated -- particularly by Andy Porter who lugs all the mail to Arnie at the office.

MORE NEWS

PRESS REVIEW Denny O'Neil has sold a novel to Belmont. :: Steve Skeates will be starting a monthly column in SICK. :: David Book and Greg Benford sold a rewritten instalment of their AMAZING science in sf column, "Unearthly Skies" to NATURAL HISTORY magazine, published by the American Museum of Natural History, for a Lot of Money. :: Doubleday will bring out Bob Tucker's new mystery/borderline-stf book The Witch sometime in '71. Meantime, Lancer has bought Tucker's The Time Masters for republication, and Bob is busy updating it at the present time, changing launch pads from New Mexico to Cape Kennedy, etc. :: A forthcoming issue of KNIGHT has a 10pp spread on Bill Rotsler, "Notes of a Sex Film Photographer." It will also feature a story by Theodore Sturgeon, for those whose minds are on Other Things (or Quite Possibly Not). Bill is also slated to begin a monthly column, "The Bent Lance," for the magazine.

MOVING Ted & Robin White are in the process of moving to Falls Church, Va. Robin and the baby are already settled in the new home, while TEW continues to fill cartons with books, records and fanzines. :: Phillip Jose Farmer and family have moved from Los Angeles to Peoria, Ill. :: FOCAL POINT editor Arnie Katz has moved; see the return address below.

NEWSGAGGLE The Barry Malzbergs had a daughter, Erika Cornell, September 16; everybody well. :: Steve and Grania Davis will pass through New York briefly on their way to Europe. :: Fred Lerner has returned to the metropolitan area and is now working as information specialist at the Research Foundation of the City University of New York, an organization which seeks and administers research grants for the City University system.

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