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US Agent: Redd Boggs PO Box 57242 Los Angeles Calif, 90057.USA

Heading by Mario Kwiat

It is now March 16th. I'm late again. this was due out at the end of ^February and I've just finished reading the last February zine. In fact the March lot are piled up already. No sign of a letup either. more new fanzines keep rolling in all the time. In fact nowadays a fan is no sooner in fandom that boomf! out comes a fanzine. When I stat getting three or four in the one day don't be surprised that I am late.

I've(thanks to ^Pete ^Weston)discovered a name for this:- it's a locsubstitute. Perhaps it would look better if I wrote it Loc-substitute. ^Mmm..not much improvement there. I know what I mean; but I just can't find the right word for it.At all events it's not a fanzine of reviews. My comments are aimed mainly at the fan editors themselves but never losing sight of the fact that quite a lot of new fans use this zine to chart their way through the fanzine scene.

Some pointers: I don't give the address of apazines unless the editor specifically mentions that it is available to non-members. I tell what I like after that your on your own. If you are a new fan -send only a sub for one issue till you are sure that this is the fanzine for you. Don't look for an issue <u>right</u> away; these are not professional magazines. Keep it firmly in mind that the editor is publishing because he's slightly mad and likes to throw his money away on something that will never show a profit or break even.

Next issue should be out at the end of "pril..but don't hold your breath.

Ethel Lindsay.

1965

Jan 1st

Fusion: No 1: From: Jim Grant. This is an apazine so no address. The apa is called PADS and for the life of me I can no longer recall what the letters stand for. There is an article of advice on the writing of sf by Chris Priest. There are a lot of new fans in Britain who are trying their hand at writing sf; so this should be useful to them. The article contains nothing new; but I suppose this type of information requires to be re-said pretty frequently at the rate of fandom's growth.Bob Silverberg has an essay of criticism directed at him by John Berry. John starts from one story to go onto a sweeping condemnation of all the Silverberg work. Bob's reply whilst irritated is, I think, reasonably so - and he answers the criticism well. Bob's point of the low pay for sf is very valid; so that we can't blame him if he's taken the bulk of his writing elsewhere. A short story by JF Grant is on the Christmas story theme. It's style of writing and mugginess of intent irritated me..just as much as Bob had been.

Jan 2nd

Double Bill: No 1Vol3: From: Bill Bowers and Bill Mallardi, 214 Mackinaw Ave Akron.Ohio.44313. 25¢ or Trades etc. British Agent: Chas. Smith, The School House, Village School.Culford.Nr Bury St.Edmunds.Suffolk.There is a breathless editorial cum trip report from Bill Bowers before he rushes off for 4 years into the Air Force. He doesn t say why he has joined up for 4yrs. Harry Warner writes on faan fiction. This is not amateur sf but fiction based on fandom. He has a wide knowledge of what has been published and makes the good point that it is an outlet for fiction-writing impulses that might otherwise produce bad imitations of bad prozine stories. He comes up with the suggestion that fandom has never had a faan play or novel written..and that it might be interesting to see this. There are Coulson fanzine reviews with that nice touch of acid now and then to liven up the reader..and the fanzine editor. A short piece of fiction by Roger Zelazny is of the type where the author never uses one adjective if he can use three--a slight idea--lightly worked upon. John Boardman writes of the Negro riots in Harlem with an admirable restraint."Logic" by Robt. Weinberg is good fan fiction; it is well written and with an original idea. It won the prize in the N3F Story contest. Only thing I am disappointed about with this zine is the descriptions given by the two Bills of their trip. It isn't enough, fellas, to give a string of fan names ...

Skyrack: No 73: From: Ron Bennett, 52 Fairways Drive. Forest Lane, Harrogate. Yorkshire. 2/6 or 35¢ for 6 issues.US Agent: Robert Coulson, RR3. Wabash. Indiana 46992. When the news is thin, Ron extends his fanzine reviews as this time. The largest space is given to an issue of QUARK and a specific item in it written by Walt Willis. Ron - to sum up-calls it "snide". As Walt's article was on the subject of meeting a neofan - one can see this being seized upon as an example of a BNF being snide to a neofan with consequent ill-feeling being generated. This is a fact I deplore; divisions there will always be in fandom but anything that tends to increase them is not good. In his article Walt gave the picture of a new fan who had never heard of HYPHEN meeting the editor of it. and his own realisation that here was another new fandom born in which the type of fanzine he'd thought dead and gone was fresh and vital. I can't see anything "snide" in that. In fact it is because fandom is always renewing itself in this way that Walt

is still interested. He once said to me he couldn't bear to leave fandom as he always wanted to see what would happen <u>mext</u>.

Jan, 3rd

Zenith: No 7: From: Peter Weston, 9 Porlock Crec. Northfield. Birmingham 31. 2/- or Trades or Contributions. 2/- or 30¢.US Agent: Al Lewis, 1825 Greenfield Ave.Los Anegles.Calif 90025. This starts off with a letter column in which everyone is getting hot under the collar about the subject of sf criticism as dished out by Terry Jeeves. I must say that if fans are determined to get hot under the collar about something this should be a fairly non-disruptive subject; and therefore praiseworthy. Besides its interesting..and instructive. Walt Willis comes next with FANORAMA and in his review of the fanzine LINK gives a discussion of humourous writing and the use of the pun which is highly informative. Sf critical articles: Ivor Latto's is good as is one by Alan Dodd on the subject of Bloch. Interest here is heightened by a letter from Bloch explaining that he deliberately uses trite dialogue in his film scripts - as people talk in a trite way. Chas Platt on Jose Farmer and I found that I mainly agreed with his conclusions on this author's writings. Then there is another review of FARMHAMS FREEHOLD by Al Lewis .. I really must read this book! This issue has 66pp packed with sf criticism - most of it on a high level and very well recommended.

Jen. Ath

Heckmeck: No 3: From: Mario Kwiat, 44 Münster. Dahlweg 33. Gormany. This German fanzine comes from a round-faced, merry-looking Gerfan who has recently become a proud Papa. I cannot yet read all this, Mario-but I am improving thanks to my German lessons. I think Mario is a cartoonidt who could yet give ATOM a run for his money! As you see from the front heading, Mar.'o sent me not only two headings but-they were already on stencity That puts him on my 99 list!

Jan.5th

Yandro: No 142: From: Robert & Juanita Coulson. Address already given. 1/6d or 30% British Agent; Alan Dodd, 77 Stanstead Rd. Hoddesdon. Herts. Among the changes of address that Y helpfully prints is Dick Lupoffs! I see that Buck has it down as MERRY HILL .. not the MERRY HELL that I read from Dick's handwriting. Hey ho..down the drain goes all those cracks I sent off if Buck is right and I am wrong..and I probably am! Buck is mildly grumbling at the idea of a HUGO committee to do the nominating .. I guess he is just gathering up steam. Next there is a poem in praise of Geo Scithers-I tell you - you never know what you'll find in Y next! Here is another editor providing a public service by publishing an article by Geo in which he gives the Constitution for World sf cons. He adds a careful history of how this (and the Rotation Plan) came about. This is a public service as lately many fans have been arguing over various points..now at least they have the facts not suppositions. This is followed up by an article by Buz Busby in favour of retaining the the states Plan. He makes out a very sensible case for leaving the Plan as it is. All the other usual departments are featured at their usual high standard.

Jan.6th

Link: No 2: From: Beryl Henley, 59 The Fearnings. Crabbs Cross. Redditch. Worcs. 1/- or Trades etc. One of the reasons I never did read all the works of Charles Dickens is that early on I was put off by the amount of dialect used. I am still averse to the use of dialect and also to the use of too many colloquiel expressions. So: the editorial goodbye here "Lerve and sploshers" unnerves me at the start. Next comes a tale of an excurgion by some people called The Tribe who obviously don't want me to know who they are. I struggled through half and gave up. There is a short story by Tony Walsh which is slight and I thought overwritten. Then comes a play of 10pp and if I had the patience and the time I could no doubt disentangle all these characters. Some bits are a parody of the Shakespearian style, there are lots of local references, but I'm afraid I did not finish this one either. In some ways though, this and the trip report reminds me of the book THE BRONTES MENT TO WOOLWORTHS. I am handicapped, of course, by knowing nothing of the people involved -- it's like coming into fandom for the first time; but I guess I used up all my patience in waiting for enlightment way back then. Still: an old fan and tired complaining that she doesn't understand the esoteric references in a new fan's fanzine makes a nice switch! Fandom is never boring!

Jan.14th

Zingaro:no 2: From: Mark Irwan, 1747 Elmwood Dr. Highland Park. Illinois 60035 256. A N'APAzine. The fiction is this, says Mark, comes from the N3F Story Contest. There are two neither of which lack for ideas. The first by David Patrick is the better of the two as it is confined to one idea, it is marred by inexpert writing. The other, by John Kusske suffers from having too much crammed into a short story. Mark himself does book, film and fanzine reviews in a competant way.

Garbistan: No 1: From: Charles Platt, 18E Fitzjohns Ave. London. NW3, A Padszine. No price mentioned. Chas starts off with a history, as he sees it, of the search for a London Club House. As I wasn't present at any of these meetings at which the project was discussed I have to try to judge from this what happened. Of course I've also heard versions from various fan acquaintances. That the whole thing fell through might be a pity or it might not; I'm not wildly in favour of an organised clubroom suspecting it might cause more trouble than it was worth, so I amidubious about the former. What strikes me about this article is Charles own attitude he seems to think that people should be grateful for any work done by fans. Yet, when he describes the ending of Ella's Friday nights he has not a kir, word to say for her years of regular hospitality. That he and Ella clash wildly is very obvious; but he does not seem to be able to be gracious and admit that she has earned some thanks from London fandom. Which seems a pity. There is a list of fan names and a list of quotes jumbled up for the reader to guess at with the answers at the end. It reminded me of A BAS and I had to growl "Down nostalgia" to myself. A story by Brian Zugorski left me cold, I hate cryptic endings. "A Place to die" by Richard Gordon is clear enough in intent however - this is Hell - and its not a place I wish to be or read about. There is a review of VECTOR by Dick Howett who starts by saying that to blame its poor quality on the editor Rog Peyton would be unfair; he then criticises it severely ending up with "Just WHO is Rog editing for?", Which struck me as very funny.

Jan 16th

<u>Amra:No 31</u>:From:Dick Eney,417 Ft.Hunt ^Rd.Alexandria.Virginia.22307.8 for \$2, 14/- in sterling.British Agent:Archie Mercer,70 Worrall Rd.Bristol 8. This is the first issue I've seen for some time and the illustrations are still absolutely wonderful; the cover by Krankel is worth framing. Not being a Sword and Sorcery buff I approached the written material cautiously It is, I'm glad to say, written in a light, deft manner. Methinks(its catching) there is more of Dick Eney in the editorial writing than the other editors.Maybe I'm wrong though, after all I nearly died laughing at ^George Scithers description of the Pacificon business meeting the last time George visited here. On the other hand-George's name is not listed in this issue. In my mind I've got AMRA and Scithers together like hand and glove--have I got it wrong somewhere?

WesterCon Booklet: Another beautiful fantasy cover. This one by George Barr. Want to join the Westercon? \$1 to Rick Sneary, 5571 Belgrave Ave.Garden Grove.Calif.92641.

Jon 19th

Horizons: No 99: From: Harry Warner A Fapazine. Highlight is still Harry's own HAGERSTOWN JOURNAL in which he ranges from the novels of Gene Stratton-Porter via the trials of a bachelor in search of a cleaning woman to fallout shelters. Only thing that could possibly top this is his own description of his work on the local newspaper.

Horizons: No 100: I wonder what it feels like to produce a 100 issue fanzine? Tired, says Harry. I see that he has been re-reading THE ROADS MUST ROLL as I did recently. Only, he's spotted what I'd missed that Heinlein never mentioned how the roads got turned around for the return trip. Dash it all, Harry! Why did you have to spoil my mental picture of the Rolling Roads?

Jan.20th:

The National Fantasy Fan: No 7: The official organ of the N3F. To join send \$2 to Janie Lamb, Route 1, Box 364, Heiskell. Tennessee.

Len's Letter: No 3: From: Len Moffatt Apt 5. 5804 E.Gage Ave. BellGardens. Calif 90202. This is just what the title says -- a letter from Len full of news, book talk, and his thoughts (which are always sensible) on fandoms current topics. A letter substitute and one of fandom's best inventions for any busy fap.

<u>Centenary Shot</u>:From:Archie ^Mercer, 70 Worrall Rd.Bristol 8. This is a oneshot and, like most of them, only funny to those who were there.

<u>Pulp Era:No 61</u>:From:Lynn Hickman,706 Scott St.Napoleon.Ohio. 35¢. Lynn says sadly that he must move again; and that he has been in 48 of the 50 states now. All that moving would drive me mad. Why it took me 8 years to get out of Glasgow and I didn't even like the place much. John Phillifent writes on "The difference between us"; and explains why Britain never had a pulp era as did the US. Makes a very good case too in an interesting article - only I wonder why he ignores the boy's magazines? The Wizard, the Hotsour and their like were undoubtedly what set my feet on the path to sf. Following

hard on John's heels though comes Terry Jeeves with a good rundown of those mags and he hands me a name that has eluded me for years...BULLSEYE. <u>Was</u> that the mag that made my hair stand on end with its horror tales? I wish I could remember more of what I so avidly read then.

Jan.21st

<u>Yandro: No 143</u>: From: Juanita and Robert Coulson. Address and rates as before. Nothing I am moved to comment upon in the two editorials this time: but I like to keep tabs on them and what they are doing and would be mightily affronted if those two top features were omitted. If you are a Burroughs fan and interested in getting Bzines; an article here lists them all. The fiction is by Stephen Pickering--who tells us that it wasn't Moses who parted the waters but an alien from outer space. whatever next! Well, Ted White resurrects an old argument over Guba but finishes with a new question - Should we regard world issues in moral terms? Y readers ought to have fun with that next time round. Reading the letter column I come with amazement to Buck writing "the banks and braes of bonny doong" to cover up for a typo. I think I'll join that gunfandom of Grennells'.

Jan.27th.

Queebcon:Nos 9 & 10:From:Boyd Raeburn.Fapazines. These are a rather fancy bonds of one-shots..put out when Boyd goes to visit Norm and Gina Clarke. By rather fancy..I mean they are extremely well written! They convey the atmosphere of the fan gathering..and alas, poor one-shots..how many can do the same!

Feb.3rd.

Today arrived from Graham Hill a one-pager leuding Chas Flatt for the Doc Weir award. Any registered con member is eligible to vote for this. It's good to see folks take an interest in this award enough to put out work for their favourites. I voted for Ella Parker as a mark of appreciation for the Friday night meetings she kept up for so long. And you?

Brumble: No 3: From Ken Cheslin: Progress Report for the Brumcon. Have you joined yet? If not, write to Ken. 5/- to register. 15/- to join.

Feb.5th

Skyrack: No 74: From: Ron Bennett. Address and rates as before. News and fanzine reviews. First reaction is to think that there is not much news around these days..but then when you get to the back page you find quite a lot crammed in that is very up-to-date. Only Ron got a leetle hurried about then and produced this beauty of a sentence ... "Alan also reports that due at the National Film Theatre showing of King Kong recently John Ramsey Campbell and Harry Nadler and that the George Pal Company (MGM) has bought John Christopher's No Blade of Grass(The Death of Grass)." Now I'll tell you all something about Ron...He writes me letters and in one I'll find information about (a) OMPA ... (b) TAFF ... (c) LONCON II ... personal discussion..all in together. Now if I file it under any of these headings I'll soon need to haul it out for one of the others. So what do you do if you are a tidy fan who actually keeps files? You file his letters in a special file of course! I wouldn't want you to think I'd crow over Ron for that sentence back there; ho no - but the next time he gives me 2 out of 10 for my arithmetic. . I'll think of it and chortle.

Feb.8th

Vector:No 30: From: Roger Peyton. The official organ of the BS FA.An article of Jim England's deplores the lack of new ideas in SF. Ed Mackin writes on "The Author's Lot"; the writing of this is so bad I can't believe he is an author who sells. All the usual departments are functioning away well, except "Dr Peristyle" who ought to be dropped. Someone trying to be funny and failing sadly - is a sad, sad sight.

<u>Tangent</u>: This is sf fiction produced by BSFA members (and you have to be a member to obtain the above..but not this). Again it is well produced by Roger Feyton. The stories consist of one fantasy of a sort and the others on sf themes-all fairly predictable. I've just realised that I now read short sf as I did detective stories before I grew tired of them--trying to see how early on I can guess the ending. What a dreary thought, what a pile of sf unremembered shortly after reading lies behind that thought!

^reb 13th

<u>Starling:No 4</u>:From:Hank Luttrell Rt.13.2936 Barrett Station Rd.Kirkwood Missouri 63122. 25¢ or trade etc. I'm feeling cheerful again. This one started with a story about an enchanted gun and I read it without any desire to guess as it lured me on. I even snickered at the adroit ending! But alas, pages and pages of criticism follows of the previous issue.practically a blow by blow description. However it does finish with the first article I've ever seen on how to start your own sf club.

Feb 14th

Hyphen:No 36:From:Walt and Madeleine Willis,170 Unper Newtownwards Rd. Belfast 4.N.Ireland. 15¢ or 1/-. The cover, by Bosh, of a Time "achine with 5 years to pay sets the tone - and H. that green thing. is back to brighten up my life. I gave a slight snarl of course to find that Walt had transferred his trip report. Bosh also writes this time, on the con at Peterborough. This is no step by step description of what happened but in the course of it Bob conveys the fun of having fannish friends; and the thought that the fans lack of real knowledge of science may aucount for the fact that new fans always seem to start at the same point. "No standing on shoulders" says Bob. I liked Tom Perry's free-ranging column I was highly amused to see Tom lecture Walt on the use of the colon. That will learn Walt to lecture others on its and it's. I know I sometimes get this wrong but when I do it's a typographical error--I'll have you all know(Mercer, Bennett, and Mr William Danner). George Locke has a story of a fan who plays card games at a con; if he's making a point(I think he is), he is too coy of hitting it. The main thing that hits you in the cye in the letter column is one of Walt's puns.

<u>Hydro:No 5</u>:From: Pete Campbell 3 Market Pl.Cockermouth.Cumberland.5/- per year of for letters of comment. This has an amusing cover that charts nearly all the fanzines of Britain on a map. One half of this is devoted to letters and the other half to an article on Lovecraft by Wetzel.

Feb 15th:

<u>Con:No 2: From</u>: Chris Priest, "Cornerways" Willow Close.Doddinghurst.Brentwood.Essex. No price. <u>Some</u> address.The editor sat down and figured that

by charging 1/- he was losing 1/3d on every copy; so he decided to cut out subs altogether. This doesn't make sense to me. Granted we can't make a profit or even break even; there's no reason why we shouldn't at least try to collect the postage! This is the hardest item for me to shell out for I know. From this zine I learn that another group of fans has started to make a film. I think that we must call the new fandom coming along not the 9th,10th or whatever(I lost count awhile back) but the Affluent Fandom. In this there is fiction; the quality is fairly humdrum. There is one though which ends like the chapter in cheap novels that gives you a line of dots to use your imagination up. I'll admit I haven't seen this in a fanzine before. Chris puts out a neat zine and takes care over the artwork. He keeps the comments on the last issue in the letter column to a minimum.He describes the last Friday meeting at Ella's. Again there is reference to Ella Having shouted at Chas Platt for walking across her sofa; with no mention of gratitude for her hospitality. Here, of course, I have knowledge that perhaps Chris hasn't. the pride Ella took in her new flat. the cost of the new furniture..the delight in having that new sofa. Considering how much it all meant to her (there are other fans out there who have started their own homes and can understand??); it says volumnes for Ella's devotion to those Friday nights that she continued them so long.

Lighthouse: No 11: From: Terry Carr, 41 Fierrepont St. Brooklyn, New York. 11201 USA.4 for 1. and for trades etc. PK.Dick has an article on mental illness and a new view of how it may be that paranoids, for instance, are sensing too much of the submerged hostility around them and are therefore 'right' in their delusions. This is an article packed full of ideas for the SF author! Walt Willis writes delightfully about his feelings for fandom and simply and lucidly about the reasons for voting Labour. I felt envious; I am never much good at explaining my allegiance to Labour. Carole Carr describes A BAD DAY just a little too vividly for me. A 'Carl Branden' view of "1926 and All That" will be more rewarding if you have read THE IMMORTAL STORM and all the issues of FANAC; then you too can laugh out loud. My favourite line is -"Another organisation which sprang up around this time was the World Science Fiction Society Inc., but you wouldn't want to hear about that." George Metzger pops up again here with some fascinating tales of his life in the Army(they weren't just exactly meant for each other). There are mailing comments on FAFA the like of which OMPA has not seen since Bill Donaho left us dangling. I must stop this enthusiastic itemizing..this is my type of fanzine-broadranging in its interests; tolerant in its tone, and erudite in its writing. There is always the most important ingredient of all - a touch of humour towards fandom itself. Most highly recommended.

Feb 16th

Dinky Bird: No 13: From: Ruth Berman, A Sapszine. The main item in this is a 'Coventry story'. I thought this fashion had died out in fandom. I'm afraid I found it boring. Sorry Ruth!

Feb.17th

Speleobem: No 25: From: Bruce Felz. Sapszine. Bruce continues to brighten the fanzine scene by the use of various coloured pages. His own mailing comments are of interest; and this fanzine continues to feature Madeleine

Willis' trip report. She has now reached Seattle(in No 25) and the pace becomes quieter and she has more time to put in the details; she has an observant eye. She rivets my attention in No 26 by heading off for San Francisco--I know that I will relive pleasant memories as I read..and indeed it did bring it all back to me. I've sudenly got surious about one fact.. I wonder if Walt reads Madeleine's instalment before he writes his own?

Terry Carr for TAFF:

Jock Root for TAFF: An equal time fanzine. It is a gorgeously coloured fanzine with some lovely illos. It is nice to see fans campaigning for TAFF once more.

Tightbeam: No 29: From the N3F: Available to members: This has another brightly coloured cover, the Trimbles must be experimenting I think they are all their handiwork. There is an interesting variety of letters in this from N3F members. It seems to me that the emergence of TIGHTBEAM has been a good thing generally.

The Catalogue of Fantasy and SF: From Ken Slater, 75 Norfolk St. Wisbech. Cambs. 5/- per year. Sf and fannish news in addition to the catalogue

Feb.18th:

Niekas:No 10: From:Ed Meskys and "elic Rolfe.35¢ or Trades etc.A N'AFAzine Puzzled a bit at first as to what this was--silly me--turn to the back cover of course! Can't really blame them though not wanting to spoil the really stunning front cover by Dennis Smith. Felice's column seems rather lightweight this time; more like a chatty note than an interesting letter. A really irritating trick comes next..."contd on p46 please"..and then you discover the pages aren't numbered till near the end when numbering starts up again. Ed, please don't <u>do</u> that <u>or</u> put your contents page to the end! There is a glossary of "Middle ^Earth" which is a continuation and this time devoted to the dwarfs. Al Halevy, the compiler, wants to know if folks would be interested in this put out as a whole? John Baxter writes well on the subject of sf films. Also a good letter column with Alan Burns trying to define "freedom" and many authors on the subject of sf criticism. Worth getting.

Feb.19th

Starling: No 3: From: Hank Luttrell, address as before. There is a slab of letters of comment on the last issue. A fantasy story by Roger Cox has the kind of names that really put me off-Vastari, Narla, Hearon. This passion for writing their own sword and scorcery by fans I do not understand. Some book reviews round this off; none of it very startling I'm afraid.

Feb.22nd.

Ratatosk: No 7: From: Bruce PelzBox 100,308 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles. Cal. 90024.British Agent: Ella Parker, 43 Wm.Dunbar House.Albert Rd.London NW6 3/25£.9for 7/-(or 10/- Air). Born from the demise of STARSPINKLE, this fanzine fills the void admirably on the news front.

Ankus: No 14: From: Bruce Pelz. A Fapazine. No note of any price to non-Fapans so I breathed a sigh of relief to see it appear. For this is where the continuation of Walt's trip report has migrated to - at least it's in reliable hands. Only how you get it I dunno other than entreating Bruce.

Feb.25th.

Aso: No <u>A</u>: From: Bill Donaho: Another Fapazine. All of a sudden Bill is active again so I guess he's got over the Worldcon work. Already I've had two long letters from him. but he'll have to wait. now <u>I'm</u> on one! Bill was always a topnotch commentator. Invariably his comments were interesting whether you had read the zine he was dealing with or not. He has not lost his touch. Also in this is a description of a recent trip to New York. Embedded in it is a fascinating record of the "Underground Cinema" group. Bill, take this out and send it to the New Yorker; I bet it would sell there.

Les Spinge: No 14: From Dave Hale: One hears of Ken Cheslin gafiating ... and as he was the 'angel' behind this, one hopes this will not be the last issue. I like black covers with the illos done in white; it is particularly effective in fantasy scenes as here. Dave has a good editorial (in the true sense of the word) about the subject of Focal Point fanzines. He asks which fanzine we would point to as today's FP. Had I been asked that a little while ago I would have unhesitatingly said STARSPINELE. At the moment I'm less sure of being able to pick on one. LS is a large zine..biggest fault no page numbering so you can't track down the artwork without bother. And there is lots of good artwork. Mike Moorcock holds forth against the way so many US authors tend to hark back to the myth of a wonderful world in the past and ties it neatly to the subject of Goldwater. However, its not only US authors who do this. One of the most off-putting on this theme that I have read was written by John Brunner. Called THIS ISLAND EARTH or some such .. back to home-made shoes I remember vividly-that's when I went ech! Like Mike, I want my SF to look forward. John Baxter has an informative article on surferiders. Jim Linwood's column goes from strength to strength and with this issue I think he can be put alongside Buck Coulson as one of fandoms top reviewers. Beryl Henley's pithy and righteous blast at the British architects idea of unheated bath ooms ought to have a wider audience -- do architects have a magazine? There are lots of other goodies in here. Jim Cawthorne on the stencilling of art and Terry Jeeves on where did the sf go and only two..to say nothing of a rattling good letter column. My goodness I hope it doesn't fold!

Nexus: No 3: From: Pete Weston, 9 Porlock Cresc. Northfield. Birmingham 31. This is an Ompazine, not for sale, but available for trades etc. Pete has quite a lot of letters in this, mostly stimulating of further argument and therefore a Good Thing(unless you think otherwise?). The whole zine looks very promising. Fete has mentioned a couple of times that I never write loes. I haven't the time these days which is why I try to keep on with HAVER as a locsubstitute.

Excalibur: No 9: From: Arnold Katz and Les Bailes25¢ or Trades etc. Address is UB Apts.468B.Allenhurst Rd.Eggertsville.New York. Les Bailes amuses with his description of the difficulties of posting his Ompazine in little old Post Offices. It's nothing of course to the reputation I have in the PO

here..what with Ompa and Taff..the assistants there quail when I walk in. There is also some fiction in this zine. Makeweight from John Berry but rather cleverly on a religious argument by John Boardman. One of the best items is a description by Katz of N'APA as a whole. Unfortunately the reproduction is rather poor in places which is bound to lessen the desire to read on through.

Focal Foint: No 3: From: Mike McInerney and Rich Brown, 268E 4th St.Apt 4C New York.NY 10009. Biweekly.3/25%. Will this be the Focal Point that Dave ^Hale is looking for? It's another fanzine of news, views and reviews on the style of the late, lamented STARSPINKLE. Well, any fanzine that deliberately tried to be a Focal Point in the past just never seemed to make it; but we'll see. It is certainly up to date with its news and obviously has well trained spies in the most strategic places.

You are receiving this because: Trade X You subbed and are due more issues You are a good friend.

Ted Johnstohe Apt 4 619 S.Hobart St Los Angeles. Calif. 90005. USA





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