

THE SOUTHERN FAN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTHERN FANDOM GROUP

Volume 1, Number 3

November, 1960

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The Southern Fandom Group was created in order to provide the active fans of the South with a central organization which will serve as a focus of southern fan activity. The purpose of the organization is to enable its members to engage in activities which are difficult or impossible for one person to do alone. We hope that, with your help, the SFG will perform this service for southern fans without interfering with individual activities.

In order to join the SFG, you must meet two basic requirements: You must be an active fan and you must reside in one of the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia or West Virginia.

The SFG is a membership-by-invitation-only organization. To be certain that all applicants meet the membership requirements a questionnaire must be filled out. If you are interested in joining, you may obtain a questionnaire by writing our Corresponding Secretary, Bob Farnham, 506 2nd Avenue, Dalton, Georgia.

THE SOUTHERN FAN is the official organ of the Southern Fandom Group, published for the SFG from 1707 Piper Circle SE, Atlanta 16, Georgia. Editor: Jerry Burge; Associate Editor: Jerry Page.

Letters invited. Short articles of general science fiction interest will be considered.

Deadline for the 4th issue: December 23. Mailing date about January 9.

DIRECTOR S REPORT

By ALFRED McCOY ANDREWS

IN THE CLOSING lines of my report for TSF #2 I made this statement: "...there are critical times in the development of any organization, and for the SFG this is the critical time." The reasons I gave for this (the present) being the critical time was: "We have grown from a relative handful to a considerable number; we are broadening our scope and our actions; and we are meeting the challenge of the future by taking on new responsibilities." I then tried to point out the safe path through this critical time for the SFG by saying: "If we are to survive the rigors of development we must all work and plan together in harmony and consideration of each other." Please note particularly the underlined words. These words of mine were not at all vague, for I had in this same report discussed such plans as an Activity Committee; Benefits Committee; SFPA Committee; chairmanships and committee work; procedure of committees; possible activities and benefits; and efforts to increase our contacts with southern fans. BUT ABOVE ALL I stressed YOUR writing to me and telling me YOUR ideas and suggestions and volunteering for committee work. Yes, I stressed that "we must all work and plan together." Now, take a thoughtful look at YOUR response to this emphasized invitation.

At that writing we had 20 members (we now have 28). Three weeks after the appearance of TSF #2 I had received exactly ONE letter. I then sent out nine postal cards to nine members hoping to spur some response. To date I have received TWO additional letters and ONE postal card in reply. That is YOUR record. To break it down further, of the total of three letters that I received, one was two pages, one was one page, one a quarter page, plus an eight line postal card. Out of 20 members, that is YOUR response.

For comparison I would like to tell you of a letter I received from a person who is NOT a member of the SFG (he is out of our limits), but a NFFfer who is interested in the SFG's becoming a success. His four page letter discusses nearly every aspect of the present SFG organizational setup, and contains many thoughtful suggestions, ideas, counsel and a deep interest in the SFG. Also it contains the names and addresses of 20 southern fans to be contacted, with more promised at a later date. This expansive letter deals with such important matters as policy, committee operations, activity by mail, Director's duties and obligations, planning and action groups, members who move out of limits, fanzine history, the SFPA, fan sponsored professional publishing, letters in TSF, getting new members and quite a few other things. THIS is the kind of letter we need from each and every member of the SFG--and we need them now!

Let's face the facts. The SFG has accomplished a good many things. It has a group of officers who are operating effectively in their respective spheres of action (and working together), it has incorporated thirteen states (and several others are being considered), it has produced a fine Official Organ (TSF) and the SFG is financially sound. The SFG's project of a complete South Fandom History is progressing under the energetic leadership of our Historian; the Publicity Director is opening new avenues of spotlighting the SFG; the Editor and Associate Editor are constantly striving to increase the quality

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and coverage of TSF, and due to the ceaseless efforts of our Corresponding Secretary southern fans are being reached and recruited (with the help of our able State Secretaries). And as Director I am trying to keep us moving forward and co-ordinate all actions toward success. The officers have done well and accomplished much. But NOW we need our entire membership to pitch in and work constructively to make the SFG the leader it should be. We officers have gone as far as we can for the success of the SFG. It is now YOU who must call the plays! YOU who must set the goals! YOU who must tell us where you want to go and how YOU want to get there! Your working in these committees and giving these committees ideas, suggestions, information, counseling, and plans will be the all-important markers that lead and direct the administrative branches in moving the SFG to the destinations you want to reach. Until we hear from YOU we can do practically nothing. To a large measure this 3rd issue of TSF is late because you did not respond, and we kept waiting and waiting, hoping that you would come through. You didn't.

Put aside an hour of your time and sit down (or stand on your propellow-beanied head if you like) and WRITE. Put your points over to us! Tell us what you want! Think about it and then lay it on us. The SFG stands or falls on your response or lack of it.

Alfred McCoy Andrews

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OFFICIAL ROSTER (as of November 18, 1960)

Alfred McCoy Andrews, 1659 Lakewood Drive, Birmingham 9, Alabama
Ted Brooke, 4950 LaVista Drive, Tucker, Georgia
L.D.Broyles, Route 6, Box 453 P, Waco, Texas
Jerry Burge, 1707 Piper Circle SE, Atlanta 16, Georgia
Joe Christoff, P O Box 212, Atlanta 1, Georgia
Carroll Collins, Route #4, Church Hill, Tennessee
Bob Farnham, 506 2nd Avenue, Dalton, Georgia
Jerry Gray, Route #5, Clanton, Alabama
Emile Greenleaf, 1309 Mystery Street, New Orleans 19, Louisiana
Harry K. Hudson, 3300 San Bernardino Street, Clearwater, Florida
Bob Jennings, 3819 Chambers Drive, Nashville 11, Tennessee
Janie Lamb, Route #1, Box 364, Heiskell, Tennessee
Norman Metcalf, Box 1262, Tyndall AFB, Florida
Tom Milton, 6215 East Gate Road, Huntington 5, West Virginia
Richard H. Minter, 412 East 2nd Avenue, Draper, North Carolina
Dr. D.C.Montgomery, 124 South Broadway, Greenville, Mississippi
Larry G. Moore, 3829 James Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas
Earl Noe, 3304 East Belknap, Fort Worth, Texas
Frederick Norwood, Box 401, 3 Ames Street, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts
Michael J. Padgett, Jr., 3230 Washington Street, Augusta, Georgia
Jerry Page, 193 Battery Place NE, Atlanta 7, Georgia
Floyd J. Perley, 115 Sherwood Circle, Ocean Springs, Mississippi
Bill Plott, P O Box 654, Opelika, Alabama
Howard Shockley, Rt 4, Box 48, Opelika, Alabama
Roy Tackett, 412 Elderberry Drive, Laurel Bay, South Carolina
Harry Thomas, 124 Cherokee Avenue, Athens, Georgia
Bernie J. Wermers, 1703 Lenore Court, Baltimore 7, Maryland
Loubel Wood, Star Route, DeFuniak Springs, Florida

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

By HARRY THOMAS

HERE WE ARE with the third issue of TSF, and if the quantity of letters, 'zines, books and other relevant material I have received from our members is any indication at all, there will be many more issues of our OO.

My proposed series of articles on the history of Southern Fandom, which was to have made its debut with this issue, will have to wait until, at least, the next issue. I did not have enough material until just a few days ago to write an article of any size. Now I am being flooded with material, especially on the Nolacon. However, if I should happen to receive more material on some other phase of Southern Fandom that might happen to be of more interest to everyone, I will present an article on it instead of the Nolacon. Either way, the series on the history of Southern Fandom definitely will begin with the next issue of TSF.

Since the previous issue, a rather interesting idea has been proposed to me: the idea of forming a scrapbook on members of SFG. I am all for it, but it is up to you to decide pro or con about it. I already have photos of Al Andrews, Bob Farnham and, of course, myself, on hand. We may, if funds permit, publish these pics in some future issue of TSF. If you are for this idea, send your photos to me--if you are against it, let me know.

Now to a run-down on material received at this post since last issue: From Janie Lamb, bless her heart, comes six very important fanzines. Important because five of them carry extensive reports on the Nolacon, and the other gives the names and some info on past science fiction clubs in the South. The 'zines are:

THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN, Aug. and Oct., 1951; Apr.-May and Oct., 1952.

The NOLA CON BULLETIN #2.

SFzine #5 (no date).

Other 'zines received are: MAELSTROM #5, from Bill Plott; KARMA #1 from Earl Noe; DYNATRON #1 and #2 from Roy Tackett; SPECULATIVE REVIEW Volume 2, #3 from Dick Eney. Just in from Carroll Len Collins: TLMA #1 (June, 1952); SOUTHERN FANDOM (no date). Also in this package is the June 1953 issue of Science Fiction Plus.

Names of editors and other info on these old 'zines are absent because sometime in the indeterminate future I plan to have a detailed article on them in TSF as part of the history of Southern Fandom. I left out addresses of the present pubbers of the new 'zines because this was beginning to sound like a fanzine review column. If anyone would like to know these addresses, write me and I will be glad to enlighten you. We now have two more hard-cover books in our files: two copies of THE IMMORTAL STORM by Sam Moskowitz. This will be of great help to myself and future historians.

In closing, let me again plead for more information on the history of Southern Fandom. I especially need detailed info on the following organizations: THE LITTLE MONSTERS OF AMERICA FAN CLUB, THE SAVANNAH SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY, THE ATLANTA SCIENCE FICTION ORGANIZATION, a very early fan club known to have existed in Dallas, Texas, and any other info you might have about southern fan organizations in the past

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and any that exist today. Also need material on the Atlanta convention. Need any and all issues of southern 'zines, past or present.

My new address, for anyone who might have something to send to this office, is: Harry Thomas
124 Cherokee Avenue
Athens, Georgia

A special thanks to the following people who have been very helpful to me this time around: Ted Brooke, Len Collins, Janie Lamb, Al Andrews and to all those who sent me the current issues of their fanzines.

-Harry Thomas

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CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT

By BOB FARNHAM

THE REPORT for this month is rather sketchy. Don't have much to write about. The membership now stands at 26 dues-paid members, and several more have requested questionnaires. I've been sending out contact letters and two have replied at this writing.

The enthusiasm with which SFG is being welcomed by southern fans is sharply comforting with the knowledge that fan activity in the south is far from dead. I am also receiving queries about SFG from out-of-boundaries fans who want to know why they cannot join. When it is explained that the sole purpose of SFG is to serve southern fans and increase fanac in the south and that membership is by-invitation-only, return letters bring regrets that northerners are exempt from membership in SFG. While this may seem unfair to some people--since our aim is southern fans only...well, it's southern fandom, that's all.

Lloyd Douglas Broyles, Route #6, Box 453-P, Waco, Texas, has been appointed State Secretary for Texas, so you Texas fans who read this please contact him instead of the Corresponding Secretary.

There are quite a few fans in Texas whom I know to be real fans and real workers, centering around Dallas. We want them to join with SFG if they will. How about this, Dallas?

Your Corresponding Secretary had a bad accident just prior to this writing--he knocked over a doggoned HOT cup of coffee with the typewriter carriage and it pounced smack into his lap. This report had to be started a second time....

-Bob Farnham

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All official members are receiving a ballot with this issue for the vote on extending our boundaries. The result of this vote will very likely have a considerable effect on the organization's future, so be sure to check your ballot and send it to Bob Farnham at once.

If perchance you didn't find a ballot enclosed, let me know and I'll send you one by return mail.

-jb

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BILL PLOTT

The second issue of the SFG 00 was much meatier and more informative than the initial issue. I am all set to start the organization of the SFG apa if I can just get some contacts for the committee. It seems that Earl Nee and I compose the group at present.

I think we are off to a good start with 20 paid members, but we'll need more than that if we are to really get something into full swing with a regional con in the future. A lot of fans are not paid up yet and I expected to see them on the list....

The addition of Maryland and Missouri would be a wise move for SFG. But we should find out if it will be worth while to extend our boundaries. Warner and Madle are both pretty busy most of the time and we should make some inquiry as to whether or not they will be able to participate and help with SFG. Bernie Wermers lives in the same postal zone as Jack Chalker, a neffer with whom you're probably familiar. There are a couple of other fans in Baltimore also.

I suggest that fans who move out of the South have their official membership terminated and be considered active honorary members. This way the SFG would still be southern and yet interested parties would not be cut off from participation. The honorary bit would deprive them of voting power only in SFG.

-P.O.Box 654, Opelika, Alabama

Personal problems have forced Bill to cut down somewhat on activity. He won't be able to handle the apa OE job. Any suggestions, or volunteers? A lot of fans seem to have taken a wait and see attitude toward SFG--which is all very well, but it doesn't make our job any easier. Jerry Page now regrets that he mentioned Madle and Warner by name--it only obfuscated the issue. While we would welcome these two fans and any others, the real problem is whether SFG should include all southern states or only those which seem to need the SFG to supplement and focus activity.

ROY TACKETT

Now how about that? I've got the 2nd SFG report ala THE SOUTHERN FAN, Vol. 1, #2. And just when I thought the whole thing had fallen victim to some strange southern malady.

I have one comment. Kinda late, ain't it? End of vernacular. How often do you plan to put out "The Southern Fan"? What I mean is this. Membership is listed as of 27 August. My copy came in on 8 October. (Same day I dumped last Dynatron in the mails.) Seems as if things should be a bit more current than that.

So. SF and Fantasy Record listing. I like the idea. I don't think it's been done before. One person to act as a clearing house and keep track while the others in the Group can keep him/her posted whenever they come across something new. Or old.

Yearly checklist of prozines? Already done isn't it? I believe SF Times does this on a regular basis. But as part of the Times and not as a separate item.

SFPA? Yes and No. It's a fine idea provided it doesn't take too

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much time away from genzine publishing. Quarterly but certainly no more often than that.

Fanzine board? Fine. To this extent: Let's make it so that the fanzine editors list their wants and the membership submits to the editors. No fanzine bureaus or material pools, please. N3F has one and Dave Rike is supposed to have one on the Coast. But the quality of material out of these pools is generally ghastly to worse. I requisitioned some material from N3F bureau years ago in Colorado or some place like that and sent it back. Totally unusable. If the material is good it is going to be submitted to a fanzine editor. If rejected it goes to a pool. Uh-uh. No pools, please. You could run this as a department of THE SOUTHERN FAN. "UNGHODLY published by Joe Fann at such an address needs book reviews" or some such as that.

What am I personally willing to do? I dunno. Ask me after 1 December. I'm going to be tied up for the next month or so with some intensive special schooling that's going to cause me to exclude almost all fanac. Then the next couple of weeks after I finish the school will have to be devoted to DYNATRON and then I'll be free for other things.

For members who leave the South? A problem. Perhaps you could declare them associate members or some such. Certainly fans are going to tie up with the nearest fan organization and their interests will be taken with it to the disadvantage of the organization they left behind. Associate memberships perhaps would be a solution.

Comments on Offutt's letter: Discussions of things other than science fiction? Certainly. Fantasy. Anything else? Non. No. Nyet. Nein. Speculative fiction? Wuzzat?

-412 Elderberry Drive, Laurel Bay, South Carolina

Thanks for the list of names. Those we didn't have will receive this issue of TSF. #The Pittcon and illness conspired to delay the second issue. We'll try to keep things more timely henceforth. #Your version of the record listing sounds good to me. Now if there's a record fan out there willing to tackle the chore...? #The prozine checklist should probably be something rather more elaborate than the Times lists. Most checklists and indexes leave out a lot of details which could reasonably be included. #Quarterly SFPA mailings would probably be the most practicable plan, anyway. If the apa cut into general pubbing, it would be defeating one of SFG's main purposes. I don't think it would do that, but we'd best keep the possibility in mind. #We have a different idea for the fanzine board which should be more productive than a fanzine pool. Notices of fanzine needs in TSF sounds like a good idea. #Consensus on the problem of members who leave the south seems to be for the associate member idea. Some variation of the idea will be a part of the constitution.

NORM METCALF

On this SFPA--when Plott asked me about it at the con I told him no, since I already belong or am on the w-l for six apas and am putting out zines for all of them. But since then I've reconsidered. So the idea is to write Plott and volunteer my services (so I'm crazy, I know it). There actually aren't too many apa fen within the prescribed states, George Jennings, Earl Noe, Dick Eney, Doreen Erlenwein,

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Rich Brown, Art Rapp, Wayne Cheek, are the only ones I can think of at the moment and it isn't worth digging out the 00's to find out.

(And one word of wonderment, where does Andrews (oops, pardon me, Alfred McCoy Andrews) get this South-fandom bit, I thought the adjective was southern?)

As for a yearly checklist of all prozines, it isn't worth doing. ASF, F&SF, Galaxy & If, Amz & Ftc, NW, ScF & SFA is it (unless you count Shock which seems to be dead). You could put the entire checklist on a sheet of paper.

This trading post for used zines doesn't seem too hot. Dealers can take care of the job much more efficiently. As for record listings, they seem silly. In the first place a piece of music isn't fantastic in itself, it merely has associational values. And deciding whether or not a given piece of music qualifies isn't worth the effort. A board for getting fmz started seems like masochism. There are enough poor fmz around and if a fan is capable of a better effort he won't need any such help. As for sub discounts on southern fmz, most of them are either free or priced too low to begin with (and by too low I mean they're not priced high enough to pay costs). So who's going to give a discount on something he's already selling below cost. Most sub rates are to discourage freeloaders and make sure the zine goes only to those interested in reading the editor's efforts.

To turn towards the constructive side of helpful suggestions, how about getting the SFG into the publishing game? And by this I mean pubbing some of the sf stories that are languishing in the zines unpubbed. There are some good stories in the early Weird, etc., which are hard to find. There isn't enough of a market to attract even Gnome Press and thus these stories are wide open to the amateur pubber with a small edition.

I just see that I'm supposed to send these comments to Andrews, oh well.

Quoted with a wry grin: "...the SFG has quite a bit to recommend the spending of that two dollars...the fastest growing fan organization in the South." May I ask what competition you have? And just what are we getting for our \$2.00 besides TSF? Of course, I realize SFG is just starting, but Andrews is going off the deep end fairly early in the game.

And somebody is fouling up my address. It's Box 1262, not 1267.

Plott: What's the logic behind having 75% of your readers SFG members? Unless you mean only to print up enough copies to circulate to the SFG and a few outsiders, this is ridiculous. There are far more fans outside the South than in it and you're merely cutting yourself off from fandom at large.

Burge: I loved your reply to Offutt over the integrated ink.

Page: My name is Metcalf, not Metcalfe.

Don't think I'm griping too much, it's just that a few items bother me. I'd like to see the group succeed (not secede) and with the present leadership it might.

-Box 1262, Tyndall AFB, Florida

'Til your last paragraph, I thought you were going to secede. Man, with your flaw-finding talents the AF oughtta have you at Canaveral. I know--the SFG is the better cause. #We hope the apa will encourage pubbing by newcomers as well as the old standbys.

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though it'll be fine if the latter will come in and help us neos learn the ropes. Bob Lichtman has suggested that we have subscriber-memberships for non-southerners. How does that idea strike your leathery old heart? #South-fandom is a noun, suh, like South Dakota and West Ipswitch. There's no adjective in it at all, hardly. #But could you get a checklist of 9½ magazines, with all stories, articles, features, covers, illos, etc., on a single sheet? Dunno about Al, but that's the kind of checklist I'd like to see. #The trading post might work out. Wouldn't it be better to kick the idea around a bit before so peremptorily kicking it out? #And, associational or not, there are record collectors among us who might benefit from a listing. We'll let one or more of them decide whether a particular record qualifies --just as someone would have to decide on borderline items in a book or movie checklist. #See Jerry Page's editorial for a further development of the fanzine board idea. #You may be right about fanzine discounts. Once you've run off, collated, stamped, addressed and mailed a couple of hundred copies of an issue, you begin to dream of ways to cut down, not build up, your circulation.

Your suggestion about publishing is an idea I've been worrying for several years. In fact, if THE IMMORTAL STORM had been better received by fandom, Asfo Press would probably be doing something very like that right now. The most important problem it raises is that of getting up the funds for the first couple of books. After that, I think we could make each book pay for its successor. This can only be done, of course, by eliminating all profit motive and selling the books cheaply enough so that many fans will buy all, or most of them. Another problem crops up, though, when it comes to assembling the books. Who'll select the stories? You might not care to invest your cash in any anthology I'd come up with--and the feeling just might be mutual. The good old democratic procedure of letting the members vote on the selections strikes me as ridiculous. And let's not forget that some of our members--like Bob Jennings--have an engram about sf stories of the '30s. An organization is just fine for raising the cash for a project like this, but the project itself will take some individual enterprise. Any suggestions?

You may aim that wry grin my way--that "fastest growing" bit was my work. I don't always type these reports exactly as received, and in this case my "improvement" left something to be desired. Let's forget the whole thing, shall we? #It may sound trite, but you're going to get just about as much out of SFG as you put into it. Any member who sits back and waits for us to send him \$2.00 worth of fanac had best be prepared for a long, weary wait.

A. J. OFFUTT

Here's another lesson in illegibility. Fortunately, it's cooler now, & the translation won't be so tough.

Once upon a time I typed and a guy named Vic Ryan in Bane said of me--"neatly typewritten on high grade paper, with all mistakes erased." When someone says something like THAT what can you do? Conform. If I

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can't type worse than everyone else, my script certainly is. There was a time when my printing was better. I printed like this, from the Greek. (Neat lettering, for ball-point--jb.) But now I've loused it up too.

Lord, I had no idea I'd be so hotly attacked for advocating the term "speculative fiction." I don't think it's "(a) ridiculously dignified (dignity is negative?); (b) childish polysyllabic (isn't that a contradiction in terms? And speculative is one of those words which is so common, at least in our field, it just isn't polysyllabic. It's hard to get poly- into 11 letters); and (c) meaningless."

"Speculative: meditation, contemplation, conjecture, etc."---in other words, IF, extrapolative. I won't stoop to defining fiction. Now "extrapolative fiction" would, I think, fit b (if you strike the word childishly).

The definition for science is too long, but suffice it to say that not all the contents of Galaxy or If or Analog fit the term. Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language (authority of the above) defines science fiction as "highly imaginative novels and stories centered about some projected, often fantastic, scientific development.

This is not a definition of all of what is being written today.

Aw, hell. On paper this is pointless. But I'd love a nice semi-formal debate between J. Burge and A. Offutt on the subject. And fair warning is hereby issued--I am (1) a salesman, and (2) a toastmaster.

It's just that I've never run into such a fangs-bared attack. What the hell does "dignified nine-to-fivers with gardenias in their button-holes" etc., have to do with the term? Does this indicate a preference for John Carter & Sam Katzman over xxxx xxxxx (I can't find an inclusive phrase)--that currently published in the aforementioned magazines?

And if I've become a "humorless old foggy" @ 26, you're in for a helluva surprise, son.

On the other hand, maybe it was the neat and the difficulty of transcription?

Or a desire to start a Controversy?

No, I'll skip those book reviews. I'm afraid of the ripostes from the Friendly Editor.

Recommendations for all--Level 7, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star (both Book Club selections--I dunno about other editions) and the November issue of Playboy, containing a wonderful reminiscence of the days of Planet, TWS, SS. Not to mention June Wilkinson, who appeals to all us humorless old fogies.

-233 Savoy Road, Lexington, Kentucky

Didn't mean to sound like I was jumping on you with both brogans. Guess that's what comes of trying to make my remarks fit a given slab of space. I'll try to assume a more friendly mien next time I stab you in the back. Okay? #Yep, it's much cooler, and your writing-lettering is much clearer. But now I'm going blind from trying to read TSP #2. #Dignity assumed for the purpose of convincing others of the serious, constructive, high-toned nature of one's thoughts and ideas doesn't strike me as a quality much to be sought after or admired. Dignity, I think, is an uncommon quality among discoverers, men who see further,

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deeper, clearer than their dignified brethren. When Archimedes, naked and dripping from his bath, raced through the streets shouting "Eureka!" his lack of dignity was almost as admirable as the fact that he'd just boosted science another rung up. SF isn't trying to shake the world (perhaps), but don't you think we'd look just a little ridiculous trying to promote all that crazy Buck Rogers stuff with dignity? #Except for humorous effect, variety or accuracy, the use of four syllables where one would do seems a bit childish to me. It's true that "speculative" is a common word among ourselves, but that doesn't seem to be the point. We could call sf "fleegleglaff" among ourselves as long as we know what we're talking about. I thought that you were pushing "speculative fiction" for the benefit of the public. Surely we're not trying to impress ourselves. #The definition of a word or term has little relation to its meaning. I think myself that "speculative fiction" is an excellent term for a certain type of science fiction. But science fiction is concerned specifically with the impact of scientific progress on human beings. What I'm afraid of is the possibility that a change of terms will cause a change for the worse in approach and subject matter. Writers for The Speculative Review probably regard their stuff as speculative, but do we want that kind of stuff in our mags? With editors like the current crop that possibility is not too remote. #The WNWD definition isn't bad, considering the usual dictionary limitations. All the definitions I've seen so far have been either too limited, like this one, or so general as to include all sorts of non-science fiction. Heinlein's definition of speculative fiction includes Arrowsmith, after all.

Sorry, no Offutt-Burge debates. The mere thought of talking before a group of people (2 or more) scares me to death. Debates on paper are more my style. #The "nine-to-fivers" remark was my description of the folk you're evidently trying to impress with a new term for sf. And I've seen old fogies at age 12 ("I never read comic books--they're silly!"), so maybe you're the one who's in for a surprise. ut, again, nothing personal was meant. #Dunno about Sam Katzman (who he?), but I certainly would prefer John Carter over the current stuff. Burroughs had imagination, humor and writing ability. While sf today is not too deficient in humor, the other two qualities seem, in general, to be sadly lacking. #Mmh--maybe I did have thoughts of a Small Controversy.

Would still like to see some A.J. Offutt book reviews along the lines you described. The Friendly Editor won't look at them, if that's all that's worrying you. Enough?

LOUBEL WOOD

I see by your recent issue of The Southern Fan that there is some controversy over whether to include certain other SOUTHERN states into the SFG. I am of the opinion that these states should be included as a part of Southern Fan territory. After all, we should not want to break the traditional southern hospitality by leaving out a part of the original southern territory.

I also approve of allowing non-southern fans into the apa group at higher rates.

-Star Route, DeFuniak Springs, Florida

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You sure you don't want me to publish both your letters, Loubel? There would be a controversy.... #That "higher rates" bit doesn't sound too hospitable. Let's say we'll allow non-SFGers in SFPA at a "slight additional fee."

BOB LICHTMAN

...I'm writing this to comment on this SFPA that you people are organizing. The prime thing is that I want to join the group--I am an apa completist, and try to belong to all groups of this kind--but your rules forbid me from doing so. If I may be so bold, it seems to me that you are right in limiting membership in the publishing apa itself to southerners, though I am not too sure how successful this will be, since you have not so many publishing-type members on your roster in this issue, but that you should take into consideration the non-southerners who are interested in joining. Maybe a system whereby there are two ranks of members could be worked out. Here is a rough plan.

The first section of the membership would be limited to 25 members (this on my estimate of how many publishing members you are ever likely to get). They would pay dues in the sum of \$2 per year and would be required to publish whatever amount of pages you may establish. The second level of membership would be "subscriber members." These people would not be required to publish anything for the group, because they would be non-southerners, but they would pay \$5 per year and receive all the mailings. This second group of members would also be limited to 25 members. Now, each group would have a separate waiting list but both would operate under the same constitution, and would be subordinate to one group of officers.

...Summing up, the whole idea of this split-membership apa is to allow those non-southerners who want to be affiliated with the apa get the mailings, yet keeping their magazines out. This way SFG would be showcasing its apa work to an interested group of demi-members. (You HAVE to be interested to pay \$5 per year for the mailings, you know.)
-6137 S Croft Avenue, Los Angeles 56, California

Having an interested audience of this sort ought also to encourage SFPAers to work a little harder on making their zines interesting and presentable. So far, everyone we've discussed this idea with has expressed approval. #The 25-member limit may prove to be an accurate estimate, but let's not forget that SFPA will include some newcomers to apa-pubbing as well as some of the regulars.

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It appears that we won't be able to bring TSF out monthly, after all. One month just isn't enough time for delivery, mail-reaction, stencilling and mimeoing, even if everyone cooperates--and everyone is not cooperating (see Al Andrews' report). So we're going to try a six-weekly schedule if possible, and if that doesn't work we'll just stay bi-monthly. It all depends on your reaction: fast or slow, big or small.

Those of you who have been expecting SFG to fold up any day now might just as well give up. Despite plenty of difficulties, we've got

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momentum enough to carry us through another year or so. Of course, if you'll exert yourself a trifle and give us a little help we'll forge ahead much faster. Don't everybody dash to the typer at once.

Volunteers are needed for a number of jobs. Bill Plott is doing a good job with the apa, but he could do with some help. The first mailing is scheduled for January. If you want to join (or volunteer your services as OE or something), write

Bill Plott, Box 654, Opelika, Alabama.

The committees for activities and benefits are being organized, if anybody's interested. These are the groups which will consider plans for SFG's future development. There are a heck of a lot of good ideas floating around, and we'll have to have the committees to snare these ideas and whip 'em into practical shape. It's very easy to become a BNF in SFG--just write

Alfred McCoy Andrews, 1659 Lakewood Drive, Birmingham 9, Alabama and tell him you want to join one of the committees and be a BNF.

Jerry Page has an idea for a different sort of manuscript bureau, which will be more of an information and breaking-in service for new fan writers than a clearing-house like other bureaus. We may operate the bureau from this office, but we'll need up-to-date cooperation from fan-editors if it's to work. More of this in Jerry P's editorial.

Response to the request for emblem-ideas has been somewhat less than overwhelming. Two people had suggestions. Oh, well. If you have an idea, let us in on it, will you?

We'll have reports on some real progress come January.

-Jerry Burge

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ASSOCIATE EDITORIAL

In a few short months the Southern Fandom Group has made some strides toward the achievement of its goal: the promotion of as high a level of activity among southern fans as is possible. With the apa seemingly an achievement of the near future, with TSF making strides toward creating an awareness of fandom and with many of the most active Southern fans helping to plan and establish many more benefits and activities, things are looking up.

However, if we are to promote fanactivity, that means we cannot stop with a few local activities. Fandom is becoming a wide-spread thing and fanzines are being published in some of the oddest places in the world. The number of first issues of late seems to be increasing. Perhaps another publishing boom is growing. But at any rate, there is a cry for material to fill the pages of these fanzines and editors are very anxious to receive both written and drawn material to meet their needs.

For the newcomer--both at the writing and publishing ends--the best means of getting material published or material to publish is the manuscript buro. This is a buro operated for the purpose of providing editors with a central buro for obtaining artwork, fiction, articles, book reviews and so forth for their fanzines. In short, a writer sends in material to the buro, which then distributes it to such editors as have requested material of that type. Usually the writers and editors involved, although not always, are new to the game.

For, while idealistically such buros should enable publishers to improve their fanzines, that seldom is the case. The manuscript buros simply accept whatever is sent them and stuff it into an envelope, along with five or six other items and send it along to the editor. The editors are soon discouraged from calling on the buro.

Actually, the buro really cannot serve out with good material in that way, be-

cause the good writers, those with experience, have their outlets. They know where to send material and they send it there. Usually, if they've been around a while, they must spend a large portion of their time writing letters excusing themselves from writing anything else. Even if they support the manuscript buro, the more established fanzine contributors do not have the time to beef it up with a couple of good manuscripts, and often those who do have time, send it their rejects. A number of editors send every manuscript they reject to a buro anyway.

So, the buro must develop material to provide any sort of quality. The buro we propose for the SFG is designed to do just that. It is actually more in the line of a fanzine service than a manuscript buro. We propose to take in material not to be blindly sent out, but to be studied, and sent back to the contributor with full advice on where to send it and what corrections and improvements, if any, to make. In this way we hope to help develop not only talent but the all important editor-contributor relationships that lead to a productive fanzine hacking career.

If you have any suggestions, send them to Jerry Burge, 1707 Piper Circle, SE, Atlanta 16, Georgia. This will require the full co-operation of fanzine editors, also, so if you need material for a fanzine, send us a letter detailing your wants, if possible giving particular examples of the type and quality you desire. Those of you who would like to contribute something for a fanzine, let us hear from you. For a while the service will be operated by Jerry Burge and myself for SFG members. That is, if it works. THAT is, if you co-operate. So, it is now up to you. Do you want the service or not?

It's in your lap.

--Jerry Page

THE SOUTHERN FAN
from: Jerry Burge,
1707 N. Piper Circle, SE,
Atlanta 16, Georgia
USA



Mimeographed matter only
Return postage guaranteed
Form 3547 Requested.

Richard Eney
417 Ft Hunt Road
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Virginia