# THE MONTHLY LETTER ZINE

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#### VOLUME I, NUMBER 4

#### LETTERS FROM-

EVA FIRESTONE

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DOT KELLER

T.L. MacDONALD

JANUARY, 1950

I fail to see the point in publishing that long letter a-Dear AHR: gainst N3F in POSTWARP Vol.1, No.1. The writer gives a one sided view entirely: he lives in a fairly large place, where it is possible to meet other fen; also where towns are close together. His canty of Wexford is only about twenty miles square, and has five times the population of my county, Weston, whose area is approximately forty-nine by forty-nine miles. There are three communities in Weston -- Up ton, Osage, and New Castle the largest -- possibly now has population of 2500 or more, because this corner of the state is having a mild oil boom. A study of roster will show that a good percent of N3F live in out of the way localities. From letters rec'd, know that many fen are lone readers, one in a village, same as I am. Doubt if the RN discussion was good for morale of new members. # If it were not for my contact with N3F, I'd never hear the latest news of Stf publications, nor learn all the fascinating off-trail theories. Stf magazines must be obtained by subscription, and there are no libraries out here, which keep Stf their shelves. N3F now has 370 members, and because I've had contact with about 250 of them, positively know our Club is very good. We need improvement, sure; what organization does not? Helping to build should be a pleasure to every member. It is FUN to be an actifan, our Fan Club NFFF. # Wilkie Conner's suggestion about selecting manuscript criticism committee is fine. And I agree with Ed Cox fouds are silly. The time taken could be spent in rousing debates some scientific theory -- for instance -- If the Sun radiates heat light for Earth, WHY should the space between be cold and dark? We taught many things, but if asked to explain why they are accepted, could we do so? There are scientists who state that the Earth now has an encircling electrical ring. If true, isn't our sight of space a distorted view? # According to the Vailian theory, Saturn's rings and Jupiter's belts illustrate Earth's development as a planet. Water and minerals in gaseous form were thrown off a great distance, and while cooling, constituted huge rings. One after another, they approached Earth, and spread out in a vast canopy. Centrifugal force being greatest the Equator, they gradually concentrated at the two poles, and broke, one at a time, at intervals of thousands of years. In this way came the great deluges to Earth. The Flood of Noah's day was the last, of pure water only. Various writers believe that the electrical at its fall will destroy microbes, fermentation, etc., and raise oceans into the skies, thus creating another canopy of water; the result will be the Golden Age conditions, hoped for and believed in most of mankind. # Bancerely

H ENEBETT MINUE

109 Ashley Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Dear Arthur: I read the first issue of POSTWARP and enjoyed it very much, even the letter by Ray Nelson. I was going to rush you a letter showing how silly all his arguments were! But was overwhelmed by a rush of new members to write to sent by Eva Firestone. And then Hudson sent some more. Then received a list of prospects for N3F from H. Moore through Eva F. # About that time the new members started answering with questions. I was aroused by news of the fan trouble with Customs in Australia. Heard from Vol Molesworth of the Futurians when Customs seized 32 mags I sent. I wrote to Sneary, Taurasi and

Hudson about it. Sneary and I worked on a plan to get all organization and many fans to protest the ban. Sneary is the guy you can depend on every time for action, I guess. The Aussie fans request we hold off for a while. # Nelson said individual fans didn't need a spokesman. Well if the fans all wrote in against the ban it would be swell - But chances are most of the letters would have been sent by fan organizations. And then they would be acting as spokesmen for their members! It is always best to have a spokesman handy in case of emergencies. Suppose we were threatened with some sort of censorship like the comics are in some spots. Organizations would be able to alert and activate hundreds of their members. Waiting for the individuals to learn about it, decide to take action and then wonder what to do without any help or information furnished them, would take much too long. # When a new member of NFFF wrote me asking me if Nelson was correct about N3F it woke me to the fact I forgot to subscribe ... I hope someone answered Nelson's letter and good. /They did -- and continue/ # Nelson lost sight of the big objective of N3F. It takes in new fans who have always been inactive because of no contacts. Then it helps educate them, gives them all sorts of information and helps them become active fans. The Welcommittee writes to all new members, answers their questions on S-F, on fanzines, etc., and makes them feel welcome. Old timers may not care but new fans feel pretty happy. They also secure contacts and correspond ents. The buying and trading between members is very large, I've learned. # Certainly special interest fan groups are fine organizations. We are able to advise many new members to join such groups -- thus helping the fan. # Not surbrised there are 10 fans in Cadillac who never heard of NFFF especially if those who have are keeping it dark. does that prove? There are 10 fans in every city who never heard of some fan organization. Probably some never heard of any fan group. F Maybe small groups of fans could be formed to do some of the things NFFF committees or bureaus do. Guess some do that now. The more the merrier! There is nothing to prevent these new groups from forming for a special purpose. Actually there is a better chance of getting some tough jobs done through N3F. First, with so many members asking for different services or information N3F is likely to be aware of the problem sooner than a small group would be. Secondly, the Officers and Directors are more apt to know who could head up the new project and where to get the manpower and money. Also the facilities and information needed. Also there is a better chance for continuity through N3F. If the project leader drops out he could be replaced by another member. If the bureau slips the officers can get it awake again and if they don't tho officers to be elected can. # Nelson said what did N3F ever do for him? Thy should it do anything if he doesn't belong? Anyway there must be lots of members who contribute to N3F to help the other members don't need any help themselves. Others join to be on the mailing list or for social reasons. If they want to join for any such reason, well why not? Inactive members may become active at any time, then contact with the others, to the benefit of themselves and other fans. I don't see how Nelson ever keeps up with the N3F program and bet he doesn't know much, if anything, about the contact work done by the Welcommittee to help new fans. # I could go on, but why when you know all this much better than me! Best regards. # Sincerely.

SHELBY VICK

Box 493 Lynn Haven, Florida

Dear Art: Received Posie VIN2 this a m. My letter, as I feared, was too late to get in, but I suppose it will be in the next. I hope so, for I am very anxious to contact those who can join my wire-recorded correspondence club. And I have a sugges-

tion that I would like to add: Anyone interested in joining the Fan Federation for Sound Productions, but who doesn't have a recorder, may find that your pastor has one available, and would be glad to let you or your club use it, so that you can get into things. Other members done it. Or, if you are in high school, perhaps you can finagle hour after school in which you can use the recorder in your speech class. Barring the posibility that they don't have one. You can buy a from Sears (4 hr, 1.65; hr, 2.35; 1 hr, 3.50) as your fancy -wallet -- allows, and record your letter, being sure to include in the info these details: Name, age, address, brief description, hobbies, length of time you have had recorder, if it is yours -- if not, whose it is, and how you made arrangements with the owner. Also tell what you do and the length of time you think it will generally take you to get amswer out. ASTOUND YOUR FRIENDS! TELL THEM YOUR VOICE CAN BE HEARD ALL OVER THE USA! IT'LL BE THE TRUTH, IF YOU JOIN THE FFSP! If don't own a recorder, dash down to the nearest store and get one! Get two, even! After all, what's a measly 140-280? Hmmmm? (Money? Gad, you're right!) # Format change was a definite improvement. Art. you had had the names in large letters, and at head of all epistles, before, I think a certain mistake wouldn't have happened. I'm uncertain, not having Posie Nl available right now, but I think some people getting EdCo mixed up with a couple of other guys. I know, when first glanced thru, I thought Ed had an awfully long letter -- then I saw that it was really short, and some other guy's length ended right at the bottom of the preceding page. A friend or two made the same take. I think it was the other guy who was talking against zines. If I'm wrong -- well, it won't be the last time. # Another suggestion. (My first one, about stencils /last ish/was one to be thought of and argied about. However, I think this'n has a few merits. It has to do with the future futherance of POSTWARP.) Why not ask generous members to buy extra subs, to be sent out to members of the N3F who are not yet very active, and may not feel quite right about buying a sub, but would gladly take a free one (as who wouldn't?) and would probably renew their own at the sub's end? I know that I would have appreciated it, in my days of infancy. Good for keeping up with thoughts of other fen, without having to do a lot of corresponding. Then, correspondents be picked out; actifanning begins. If anyone else is willing, I I'11 buy at least one (after this Xmas rush on my pocketbook is over.) Ray Nelson: Hey, Ray -- do you have a pen name? Larry Shaw, maybe..? It worked for tripled S, why not POSTWARP? # CAPTAIN ZERO should please movie serial fans. # Sounds like Banister has a good zine coming up. Await it with baited breath. (catch flies, that way.) # Someone doesn't like N3F. Not doing enough. Tell me, please, what more coula they be doing? Why don't people send in a few good suggestions. As for influencing authors -- you don't have to be a club to try that. What could the N3F do that would really be appreciated? Give at least one good, concrete suggestion. # I'll mean it. off with: REMEMBER WIREZ, The Wirezine, the 00 of the Fan Federation G'bye. for Sound Productions. if

# WAITER A COSIET

P.O. Box 6 Helena, Montana

Dear Art: I honestly think you've gone a little too far into the warp with the title of "Postwarp". The meaning is a little too strained and the connection not nearly as apropos as your other warptitles are. It's not, however, that I'm advising a change; there's at least two things against that: this business -- so-called -- of changing horses in midstream; and the problem of just what could be used for a substitute title. # Jim Harmon's letter in #3 gives me an idea: He says, "I wonder why the Army hasn't built a rocket to

go to the moon, since it has often been pointed out that possession of the moon will be valuable to national security." Now here's the thing: Such a project would be very hush-hush, because we want to have the mod. as nearly exclusively our own as possible. So what does the Army They experiment with these rockets down at White Sands and let out some apparently carefully guarded information about their activities. So the public thinks something is being done about the project, but no progress is being made. We won't be to the moon by 1950. But what's the real truth? This whole business with its careful publicity is camouflage -- a blind -- mainly for the benefit of the USSR. The truth is that somewhere, buried under total censorship, and never much as hinted at, the government has a real space project, benefitting from everything learned at White Sands, and the secret information methods never exhibited, and perhaps hardly ever used in their "public attempts." The secret project has already been successful in establishing a base on the moon. Not only that, but they are going full ahead to improve and perfect the base and establish more bases. wall not become known until the authorities feel the right time for such an announcement has come. This may be when the Reds are successful conquering space or appear to be on the verge of opening war on us. I will at least be at a time when it appears to be the most appropriate psychological moment. And what a bombshell it will be. # Now, in conclusion, a few words about a new fanzine. THE FANTASY ATTIC will primarilly an advertising magazine, but with a difference. offered will be listed with full contents, and the first sentence each story or article will be quoted to whet your curiosity. There will be featured in each issue, at least one article on collecting -- and all issues will be distributed free. The circulation will be limited, however, so if you wish to be sure of getting a copy, you'll have to let me know. The first issue will be out in January 1950. # Sincerely

RICK SNEARY

2962 Santa Ana Street South Gate, California

POSTWARP: You ought to speed the mail up. Here I'm getting one issue on the 13th, and you say the next goes out on the 15th. Seems impossable to make to next issue. /Something tells me the holiday rush has warped the mail schedules a bit, this time of year/# I'm writting to reply to frind Moffatt's letter (It might be of interest to some fan to note, that while Len and I are both Activity Party members. we disagree most compleetly on this, and a few other matters, Not the point of argueing though. Or, are we unwilling to give in when idea is out voted. This, we believe, will dispell any possable worry that the A.P. is clique, that are planning to run things their way. We agree on most things, but it is only or deturmanation to help the that has really forged the common bond.) -- Len has been doing a swell job on the Directory. At last report, there were 205 blanks in, you sent yours? # But what I want to talk about is his atack on idea. I guess I'll have to claim it as my idea, although I didn't think it up. # The big thing, that all apoints to the NFFF aiding in salecting Convention sights is, the NFFF doesn't repasent enough of fandom. This I will grant you. The NFFF is still only a fairly small persent of the simi- and actifans in this country. But we are the largest organized group there is. The convention societies have been pulling in about 200-250 members. The NFFF has of now upwards of 380 members. I ask you, which would repasent the best cross section of the country? F Societies are made up largely, and naturally by thos living close at hand. That is the precent from with-in 100 miles of the Sight is higher than elsewhere, as thos fans expect to go. # I agree that

it would be nice to have thos that pay money to saport the Conventions get to salect the next sight. But doesn't it also mean, that they will be buying a vote? Suppose Los Angeles wanted it in 1954. They could rush around and get everyone here to join. The more interested fans might join more than once. As a result they could cast a greater vote than any one else, in the relatively small Society. Were as under National (international really) Org. everyone would have an equal chance and with the greater membership, 'stuffing' the ballotts would become harder. # There would seem little danger of loosing the support of the usual backers, who join year after year. After all, they are not lossing anything they already have, and if they are NFFF members, they are gaining something. # Again lit me point out, that there would bo no change in the Conventions. The NFFF would not try to "run" them. Local fans would still do it, with fans joining the Convention Committee, reather than Society. # I am very much against an imedate of fans, by Portland, to settle this question. I do not think it has been talked over enough yet, and that a number of fans do not understand both sides fully. The best place for a vote will be at Portland in the Summer. There it can be thrashed out on the floor. ----Pllleeeeeese. doesn't anyone agree with me? #

#### FVA FIRESTONE

When a reader's interested enuf to write two letters for one ish, why should we hesitate to print both?

Rec'd POSTWARP Vol. I No. 2 and 3 today. Wonderful letters - NOW I see the good result of publishing the one against N3F, and how -- Certainly enjoyed reading fine defense of our club - did me more good than the most expensive tonics one could buy...You know your business and are giving us excellent service. Sincerely,

//Shucks, I haven't anything to do with this zine; it's the letter-writers of N3F who deserve praise for leaping so quickly to defend the organization.//

# ROGER DARD

232 James Street Perth, Australia

Dear Art: Having just received -- and read from cover to cover -- the first ish of your letterzine POSTWARP please accept my congratulations upon the really excellent job you have done with this 'zine. # I found all the letters interesting, but especially so Stewart Metchette's. Mainly because Stow gave a write up on CAPTAIN ZERO which mag has not yet been seen down under. Stew is apparently vacationing California //going to school there// -- don't some guys get all the luck: Why doesn't something like that happen to me? # Ray Nelson doesn't know what he is missing. I have never regretted joining N3F, which I regard as the greatest fan organization in any part of the world. # And now I come to the letter by Ray Ramsay. Ray is entitled to his opinions of course, but he is crazy if he thinks Olaf Stapledon and his fellow travellers are "men of vision". Oh yeah? Seems I remember Stapledon and has fellow crackpots once tried to stop what they sneeringly called "America's cultural exports" meaning, movies, pulp magazines, canned music and comic strips. Now, as I am a keen movie-goer, collect pulp prozines, like modern American music, and like a daily dose of 'Lil Abner and Dick Tracy, can you blame me for looking upon Comrade Stapledon and Co. with a distinctly jaundiced eye? Anyhow, I am amazed that any American -- living in the greatest country in the world -- could possibly wish to exchange his way of life for a to-

talitarian system which has plunged half the world back into the dark ages. If the poor slaves behind the Iron Curtain were given a free choice of living under their benevolent Commissars or under the "brutal Yankee Imperialists" I know what choice they would make! # Re the Bob Tucker-Ben Singer hoax, I say forgive and forget. # In case some of the above comments are dated, remember how far away from the center of fandom we are down under. It's only recently, for instance, heard of Bob Tucker's "death". # Now I am coming to the most important part of this letter. How many of youse guys and gals like the bi-zarre, exotic artwork of Weird Tales? Lee Brown Coye? Perhaps it is news to you, that Coye is willing to bring out a portfolio of his work for fandom, if fandom wants it. In a recent letter to me, Lee said that any fans who really desire a Lee Brown Coye folio should write his employer, Weird Tales. So, come on, you fen. Wouldn't you like some of Coye's ravening, blood spattered, monsters hanging on your walls? It's just the thing for the kiddies. Seriously, though, any interested fen should write Weird Tales, and if enough fen write in, we will soon have another artist's portfolio, probably the most unique folio of them all -- a Lee Brown Coye portfolio. # Fantastically,

### AFOD ROGES

2215 Benjamin St., N.E. Minneapolis 18, Minnesota

Dear Art: A few remarks in re Postwarp for December 1949 seem propriate, even if they're a trifle late. I'd like to say right now that you're doing a competent job on PN and, though this may seem strange, I like the mag mostly because it breaks with tradition and doosn't resemble VoM too closely. VoM was a titan in its day, and deserved all the praise it has gotten; I liked it too, but I think all future letterzines should resemble it. Of course, you not use legalength paper simply because the HIAISM Mimeo can't handle it, but the contents are equally tradition-breaking. None of the braintrust has shown up -- as yet -- and there has been a lack of old philosophical dissertations that were a big feature in VoM. I like some of that, but I also know that because of the "deep stuff" Vom was unpopular with a lot of the younger set, and I figure you are serving them a helluva lot better in your current groove than you would be allowing a lot of profound discussion on Einstein's new theory or the contributions of Terman to social psychology. # Martin Alger, I think, writes one of the better letters in PW #3. Alger doesn't seem to write like he speaks -- in a fascinating rush of words -- but rather writes a cogent and nicely-expressed missive that Vick and some others (in cluding myself, I fear) could profitably imitate. I think maybe Martin's got Ray Nelson tagged, but if Ray is trying to give the MSFS a freak he isn't living up to his new facet in vis-a-vis relationships-whereas Ben Singer is equally a freak (to use Alger's term) in person as he is in print. Ray appears quite normal in person. # Seems several readers are a bit confused in re Bob Tucker's reaction to Singer "Death Hoax". Do you guys think Tucker was really serious about plans of Daugherty or Sykora to "run him out of fandom"? Do you really think he lay awake worrying about it? # Rick Sneary alludes to the idea he supports -- that of the NFFF voting on the next convention site, rather than having the previous year's convention do so. To sort of anticipate him, I would like to inquire, 'Do you have to be a NFFFer to be a fan?" I don't think you do, and if you don't, why should the NFFF have the say regarding convention sites rather than the convention-goers having that power? # I think perhaps fandom-atlarge should decide what city should act as convention host, but

NFFF is not the only group to poll. It is not as representative of active fandom as the convention itself is. Not only is a convention's attendance as close a crossection of fandom as you can easily obtain, but it is composed of the fans who have shown that they will support a convention. Why shouldn't they have the main say in the question? Some may say that since the N3F is the largest fan club that it should undertake the job of polling fandom. Well, okay, but if so, it should poll all of fandom, not just its membership. In other words, merely do the job as a service to all fans, and not as an official NFFF election. After all, the NFFF is not a government, but merely a bunch of people organized together for more or less vague purposes. A man should be a citizen of the United States in order to vote for the president, but he needn't be to vote in a magazine poll to determine, say, "the handsomest man from Missouri." A convention-site poll is that. It isn't governmental -- even if politics are involved -therefore every fan should have a voice, NFFFer or no. Let the take the job, if they want, but let's not restrict the voice to its "citizenry"! # I think Moffatt's idea of polling the convention societies is a bit more practical than polling the NFFF, but I still do not see anything wrong with the present system. The fact that Portland got the nod, despite the fact that many who attended Eastern cons will not be able to trek to the Pacificoast, is some indication of its essential fairness. # Asks Jim Harmon: "Why are necfans' fanzines so pretentious?" It deems to me that it all stems from the usual early concept of a fanzine being just an amateur prozine. That's the reason fanzines usually use fiction, blazon authors' names all over the front (for no good reason because V.I #1's "authors" are usually editorial penames and wouldn't really have any salss appeal), and general apy to appear to be prozines in all but ownership. It's harder than it seems to break that idea and conceive of a fanzine as something apart, and not necessarily resembling a prozine any more than watching a horse race resembles being a jockey. # Rick Gould claims that actifans take themselves too seriously, while Rick Sneary reports that the reaction of many to "humorous" things like the "Tucker Dies" thing keeps people from becoming interested in fandom. Doesn't it occur to anyone that no generalization about such a diverse group as fandom is accurate, and that fandom really is all things to all fen? Ah, well, that's enough of that .... I just heard "spaceship navigation" mentioned on the radio in a broadcast from the U.S. naval observatory. The observatory director spoke quite matter-of-factly about "rockets going into interplanetary space". It's getting so such mentions are no Longer isolated phenomena. # Sincerely,

OM KELLER

312 Elm Street Gardner, Massachusetts

Dear Art: POSTWARP is getting a lot better but it's getting boring, reading about how everybody agrees or disagrees with Ray Nelson. Let's argue about something different for awhile, say Alfred Machado's letter. I don't believe that stf fans are so clannish that an interested newcomer is scared off. It's only been very recently since I became a real fan and it seems to me that I was received with hearth "Hullo"s everywhere I turned. The "old-timers" acted just as friendly and helpful as the fellow greenhorns. As for the vocabulary growing up around science-fiction, I don't think that discourages a newcomer at all. In fact, it lends an air of importance to the whole business, besides enabling the fans to express themselves more clearly. Any new industry coins its own words because in the

ordinary vocabulary there just aren't words for the things it's talking about and working with. Never yet have I met unyone who was scared out of amateur radio because he had to learn ite jargon. The same applies here. And actually, right now the str vocabulary almost isn't. There are about ten words in it and even I can learn ten words about my favorite hobby. If a person likes at he will have no trouble becoming a fan because that's what a fan is: a person who likes and reads In my town I haven't been able to find a single stf enthusiast but I'm a fan and without a "sincere guide to direct me through the apparently eseteric territory of fandom. I just came in and found a lot of swell people for friends. Why do you need a guide for something as friendly and uncomplicated as writing to a few stf fans and exchanging opinions on stf and everything else under the sun? Very simple, you don't. Therefore Mr. Machade must have taken a wrong turn somewhere or else he into a BEM at a tender age. Just wanted to get this off my mind thanks for reading it. # Definitely a science-fiction fan,

#### A WORD IN EDGEWAYS

Heh, couldn't even get that in lastime!

I'm in a rather awkward spot at the moment -- I want to talk bout what NFFF should accomplish in 1950, but since the election sults haven't yet been announced, I don't know whether I'm writing as a Director or merely as one of the members. Ah, well, every candidate is sure he's going to win, so I'll assume I'm still on the Board. I dunno if you're getting any benefit from POSTWARP, but I sure am. wrote a letter to Rick Sneary last night (or rather, about 2:30 morning) and got to listing possible projects the NSF should get going on this year. Wound up with 22 of 'em! They ranged in importante all the way from the Activity Requirement Plan down to rewriting the Mombership Application Blank, but at least 3/4 of them were ideas first came to light through the letters you've written to POSTWARP. # For example -- just what is the purpose of the NFFF? You and Ray Nelson thrashed that one out pretty thoroughly, now it's up to the NFFF to see that your reasons for joining NFFF are publicized where the non-members who didn't see POSTWARP will learn about 'em. # Regarding PW, by the way...the Directorate decided it should continue through Issue #6, when a final decision would be made regarding it. The decision is to be based on whether it is still losing money or not. At the moment PW needs about 5 more subscribers to break even -- that's how close it is to solvency! If we do pick up 25 or so additional subscribers, by the way, it will be possible to issue 12 pages per month instead the present ten. # I've just heard from Redd Boggs that the N3F generalzine he's working on, Futurist, will be out very shortly. Like PW, the first issue of Futurist will be sent free to all members of NFFF. # Speaking of free fanzines, here are a couple you can get merely by writing a postcard to their editors: NEBULA, Warren Baldwin, 407 Philip Ave., Norfolk, Nebraska; WASHINGTON NEWS LETTER, Chick Derry, 6604 Allegheny Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. # Among fanzines offering a special discount to NFFF members are: PEON, Charles L. Riadle, 645 - B Gibbs Ave., Alameda, California, which sells for 6 issues for 50¢, 15 for al -- and NFFF Members get a 50% discount! SPACEWARP, Arthur Rapp, 2120 Bay Street, Saginaw, Michigan. 4 issues for  $50\phi$ , 9 for \$1, and NFFF members get 10 issues for \$1. # If you know of any other zines that should be on this list, drop me a line and I'll list in a future POSTWARP. # Leave us get a letter from you by the 10th of Mehruary so that next month's PCSTWARP will tell the NFFF what YOU think. --r-tRapp

# I L MACDONALD

12 Norfolk Road Carlisle, England

Dear Mr Rapp, Thank you very much indeed for sending over the first number of Postwarp. # There was once an Englishman who sent a report of his own death to the London Times (I think it was) to see what sort of a notice they gave him. Most of us wouldn't dare ...or would know there wouldn't be any notice... At least your colleague can say like the other fellow who found the report of his death and commented that it had been "grossly exaggerated". # All good wishes for 1950 (will have started by this arrives)...

Which winds up the January issue of POSTWARP. Surprising how many letters it takes to fill these pages -- why don't YOU sit down and help out on making the quota for the February issue?

#### POSTWARP

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