

FOCAL POINT # 12 is now, more than ever, a fanzine of news, views and reviews, edited and published by Mike McInerney (326 E. 13th St., New York, New York, 10003) and rich brown (180 E. 88th St., New York, New York) on the Piebald Plonker Press (and its affiliates) at least twice monthly. It is available for news, trades, loc's, stamps or 3/25c, 12/\$1. Our Overseas Agent is Peter Singleton, Ward 2, Whittingham Hospital, Near Preston, Lancashire, England, and subs thru him are 12 for 7/-. Circulation: 300. July 19, 1965. TRICON in '66 and NYCON in '67!

CONS APLENTY: LONCON II, the 23rd World Science Fiction Convention, will be at the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch, London, England, from August 27th to August 30th, 1965 -- go and see the Delta Group's film "Breathworld," The Ceremony Of St. Fanthony, The Fancy Dress Parade, Project Artshow, Two Auctions; go and hear Guest of Honor Brian Aldiss, "How to get high without going into orbit" by John Brunner, and Poul Anderson, Harry Harrison, Bob Silverberg, Arthur C. Clarke, Terry Carr, Ted White, Don Wollheim, E.C. Tubb, Geoff Docherty, George Smith, Dr. Josef Nesvadba, Walter Ernsting, Thomas Schuek, Bruce Montgomery, and many, many others; go and join in the Fancy Dress Ball, The Banquet, Business Meeting, Panels, Discussions, Room Parties, and Talk, Talk, Talk! Membership fees are 15/- or \$2 for non-attending members, 21/- or \$3 for attending members, to James Groves, 29 Lathom Rd., London E6, England. Make checks payable to: "23rd World SF Convention." Hotel Room Rates: Double Room: 50/- per person (\$7.25); Twin Room, 55/- per person (\$7.96); Single Room, 60/- per person (\$8.66). Do not delay in getting your room; these rates are a reduced rate for con attendees and cannot be held indefinitely. GO LONCON II. :: The DeepSouthCon (III) will be held in Birmingham, Alabama, at the Downtown Motor Inn, August 6-8 -- which seems rather close to Worldcon time to us, but Maybe Not. Anyway, the membership fee is \$2, payable upon registration or in advance to the Con Chairman, Al Andrews, 1659 Lakewood Drive, Birmingham, Alabama -- which seems a bit much to us...but, again... The Hotel rates seem reasonable enough: \$8, one occupant, double bed; \$10.50, two occupants, double bed; \$12.50, two occupants, two double beds. :: The New York Comicon will be held Saturday and Sunday, July 31 & August 1, at the Hotel Broadway Central, 673 Broadway, New York, New York. Registration is \$5.00 to David A. Kaler, P.O. Box 392, Cooper Station, New York, New York, 10003. Steep for a fan convention, but low for a comic con. The big program item seems to be a showing of all 15 chapters of a Captain America serial; but there'll also be a costume party and exhibits of old and new comics and probably lots of people selling comics at fantastic prices. Room rates are inexpensive: singles are \$3.75 and twins are \$6. :: Still in the works is a NonCon, probably to be held in Philadelphia over the Labor Day weekend, for the American fans on the East Coast who can't afford to make it to the worldcon. Nothing much is planned-for at this juncture of time and space, and if it turns out to be much more than a comfortable party, or maybe two, we'll be disappointed. Watch this space.

CONFusion. We have a bewildering 14pp publication from Dave Kyle (Radio Station WPDM, Potsdam, New York, 13676), probably available for 6c in stamps; read it and let us know if it makes sense to you -- it seems a study in hyperbole to us. Dave praises our unbidden defense of him (see Focal Point #10), but claims that the New York group bidding for New York in '67 and supporting TriCon in '66 finds him & Syracon "a favorite whipping boy" and insinuates that they are behind the rumor-mongering that has been attributed to him. This is untrue, to put it mildly. Ironically, it was by placing phone calls to every member of the Nycon Planning Committee (Ted White, Dave Van Arnam, John Boardman and Andy Porter) that Focal Point was able to obtain the information necessary to squelch the rumor that Dave was spreading rumors. :: The whole mess has further complications. In leaning over backwards to assume no evil of Dave Kyle, we have opened ourselves to the charge that had been placed at his door. We distinguished between

what had been attributed to him and what he had actually said. What he had said, for the most part, was obviously true -- this was borne out by the most recent progress report from London. The few things he had said besides that, we decided, must also be true. Among those last was word that "at least one member of the committee had resigned 'because Ella Parker started vetoing everything.'" Ron Bennett, who happens to be the committee member in question, denies this emphatically and excoriates us for passing this rumor on as fact. He is the only committee member who has resigned, and he did so because of a lack of time and the fact that he lives some 200 miles from London where the other committee members lived, causing problems in communication and unnecessary pressures on both ends of the line. He writes, "I am not aware that Ella Parker vetoed any more of my suggestions than any other committee member has 'suffered' nor had she vetoed any more of my suggestions than any other convention committee would veto at any time." I (rich brown) deserve the excoriation for the implication in the "at least one member" bit (the implication being that members are resigning right and left, whereas only one member has done or shows any sign of doing so) -- it was an unfortunate choice of phrase, however, and not a deliberate implication, tho no less potentially harmful for all of that. I apologize to Ron, to Ella, and to the Convention Committee as a whole; I truly did not intend to report wrongfully. For the rest of it, Dave Kyle will have to have an answer -- one not as bewildering as the last.

COA

Bill Blackbeard, 211 E. 25th St, Long Beach, California
Bob & Juanita Coulson, RR #3, Hartford City, Indiana, 47348
Mike Domina, 11044 S Tripp Ave., Oak Lawn, Illinois
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Owen Hannifen, 330 S Berendo, Los Angeles, California, 90005 (Skylark
Jack Harness, 330 S. Berendo, Los Angeles, California, 90005 Duquense)
Rusty Hevelin, 628 E Linden Ave, Miamisburg, Ohio
Earl Kemp, 568 Roselle Ave, El Cajon, California
Bob Lichtman, 17½ Van Buren, San Francisco, California, 94131 (for single fanzines and
correspondence only; other mail goes to his old box number)
Andy & Barbara Main, 1826½ Loma St., Santa Barbara, California
Larry & Candy McCombs, 1509 Sedgewick, Chicago, Illinois, 60610
Mike Moorcock, 87a Ladbroke Grove, London W.11., England
Ken & Irene Potter, 4 Hartington St., Lancaster, Lancashire, England (correction thanx
to the editor of RATATOSK)
Joe Sanders, 403 S. Fess, Bloomington, Indiana (as of 9/15)
Earl & Gail Thompson, 128 S. Mariposa, Apt. 2, Los Angeles, California

LONDON FLIGHT DOWN: With regret we must report that the London Group Flight, planned by Judy Blish, failed to reach the required quota by a heart-rending minus of one. The flight was to have taken a number of fans and pros, at a reduced rate, to the world convention in London; now comes the scurrying, as other plans are made to get there.

MATCHED: We've just recently heard the news of the marriage of Buddie McKnight to Bill Evans, an event that occurred April 2, 1965. Bill is currently Vice-President of FAPA and has been a FAPA official of one sort or another as far back as we can remember. Belated as they may be, we offer our congratulations.

FOCAL POINT 11 will be distributed with some copies of Focal Point #12; we handed out a lot of copies of the former at both the MidWestCon and the WesterCon. If you did not receive one at the MidWestCon or the WesterCon, and you do not receive one with this, and you think you deserve one, drop us a postcard. We'll probably be out of them by then, but we like to receive lots and lots of mail.

FOCAL POINT GOES TO A MIDWESTCON -- AND THEN TO A WESTERCON (by Ted White): This year, the Fanoclast-FOCAL POINT contingent (Rich Brown, Mike McInerney, Dave Van Arnam, Arnie Katz, and myself -- with the added presence on the Midwestcon leg of the journey of Andy Porter) decided to make the Grand Circuit and help promote Goodwill and New York in '67.

The six of us left NYC early Friday morning in my Greenbrier, and after several harrowing adventures on the road, arrived at the Holiday Inn in Cincinnati that evening.

This was the first year that the Midwestcon was held at the Holiday Inn, but I trust it will not be the last. We found the groupings of rooms better in some respects than at the old North Plaza, and while there was nothing quite like the North Plaza's "fish room" for casual congregation, the poolside and the official Midwestcon suite served more than adequately.

Midwestcons are subjective things -- the program is all but non-existent. We all had a great time, and I think it can be successfully said that so did most everyone else. The air of conviviality was contagious, and we never really lost it on our further trek westward.

There was no banquet, although there was a catered buffet Sunday afternoon for those of us who Hung On to the End; but Saturday evening we had a program of sorts -- Bob Tucker stood before us in the Inn's meeting room and introduced us to each other (calling on some of us for impromptu talks), and then we watched several movies, including one on how Ray Bradbury writes. That one furnished quite a few gaglines for the remainder of the con.

Saturday evening we opened up one of our rooms which by coincidence happened to connect with the consuite, thus expanding the main party suite by another room. We soon collected Grandfather Tucker and the traditional bottle of JD -- "Smooooth!" -- and the party went on until the wee small hours of the morning.

I was pleased for the opportunity to talk at some length with Alex Panshin and Roger Zelazny, and I was sorry I didn't get more time with Fred Saberhagen. I told Grandfather Tucker about my attempt to write a Bob Tucker novel, which Ace had foiled, and he told us about his new novel about fandom, currently on submission to Doubleday. "The hero is Heinlein, Campbell and Hubbard all rolled up into one," he said, "and he's the pretender to the throne of the United States. It all takes place during a three-day con in Chicago, and after they read it, there are people who will never speak to me again!" We're all faunching to read it, and I hope some enterprising publisher will buy it.

With Tucker, we "closed out" the Midwestcon, being the last to leave, Sunday night. We all (except for Porter, who was returning to NYC) piled once more in the trusty Greenbrier, and set out to see how far we could get before Monday night.

Our plan was to arrive in LA by Thursday, in order to attend a LASFS meeting. All of us were card-carrying LASFS members, and it seemed only proper. We pulled into LA in mid-morning, leaving Rich with his folks in Pasadena, notes scattered about Calvin Demmon's empty apartment in Alhambra, and finally greeting Charlie

and Marsha Brown as the first fans we met in LA, when we got to the Fred Patten-Al Lewis residence. Fred and Tom Gilbert were hard at work on the last stages of THE BEST FROM APA I (\$1.00 from Fred Patten -- plug) but John Trimble dropped over, to pick up the art show hangings, and we spent a pleasant afternoon with the bunch.

There was much talk of Dave Kyle's latest idiocy -- spreading rumors about the Loncon, and then mailing out letters which had the effect of denying the rumors without actually doing anything of the sort (later Bjo was to hand out a fourteen page thing from Kyle that he'd mailed to the Westercon, in which he laid the rumors to us -- a move of low cunning and not too enthusiastically appreciated by us) -- and also George Scithers' latest idiocy, trying to start fights between Bjo and Ben Jason over the art show (when we saw Kyle's 14-page thing, we saw that Scithers was now teeing off at Kyle, and it seemed somehow appropriate that the two should waste their time on each other).

That evening, we descended en masse on the Silverlake Playground, to find a growing collection of fans. Indeed, there were so many present that I never had the chance to meet and say hello to them all. But we got our NEW YORK IN 1967 banner up front, where it received prominent display. The meeting was short -- there is a deadline in the use of the meeting room -- but adjourned to Kal's, a coffeeshop which became quite crowded in the process.

Friday was the opening of the Westercon. Dave and I had stayed with Calvin Demmon, and the three of us slept late, had a leisurely breakfast, and drove out in mid-afternoon to Long Beach, after picking up the rest of our group at the Lab.

I registered, and then found the Benfords and Don Fitch (who had rooms next to each other, as it turned out). We kept a small party going in the Benfords' room, and shuttled from there over to the Busbys' room, where another party was in session. Burbee was there, and Greg Calkins made his only appearance at the con that night.

Saturday, after another night at Calvin's, we took our suite. We'd decided to go whole hog and push the New York bid right. We had a suite booked for Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and we spent over \$100 amongst us for liquor and mixers. We held parties Saturday, Sunday and Monday nights, and they were, as near as I could tell, fine parties.

Axes were buried at the Westercon this year, and I was pleased to find that I was avoiding no one. I found myself spending much of my time with the Benfords, the Mains and Calvin, but still managing to see a lot of the many fine people who were there -- a list which is impossibly long.

I missed most of the program (it seemed easier to loaf around the pool), and you'll find the box score on who won what elsewhere in this zine; I took no notes. I appeared on the final day's program, along with Ed Clinton, Larry Niven, Harlan Ellison, and moderator Earl Kemp. Earl must receive much credit for keeping that panel in order: Harlan slashed out at a lot of things which bugged him, and I slashed back, and in some respects it degenerated into a slugging match which was in no sense weakened by the fact that we remain good friends. At the end, I asked that fans boycott the Ace edition of Tolkien's books (authorized editions will be appear-

ing soon, with royalties going to the author), and the entire audience applauded -- leaving little doubt of fandom's sentiments in the matter.

We journeyed up the Coast to the Bay Area after the con, but fell behind our schedule (which demanded our return to NYC by the coming Sunday), and had no chance to see most of those good people we wanted to see. We did drop in on Phil Dick, the Knights, and Avram -- all of whom had been unable to make the con. And then, in the middle of the night, we left for the long trek east, and home.
- Ted White

NO BOX SCORES of who won what; yr interpreted FP editors -- one of them, at least -- took notes of those kind thru-out the convention, only to drop them in a bucket of ice water. It's a long story, really...

COA:
Fred Lerner, 98-B, The Boulevard, East Paterson, New Jersey, 07407
Susan McInerney, Room 344, Hewitt Hall, Barnard College, NYC, NY

CONGROUND '67: We've seen a flyer, now, from Mike Ward, which announces Boston's intent to join those bidding for the worldsfconvention in '67. Yessir, right there in their own black&white we find, "Boston likes Conventions of all kinds; they have never seen a con, and will not be prepared until it is too late." One thing we have to say about these Bostonians -- they're certainly honest.

"A.E. VAN VOGT has placed 'on the shelf until further notice' his Science Fiction Writers Protective Association. It had 43 members. He is yielding to the superior numbers garnered by damon knight's Science Fiction Writers of America, 80 strong. He also feels the SFWA 'fills a more practical need of science fiction writers than SFWPA.' He has joined it and meanwhile Van Vogt still thinks that fans should do two things: monitor all movies and television science fiction and keep records of what they see, to help any future efforts to prevent theft of science fiction writers' stories for the screen, and 'to categorize and cross-index, on the basis of story lines, science fiction concepts and plot twists' in published stf. stories." (Thanx to Harry Warner.) Uh...a cross index to do what to which? And for who? (whom?)

THE MILFORD CONVENTION (the one sponsored by the knights) got page four newspaper coverage in the Times Herald Record (June 26) with a large photo of Larry Niven, Rosel George Brown and Harlan Ellison. Some of the reprecussions of the Milford convention were heard at the Westercon, in the panel discussion that Harlan was a part of (Harlan seems to think that the trouble with science fiction is that it's science fiction) -- but we only learned recently that Harlan is vying for the Vice Presidency of the SFWA.

NO TONG WAR: Dave Kyle has sent out another mimeographed note, this one saying that he and George Scithers are no longer arguing over this convention stuff -- one hopes there will be no further reprecussions.

THE WIGOLEMBOGLE RECKONER
fmz reviews: Frank Wilimczyk

ERRATUM: (that's not a fanzine title, it's a heading) Some time back, in a review of Terry Carr's Lighthouse, I seem to have implied that Jack Gaughan stencilled his illustration for that issue. Jack Gaughan would like it to be known, as is only right, that Terry did the stencilling. I was guilty of taking Terry for granted, and what I had meant to say was that the drawings were in a style which lent them to stencilling and reproduction by hand. I'm sure, though, that there aren't many fans around who do as admirable a job of stencilling as Terry.

RIVERSIDE QUARTERLY #3; Feb. '65 (quarterly) 35¢, Leland Sapiro, Box 82 University Station, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada.

RQ is an unusually handsome fanzine. It's ½-size photo offset, with some very good spot illustrations, and a couple of nostalgia-producing Schneemen's, illustrating Williamson's "The Legion of Time." The written material is literate and for the most part of interest, but I have some quibbles.

While there's something to be said for setting your sights high, there's an inherent danger in doing so and stating your intentions. Firstly, it's an automatic invitation to comparison, in this case with mainstream literary quarterlies. Secondly, internally it encourages pretentiousness. Leland Sapiro, for instance, in his 3-part article on anti-science in science fiction, has a valid theme, but the mainstream critical method he's adopted ("The Faustus Tradition") seems hardly applicable to pulp fiction, which only occasionally can be said to have dealt with truly epic themes even unconsciously. # A. J. Cox's article, though obviously not slanted specifically at Riverside Quarterly (it was originally for Shaggy), attempts to show that there is a unifying thread running through the stories of Harry Bates -- and comes up with a literary cliché that is equally applicable to Stapledon and Doc Savage. It would be hard, I'm sure, to find any writer who couldn't be classified identically. As a matter of fact, a day or two after reading RQ, I was reading a historical biography in which the subject was described as having "an exceptionally broad, high forehead," and, in fact, this is not only a literary cliché, but a folkloristic one as well. Nevertheless, as a rundown of Bates' stories, without the analysis, Cox' article is a good one. # Budrys' parody of Ray Bradbury is good enough to fit into a Bradbury collection without being detected as parody, so probably what it is, is pastiche. # If the above sounds overly critical or anti-intellectual, it's not really so intended. A serious critical fanzine is worthy of support, and in view of the recent announcement that RQ will be publishing Alexei Panshin's study of Heinlein; it certainly deserves support. What I personally prefer, though, to "lit'ry" criticism in the sf field, is an examination of sf pretty much on its own terms. I mean, who would possibly think of writing an article on Mithras and Mike Hammer?

YANDRO #147; May, 1965 (?) (monthly) 30pp (30¢, 4/\$1, 12/\$2.50)
R. & J. Coulson, Rte. 3, Wabash, Indiana, 46992

Everybody knows about Yandro: it is one of Methuselah's children. So, no need of a general description is necessary. The issue

~~noted here is of especial interest~~ because of the article by Alexei Panshin on his Kafka-esque experiences in researching and writing a book for Advent on Robert A. Heinlein. It is remarkable not only in its restraint, but also in the peripheral view it offers on Heinlein offstage. Or behind-the-scenes might be a better way of putting it. If you're a Heinlein fan, this is must reading. And even if you've never heard of Heinlein, you'll find this article fascinating reading. If you happen to have missed this issue of Yandro, I urge you to catch up with it.

--Frank Wilimczyk

LEST YOU HAVE NOT NOTICED (where you bin, where you bin?) this issue of Focal Point is late, late, late. We were so proud, too; that we were only a couple of issues behind our intended schedule, and ego-gratified when pibble like T.Carr compared FP to the FANAC that he used to edit. We're waiting for comparisons now with the FANAC Walter Breen used to edit. *Sigh* People what wanna help us scoop RATATOSK should send us their news at least three weeks early, or maybe forget about sending the news to RATATOSK altogether.

TOLKEIN NEWS: First, Ace Books has sent an offer to Tolkien to pay him an "honorarium" on the Ace editions of the trilogy, terms to be discussed if he wants the money -- which he probably will (Ace thinks), since Ace isn't asking him for anything they haven't already got. So all he has to do is say yes. It is called an honorarium because Ace can't pay him straight royalties, inasmuch as (second) Ballantine is bringing out an authorized edition in October, with Richard Powers covers. We've heard rumors that the Ballantine edition will contain Extra Material (perhaps the bibliographies left out of the original?), but this is still pegged as only rumor. That is, the Ballantine edition will be out in October and it will have Powers covers, but your guess is as good as ours as to whether it will have Extra Material or not... (Thanks to Terry Carr)

THE PACIFICON (as some pibble calls it), having made something of a profit, distributed and/or is distributing some \$1,300 worth of goodies, as follows:

London Hugos and bases...	\$105
Money to London.....	\$100
Pass-on to '66 con.....	\$300
Hugo stockpiling.....	\$300
P.A.S.	\$200
TAFF.....	\$200
'65 Westercon.....	\$100

The \$200 for TAFF will go directly to the next British TAFF winner and will be in addition to the \$600 he receives from the fund -- a good bit of news, as \$600 really isn't much in this day and age to pay for a TAFF-winners trip. The Pacificon undertook the pass-on to the '66 con to spare London the difficulties of foreign exchange and all that. In addition, a \$320 tax refund from the state of Illinois on taxes paid by Chicen and Discon is expected, and this will be added to the Hugo stockpile fund. With but one notable exception, the Pacificon people have done a fine job of conventioning, and we of FOCAL POINT commend them for it.

JOHN BOARDMAN was on the tv show, "Call My Bluff" and walked away with a nice pile of cash (we helped John celebrate by drinking some of his bourbon at the last Fanoclast meeting); the programs on which he appeared will be broadcast over NBC during the week of 26-30 July; in New York, that's twelve noon to 12:30 PM on channel 4. :: John also sent clippings: Fred Lerner, our very own, had a letter in a recent issue of The Fantastic Four, one of the better of the superior group of Marvel Comics. We seem to remember hearing that famous fannish fan Ted "Ace Books" White also had a letter printed in one of the recent ones. .. The SCLC Newsletter, April-May 1965, in an article entitled "SCLC Continues Economical Withdrawal Against National Industries in Alabama" indicates that the Hammermill Paper Company of Erie, Pa. (whose products have long been used by fans) have "defiantly announced that it would build a \$35 million mill near Selma, while thousands of Negroes were being beaten and arrested in the embattled city." It might be small in the way of protest, but fans might seriously think of boycotting Hammermill products. .. The New York Daily News (June 30th) announced that Kingsley Amis, 43; married Elizabeth Jane Howard, 42, a fellow novelist on June 29th. The clipping mentions his first book, "Lucky Jim", and his latest, "The James Bond Dossier", but not his book of sf criticism, "New Maps Of Hell" -- which is just as well, perhaps. .. The New York Journal American (July 4th) had its usual TV poll, with "Man From Uncle" placing second, "Bewitched" third, "Addams Family" eleventh and "The Munsters" fourteenth. Right below that was a report of a Flying Saucer sighting in France, which is being taken quite seriously -- the gendarmerie don't think it a gag (the man who made the sighting has a reputation as a calm and solid citizen) and has found evidence that there may have been something there. Then, in the New York Post (July 8th) comes the follow-up that 'the flying saucer season is upon us,' telling of sightings in France, England and the Antarctic, followed by a sighting of the Loch Ness monster by no less than five people at Warminster in England's County Wilshire. Well, it certainly is a wonderful thing.

You receive this issue of Focal Point because: You subscribe,
 We trade, You send/sent news, You are mentioned, You sent
comment; Sample; care to sub?, Somehow, we just Owe You, You,
we like, Drop dead, you schmuck, We are not sure ourselves.

According to our records (as we laughingly call them) your last issue of Focal Point will be # P.

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