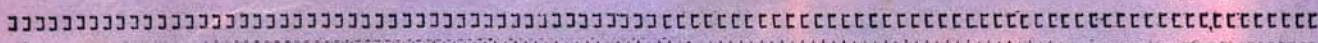


Focal Point

Remember us? If you don't, we don't blame you. It has been a while between issues. Nonetheless, this is the 21st issue of a fanzine of news, views and reviews, edited by Mike McInerney (250 W. 16th St., Apt. 5FW, New York, New York) and rich brown (250 W. 16th St., Apt. 5FE, New York, New York) as frequently as possible, and published by them on QWERTYUIOPlus One on the same religiously frequent schedule, and that's "leaffs" for this issue. It is available for news, trades, 3/25¢ or 12/\$1. Our Overseas Agent is Peter Singleton, Ward 2, Whittingham Hospital, Near Preston, Lancs., England, and subs thru him are 12 for 7/-. Circulation: 240. "sigh"; PETER WESTON FOR TAFF! NEW YORK IN '67!



ROGER PHILLIPS GRAHAM died Wednesday, 2 March, in the University of California Hospital, of heart complications. He had celebrated his 57th birthday on 20 February. Shortly after entering the hospital on 25 February, Rog went into a coma and was placed under intensive care. He never recovered. Presbyterian funeral services were held Saturday, 5 March, at Berkeley Hills Chapel. To say that Rog Phillips Graham was "friendly" or "goodnatured" would be a tremendous understatement; he won respect and lasting friendship from a fandom which was antagonistic to everything connected with Ray Palmer and the Shaver Mystery. "The Club House" was the first fanzine column that did much more than list the fanzines to be reviewed. Of his fiction, "So Shall Ye Reap" and "Armageddon" are classics. Friends, acquaintances, and a number of people who have only heard the name, will miss Rog Phillips Graham.

Honey Graham has asked that no flowers be sent, but that anyone wishing to do so send a donation in Rog's name to the American Heart Association.

EASTERCON ATTENDEES, PLEASE NOTE: Despite what you have read elsewhere, the Eastercon will not be a three-day affair. Not really. Friday, April 15, the New York FISTFA will hold an Open Party in the eight-room penthouse apartment of ya editors of Focal Point. The Eighth Ave. IND and 7th Ave. IND both stop at 14th St.; the new home of FISTFA is located between 7th & 8th Aves., address in colophon above. Saturday, April 16, and Sunday, April 17, the FISTFA will sponsor parties in the Floral Room of the Hotel Edison, from 8:00 to 1:30 and from 8:00 to midnight, supplemental to the Lunarian's LUNACON. Contact Frank Dietz, 1750 Walton Ave., Bronx, NY, for more information about the Lunacon, or the editors of this fanzine about the Eastercon.

TOLKIEN NEWS: Ace Books has sent us an announcement which should satisfy even the most rabid Tolkienests: "ACE BOOKS, INC. announces with pleasure the signing of an agreement with J.R.R. Tolkien for the payment of full royalties on all copies of THE LORD OF THE RINGS in the Ace editions. A check in excess of \$9,000.00 has been sent to him covering royalties payable through 1965. :: Ace Books has been on record from the start as willing to pay royalties to Dr. Tolkien, but not to his publishers who had forfeited his copyrights in the United States. This has been accomplished by our agreement. :: Under our arrangement, Professor Tolkien receives full royalties from American paperback sales instead of the customary one quarter royalties for an English author. Dr. Tolkien's letter confirming our agreement reads as follows: 'Gentlemen; I am happy to accept your voluntary offer to pay full royalties on all copies sold of the Ace editions of THE LORD OF THE RINGS trilogy, even though you have no legal obligation to do so. :: You may advise those who may be interested of our amicable arrangement. :: Yours sincerely, (signed J.R.R. Tolkien)'. Any comments from the peanut gallery? We thot not, Meyer.

THE NEW YORK COMICON will be held this year on the 23rd and 24th of July at the Park Sheraton Hotel. John Benson and Mike McInerney are the masterminds, backed up by a committee composed of Roy Thomas, Andy Porter, Ted White (f.f.f.), Jon White, and Chris Steinbruner, film coordinator. Advance registration is \$3.50 (to John Benson, 207 W. 80th St., NYC, NY) or you can Play It Dumb and wind up paying \$4.00 at the door.

TWO RELATIVELY LOCAL CONCLAVES have been held since the last issue of FOCAL POINT came out; the Open ESFA and the Boskone. While yhos did not go to either, from all accounts both were a bust. The Open ESFA suffered from over-programing and the Boskone from under-publicity, or so we've heard. **NOTE TO THE BIDDERS IN BOSTON:** In our dealings with the Sheraton Hotel, we were told by the Sheraton people that Boston was definitely putting on the World SF Convention next year.

focal point : two

They had this piece of misinformation from the Sheraton Hotel in Boston. We of New York found this to be Very Interesting Indeed, inasmuch as we understood that the matter was to be voted upon at the next World SF Convention, the TriCon. We would be very interested in hearing from anyone in Boston who cares to try to explain how this lie came to be part of the records of the New York Sheraton Hotel.

COA:

rich brown, 250 W. 16th St., Apt. 5FF, New York, New York, 10011
Sylvia Dees, 756 S. Carondelet St., Los Angeles, California, 90006
Ron Ellik, 12942 Ranchero Way, Garden Grove, California, 92640
Cindy Heap, c/o rich brown [address above]
Betty Kujawa, 2819 Caroline, South Bend, Indiana, 46614
Jerry & Miri Knight, 1879 San Ramon Avenue, Berkeley, California, 94707
Gil Lamont, 3158 N. Gladys, So. San Gabriel, California, 91777
Bob Lichtman, 112 Lundy's Lane, San Francisco, California [for letters and cards only; other mail continues to Box 1226, Berkeley, California, 94701]
Barbara Main, 1620 Oramas St., Santa Barbara, California
Andy Main, P.O. Box 4602, Santa Barbara, California, 93103
Art & Nancy Repp, Apt. B-1, 3102 Four Seasons Ct., Baltimore, Maryland, 21222
Mike MaInerney, 250 W. 16th St., Apt. 5FW, New York, New York, 10011
Milt Stevens, OCSA Class #611, Officer Candidate School, US Naval Station, Newport, Rhode Island, 02840
Ellie Turner, 2500 Elm Avenue, Long Beach, California
Roger Zelazny, 135-2B N. Bond Road, Baltimore, Maryland, 21729

Boy, those crazy fans sure move around a lot. Could drive somebody crazy. Yes.

THE FIRST FISTFA meeting at the New Place (250 W. 16th, if we haven't already pounded it into your heads) was attended by yhos, Lester del Rey, Fred Fohl & wife, Jack Gaughan & wife, Terry & Carol Carr, Robin & F. i White, Pen & Jo Meisner, Lee Hoffman, Dave Van Arnam, Larry McCombs, Cindy Heap, Fred Phillips, Dan Goodman, Ken Beale, Fred Lerner, Bob Whalen, Alan Shaw, and maybe even Others.

gak we had a COA from Dean Grennell, but lost it in the eggplant over there. Nextish.

AFAC: It's rather late to report that the 114th mailing of FAPA arrived some time back, containing 320 pages; notable items included Rotsler's QUOTEBOOK II, HORIZONS 105, and uh...uh... The 2nd STOBCLER mailing is out, too, containing 106 pages, according to Sznivtig, the c-o of the organization. TAPS, the Terrestrial Amateur Press Society, hasn't had a TT of less than 50 pages since November; 70-80 pages has been more like it. Dave Van Arnam's Artificial Satellite (a TAPS equivalent of a Cult fractional) was only 44 pages, however. The topics currently under discussion are religion, rights, Viet Nam and Should The Inactive wl Be Active?

NEWSGAGGLE: A number of people have sent us clippings of the movie advertisements for "The Oscar", having circled Harlan Ellison's name, which appears there by virtue of the fact that he wrote the screenplay. What might amaze fans more is that Harlan's name appears, for the same reason, in letters a foot high on what was once the famous Camel 'smoking' sign on Times Square. And what amuse even more fans is that, again for the same reason, Harlan has been nominated for the Worst Screenwriter of the Year by Time magazine. Ah, Harlan has his ups and downs. :: NYTimes, 7 Feb 66, reports on a Flying Saucer convention in Los Angeles: "Among the nearly 300 delegates was a self-professed 'interplanetary traveler' named Standing Horse, an English woman who regularly issues mimeographed reports on her conversations with space travelers...and a Presidential candidate campaigning on the flying saucer ticket." :: NYTimes, 17 Feb., reports that the American Booksellers association presented LBJ with some 250 books; those most likely to be duplicated in a fan's library include "A Shade of Difference" by Allen Drury, "Catch-22" by Joseph Heller, "Seven Days in May" by Charles W. Bailey and Fletcher Knebel, "The Bull From The Sea" by Mary Renault, "The Centaur" by John Updike, "The Man" by Irving Wallace, "Live and Energy" by Isaac Asimov, and "Happiness Is a Warm Puppy" by Charles M. Schulz. :: NYPost, 22 Feb., mentions that the Imogene Coca-Joe E. Ross series, "It's About Time," will replace "My Favorite Martian." The former is to be a series about an astronaut who gets lost in time, as well as space, and winds up in 'Flintstone' cave-man country. Ah well. :: NYTimes, Feb. 22, mentions that CBS is dropping "The Munsters" as well as "My Favorite Martian," but a new show, "Star Trek" will appear on Fridays from 10-11 in the evening. :: NYWorld-Telegram & Sun, 23 Feb., pans hell out of Shepherd Mead's sf book, "The Carefully Considered Rape of the World." But then, it deserved it. :: In the March 13 NYJournal-American, Sun, Isaac Asimov has an article "Out There

With the Stars -- How Far Into Space?" which is another one of those prediction things. This, however, is as well done as any of them have ever been; Asimov borches the subject of star-travel so effectively that one imagines the average reader taking it all in stride. And, it is interesting without ever getting too wild. :: NYTimes, Feb. 28, mentions changes coming to ABC-TV; "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea" will continue, but "The Flintstones" and "The Addams Family" are 'on probation' and may not last. Two new science fiction programs will be added: "The Invaders" and "Time Tunnel." :: NYTimes, 15 March, contains a letter from P. Schuyler Miller, opining why Birchers should not be members of the police force ("a police force cannot be permitted to owe their first loyalty to the John Birch Society or to any other organization dedicated to the persecution of a minority or--if the more extreme Birchers are sincere in their contention that most non-members are Communists--of a majority."). :: NYTimes, 21 March, gives mention of "Fantastic Voyage" by Isaac Asimov (Houghton, Mifflin, \$3.95) from the screenplay; sf about a voyage thru the human bloodstream. :: Now we come to a number of clippings from Box-office and related publications. "The Psychopath" has been selected as the final title for a forthcoming Paramount "shocker" previously known as "Schizoid." It's based on a story by Robert Bloch. :: John Wayne's 166th film, "Eldorado," features a screen-play by Leigh Brackett. :: The Playboy theatre came up with something different when it scheduled 15 chapters of "Batman" and offering half-price admission to anyone who showed up as Robin and free admission to anyone who showed up in Batman costume. May have had more success if they'd done that in Los Angeles... :: Coming soon to most places as a double feature will be "Planet of the Vampires" with screenplay by Ib Melchior and Louis Heyward (good ol' Ib! good ol' Lou!) and "Die, Monster, Die!" with screenplay by Jerry Sohl; the latter is from "The Color Out of Space" by H.P. Lovecraft. :: Harlan Ellison (whose name has appeared in foot high letters on Times Square) will do the screenplay for "The Dream Merchants," by Harrold Robbins. Shucks. And we were hoping that he would win a Hugo for "The Oscar" so that next year he could write "The Hugo" and...but that may never be. :: Get ready for it. Soon to have wide circulation will be "Pinocchio in Outer Space," featuring the voice of Arnold Stang as Nurtle the Turtle.

WAY BACK last December 1, Richard Lupoff, long-time fan, Fanoclast, occasional FISTFAN, now-member of FAPA, member of the Richard Wayne Brown Science Illustory Fondation and the Upper East Side Science Fiction and Eating in a Chinese Restaurant Once in a While Society, had a book published. We knew of this event way back then. We rejoiced, of course. But neither of us wrote the piece of information down, and quite unaccountably we forgot. The book has been mentioned to us many times in fannish conversations of one sort or another. We still forgot to mention it. The book has been reviewed, usually favorably, in about a dozen papers coast to coast, and while we now have those reviews, we didn't at the time. Too, in conjunction with it, Dick has been interviewed on four different radio shows in New York, Hartford, and Poughkeepsie. We heard the New York broadcast; not only did we forget to mention Dick's book, we forgot to mention that he was on the radio (with Dave Van Arnam and...do we misremember?...Lin Carter). We are very Stupid and Dumb and Forgetful to have done this, but happily we have rectified our inaction a little bit by this mention here. ...er, we almost forgot; the title of the book is EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS: MASTER OF ADVENTURE, and it's available from Canaveral Press for \$7.50. No fan of any kind whatsoever should be without six dozen copies. Or at least one.

THE FANZINE INDEX has finally overcome all snags and difficulties; the reprinting of the long out-of-print Pavlat-Evans index has been completed, and are available at \$2.50 each from Harold Palmer Piser, 41-08 Parsons Boulevard, Flushing, New York, 11355, in stiff covers. Well worth it at twice the price; invaluable to fanzine collectors. This is but a fore-runner of the "Bibliography of Fanzines" now being compiled. While you're ordering, why don't you at least sit down and index your own publications and send them to Piser for the bibliography?

THE TRICON is not allowing votes for "The Lord of the Rings" in the 'Best Novel' category since it is eligible under two categories this year -- that, and "Best All Time Series." Contrary to reports seen elsewhere, the Lensmen books cannot be considered under the 'Best Novel' category, even though a new pb edition came out this year, inasmuch as the Lensmen stories have all already been published twice before -- once in magazines, once in hardback. Read the rules on the back of your Hugo nomination ballot. The news about TLOTR might disturb a few Tolkien fanatics, but the reasoning behind the TriCon's move seems perfectly sound -- there's no point in having this years crop of novels, some of which are pretty damn good in their own right, compete with one of the greatest fantasy novels of all time. While we wish the Tricon pipple had thought of this before distributing their ballots, we must also admit that they are very busy pipple, and they can't think of everything.

MATCHED: Brian Wilson Aldiss and Margaret Manson, on Saturday, 11 December, 1965. (Thanx, Sky-rack.)

focal point : four

THE 1966 DISCLAVE will be held Saturday, May 14, at the Diplomat Motel, 1850 New York Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002 (New York Avenue at Bladensburg Road). Phone number is Lawrence 6-1400. Accomodations available are: room with one double bed; room with two twin beds; room with two double beds; studio with one double bed and one single bed; and studio with two double beds. Rates are: single, \$11 to \$15; twin and double, \$14 to \$20; each additional person, \$2; each additional rollaway bed, \$2. (Mention you are attending the Disclave when you make your reservations). Schedule: Friday, May 13, 8:30 p.m. -- welcome to early arrivals in the WSFA suite at the Diplomat; Saturday, May 14, 2:00-6:00 p.m. -- program in the meeting room above the Diplomat; guest of honor will be Roger Zelazny; Saturday, May 14, 8:30 p.m.-2:00 a.m. -- reception in the meeting room (rearranged cabaret style). Refreshments by WSFA; Sunday, May 15, all day -- recover from Saturday night, see Washington in the spring, or visit other fans. Sounds like the more relaxed Disclaves of yesteryear, eh? Well, maybe we'll see you there.

PERSONAL NOTES: We're in receipt of a postcard from Jerry Page: "I was told you had a mention of the project of starting a book publishing company which I was connected with, in a recent EP. Two months ago I withdrew from this project and in all fiarness my name should never have been mentioned in connection with it. I am a little surprised, as I withdrew long before plans had reached a point where such casual mention of it -- especially inviting money -- could be considered practical. Please print a correction in an early issue and please be careful. The withdrawal was for reasons of too little time and certain professional commitments. There was no feud between Jack and me and the implication of one would be a crime." :: John Boardman, our chief news-gagle editor, had a paper published recently. Entitled "Contributions to the Quantination Problem in General Relativity", it appeared in the November 1965 issue of the Journal of Mathematical Physics. :: Much news contained in a postcard from Miri Knights: "We are expecting yet another baby either in May or June. So I doubt if you'll get to see us at any cons this year. Did you know that M.Z.B. Breen delivered a baby girl one oz. less than 10 lb. on January 10? Moira. All are well and all. Ardis Waters is expecting a baby in June. Also her kid sister (Danni Wallace) is due in August. Population explosion, anyone? Artists Co-operative in S.F. had annual masquerade and Grania Davidson won 1st prize second year running. Hedda Harpie." :: Harlan Ellison got married toward the end of January or maybe the beginning of February. :: We heard that Steve Tolliver and Sylvia Dees were married, too, but likewise have none of the pertinent information. :: One more pop in the population explosion: Cecy Alystra, March 4, to Bruce and Dian Pelz, weighing in at 6 lbs, 13 oz. CONGRATS! :: Jim Benford is engaged to marry Hilary Foister, probably on August 13, in England. Miss Foister is a French teacher, English citizen, does not read sf, according to brother Greg. "They will live in Del Mar, California, until Jim finishes his M.D. probably in 1967. :: Also, I'm planning on going on long vacation in Europe, perhaps attending a NATO conference in southern France, and attending the wedding." In the meantime, Greg's writing sf and doing fan stuff and working on research. :: Reported from Berkeley: "Friday night, February 25, an open party was held at Donaho's to welcome to the Bay Area Art Saha, here from New York on a business convention. Some of those present were Dick and Pat Ellington, Joe and Robbie Gibson, Al Graham, Norm Metcalf, Ben Stark, [Alvah] and Sid [Rogers], Bill and Danny, and assorted other Little Men and Berkeley types. The next night a small dinner was given by the Ellingtons in Art's honor attended by former residents/hangers on of the Dive and [Alvah] and Sid [Rogers]: the Ellingtons, Bill and Danny, Al Graham and his wife, Vince and Bobbie Hickey, Selma Spector, and a couple of others. Later on several other people dropped by for a general party: Redd Boggs and Gretchen Schwenn, Ray and Kirsten Nelson, Miri Knight, John Magnus. Much booze and wine was drunk and a good time was had by all -- at least I had a good time." (Thanx, Alva Rogers) :: Al Andrews and Lon Atkins are setting-up in the newszine racket. RALLY!, they tell us, will be a bi-weekly newszine concentrating on Southern Fandom and Southern Fans. It'll be a two-sheeter, ala RATATOSK, 4 for 25¢. [Al Andrews, 1659 Lakewood Dr., Birmingham, Alabama.]

We would like to apologize to Sid and Alvah Rogers for the "40 year old twin brothers" crack we carried over from our correspondent's letter; it was funny, it was hurtful, it was aimed at somebody on the Other Side. It came out just as Mike received a very kind note from Alvah and Sid; our little taunt must have come out as an extremely harsh slap in the face. We are sorry.

FOCAL POINT #21
rich brown & Mike McInerney
250 W. 16th, Apt 5FE & 5FW
New York, New York, 10011

send to:

BOB TUCKER
Box 506
HEYWORTH, ILLINOIS
61745

