

S.F.WEEKLY 229

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St. LouisCon. Be there, Labor Day Weekend, 1969!!!
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Last Issue: SFW Stops Publication!

This is the last issue of S.F.Weekly. I had hoped to soften the blow through the publication of an earlier issue refusing new subscriptions and returning subscription monies sent to me after the first of April. However, that issue, typed and run off some three weeks ago, is gathering dust where I am unable to get at it and have it mailed. This issue must suffice in explanation.

The end of SFW has three causes. First, and most prominent, the production of the newszine has become increasingly difficult over the last few months. The mimeography, the folding of each issue, and the addressing of the envelopes have been done with the very kind permission of Lillian North, Dave Van Arnam's boss. I have been using her equipment free of charge. Without her help and permission SFW would have ceased publication 9 months ago, as the size of the mailing list grew past the hundred mark. At this moment SFW goes to over 260 subscribers in the US and 7 other countries -- and just recently there have been inquiries from France and Japan.

As Dave's writing contracts have grown, so the time he has devoted to fanac has shrunk. In January, Dave even gave up his own First Draft -- a weekly personal journal which began publication in April, 1964, and foreshadowed the rise of the weekly apae. And as Lillian North's business has increased, the time she is able to give me to use her machines has lessened.

Secondly, I find the format of S.F.Weekly cramps my style. The set format of SFW has trapped me in a weekly grind: find the news, cull out what I want to publicize, find a good lead story, write the issue, have it run off, enter new subscriptions, terminate old subscriptions, etc. Altogether, I find myself going to conventions to solicit subscriptions, constantly hunting for news; and, basically, finding my time for other activities in fandom limited by a weekly deadline.

I am now a member of SFPA, the Southern Fandom Press Alliance; I am number 1 on the Spectator Amateur Press Society waitlist; and have a mere two year wait before gaining entry into the hallowed ~~butler grounds~~ halls of FAPA. I also publish what has become an annual fanzine, Algol. I hope to make Algol quarterly, beginning

with the July issue. I also hope to put into motion a Project that I've had mapped out for over three years, but haven't had the time to actively pursue. So I certainly plan to be active, but not as active as I have been.

The third reason for ending publication of SFW is one which is becoming increasingly evident to me as time goes on. To some fans it might seem the least important, but I've started to run into it. Briefly, the higher I go, the more important the job I take, the more publication of a weekly fanzine runs in opposition to my duties. The more important the job, the more responsibilities there are involved. And, too, the more time the job takes to get it done right. I've discovered that publication of a weekly newszine can result in job conflict: the time it takes to work on a weekly publication could better be applied to the work at hand. Or the time involved in a quarterly fanzine can be budgeted much easier, with no conflict from your job. This conflict of interests may be the answer why the most successful publishers of frequent newszines are highschool or college students, or those whose jobs don't require a total commitment.

My plans for the unused portions of subscribers' funds are twofold. One, I will take about three issues' worth and have arranged for copies of Science Fiction Times to be sent to those subscribers who do not receive this other newszine. SFT will go to about 120 of the SFW mailinglist. For those not so lucky, I am arranging to refund unused portions of subscriptions. This may take a month or so, depending on the state of my finances and the amount of sticky quarters I can get from the bank. And, of course, on how many issues I have you down for.

I regret that a large amount of news sent me by loyal subscribers will go unused. Some of it has been passed on to other newszines; some has been scrapped as being too dated to use, and some has been scrapped as not really worth bothering with. Other newszines worth subscribing to include (for the benefit of those unaware of other fanzines): The WSFA (Washington SF Association) Journal, published monthly, 3/\$1, 7/\$2, 12/\$3, from Don Miller, 12315 Judson Road, Wheaton, Md. 20906. OSFAn (official organ, Ozark SF Association), published monthly, 12/\$1.50, from Hank Luttrell, 2936 Barrett Station Road, Kirkwood, Mo. 63122. MAVERICK, published bi-weekly, 3/25¢, from John D. Berry, 35 Dusenberry Road, Bronxville, NY 10708.

Once again, let me say that I've had fun publishing SFW. I don't think I'd ever do it again, but it was great while it lasted. I'd like to thank Ethel Lindsay for her courageous agenting for SFW in England, and John Bangsund for his agenting in the far-off country of Australia. I will continue to be USAgent for John's Australian SF Review, and John and Ethel will continue to be my agents for ALGOL and my other productions.

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I have a large supply of back issues of SFW -- all issues back to about number 204, and many issues back to 150 (the start of the newszine portion of the life of SFW (formerly Degler!)) -- which I will be glad to fill out subscriptions with, if you write and so request. In addition, I will transfer long term unused subscriptions from SFW to ALGOL, again if you write and ask. Subscriptions to ALGOL are now going for 60¢ an issue, 5/\$2.50. The next issue, out this summer, will contain Piers Anthony on his novel, Chthon; Norman Spinrad with The Bug Jack Barron Papers; Frederik Pohl on sf editing; Lawrence Ashmead on the Doubleday sf line; plus lively features by Dick Lupoff, Ted White, myself... The current issue is still available, at the very stiff price of 75¢. For your money you get a button-pushing article entitled, "Are Femmefans Human?" by Robin White; Ted White on miscellaneous topics (including a raid on a local whore-house, complete with telephone number!); Dick Lupoff reviewing rare and odd sf books; Banks Mebane offering an excellent look into Roger Zelazny's work; and an original short story by Samuel R. Delany... There are only a limited number of copies left, so Act Now.

This is Andy Porter, signing off.

