

THE SOUTHERN FAN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTHERN FANDOM GROUP

Volume 1, Number 4

January, 1961

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The Southern Fandom Group was founded 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 any 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 activity.

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, Delaware Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

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; the hand on the mimeo crank belongs to Jerry Page Ad rates: \$1.00 for full page; half page 50¢. 50% discount to SFGers. Letters, articles on stf, SFG-emblem ideas and what-have-you invited. Deadline for the 5th issue: February 20. Mailing date about March 6. We're an optimistic bunch.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By ALFRED McCOY ANDREWS

WELL, THERE IS LITTLE I CAN SAY since our members have said so little in response to my plea for cooperation and letters. Five did write and offer some good ideas as to benefits and activity, but of course the rest of you did nothing. I suppose logic would dictate that we fold and refund what moneys are in the treasury, but sometimes a dream dies hard, particularly when that dream was made a semi-reality by thought, work, time, and plain sweat by a few unselfish fans who would have their dream become a reality so as to serve their fellow fans. It is still hard for me to believe that you people, to speak plainly, just don't give a damn whether the SFG stands or falls; but your studied indifference and determined lack of cooperation and response has made it so obvious that only a fool could fail to see it. Perhaps I am such a fool, but there are a handful of us who have expressed our willingness to work for the reality of a fine, strong and active fan organization in the South. As Director I feel that it is my duty not to dissolve the SFG at this time, but to work with this handful of fans (about five, other than our present officers) to give them a fair chance to help in creating something of which they can be proud. It will be rough and hard. We need help, but you have made it plain that we can count on no help from you. This means that we will have to work doubly hard, not only to fulfil our SFG responsibilities, but also to carry on our backs the deadwood of SFG "members" (used loosely indeed) who give the organization nothing more than two dollars and an unstinting amount of laziness, apathy and indifference. It this unvarnished statement of the facts offends any of you that is unfortunate, but YOU made it so, I didn't.

My grateful thanks sincerely go to the four SFGers who volunteered to serve on committees. We don't have enough volunteers to serve on two separate committees, so we will form one committee of these four members to handle both activities and benefits--at least for the present. (I suppose it is ridiculous to hope that some of you other people might come alive and volunteer later, but maybe like a miracle, huh?) I am appointing L. D. Broyles (Rt. 6, Box 455 P, Waco, Texas) as Chairman of the committee. Lloyd (as in L.) is our state-secretary for Texas and has certainly shown his administrative ability at that post. He is 29, has been a fan for 8 years, and collects mags, hardcovers and movie-stills. In his committee will be the following committeemen: Richard A. Koogle (5916 Revere Place, Dallas, Texas). Dick, though under the burden of his college studies, has shown himself to be enthusiastic in boosting the SFG in the local Dallas club and offered to work on the committee. He is 19, a fan for 7 years, collects Astounding and has complete runs of Galaxy, F&SF, and If, plus varied numbers of comics and movie-stills. He has been a contributor of articles, book & movie reviews to such fanzines as Sphere and Line. Then we have two somewhat younger fans, Michael Padgett (3230 Washington Road, Augusta, Georgia) and Larry G. Moore (3829 James Ave., Fort Worth, Texas). Though Neofans, they have written offering to serve on the committee and I was impressed with their earnest desire to serve and their helpful suggestions and ideas about various aspects of the SFG. They expressed a wish to become more established in fandom

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and learn the ropes; so, men, it looks like you have been thrown in the breach. But experience will teach you more than a million words, and you will find Chairman Broyles and Committeeman Koogle good and knowing fans with whom to work. I'll forward all the material on hand to Broyles and he will start the round-robin committee to work as soon as possible. Of course, I want you all to feel free to call on me for any assistance you feel I might be able to give, but basically the planning of SFG activities and benefits (subject to membership vote of acceptance) is your baby now. Good luck, fellows.

Incidentally, all correspondence concerning ideas and suggestions for SFG activities and benefits should be sent to Chairman Broyles. Of course, I'll be happy (yea, overjoyed) to hear from any of you SFGers who want to write to me--seems I've mentioned that little item before.

Well, that seems to be it for now. We would still like to have all of you work with us. Letters are the chief means of communication in the SFG. It is our life-blood. If you choke it off, we die. If you put forth the effort to make it steadily flow, we live and thrive. You think about it.

-Alfred McCoy Andrews

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OFFICIAL ROSTER (as of January, 1961)

Alfred McCoy Andrews, 1659 Lakewood Drive, Birmingham 9, Alabama
Mike Barnes, Route #10 Box 396, Tyler, Texas
Ted Brocke, 4950 LaVista Drive, Tucker, Georgia
L. D. Broyles, Route 6 Box 453 P, Waco, Texas
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, 1303 Mystery Street, New Orleans 19, Louisiana
H. K. Hudson, 3300 San Bernardino Street, Clearwater, Florida
Bob Jennings, 3819 Chambers Drive, Nashville 11, Tennessee
Janie Lamb, Route #1 Box 364, Heiskell, Tennessee
Richard A. Koogle, 5916 Revere Place, Dallas, Texas
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, 3 Ames Street, Box 401, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts
Michael J. Padgett, Jr., 5230 Washington Street, Augusta, 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, Route 2, Box 575, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Harry Thomas, 310 South Oak Street, Sweetwater, Tennessee
Bernie J. Wermers, 1703 Lenore Court, Baltimore 7, Maryland
Loubel Wood, Star Route, DeFuniak Springs, Florida
Jerry Burge, 1707 Piper Circle SE, Atlanta 16, Georgia
Jerry Page, 198 Battery Place NE, Atlanta 7, Georgia

(Had me worried there for a minute.)

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT

By BOB FARNHAM

WITH AN SFG-APA, THE SOUTH Fandom Press Alliance in the works, eight active officers, a going Inner Circle Round Robin letter, a highly successful Official Organ and a very satisfying response to contact letters sent out to southern fans, the Southern Fandom Group is coming along splendidly. At this writing (Dec. 29), the membership stands at 30 strong, with excellent prospects of others coming into the fold.

The recent membership-wide vote on the question of taking in the additional states of Maryland, Delaware, Missouri and Oklahoma and the District of Columbia was carried by a total vote of 11 in favor, 5 against. I've rearranged the Master Roster to accommodate the new states and have sent out contact letters to known fans in those states.

I'd like to appeal to all members to send me, if possible, a report on any activity, club-wise, that they have or can have a part in now. Whatever you do or would like to do--please let me know.

Statistics: Out of approximately 100 letters sent out to contact southern fans, about 40 replied and sent in their filled-out Q's and 30 have joined the club. This in about 6 months comes to almost 50% of the contact letters sent out, and if those who have promised to join when finances permit will do so, that 50% will become better than half of those contacted.

State Secretary of Louisiana, Emile Greenleaf, reports a renewing of fanac in his territory and that he is in contact with two more Louisiana fans.

Well, now--with the thus-far fine success Southern Fandom Group has made, it behooves us all to do even better in the future. Let me have your reports, next time, in time for the TSF deadline. -Bob Farnham

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THE LOW DOWN by BOB FARNHAM

THE FANZINES ARE STARTING TO come in for reviewing and it has been years since the style, text and reproduction have been of such splendid quality.

THE MONDAY EVENING GHOST: Bob Jennings, 3819 Chambers Drive, Nashville 11, Tennessee. 15¢ per copy; 12/1.50. Contents are delightful entertainment: an article by Mike Deckinger, an ERB quiz by Rich Armstrong, a column and Burroughs index by Clay Hamlin and an instalment of Emile Greenleaf's long Pitteon report.

FAN-TOME #1: William Leslie Sample, 2735 Willingham Drive, Columbia, South Carolina. Trade, contribution, intelligent letters or 2/15¢. This is a poorly mimeced item with a nice poem on the second page which is spoiled by reference to the sexual act of pigeons. Editor Sample also places himself on the sucker list of those who have been taken in by the hoax letter on race recently published in Redd Boggs' Discord.

(more on page 6)

THE PATHETIC REVIEWER

By A. J. OFFUTT

A FEW MONTHS AGO WE REQUESTED OF the Friendly Editor of TSF different book reviews (among other things. The Other Things were controversial so they've been suburbanized). We asked for something other than (1) high school synopses, or (2) planned attack-to-show-the-reader-how-learned-the-reviewer-is-because-he-doesn't-like-anything. We had no idea of attempting to fill the order personally. We may be erudite enough, but we're not an expert reviewer. (Sort of the kind of guy who sits completely enthralled by such cinematics as Quo Vadis and Ben-Hur, even while sneering at their complete lack of research and resultant historical inaccuracies. The kind of guy who finishes a book no matter what.)

I don't know what I like; I just like Art. Or even art.

Twice now the Unfriendly Editor has suggested we make the attempt. The first time he was feeling compassionate after having ripped into our letter. The second time he was feeling guilty after our reminding him how he'd ripped into our letter.

But what the hell. Here is a start. Later we may become auspicious.

Of things recently read, we liked and recommend THE FANTASTIC UNIVERSE OMNIBUS (requiescat in pace) (Prentice Hall), LEVEL 7 (Mordecai Roshwald; McGraw Hill) and TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR (Ben Barzman; G. P. Putnam's Sons). We have all three in the SF Book Club editions; have no idea of either (1) original prices, or (2) possible paperback editions.

The latter two form an interesting juxtaposition. Both are this-could-happen-if novels. Both are art, but neither is Arty. Both are written by foreigners, neither of whom is known in strictly science fiction circles.

Mister Barzman is a Toronto- and Vancouver-an of Russian extraction, best known for such screenplays as Give Us This Day and Count Five and Die. Mister Roshwald is a Pole who came here in 1955 and is on the faculty of the University of Minnesota.

We're assuming this information is correct. It comes from the book jackets.

LEVEL 7 bears back-cover plaudits from J. B. Priestly and Dr. Linus Pauling. It proceeds from the dedication (a stark "To Dwight and Nikita") through an account (a stark diary) of the inception and operation of Level 7, the nethermost of seven underground bomb shelters. Level 7 contains the missile buttons, the anti-missile buttons, the button pushers, and a staff of people chosen to (1) minister to and complement the button pushers, and (2) to Carry On in the event everything on top goes to Hell.

The narrative is in the form of a diary kept by Officer X-127, a button pusher. The story, we believe, is intended as an allegory, just as are its several retold "fairy tales." It's graphic enough and horrid enough and frightening enough and stark enough (and we hope the gentlemen to whom it is dedicated read it). But the sudden transition from our world to the world one thousand feet below is too sudden and too simple. Pat. We won't criticize on this point; we can only assume Mr Roshwald knows it too, and wrote the account as an allegory.

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There are a couple of questionable technical points (Why would the otherwise self-sufficient world of Level 7 depend on water piped and filtered from the surface? Why would their atomic reactor be so sloppily constructed and shielded so that "something went wrong"?).

Why? Because the author needed both points to accentuate the whole ghastly business, and we won't complain. Read it as "straight" fiction or even "straight" science fiction and you'll be critical. Read it as a warning allegory and you'll enjoy it, as we did.

TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR takes the opposite tack. First, it's light and lilting and completely charming. The protagonist (first person singular again) is a very believable and empathetic fellow, just bumbling and blushing enough to be human. His language, his way of telling the story, and the dialogue are charming and captivating. More than occasionally we guffawed aloud at clever passages, phrases, and bits of dialogue.

Mr Barzman is interested in showing us not how horrible it will be, but how marvelous it could be. Or could have been. An accidental contact with a Sister Earth (never seen, only heard from, talked about, and conjectured about) sends a girl (twin sister of the hero's girl) here. That parenthetical "resemblance," by the way, forms another plot. Here we're interested not only in the main plot (will our peaceful sister earth share her high scientific-but-nonwarlike knowledge with us, or deny us for fear we will share with her our warlike nature?) but in the sub-plot: the hero's girl can't stand physical contact with him! ...and her twin can!

The novel proceeds to its only logical conclusion without one fist fight, one bomb, one drawn gun, etc etc. Occasionally we became somewhat confused and lost in the sometimes dreamlike flavor.

We haven't decided yet if this one is an allegory. But it's worth reading. Twice.

Both novels, in our eyes, surpass the heavy-handed british tediousness of ON THE BEACH and IN THE WET.

We feel, by the way, that we have full right to use the editorial we here. My wife, an ex-mystery fan, succumbed to my proselytizing three years ago and has joined Us. I love to read aloud and she loves to listen. We're somewhat choosy...I don't buy everything, and I don't read to her everything I buy. When I say "we" I mean we.

But...it's awkward and hard to work with and I never liked it anyhow and I always thought it was pretty silly of both editors and Queen Victoria. So...no more we.

-A. J. Offutt

THE LOW DOWN by Bob Farnham (continued from page 4)

POLHODE: Edmund Meskys, 723-A 45th Street, Brooklyn 20, New York. 15¢; 2/25¢. No subs exceeding 50¢. Published semi-annually. A splendid example of the work of an experienced mimeographer; near-flawless repro on white paper. It has but two bad flaws: two sneets of BLUE INK ON BLUE PAPER! GHU! Headaches yet! But if your eyeballs are young this won't bother you a bit. Contains an excellently written account of the publishing history of The Immortal Storm by Jerry Page and a fine comment on that book by James Taurasi; an article by Art Rapp that made me chuckle--he is so right!

-BF

RETORTS

A. J. OFFUTT

I think your suggestion of the word "fleegleglaff" is great! I have wired JWC, HLG, RAH, and others to begin work on its promotion at once. Campbell has already set van Dongen to work on a new cover design calling for the slow assimilation of fleegleglaff rather than the now passe "science fiction." The process will require six months..."fleegleglaff" will be written dimly behind "science fiction" and will become progressively bolder.

Since there is no generic identification on Galaxy's cover, H.L. is changing his last name to Fleegleglaff.

He thinks it sounds sexy.

And will sell more copy.

Fantasy Times is switching with its next issue to Fleegleglaff Fumes.

A controversy is raging presently between two fandom groups, the names of which shall not herewith be revealed, as to the proper abbreviation: flg or flgl. A small fringe group is pushing "sf" (speculative fleegleglaff).

A group of northern states are attempting to organize a Northern Fleegleglaff Fan Forum (NFFF). They want two bucks (it was one, until they realized NFFF is the Fattest Growing Fan Organization in the North). They are as yet uncertain whether to admit Kentuckians. The "Keep 'em Out" group reminds the "Keep 'em In"-ers that Kentucky is the birthplace of Jefferson Davis. The Ins point out that A. Lincoln came from the Border State.

A small break-off squad is attempting to prove that Hyannis Port is three miles from Lexington on Highway 25, the Road to The South (also North).

Watch the Fleegleglaff Fumes for further developments. For copies suitable for framing, write James V. Fleegasi or his New York agent, H. L. Fleegleglaff.

Meanwhile, organized fandom in Kentucky addresses itself to more serious problems, urging that all fan mail, class rings, gold dental fillings, old Pi Kap pins, etc. etc. be sent to the group's spokesman, Morris Kenniston, 233 Savoy Road, Lexington.

All contributions will be forwarded promptly to Fort Knox, which is dam' near out.

-233 Savoy Road, Lexington, Kentucky

Now, this is the sort of campaign that makes sense!

BOB LICHTMAN

Got the Southern Fan #3 the other day. This thing is beginning to sound like a parody of the NSF's early development. If I trusted the PO, I'd drop you my copy of Bonfire 4 (the mag that preceded TNFF) and let you see. I don't know what, if anything, you expect to accomplish. Looking over the membership list, I don't see the names of many publishing southron fans (Eney, Rapp and Erlenwein, for three) and how're you going to run an apa like that? As for the expansion ballot I'd vote yes if I was a member, but this is ridiculous. Why not include Southern California, too, while you're at it? In short, I sort of hate to see so much energy funneled into something that doesn't particularly merit it. You

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and Page could do so much more by publishing a good fanzine, like the irregular Si-Fan, frequently. I suppose this sounds like destructive criticism, but it isn't really. Just pointing out a few facts.

Please keep me on the TSF list, though; I want to see what comes next.

-6137 S. Croft Avenue, Los Angeles 56, California

Fandom seems to follow schizoid cycles of enthusiasm and lethargy. This seems to cause all large-scale organizations to follow similar lines of development. With that rationalization to fall back on, our resemblance to early NSF doesn't worry me at all (says he shudderingly). #I've said it before: we're going to try to introduce newcomers to the apa and not just depend on the oldtimers. Furthermore, 15 of our 30 members are involved in some sort of pubbing. How many do you want? #TSF isn't interfering with Si-Fan to any important extent. TSF is a breeze.

DOREEN ERLLENWEIN

At long last! Some more information about The Southern Fandom Group. I was sure y'all had folded I hadn't heard from anyone in so long. Then the first thing I read is a few cutting remarks about people not answering you. FOR SHAME! The last I heard was from Bob and he said that I should receive the 1st issue of the Southern Fan any day. This was way beck in May.

...Norm Metcalf says I'm an active member of an apa. Could it be that I've been too active? Sending out spells to ward off Hurricanes, Frosts, Loose Missiles from the Cape and little things like that there. Could it be that I've also diverted fanzines? If so, I might be able to start a thriving business. There must be some fan somewhere who could use this ability.

I can't really say that I blame you for getting mad about not hearing from your members. I guess I'm a much better 'not-member' than I am a member. There seems to be something about being a member that tends to make one relax.

Question: Are you going for the whole south? or just the south that fought the Civil War? Hey! We could always refight that little ole war. I still say that if we take Ft. Knox with us this time usin's will win.

Trouble is, as much as I'd like to help and all that sort of Jazz, I'm much too new to fandom to do anything. ...Altho this may mean Death--I'd like to suggest Norm Metcalf for the job of OE. Just for the sheer pleasure he'll have bugging the clerks at the base PO. Gee, just think of that!

No idea about southern fandom should be able to strike Norm's heart (leathery or not). Norm just isn't a southern fan. He's a west coast fan. Ergo--he doesn't think like a southerner. That's why he'd make a good OE. He wouldn't be lazy like the rest of us southerners.

It would seem that since there are so few fans in Florida we'd do something about getting together, at least once. Who knows what I'll be able to do, what with Christmas holidays and my knowledge of witchcraft. Why, I might even let you know what happens--if the others aren't able.

Good luck on your response this time. I've tried to do my part. But then, I guess I really am interested.

-4116 Watrous Avenue, Tampa 9, Florida

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Well, we can't be perfect all the time. Sorry. #What's with this business of terming us "southern fans," "west coast fans," and the ilk? I always thought we were all just plain old fans. So I'm naive. I'll go along with Norm as OE. Let's draft him.

LARRY G. MOORE

Good idea, that manuscript buro, but where's the money coming from? I'm not a tightwad, mind you, but I like to be safe.

Dunno 'bout Bob Lichtman's membership plan.

The trading post for used zines just might work, but I doubt it.

B. J. Plott has a good idea for the southern fans who move to the north.

Say, why doesn't someone make a Fandom Dictionary or something of that sort for us new fans? You know, with something about the clubs which have been organized and meanings of words such as con, apa, 'zine, etc.

-3529 James Avenue, Fort Worth 10, Texas

What money? Presumably anyone who submits a manuscript for treatment will be considerate enough to include a stamped envelope for return. The only other cost I can think of will be for paper and that's hardly worth worrying about. #Dunno-- "doubt it"--What's this? Negative Attitude Month? #Your last paragraph describes Fancyclopedia fairly well. Anybody know if copies are still available? An up to date version or a dictionary might make an interesting SFG project, at that.

FREDERICK NORWOOD

With states to be admitted you have to stop somewhere or you might as well forget the Southern and just be another fan group. In fact the only reason for the localizing is so that the fans can see each other personally more often. One vote for the convention idea being given top priority. Also I hope a few sooner and informal get-togethers can be gotten up just by nearby fans visiting one of their number at the same time.

As for people who move out of the area. I vote that they be allowed to keep their membership as long as they pay their dues but if they ever get out, it be for good. This will keep someone from having to stop a project in the middle or break off one of the nice arguments I'm looking forward to in the letter column.

The title of that movie, A.J., was "The Angry Red Planet," and the plot was admittedly stale, the acting was fair and the special effects were remarkably original, at least the monster was constructed with more imagination than a mere blowup of an insect. And the plants, except the live one which was fakey, were interesting, while they are usually ignored. I get the feeling that you went to that movie with the intention of disliking it and didn't give the special effects man a fair chance.

For the SFG emblem how about the constellation Southern Cross with crossed rockets, or an outline of the southern coastline forming the profile of a beanie faaaaaan, like with Florida as the nose. Or you could have a stars and bars with the stars in a big dipper shape instead of the usual cross.

Natural this lettercol needs a fight to get it going so I will have

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to say something controversial even if it's out of context.

The final solution to the integration problem will not occur until we have contacted aliens and can be prejudiced against them. Man needs someone to look down on. If we do manage to solve the integration problem by force and forgetfulness over a period of generations, we will go back to religious prejudice unless we have a war to channel our hate towards the Commies. Therefore it would be proper for the government to keep the news of alien contact a secret until we found some aliens worthy of our hate. Then the previous aliens would step in on our side and it would be possible to have first contact without war --or at least a war in which we were able to pick our opponents.

One other alien contact problem this reminds me of...if the first aliens we contact are humanoid, and black. This would make the only explanation I can think of why the flying saucers might exist and still hang around here without landing. Has anyone ever written a story along these lines? If not, why not make that a fitting round robin for the first SFG RR?

-3 Ames Street, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

No, the reason we're localized is that the south needs some kind of organization to encourage all sorts of activity. It's one way to become acquainted, of course, and it should make conventions possible. Local get-togethers would be a good idea, and TSF is a good place for announcements, reports and the like. But it will take some individual initiative. Just so nobody tries visiting me. #The Southern Cross is rather too southern for us. It's just visible from the southern tip of Florida. #I'm inclined to the more optimistic view that the answer to racial prejudice is merely a matter of education. The people of the south have been subjected to a continuous barrage of hate propaganda for nearly a century. The effects of all this propaganda can't be shrugged off. And merely transferring all this hate and fear to another object is no solution. Some anti-hate propaganda wouldn't hurt. #I can think of several reasons why the saucer-folk haven't landed. Would you land on a savage, brawling planet like Earth? #Arthur C. Clarke's Childhood's End is partly based on a similar idea, but not quite the same. Hmmm...a round robin story?

LOUBEL WOOD

There is a questionnaire making the rounds which has roused my own curiosity quite a bit. Questions like these: Would you be afraid of a Space Man? What would you do if you met a Space Man?

In these personal terms, it is quite fascinating. I have always been open-minded about Flying Saucers as possible space ships from another Planet. I have thought it would be a government problem if Space People did materialize and that some official department would handle the introductions and protocol.

Now I wonder! Could the great majority of people who do not read SF nor think in terms of fantastic time and space and alien people from other worlds meet a possible space contact as well as the Fans who are so familiar with the idea? Being a longtime Fan myself, I like to think that the Fans are better prepared to meet such a situation than the average person who is not educated to such a possibility. Who would be the most surprised? Who would panic? Are the Fans "true

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believers" or is SF merely a pastime to you? What would you do if you met a Space Man? Would you like to be on a Committee to meet Space People? Are you ready for Space People to contact us?

Speculative fiction? Oh, no! Speculative science, sure. (Science speculated three years ago we would get into space by now.) All fiction can be said to be speculative, theoretical. What is any novel except speculation on what might be, will be, won't be, or has been? It might as well be called fiction-fiction. Science preceding fiction puts it in the classified bracket of pertaining to scientific discovery or scientific development. Just exactly the general theme of SF. And, I think it is a dignified term, you bet. As dignified as the 9 to 5ers after 6 o'clock.

Why don't somebody write Al Andrews a letter?

Harry Thomas, I would have sent you a copy of my latest Woodpile but my reproducer broke down and I had to eke out with carbon which shortened the issue muchly. Anyway, it was just verse. And the way most Fans don't like verse, is exceedingly worse than the charming few, who do.

Bob Farnham, too bad you spilt your Java, Son. If you get hungry, I suppose you will chew on your pants. Hope it had cream and sugar in it.

Norm Metcalf, of course we are the fastest growing Fan Club in the South. What competition do we have, you ask. What COMPETITION? Listen, Son, do you realize there is not a living breathing thing on this whole Earth that don't have competition? Not a human being, nor an organization, nor a horse, nor a turkey buzzard. There's not even a little old blade of grass that don't have to wear itself out shoving up 'twixt two-three other little old blades. Why, just look around you and you will see competition staring you in the face from the north, the east, the west and the South. Especially the South. What can you get for \$2 besides TSF, you ask. What else can you get with \$2 that will last a whole year? A dog license? You can't get SEP. You can't get Fantasy and SF. You can't get Analcg. (But please don't secede. Things may get worse.)

Bob Lichtman, are those people humanoids who will pay \$5 for fanzines?

Will somebody--all the bodies--please send Jerry Burge an idea for an emblem? YOU might be da WINNAH!!!!
-Star Route, DeFuniak Springs, Florida

I've been ready for the "Space People" for years. But are they ready for us? Before I could answer those questions, though, I'd have to ask a few of my own. Like, which space people? Last December, a star cloud out toward the rim of the Galaxy was found to measure an age of about 26 thousand million years. Even allowing for an error of 50%, this means the universe must be at least 13 thousand million years old, and probably more than 30. In all that time enough Folk must have taken to space to fill the Cosmos clear to the rafters. Must be quite a jam, what with Zoromes, Atlans, Ehhereans, Flatwood Monsters, Vitons, Voltans and countless others of varying and sometimes variable shapes, colors and sizes cluttering up the place. I'd like to meet some of them, but let's not issue any blanket commitments. #So far Loubel Wood has sent me more emblems than all the other SFG members put together. We'd like to hear from some of you other folk if it isn't asking too much.

RETORTS

NORM METCALF

TSF #3 was received yesterday and evokes some comment today. The famous cortical-thalamus pause, you know.

"Director's Report" does point up the fact that Al is aware of the lethargy prevalent in the south and is attempting to do something about it. However, his attitude smacks of 'let's keep those damyankees out of here' and 'we're southerners, therefore we're better than anybody and therefore deserve to have a functioning sf fandom group.' Let's face it, if nobody is interested enough to serve then it deserves to fail. At which point you interject, "Why doesn't he stop complaining and do something?" Well, friends, I've got excuses, oodles of them.

Perhaps the basic fault here is that clubs such as the N3F and the SFG which operate by mail as distinct from purely local clubs which are a different kettle of fish entirely have very little to do that cannot be done better by individuals. Besides which most fan are basically individualistic--and you've got a knotty problem on your hands.

I don't know how familiar you are with the history of the N3F but apparently Andrews is sufficiently aware of some of its peculiar problems to steer the SFG around them. The N3F is a model to be avoided and I congratulate Al on doing so.

Offhand I can think of two prime areas where a club can do something an individual cannot: (1) offer the member benefits unobtainable elsewhere and (2) pool finances so that something which is beyond the wallet of the average fan can be successfully carried out.

Farnham: It's quite amusing to see you mentioning Dallas as a hotbed of fanac. Dallas is a synonym for procrastination and goofing-off in fandom.

If you had something more in mind than a checklist you should have said so. A good index to each year's output would be worthwhile.

Page: This is slightly out of place here but in your article on the SFG in TNFF you cited New Frontiers as one of the only two good southern fmz prior to early '60. This strikes me as so much wishful thinking for the following reasons: (1) NF is not a southern fmz; it's published in northern California, and (2) just because the editor is serving in the south doesn't make the fmz southern (besides which I wasn't sent to Tyndall until Feb '60). For that matter I don't consider any of my fmz to be southern. I'm not a legal resident of the south and my presence here is strictly involuntary.

Lichtman's idea of subscribing members for the SFGA sounds ok with a couple of reservations. The chief of these is to make sure that SFG members can't become subscribing members, for then it would be simpler to sub rather than pub. The second hinges on letting non-SFG members pub under some sort of penalty. If something could be worked out that would let them pub without destroying the aim of the SFG all the better.

Page: Your ideas on running a mss bureau sound more like a successful professional agent's role than the N3F variety. If you can find someone with the time and energy to do all the work more power to you and him.

-Box 1262, Tyndall AFB, Florida

RETORTS

Al's attitude strikes me more like: "We've got a lot of active or potentially active fans here in the south who aren't doing anything--let's get on the ball!" Dunno how you read that other stuff into his words. #Everything done in SFG will have to be done by individuals. Our purpose is not to do things, but to encourage the doing of things by southern fans. #Why is everybody picking on N3F? #Your "two prime areas" are far from minor considerations. (1) can lead to things like our proposed mss bureau and holding world-cons in Dalton; (2) to things like TSF and the publishing of books. Let's do 'em all. #Nothing is ever permanent. Dallas certainly seems to be perking up lately. #Never occurred to me that anyone would want to join an apa without publishing something. We were planning to let SFG members who aren't able to publish take some part in the apa. Should we drop the idea?

RON HAYDOCK

From what I was able to gather from the OO, SFG is starting to go places in fandom. This is, of course, well and good; but what's the trouble with the members? No response out of them? Are they content to sit back and let another do all the work? With only 30 members now, it seems ridiculous to me that they aren't actively participating!

Yes, I agree with Bob Lichtman about having two levels of membership--that way he and I could get in, although \$5 per year does seem a bit too much. However, that is neither here nor there. In all fairness, I'd say that Outsiders would be passive members in your club, whereas the southern fans would be the active members, thus retaining your title of SOUTHERN FANDOM GROUP.

Do you or Jerry Page feel that you are qualified to offer suggestions to newcomers to writing or pubbing through the use of your manuscript bureau? I take it this is a rather ticklish question. Are you, again, qualified to tell contributors what's wrong with his (her) story and then tell them how to rewrite it?

If for some reason you don't go through with the idea of admitting Outsiders to SFG, I have to state here that I lived in Memphis for two months about three years ago. Does this qualify me to join as a Dearly Departed Southern Fan?

With only 28 members, an apa seems like it would be too soon. Much too soon. Unless, of course, most of the 28 are interested in it. However, from time to time newcomers will drift in and get the urge --slowly but surely the apa will grow. If I was behind the thing, I'd make a challenging statement to the effect that all apa members must have six pages every half year, but only so many of those pages could be devoted to mailing comments. Say, 50%. That way your apa wouldn't just grow into a mailing comment organization.

A fan group publishing their own books sounds wild, man! Of course, the selection of material would have to be handled very delicately!
-607 E. Washington, Santa Ana, California

The qualifications necessary for our mss bureau, I think, are an ability to write coherently and some familiarity with the fanzine field. I think a number of SFG members meet those requirements. We don't intend to tell anybody how to rewrite his work, at least in any detailed manner. Instead, we will merely

RETORTS & STUFF

try to point out weaknesses, if any, and make any necessary suggestions for improvement. This is (as you pointed out in a later letter) very much the sort of relationship which should exist between a good editor and his writers. #I like your idea of limiting the mailing comments. The mailing comment portions of the apazines I've seen were usually dull and pointless. Also, anything which will tend to keep us from becoming too tightly-knit and self-centered will be a Good Thing.

We also have letters from Stan Woolston and Paul Shingleton which I'd like to include, but I reckon they'll have to wait til next issue. Stan Woolston has some excellent advice about organization.

And if you notice improvement in our appearance this issue, some of the credit goes to Paul Shingleton who pointed out that we could use film with these cheap stencils. Dunno now it'll turn out on paper, but the stencils look great!

Unless you're the kind of character who turns to this page first (and I always hide the editorial way back here to discourage that sort of thing), you will already have noticed that this issue is somewhat different. Harry Thomas' report is missing, for one thing. This is due to some sort of mixup, I think, caused by Harry's moving back and forth during the holidays. Harry has started his series on the History of Southern Fandom, and he'll be back next issue with an article and a report.

We've started a couple of new features. Andy Offutt, as you've seen, has succumbed to editorial blandishments and submitted a different book review. He's expressed willingness to continue these if you like

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STUFF

'em. Bob Farnham's fanzine reviews may be regarded as filler items. They're not intended as serious dissections, but more as recognition.

Jerry Page has resigned his post as Associate Editor. This won't have any noticeable effect on TSF, since he'll continue to do as much work as always. Jerry has the sticky part of running the mag off on his mimeo, and he also performs noble service in filling up pages I leave blank. He resigned his post because he feels he'd rather be an active member than an officer. (How's that again?)

Ann Chamberlain can supply rubber stamps with SOUTHERN FANDOM GROUP along with your name and address for \$4.40--I think; better check with her on the price. Less, anyway, than you'd pay ordinarily.

That's Ann Chamberlain, 2440 W Pico, Los Angeles 6, California.

Now, does anybody know any fans residing in Maryland, Missouri, Delaware, Oklahoma or D.C.? We can still use names of fans in our other states, too. Think we've missed somebody.

Okay, so I'll pipe down now and let Active Member Jerry Page gab a while about the proposed Manuscript Bureau.

-Jerry Burge

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GABBLE

Most of the reaction to my proposal for an SFG manuscript buro has been favorable, although a few people seemed to have felt it looked a little too good to work. In a way, I agree, but I think it can be practical with a little effort and a little co-operation on the part of the participants. Jerry Burge and I have decided to give it a trial run. We haven't taken this formally before the SFG, because it isn't going to cost SFG a cent; we can always write our replies on the back of the letter describing the material sent us. If it works, then the SFG may have it--Jerry Burge and I will still handle it, depending on circumstances, at least for a while--and if it doesn't work, we at least have seen a noble experiment tried.

The way it will have to operate is fairly simple. If you have written something which you would like to have published, send it to us. Please enclose a stamped return addressed envelope and for safety's sake, a letter listing the items, even if you send in just one thing, and the number of pages. It would also be wise to put your name at the top of each page on manuscripts of more than one page in length, and your name and address on the title page of each item, or if you send items of one page length.

We of course assume no responsibility to guarantee the safety of your manuscript. We will merely exercise the greatest care we can. I don't know how long it will take us to appraise an item, but if more than two weeks elapse, drop us a card. This will either punch us up, if we've been delinquent, or we'll let you know if we haven't received the item. It's best to keep a carbon copy of manuscripts.

Jerry Burge's qualifications are clearly stamped all over this zine. I think it is fairly obvious that he can write; and his writing is receiving more plaudits than anything else (Excepting only his artwork) in Si-Fan. I think the two of us can argue out the faults and merits of most manuscripts. As for art and poetry, well, there is not very much you can say about art and poetry. Jerry Burge is a good artist, but even he is reluctant to take on the task of criticising a drawing. For the most part on such items we will merely make a suggestion as to where the item might be submitted. And probably we will give our opinion. On prose, however, I think we'll be able to give a more solid criticism.

Of course, it is understood that the writer is the ultimate source of his merits and no amount of criticism and comment, however good, will make the average person

into a writer of the esthetic stature of James Branch Cabell or the popularity of Erle Stanley Gardner. The whole point of this is to help you write more publishable stuff and to tell you where it could be sent.

Despite the fact that we are fairly familiar with most of the fanzines, we can't guarantee that a given item, even if well done, will be accepted. My own fanzine, Si-Fan, has a backlog which surely will not be used up for several issues; and I can't accept any fiction, simply because I have three unpublished fiction items. Likewise, I am unable to use drawings unless they illustrate articles I am going to publish; I have too much random artwork. Yandro has enough material to publish on a monthly schedule for the next year without worry. Others might have similar problems. However we intend to give the best help in this direction we can.

For the reasons I just gave, editors who want material can help us out by outlining their wants. Since our desire is to improve the quality of material as well as to have it published, you can count on us to try to get you the best available. If you need something desperately, send us a card and maybe we can help you get in touch with someone to produce it for you.

O.k., now, send your material (And return envelopes) to Jerry Burge, 1707 Piper Circle, SE, Atlanta 16, Ga. Mark MSS buro on the envelope in a corner. Unless the envelope is marked thusly we cannot guarantee that it will receive mss buro service.

One more thing: A number of faneds might be worried about whether or not Jerry Burge and I will use the service to cull the best material for our fanzines. Therefore, I will promise that no material submitted to the buro will be used for Si-Fan, however good; nor will Jerry Burge take advantage of the position. However, this does not mean that we won't request that members who submit material to the buro submit something to our zines. After all, this service should benefit everybody.

--Jerry Page

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