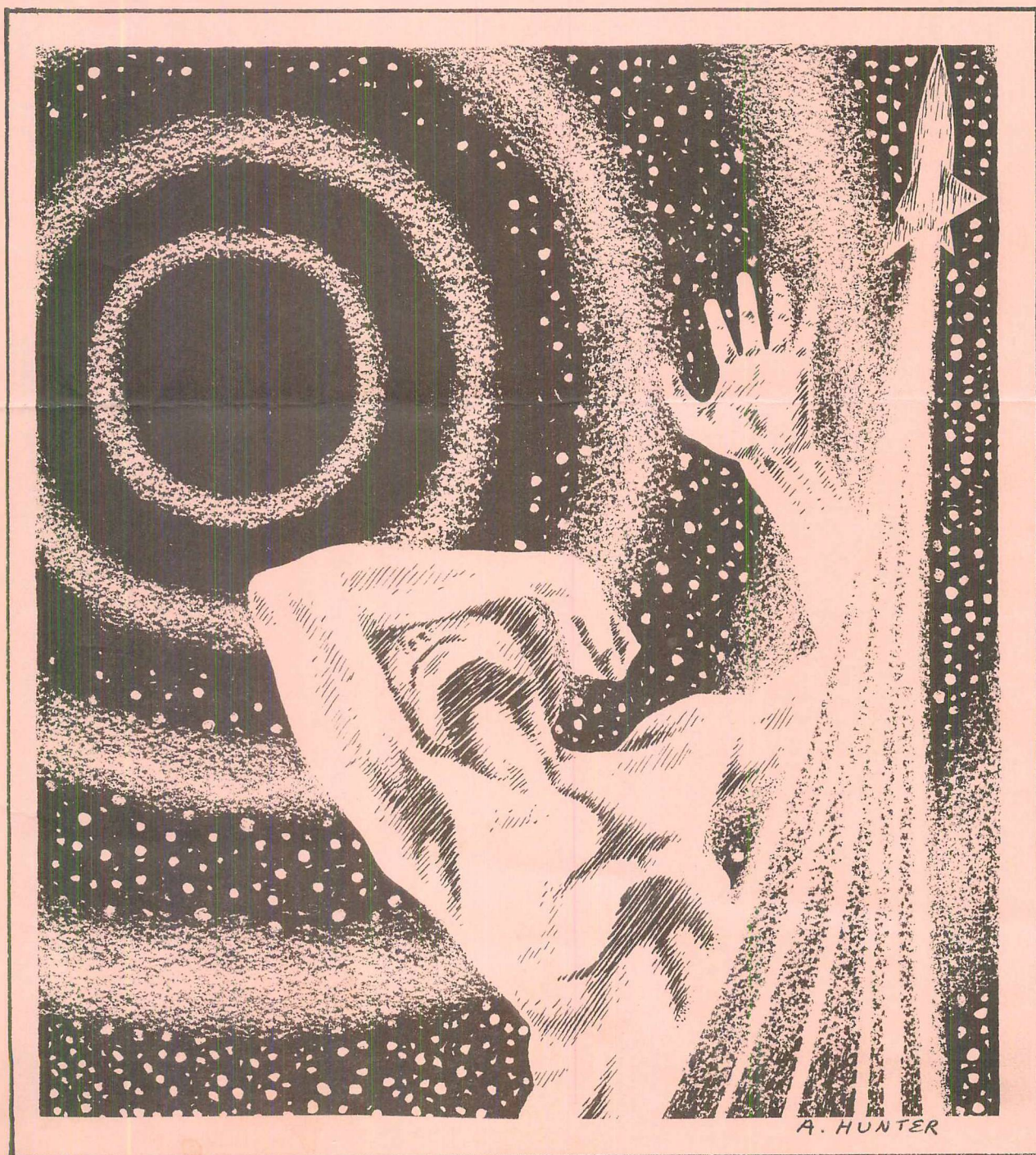


TIGHT BEAM

Published by the National Fantasy Fan Federation

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A. HUNTER

This issue of TIGHTBEAM (#20) is published by the National Fantasy Fan Federation and is edited and printed by Lee Riddle, at 144 Elkton Road, Newark, Delaware. Deadline for the next issue is August 25th, and letters should be sent to the next editor, who is the author of the first letter (below) in this issue:

G. M. CARR, 5319 BALLARD AVENUE N. W., SEATTLE 7, WASHINGTON

I see a proposal in TNFF that a proposed Amendment to the Constitution is to be put up for the membership for vote. I'd like to see a lot of discussion on this before we vote on it. The proposal is "Married couples may join the NFFF by paying a single set of dues. Such a dual membership will receive only one copy of any club publication, but both may vote and hold elective office as individuals."

In my opinion this proposal would do a lot more harm to N3F than it would do good to married couples. In the first place, there are relatively few married couples in fandom -- and especially in N3F -- where both were bonafide fans before they married each other. In fact, in checking over the Roster, I can see only 4 (or 5 if we count married and divorced) couples whose spouse is also a fan. The majority of marriages in fandom are to non-fans or fringe fans -- whose interest in fandom is mostly out of a desire to share their spouse's fanning.

I point this out to show that this proposed Amendment does not cover a real need. It would be no hardship on these few married couples if both of them wanted to take an active part in N3F and therefore had to join individually instead of jointly. In fact, of all these 4 fannish married couples, one couple -- the Rapps -- has been interested enough to do so in order to hold office individually.

On the other hand, by passing this Amendment, there would be a hardship on single members -- they would be penalized a vote by not being married. Because there would be absolutely nothing to stop every married fan from filing a "join" membership and voting twice in every election -- once for himself and once for the spouse. Even where the other partner to the marriage did evince a slight interest in N3F, there would be a topheavy voting imbalance; and in cases where they couldn't care less -- as in the case of my husband -- it would be just plain cheating. Oh, perfectly legal, of course, but taking a sneaky advantage just the same.

Furthermore, this padding of the membership roster would have a bad effect on the morale of the rest of the members. By bringing in fringe fans and spouses totally uninterested in anything about fandom except their own husband or wife's part of it, the quality of the participation will be changed. I saw what happened in other groups when this happened, and in every case the stf went out the window when the element of kaffeclatch entered in....Just when N3F is beginning to become a part of general fandom and to participate in more stfish activities, it would be a pity to thrust it back into the gossip-column type of activity that results from a club that is top-heavy with non-fans.

In short, I believe this is a very unsound suggestion and I urge that the membership discuss every phase of the proposal thoroughly before they vote.

DEADLINE FOR TIGHTBEAM #21

IS AUGUST 25 -----

Send your letters to:

G. M. Carr

5319 Ballard Avenue, N.W.

Seattle, 7, Washington

DONALD FRANSON, 6543 BABCOCK AVE., NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

Most of the points I made in my last letter have been made by others, but I wish to state also that I am opposed to two-terms for elected officials of the N3F. Few fans know exactly what they will be doing two hence years, how much spare time they will have, so few will go out on this limb and run for a two-year term. One-year terms are also better for the membership, a yearly election being the best check on any officer. Let's keep it that way.

Reading the occasional mathematical discussion in TIGHTBEAM, complete with formulas, I feel like the inkeeper in H. G. Well's "Invisible Man," who said, poring over the scientist's notebooks: "Hex, little two up in the air, cross and a fiddle-de-dee...what a one he was for intellect...wonderful secrets! Once I get the haul of them...."

In previous TIGHTBEAMS, I tried to make my letters long to make up for the lack of comment from others. Now that the trend is the other way, I'll cut this short.

JANIE LAMB, ROUTE 1, Box 364, HEISKELL, TENN.

Bob Farnham wishes to inform his friends he is not able to answer their letters. Bob is a very sick man, cancer of both legs. He cannot sit up to type and his hands shake too much for him to write. He says tell everyone he appreciates all the cards and letters he gets, he can read, and loves to do so. So, you out there, don't forget to write Bob. His address is: 506 Second Avenue, Dalton, Georgia.

JEFF RENNER, 301 EAST 22nd AVENUE, BELLEVUE, NEBRASKA

In TIGHTBEAM #19, Ed Meskys said that he "...just can't see considering CANTICLE in any way sacrilegious." Neither can I. A CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ cannot be in any way sacrilegious because in September of 1960 it was published in a Catholic Digest edition. This shows not only that the Roman Catholic Church does not regard CANTICLE as sacrilegious, but that She approves of it, and recommends it as good reading material.

It seems to me that stories dealing with theology in science-fiction are very popular with fans, judging by the fact that Hugo's were won by Clarke's "The Star"; Blish's A CASE OF CONSCIENCE; Miller's CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ, and, I would add, Heinlein's STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND.

DICK HINMAN, 46 WILDWOOD ROAD, ANDOVER, MASS.

In conjunction with Al Lewi's heroes list, I'd like to draw up a list of sf villains. Just send to me ten of what you think are the meanest, rottenest villains that have appeared in sf (and fantasy) stories. BEMs and such evil monsters will be considered as villains. I hope I get more response than the 9 Al Lewis got, because I haven't got the LASFS to back me up. Please send in your opinion. Thank you.

AL ANDRIUSKEVICIUS, 2730 BURNSIDE ST., DETROIT 12, MICHIGAN

This letter is intended as my reply to some of the comments made in TB #19.

Dave Hulan: Reading TB #19 I was particularly interested in Dr. Ladonko's letter as I myself hold an interest in psi, but your comments on his letter were the inspiration for this letter, so for what they're worth, here are my reactions.

You say, and I quote "I am a skeptic myself- I want to be shown psi in action before spending time on it...". I feel this is rather a strange attitude for a person without apparent hesitation professes a belief in an invisible, omniscient, superior being. Or do you? Have you ever seen "God"? Has he ever demonstrated his existence to you? Has anyone ever offered scientific evidence regarding "God's existence?" If your answer to these is No, then how can you as a skeptic justify the belief in such a being? As a true skeptic you should be wary of such a belief based on no apparent scientific evidence...I guess you'd argue that a belief in "God" is a matter of faith and nothing else, but if then you can have faith in the existence of God, why can't you have the same faith in psi without demanding proof that it "works" before committing yourself to saying "Yes, I believe in psi". Surely it's far more easier to say "Yes, I believe in psi" than "Yes, I believe in God"? Since you claim to be a skeptic you should be the one who would be interested in either dispelling your skepticism and accepting psi or coming up with concrete evidence to support your position of "I've got to see it to believe it". How about it? And just to dispell any doubts in anyone's mind about my personal convictions, I'm a Roman Catholic, any questions?

As for practical application, this is the worst excuse yet. What's practical applications go to do with it? Not everything has a practical application, some things are done just for the sheer sake of gaining knowledge or for the pure enjoyment of it. How many stf books have you read that have a practical application? Did you join the N3F for its practical applications? I sure didn't and I'm pretty sure you didn't either. So why use "Practicallity" for making "Value Judgements" when it doesn't apply?

James McLean: In your letter you use the terms "pragmatic knowledge" and "inductive logic", frankly I'm a little puzzled as to what you mean by these terms.

Let's take "pragmatic knowledge" first. Now when you use the term "pragmatic" are you referring to Pragmatism as set down by Charles Sanders Peirce or are you referring to it in the sense that William James uses the term? If it is the latter sense that William James uses it, then I suggest you rephrase your terms and call it "practical knowledge" not "pragmatic." James is not a Pragmatist, he is a Practicallist, there is a vast world of difference between the two terms. The doctrine of Pragmatism, first enunciated by Charles S. Peirce, sets down the conditions to be met by languages when used to define problems and make assertions in order that they be meaningful or significant. It is not a theory concerning reality, morals, or esthetics although one may hold that they are implied. It does not make the criterion of "truth" or "meaning" either agreement, action, or satisfaction. James merely plagiarized the term Pragmatism and applied it to his own particular brand of philosophy. James's ideas of Pragmatism were to interpret its respective practical consequences. James' view of Pragmatism and Peirce's are not interchangeable and should not be used as such. Therefore, I suggest you redefine just what you mean by "pragmatic knowledge."

And as for "inductive Logic", never heard of it, what is it? Logic is deductive, not inductive. Now straightforward inductive logic is nice except that "there ain't no such animal" and if an "induction" is ever used, it is not an induction at all, but rather a disguised deduction (in which the conclusions are implicitly contained in the premises". While if it is a genuine induction, it cannot yield conclusions with necessity or certainty.

If you still insist that logic is inductive, then like Dave Hulan and psi, I must demand proof before I will believe it.

DEADLINE FOR TIGHTBEAM #21 IS AUGUST 25th. SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

G. M. Carr, 5319 Ballard Avenue N.W., Seattle 7, Washington

JIM HARKNESS, 112 WEST HARDING, GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI

I'd like to answer David Kirk Patrick's letter, published in the last ish of TB, if I may. "Getting to the pubber himself. Can he find material if he wants it? Can he write to Joe Blow and get any answer? Of course not."

Ahh, come awwnnn! The pubber himself? Okay. I'm a "pubber", ed of STRANGER THAN FACT, a genzine. When I first began trying to get a manuscript, I know fact none about fanzines. So I worked at finding out. I wrote letters to people whose names appeared frequently in prozines, soliciting contributions. Many agreed--among them, Bob Adolfsen, Chuck Morris (whom SPACESHIP fans may recognize) and A. K. Davis--and all answered. I have found no scarcity of articles, though I had no initial information as to fanzine editing.

Sure, you're gointo find some people who won't answer your letter; some people don't even read their mail. But the great majority of fans are in fandom for just that--participation. If you want to publish, or to be published, you're gonna' have to get out and work for it. Nobody is going to do it for you. You get out of fandom exactly what you put in; no more and no less. It won't do a damn but of good to write one leter and cry because you didn't get an answer. You'll just get a runny nose, and tempt somebody to bloody it.

And a comment to you, Dave. You print almost exclusively fact articles 'cause fan fiction is so bad. Well, why the hell do you think it is bad? Nobody prints it! Sure, you'll have a period of some pretty ridiculous fanzines, but after the fiction writers get some practice and other people's comments, it'll pick up. How would you like an exclusively-fact prozine? Well, if no new authors are trained for writing fiction, what do you think we're headed for?

You'all can't make a prozine without writing fiction. Or a good fanzine!

RICHARD C. FINCH, 13119 E. CHESTNUT, WHITTER, CALIFORNIA

Commentary on the bundling of fanzines for mailing. The tying of zines into packages of 10 refers to a minimum amount, which can go from 10 zines up to, I believe, 10 pounds of zines if addressed directly to a city (Whitter direct) or a zone number (Long Beach 8). Another way around this is if less than 10 zines of TNFFs are to be mailed to one city. Let's say for Whitter, 9 to Long Beach, 9 to L.A., 26 etc. 27 in a bundle this way for California mixed. Any other state can receive mailings in the same way. One thing--in any kind of bulk mailings, the mail takes a terrific beating. The first item lost is the mailing label. This usually, but not always, stays in the bag, or the address label with 5 others is put in a pigeonhole labeled dis. with four items without labels (or vice versa). The one with no label is either returned (if requested) or thrown away. Either that or it was lost or destroyed accidentally along the way. Take a train fire in which on two separate occasions letters to my address were burned (one from Art Hayes, unreadable). Or a clerk (sub-sub clerk) sends it to Framstead, nowhere, and it is delivered to a house there where a woman takes one look (Fantasy---eek!) and it's burned immediately! Of course now, a numbering system is also going to be brought into existence. This, I guess, is in case of loss of address labels.

I don't believe a petition is necessary to give thanks to any officer of the club who has been doing a good job in the post held. However, I do believe the members should voice in print their thanks to Janie Lamb for a post which she has capably filled, at least since I've been in N3F (Dec. 59) and probably longer. If any further thanks is necessary, and the whole membership can decide if this is personal--letters to the Directorate, award a life membership. Enough said.

MARIJANE JOHNSON, N5525 LEDGERWOOD ST., SPOKANE 23, WASHINGTON

If I'm violating every rule for a letter to TB, blame it partly on Dave Locke--hope his shoulders are broad--but mostly on the fact that I've gotten so far afield from writing to zines that I've forgotten the proper way to do it. Anyway, Dave suggested a letter here--it would sort of let a lot of you know that I am still alive and kicking. VERY much so and the VERY regrettable fact is that over the period of the last year or so, and mostly the last few months, I've just had to cut out, or down drastically, on most of my corresponding. Certainly NOT due to any undue health problems on my part, in fact I'm feeling very good, for the shape I'm in, that is, and have so many things to do that time just doesn't stretch enough.

So, as a lot of new members have come along since my W/C days, that I just haven't met and become acquainted with, and as my "active" days in N3F just seem to have reached the "point of no return", for many reasons, I'll more or less aim this at those of you that I have corresponded with, and that know me for my situation. Life in a nursing home has been good, bad, and indifferent, so to speak. After two years, I feel very much at home here and as long as I require such care I'm happy and content, knowing it's by far the nicest place in Spokane, and that my folks are out from under the strain of my care. Actually, I find it more of an independent life for me, in spite of being dependent for much of what I do. There are those here that ARE here for just that, so my activities are wider than they have been for years. Thus, N3F, and fans, were something that came along some six years ago when I needed a boost, which gave me that, and MUCH more, so having to cut down has kind of fit in with the fact that I'm just not as much of a faaan type as so many have figured me to be. But, the whole thing has been something very wonderful for me in a lot of ways, meeting a lot of you by mail, getting to meet quite a few in person, and ESPECIALLY the way it was made possible for me to attend Seacon. THAT, I'll sure NEVER forget, and although I could never be a real gone con attendee, I'm sure glad I got that one in. It wouldn't do to even try to put it all into words, or to sort out all who made it possible, but I'm sure that those of you who know me, for the somewhat wacky character I am, can read between the lines here and sort out what I'm trying to say.

This attempt to say SOMETHING doesn't mean I'm entirely leaving the fold, far from it, my dues will be coming in at the right time and I plan to keep up the birthday card sending for as long as I can handle it, but Dave's suggestion of a letter to TB to show I am still around seemed like a good idea. So, at least this contacts an awful lot that I've just had to drop, which I have hated, and I hope everyone will remember me kindly. Clancy also sends his best, he finds life here a bit different, too. Sometimes the faint signs of his wanting to come back to life are heard, well, who knows?

ROY TACKETT, 915 GREEN VALLEY ROAD NW, ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.

The publication by Dave Hulan of a list of proposed "by-laws" in the last TB seems to have created a certain amount of confusion among the membership. Comments received here have ranged from Stan Woolston's serious and studious suggestions to Alma Hill's assertion that this is more evidence of the evil influence of Al Lewis. I shall attempt a bit of clarification.

The NFFF Constitution states that the Directorate shall regulate the affairs of the organization and over the years various Directorates have passed rules necessary at the moment and which, for the most part, were filed and forgotten. When the current Directorate took office the subject of these semi-ancient regulations was brought up; it appeared that

no one was certain as to exactly what regulations were in effect. At my request Janie Lamb dug into her files and came up with a listing of rules passed by previous directorates. It took some digging for she had to check through copies of directorate correspondence and TNFFS in order to come up with them. Prexy Don Franson also did a bit of digging and was able to contribute some that even Janie had no record of.

I undertook a study of these rules and regulations to try to sort them out and decide just what was in effect and what wasn't. It did take some study as some of them were so poorly written as to be unintelligible and some even meant the opposite of their intent. Others were obviously unconstitutional and it is a bit surprising that nobody objected to them in the first place.

In any event after I had sorted the things out I presented them to the rest of the Directorate with my comments and recommendations. Some of them had to be rewritten to make sense; some I felt out-dated. Chairman Al Lewis undertook the task of getting them into ballot form and they have over the past few months been discussed, cussed, and voted upon.

So, actually what we have is nothing startlingly new. What we have done is taken the rules and regulations adopted by previous directorates, bring them up to date, and adopted (or readopted) them in the form of a set of "by-laws" or "standing rules" so that the officers and members of the club will have a consise idea of the rules under which we operate.

Let's consider a couple that we found. In 1955 the Directorate passed a ruling that the President had no authority to appoint officers or make policy without the express consent of the Directorate. This is obviously unconstitutional since Article II of the constitution outlines the President's powers. We threw this one out.

Last year, it was ruled that write-in votes would not be permitted in the election--a presidential ruling presumed to be perfectly legal at the time. However, we discovered a 1957 law permitting write-in votes for any office. This one has been readopted since it is in the general interest of the club.

A 1960 ruling permitted married couples to hold joint membership. This violated the constitution which is pretty specific on individual memberships. After some discussion I proposed that the ruling be thrown out and that nose Neffers now carrying adual membership be properly listed on the roster as individual members with their dues for the remainder of the year paid by the treasury. In the meantime the question of dual memberships will be submitted to the membership in the form of a proposed constitutional amendment to legalize them.

So these are the much discussed "by-laws" that your Directorate has been working on for the past couple of months. Actually a codification of regulations passed by previous directorates with the additional requirement that they be published annually so membership and officers will know the rules under which they operate and so there will be no chance of them once again getting buried as they were before we dug them out of the files.

A point which bothers me: I see constant references in TB to the fact that members are writing to other members asking what the Directorate is up to. Why don't they quit wasting time and go to the people with the answers? Why don't they write to the members of the Directorate? I seldom hear from the membership regarding matters that may be under discussion but when I do I usually take time out to answer and explain as best I can.

The President has issued the annual election call and I want to issue a personal invitation to those members of the club who have been the most vociferous in their criticism of the present club members and officers to get their platforms in early. I expect to see them listed as candidates for the Directorate or the Presidency. Otherwise I expect them to retire gracefully to the sidelines and shut up.

ARNOLD KATZ, 98 PATTON BLVD., NEW HYDE PARK, NEW YORK

ANALOG seems to be of continuing interest to S.F. fans and I might as well get into the act.

J.W.C. has some unorthodox ideas that he's trying to spread though the pages of ANALOG. All right, many of his ideas are unpopular, but you can't deny that ANALOG is the best put together S.F. magazine around. It has the best stories, the best book reviews, and the best format.

Many Neffers have been worried about how to recruit S.F. readers. In my neighborhood, ANALOG has attracted quite a few new readers with its new look. Maybe if F&SF and GALAXY were as attractive looking as ANALOG, there wouldn't be any recruitment problem!

So, getting back to ANALOG, just complaining won't fix anything. If you don't want ANALOG to become another SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, don't argue with J.W.C. about the editorials. Ignore them completely and write letters to J.W.C. about the stories. If enough of us ignore those aspects of ANALOG which are undesirable maybe John will get the idea that we don't give a damn about what Joe Blow thinks about the Dean Drive! Look, maybe a letter campaign, won't work, but one extra letter a month isn't going to kill anyone.

JEFF COLE, 3932 NORTH KENNETH, CHICAGO 41, ILLINOIS

First of all, I would like to comment on the oneshot I received yesterday. It was the first I've read, so I can't say I've seen better, and I can't say I've seen worse (so what can I say?). I liked it very much, especially Don Franson's excerpts from Post Warps, Ed Mesky's comments on sf clubs and Red Boggs' contribution on Lovecraft.

Dr. Asko Ladonke: I would like to be one of the first members of your group study of psi. I have Rhine cards score sheets, and Humphrey's book on tests as I was very interested in psi last summer. Your prediction of the N3F possibly setting up communications with psi caught my eye, though I don't really believe it will happen.

Dave Katz: Three cheers for your opinion of the neo situation.

Piers Jacob: Are you an expert on the English language, or are you a wolf who chases feeme fans or what are you? You seem to be spoken of as many things.

If I say much more in this letter, I might touch off a new fued.

DAVID M. ETTLIN, 3424 ROYCE AVENUE, BALTIMORE 15, MARYLAND

I read the recent letter of Dave Locke in TB 19, and am quite flattered to find myself compared to Mr. Kennedy. I will not, however, be in contention in the 1964 Presidential elections (mainly because I am under age for even voting.)

The "collective farm" about which I have spoken is unique, but not completely practical. Many factors involved will turn it into a long-range project of several years. These "bugs" in the workings are being tediously ironed out so that the entire process of renovating a certain manuscript bureau could be condensed into a few short months.

Basically, this plan calls for several steps in several directions:

1. Writer submits material.
2. MS Bureau consisting of three critics under one chairman reads material and each writes their own opinion as well as corrections, suggestions, and point value (1-5 scale) for the item overall (a basis for point awards is yet to be decided, but the item must average 3 points for submission to a bureau-approved fanzine.

3. New fanzine editor in need of material must stencil one sample page and run it off in 10 copies for submission to bureau chairman, who will see if the reproduction is decent enough to bear an item readable.

4. Once this test is passed, the fanzine is approved for good (if first issue maintains this legibility.)

5. Any fanzine already finished a first issue stage is approved automatically if it had been legible in the past.

6. Material from writer (after revision, if any) is given automatic approval if passed by points or if revised to approval of bureau chairman, and is sent to approved fanzine according to editor's needs.

7. Fanzine editor must give credit note to ms bureau for story submission, and to the writer not only credit, but two copies of the issue containing his story. The former part gives the bureau publicity and could introduce material-needy editors to our results. The latter makes the writer happy and he will probably pass the word to other new writers, who would submit material. Thus, the bureau could grow and prosper.

Owen Hannifen, it is all yours: do with it what thou wilt, but as for suggestions extra if this plan is adopted: Any story receiving $4\frac{1}{2}$ point average or better is submitted to pro-zines first as added incentive to writers. This could turn into a regular agency if it is really worked at. Who are the judges? Me, I volunteer. Why not Ellik, Hill, Coulson? The choice is all yours. I'd like very much to see more comment on this personally as well as in TIGHTBEAM.

I'm sorry, Dave Locke, but these ideas were not cribbed from Caroline, but from Tom Haughey at a WSFA meeting. We debated on the ms bureau in N3F as the program, but instead of debating, I agreed with almost everything he said!

The greatest potential service N3F could offer to Fandom is a new and improved manuscript bureau: I hope something, anything is done.

Correction to the letter of Dave Katz: BSFS now meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month (sixth Saturday is party night). We have 7 regular members and one corresponding member. Our ad in F&SF brought national results, to which I asked them to join as c-members, but as recruiting bureau member, directed them into N3F as well. I have recruited at least 5 neos to N3F to date. What a wonderful thing if each member could just shanghai one!

Dave Katz and I will soon pub the first YONDER, but we must have material. Thanx to David Kirk Patrick for his excellent short story, hint to anxious faneds.

D.Kirk Patrick, I hope you have something to say on my ms bureau pointers: after all, you are the objector to faned policies.

The TAPE BUREAU has acquired the OPEN EFA TAPE and it is available for \$2.00, complete! The DISCON will be available in full or in part. I must know in advance exactly how many persons want what, so tell me now before I borrow a second recorder to dub these items. The DETENTION FANED PANEL is available for \$3.00 now! Applications to the bureau are still available!!! Hint!!!!

JOHN KUSSKE, JR., 522 NINTH AVENUE WEST, ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA

TB #19 was an interesting one, in between finding out everything about the Directorate and its policy of DNQ, one could read appalling remarks by the big, bad editor tearing poor helpless neos to pieces. It's hardly fair. Most other fields, if a new person spouts off his

mouth about something upon which he is apparently uninformed, he is taken by the hand and shown kindly what the truth is, but apparently not in fandom. Besides, I agree with the neo in question.

Frederick Norwood: What would you consider "No Truce for Kings," or "Fast Trip", or "Hunter, Come Home"? I would consider them SF, and very good SF at that, and Fred, they were all printed in F&SF. Sure, F&SF prints occasional mundane fiction, but that surely does not make them ineligible for a Hugo. That is just like saying that because PLAYBOY prints an occasional SF story, it is not a girly magazine, but rather a SF magazine, thereby making it eligible for a Hugo. That's a thought, PLAYBOY for a HUGO!

David Katz: I quit putting "I am a neo" on my letters a long time ago. It is figured this way: when a person tells another that he is new to something, that person immediately discredits whatever the first person says, therefore, I would rather than the reader guess that I am a neo, instead of telling them outright.

David Kirk Patrick: You know that I do not like too many non-SF articles but I do feel that they will be printed in spite of what I may think. Some of them are even interesting. As for the faanishness, that is to be expected to a certain extent, although some people carry it a bit too far. However, I do agree with you on the "small group" gripe which you aired, but what can one do about it, beside writing letters to TIGHTBEAM?

All said, I think an issue devoted more fully to SF, fandom, and other interesting items will be more interesting any day than one dedicated, it seemed, to politics and feuds.

DAVID PATRICK, 160 PROSPECT STREET, EAST ORANGE, N. J.

I hope to explain precisely what I meant in my last letter in #19. I do not condemn people who want to get into fandom to further themselves or to have fun--this all fine and good. But don't they take up a lot of time of the people who want to do something? I am not that familiar with the workings of the N3F yet but from what I have seen, all together too much time and space is devoted to people who write to say nothing except what is of interest to themselves and a small group. They also do not consider the general public when they write something in the way of factual stuff. In my belief this is the big difference between pros and fans. Fans are not wordly in their appeal, they appeal to the fans and not the public.

If, at the advent of myself into fandom, I had picked up just any copy of any fanzine, I might have been thrown off the course completely. As far as I'm concerned, most of the stuff is still incomprehensible since you have to be in on the beginning which is way back in history. It is just not possible to step in and see the light, you have to search, search hard before you can find the niche in which you belong.

True, I did join in a hiatus of the Manuscript Bureau and have since written to him, submitting my own stuff (junk if you will). This is one of the most valuable of the services which the N3F provides. As a matter of fact it is the only service I can discover that the N3F provides. Maybe I am mistaken.

What I meant about doing nothing is just what I said. I should think that when so many people get together and proclaim to have a common interest, something more should be done than just amuse each other. Alma Hill's semi-pro project is one thing which should be considered as a permanent asset. But most of these people just want to live in their world and let the rest pass by.

Another thing that might be a good idea is some sort of project to promote SF as something more than junk. I meet a lot of junk when I go to school about "How can you read that

glop?" Obviously this is not the image SF 'should' be projecting. There are all sorts of people running around who say that SF has finally become respectable, if this is true. But it has only become respectable for the people who know it and live with it. The rest of the people simply tolerate it and regard it as some sort of fringe group. A friend and myself frequently find ourselves discussing certain things like the Dean Drive, the Hieronymus Machine, and other sorts of phsyic phenomena. You should see some of the looks we get. They keep saying, "Look at those two brids, do they really believe this 'hog wash'?" The last has been said to me in so many words. I firmly believe something ought to be done about this. I do not know what to suggest off hand but there must be something, all it takes is more thinking.

((Forgive me Dave for inserting editorial comment, but I can't resist this phrase from way back--IT IS A SAD AND PROUD THING TO BE A FAAN!. Lee.))

C. W. BROOKS, JR., 911 BRIARFIELD ROAD, NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

As usual, I found Alma Hill's letter in TB #19 mostly incomprehensible even with Dave Hulan's length comments. Maybe I haven't been in fadom long enough.

I don't agree with Hulan that ANALOG is the "best American stafzine" as I rather favor F&SF but still ANALOG is good and I will keep subscribing. I don't know if Campbell can keep putting the thing out in this new format or not. It would seem to depend on reaching the audience that those fancy ads are intended for. I certainly have no plans for buying a "magnetic induction nuclear gyroscope" from Republic Aviation.

I think that Dr. Ladonko is right about psi experiments. So little is known in this field that anyone working on it seriously has a chance at least of making some significant new discovery. I guessed correctly 23 times out of a 30 a coin that someone else had tossed and was looking at. The odds against this happening by pure dumb luck are about 300 to 1.

Still on psi, I thought Nathan Bucklin's letter was very interesting. I had never heard of the color-guessing thing before. The physical contact didn't seem to make any difference. It seems quite reasonable to me that a child's mind better suited to such experiments. On the other hand, I never heard of Bucklin before and the whole thing may be ahoax. He certainly writes a much better letter than I could have in the 8th grade.

As to Rick Norwood's dogmatic assertion that F&SF is not eligible for the HUGO because less than half of the '62 stories were fantasy or s-f, I am not going to go back through the whole year and try to count and I doubt that Rick has done so. To me, at least, there is an unique flavor to the kind of story that F&SF prints and I like ti whatever label Rick might want to hang on it. Furthermore, I defy Rick to name ten stories that do not have as their basis a concept that belongs to the realm of fantasy. I think that his comment about the "Hothouse" series winning the Hugo is nit-picking too. What have you got against F&SF anyway, Rick?

To Dave Hulan I still say that the movie version of THE RAVEN was an abomination. I like farce as well as the next guy and some of the movie was pretty good farce. But for me the thing was ruined by the portrayal of Poe's 'Lenore' as a very low, common redheaded slut. Next thing you know, they'll remake THE WIZARD OF OZ and show Dorothy as a Lolita-type teenage vamp trying to seduce the Wizard. Not that I tid not enjoy LOLITA, both the book and the movie, but there is a time and a place.

On the subjec t of movies, I saw THE BIRDS and thought it very good except for this "Tippi" Hedren that Hitchcock is trying to promote as the new Grace Kelly. I could not see that she had anything outstanding //space for insertion of pun by editor// either in the way of looks or acting ability. Maybe she was the best Hitchcock could get that would let

herself be attacked by birds.

I would have enjoyed the discussion of Al Lewis's "Hero Poll" more if I could remember what I put down. I should have made a copy of my list, I guess.

One the question of sacrilege in SF, I do not see how any valid conclusion could be arrived at. If a writer is not one of the 'faithful', with respect to a particular religion, he cannot commit sacrilege. If he is one of the 'faithful', he would not generally want to commit sacrilege. I suppose an extremely perverse mind might want to mock a religion in which he still believed, but who could judge except the writer himself?

Dave Hulan did a great job on TB#19. It was thick and easy to read and had lots of good editorial comments and it was on time. What more could you ask?

JUDI BEATTY_SEPHTON, 2486 ELM PLACE, BRONX 58, N. Y.

I have received a mimeographed letter, signed by the Officers of the N3F, from Donald Franson. I am sure that every member has received the same letter.

Thus far, I have seen only the officers' request not to sign a petition to impeach Albert J. Lewis unless the individual member personally wished the impeachment of said person and NOT to have the issue brought to the attention of the membership. The purpose of a petition is to have an issue brought before the membership and NOT to remove anyone from any position. To remove a person from a position requires a vote, not a petition. All a petition requests is that the Directorate investigate the reasons submitted by said petitioners before acting and/or placing something on a ballot. An election of a new person can be called as result of a vote and it may not be called as a result of the same vote.

The letter from the officers states, and I quote:

YOU ARE BEING ASKED BY SOME TO SIGN THESE PETITIONS WHETHER YOU ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH THEIR PURPOSE OR NOT, FOR THE SOLE REASON OF BRINGING THEM BEFORE THE MEMBERSHIP.

THIS IS A RUSE TO GET NAMES ON THE PETITIONS, WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE NOT HAVE A SUFFICIENT NUMBER TO GET ON THE BALLOT.

Then they quote the clause in the N3F constitution governing such petitions and go on to say:

BESIDES THE DAMAGE TO A MEMBER'S CHARACTER WHICH AN IMPEACHMENT VOTE PRESENTS, WHETHER SUCCESSFUL OR NOT: A VOTE ON THIS IMPEACHMENT MIGHT ACCOMPLISH THE SPLIT IN THE CLUB THE PETITIONERS SEEM TO BEHOPING FOR. THEN THEY CAN POINT TO DISSENTION IN THE CLUB, EVIDENCED BY THIS IMPEACHMENT VOTE THEY THEMSELVES BROUGHT ABOUT, AS PROOF THAT THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION IS INCAPABLE OF KEEPING PEACE IN THE CLUB.

WE THE ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE NFFF, URGE YOU NOT TO SIGN THESE PETITIONS UNDER FALSE PRETENCES.

AND, then the officers go ahead and give us the meaning of said petition! See paragraph before I began quoting; the officers want this petition to "die" and are against the impeachment proceedings, needless to say.

I have not seen the petition or anything that represents the other side of the coin. I just saw one letter quoted from above, and the reasons presented by the signers of the letter are weak. They are using an argument known as AD HOMINEM (if anyone has

studied logic) to back up their statement.

What good will answering accusations WITH accusations do? Nothing, it seems to me. All it does is cause the long, bony finger of suspicion to point in the direction of those who have sent the letter to the membership - directing it away from the petitioners to whom it is intended to point.

This letter was a mistake on the part of the officers; all they had to do was let the petition come before them, investigate it, and present it to the membership and let a vote decide the issue. Chances are, Al Lewis would not be impeached as THE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERSHIP, DESPITE SAID LETTER AND PETITION, WOULD MOST LIKELY NOT BE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE.

I knew nothing of the issue until the letter came yesterday. I have nothing against Al Lewis - I don't really know the man - I voted for him because he seemed to be the best man to do the job. I have nothing against the petitioners because I feel that they are doing what they believe is right. I hope that this can be solved in a manner acceptable to both sides of the issue AND the membership who are caught in the middle. The only thing I resent, as far as this is concerned, is receiving said letter! I disapprove of the method used by the officers to counteract the petition for reasons stated above. MUD SLINGING is not needed in the N3F or Fandom, no matter WHICH side is right!

I personally am going to read the petition carefully when I receive it and then I am going to send it back to whomever sent it to me WITHOUT a signature. This not due to the officer's letter. It is BECAUSE I feel that I don't want any part of a petty problem which has no bearing on my life in any particular way. I believe that Al Lewis is innocent until AN INVESTIGATION into the matter PROVES otherwise. I will not hurt anyone's reputation for any petty reasons or for my own MORAL feelings with respect to any individual.

If this issue should come to a vote; I am stating that I for one am going to abstain from voting no matter how I may feel in the future. That is, if I have any different feelings than I have right now. Personally, I hope that other Neffers follow my example and do as I do.

CLAYTON HAMLIN, SOUTHWEST HARBOR, MAINE

Fred Pohl has agreed to be final judge of the story contest.

DAVE LOCKE, P. O. BOX 335, INDIAN LAKE, NEW YORK

By my Aunt Claude's Wheaties-filled stamp album, Hulan's TB was the most interesting one I've read in a coon's age. Of course, being destructive animals, coons don't live very long in this ankle of the woods--but it was a good issue anyway. Very good letters, and the editorial comments were real highpoints. You wouldn't think with his complete enchantment with children's fantasy that Dave could write so well, would you? Private joke.

Dave has a knack for sorting things over and pointing out the real picture - his editorial is proof of this. I don't know anyone in fandom whose judgement I trust so thoroughly, and, because he's on the directorate, his word on N3F matters should be taken, by any of the membership, as highly competent and as living color. I don't give these kind of endorsements to just anybody, but Hulan has owed me five bucks for some time now.

The word "neo" has arrive at its present connotation because of self-consciousness, brashness, or general gaucherie on the part of most neos. Many people enter fandom without the uncomplimentary label of "neo" ever touching them. It's all a matter of how you conduct yourself. Originally the word "neo" meant new fan, but now it means something else; the meaning has been separated from the word, and depending on the newcomer, he

is labeled either a "neo" or a "new fan".

Nate Bucklin's letter disturbs me muchly. I have nothing against ESP experiments, but the way in which he conducts them pours disgrace all over his fannish standing. "Myself and a 7th grade boy (I'm 8th grade) held hands and tried to guess which color the other was thinking of." Really now. This could be a perfect setup--eighth grade girls are just inexperienced enuf to hold hands with an eighth grade boy if they (the girls) are under the delusion that they are participating solely in an ESP experiment. Why didn't I think of this when I was in eighth grade I'll never know. It's much better than my old like about palm reading...

I see nothing wrong with Paul Wyszowski's suggestion that the Directorate & Presidential candidates start campaigning so as to make the membership better acquainted with them. The candidate's platform, because it is limited to one printed page, is naturally sketchy. Of course, I'm campaigning right now -- letters in TB make the membership more familiar with you. I haven't said anything about my past record, policies, character (except for lying, I have no great faults), or capability, so far, because I'd only repeat them in my platform for Director this fall. What I'm trying to do now is to acquaint Neffers with me personally - my writing-personality if you want, or at least one phase of it. If I can do this much, Neffers will be better able to associate my candidate's-platform with the personality behind it.

Roy Tackett: Well, I'm a bureau head and I have been thinking about the 'image' of the club. Most of the N3F fanac, and that of the most importance, is slanted at the new fans. There's nothing wrong with this, because it is worthwhile fanac and only such in fandom. There are N3F activities for the experienced fans, but, relative to the neofan projects, there aren't many; which is why most active genfans do not become members. The story contest, administration work, N'APA, are fanac that the experienced fan can become active in. But they, and the other N3F fanac of their kind, are not enough, and we need more. Not everyone wants to write sf or fantasy, not everyone can become involved in 3F governmental work, and the experienced fan has better apas available to him than N'APA; if he isn't interested in these three things, he finds that there's not much else for him to do. To keep experienced fans in the club, and to have more of them join, we need to introduce more activities and to improve the ones which we already have.

Humbug to all these people who've been pouring honey over ANALOG .. GALAXY is and always has been the magazine with the best stories. I'll admit that it isn't as good under its new editorship, but it still has a good deal of the old flavor, and only its serials have suffered a noticeable lack of quality. I suggest that most fens take another look at their favorite novels and short stories and see in which magazine they first appeared (pre '50 doesn't count--GALAXY wasn't around before that), and at their favorite authors to note where most of their stories appear. The Demolished Man? More Than Human? The Space Merchants? Ted Sturgeon, Jack Vance, Bob Sheckley, Alfred Bester. The lists are too big to go into here. And don't neglect the GALAXY novel line (uh, pre-Beacon), as long as you are thinking about sf. The only competition GALAXY has are the '40 ASTOUNDINGS AND UNKNOWN, which aren't really competition since they're in a different sf era. And while you're still thinking about sf, send GALAXY a subscription. Tell them Dave sent you; maybe I'll get a commission.

Hulan's explanation of a feud, tho only one sentence long, is so accurate it's funny. "Nobody ever feuds, they get righteously indignant and refuse to stop attacking the other side until justice has been done." It seems to me that most feuds start thru a difference of opinion (not all, but most) usually on some topic which is extremely debateable. Most feuds of this type are never won, because if the fans whose opinions could be changed were suddenly turned into drops of gasoline, you wouldn't be able to get your car started. It's

always been my half-serious opinion that if fans talked about only what they knew, the silence would be deafening.

I'm sorry that David Kirk Patrick could not, "with no previous contacts in fandom, just step in and find himself." He wasn't able to belong, and get into the swing of things, in the six months since he had first entered fandom. I've had a number of new fans write to me, and they had pretty much the same problem except that they weren't so bitter about it. I don't know quite what to tell them, because the way in which I became a part of fandom (immediately upon entering) required a good deal of time and effort which I then had to spare because I was in high school. I started publishing a monthly fanzine, corresponding with anyone I came in contact with, obtaining scores of fanzines and LcCing most everyone of them. After I had enough fannish contacts, and the feeling that I "belonged", I cut my fanac down to reasonable proportions. This is an excellent system and if it works -- if a new fan has the time to spare I'd highly recommend this system to him. If he hasn't the time or inclination to go about things that fast, getting on the mailing list of a number of fanzines, having letters printed in some of them, and a few experienced fans as correspondents, would probably be the next best way to both becoming better acquainted with fandom and having fandom become better acquainted with you. You've got to do a little looking around or you'll never really belong to the group, but the effort can be little and the enjoyment can be much. Of course, in the N3F, six letters a year to our TB will make your name known to the membership and break the ice quickly. It's finding a place in genfandom that takes a little more effort.

FRANKLIN HILLER, 99 SELLINGER STREET, ROCHESTER 5, NEW YORK

All: it seems to be the thing to do nowadays to damn God for not doing what we'd damn our governments and parents for doing, i.e., controlling our every thought and action so that we will all be so nice to each other and be generally more loft beings. It's not our fault for being stupid, it's God's, thusly we shirk responsibility for our own crimes. I think that the fact that we have a choice between stupid and wise action is proof enough that there is "free-will" in case some one wishes to revive that hoary argument.

Bjo: to paraphrase Shakespeare, "Methinks the young lady doth praise too much." I detect a note of sarcasm in Bjo's "praise" of Seth. I joined the N3F and fandom in general in September of 1961 meeting Seth shortly after in a welcome letter. Since this time he has always been the epitome of courtesy and gentlemanliness at least as far as I've had any contact with him. This is doubly an accomplishment since I must confess to having been a bit "peppery" in my comments on some of Seth's pet beliefs. Seth has also brought quite a few new recruits to the N3F, some of them through his FCH ads in "Amazing" and "Fantastic", both of which are costing him plenty of good hard cash. Cash which is bringing the club more of a material return than it is Seth. About all Seth gets out of it, and all he wishes out of it since he has yet to pat himself on the back for it in my presence, is a sense of personal satisfaction, which doesn't go on a dinner plate very well.

This is K. Martin Carlson's decision to make, but if he were to present Seth Johnson with a Kaymar award I certainly would not protest it.

David Kir Patrick: My! I think that Dave Hulan has answered you effectively in his editorial comment so I'll confine my remarks on your missive to that. Except to ask you what's wrong with amateur publishers?"

Janie Lamb: I think that the support and affection expressed for Janie Lamb in the pages of TB are sufficient evidence that Janie is still trusted and liked by a substantial portion of the membership. A substantial portion enough to make any petition asking for a formal

statement to this effect quite unnecessary. The whole thing arose out of a misunderstanding that to the best of my limited knowledge has been cleared up to the satisfaction of both parties, the only parties in fact who should have any interest in the subject, so let's drop the whole thing, hah?

Dave Hulan: I'll have to agree with you that "Analog" while it may confine itself almost exclusively to one type of stf, (doesn't this show a lack of a sense of balance, or something though?) it has the best writing. I'll qualify this, though, by saying that I'm afraid it's a case of Analog's writing being the best of a bad lot. I think you've made the same comment, though, so we're not really in disagreement.

Espers: Interesting, but my sentiments are essentially also those of Dave Hulan's.

Jim MacLean says learn hypnotism admitting that it is potentially dangerous but then goes on to speak of firearms offering to spit in the eye of those who would astringently prohibit their use. I demand second space in the spittin' line Jim, and the right to chew a goodly portion of onion and garlic beforehand but I can't help wondering if the two situations are quite analagous. The operation of a firearm is quite simple and straightforward, so are its effects. Can hypnotism say the same, James?

GIL LAMONT, 1970 Masters, CHRISTILLA HEIGHTS, BELOIT, WISCONSIN

I don't intend in this letter to raise any points concerning the Feud, so here goes:

Dave Katz: I am a neo. Do you wish to stop now? Being a neo does not necessarily mean that I am ashamed of what I say or feel. You seem to think that the phrase "neophyte fan" has become an alternative for "bumbling idiocy", "naivete", and "blind ignorance." In view of this, couldn't BNF be construed to mean "big boss", one of those who always dominates every one and any one, and a dictator. These are possible views to the neo.

What do you propose to be done? Change the name "neo" to "junior"? Have a fanzine by a neo solely for neos? (From this we could start a clique--The Neo's, Rejects', and Frustrates' Science Fiction, Gripping, and Weeping Society). Or have a manuscript submitted by numbers? Heck, if we just say "I am a fan" how will we get acquainted with the ways and means of the N3F? Being a neo and admitting it are and can be handy indeed--I have received much help for introduction to various N3F aspects, namely because I said I was a neo. And now I hear cries of "You mean only neos receive help or info?"

Al Lewis (West Coast): Somehow the votes for favourite stf hero were all for series. Favourite heroes seems to mean alternately favourite books, since a favourite hero is most usually not found in an inspid or unliked book. And vice-versa. But when you read something on the order of 6 (at least) stf books a month, it's reasonably difficult to pick out a top twelve. Me, I'd list at least a score and then spend sleepless nights wondering whom to pick. Since most of those heroes listed were from the forties and earlier, does this mean that we in the sixties and fifties too don't get heroes any more? But I suppose this depends on what you constitute as a hero. There have been several outstanding books these past few years, and most of their characters are lovable. If a hero is one of those rough-n-tough guys who can't do anything (hardly) imperfect, then this year's candidates are out. And those of the past ten years. As I recall, some letterhack said that today's hero is a little man, with faults beyond and deeper than yours or mine. He usually saves a universe or planet or empire or sun purely by stumbling around. Can we call him hero??

Perhaps the average fan has not read the Lensman series, Null-A series, etc., because these stories mostly appeared fifteen to twenty years ago. So bang does a conception of the hero. Since the avfan is not well read in these particular fields, what is there left to him? Superman?

Concerning E.R.B. According to a correspondent of mine (secrecy yet!) Ballantine is only reprinting six of the Barsoom series since Ace reprinted the other four (incidentally, Ace has reprinted SIXTEEN E.R.B. books). This is maddening, because Ballantine's editions are very good (the printing and cover). So, if you want the entire series, six books will be Ballantine, the other four, Ace. So how about we all write to Ballantine requesting that they reprint the others in the John Carter series anyway. This means you.

Re this sacrilege in stf: well, Holy Moses, what do you want? Fan censorship of stf? Those thousands of books concerning different forms of government (from Edward Bellamy on up) are sacrilegious to the staunch democracy advocate (or whatever this system of government is called; the only true democracy is that of a man on an otherwise uninhabited island). I presume that one facet of stf is provocativeness (?). If we knock out those two usual taboos, sex and religion, what is there left? Government.

And if we read of the Church becoming in the future a pseudo-communistic regime, what do we cry?? Blasphemer??

All in all, #19 was very good. Keep up the good work, Dave.

SCOTT KUTINA, 16309 MARQUIS AVE., CLEVELAND 11, OHIO

Well it looks like the subversives won't have to stand up and be counted after all. Why? Because there ain't any such animule. I'm glad at least that that point is cleared up. I don't mind feuds, as long as they are personal and kept private. But when they start affecting the whole club, well that's another story.

I liked Dave Hulan's handling of #19. His comments were very good, and I like the editorial and the listing of the by-laws, though they could have been just as easily pubbed in TNFF. His cutting of the letters was pretty good too, just kept the meat of the letter and that was it. I think though that he could have had another page or two. He said the limit was twenty, well I counted fourteen. I think that it could have been expanded just a little bit. You know something? Pubbing an issue of TB looks like fun. If I can get my hands on a mimeo I just might take a crack at it, though I'd better practice a little before I try it.

Holy smokes! Only 9 people responded to the poll of most heroic stf characters! That is bad. Well Dave, when Al said heroes and sf, I figured that he meant both f&sf heroes so that's why I voted for Conan and Fafrhed and the Grey Mouser. I cannot see how everybody is hopped up about ERB, and Barsoom and Tarzan in particular. Now I know I'm going to alienate all the ERB fan, but what is hot about him? I think that he is one of the funniest writers going. Is it because all of a sudden the copyrights on his books have ran out and they're up for grabs? I wish somebody would tell me why.

Dave Locke: Halibut? Hah, hah, hah. That's a good one, Dave. Let's have more!

Piers Jacob: I said JWC is wrecking the mag. Nothing else. P. Schuyler Miller still has the greatest book column going and I won't argue the point. But as far as the makeup and the choice of stories goes, well most of them go along with either his editorials or his science articles, and I don't like it that way. The stories have been improving a little lately, but not that much. The Nicholas Van Rijn story in the June issue was good, but the rest was just cut-and-dried stuff, and most of it was really dry.

Rick Norwood (is it Rick or Fred?): Well though we disagree on one subject we are in complete agreement on another. I was really disappointed when I saw that WTS MAGIC, or YOU DOPE! did not make the final ballot. THE UNHOLY GRAIL is good, yes! and it was one of the better fantasies of the year, though I did vote for THE DRAGON MASTERS by Jack Vance. I can't see Krenkel though. Jack Gansler brother, I see that you and I agree on John Amalfi as a true sf hero. It is a pity that nobody else saw it that way either. Now we come to the line that separates us. Comics and fanzines are bad, I agree. I offended you in any way and maybe I did use some rather strong language but at the time I was rather mad that a neffer should even connect the club with comic books. You say that a lot of future sf fans cut their teeth on comics as well. I disagree. It started in the library, where every good fan should start, and that's where I'm starting my younger brother. Well, actually it was way before that, I started with Tom Corbett and Captain Video and the other early denizens of the gray recesses of TV's outer space. Then I went on to radio and W MINUS ONE. Heinlein's SPACE CADET was my first sf novel, but it wasn't. It was Orson Scott Card's ROCKET TO LUNA. SF was my second love, from there I went on to Norton and the other juveniles. Eventually however I did come in contact with these so-called sf comic books and I fell for them. I still read them for a while now and then have. So you see. You don't have to get them from a comic store, just hang around the library and you see somebody poking around the science fiction rack and there you are. OK, I'm out.

NATHAN A. BUCKLIN, P.O. BOX FOUR, DOCKTON, WASHINGTON

Seems on number 17 you had pages from two different types and Wally the one you started out with is more readable than the rest of the mag. I almost had to dig my way through the rest of it. But it's worth it. The discussion is always right where it ought to be. As follows (if anything): I'm not voting for TAFB myself because I don't know anything about it, other than the bare details. But everybody seems to be for either Wally Weber or Bruce Pelz. I hope it has gotten the attention of somebody like Martin Zimmer Bradley ex-Neffers is also running because everybody seems to have a great deal of prejudice against outsiders... at least, mentioning that you're a Neffer gets you more smiles by way of correspondence than saying you aren't. I'm getting sick of this advertising for TAFB -- all I can find out is that Wally Weber is running, the Busbys are backing all three candidates and Bruce Pelz once or more visited Dave H. and I wish I knew more about what's involved? Could the N3F help? No, I don't think it would be based on limited data, the N3F but the same goes for science fiction -- we don't write it, although the magazine is a Bureau devoted largely to info about it. (By the way, Mr. President, where does the TB get published now? In TAFB? In LIGHTBEAM? As Riders? As Both? I will find out, I hope.) I like Dick Hinman's comments about wanting to be informed about the candidates in N3F elections. If we don't know much about the candidates, and don't really donate a dollar one way or the other, the vote might not send them anyplace. Well, I don't even know if the votes supply all the money or not, but I have something confused with this "dollar voting" fee.

STOP! Read no further unless you wish to subject yourself to the humiliation and great trauma which stems from the horrible experience of communicating with a neffer. (Or did you say that at the top of the letter?) Seriously, I don't see where our status in fandom matters. If we aren't really inferior, why act like it? No, we aren't stupid, we just ain't learned to walk yet. Nobody does go out of their way to encourage us to start feuds --oops! I mean to compliment us. You would also be surprised at the encouragement I got to jump into deep water before swimming. Say, if I or any other neo (and there are plenty) joined some rap-

He doesn't know the background of the discussion, but he jumps right in because he has been assured that everything will be all right. Is it? Of course not! You would need an IQ in the 200s someplace to immediately figure out just what was be said, why it was being said, and what that seemd to be relevant to what seemed to be the topic was actually relevant to the indise story. Let us have a chance to assimilate more than we have already. An awful lot of the these neos are going to have a few fanzines of their own, probably know a few neffers and are going to have the sense to know what they don't know and should wait to learn.

On that topic, being unable to see it as objectively as I'd like, I proceed to some more discussion which should be beyond my scope, if there is any. Or if it is discussion. Or if it makes sense.

Paul Wyszowski: I agree with you about Campbell. Extremely (except wouldn't you call "rather good writer" an understatement?) except that I couldn't understand the comparison because I have read no fiction of Palmer's and few articles, or editorials, or what-ever. (Anbody want to lose, real bad, some Palmer-edited zines?) However, from what I have heard of Shaver, Palmer is totally nuts. The only hoaxes John Campbell backed, he appeared to believe in himself. (Yes, I have Dianetics.)

Dr. Ladonko: I'm interested, but not very. You'll be hearing from me, unless you have been hearing from me--(these month and a half differences between writing and publication really show up sometimes). Would you object if I brought in a few expert telepaths who are allergic to fandom?

Dave Hulan: Your one editorial comment on my letter pans out as a compliment both ways. But take some movie, that is going to be on TV in two-parts. Read the book. (Or, better, have read the book already, five years ago, the way I did. But it shouldn't matter if you can still remember.) Then watch the movie. Do it a number of times. My television is very strictly limited for optical reasons, so I can't perform this experiment myself, but it might find out which possible view is right. Like, say, if you read four books, fix the serialization point, and three are right; that would be abbove average--it would prove nothing either way.

Still croggling at Pier's ignorance, Dave?

James MacLean: Where in hell, or on Earth, if you've never been there, do you get a Farady Cage telepathy amplifier. The Insular Nonconformist Society Allied Nonetheless to Earth (vashon Island stf club, membership of 10) INSANE) has no members which do not get consistently above-average scores.

Ed Meskys: Have you read the July, 1962 IF with "All that Earthly Remains" in it? That was sacrilege, and substantially the same plot as "These Shall Not Be Lost (which I only saw the AnLab report on, by the way.) The other class, though, "Dark Universe", etc., postulate about what could happen, with no bothers about what has happened already. And are also some of the best sf on the market. So leave us these; anybody who considers "A Canticle for Leibowitz" too sacrilegious to keep, send me one because I still like it. I'm glad my favorites have been reprieved (anybody else?)

I would be interested in all comments about the idea of printing up TB on newsprint with a spirit duplicator. I don't like these short issues either (no offense intended to anybody, but if you're being totally compensated for it; it'll just about have to be short, as Dave pointed out). So do this: run off, on a ditto, some 300-odd copies of TB, maybe even on different dittos, have one individual collate them and see that they are mailed. This would afford us one issue at least, a lot longer. The problem here is that newsprint rots fast and ditto ink fades. Well, just one issue... I am hoping to get an army surplus duplicator, and unless I find a good mimeo within my price range, will print up all I can.

As it is, TIGHBEAM is a very good magazine, and I enjoyed every issue I've gotten. I hope the next three I get are as good--who knows, I might even renew.

Which brings me to my next point. The Boy Scouts have troop dues of 10 cents a week. \$5.80 a year, if it's year-round. Around \$4.00 if not. Patrol dues come to about half that or more. Total, \$7.80 down to \$6. A lot of the boys have to earn their money themselves. What's wrong with a dues increase. EVERYTHING this blasted club does hinges on the treasury, damn it--and every issue somebody kicks because he is giving out with 1/18 of a cent per day more than he used to and is feeling it in the pocket. If you didn't think it was serious, I'd laugh. As it is, WHY can't we just keep our mouths shut and pay whatever we need to approach perfection. Don't you want a better club, longer TIGHTBEAMS--a happier Al Lewis (and because all of us is stingy he is feeling the lack of money more strongly than anybody else in the club, day in, day out.) You're in the club for what you can get out of it. Fine, but at least do us the courtesy of paying for it. I'm not just blowing hot air through my ears, I'm going to be a big name TB printer and I will hold myself to what I can afford--or else do it on the ditto. If I used the sort of machine I always wanted, the cost of each TB, full-sized (25 pp, say) would be around a quarter. So I cut each letter in half. Scream, thank you kindly; you asked for it.

Now, that is a feuding-type comment!

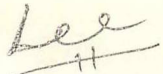
- o o o -

AND THAT, is the end of TIGHTBEAM for this issue. It is now the 3rd of July, and I have used up all of the letters sent this time, including a couple that arrived after the deadline, even! I don't know where all the letters went to, but I do strongly suggest that you get your letter in now in time for the next issue. Deadline is August 25th, and all letters should be sent to:

G. M. Carr
5319 Ballard Avenue, N.W.
Seattle 7, Washington

I hope you liked this issue of TB. It was done on paper masters and run off on our ATF Chief 15 offset machine. Since it is offset, we were able to use bond paper instead of mimeograph paper, and although we do have 20 pages, it doesn't seem as thick or big. Perhaps this is the way to beat the increase in postage rates in the future. My thanks to all of you who wrote notes of welcome after the last issue I did for N3F. This, for the time being, will be the last TB I will do. Our work at the shop has increased so much that I will not have any time for outside interests. I will try to get to the convention in Washington over the Labor Day weekend, and would be pleased to remeet all the fans I used to know.

Happy fanning!


Lee Riddle
144 Elkton Road
Newark, Delaware

-from-

JANIE LAMB
Route 1, Box 364
Heiskell, Tenn.

Contents: Printed Matter
RETURN REQUESTED



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