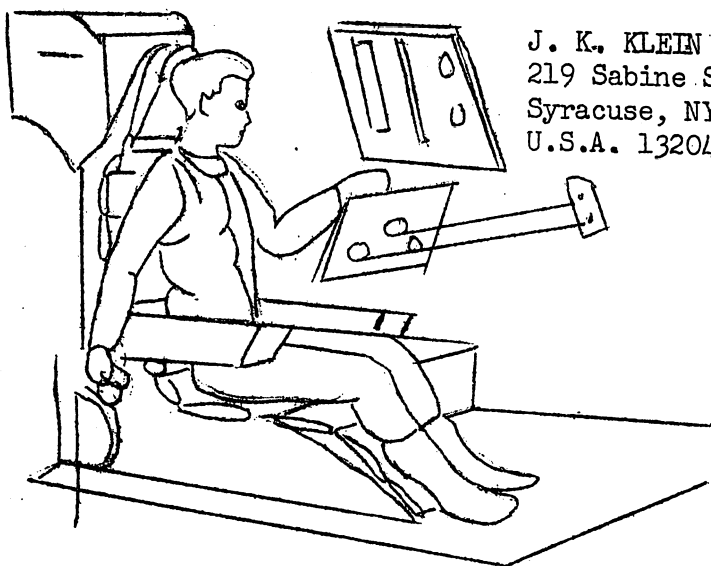


'T' I (G) H 'T' I B E AMI

32



July 1965
Jahzine # 331.



J. K. KLEIN
219 Sabine St.
Syracuse, NY.
U.S.A. 13204.

FOR TIGHTBEAM:-

2
Somehow my letter of reply to Duncan McFarland's attack on the Syracon in TIGHTBEAM 29 got lost some place and was not published in TB #30. I met Duncan at the DISCLAVE, and found that my mental picture was somewhat inaccurate - he no evidence of horns or fangs, and turned out to be a fairly normal, pleasant teenager. In fact, after we talked a bit, Duncan said he was editor of the next TIGHTBEAM and would print my letter of rebuttal if I sent it to him in time.

My letter did appear in TB 31. I had expected some comments at the end of my letter - but the considerable amount of interjections almost made it seem as if I were writing attacks on my own convention bid, so mingled were my letter and the editor's comments. Duncan attempted to make light of several important facts concerning the Syracon-Tricon bids.

First, the Syracon committee was completed in its final form in October 1964, with this information circulated in Fandom immediately. The re-emergence of a Cleveland bid was first announced at the November 1964 Philadelphia Conference. A few words on one side of a piece of paper said Cleveland had been joined by Detroit, and that was all the information. No Committee announced. And that was the last anyone ever heard of Cleveland.

Ironically, it was Syracuse that made the first public announcement of Tricon. Just before the annual March ESFA open meeting, I received a letter telling me of something called "TRICON." It was a Syracuse news sheet, "THE SYRACON SENTINEL" that informed ESFA conventioners of the formation of the Tricon bid. No Tricon literature was passed out at this convention or announcement made.

No Tricon literature was passed out at the next convention, either, the LUNACON on April 24th. Syracuse literature was at hand, as was literature for the '67 bidders, Baltimore and New York City. So if Tricon was formed earlier than given credit for, no one was informed of the fact until Duncan let us in on the secret.

Second, Duncan defends the huge Tricon committee of big name fans on the grounds that the Chairman needs advice, and that these committee members are BNF's is "incidental." It seems to us that if a con bid needs THAT much advice, it must be in a bad way. And we think that if any advice is required, a simple request for it would elicit the necessary information, without having to place someone on the committee to obtain it. Curiously enough, the lesser known fans that have served on committees do not appear on the Tricon list.

The Syracuse bid is supported by a local committee of central New York fans. Convention helpers are appointed to Official Non-Committee posts. Those wishing to support us actively have been invited to join the Syracon Bandwagon Club, which is open to fans of all sizes, shapes and sexes. An Earnest of 50¢ brings membership card and Syracuse button.

At the April 24th Lunacon, the presiding Chairman announced that worldcon bidders could address the audience. Mike McInerney (I believe it was) spoke for New York City in 1967. Jack Chalker spoke for Baltimore in 1967. I spoke for Syracuse in 1966. No one spoke for TRICON - and there nine TRICON committee members present.

Continued on Page 12

J. SAUNDERS

% WKCR, 208

Ferris Booth Hall

Columbia University,

New York, NY. 10027.

3

Time to get active and have my name in print in the latest TIGHT BEAM. I was glad to see a copy, for a while I had not received any thing at all from the NFFF, and I thought Janie Lamb and Norm Met calf had spent the whole treasury on feuding or riotous living. Ah, Well, enough of this dithering, on to comments.

HERKART: The idea that John Boardman could even concede that there might be a mechanism for psi is incredible to those who know him. However, you can't say that just because physicists haven't completely Solved The Secrets Of The Universe, that what they say can just be ignored.

HAMLIN: If you think that "Doc Smith" made bigness small enough for comprehension what do you think of Stapeldon? And Sheered had a other memorable story. Two more in fact. "Cue for Quiet" in the Del Rey SPACE and another who title I don't remember, in BEYOND.

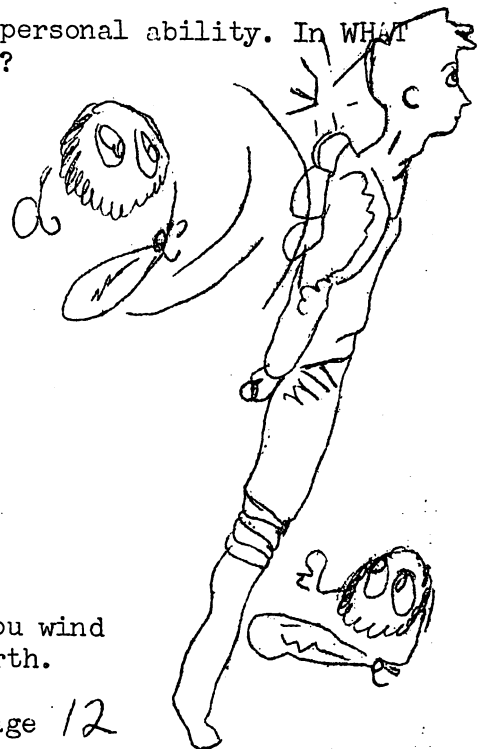
KUSSKE: Your idea of a tbapa is even more absurd than most of your ramblings. The point of an apa is that the members must publish. If not, then you can call all genzines an apa. The discussions in both TARS and the Cult are good purely because there are fewer people. Thus you can get to know the participants and don't have to be so formal. So you have been affected by David R. Bunch too. However, this will not spread throughout the field for one reason, it isn't popular enough to sell enough mags. Little mags are often almost vanity pubs, SF can't be. The best example is the Unknown type fantasy. Three different magazines were started with the aim of pubbing this type of story. There was a fanatic band of people who liked it, however, there just weren't enough of them to support the mags.

BROOKS: Unfortunately, I happen to be both a friend of Larry Janifer's and someone who has read YOU SANE MEN. This is a sad combination, because he has a tendency to boost the book and state he think it is good for a Hugo, and it isn't. A Junior, maybe (given to the winners of Boardman's 11 foot poll.). You say it paints a picture of society. It doesn't. The society is so cacually sketched in and unjustified that it is merely stage setting. By the way, Larry was not too serious about hoping it was a flop although this one wasn't written for the money.

KOHN: "Segregate by personal ability"?? Alright, define personal ability. In WHAT fields, which is to be given precedence? Who is to judge?

KAISER: Begging the question; aren't you? It is obvious that the reason that fanzines don't discuss SF more is that it isn't being written. The question is why aren't they being written. And one or two writers on the subject won't completely save the situation. I personally don't like to see nothing but SF in a fanzine, but prefer a varied diet. A little more SF would be nice though.

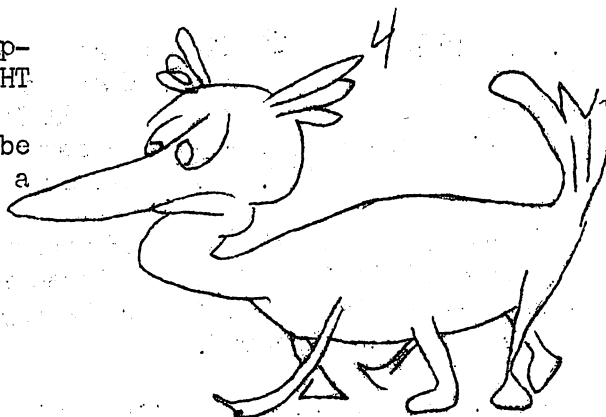
BRADLEY/ LAMB:- I agree with Dave in this. You can't DISCUSS SF in a zine. At least not in a zine like this one. Occasionally if you are a bigmouth like me you can find a few comments that can be made about previous letters, but you can't get a discussion, with running comments back & forth on a topic, with this subject. What you wind up doing is throwing articles and editorials back and forth. There basically isn't any controversy.



ROY TACKETT,
915 Green Val-
ley Road, NW.,
Albuquerque,
N.M. 87107.

It's not that I want to complain, mind you, but two TIGHT BEAMS have been published since we last saw TNFF. Maybe our President could appoint a committee or establish a bureau to visit Huntsville and periodically

awaken Weber. Duncan McFarland did a good job with TB 31. Really remarkable after the TB30 fiasco. Dunc had to scramble to get letters. He deserves a big cheer for his work. And TB31 was chockful of comment hooks.



STEVE BARR mentions Judith Merrill's book reviews and JOHN KUSSKE speculates that the stfzines may evolve into something like the pseudo-literary little magazines. It is too bad, really, that F&SF couldn't come up with a different book reviewer -- someone more cognizant with science-fiction. Judith Merrill wouldn't know good stf if a story walked in with a letter of introduction. She is one of the guiding lights of the Milford Writer's Conference -- or whatever it is called -- a group dedicated to perpetuating pseudo-literary meaningless gabble and passing it off as stf. Miss Merrill extols the value of the so-called "beat" writers and indicates that the beat school may merge with science fiction. Maybe Alma Hill's Writers' Exchange will help some real stf writers develop -- they're badly needed. The only reason I can see for the continuing publication of the non-stories pushed by the Milford group is that the field is so hardup for stories the editors will buy anything.

And yes, Gregg Wolford, Lowndes is a better editor than Ferman, Lalli or Pohl. Matter of fact he's better than the three of them rolled into one. Before you take off on Lowndes for THE MAGAZINE OF HORROR go back and check the other zines he worked on. The poor showing, if there is such, or MofH is more probably attributed to publishing policy and poor distribution.

I should think that Ed Wood really sees very few fanzines or he would be aware that a vast amount of stfictional material is being published. Ed was probably scared off the fanmags during the glorious days of 6th Fandom and hasn't read any since.

Actually I think most of today's fanzines are pretty well balanced. There is enough intelligent stf discussion going on to keep all but the most serious fan happy and also enough fannishness to keep the faaaaans amused. And the rest of us too. I have no trouble getting stf articles for my zine and equally I have no trouble getting faaan fiction, or fannish articles. I think we all are more or less aware now that fans are interested in other things besides stf. Stf is something like the nuclear binding forces (if you believe in such things) in that it holds us all together.

Alma Hill -- I can't imagine why you think more people should have attended the Gernsback lecture than the one by Von Braun. Von Braun's subject had to do with reality with things that ARE; Gernsback spoke of a dream world. Whether we like it or not we must admit that there is little of reality in stf. Science Fiction springs from the same roots as fantasy and it makes little difference if we speak of Heinlein, Howard Clement, Merritt, Anderson, Lovecraft or Burroughs, they all deal in something apart from reality. People really interested in what IS going on in the world got to hear Von Brauns. Us nuts go to listen to Uncle Hugh.

John Boston has a good idea in the trans-Atlantic book swap thing. But why just trans-Atlantic? Let's not neglect the Pacific. Something could also be worked out with fans in Japan and Aussieland. Sidney Silverstein should contact Ann Ashe on the tape project since Anne is head of the Tape Bureau.

Continued on Page 13

CLAYTON HAMLIN
SOUTHWEST HARBOR
MAINE, U.S.A.

In the words of one of the current advertizing slogans "They did it.They finally did it!" That much taken for granted form of publishing the paper back, that has done so much to change the reading habits of the country and the world, has finally come of age, and completely taken over the leadership of science fiction and fantasy publishing.

Is it not right that this newest concept of publishing should show the way? Was it not Paper Back Number One, way back in 1939, that chose to start the whole thing off with a fantasy, Lost Horizons, by James Hilton?

So, is it not proper that those classic "unprintable" stories finally found their way to the newstands in an inexpensive and competitive form, and that they should be science fiction and fantasy? Honest, who would have actually believed just a few years ago that you could go to your newstand and pick up a low priced copy of the Lensman epic by Doc Smith? Six books, making up one complete story, that kind of thing simply was not done. And didn't everyone know that the stodgy old science fiction magazines would not have the courage to give us a DAVY? That kind of thing simply was not done, except occasionally in a hard cover, and seldom even there.

And above all else, anyone who suggested that the Ring Trilogy, by Tolkien, would be published, they would simply have been laughed at. Much too long, much too expensive to take a chance on publishing three whole books making a single story. Science

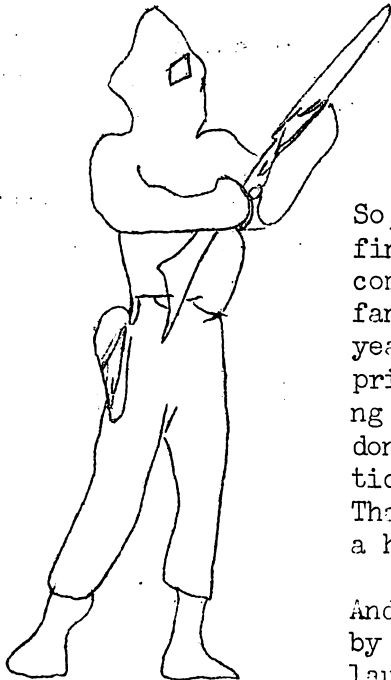
Fiction readers, so it was supposed, simply didn't number enough or spend enough, to make it economically feasible.

Oh, it was not as though this was all that has been done recently at all. There have been all kinds of hints. When it came to taking a chance of something new and different, it was the paper back publishers who had it all over the magazines, who merely were content to rest on their laurels and pretend they were the wave of the future in this field, and in charge of the whole thing..

Remember the new company, Lancer, who gave us THE DYING EARTH? I remember it well, because of a rather humorous incident some years back. I sent a copy of that original book to a youngster, and his comment was "It actually exists!" Yes, for a good many years, that extraordinary fantasy by Jack Vance, was considered by many to be in the same class as the Necronomicon, something that did not really exist at all, just a fable. Well, of course now everyone knows better.. Thanks to Lancer.

And let the purists sneer, but anyone who keeps in touch knows that the BIG NEWS of publishing in the past few years has been the overwhelming sales record of that much looked down on Edgar Rice Burroughs. Paper backs, of course, though Amazing did try, rather hesitantly, to get into the act a bit. They did manage to concede that such things do have an appeal to a goodly number of readers. It seems perfectly reasonable that the recent republication of Doc Savage and the Shadow, was a direct result of this..

So now the magazines have taken a decided back seat, at a time when it looks as though Science Fiction and fantasy is enjoying the biggest boom in its long history of booms



and busts. You could say that the magazines are still living in a horse and buggy age, during the days of the rocket. After all, you have not seen a Davy, a Lens, nor yet a story comparable to the Ring, in any magazine lately, have you? I seem to recall also that none of them took a chance on publishing Heinlein's Stranger In A Strange Land in a magazine either. But it still turned out to be popular, and profitable, in spite of that.

Take a close look at what has happened, let's see if we can't define it. The first thing you notice is that these books are filling a gap in publishing that has been empty since the days of the late lamented FFM. The classic reprint, you know. Not to suggest that they are all classics, there are second (and third, & fourth) rate reprints too, but the really extraordinary stories of those earlier days have also shown up. Popular too, because while style may grow outdated, class will always show up, and excitement. Buck Rogers, the Skylarks, ever so many more. Unknown is well represented, you will find the Williamson's, the Hamilton's, and the Rohmers of a gone day, getting another chance. And was it not the old master, Merritt, who was the old reliable of the early days of Avon? But, not ONLY reprints, you see. DAVY, remember.

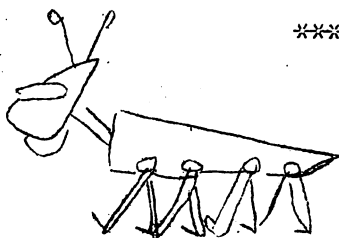
But the magazines? Well, over the years they have done all sorts of new and exciting things, some worked, some did not. But today, what really are the new things, the better things, they have been attempting? Not many, from the looks. Analog, old reliable John Campbell, you can always depend on him to have a personal soapbox to get on, until it grows tiresome, but he always comes back, just like always. If Dianetics would not run his magazine into the ground and psi stories did not either, it is just cause you can't keep a good man down for long, and the good Mr. Campbell is dependable, and knows the editing business inside and out. But his latest, well it was a flop, advertising simply is not going to pay for demands it makes on an editor.

Fred Pohl? Well, he does all right it seems. It was he who brought back Van Vogt, and Doc Smith, and that worked well. Relief too, something like that always helps. Whether his other unusual and potentially fine ideas works out, it will take a couple of more years to find out for sure. You know, the "first" story, by a brand new author, in each issue. One thing sure, it certainly gives him lots of loyalty from those who are trying to learn to write.

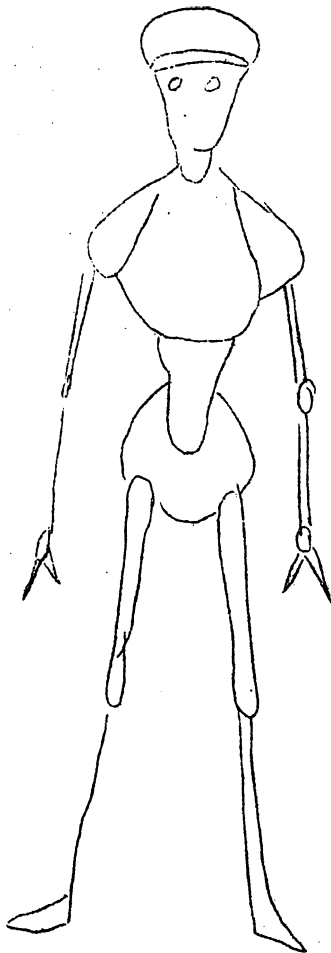
Ziff-Davis? Who knows? First they try one thing, then another and don't seem to stick with anything. Reprints, they tried it, and it seemed popular. Biographical sketches of the best authors, sometimes this seemed more popular than the stories in the same issue. But they have been around, Ziff-Davis, a long time now, and they now and then, take a step forward, while still managing to hold on to their hard core of readers. But still, they seem to remain the nonentity of sf publishing, you sometimes get the impression they want it that way, trying to change their image, to live down the days of Palmer, long after most of the readers have forgotten it.

F&SF? Don't ask me. I was never overly fond of literary pretensions in sf and fantasy. You are either REALLY literary (like Tolkien) or else second and third rate, and there is an obvious difference. But still they stick around, controversial as ever. What more can you expect?

You can expect LOTS MORE. And the paper backs prove it!







DONALD FRANSON,
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Cal. USA - 91606.

Some new members writing in suggest all kinds of lists to be drawn up for their benefit, giving them information on everything they want to know. It's all very well to demand such lists, and they ARE useful, in moderation, but it's a difficult job to actually compile them, and keep them up-to-date. Then, when they get them, what do they do with them? Nothing. Last year I put many such lists in TNFF, which were extra work. I had the feeling that nobody read them. At least I got no comment much myself, even if I do always appreciate the efforts of others. Nevertheless, there seems to be a feeling that the members of N3F, by having paid their dues, are ENTITLED to all sorts of benefits, without doing anything themselves. That the N3F is a flop if it doesn't act like a commercial club, well financed and with all kinds of paid clerical help, in giving out benefits and publications galore. Members are dissatisfied with lateness or non-appearance of publications, or expect benefits that have not been promised. They expect the efficiency of a machine, in an organization composed of human beings; inexperienced fans, volunteer works, busy people who are donating their time. They are expecting too damn much.

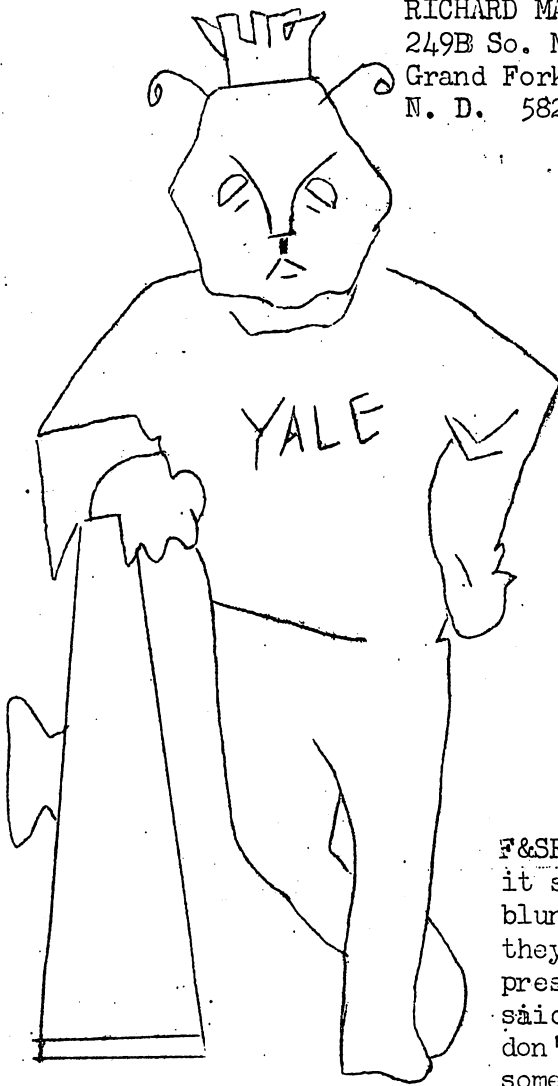
They should be satisfied with just a membership card. This alone is worth the dues. All else is gravy. This is my feeling about the N3F, and why I will continue my membership indefinitely. I imagine many other members feel the same way.

Another thought that should be kept in mind is: "If you want something done, do it yourself." All the N3F is for is to provide the organization, the help, the opportunity, the communication needed. When I was President, and received some detailed and justified gripe about some activity or lack of it, I appointed THAT person to the job if it was open. This plan is not my invention; it's an old administrative trick. Let the griper beware, lest he have responsibility thrust upon him. And contrary to what you may think, these appointees are and make good officers.

I also want to mention that I am working on the title list that Mike Viggiano sent, and it contains 1600 titles. Rather, I have finished working on it, as it is now ready for publication. Just when it will be published, as a 40-page, full-size booklet, depends on the N3F. I have just submitted the plans to the officers, so no decisions have been made yet. It's possible that this will not take long. For the benefit of new comers, this is a list of differing titles for the same science fiction story, as THE STAR, LIKE DUST / TYRANN / THE REBELLIOUS STARS, by Isaac Asimov. It will be indexed by each title, so that you can look up a doubtful title and see if you already have it, or have read it under some other title. It's hard to keep up with the changes, but this is a start - I believe it will be useful, and it is definitely something different. If the N3F publishes it, we may distribute it within N3F at cost, and also sell it to outsiders. Not that the N3F needs money, but... if someone is going to benefit financially from this, it might as well be the club. I suggested having it copyrighted, for that reason, so that someone won't come out with a commercial version before we do, if this seems possible. I can dream, can't I?

Outside of that, I'm trying to get away from Fandom, and am for the most part succeeding. .../

RICHARD MANN
249B So. Nevada Dr.
Grand Forks AFB,
N. D. 58201. USA.



8 Please note COA.

Clay Hamlin: I can only advance admiration for putting into words a lot of what makes stf fans out of all of us. There's a lot of ideas I vehemently disagree with, but this piece transcends that and shows what stf has in the way of memories. Thank you Clay. You see, I received Duncan's fine Tightbeam this morning.

John Kusske: TIGHTBEAM as an Apa? Ridiculous. Part of the idea of an apa is that you are publishing your full share of the material, and that you are there because you enjoy publishing. An apa is regular, has deadlines, and has members that will participate. Tightbeam has often been fouled up, the most fouled-up fanzine in Fandom, deadline-wise. There is no dependability to TB, and I have yet to see more than two or 3 issues running come out anywhere near when they were supposed to. In TAPS, we've had six consecutive issues published on time, with one of them about a week-and-a-half late. That's hard to beat.

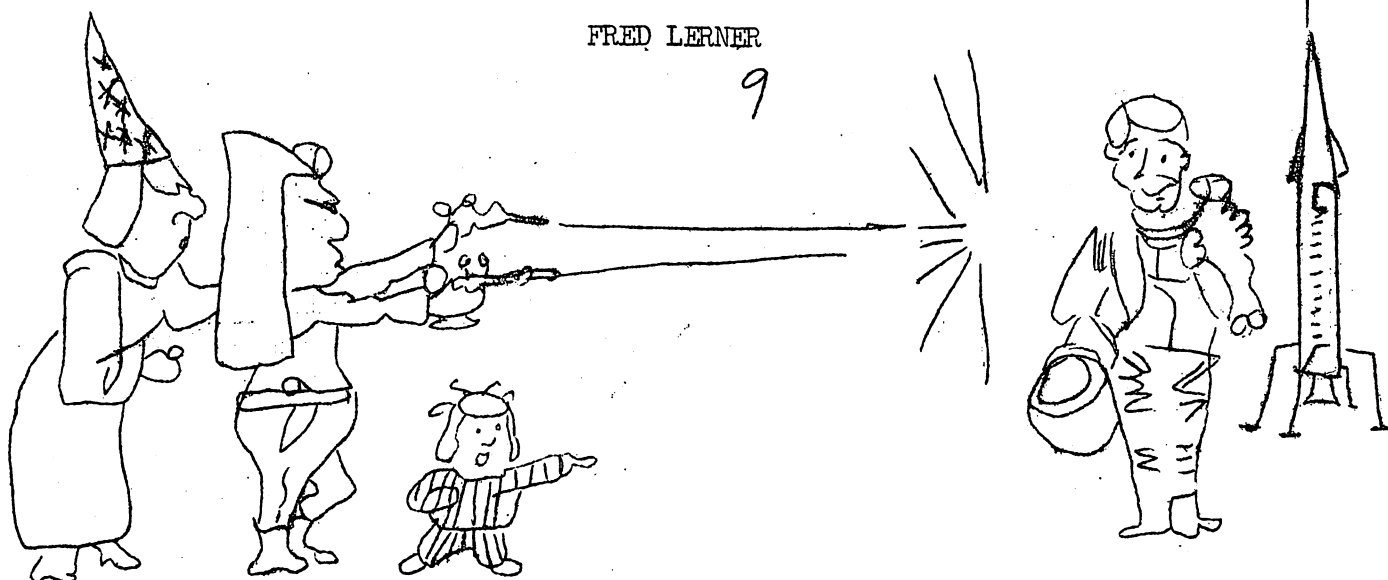
F&SF may have embarked upon the road to ruin, but I think it second only to Analog. It's stories are not thud and blunder space opera, nor are they sweeping cosmic nonsense they are literate pieces of fiction. Cordwainer Smith expressed the proper philosophy about literate stf when he said, "If you enjoyed this collection (The Space Lords), don't tell anyone. Keep it a secret. Go on and enjoy it some more. I'd much rather be appreciated by a select few than enjoyed by the bawling millions. You see, I enjoyed these stories myself." It seems there are a lot of bawling millions in the N3F....

Ira Lee Riddle: You're just not reading the right fanzines, that's all. In the last yr there were at least five new apas founded, all of which are operating at full swing right now. The one which might interest you the most is APA45 -- composed entirely of members born in or after 1945. It was founded by Richie Benyo and myself about a year ago, and will soon have its fourth mailing out. I'm the OE at the moment, if you want further information.

Phil Kohn: TIME must have gotten a good laugh out of your letter insisting that stationary orbits are only good around the equator. You're wrong, you know.

David Bradley: Well, I liked TZ better than Outer Limits, and I too have watched both. I liked the TZ stories better as stories -- it seemed to me that OL shows were mostly centered around the Horrible Monsters From Outer Space and suchlike, while TZ didn't try to scare you with fake monsters, but entertained with often amusing and often thoughtful material. That's why I liked TZ better than OL. OK?

JimMcElroy: Pardon me if I scoff at the idea of IPSOFACTO. The original thing, run by some very capable people was a full experiment on that type of publishing, and it was a resounding flop. Your rules are far too oppressive, and the cost of joining is rather high. And "All Cavaliers to Oscillate"???? G ds. (((Continued on page 13



Dear N3F:

I don't think there's too much danger of science-fiction becoming "a little magazine" field", as Kusske fears. The most of us recognize and appreciate good poetic writing -- as witness our enthusiasm for Tolkien's works -- we also demand good science and good logic in the fiction that we read. The literary types who turn up in Fantasy and Science Fiction are probably a good influence on the field; they show us what fancy writing is like, and some people in the science fiction field seem to be learning the lesson. Surely Amazing, Fantastic, If, and other zines could use writers with polished writing techniques.

Larry Janifer's You Sane Men is not a very good book. The idea is a good one, but the writing is too confused. The reader is led to expect a great revelation at the end -- after all, he reasons, all that double talk and Comity stuff must be there for some reason -- but there is none.

I think that Tightbeam should be limited to discussions of science-fiction. There is no place that I know of in Fandom for discussion centered exclusively on stf, and this should be the place. Anyone who joins N3F does so expecting to correspond on science fiction, so you can't be correct in saying that we'll tire of it.

T.A.F.N.

"#%&' () **) (' "

IDA IPE:

972 Campbell St.

Youngstown, Ohio,

U.S.A. - 44502.

Dear Tightbeam:

Sometime ago in our newspaper the following article appeared. I thought you might like to read it too. It was written by Fred Childress our local movie critic.

"It strikes me as quite a coincidence when the SEP, The New York Times, The Cleveland Plain Dealer, The Pittsburgh Press, etc., publish articles about Hollywood's SF writer Ray Bradbury during the same week. Could all this be the work of some publicity office? Of course it could.

"The Martian Chronicles" a book Bradbury wrote 14 years ago, has been sold to the Movies, and will be brought to the screen in a \$10 Million Production by Alan Pakula and Robert Mulligan, who were responsible for "To Kill A Mocking Bird."

Bradbury's work is SF with a difference. Although the customary scientific hardware - Rockets, satellites, space Stations figure in his stories, the point is how Amazing all

Continued on Page: 13

DONALD L. MILLER
12315 Judson Rd.
Wheaton, Md.
U.S.A. 20906.



The last of the large (51 pages of material) Games Bureau distribution was mailed on June 6th - so, if you haven't received it by now, please holler at me on a postcard, and I'll see that you get the missing material. Would all the recipients of the distribution please take one or more (preferably all) of the following actions as soon as possible after receipt of the material:

- (1) Acknowledge receipt of the material, and verify your address.
- (2) Let me know what you think of the material - preferably in the form of an LOC.

- (3) State whether or not you wish to continue on the Games Bureau Roster - and thus to continue receiving Bureau publications.

- (4) Subscribe to THE GAMESMAN and/or YE FAERIE CHESSMAN. Sub rates are, for each 'zine, 25¢ per copy, \$1.00 for 5 issues until August 1st, after which rates will be 30¢ per copy, 5 issues for \$1.25.

No further issues of THE KIBITZER will be published until Nate Bucklin emerges from Gaffiation. In the interim, THE KIBITZER will be included in either THE GAMESMAN or the new Chess Division 'zine (to be pubbed by Lon Atkins), BLITZ. So don't send Nate any money for subs to Kibitzer!

Jack Chalker will run a Bureau Diplomacy games for experienced players only. He will charge \$3.00 per year, to include the cost of a Diplomacy 'zine, which he will edit and publish. A second game, for inexperienced players only, will be run by John McCallum. John's game will not be a complete game, but will only be run for several months to give newcomers to Diplomacy the feel of the game. Other games will be started as necessary.

Persons interested in playing in either of the above games should contact me and not one of the Games-Masters. As soon as I have six names in either category, I will send them on to the Games-Master, who will contact the players individually re starting the game

A diplomacy set is desirable - but not a necessity - for playing Postal Diplomacy. Minimum requirements include a rulebook (\$1.00) and several Diplomacy maps (5¢ each). These are available from John Bardman, 592 16th Street, Brooklyn, NY. 11218.

For further information on Diplomacy, see John Bardman's article, "You, Too, Can Win the First World War" in issue #2 of THE GAMESMAN, and announcements in issues 1 through 3 of THE GAMESLETTER.

LOC's, articles, and artwork are still needed for future Bureau publications. Also, in addition to subs, we can always use contributions of money and/or stamps; the distribution just mailed set us back in excess of \$45 - which hurts!



MIKE WARD: //
6211 Bren-Mar Dr.
Alexandria, Va.
22312 (G.O.A.).

Those of you who are tired of arguing Syracuse vs Cleveland can take a break for a while, and argue the merits of BOSKONE in '67. I've heard that Baltimore is working for the '67 Con, and there are probably more groups we haven't heard about, all competing for the Con. You ask, "Why Boston? Are There any fen in Boston? Who's going to Organize the Worldcon there?"

The Boskone in '67 Committee was formed early this spring, for the purpose of Bringing the long-overdue Boston convention to life. Our Chairman is Dave Vanderwerf, and the present membership of the ConCom includes a number of Bosfen. We are just getting started, and the list of contributing persons will be sure to grow as the time for the con approaches, and the work to be done increases daily. Dave has promised me he will do none of the work, and I'm sure we can count on him to do his part in the pinch. While many of the most avid supporters of the movement are members of the MIT Science Fiction Society, it should be emphasized that the Boskone in '67 committee is not a function of the MITSFS, but is an entirely separte organization. I mention the MITSFS to illustrate my point that there is fanac in the Boston area - in fact, more fanac than many large cities can boast of. A consistent fanzine, THE TWI LIGHT ZINE, is better known -- their index to SF Magazines, 1951-1964. (There are still a few copies of the first edition available --- \$2. to MITSFS Index, Room W20-443, MIT, 77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02139). Several well-known pros live around the B oston area, and may be persuaded to EMCEE the proceedings.

Is the committee competent enough to put on a worthwhile con in Boston in 1967? We think it is; of course, we won't really know until after the con is over. However, we are getting a wealth of useful advice from Fen all over the country on the problems we will face in organizing this undertaking, and we hope to minimize brushes with Hotel managers and John Law. As for facilities, Boston is currently on a convention kick, as part of their NEW BOSTON campaign. The chamber of Commerce is ready to Welcome any group that promises to bring money, and new hotels and offices (full of secretaries who want to find out all about Fandom) are going up at a breathtaking rate. The police are cheap, and even Fen can to them; so don't worry about violating local ordinances.

We are not too worried about the conflict between the Boskone in '67 Idea with the rotation system -- if Syracuse can have a con in '66, then we can get away with one in Boston in '67. On the other hand, if Tricon in '66 is the verdict, then Boston can compete with Baltimore for the '67 honors. Finally, there is supposed to be an Eastercon in '68 -- and we can make it the Boskone in '68 Committee is necessary.

With a clear heart - for we know we are in the right - Boston is long due for a World Science- Fiction xonvention -- we go forward, unfurling the Banner to which all right-thinking fen are even now flocking - onward for BOSKONE IN '67! Thank you for hearing me out.

Michael Ward, for the Boskone Committee.

Dave Vanderwerf, Chrm. Supporting members; Erwin Strauss, Michael Ward, Mike Shupp, and Dennis Guthrie. (More names to be unveiled in time) (Suggestions and advice welcome -- write at new address.)

Continued from Page 2 SYRACON & TRICON. J. K. Klein.

12

Third, no committee can campaign on the basis it might be able to get a good hotel at the last minute. Syracuse has a superb, centrally air conditioned, first class hotel, with an entire block-long convention floor guaranteed in writing for the exclusive use of the Worldcon until 2 a.m. every day of the con.

Lastly, competition in '66 is what is giving Fandom a choice between the fine facilities and enthusiasm of Syracon and the very large committee and venerable hotel of Tricon. If Duncan's parting comments are understood correctly, the Syracon also offers Fandom a choice between open, democratic procedures of choosing worldcons and rule by committee.

Continued from Page 3 JOE SAUNDERS:

CARR: The eligibility rules are simple, but I won't rehash them. Just remember, if it was in a mag, dated this year, it is eligible this year, if it was in a book with the copyright this year, it was eligible this year, and if it was in a pb and was the first pb of a hardcover, it is eligible this year. Agreed, and there is no one feuding I prefer to read, even though you are generally WRONG.

BOSTON: A superb idea. Get started on it somebody. (Don't look at me, I have too much work to do.)

BARR: Can you possibly call what T. Carr and Wolheim the best? If so, then I see why everyone says that the mags are dead. However, they weren't. The only worthwhile story that I can remember was the Kagan (the best new author I've seen around for several years.) and the rest was typical F& SF stuff, even when it wasn't from that mag. And even if you are a fanatic reader of that mag, you will concede that there are other types of stories? Won't you?

KLEIN: Let's face it. While what you plan would be legal under the rotation plan, it would have the effect of scrapping it, or at least weakening it considerably. And admittedly London is not Tibet, still the number of fans who can get there is limited. It is expensive, and fans have a habit of being broke. There are a few who can get to cons, maybe a hundred, maybe a few more (American fans I'm talking about) but there are not many who can go months in advance and wage a Kyle propaganda campaign.

As to the question, and agreed it is the most important question, of who can put on the best con, I would give the honors to TRICON any day. They have more fans, more advice, and a better group, not that I'm slighting you or the Heaps. And while I hate to bring up dead matters, don't forget what happened at the last Kylecon. If I go, I won't be able to drop anything into the hat as it goes around.

I think a bit of personal advertising would be in order, for those who are in the NY area. This, if you are in the area, starting the last week in September, listen in to two radio programs of interest to fans: Gabfest & Exploring Science Fiction. Gabfest, which I host is a weekly panel discussion on almost anything, and it features as semi regular guests as Larry Janifer, Ted White, T. Carr, John Bardman and Fred Lerner. ESP is a weekly interview hosted by Fred Lerner with a well known pro or fan on some aspect of SF. Shows with JWC, Fred Pohl and Randy Garrett are already in the can, and Ted, Ron Ellik, Lin Carter and others have already agreed to be on. The times are:

Gabfest Friday Night 12:00 - 2:00 (sometimes 3:00)

ESP Sunday Sunday night 9:30 - 10:00

The station is WKCR - 89.9

This is the end. See you next ish if I'm not too lazy.

David Bradley: By Foo but your stfish education has been neglected if you must ask who Austin Hall is. That, from you, is almost as surprising as would be the query "Who is Astra?"

I suppose you all are aware that cosmological study of the recently-discovered quasi-stellars seems to be lending a great deal of weight to the theory of the big-bang creation of the universe. And also to the thoery that space is finite and curved. Latest evidence would seem to indicate that we are, indeed, living on the inside of an immensely vast sphere. Who do you suppose is living on the outside?

Continued from Page 8

RICHARD MANN.

Duncan seems to be able to defend the Tricon committee ably, so I'll leave that to him. All in all, Duncan has put out a fine issue, and I thank him for doing so. (I just got a phonecall wherein the fellow wanted to know if I was in SWINE PRODUCTION. Egads!)

Continued from Page:

9

IDA IPE:

this is, or how we'll soon be zooming around like Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers. The point of "The Martian Chronicles" for example, is that when Earthmen colonize Mars, they transplant the evils of the world they left behind to their new planet. History repeats itself, proving that men haven't learned a thing since Cortez colonized Mexico and Pizarro conquered Peru.

Others in the Works: "The Martian Chronicles is only one of the Science Fiction Movies Hollywood is turning out. The best known one is a film version of Aldous Huxley's famous novel, "Brave New World", providing a chilling glimpse into a machine-mad totalitarian society of the future. In the same vein is a Horrendous study of "The Planet Of The Apes", a film in which Spacemen discover a planet much resembling Earth. Machines have enabled the "humans" on this planet to lead such a fat and lazy life that the apes have taken over. Rod Serling has completed the script for this film, which will be directed by Blake Edwards.

RACE TO THE MOON:

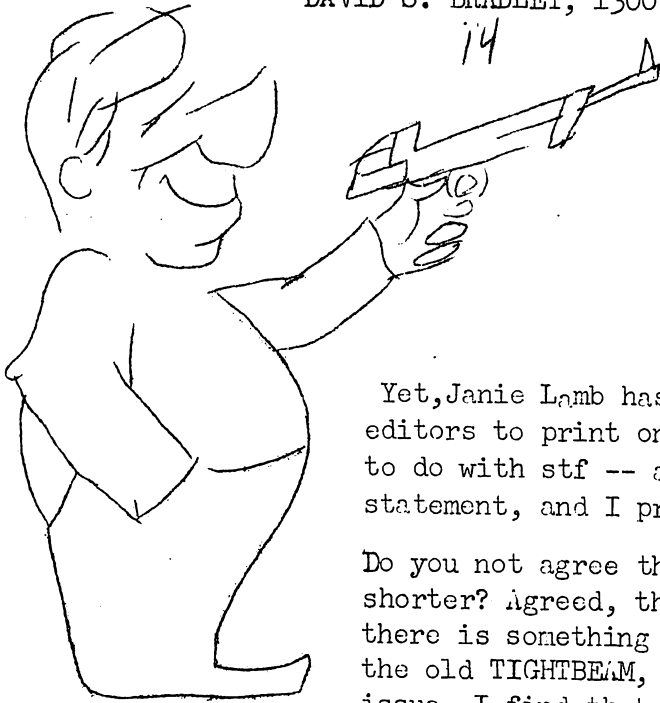
In general, the Hollywood scientists seem to be taking a dim view of man's ability to deal with the future, in fact, than he is with the present. In "The Pilgrim Project", an SF film in which the future is much closer at hand than it is, say in, "Brave New World", the U.S. dispatches a man to the moon. The race is to get there first- that is, to beat the Russians - is so close that the scientists send the astronaut on his way knowing they won't be able to get him back to Earth.

Foregin movie producers are no more optimistic about the future than those in Hollywood. Francois Truffant, the sensitive and talented director of the Internationally famous French Film, "The 400 Blows", is at work on a screen version of a Ray Bradbury story, "Fahrenheit 451", which shows what happens when McArthyism overtakes the Space Program,

Congratulations to Stan Woolston on winning the Kaymar Award. It was deserved.

Scientifictionally.

DAVID S. BRADLEY, 1300 Arch Street, Berkeley, California, USA 94708.



Witness, my friends, the dying gasps of N3F. When I joined the N3F some years ago, it was interesting, new, strange, and TB was a place where fans could meet for a discussion of anything that they desired to talk about. There were discussions on psi, politics, or anything that people wanted to read or talk about - and did anyone object?

Yet, Janie Lamb has now come out and said that she has encouraged editors to print only the parts of the letters that have something to do with stf -- and I protested then, when she first made that statement, and I protest now!

Do you not agree that letters to TIGHTBEAM were in general much shorter? Agreed, this made more room for more letters, but somehow there is something lacking! It is an imitation of TIGHTBEAM, not the old TIGHTBEAM, that I once rejoined in reading! And with this issue, I find that my already ebbing interest in N3F has dropped another notch or two. Soon any intelligent members will be leaving for FAPA and things of that sort.

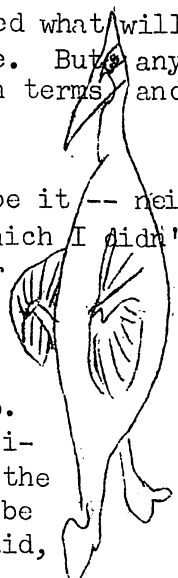
I notice that out of my other letter, you left out my reference to FAPA's not worrying about discussing other things than stf, and they are one hell of a lot better organized than we are -- it's like comparing a high school or a college to some kindergarten classes! FAPA is also a possessor of more intelligent members, they have their fuggheads too, but our quantity is greater. --
????????????????

NATE BUCKLIN
P. O. Box 4,
Dockton, Wash.
USA- 98108.

First of all, even though this hasn't reached the membership other than via rumours, I am GAFIA. This is certainly not the best situation for a Round Robin head to be in, so I wrote to Stan Wolston resigning from the job, though it seems he never got the letter. My apologies to Rick Brooks and Gregg Welford, and several others. My part in the GAMES BUREAU slightly collapsed, though I still retain a good deal of interest, the time for heavy correspondence the job needs is PFFFFFFT... As yet, I haven't decided what will happen to THE KIBITZER; Don Miller will probably take it over for a while. But anyone can write a letter to TIGHTBEAM, so damn the homework (a contradiction in terms) and full speed ahead.

David Bradley: What? You mean you haven't read ISLANDIA? Upon your head be it -- neither have I. I'm almost certain that Austin Hall is the Author of Islandia, which I didn't think worth reading; after more than ten pages, it might have been better than it looked.

I support Tricon because they're the more logical group. The group on top can always afford to be logical. Down with Sercon in '66. Why is "going off the deep end" a negative attribute? The supremely qualified candidate runs against the not-so-supremely qualified; just because the imbalance is great in the favor of one, does this mean the other should be voted for because of not being ostentatious? Maybe that's not what you said, Steve, but I'm not sure, since it didn't make much sense. See you in '66.



Gregg Wolford, 9001 Joyzelle; Garden Grove, Cal. USA.

92640.

15

Hmph. I got the MAY TIGHTBEAM before I got the April TNFF. In fact, I still haven't seen the April TNFF.

Did I miss out completely, or is just a "little" late?

JOHN KUSSKE:: Your fears about SF becoming a "little magazine field" are totally unjustified. Even IF the magazines all fail (something I doubt), the paperbacks will still be there to fill the void. Those paperbacks sell quite well too, on the average about twice as much as ASTOUNDING did in its finest hour.

DAVID BRADLEY & JANIE LAMB:: Sorry Dave, but I agree with Janie. There will always be something new in SF-land to talk about: for example, now we have the "new" AMAZING to dissect. Besides, SF is something we in N3F are ALL interested in, mundane subjects, like, oh, coin collecting would only interest a small minority.

DAVE B. on other subjects::: GADS! TWILIGHT ZONE occasionally showed some purty good things--with only two exceptions OUTER LIMITS never parted from the "BEM-from-outer-space-is-a-good/bad (they alternated each week)-guy". And THE MUNSTERS is an example of the stuff that is slowly killing SF.

STEVE BARR:: I prefer Judith Merrill's book reviews to Miller's. The book reviews in F&SF read more like an article on recent SF, while Miller's tend to be little more than plot capsules.

ANYBODY & EVERYBODY::: While glancing through the pbs at a local drug store, I found a book which for some strange reason I cannot remember the title of. The book told of "the greatest hero of our time, a man who loved his country and sacrificed his life for it" (or something like that), and gives his name: Lee Harvey Oswald. If you have seen this book, please tell me its title, publisher, and other pertinent data. I want to send the publisher a time bomb.

ELLEN COX,
225 Nelson Blvd.
Decatur, Ill. 62521.

I would like to see TB editors doing
some more editing. I got bored before
I was half-way through those two whole

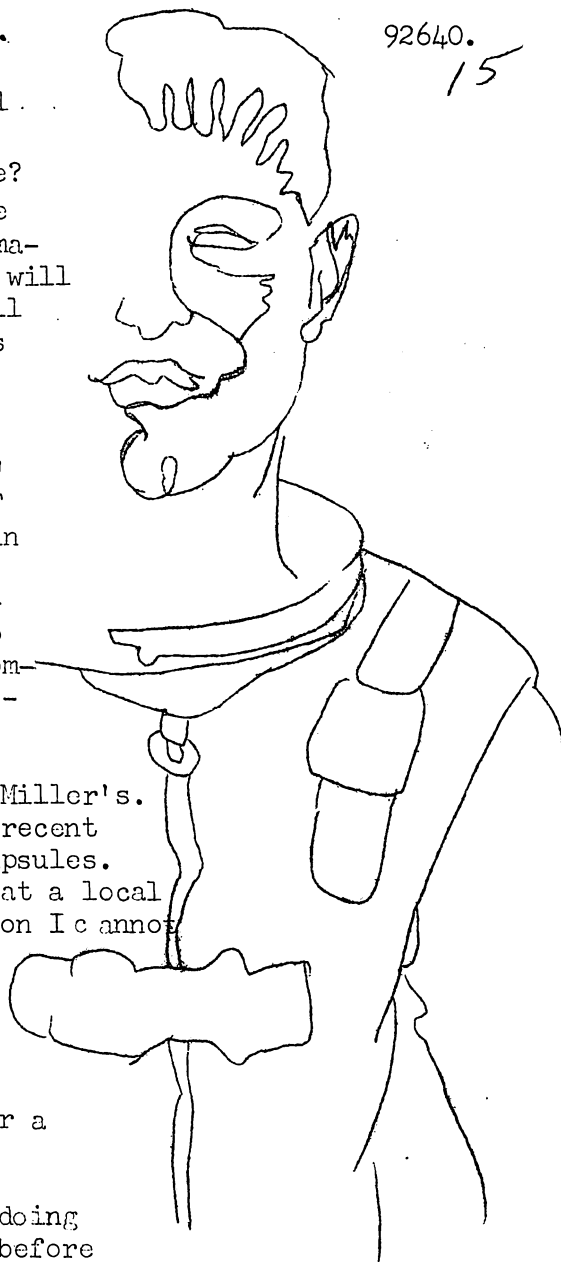
pages of fan politics about where to hold the con and the outrageous things Syracuse was doing. What issue of TNFF had that article about Andre Norton and a list of all her publications?

Ira Lee Riddle: I'm not going to send you my ideas because I am suffering from the delusion that I will write them all -- sometime. But finding ideas is a matter of techniques: my fruitful method is to look at anything that happens to catch my mind and turn it upside down (figuratively). Then I think of someplace where the result would be natural, and it is usually SF. Your "riddles" were puns; the Italian ones were Terrible.

Phil Kohn: Do you ever do anything in letters except be sarcastic? There's an old saw about honey catching more flies than vinegar.

David Bradley: Don't quote me if I'm wrong, but you sound as though you thought only a small proportion of TB readers were interested in SF. I am, and it's the sole reason why I joined N3F. I thought others were in it for the same reason. Constant feuding or politicking is just as sickening as nothing but SF; and I'd be sick a lot faster on the non-SF diet. SF is a varied field; I can't see getting bored with it if people take an interest in the discussion.

I liked the cover on #31. Let's have some more like this.





16

TOM DUPREE John Kusske's idea of TB as a no-activity-mi-
809 Adkins Blvd. nimum-apa sounds good...if people would just
Jackson, Miss. take it as such. Gregg Wolford: you mean to
U.S.A.- 32911. tell us that the same paper is being used in
the digest ANALOG... just "colored differently."
You can't tell the difference between the stuff in ANALOG'S
fiction pages of the pulp-sized years? I don't purport to
know anything about paper, but it takes little knowledge of
the subject to see that there they are two different types of
paper. In fact, JWC said, in ANALOG for March 65 that the new
digest size ANALOG "will be printed on a new type of paper,
akin to the non-coated stock in this issue."

As a matter of fact, one of the reasons for the change was
that paper stock had been depleted and it was time to reorder.
Otherwise, JWC wouldn't have changed sizes right in the mid-

dle of a serial. As is generally known, of course. David Bradley wonders why had "the
idea that TWILIGHT ZONE is better than OUTER LIMITS." I seem to remember reading some-
where that you were a monster fan, David; I believe it was in Bucklin's STOPTHINK. If
so, I can see why OL would appeal to you. However, it was no match for TwiZ as far as
seriously done fantasy goes. You might have noticed the absence of monsters, but as
Randall Harris points out in SCI-FI SHOWCASE #6, TwiZ was never really a STF show.
Sterling admitted as much himself. It was actually a series of morality plays, sur-
rounded by a fantastic background. I remember one of the more shocking "monsters" on
TV last season was "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet." I would imagine you enjoyed that, or
would have, if you had seen the show. But when you get "It crawled Out Of The Wood-
work" purporting to be stf, you're getting a little out of hand. TwiZ was the better
show, and I'll debate point by point with you for ten more TBs if necessary. And how
you can like idiocy like THE MUNSTERS over TwiZ is beyond me. Incidentally, it's your
turn to weep and wail, because OL has been cancelled, thank God. Jim McElroy: Good Ghu,
what a name for an Apa!

I am starting an apa for fans of the horror and science fiction cinema, MAPA. Details
from me, Tom Dupree. Originally, announced in FAMOUS MONSTERS as being started by
Ron Matthies, this apa had to be scrapped when Ron joined the service. He turned the
reins over to me, and I now need members. Don't join just for the zines, however. You
will be expected to have some discussion of the scifantasy cinema as a prerequisite to
your membership.

Finally, has TNFF stopped coming out? The last issue I got was the Feb. ish, and I
particularly like them because I send out copies of my fanzine to the new members. I
would appreciate an April ish and the new roster.

#####

CUYLER WARNELL BROOKS, Jr. Janie Lamb: I definitely don't agree with you about what
911 Briarfield Road, should appear in TB. I think that any subject of general
Newport News, Va. interest should certainly be allowed, and anything else wi-
USA - 23605. thin the discretion of the editor. Naturally Walter Breen
does not write to TB about Coin collecting, it is a very

narrow field of interest among people who attend lodge dinners. If a fan wants to sound
off in TB on civil rights or education or nuclear disarmament, I can't see any harm in it.
All three subjects have been important to many SF stories, and SF will get into the dis-
cussion sooner or later.

John Boston: As too TransAtlantic book swapping, I have been engaged in it for some time
now, with Rod M. lner of the Birmingham, Eng. group. We have encountered one problem. He
wants mostly BC editions and pbs with an occasional magazine or used book and I can
get these easily enough. What I am looking for mainly now are old books, mostly op,



C.W. BROOKS, cont...

though, and Rod works in a new-book store and doesn't seem to be able to get any of the older books I'm looking for. What we need to do is for him to find somebody over there who can help with the old books, and for me to find somebody over here who wants current British issues, pbs, prozines, etc. Then we could keep the thing more evenly balanced. Anybody out there interested? Actually, if you know of a book published in England, you can easily order it directly, as all British dealers that I know of will gladly accept dollars and dollar checks. What I, and perhaps other fans, need in England is someone to look up the old out-of-print books, which are very reasonable over there, also old prozines, and fanzines.

Sydney Silverstein has a good idea about the tape robins there. I would suggest from my own experience in tape response that for most purposes the 3" reel is plenty. A 3" reel of .1-mil tape (300 Ft), used in the way Syd suggests, would give each of the four in the robin 15 minutes of talking time. This may not sound like much, but see how long a letter you have to write that it would take you 15 minutes to read it. If those with 4 track machines are careful to use only tracks 1 & 4, there will be no trouble with incompatibility between 2-track and 4-track machines.

Please: Don't use that Charlottesville address listed for me in the Feb. TNFF (Vol #24 #1). Use the Newport News address in the roster. I never intended for that other address to be used in Fandom at all. I was only there 4 months and all mail was forwarded. Mail to the Charlottesville address is not forwarded, at least not with any enthusiasm.

~~~~~

AL JACKSON  
3735 W. Bay Circle,  
Dallas, Texas.

One gets the impression that after all these years fans remain science fiction film and drama idiots; Fans, who for years and years have done a creditable job of criticising and analyzing sf, have for the most part over-looked the fields of drama and cinema. Of course, the art of drama and literature are separate but not absolutely.

Yes, I know that the sf film is one of the few things in the world that started out on the bottom and went down. Fans have jumped away from the sf film with such horror that when things may be looking up we have no sophisticated attitudes or standards by which to compare the films that will soon loom on the horizon. I warn you fans, you are about to be steam rolled by two, possibly three sf films undoubtedly of quality as never seen before, they are the Kubric-Clarke project JOURNEY BEYOND THE STARS, the Bradbury-Palula-Mulligan effort THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES, and maybe, just maybe, the Truffaut-Bradbury version of FAHRENHEIT 451. What will the reaction be when fans see these? "Gee that nice", or "now that what a sf film out to be". Hell! Who knows what a sf film ought to be like? SF films will only lend themselves to comparison with the literature by way of essence but not structure.

You see I'm not asking for a crusade against the fools in Hollywood who make what they think are sf films. They are merely puppets with dollar signs for eyeballs who jerk stiffly to the old tune of commercialism played in Hollywood. You could never tell them anything they could never understand. Rather, would you as a sf fan be able to answer these questions? What should sf drama and cinema be? Do you think written SF should be adapted for the film, or should original film material be prepared? What about those few from the ranks of sf pros who have gone to Hollywood, do you think they have been successful? What kind of sf do you think would make for successful drama and cinema? Do you think SF would be "too advanced" for the great masses? Even if this were so, how could it be changed so respectable films were made yet still did good at the box-office? Should this be done at all? Isn't the idea of good sf drama and cinema useless after all? Is it?



RICK SNEARY

2962 Santa Ana St.  
South Gate, Cal.

18

Two subjects I want to bring up. The first is regarding the seeming policy of limiting TIGHTBEAM to letters on Fandom & STF subjects. I am strongly of the opinion that an organization formed with one field of interest in mind, should not let it's field of interest wander.. even if a majority of the membership seem to want it. The reason being that with its major activities changed, the group will fail to interest new members of the type that would have liked the old club. While it will attract more, interested in the new subjects... Thus changing the direction and this should be avoided, if the purposes of the organization is not to be subverted.

But, putting a "gag rule" on TIGHTBEAM throws out most of the best while keeping most of the worst. The last two issues of TB have been the duller and tritest I've read since rejoining. Fan letter columns even the better ones in the old Pro-mags, have a tradition of talking about everything and anything. It is impossible at times to tell when a discussion of politics or religion or sex from stf to the real world. Or to prevent comment on a review of a RAH novel, relating to the current events... Tightbeam seems to me to be mainly a forum for the NFFF member to give his opinion about the NFFF and stf, but it is also for the entertainment of the vast majority of members who do not write in. And for this reason, I feel quality should be the only limiting factor on what is published.

The editor should edit the letters he receives, to fit the space he has available. Using first, material giving information and reports to the membership, and news of events. The rest should be used according to how interesting and well written it is. McFarland used some that had all the interest and point of something from the Congressional record...though I do not say this was his fault...it could be the best he had. Intempered personal attacks and ego-eccentric ravings, of course, should be edited. I agree with GMCarr that a feud can sometimes be fun to watch, but it should be up to the writer, whether he does or not, and most of us have to get TIGHTBEAM at least for a year.

The other subject is an idea, which I bring up strictly for debate, and not at this time as a seriously made suggestion for a change in the NFFF. So, if you don't like the idea, say so, but don't attack me. I bring it up only to have it talked about and if it has major flaws, to have them pointed out. Thinking of the main troubles that the NFFF is heir to, one of the main ones has been the slowness to act, or no action, of the Directors. The past six months are a fine example. And why? Usually because of two reasons. When someone agrees to run in July, they don't know what they will be able to do the next July. And, it takes too long to argue out things by mail--especially when one or two Directors can hold things up by being slow to answer.... the same is true of the President. We had a president once, when I was on the Directorate, who didn't answer official letters for six months... you can't change people, but you can change the system... and the last few months I've been working with the newly incorporated Institute for Specialized Literature... I'm on the Board of Directors... and they have a completely business-like governing system. I was wondering if it would work for the NFFF.

As I see it, there would be two major changes in our By-Laws. The number of Directors increased from five to 7 or 9, and their only constitutional duty would be to appoint or remove the President. The President would not be elected by the membership, but serve at the pleasure of the Directors. The President would have complete control of the running of the NFFF; the appointment of committees; the spending of money. The Directors would set the general policy though, and anytime the President ever stepped out of line set by the Directors, or failed to get things done, he could be replaced by the Directors.

SNEARY on deck.

19

The advantages I see in the system are these: The Directors would have to vote only on replacement or appointment of President. Freed of the thought of all the correspondence the job now requires, more older and experienced members might be willing to serve. The increased number would give better representation. And as the President would not hold office for a fixed term, there would be greater flexibility. A very good President might only serve for six months, then when personal matters interfered, be relieved for a few months... then replaced again when he had time again. The Directors, too, would be more likely to know who would make a good president, rather than who was merely the most popular candidate.

Let me make this clear....this is not meant as criticism of current officers. Especially of Presidents. The NFFF has been very lucky with the men it has had for the last few years. I feel though, they could have probably done better, with less labor, if they had not had to drag the Board of Directors along, kicking, screaming, etc. every step of the way.

\*\*\*\*\*

JACK CHALKER

Resigned Manuscript Bureau because I couldn't devote the time  
5111 Liberty Heights Ave. it needed. No effect on any other position I hold and I will  
Baltimore 7, Md. U.S.A. , be a candidate for re-election to the Directorate.

\*\*\*\*\*

K. M. Carlson,

1028 third Ave. S.

Moorhead, Minn. 56560.

This problem of Chairman dropping out and the search for a new one, is not new but the 1947-48 Directorate had a partial solution. We found that the new members were the ones who wanted to work, and we would have 2 or 3 for each Chairman to "educate" in the work. Of course, "Welcom" is a natural place for these workers and rightly so. It takes time to know something about Fandom, and you must start at the foot of the ladder. I've heard some of the new members complain that there was no work for them to do. They just haven't contacted the right person yet.

Most Fans are responsible and try to do the right thing, but some do not try to do the work they promised to do and the Chairman gets disillusioned and tries to do it all alone and GAFIA sets in and he drops out. Another thing that gripes me is the fact that some members keep talking against the NFFF. If they are so dissatisfied, why don't they drop out. We can get along very well without them. No club or organization is perfect, or even near so, and N3F is no different than the other clubs I BELONG TO. You have the grippers, workers and talkers in all clubs. If you have a good President and 10% of the members as workers, you really go places.

Here I'd like to put in a kind word for Don Franson, past President. I've always been a dedicated Neffer and resented some of the things he said about N3F, long before he became President I told him "If you don't like the way N3F is run, why don't you run for President and see how much fun it is to have a thankless job on your hand." To my pleasant surprise, he DID JUST THAT, and he did a very fine job for the N3F. He wasn't always right but he tried to do his best and what more can you ask from a person.

I'm very happy with the success of the N3F TRADER. It has increased a lot since the first page was run. This and the job of HISTORIAN has kept me busy in the N3F. I hope to continue with this work for many more years. You know, it's nice to look back and be able to say, "I've only missed FOUR years of the N3F!" As you know, the N3F was organized in 1941. I joined in 1945 and really got active. In fact, my wife was very unhappy about the hours I spent in correspondence and stencil work for N3F. I had hardly learned a thing about N3F when I was voted as Vice-President and Chairman of "Welcom". My busy years were 1945-50. Now you have some idea of why I am an OLDTIMER square about N3F. Thanks for listening to an "old timer", now 61 years old.

ALMA HILL, 20 (June 25/65).... Last night, or rather this morning, 3:30 a.m. I got home from Milford Conference for stf writers, and gollies didn't my doorway look good to me, though I'm glad I went. But it's such a distance and so strenuous to get away from home for even a couple of days.

The Knights have a tremendous Victorian house full of carved panelling, fireplaces and unexpected cupboards, and surrounded by porches and whatnots. It has a great hillside location and you can see Pennsylvania hills folding into one another to a great distance. Modern traffic and motels are coming close under its stone stairways up to its porches; but no attendee at the conference is likely to complain about that. As you know, I don't drive a car, so took the shuttle plane to New York, across the city by Bus from the airport, and a Short Line bus that runs from the Port Authority to and from Milford, twice a day. This is the most scenic part of the trip, three gorgeous hours out from the most modern of cities through villages, woods and fields into some very handsome hilly country.

It seems as if about every lady writer in stf was there, which isn't too surprising with Kate Wilhelm Knight as hostess, and Leigh Richmond and Judith Merrill living not too far off. But if you want a collection of dropped names, I can do it. It was a gathering for the same purposes as the Writers' Exchange-- shop talk and mss comment-- and Damon runs things with not too firm, or slack a hand, making sure that they don't divide themselves into Chiefs and Indians. That is for sure an important precaution where stfolk, fan or pro, congregate, for so many are rather used to leading their local pecking-orders, that this can be a great source of confusion. But the older pros have been through all that, and this is true of Damon, I feel sure.

The August issue of AMAZING was just out, first under the new Sol-Cohen management. It seems that he is buying slowly and carefully, but he is buying and paying cash on acceptance. I phoned Universal Publishing Company, and think that it's the Cohen home. Putting a magazine back on its feet is a long shot and a costly one. He is using some reprints and some material that was bought by ZD and inherited by himself. Amz used some "classic" reprints, but Cohen has two, both by Big Name Authors, and their names are given on the cover without indicating that they are not new stuff. Inside, the blurbs give the facts about when these were written, so I guess it's honest. Judging from this first issue, Cohen is aiming at a young-adult readership, not the literary college kids but the action adventure story readers. The tone is what you might call cheerful and wholesome. Mrs. Cohen told me that he makes the final decisions himself but he turns the editorial details over to Mr. Ross, the managing Editor. My guess is that Cohen's guess is that there are more readers for that sort of stf than there are for the F& SF type, circulation figures to the contrary notwithstanding, whereas Ziff-Davis never bothered to seek subs, but depended on newstand circulation--- and the way the zines are usually displayed, all you can see is the spine nowadays. But at La-Guardia the waiting room newstand had them displayed front and center, and I got another copy, (having left mine in Milford) at the Port Authority Concourse on my way back, so at least in New York he's getting some breaks.

SUBSCRIBE TO AMAZING LIKE NOW AND HELP SAVE A LANDMARK OF THE FIELD. \$2.50/year. Ultimate Publishing Co, Box 7, Oakland Garden, Flushing 11364, NY.

Here is the most-recent information on the MIT Index. The first run is nearly out of print and most of them have gone home for the summer, so the activity is at an ebb. However, they are greatly encouraged by all developments. The University has extended them a grant of \$1100. to complete and bind their collection, and they are proceeding to make additions to their Index and bring out another, fuller one in the fall, up-to-date and containing all the stf printed since 1950, with full sets now available and efforts being made to get at foreign-printed stf as well.

This does not compete with Don Day's Index, since that one is in a handsome format, comparable to other special-subject indexes published for and by Librarians and collectors, whereas the MIT Index is mimeographed. At first I thought, from the way it



Alma Hill on Deck:

21

was set up, that it had been photocopied from the IBM report, which can come on 8½ x paper that way. However, what they actually did was put stencils where the paper would go, remove the ribbon from the typing end of the machine, and then let the machine type the stencils, bzz,bzzz,bzzzz, snap! They go like lightning.

They are also moving to new quarters -- doubtless their new President-- I don't know why he's called THE SKINNER, but he's the chief executive nonetheless--Mike Ward, being a Neffer, will have a letter about it. If so, this one is surplus.

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IF YOU DON'T HAVE \$2.50 IN CASH, OR A CHECKING ACCOUNT, SEND A LOUSY BUCK TO ULTIMATE PUBLISHING COMPANY, Box 7, OAKLAND GARDENS, FLUSHING, 11364, New York. put it in loose if you are too lazy to go to the post office, take a chance, why not-- look, look at the chance Sol Cohen is taking. Save our landmark.  
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There has been some criticism of the omissions and some errors found in the first run of the MIT index, but this is all to the good since this makes for greater accuracy the next time around, and is not that inaccurate now for that matter. Small slips are bound to get in, and are not hard to correct. New material is easily added also by the loose-card IBM system. Put and take, it comes out bigger and better and still low in price.

Some others are and have been working on Indexes, and may feel their noses somewhat out of joint. Darned if I see it that way though I'm pretty much a neighbour to the whole field and partisan to none. The MIT group did the best they could with an eye to doing better still. This beats perfectionists sitting on a monument and doing nothing; and no perfectionist is that perfect, at that. Anyway, may the best indexers win, the field can't lose. There is plenty of room for the sub-type indexes, such as the material our Collectors' Bureau is working on.

\*\*\*\*\*

Eric Blake, My copy of TIGHTBEAM #31 arrived just after the announced dead-  
Box 6, Jamaica 31, line of June 15th (Eric's letter is dated June 30) Thanks for your  
N.Y. U.S.A. advanced warning of this possibility, which (should my letter be  
worth publishing) makes me represented in the 32nd issue. I wonder  
whether I could prevail upon you to forward this letter to the publisher of the 33rd  
issue, whose identity I don't, at the present time, know. I would send you a stamp  
for this purpose, but I don't think it would do you much good in Canada!

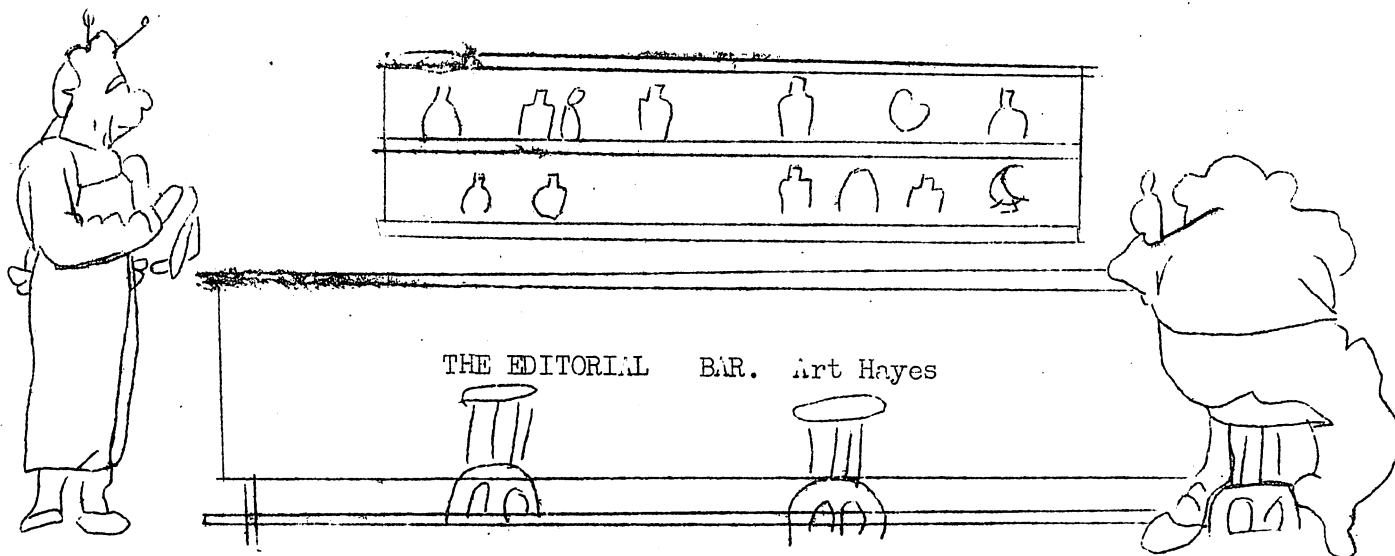
John Kusske's comment on the decline of the s.f. magazine need not be as pessimistic as it is. "F&SF" has become almost unreadable in recent years, but "If" has improved by way of compensation. "The Altar At Asconel" is interplanetary adventure of a sort that I had thought extinct. It has high adventure, a tyrant to be overthrown, and a team of heroes( the half-brothers) who complement each other perfectly. I hope that John Brunner will tell us some of their further adventures. The return of the Skylark series in "Amazing" is also worth applause. Of course, this "Skylark" story doesn't read quite like the older ones, but then, we're all thirty years older.

Janie Lamb's remark that there are other places than fanzines to discuss topics outside sf is, I suppose, directed in part towards me and the other members who have discussed political topics in TIGHTBEAM. The point is well taken and I'll try to keep political matters out of my letters in the future. Still, I doubt that I can resist the temptation to take issue with a particularly harmful political or religious viewpoint.

This relates in part to Ann Chamberlain's proposal for a "round robin" among fans over the age of 50. On the one hand, it would provide a round table for us oldtimers to reminisce about the sf of the '20's and 30's, but it would also tend to isolate us from the rest of the membership. I am sure, to judge from the revival of interest in Burroughs, Klein, and Lovecraft that many younger fans would be interested in following these discussions. Also, and I am indebted to Mrs. Carr for this idea, we really do have a responsibility to counteract such quixotic notions as those of James Wright.

Erid Blake on Deck:

Childish Atheism and radicalism, even when obviously facetious, as his remarks were, should not give the impression that they represent any substantial body of opinion in N.F.F.F. There is, after all, a scriptural injunction to avoid even the appearance of evil. \*\*\*\*\*



Rick Sncary says, in a letter in this issue, that a Directorate volunteer never knows what he will be able to do a year hence and so, sometimes other things interfere and he becomes unable to actively do the job he promised to do, when allowed his name to stand for election. At the moment, I wish I had never volunteered for this issue of TIGHTBEAM. All previous issues of TIGHTBEAM that I've been responsible for in the past have been produced in a hectic chaos that had a fannish origin and I remember when I promised to do the last issue I did of TB, I expressed the hope that I would have a nice quiet, uncomplicated issue at last. I didn't. This time, fannishly speaking, I did get all I wanted or wanted then. The complications that faced McF rland did not face me. I had, I think, sufficient letters on hand for a small issue at least of moderate interest. I had plenty of line-drawings for fillios, and a good art piece for a cover, one that was best if Gestencilled electronically. Let's go back in time a little, to June 1st. Lots of time for anything, I was relaxed and willing to tackle the world. Then the world tackled me and I found I wasn't as ready or able as I had thought myself. Like the mouse who drank spilled whiskey attacking the cat.

June 8th came along and this little gold mine started the wheels turning for production. I'm in charge of the mill or concentrator section. The details are not of interest to you, for instance, the Jig didn't jig right, the crusher didn't crush right, the classifier didn't classify, didn't have a chance to, etc. The result was a minimum of 12 hours a days, with the occasional (rather uncomfortably frequent) 16 hrs a day, and the occasional 32 hour day too. And it has been like this for a month now, without any real stop, except that every two weeks there are some days off, and I resign from everything, including Fandom, during those week-ends. And of course, they wanted to have an official opening a few months before we were ready and the rush to try to be ready to pour a gold brick (didn't succeed, not enough gold ready for melting), etc. Well, the opening day is past but the rush hasn't really let up. I'm expecting to be at the mill site (underground) at least every four hours for a collection of concentrate (last night I let it go for 7 hours, no trouble). I have to get some sleep. So, on this late date of July 6th, I'm completing the stencilling of this issue, with my own comments. This tends to explain why letters received nearly three weeks after the official deadline, is being included.

However, one thing I do think I will get done, is to get SOME copies out in the mail by this week-end, which is my official deadline. Most copies will be no more than a week late. No matter what anyone thinks, there's only so much I can accomplish and this is beyond reasonable limits, without anyone being to blame. Yeah, I have an issue of the BULLZINE to get out, an issue of GULLINO to get out, and a pile of correspondence remiscient of last year. I won't have time to proof-read anything this issue, so there will be more typos than usual, which might not be noticeable since I always have plenty of such things dotting the pages of anything I publish. I'm what might be called a PANIC PUBLISHER, always in a panic and in a rush. Anyhow, before going on to a few comments I may want to include in this issue, I want to apologize to MIKE HOLSINGER who did all the artwork except that on pages 16 - 17 & 18. I want to apologize for a lot of things, but that's all the time I've got for apologizing at the moment, have to go underground to check the jig hutches.

Tackett: Second the motion of congratulations to McFarland. I almost panicked when I thought I was to publish THAT issue.

HIMLIN: I wonder what the Authors think of the taking over of the sf field by the Pbs. It seems to me only a few years ago, when at an SF convention I heard a plea to the fans to try to stop the pbs that, they were ruining the field, etc.

About Don Franson:- Don found out what a thankless job being a club official can be. I can't say though that they, the members, should be satisfied with just being members. I think that all their demands tends to keep progress in effect, tends to keep the officials, volunteers though they may be, coming out with more and more, trying to satisfy those who can't be satisfied. Don is reducing his fannish contacts to a minimum, and I wish I could too, probably will HAVE TO. Now, in another section of this issue, there are comments about Don, by Kaymar Carlson. Recently, the Kaymar award was given out. The one who received it deserved it, without question, our current President, Stan Woolston. Stan has been a member of N3F, in and out of Official capacity, almost as long as Carlson. He has gone through good times and bad times too. I don't feel they could have given it to anyone more deserving. BUT.... a few felt some disappointment too, when Don didn't get it. Don did an excellent job in the time he was a president and on the first year after he had retired from official capacity, not disgruntled and resigning from the N3F, just reducing his activity, the Kaymar award would have been specially satisfying to him, more so this year than next, when Stan Woolston would probably still be around, as he has been, for years and years and years. That Don Franson did an excellent job as President, I KNOW, since I was involved in some of the difficulties he did have to face. In the heat of the disagreements I was involved in, I don't recall having made very many statements criticizing severely anything Don Franson did.

And while handing out the compliments, I do think Fred Lerner has compliments coming to him, on the way he has handled N3F.

Games bureau. I wish I had the time to participate in some way, but can't.

I've got nothing to say about Convention site discussions. I won't have the time to be there anyhow, no matter where they have it. My last convention was just before it went to Seattle, am forgetting what they are like.

And by all means, listen in to GIBFEST and ESF on WKCR. Remember to write in too, as such comments as you may make, will assure those programs being continued.

I had to laugh at David Bradley's letter, as it shows he hasn't been around the club long enough yet. Had he been, he'd know I don't censor letters, never have. Regardless of what Janie Lamb says, what Stan Woolston says, what the Directorate says, when an issue of Tightbeam has been allotted to someone, they lose all control on it, and it depends only on what that particular editor wants to print. In most cases, withholding payment won't stop a doggone thing. Most of the issues of Tightbeam I've printed I never billed N3F for anyhow. I do find some things puzzling though, since I'm not in a place where it seems to matter. Wright's letter created a furor in N3F for the simple (and maybe not so simple) reason that Communism seems to create panic in the USA. There is a fear that all kinds of punishment will be visited on the heads of anyone who is even remotely associated with anyone or anything that might have communistic connec-



tions. I've had some tell me they thought they'd lose all rights under the Social Security acts of the U.S.A. That they would lose access to many jobs because of the Security check requirements, etc. if there was even a slight suspicion of N3F having even a single member who professed being a communist. If such, in any part, is even likely to be, then I'll have to agree that censoring Tightbeam is a MUST for those areas of comments within which this security matter might fall. I'm glad I live in a democracy. Sure, I'm being sarcastic there, but not as completely as some of you may think at the first glance, since it has been repeated in the last year, by several high-ups in your country, that the USA is NOT a democracy, but a Republic. I'm not too sure I understand the shade of meaning they tried to impart, but nevertheless, it gives me grounds to say what I did. As for Sex and Religion, well, political matters too, the fear is that they will involve feuds. This is one area where, unless a member says something that is so extreme as to be obvious, where no censorship is really justifiable in that STF itself is based on an analysis of all fields of thought and action, including sex, religion and political matters. I hope that what censorship or, as is politely described as advisable editing, doesn't restrict Tightbeam to only SF in the non-contraversial area. I hope TB doesn't become something like that, for, when it does, I'll not be interested in even receiving it.

I DO NOT KNOW WHO THE EDITOR OF THE NEXT TIGHTBEAM IS SO CAN'T ADVISE YOU ON THAT, BUT.... WE DO HAVE A REMEDY FOR THIS SITUATION. SEND ALL YOUR TIGHTBEAM LETTERS RIGHT AWAY TO JANIE LAMB AND SHE'LL SEND IT ON TO WHOEVER IS TAGGED FOR THE DUTY. ANYTIME YOU DO NOT KNOW WHO IS THE NEXT EDITOR TO TIGHTBEAM, SEND YOUR LETTER TO JANIE LAMB OR STAN WOOLSTON. THE TNFF THAT ISN'T OUT PROBABLY WILL CONTAIN THAT INFORMATION BUT I DON'T HAVE IT SO SEND YOUR LETTERS TO JANIE OR STAN WOOLSTON AND MAKE SURE IT IS WELL IDENTIFIABLE AS BEING FOR TIGHTBEAM.

Rick Sneary's idea of a new official system might work as well, if not better, than our current method, but have an idea that snarls will or would come up anyhow. Asking for one man to run completely, all aspects of such an organization as N3F would take a superman. We've only had a few supermen in the club. Of course, such a superman would execute the Directorate policy only through judicial delegation of powers.

Carlson's idea is one that until recently was, in effect, still being practiced. Currently, however, the Welcommittee is not being used as a training ground for fear that Neos in the WC may offend someone because of their lack of knowledge. So, the WC is kept small and select. I don't agree with the current method, but then, it's up to both the WC Chairman and the Officials, not me. I'm no longer in charge of the Welcommittee, nor any longer an official.

Eric Blake: Janie's remarks did not cover so wide an area as "Fanzines" in her views for careful editing of views. It covered only OFFICIAL publications of N3F. Fanzines in general, are and will be excluded from such, even if some method is found to enforce such editing method on TNFF & TB.

THE END. Art Hayes.

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