

Tight-Beam



With this TB a new year begins, a year with new officers. It's true some of the officers have experience as NFF officers. There's Stan Woolston, our president, who has been president as well as director and works fine under pressure. There's Roy Tackett, a past director, and also past Directorate Chairman. Clayton Hamlin has served as director different times. Jack Chalker will bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the directorate. Then there's Raybin who has been active in the club for years; he brings plenty of know-how to the club. Ed Meskys will be a great help if we face a crisis this year; he is level-headed and looks at all problems in a detached sort of way. So it bids fair to be a good year Neffwise in 1965. But what about YOU?

There are a couple of suggestions I'd like to mention for your consideration and cooperation. First: Remember to send Changes of Address promptly. Sometime ago action was adopted to stop sending returned clubzines unless additional postage was sent from the member, unless they had sent us a COA and we had not used it. Return postage on all zines costs 8¢; this does not include the bother of looking for small change to leave in the mail box, and the boresome task of perpetual pilgrimages to the mail box with small envelopes for the dear old cranky postman. Then too, recently we have been using all detective measures short of asking for FBI help in securing current addresses of members on the move. This is not the duty of any officer, it is the duty of the member if he wishes to receive the club publications. Sometimes the returned zines do not carry a legible forwarding address; this means the next publication will not be sent unless a COA is sent. So please remember if you are changing addresses send a COA as soon as you are sure of the new address. And thanks to Gary Chambers for promptly sending his COAs thru the past few years.

Part of our Preamble reads... "The National Fantasy Fan Federation is established as an association of persons interested in promoting the progress of science fiction and fantasy, and in furthering its enjoyment by themselves and others." We are wandering away from the purpose of our club by bringing all mundane things into our letterzine. Tightbeam #28 had little pertaining to stf in any of the letters, tho Roy Tackett has been trying to bring the discussion back to stf. And Alma Hill's letter certainly was in the area of helping to promote interest in stf.

My suggestion is that the club quit paying for debates on politics or religion, toss all such letters in the waste basket. If enough members are not interested in discussion stf in Tightbeam, then let's use the extra money for things they are interested in such as Fandictionaries, Indexes, zines for the collector's bureau, and help defray the cost of the "Fan History" Harry Warner is doing. I feel our letterzine should be non-partisan and non-sectarian. I like political debates; I get these at political meetings or thru unbiased magazines. Religion has its place, and I respect any person's religion regardless of how foreign it is to mine. But I do not want to listen to such discussions in TB. So this year let's try and get our letterzine back to discussing stf, or else use the money for other stf purposes.

I'm not being critical of any certain person; I'm being critical of the mistaken use of our zine. If members want to stray from stf and discuss their political or religious beliefs, let them use their own fanzine, and pay for the right to say what they will. --Janie the Lamb

CLAYTON HAMLIN, JR., SOUTHWEST HARBOR, MAINE 04679

No gripes or complaints this time, something much more important. I hope that all of you, as members, will join me in extending to our outgoing president Don Franson, a hearty and deserved WELL DONE.

I've been in the club through three different presidents, some of you have been around much longer. But it is doubted that any of you can honestly say that you have seen that job done any better than Don has done it. Ralph Holland was a fine man, and a fine president of the club, but he never performed the duties of that position any better than Don has done. The days were more troubled then, the necessities of the office greater than the past two years, and so the task may have been more difficult. But this in itself is no valid basis for judgment of competence.

The enthusiastic activity of the club bureaus is at an all time high today, in both quantity and quality. Give Don the credit for that; it was his appointments that has made it that way.

TNFF has been prompt, informative, and enjoyable. Credit Don, of course, who else?

The Information Bureau. Who needs to more than mention the name of that? You all know how it turned out.

The little reminder cards to bureau heads that reports will be due on a certain date. Don's idea, and judge for yourself how effective it is. There has never been so many reports before.

The Fanzine Appreciation Society. Take it from one who belonged, this is a worthy and effective to all concerned. That's right, Don's idea.

Noticed any feuds in the club the past year? Outside the club, yes, but not in N3F. That might be the best possible recommendation of all for him.

And there were lots of little things, that only the directors would be likely to notice. Small things, that were mainly involved in efficiency of club operations, the unnoticed things that just make it a bit more pleasant for the members.

So, might I recommend that there is only one logical choice for the next Kaymar Award, and that is Don Franson. That much at least we owe him.

--Clay

ROD FRYE, 8 SURRY CT., HAMPTON, VA.

Dear People,

I am planning a semi-literary magazine for publication in about summer or fall 1965 and need some contributors. I would like some articles on art, little theatre performers, off-beat people, music, modern dance, sex, civil rights, newettes of people and groups around the country, etc. Fiction is desired as well as interesting sidelights on fandom that might be interesting to non fans. Could also use art work and cartoons. Payment will be 1 cent per word on publication, \$3 for cartoons, \$2 for photographs. Write for info.

--Rod Frye

The idea of TIGHTBEAM as a meeting place for ideas is a noble one; but the practice of it gets lost somewhere along the line. The members do present ideas but the letters lack objective viewpoints many times. Too often, it seems to me the writer says, "I believe in A, B and C and anyone who disagrees is crazy." This gets dull.

As for the going argument about infiltration: is there a cry for a group or an appointed person to delegate who to write to and what to write about? This would do more harm than good. If TIGHTBEAM sets out to be a place to discuss ideas then there shouldn't be anything to fear. However, and here's the problem for me, the membership can't let its letterzine become the mouthpiece of a group bent on different goals, whatever they might be.

I feel that subjects can become worn and stale after too long a time. If the current argument seems to be censorship and communists the contributing members should stick closely to that. Naturally there is room for anything new and a topic should go along as there is a flow of good material into it.

James Wright: I would like to ask you: Why do you have to dare any one to do anything about your political convictions?

I've always wanted to know why a communist in America, having to undergo the terrible burden of capitalism until the revolution, doesn't just move to Russia. Besides, a dictatorship of any kind is open to any Stalin who can fight up to the top. Oppression under a dictatorship is just as bad whether in the name of the communist proletariat or the fascist state.

Roy Tackett: Hi there, Roy!!!!

--W. Schuhmacher

((Note that I removed one exclamation point and a few words, but not because you said anything amiss. I'm trying to edit out too much repetition. I'm inclined to cut out non-SF or non-fan subjects if there is other subjects too; one letter I have edited but not stencilled yet had about a page and a half edited out. As the man says, a subject can wear itself out--and anyway this is a club zine and I feel leery about using so much political and religious guff.--Stan.))

EDWARD WOOD, 6553 Green Way, Apt #2, Greendale, Wisconsin 53129

Mr. Stan Woolston has invited me to contribute to TIGHTBEAM some of the thoughts and words that I have tediously expounded upon at convention after convention. I believe in fan magazines that have some meaningful purposeful intent and content. They should maintain a contact with science fiction/fantasy. Not all fan magazines are neat, well illustrated, full of meaty articles, readable fiction, etc, etc. Sadly the same can be said of the so-called professional science fiction/fantasy magazines. But at least the intent should be there. Far too often I have received fan magazines of beautiful format and wonderfully expressive language but without one word relating to science fiction/fantasy. I think it sad.

I have over 500 pounds of fan magazines ranging from photostats of THE TIME TRAVELLER (1932) to the latest issue of YANDRO. Amid the junk are wonderful jewels like THE FANSCIENT, DESTINY, SKY HOOK, SCIENCE-FANTASY REVIEW and dozens of others. But there are so many others that were worthless when first published and have decreased in value since.

Sam Moskowitz collects and has collected fan magazines ranging from 1930 to date. He terms the last decade "A wasteland!" This is of course not exactly true as some reflection will show but the general impression is one of chaos. Some may not realize the extensive nature of fan magazines. The Pavlat-Evans FANZINE INDEX which covers 1930 to 1952 lists some 2000 different titles and its coverage ended some 12 years ago. A difficult but necessary job for fandom would be to cover the years 1953 to date. Even wastelands must be mapped!

Some will question if it is necessary to have fan magazines dealing with science fiction and fantasy. This is a legitimate question with many answers. I can only give you my own direct answer. I am interested in science fiction and fantasy. I can get answers to my questions only in fandom because people "elsewhere" are not interested. Now I can find out information about music, art, war, politics, religion in a general way outside of fandom. Therefore the inclusion of non-science fiction and/or fantasy topics in fandom dilutes the field as far as I am concerned.

The inclusion of music, politics, art etc. with some connection with science fiction does interest me and has been a proper part of fan magazines from the earliest days.

There are a happy few in fandom--Norman Metcalf, Ken Slater, Don Tuck, Leland Sapiro, Taurasi, T. G. L. Cockcroft to name a few of the elite group of collectors, bibliographers, scholars who consider science fiction and fantasy to be subjects of some worth, subjects of respect and worthy of some study and thought. It is not that all of them hold the same views. However, their approach has been what I would consider valid. They have added to and enhanced their hobby. In doing so they have given help to and entertained many of their fellow fans. That fandom has done as much as it has, is due in large part to these few. That fandom has not done more is because these few are too few.

--Edward Wood

JAMES WRIGHT, 1605 THAYER, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON 99352

Eney, are you bragging or complaining?

STUPID STORIES was just that. Excellent repro, beautiful cover, crud contents....I do not need a page to say I am backing Terry Carr for TAFF....

Why is everyone worrying about Clyde Kuhn's opinion of the N3F?

Blake: I can see you, reading my last letter, and coming to the part where I "acknowledge" that I'm a communist, either tear TB into shreds and resign the next day, or cover your eyes so I won't try to undermine your solid, sane American State of Mind.

Wright: Why you are inviting to be investigated is beyond me. Man, statements like that are bound to haunt you in years to come if

it ever gets circulated.

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I made the explosive statement for one reason. I was faking. No friends, I am not a communist. I am, it is true, a socialist and liberal--a middle way socialist. I can't wait to see how many are going to trip over that line, "I advocate the violent overthrow of the United States..." Anyone with brains could pull out the contradictions like mad in that. The communists don't want to overthrow the US, they want to overthrow the government of the U.S. There is a difference. But there is a commy plan to overthrow the U.S. and put in 15 districts to take the place of the states...how does that fit?--Stan.]

I suppose many wonder why the startling and untrue confession. McDonald infuriated me. His bland exclusionist principles are inane... I gave the membership a full 100% biased "communist" to play around with. The reaction should be in this very issue of TIGHTBEAM, so side by side we can see how many who want to throw someone out of N3F just because of something he said, without saying anything to him at all.

Bailes: If someone wants to publish a fanzine, but has no equipment, he will have no trouble finding someone to do work for him. Without even trying, three people have volunteered to do work for me.
---James Wright

((Last issue Wright asked what might be done if people objected, They could petition to have him ousted, or they might see if they could sway five directors to do it. Anyone can be ousted if the critter is obnoxious or the less sensitive think he is. Before directors would act they'd probably write to the guy involved and see what was what. In the case of your letter, Jim, you sounded like a nuisance, and if I have any feeling for what might have triggered five fans to think of booting a member out I would include that. "Mere words" aren't mere: they are lines of communication and social substance. Directors do not have to wait until they are asked to act, either, by the way. And other editors of TIGHTBEAM could easily ignore you, which would be one way to interfere with your game.--Stan.))

PHILLOP A. HARRELL, 2632 VINCENT AVENUE, NORFOLK 9, VIRGINIA

That was truly a beautiful effort for TB#28 and I don't wonder that they don't have a solid editorship lined up for #30. I have serious doubts that anyone would want to follow the previous efforts starting with Lee & Ira Riddle...I must applaud Dick Eney for his innovation of underlining names the way he did; Egoboo-lines? also his editorial brackets.

Being a neo at the time of the '56 NYCon II I just read what people wrote me and kept entirely out of things. In those days neos weren't really allowed in feuds as they are now. Only the old-timers were allowed to cut each other's throats. Last issue I brought up my reminiscences to get it out of my system, as I wrote several letters and columns that never were published. To clear it once and for all I wrote it to TB. NYCon 1956 was a particularly responsive date to me as I was just emerging in fandom. The Committee didn't want anyone in the Banquet Hall except the ones that paid their overdone prices. They had locked all the doors--except one, and Bob Tucker found it. Before you could say "Yngvi is a louse" the Balcony above the Banquet was full of Tucker Insurgents.

I doubt if fandom will fall apart since the promags stopped mentioning us and fanzines, but my point is when they stopped doing that that seemed almost to kill the incentive to publish a better fanzine. In fact they stopped publishing fanmags about 1960 and started calling them fanzines. Actually the trend towards fanzines over fanmags started even earlier, but that seems to be when it came to full flower. There are so few decent fanzines published today you could tie a string around them...All or practically all of the very best fanzines put out now are put out by fans that have been around before and since '56.

Charlie Brown: Yes, there were some nasty fanzines bacgy then. Haven't there always been? When you enter fandom for the first time you don't really seem to notice all the nastiness around you.

... James Wright: Immaturity is like a 6 year old thumbing his nose and saying naughty words because they seem to be far enough away so they can't do anything about it...I'm not against you for what you said but how you said it. I for one am entering a petition to have you ousted from N3F so that my Restricted security rating won't be affected. /I've cut quite a bit out of Phil's letter...want to say I'll write Phil and tell him about his letter to TIGHTBEAM this time, and also to anyone else who writes in talking petition. This is a danger that I feel a member should not need to face so this can be warning to any others who want to play that game of "make believe" or "let's pretend". End of insert. /

Creath Thorne: I not only "think" a return to "the good old days" is impossible--I know it is. I still think your name sounds positively Vegan, and if you are a Fellow Vegan you can't be all bad. /Creath p is the Old English version. Or d -- the crossed d. / --Phil

PETER SINGLETON, WARD TWO, WHITTINGHAM HOSPITAL, NEAR PRESTON, LANCs.,
ENGLAND

I had the pleasure of receiving my very first bundle of N3F material as long ago as June 25th and it's high time I made my presence known to the vast masses comprising fabulous Nefferland, alias Inner Circle Fandom. So here I am, battling to get myself included in TB. I've decided that being a Neffer is something of a mixed blessing but certainly a desirable state to be in on the whole and I fully intend to stick with you--providing I don't get kicked out for being an atheist.

Stumbling into the strange, unfamiliar N3F after jogging along nicely in genfandom for twelve years is a startling experience, like suddenly falling into a bottomless pit but I emphasize that my analogy is only a superficial one, but it does express my wonderment and I still haven't fully recovered. My welcome was handled well and I've no complaints against this much abused committee department. Nobody made the ghastly mistake of treating me like a ten year old neo! In fact Seth Johnson, Ann Chamberlain and Alma Hill actually recognised my name, much to my amazement. Most of my fanmagazine appearances have been confined to Letters of Comments so I can easily excuse anyone for not being previously aware of me. I do have a column in the Swedish SF TIMES but this isn't circulated much outside Sweden, which is understandable considering the language barrier.

I have been hospitalized since May 1962 and I'll remain in here for at least another two years, probably much longer. I will not discuss my illness in TB despite urges to do just that in spite of urges to do just that, because my illness is of a personal nature. However, I've no compunctions about discussing my case-history in correspondence but advertising it in print is quite a different matter.

I don't feel moved to comment on censorship, religion or the abolition of Communism within or outside the N3F because I have a sneaking suspicion that it has all been said in fmz before on more than one occasion. Don't hesitate to correct me if I'm wrong!

Rich Mann: The adverts re N3F in the Pacificon reports did a great deal in persuading me to join and this would be a good way of publicizing the organization every year as part of the Pub Bu activities and as head of the bureau you should have been fully informed regarding these adverts in the first place.

Support TAFF and vote for the only logical choice--TERRY CARR.

--Peter

P.S. If you print my letter don't you dare miss out that TAFF plug, or I'll send somebody around to plug you. That's a promise.

((I added the threat above to show what conditions the poor editor is working under. If it was a certain London nurse you'd send I'd leave this out but you'd probably get Terry Carr to be the trigger man, in exchange for your support. I hope you have a bang-up time in N3F.))

R. MONROE SNEARY, 2962 SANTA ANA ST., SOUTH GATE, CALIFORNIA

One of the main things that came out of this year's Convention was the suggested changes in the Hugo selection system, from Karen Anderson and Harlan Ellison. While the NFFF as such has nothing to do with the selections, it does present one of the largest opinion forums, and I think it is a subject that should be talked about.

At first the Hugos were awarded as a result of a straight popular ballot, with each person voting for his favorite in each class. But because of the wide diversity of fannish opinion, some might win with little more than a dozen votes. So in the last five years this first, popular vote, has served as a "primary" ballot, with usually the five highest in each class being then nominated for the final vote. Thus the final vote, limited to the membership of the Convention, would only vote on a small group of names, and the winner could expect a real margin of support.

But as Fandom has kept growing bigger, two more problems have developed. It is impossible for even the most active fan to read and see everything that comes out in a year. In the case of fanzines, few have circulations over 200. And it is obvious that one isn't likely to vote for something they haven't seen or read.

For example, I voted "Way Station" as being the best novel, but I hadn't read "Cat's Cradle" or the ERB novel. I don't read Yandro or AMRA, so I don't know which was best. And next year, few of you Eastern fans will have seen "The World of Ray Bradbury" playing here in Los Angeles, and won't know if it is better than "The Circus of Dr. Lao".

The other problem as Harlan sees it is that the Hugos are starting to be worth something in a real dollars and cents way. Magazines use as part of their advertising that they have won Hugos. Books are appearing collecting the Hugo Winners. The author who has won one, like a movie star with an Oscar, finds it easy to sell again. Thus, Harlan suggests, it is no longer wise to leave the selections in the hands of amateurs, who may have missed one outstanding item, or be swayed by a clique to vote for a second-rater.

What Harlan proposed was a Nominating Committee of experts to whom anyone could send recommendations, who in turn would select those titles or items that were best in each class. The Convention membership would still vote on this list to select the final Hugo winners, in the usual manner--the difference being that all those nominated would have a stamp of excellence. Now this is a major change in the way we do things, and Harlan made a big mistake in my judgment in springing it on most of us without giving us a chance to think about it in advance. If he had run it through FAPA before he could have lined up support, shaken some of the bugs out of the idea, and not have had to see it picked apart by lint pickers. As it was it was voted to appoint a Study Committee to look into the idea. They would make one report at London next year, and a final report at the Convention two years from now. (The committee is Anthony Boucher, Richard Lupoff, Harlan Ellison, Ethel Lindsay and Dr. Josef Nesvadba.) The plan was that this study group would also take suggestions and make nominations for the next two years, but the London Committee, as is their right, has turned this down and will accept nominations in the old manner.

Now, I happen to think Harlan's idea is a good one, but I think the proposed Nominating Committee is too small in number. We all have personal preferences which have nothing to do with the quality of what we are judging. With only five persons, this personal prejudice could affect the result. My own feeling is that the number should be at least 10, possibly 20. I would also suggest that the Committee be elected by a popular vote.

A proposed panel for the next year's Committee could be submitted to the Convention membership at the same time as they voted on the current year's Hugos, thus preserving a representative form of selection. Of course there is the problem that the committee is selected in August, and thus half the year they are to judge is already passed, but it seems likely that excepting for a few who might retire after a year most of the committee would serve for a number of years. Harlan also suggested that the five member committee be made up of three professionals and two fans. I don't agree with this. I don't think there is really that much difference between top professionals and top fans. Certainly Boucher and Blish should be on such a committee, but no more so than Coulson and Busby. And it is to gain this greater balance that I suggest the large number. What do you think?

R. Monroe Sneyary

SEND YOUR NEXT TIGHTBEAM LETTERS TO:

NORM METCALF, P. O. BOX 336, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94701

...and remember, science fiction discussion's welcome!

DICK ENEY scribbles hastily:

Phil Kohn has an interesting idea in his suggestion that we are committed to whatever demonstration or intervention that may be necessary to bail out anybody our publications get into trouble. It's an idea, but not too good a one; if this is really meant to be a general rule, the answer is simply that we lack the force to put it into effect.

GM Carr's needle for Heinlein is beautiful, simply beautiful... James Wright had better be warned: it's OK to tell us that Marx developed the ultimate government, but if he says that in any country of the Communist Empire he'll probably be shot. You know those stories about how the Reds censor Karl Marx? Well, they're not just stories. It seems Marx thought it over and concluded that maybe people could get justice through the ballot in some countries, like Holland and America, whereas Russia was about as fit for the workers' paradise as the Congo...

Antonio Dupla misses the point of different levels of security clearance. The idea is not that people are more and less trustworthy; by hypothesis, they are either trustworthy or not. But if a person is going to handle only CONFIDENTIAL material, it's OK to rely on what the agency security people can turn up in a few weeks' investigation, because even if he does turn out to be a bad apple he won't know anything that could really damage the country. On the other hand, anybody who is going to get TOP SECRET data ("Essential to the national security of the United States, its vital interests, or continued existence", to instance a few categories that get classified here) can expect a life history check by the employing agency, the FBI, and a mixed bag of intelligence agencies all over the country, extending over several months... no examination to be undertaken if you just want to hire a clerk-typist.

The clergy would hardly thank Eric Blake for proposing that people should stop sniping at Christians. "The reason sermons are generally poor is that they are never criticized". If only there were some way to check, I'll bet we would find it isn't just an accident that, over about the same time that anti-christian/church remarks have moved from a Daring Thing among the bohemians to the common wisecracks of suburban coffee-breaks, religious thinking has moved from a position as the professional requirement of clergymen to a respected part of any serious person's intellectual view of the world.

James Wright brings up one notion I'd been kicking around with some friends before: suppose Alexander had actually made good? That is, suppose the use of combined arms had been taken up in good earnest by the Greeks, instead of them sticking to the clumsy phalanx-infantry system? Just suppose for a moment the Western Greeks had taken it up and developed efficient cavalry wings for their militia infantry. They'd have it all over the back-country people around the Mediterranean littoral; the Celtic sword-phalanx could never have made head against them, and the Moorish irregular cavalry would have been hedged in most satisfactorily. And what could the Roman legion have done against the front of the phalanx while effective cavalry -- which Rome lacked -- was cutting it to pieces from the flanks?

Can we go a little further and guess that the Western Mediterranean might have developed an advanced Hellenistic civilization, as the East did, when the militarily indigestible Greek city-states started to diffuse culture all thru the area? And, given the staunch separatism of the Greek colonies, the problems of communication, and the nature of what experiments in large-scale government the Greeks had already made, it's not too outrageous to suppose that any government that grew up in what, in our time-line, was the Roman Empire, would be a federalized representative democracy...

You know, it might be nice to have the European tradition trace back to a government like that, rather than to the Imperial autocracy of Rome...

--Dick Eney

PHIL HOLLOWAY, 1606 FIRST ST. N. W., BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

I've heard quite a bit lately about science fiction dying. To me it seems it's as lively as ever and growing, but not in the way it started originally. Whether this is good or bad for SF, I think, it's too early to tell. When the field of science fiction-fantasy first started it was looked upon by 90% of the people as "Buck Rogers" stuff. People weren't meant to go to the moon and if you thought different you were a little "odd". The field was different from all else and there was an air about it of the pioneer spirit, I imagine.

Now as SF is being taken into the world and being accepted into "mainstream" fiction it may be swallowed up and lose its true identity. I hope this is not so because I don't look forward to a 1984-ish future.

--Phil Holloway

JOHN BOSTON, 816 SOUTH FIRST STREET, MAYFIELD, KENTUCKY 42066

Hmmm. Roy Tackett thinks we should discuss science fiction more. You're out of your mind, Roy; nobody reads science fiction any more. What are you, some kind of nut or something?

I suppose, however, that it would be well to mention it in passing, so I will take the opportunity to remind everyone to nominate Davy by Edgar Pangborn for the Hugo. Also, let's all nominate Phillip K. Dick for a special award for the Fastest Decline in the History of Science Fiction. Since The Man in the High Castle came out, he has written mediocre short stories and bad novels faster than I can read them. As a matter of fact, there are two more on the stands right now. Fast worker, Dick.

There still seems to be discussion of the Purpose of the N3F. I hold this truth to be self-evident: the purpose of the N3F is anything that a large enough segment of the membership wants it to be and is willing to carry out. I dare say that if those crusading for more discussion of science fiction spend more time discussing science fiction and less complaining that no one else does, we'd all be better off. Likewise, even if fandom is as provincial and clique-ridden as some of our members make it out to be, they'd have no trouble finding friends if they looked for them instead of spending all their time writing diatribes about the clannishness of their fellow fans.

Let's take another whirl at the question of whether 'tis better to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous science fiction within the pages of Tightbeam and, for that matter, throughout all fandom. To start with more Self-Evident Truths, fandom is a large and heterogeneous disorganization. It is united only by the interest of the members in science fiction, and by the common attitudes and mental habits that science fiction serves to foster. (Those being, in the main, an intense curiosity, a readiness to debate at the drop of a paper-clip, and an ability to "think out of categories"--to examine things and ideas without being overly prejudiced by preconceptions, to think about teleportation or antigravity without saying, "That's crazy.")

From this one point of relative congruence, the interests of the individual members of fandom fan out in all directions. Zenith is devoted strictly to science fiction. Kipple deals with politics and

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philosophy, mentioning science fiction only briefly and in passing. Yandro is a potpourri of SF, politics, fannishness and chatter. Which is the best fanzine? I've never known of any group composed of so many divergent interests and types of people so ready to discuss anything and everything. It's slightly silly to try to confine topics to those things dealing directly with science fiction. In other words, don't fence me in.

I see that I haven't yet made any remarks about Tightbeam 28 in general. Thanks and congratulations are due to Dick Eney for a well-produced, interesting magazine which, best of all, showed up a month before the deadline for the next issue.

-- John Boston

GREG SHAW, 2545 LEXINGTON WAY, SAN BRUNO, CALIFORNIA 94066

I am truly impressed by the quality of the recent Tightbeams. Number 27 was beautifully published; it looked almost professional. I started thinking about the fact that most of fandom's best fanzines are simply and amateurishly mimeoed, and even TNFF isn't too impressive, yet the N3F letterzine seems to be very well done. I wonder why? I am sure the various editors of TB aren't getting as much egoboo from it as from their own zines; they are to be commended for their "labors of love."

G. M. Carr: I agree with you on Heinlein; nice theory. The type of sex situations he seems to favor, however, are quite common in some mags, like Fantastic of the mid-fifties; only in Heinlein it is called "sophistication." I think the rest of the content of his recent novels (not including Podkayne--I try not to think about it) more than makes up for his sick sex scenes, although that thing in Farnham's Freehold I find so ludicrous that the rest of the novel has a hard time making up for it. SIASL is one of my favorite books, simply because it introduces many new and original ideas, which is rare these days. Which makes me ask, why didn't Cat's Cradle get a Hugo? At the Convention "Twenty years ahead of its time" was the predominant opinion of those who read it; everybody who read it thought it should have won; trouble was nobody read it...And for that matter, why didn't Sirens of Titan win something?

James Wright: I agree with you on editorial comments. Even though Tackett made my previous letter sound foolish with his comments, it was written while I was in a foolish state of mind, and I found his comments throughout the issue gave it a great deal of life. I really cracked up at some of the remarks. And I find it hard to read a letter without making my own comments. /Whether an editor does it or not I suppose he makes comments to himself; surely I'm tempted to write paragraphs to refute or carry on conversationally in some of these letters. However, some eds are a bit stiff in writing in other's letters and I hesitate myself--which turns off the wit./

Phil Harrell: Most interesting letter in whole issue. I originally intended to write this to him directly...What Phil says is all very sadly true. Also, by the way, all that Harry Warner has been saying. I was really shocked by CB. 47 people bothered to write in and admit they were collectors. Yet as far as I know nearly every fan calls himself a collector when filling out the application form. But

what really bothers me is that only ONE other person besides myself bothered to contribute something. When I sent Ned my very poor article I had no hopes of it being published; I assumed that in a great organization like N3F there would be dozens of virtual experts in all fields of collecting. What happened to them? At first I blamed Metcalf for not doing more with CB. Now I don't...Of course, everyone gets out of fandom exactly what he puts into it; the deadwood who just sit and complain are complaining—they are getting no fun out of fandom and don't know why. They are blaming it on others. Those who contribute and do work for fandom, get the satisfaction of knowing they are doing worthwhile work, and they are appreciated by those who care. There is much more egoboo and self-satisfaction in seeing your article published and praised, than in writing a carping letter.

—Gregg

((A short hand of applause to Gregg...for practicing what he advises.))

STEPHEN BARR, BOX 305, NOCONA, TEXAS 76255

To all you ERB Haters: I think that ERB is one of the finest fantasy writers ever to live. He is one of the few writers that have had organizations and fanzines devoted to him. He has thrilled millions of people—if you doubt that go look up how many copies of his books he has sold. He is the only fantasy writer to my knowledge that has ever been considered being given a commemorative stamp. (ERB was considered last year and I think this year for a stamp; however, the Burroughs Bibliophiles and ERB, Inc. have received no word on this so I guess he has been tabled again.) ERB was a story-teller, and that's more than I can say about all these rotten writers one finds in the prozines today. ERB was a popular writer; his stories have survived through these years and some have been made into movies. One of his characters has become part of the language.

Eric Blake: I agree with you completely on this Christian issue. If these people are really set in their ways and we can't change them, I then feel sorry about and for them.

Don Fitch: A very good letter. Well, I really don't care whether I'm accepted by pros or BNFs. If they want to accept me, they will—meanwhile, I've got letterhacking friends my age and when we get to be a BNF we'll have our clique and the new neos will have to make their own relations. However, I will follow the policy of Bob Coulson and try to help them, if nothing else. One of the nicest people I got a letter from was Yandro editor Bob Coulson. He wrote a nice two pages about how to write for fanzines and how to do this and that. He was real nice and it really made an impression on me.

Bob Coulson: How come you sign your letter to me "Bob" and everyone else calls you "Buck"?

Phil Harrell: Your letter wants to make me go hide in a bush. I read the CB and you did an excellent, wonderful job in printing it up. Ned Brooks in a letter gave you credit for the good reproduction.

Mr. Eney: You have done a wonderful job on this issue...Really liked the Stupefying Stories 71. Nice mailing from you all around.

Everyone: I notice that Galaxy and Fantasy & SF have upped the francs 10¢...I've just read through Davy for the 50-90th time. It is a wonderful book with many thought-provoking things in it, a book everyone should read. What bugs me is that publishers keep coming out with books like Sunburst (by Gotlib) why can't they reprint something fine and good like Haggard, Leiber, or Howard? —Steve Barr

LEN BAILES, 1729 LANSDALE DRIVE, CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Firstly, I'd like to criticise Dick Eney mildly. Dick, in his endeavor to campaign for his TAFF candidate has quietly left out some very important facts. Terry Carr is a member of SAPS, OMPA and FAPA. He writes LoC's to fanzines at least once in a while and is just as active in fandom as either of the other two candidates. Surely he isn't to be discriminated against because he also writes science fiction. A fan's vocation is immaterial, it is his fan activity which determines his TAFFworthiness. What Dick is confusing is the idea that a Professional Science Fiction Writer should not be voted as a TAFF candidate merely because he is a pro. In other words, an individual should not be nominated for TAFF because his profession is writing. But the fact that a fan's profession happens to be writing is no reason to exclude him from any competition with his fellow fans.

James Wright: You hadn't ought to say things like that, even if merely to make a philosophical point. The post office doesn't abide mailing things advocating the overthrow of the government.

Ann Chamberlain: While I sympathize with your dislike of agitators and whiners, I'm afraid what you are suggesting is a little too severe. When and if the N3F ever starts barring members for criticising its operation, it's time to resign and start another club. [Or get in office or otherwise change policy?]

Elaine Wojciechowski: Please pay no attention to Phil Kohn. The birthday cards are a friendly and worthwhile gesture which I'm sure the majority of Neffers appreciate. I'd like to ask Phil how the sending of a greeting card ignores him as a person. In this country we all send printed greeting cards instead of hand written notes, Phil, there are just too many people to write to.

Urendi Maleldil,

Len

ROY TACKETT, 915 Green Valley Road NW, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87107

Surprise--here's the first Directorate report of the New Year. You didn't expect to hear from us until June or thereabouts, did you? [Negative, Roy.] Or did you? Did you think I'd let an opportunity to dash into print go by? You should know better.

Actually there is little to report at this time. Other than we seem to be an amicable group and should have no trouble accomplishing whatever needs to be accomplished during this coming year. As of this writing there has been nothing other than organization accomplished. I am pleased to modestly (blush) report that I have been selected as Directorate Chairman and that Ed Meskys will be the Directorate Representative to N'ADA. Clayton Hamlin has proposed a few ideas currently under discussion and Jack Chalker indicates that he has proposals to put forward, too, he indicates.

As in the past this Directorate will be interested in hearing from the membership but, also again in the past, if you have something that you want to call to our attention then write to one of the Directors; don't expect us to sieze upon discussion points from Tightbeam and act upon them. If you have a gripe, a useful idea, or whatever let the Directorate know--directly.

16 Now a couple of requests. The first one goes to these fans living in the larger population centers such as New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, etc.: Do you know a cheap source of supply for duplicating materials? Stencils, Ditto masters, mimeo paper, the whole works. If so, how about checking on their mail order policy and letting the rest of the membership know through Tightbeam. Publishing costs are going up all of the time and for many fans living in smaller communities the cost of publishing a zine of any kind is a strain on the pocketbook. Stencils cost three to four dollars a quire, mimeo paper upwards of two dollars a ream. However, in the larger cities there are economy supply houses where stencils can be obtained for about \$2 per quire and mimeo paper for a buck a ream or less. What is needed is several sources of supply scattered about the country to minimize transportation costs. So, old things, if you know of any--let the rest of the club know, please.

Secondly, a plea to N'APAns, of which there are many. How about volunteering for an issue of Tightbeam? Putting out TB can be a lot of fun and it'll give you a chance to get your licks at everybody--even me. Remember the club will reimburse you at the rate of 12¢ a member. Contact El Presidente and tell him you'll do an issue. You don't have to be in N'APA to publish an issue of TB. All volunteers are welcome.

--Roy Tackett

((Already Art Hayes has volunteered and will do the issue for May. Volunteers are being sought now for the July and later issues: send in your offers, please. I will have one lined up for then or later probably before this issue is out--another male fan has indicated an interest in the job. I wonder if any femfans will volunteer this year --or if it will be a continuous run of malefen? --Stan.))

RICHARD L. SMITH, 197 PRETORIA AVE., OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA

It seems to me that S. F. and other related magazines seem to have the highest death rate of any type of magazine. During the 50's many S. F. and related magazines bit the dust at an alarming rate. Of course, some magazines that begin with a "fresh approach" end up getting stale and ending up with the rotting remains of unsuccessful predecessors. Today, there are less than a dozen S. F. magazines published in the U. S. One of the reasons for the high S. F. magazine death rate during the 50's was probably because of overstocking the "range". I certainly hope that the life expectancy of new amazing-story magazines will be longer.

--Richard L. Smith

((For a while all fiction magazines seem to be in jeopardy. Perhaps the trend will reverse if it hasn't started to already. Editors who can stimulate authors would help. There is room for initiative in the contents of magazines: too often one mag copies format and contents of another instead of innovating. Maybe a bunch of fans should take over local distribution by buying in a distributing company and do something in making that side of the business of SF more successful. Or they might see about innovating new distribution, say via food chain stores. It could start by specializing in SF magazines and other lines of reading would ask to come in--and the fans could make themselves enough to keep their fanac growing exponentially...Stan.))

Phil Kohn certainly is an expert at keeping his right hand from knowing what his left hand is typing. Being able to say "We have no right to risk the freedom or lives of people who may not know what they are getting into" and "I propose to kill anyone who tries to... prevent my getting to know harmful ideas" in the same letter takes a remarkable amount of doublethink. Evidently Phil believes that it's all right for him to make decisions for other people (for their own good, of course) but objects violently to the thought that anyone might make a decision for him, for his own good. I've seldom encountered a more disgustingly egotistical attitude...

Future stf writers are not going to receive much "training" in the fanzines. Why? Because the concept of training includes an instructor (an individual, or a training manual, or both) to help the recruit along. In fanzines the "instructors" are the editors--but they lack time, interest, and ability to do the job. If we had fanzine editors who would criticise a writer's work, offer suggestions for improvement, and make the writer do it over again until it was improved, then the writers might get some training in fanzines--provided the editors also had the ability to tell good writing from bad. When I was a teen-ager, a distant relative who had sold a large amount of material (to mainstream magazines, not stfmags) told me, "If you want to be a writer, sit down and write 10,000 words a day. It doesn't matter what they're about; get them on the paper." At present, and in the foreseeable future, this is the sort of "training" that fanzines give; the writers gain encouragement to keep writing. It's much easier to write for fans than to write 10,000 words a day and throw them in the wastebasket. But the second part of the advice still holds; the content of the writing is immaterial. Writing convention reports is as much help to the would-be professional as writing fiction. If he wants to write fiction fine; let him do what he enjoys. But he should realise that fan fiction is no more noble a project than apa mailing comments, and is frequently less interesting.

Harrell is a little bit late in his criticism. The time to get worried about member apathy to the Collector's Bureau is before the Bulletin comes out, not afterwards. The members had a perfect right to be apathetic afterwards; the "Gad! Another fanzine!" attitude was due to the fact that the last issue was just another fanzine, and not a very good example of one at that. I'm going to contribute an article Real Soon Now, but I have only a medium-sized collection. We have collecting "experts" in the club--so how come the articles in the Bulletin are by people who know less about the subject than I do? I expected to learn something from the Bureau, and I don't think that's an unreasonable attitude. Sam Moskowitz might not be able to learn much from it, but there should be a lot of things about science fiction that I don't know. I'm willing to pass on what I do know, but I'd like to get something in return. (I don't know how hard the Bureau members are working for contributions; mine will be in reply to a request from Ned Brooks; so he's expending at least some effort to corral material.)

I'll give a free tip to any neos who want to be "accepted" by veteran fans, particularly fan editors. Any editor who has published more than 10 issues is publishing for his own personal satisfaction,

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and he is publishing the kind of fanzine that he personally likes. He is not going to appreciate someone whom he doesn't know from Adam telling him "You should start publishing this kind of material instead of the stuff you had in the last issue". Speaking for myself, I'm quite willing to answer questions about my personal taste, or anything else, but I only pay attention to criticism from people I know and whose opinions I respect. If the other 90% of fandom doesn't like my taste, it can go read something else, and I hope it does.

---Bob Coulson

CHARLES N. REINSEL, 120 EIGHTH AVENUE, CLARION, PENNSYLVANIA 16214

The very first Edgar Rice Burroughs fanzine came out in June 1947. It was the Burroughs Bulletin and was published 12 times while active the first time. Then after five years two more issues were put out.

Wallace Shore put out three issues of Amtorian beginning in October 1948. In August of '52 Joseph Miller started Operation Burroughs, changed in the second issue to Barsoomian which he used thru issue 6. James Taurasi took over and published one issue, but he changed the name to New Barsoomian.

In June 1955 Mel Stein published one issue of New Amtorian.

It was in April of 1956 that Peter Ogden, then in England, started Erbania which is still with us today thru 14 issues.

Mike Moorcock published a steady 18 issues of Burroughsania before he lost interest. He started in April 1956.

The Gridley Wave was started in Dec. 1959 by Vern Coriell and he has reached 14 issues.

Pete Mansfield carried his original Dream Quest thru 2 issues beginning with the May 1960 issue.

Back in June 1960 Caz Cazedessus started ERB-dom; he's published 11 issues. Ape began in September 1960 and was guided through four issues by Ron Haydock.

The Burroughs fanzine that published the most issues and that has published at least one issue a month since it started is the one called Norb's Notes. Started by Charles Reinsel in June 1961, it has reached issue number 75 as of October 1964.

Dum-dum started in August 1961 by Vern Coriell had 3 issues.

August 1962 Charles Reinsel started Cinema, Comics and Collecting which so far has gone 6 issues plus what has to be counted here the Yearbook. This fanzine became so popular that it just might be published on a more professional basis upon the retirement of the editor.

The Dream Weaver by Alvin Wakeput out in September of 1962 is not really a fanzine but is listed here because it was very good publication along the same line.

In October 1962 the first of 6 issues of Charlie's Comments were put out by Charles Reinsel, put out tongue-in-cheek at first but hundreds of people wrote and asked for copies for their collections. You have to consider Cinema, Comics, and Collecting as well as Charlie's Comments as part of the chain of Norb's Notes fanzines which has a total mailing list of over one thousand fans that have received free copies of these fanzines.

This list is brought up to date from a similar article that appeared in the January '63 issue of Norb's Notes.

---Charles N. Reinsel

((I recognise a few authors of regulation fanzines and, of course, people who were members of N3F, and some of who still are...Stan.))

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In the summer of 1964 Larry Taylor published one issue of an ERB fanzine called Thuria. He says there will be no more.

Perhaps the best and latest Burroughs fanzine is Burroughs Illustrated, put out in September 1964 by Joseph Wehrle, Jr. It is completely illustrated and entirely in photo-offset form.

This has just been a short article on E.R.B.'s fanzines with just one purpose--to inform! If the readers care about similar short articles please let me know, okay?

--Charles N. Reinsel
Publisher of Norb's Notes

((Pardon the interruption at bottom of last page: I didn't turn sheet over. This just shows that typing too late is a bad idea--especially without correction fluid. No, Meskys didn't drop it or drink it--it dried up. I think self-correcting stencils would be possible: just have a bit more wax so that when you rub with paper-clip or ballpoint pen you'd redistribute wax. I've been doing this on just about every page and typing over: I hope it works. And pardon the interruption.))

"KAYMAR" CARLSON, 1028 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH, MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA 56560

I believe in the N3F Trader, and hope to see it grow into a 2-pager one of these days. It was suggested that I begin to set up this one-pager some few years ago. The reason I was picked was that I had run a Kaymar Trader for some 9 years. At one time I was running a monthly publication. My rates were low, just \$1 a page, 50¢ a half, 25¢ a quarter page. At these rates I was just getting expenses, but I wanted to do a service to Fandom and it was very rewarding to me in many ways. If you want to make money on a publication you must have the advertisers and the circulation to get the fans to advertise. So I found it necessary to cover all the N3F membership (some 300 at that time). That was all for free, just to get started.

The N3F Trader has over 350 circulation in our TNFF, which comes out every other month. This time spread is not too good but is the best we can do at this time. TNFF is on a budget and we can't get extra money for more than 6 issues a year. Tightbeam comes out between the TNFF dates, but no ads appear in it. There have been some complaints about slowness of ads appearing, but as I have to meet a deadline for each TNFF issue, I have no choice but to hold late ads for next issue. You will note on the masthead I urge you to "get your ads in early." There are always some late ads anyway.

I have found that a fan who uses our N3F Trader is bound to get many new fans to write to. Once you buy or sell you have made a contact that will come in handy. During K-1 years my correspondence would average better than 10 letters a day, and with my other activities it kept me busy, so much that my wife began to complain that she didn't see me very much anymore. I would be away in the den typing letters. But I made many friends (and a few others).

This all leads to the summation that if you want to become "active" fast, get into as much of the work in N3F as you feel you can do well. Also, send in your ads; you may have the very items that some other fan will pay good money for. And you make a friend at the same time. When you want to run for office in N3F you are known. Once you become an officer you are better known. You have to work for recog-

dition. Ask any of the "old timers" and you will find out that they did a lot of work for N3F. Much of it was gratis, but it did pay off in the long run.

--"Kaymar" Carlson

((Lots of present-day fans have found it's fun to be active, even if it is limited to corresponding and writing to fanzines, and that the fun grows with use. Fandom's a game, maybe, with rules being made up as we go along. Or a dream.))

RICH WANNEN, 541 SHEFFIELD AVE., WEBSTER GROVES 19, MISSOURI

Charlie Brown: I agree with you that Hugo-award contenders should be advertised. Incentives to make fans read/see all worthy pieces of fantasci (new word--note spelling) could conceivably lead to much more intelligent voting. In fact, I think pre-balloting advertising of worthwhile material would also be a wise idea. Many good pieces of SF, suitable for Hugos, are virtually ignored. We may see such a case especially in the dramatic presentations awards, which at Pacificon at least got a "No Award" and thus NO movies/TV shows were on the final ballot. Now, admittedly, there wasn't too much in those fields for 1963 that could rate an award. But I was surprised that Twilight Zone didn't pull some support; the shows for '63 weren't always the best, especially after the producers became aware the show wasn't coming back in '64 (after that time, at least two TZ shows were nothing more than mysteries) but the earlier shows for that year still did measure up to par. Outer Limit as a show wouldn't have been worthy of an award but there were individual shows, at the first of its season, which could conceivably have merited a Hugo--especially the one episode in which the Red Chinese planned to infiltrate the US with their own kind whose faces had been molded by a Secret Formula to exact duplicates of US dignitaries. And the movies did see X (The Man With X-Ray Eyes) and Battle Beyond the Sun (Americanized, de-propagandized Russian film called The Sky Is Calling), both above average for movie-Fantasci. Yet none of these apparently were even considered by most fans--who, for various reasons, probably just ignored these enterprises as being the typical trash. With some sort of plugging, fans might have been encouraged to view these entries and at least make some choice for Visual Entertainment.

In other years too, I have noted a lack of interest in fantasci films. While some truly fine films have made the preliminary ballots, very few have succeeded in copping awards. Twilight Zone seems to have had an almost-exclusive "right" to Hugos.

So, in keeping with my preliminary motion, I'd like to suggest that any prospective Hugo-voter who'd like to consider visual entries for London, here are four films which in my opinion (for what it's worth) deserve serious consideration: First Men in the Moon, Voyage to The End of the Universe (Czech), Baron Prasil (seen at Pacificon and not for national release) and Seven Faces of Dr. Lao. And I suspect there will be more to come, especially from abroad.

--Rich Wannen

NORM METCALF EDITS NEXT TIGHTBEAM--SEND LETTERS BY FEBRUARY TENTH...
to Norm Metcalf, P. O. Box 336, Berkeley, California 94701

The Eney version of TB was very well done. However, despite the good editing that goes into many issues of TB, I'm afraid that to me the zine is not one of the better ones to arrive here. The reason for this must lie in the basic contributions...Why is this, and how can it be corrected? What makes a lettercolumn like that in Double Bill or the defunct Cry so much better than TB? I feel that these other lettercolumns are better because there is other material in the zine that stimulates comment. Fans need something to start their imaginations to working. If they don't have these other things they turn to feuding and material of this type. So I suggest that somehow TB present other material than the basic letters. I think the page count of TB should be increased about ten pages, and that the membership should be billed the extra amount, if necessary. This extra ten pages should contain the best in fiction and non-fiction from the N3F Manuscript Bureau. This material would bring new comment into the zine. Of course, no member would be restricted to comment just on material in the last TB. The same basic system would remain.

In the meantime, let me suggest this. Before you sit down to write that angry letter to TB, cool off a bit and wonder how your letter is going to sound to the other 300plus members. I don't intend to sacrifice my right to an opinion at any time, but one might as well be polite to the other fellow while you cut him down...

I saw Len Bailes' suggestion for a Mimeographing Squad, and a Stencilling Battalion. In my brief experience with the Games Bureau and its many publications I can say that this would be very helpful. Don and I have finally managed to find several publishers who are willing to do this part of the job, but we still need stencillers. If there is anyone out there willing to spend a short time having a lot of fun with the rapidly-growing Games Bureau, just drop a note to Don or me, and we will certainly appreciate it.

All Games Bureau publications are free, supported by Don Miller --labor and time for stencilling and publishing by me. Any person interested in Games at all should write for one of the zines and look it over. You might find it interesting.

--Creath Thorne

EDMUND MESKYS, L71, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LAWRENCE RADIATION LAB,
BOX 808, LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA 94551

Just got the N3F election returns today. Many thanks to all who voted for me.

It's been good to see the last few TBs come out in time or close to it. Now I only hope we can keep the record up! Eney's bonus was muchly appreciated.

By the way, I still have a very few copies of the two issues of Tightbeam that I have published, numbers 8 and 23. If anyone wants any, drop me a dime to cover postage and envelope.

I think the best summary of the Hugo situation was that of Bill Donaho in the latest issue of Science Fiction Times. Of all the schemes the one I like best (I had proposed it in one of my fanzines back in 1961) is to have a slate of candidates selected by fandom at large,

but allow a panel of experts to add any two or less items to each category which they consider significant and which was overlooked. Then the con membership would vote on this broadened list. However, they would need at least a month between getting the ballots and the voting in order to have time to ready anything they might have missed which they want to try. Thus, inclusion of place of publication on the ballot would be essential.

Someone asked what happened to the old N3F library. This was before my time, but I understand that it was disbanded because of lack of interest a number of years ago. I, Stan Woolston, stored it for a while and then took it to the worldcon and sold it, for the benefit of the club. Times change and now it seems some fans appreciate using the mail to get things to read. I may still have some items stored that belong to the club, in fact; if so when it is discovered the club will be informed. I seem to remember someone volunteered copies of a prozine to the club once...and I'm not sure if it was disposed of yet.—Stan.7

Elaine Wojciechowski: I wouldn't be surprised if you—or more accurately, your husband—was a distant relative. A close relative of ours bore the name "Vaicakauskas"...

—Ed Meskys

DONALD FRANSON, 6543 BABCOCK AVE., NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CALIF. 91606

I might claim to be one of the earliest Burroughs bibliophobes; I remember disliking his "Righting Man of Mars" that was published in the newspapers in 1931, because it seemed contemptuous of science. As a science fiction fan, I also felt this was bad for science fiction. But gradually I've changed my mind. I now feel that unscientific stuff like Burroughs, the Buck Rogers-type comics, the monster mags, each in its own way, is actually helping science fiction more than hurting. They are softening up recruits, and these soon become more sophisticated. There is no worry they will become satisfied with low-level science fiction just because they were broken in that way. Notice that many top fans of today confess they started with Burroughs, and are as scientifically-minded as I am, though I started with Verne and Wells.

Burroughs' stories are eminently readable, which accounts for their popularity. But how to reconcile the Burroughs boom with the old claim that adventure in science fiction is out of date?

I just wish I had the ability to write as well as Burroughs. I wouldn't write on the same corny subjects, but would transfer this ability to real science fiction. Still, is the Burroughs magic non-transferable? Must it always have a fake background? Incidentally, Burroughs characters are always interesting, even the minor ones. This is good writing. And he does make you think—unless you've read too many other Burroughs stories with the same plot. Still, I'm a Burroughs Bibliophobe, if only because there are too many worshipping him. He isn't that good. As long as we're resurrecting dead authors, why not start a fan club for the one truly literary man in the field, the greatest innovator of all, H. G. Wells? (Not the H.G. Wells Society—that is something different)—Call it the Invisible Men or the Sleepers or something. Just think of all the quaint names of English villages and pubs you can collect in a concordance. I seem to recall there are two characters named Holroyd in his stories...

Recent fans speak of "pulp" loosely. Strictly speaking, a pulp's size was seven by ten, and it had ragged edges. The nine-by-twelve early Amazings and Science Wonders were not considered pulps, though the paper was the same. (Are you sure, Don? Some early Amazings at least used a cheap book paper that was mighty bulky--far more so than regular "pulp" stock, which was a sulphate mix of wood-pulp and which sometimes had specks of impurities in it. Superficially the stock may look the same but I believe it was as different as kerosine and gas.) At the time, there were many trashy pulps on the newsstands, and stf was supposed to be above this ruck. So we looked down on Clayton's Astounding...and now we find they paid better, and probably stories in the aristocratic large size mags were rejects from Astounding...Clayton Astounding was really a pulp; not only did it have ragged and untrimmed edges, but it shed strips of paper when opened. Many trimmed their own pulps, so they could read them. It would probably be hard to find truly "mint" pulps today.

--Donald Franson

JUDY B. STEPHENSON, 2486 ELM PLACE, BRONX, N.Y. 10458

Dick Eney did a nice job as editor of TB, and his choice for the cover was certainly different and interesting. I liked it for its simplicity and the quote was funny. He did a wonderful repro job too.

Douglas O. Clark.--The idea of a story Round Robin is an interesting one. The sample in Dick Eney's zine is very well-written. It would be great fun to illustrate it as well as writing parts of it. I am going to try my hand at sketching from your description of a Druik.

Phil Kohn.--Your comments re Erik Blake is well noted. You do have a ready wit and your point about the "Scissors" is well made. We do have the same thought regarding communism and anti-communism. I don't advocate either one in its radical form, for when there is extremism involved, both are dangerous.

Erik Blake.--Forgive me for asking but how did you ever get interested in SF and fandom?...What makes you think ISFS is a "Communist Front"? Can you actually prove this? The N3F may have refused to affiliate with it for other reasons--particularly, the N3F is an independent club and wishes to remain independent of other organizations. However, if members of the N3F wish to hold membership in other organizations they are free to do so. I belong to five other sf groups in addition to N3F; I am considering joining others and that doesn't conflict with my N3F activities!

Gem Carr.--Harry Warner is right and so are you re censorship. I believe that the individual person is his or her own best censor. What is moral for one person can be immoral for another. I feel any law telling me what I cannot read is wrong. I consider commercials on TV an invasion of my right to enjoying TV; I do not like to have products, ideas, etc. pushed on me against my will. Censors are a particular source of irritation; there is a very warm place to which they can go...

James Wright.--Aha! A 100% Communist to debate with! Will miracles never cease? I believe in a complete clean-up and modification of the Marxist-Leninist doctrine. Violence never solved anything. I believe in Non-Violence. Marx had some good ideas but as is always the case with good ideas some jack-ass always comes along and distorts them. Lenin is a perfect example of this. I believe Trotsky had a more hu-

mane notion of Marxism and you know what happened to him! If Communists are quarrelling with each other—USSR versus Red China—how do they ever hope to dominate the world? After all, united you stand, divided you fall (and I hope you fall—radicals of any sort are deadly).

—Judi B. Sephton

((Migosh, Judi, I had to cut your four pages some—otherwise other writers wouldn't have anything to say others wouldn't! Actually I think long letters have an advantage for the editor: he can choose what others haven't said, for example. I couldn't include your whole Eney praise or Blake diatribe. Glad to hear from you though.—Stan))

NORM METCALF, P.O. BOX 336, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94701

I received a letter from Franson taking me up on my offer to edit an issue of Tightbeam. Seeing as how I'm editing the March issue, I'd like to invite the contingent among you who are sf fans to speak up in Tightbeam, deadline 10 February 1965. /Um—Norm says the 15th is deadline.../

Fitch: A fan (in our context) is someone who is interested in sf to the extent of involving himself with others who share this interest. A fanzine is an amateur magazine which discusses sf. There are very few fans in the N3F if we judge by what we see in Tightbeam. There's little need to name names....

—Norm

((So Norm Metcalf edits the second issue of Tightbeam for '65, and I believe the next issue after his will be edited by Art Hayes. Maybe Gem Carr will do an issue later in the year, too—if so at least one galfan will be an editor this year. Who else volunteers?))

DAVID S. BRADLEY, 1300 ARCH STREET, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94708

Hurray for Dick Eney for finally putting up a workable system of printing people's letters. I hope that Others will follow in his footsteps.

Rich Wannen: Oh, come on now, Rich. I don't think that ERB was particularly thinking of "relaxation" or such any more than Heinlein does. All this talk about ERB's motives in writing are senseless. After all, do we really know what he had on his mind when he wrote his stories? I enjoy Burroughs myself, and have nearly a complete collection, but I don't worship the guy as the greatest escape fiction writer, because he wasn't. He enjoyed writing, and knew he could get money for it, so he wrote what he liked to write: adventure fiction.

Tom Dupree: I don't think ERB was the best sf writer (few would), but neither do I consider him the worst (most do). He was a middle-class writer who wrote some very enjoyable escape fiction in the form of adventure. And if some of his stuff reads like "Tarzan in Outer Space" remember that the Tarzan stuff was his style, and he was nothing away from it. (Some people think he was nothing with it too.) Give me the Blue Venusians, Purple Plutonians, and the Green (are they ever any other colors?) Martians...

James Wright: If a person is Christian, does that mean he is a fake? I don't follow your logic.

I have only one comment on Tightbeam 27, which I read late:

Paul Gilster: I am not myself a conservative, but good for you for standing up for your beliefs.

—David Bradley

ANN CHAMBERLAIN, 4442 FLORIZEL, APT. 99, LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90032

I am looking for misplaced items, temporarily "lost", at new address... Please pass it around.

Eric Blake is quite real, and possibly in his twenties, not 56. Possibly there were thoughts of Maxim Blake, who is not related.

Welcommittees never receives actual application for membership forms, they receive a list. Every new members' interests are cited, though. This is donated work, not hired help, that can be given any exact instruction.

Eney, I love your mind. Enjoyed your TB issue so very much. That cover wows me. (I WOW.) /Should I say Bow, Wow?/

James Wright has stood up to be counted, making sure he chose the most perverse side. He can enjoy the benefits of capitalism while practicing commieism, even after what happened to Mr. Kruschev. Fake!

Alma Hill has hit the one most needed thing and is doing it well.

—Ann Chamberlain

ROY TACKETT, 915 GREEN VALLEY ROAD NW, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87107

Ah there, J. Stanley—I can only assume that it is your strenuous year on the Directorate that has caused you to be so confused about the numbering of the various issues of TIGHTBEAM this past year. Allow me, in all my wisdom, to set you straight on the matter. Now, Ken Krueger was supposed to put out TB24 but due to some unfortunate circumstances he was much delayed. Art Hayes was supposed to put out TB25 but he put out TB24 which appeared a few days before Krueger published his TB24 which was supposed to appear before Hayes' TB24, you see. Now these two TB24s were followed by TB 26—say you remember TB26, Stan, please say you remember it—not TB27... Now your issue should, of course, be TB25 inasmuch as TB25 was never published, however I feel that in the interest of continuity you should more properly number yours as TB24. Now hasn't that got you all straightened out? /I remembered as soon as I woke up: I wrote the letter late at night./

Someone, perhaps in TB or perhaps in N'APA (my memory for such details grows foggy) wondered why the US of A wasn't working on a nuclear reactor for a space drive. Here in the Land of Enchantment we have some rather close ties with such projects and it may be of interest to Nefferdom to know that the good scientists at Los Alamos have spent nine years and \$584 million on the development of a nuclear rocket. It has been rather successful so far. The reactor has been tested and works. Unfortunately, no one in the space program has yet come up with a clear mission for the rocket so the chaps at Los Alamos are stymied. They'd like to know such things as how and when the engine would be used so they can get along with the final design and technical details.

\$584 million. That's not too many...

—Roy

((But two letters to one Tightbeam may be. I slipped up, Roy slipped in. Slippery guy, Tackett.))

SLIP A LETTER TO NORM METCALF FOR TIGHTBEAM...

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TOM DUPREE, 809 ADKINS BLVD., JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39211

CBS has done it again. The network has pulled some prize news boners in its day. On this one I cannot sit still. They have dropped our serious fantasy program, THE TWILIGHT ZONE.

They have put THE MUNSTERS on the air.

Now I do not know why the ZONE was dropped. It could be because of The Almighty Rating, or the Omnipotent Sponsor, both of which have given ZONE trouble during its five-year sojourn on the air. Perhaps Rod Sterling, who also teaches at the Famous Writers' School in Westport, Conn., has too much to do and not enough time to do it in. I know this: the fantasy world has lost its last hold on television.

What about THE OUTER LIMITS, you ask? What about it, I say? Just sit thru a LIMITS and tell me if that has the same flavor that ZONE expressed--the same kind of flavor that we read in our SF literature. Here is the difference between the last 2 "serious" SF/fantasy shows: LIMITS must have a "Bear," as producer Joseph Stefano put it, to induce awe or wonder or terror. ZONE needed nothing of the kind. True, the "Bear" was often used, but many shows triumphed on the power alone of a Sterling or Matheson or Beaumont teleplay. The dialog was all which was needed.

What now do we have on the TV screen to whet the appetite of the monster-loving world? An appalling Fred Gwynn, an obnoxious Yvonne de Carlo, and a moth-eaten "Grandpa," Al Lewis, who belongs back in CAR 54, WHERE ARE YOU?, where he was funny. I have nothing against horror movies! I am an avid fan. But there is such a thing as carrying the monster craze too far. Like in a situation comedy. And at the expense of one of the best fantasy programs the world will ever see, teamed with the brightest young playwright of our time. This shift in programs for the mass audience appals and discourages me. We were just starting to gather a mass interest in fantasy! Bad show, CBS--bad show.

Private letters that should be made public:

Stan Woolston—Thanx for the letters. You have really helped me get started in this organization. This gives me an excuse to say I am getting behind in correspondence and '65 official letters are included in this, mainly due to this issue of Tightbeam. I hope all I have slighted this month will understand: time is only elastic to a degree, and right now I've overstretched it.—Stan.7

John Boston—Remember the letter of yours published in ANALOG of May 1964? Well, I wrote JWCampbell a spirited 6-page rebuttal that never saw print because I was so mad I couldn't see straight. Looking back now, though, I see that some of your points were well taken, and some of my arguments had holes in them. Except one: I don't think "Shoenherr doesn't draw well, for some unknown reason". I thought he was pretty good.

Seth Johnson: Thanks for the welcome letter. Those things are really appreciated by the new members.

—Tom

27
WALTER BREEN, BOX 1032, BERKELEY 1, CALIF.

TB or not TB, as the case may be:

It looks to me as though SIALS is no more (and no less) anti-catholic than it is antiprotestant. Posterism is a more or less burlesque version of any number of revivalistic protestant cults; and Heinlein's unfortunate afterlife sequences have much more to do with oldtime protestant views of heaven than with the official RC versions.

It's a waste of time arguing with Eric Blake, but have fun, kids.

Nate Bucklin: Have the membership cards for Burro Bibliophobes been distributed yet? I hope one is reserved for me....

Harry Warner: Glad to see you here. The trouble with a communist hunt in fandom, as you put it, is partly difficulty in defining what is a communist; and partly, too, in figuring out what danger, if any, they constitute to anything as mundanely insignificant as N3F. Outright commie propeganda, as was found in a few zines from England, some years back, was readily recognizable and boring. Anything short of that would seem hardly dangerous enough to be worth mccarthyizing.

But a newsstand dealer who specialized in "adult only" commd is simply discouraging women and youngsters and those men who have no particular interest in Sex Torture Tales and the like. On the other hand, a censor is preventing ANYONE from reading this or that, rather than simply encouraging people to go elsewhere for specialized reading matter. One might as well say, by your somewhat confused reasoning, that a newsstand specializing in racetrack stuff is guilty of censorship. The principle is altogether different. If Atlantic Monthly is unavailable at our local newsstand, we can subscribe; if the censors have their way, this or that book or magazine would be unavailable by any means whatever to anyone. Censorship—as I mentioned in my article in Bane a couple of years back, reprinted in Panic Button—has not always been a matter of sex; before that it was political and before that largely religious. And I find it significant, like G. Legman, that in sexually permissive locales like the Scandinavian countries—and apparently nowhere else—torture stuff is restricted to Adults Only, while other categories of literature (using the word in the loosest possible sense) are sold openly without restriction; whereas here, sadism is the only legal substitute for sexual excitement in written or visual form. (Need I remind you of the recent study of the James Bond crud from exactly that angle, in a recent Warhoon?)

On TB28: Somehow I think Mr. Kohn is Putting You On in claiming that France's joining the Atomic Club makes Mr. DeGaulle more dangerous than Hitler & Stalin put together. I haven't heard anything about DeG. killing 6 million Algerians...And does Mr. Blake seriously think that organized Xianity in any form represents the actual teachings of Jesus?

Eney: Are you bragging or complaining? And why?

TERRY CARR OR JOCK ROOT FOR TAFF.

Not on TB, but on my mind of late: Marion presented me with Patrick Russell Breen, weight 8 lbs. 9 oz., at 4:56 PM Pacific Standard Time, on Halloween. Mother and baby are doing fine, though our nights are pretty much disturbed by colic—hence not much time for fanwriting or anything but necessary proac, these days.

—Walter Breen

JOCK ROOT, 206 East 25th Street, New York City 10010

EEEVERS makes a point that's worth repeating: "Fen may live in their own little world but why discard common politeness?" And not just in connection with sneering at birthday cards, either. Taken together with Don Fitch's distinction between "challenge" and "insult", this concept of politeness might make for a much more interesting set of controversies in TB. I enjoy a good fight as much as the next (stubborn) man, but much of what I've seen in TB's #26 and #28 doesn't strike me as 'good fighting' — it's simply name-calling, which is not nearly as much fun to read.

The first characteristic of what I call a good argument, is that each party really listens to the other(s)—or reads him carefully—and makes an honest attempt to understand what he's trying to say, before making any answering comment. This has three big advantages: first, it helps keep the argument to the point by insuring that everybody is talking about the same thing. Second, it saves the time that would be wasted on the "No, what I really meant was..." type of letter. And finally, it reduces the need for C to jump in to explain to B what A was talking about.

It also tends to keep B from looking like a fool — for instance if Phil Kohn had read Dr. Dupla's letter in #26 a bit more carefully, he would not have had to ask in #28, "Will it be no risk to you...?": the doctor states that "...none has ever been opened." And since he also points out, in the same letter, that this is his third year in the N3F he hardly comes under Phil's category of "people who may not know what they are getting into."

My second characteristic for a good argument is that the point of the discussion be more important than the personalities of the discussants. Name-calling may be fun to do (though I've never enjoyed it), but it's a great bore to watch—and in an insult-fest among three or four people in TB, roughly 99% of the membership has to watch. To see B refute A's arguments with the kind of logic you might have used yourself (if you'd thought of it) can be very interesting; but to see B call A a religious nut (or a communist, or whatever) is pretty dull.

The excitement I get from watching an argument comes from taking sides—from saying to myself, "I agree with B, and A is obviously full of it!" B thus becomes, in a sense, my representative in the discussion (until I dive in myself!). If B scores a particularly juicy point I'm delighted, and if A lands a heavy one, I'm dismayed; but if either one stops thinking and cops out with a burst of name-calling or other foolishness, the whole argument becomes pointless and I lose interest.

If you want to call somebody names, that's your privilege; but do it in private correspondence, not in TB.

And the third characteristic of a good argument is that it is, in fact, about something. The topic needn't be a familiar one, especially if the arguers take care to put in enough information so that the rest of the readers can see what's going on; but it must be a topic with enough interest to justify taking up space in TB, which is essentially a community project. Chances are, if two fans are interested enough in something to start a discussion in TB about it, enough others will be interested to justify keeping it going; but only if there is a real point at issue, and thinking going on on both sides.

One of the things I used to particularly enjoy about Heinlein's stories, and George O. Smith's, and others of the 'hard SF' variety, was watching a competent professional tackle a difficult problem in his own field and solve it by thinking. It might be a problem, or a field,

that didn't yet exist; but if the author explained it well enough for me to understand what was going on, I could still enjoy the hero's efforts to think his way out.

The same kind of enjoyment can be had from watching a good argument--with the added advantage that you can actually join in.

A good argument gains, rather than loses, from politeness on both sides. Discourtesy, like violence, is the last refuge of the incompetent. There is an old saying that the argument is won by the guy who keeps his temper longest. You can make your points much more effectively when you are thinking clearly. For a free lesson in how politeness and restraint can be utterly devastating (as well as delightful to read) have another look at the letters of Dr. Dupla: he's very good at it!

We are basically a friendly organization of highly communicative people, with (we like to think) above-average intelligence. Let's have those qualities come through a little stronger in our letterzine...

--Jock

DAVID N. HALL, 202 TAYLOR, CRYSTAL CITY, MO.

Wally Weber: I have never had a dog that went BOW WOW WOW. Of course, I never much liked dogs and all of mine are strictly forbidden to make any noises of any kind...but I do have a cat that goes Meow and I used to have a parakeet who could whistle "Lilli Marlene"...

G. M. Carr: Don't try to figure out what Lis Brodsky was talking about; she probably wasn't talking about anything...I still remember the time at the Discon she told me I had a "mediocre thumb."

Rich Benyo: You were right about one thing: your comments on the convention you were at weren't very interesting. Neos should be barred from reporting on conventions, because they don't know what is going on. I never did at the Chicon or the Discon, but I didn't try to describe various humorous incidents I was witness to (such as the time some dumb kid asked Fritz Leiber to autograph a copy of "A Princess of Mars"). I don't think Sprague would kill anyone (not even Dick Eney). There were quite a few of us at the Discon about ready to murder Fritz Leiber, Ted Cogswell and Jim Blish, who were reading poetry.

Will anyone who saw John Boardman at any time during the Discon in the N3F room please tell Him Wright, so I can extract my pound of flesh?

As for Hohn Duvoli, I feel sorry for the poor kid. Gee, let's box up a CARELESS package and send it to him...

David

DUNCAN McFARLAND, 1242 GRACE AVE., CINCINNATI, OHIO 45208

There has risen within a limited faction of fandom a desire to suspend the rotation plan (of the worldcon) and give Syracuse the con in 1966. Ordinarily at that time the con would go to a midwestern city. The Cleveland group, headed by Ben Jason, is actively seeking the bid for '66. If fandom is to honor Syracuse's out-of-turn bid, it must surely have some good reasons. Consider the possible justifications for such an act.

One might be that Syracuse could throw a better con. If this were so, it would stem from one, both, or a combination of the following reasons: the Cleveland group is relatively inept, and Syracuse relatively able. But a little thought tends to point in the opposite direction. The Cleveland committee has spent much time and energy preparing for the con. Ben Jason, a member of the Cleveland I committee, is ex-

perienced in such matters. Cleveland has certainly put in enough prior work to merit the con; perhaps Syracuse will, too. But no one doubts the ability of Cleveland to hold a successful con; Syracuse's past performance is not as reassuring. This type of argument against Cleveland hardly seems persuasive.

In his report on the business meeting at Oakland, Ed Meskys says in Niekas #9 "...Syracuse put in a token bid in order to present its case for considering the occasional setting aside of the rotation scheme for con-sites..." Actually it was found later that Syracuse had "retracted its retraction" to put itself in the running for '66, but the quote might encompass another argument against Cleveland. It is true that the rotation plan can be set aside by a 3/4ths vote at the business meeting. The midwest is actually due a con in '65. No midwestern city entered a bid at Oakland; Cleveland withdrew in favor of London. Cleveland withdrew not because it wasn't ready or able to throw a con in '65, but as a gesture to English fans. Is this not in effect not a setting-aside of the rotation plan? The clause in the plan allowing itself to be set aside is an excellent one; it foresees the possibility of fandom developing in quantity outside of the East, Midwest and West. Hence when Britain built up a sufficient fannish population, the rotation was ignored, or in effect set aside, to accomodate this new development. Similarly, if the South were to develop a large enough fandom, the rotation plan would allow a con to be held in that region of the country. The set-aside section of the plan was not included for the purpose of allowing impatient fans to hold cons before their designated time.

Some people feel the spice has gone out of worldcon bidding. The old thrill of wheeling-and-dealing in the smoke filled room has been extinguished by the smoothly functioning rotation plan. This is to an extent true, but it is also true that very few fans actually got in on the fannish con finaglings in pre-rotation days. A return to such competition would only benefit a small segment of fandom. Isn't the thrill of the smoke filled room partially offset by the disappointment and occasional bitterness felt by the losers? I seriously doubt that many fans feel this nostalgia for the smoke filled room. If they do, why haven't more intra-regional bid battles developed, as they well could? A return to competition could have highly undesirable side effects, such as the awarding of cons to unprepared fan groups, and a creation of an atmosphere of insecurity to discourage work on the part of a bidding fan group prior to the selection of the con-site.

Let us pretend Syracuse has gotten the bid for '66. Things are by no means put to a close. Who will get the con in '67, and in '68, and thereafter. There seems to be a general consensus...if Syracuse is awarded the con, many fans will take up the old practice of voting for the city nearest their home...It is hard to conceive of any selfish motivations for these people, but it is equally hard to conceive of anyone playing fair after being stabbed in the back.

Isn't it mighty coincidental that just as when one side decides to draw its swords to fight a battle that should involve us all, the chosen battlefield is remote and nearly inaccessible?...

A Clevention II in '66 deserves every fan's support.

—Duncan McFarland

IRA LEE RIDDLE, 617 SHUE DRIVE, NEWARK, DELAWARE 19711

Eric Blake: I did a research paper on the constitutionality of our anti-communist laws. I'd say they are unconstitutional on the grounds

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of the first and fifth amendments. The first says the government shall regulate against no religion--and to a commie, isn't communism a religion? The fifth makes it possible for a man to not testify against himself. By admitting (being forced under law) isn't a communist laying himself open for persecution--after all, who wants to hire a communist?

Roy Tackett: Tightbeam issue was put out on an ATF Chief 15 offset press. Thanks for the support; I like to inject snide remarks here and there also. Maybe I'll have to put out my own fanzine to do so, or just attempt a TB by myself.

Phil Harrell: I resent that snide remark you made. (It may be true though.) I did not receive my copy of TB 27 a month late this time. Of course I put it together. Still, the mails are even worse than I thought.

Everyone: My new address is: Room 212, Macdonough Hall East, State University College, Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901. But "65 Brood St., Plattsburgh, N.Y." will get here just as fast. /So now you tell me; I'll have to mark out the old address on the other stencil. Rats./

I've gotten 2 fanzines out of the New Fanzine Appreciation list so far. Is it really worth it?

--Ira

LEROY FRAZIER, c/o GREG SHAW...

This is an open letter to all of fandom, and especially the N3F, being in TB. There is really no reason for this, an announcement of my entrance into fandom, except that I like to make a big ceremony out of everything. I sent in my dues for N3F about a week ago, so I assume I am eligible to write to TB. I feel I ought to explain myself to avoid a lot of confusion and misunderstanding later on.

Several of you already know me. I have been a fan and been reading fanzines for a few months now. My public experience in fandom consists of (1) being mentioned in the "We Also Heard From" section of the last issue of CRY; (2) appropriated a place in one of Seth Johnson's RRs, which then preceeded to die somewhere along the line, and (3) unexpectedly showing up the last day of the Pacificon (my parents forced me to go to Seattle with them to visit my grandparents, but luckily we returned in time to rush over to the con late Monday afternoon, and I still managed to meet quite a few people).

I am a somewhat unusual fan. I come from a very poor family, and therefore cannot afford typewriter, mimeo, even stationery and stamps except on a very small scale. Right now I am saving up money to rent a P.O. Box, but that might be a couple of months yet. Due to circumstances I cannot receive mail at my house so must pick up my mail at the house of my best friend, who introduced me to fandom, and whom I visit about once a week and use his typer. I am working on several projects, one of which is to publish a fanzine (using a ditto at the school I attend) composed of hard core pornography. I already have several fine contributions. Further contributions are welcome... It will be distributed to most of fandom, especially those who I think might be offended by it. /Be warned, everyone--Leroy seems to be a trouble-maker...Stan./ I am eager and willing to write articles on any subject that other poeple would be afraid to write on. I believe... pornography to have an important place in every branch of literature, including fanzines. /Interesting theory, that fanzines are literature./ I have been wondering what other fans think of this idea...

I would be glad to discuss anything with anybody who would write.

--Leroy Frazier

A FEW WORDS FROM STAN WOOLSTON...

12832 Westlake St.
Garden Grove, Calif.

I sought letters early and on specific subjects, like an essay, if the individual writer wanted to write them. As you can see there is quite a variety of subjects included herein, and there would have been more if I could have shrunk the letters more (preferably by use of a typer with smaller keys--elite would have increased the wordage more). Instead I've used more pages, which mean I'll be absorbing the difference in cost between what is available from the N3F treasury and what it costs.

Sorry, Ida Ipe, that the letter I asked you to send isn't used: it came so late I had used up all the alphabet already. (I've started around again the second time, as you can see on previous page.) One letter was unsigned and I put the sheet with the envelope so could not credit it, and, and I would have liked to quote some of it especially. "There are few sacred cows (in fandom)...It does seem that fandom is a good deal more liberal than the rest of society in the matter of individual differences...not everyone here is going to handle you like you were made of glass...It seems every once in a while someone comes along who really gets on someone-else's nerves." Not that this makes a cohesive outline of his letter, but it suggests a few thoughts that others have discussed from time to time. What I want to say here is that in future letters to Tightbeam please include your signature at least, and preferably your name and address in case the editor includes them, as I have most generally. Then you can write without checking the roster, if you feel the need to make rebuttal or otherwise comment.

I hope everyone will continue to add new subjects as they feel interest in them. This will make the comments more worth-while. At least add a few new ideas when you write on older subjects, won't you? And note that some items included are news-worthy. This is fine; I'm personally fond of knowing as much about fandom (including N3F) as is possible. Hum--maybe we could include a page of news in each Tightbeam ---and enhance the news coverage in TNFF. One thought of my own is to encourage really distributing news here in the U.S. in as fine a way as Ron Bennett has been doing in England--not doctored or editorialized as is often done here, but fairly direct and fresh items. YOU are invited to send in news; maybe it can be pubbed in the "official mags" --or done up as a news-sheet of its own. What do you say? If the guy who puts it out is an experienced publisher it would fit a need in fandom; he could do it on his own, with help from individual members and, of course, the officers of the club would help. I would.

For your information, Alma Hill mentions my idea of a Friends of the Manuscript Bureau group, to work at articles, reviews and other material for Jack Chalker to send out to fanzines. YOU are invited to write to Alma--or to me--about this. You need not work through anyone, actually, but perhaps you'd like to be in a RR to discuss ideas, then write something yourself. The group could help you improve your writing too--much as the story groups have done in the past. Writing regularly is important in developing real writing ability, and why not try in 1965 to write regularly (maybe sending material out this week --and maybe every month--to the Bureau)? The Bureau address is Jack L. Chalker, 5111 Liberty Heights Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21206. You can check Alma's address inside cover of TNFF; I don't want to confuse matters with a whole slew of addresses.

You may know I'm President for '65. I'm not an authoritarian by intent, and if YOU will send in your ideas it will help me do what can be done to do the job. Your help's important. --Stan Woolston

LASTS Rexed 1/2/65