

HIGH-BEAM



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# TIGHTBEAM

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TIGHTBEAM: #9, November, 1977 is the fanzine and letterzine of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. TIGHTBEAM is published for the N3F in January, March, May, July, September and November and is distributed to the members of the N3F and for trade of other fanzines. Persons mentioned in passing are invited to comment regardless of membership status. Contributions (especially letters) should be sent to the editor, Lynne Holdom, P.O. Box 5, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442 not later than the 15th of the month of publication. (Please write TB on the envelope.)

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We have a number of new members this time. Here they are:

Dennis R. Brown  
524 Wood St  
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BD: 10-12. I met Dennis at PhilCon. He had the unfortunate experience of losing his entire SF collection in the flood that hit Johnstown this summer. Likes most SF authors.

Roger Caldwell  
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BD: 11-17-52, Steel worker and student. Inst writing, art colls, fanzines. Has typer, Reads most mags and reads most authors.

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BD: 9-30-53: Eng student. Inst reviewing, colls, games books. Has typer. Inst SF 12 years. Likes most SF authors and stories.

Stella Nemeth  
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BD: 4-25-41. Inst writing, reviewing, art, colls, fanzines, corres Has typer, cassette. Active 4 years in Rochester SF Soc. Reads assorted fanzines and has no special favorite author.

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BD: 6-21-48: Administrative assistant. Never active in fandom. Inst SF 20 years. Reads all SF mags. Fav. author: Ellison.

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coas---

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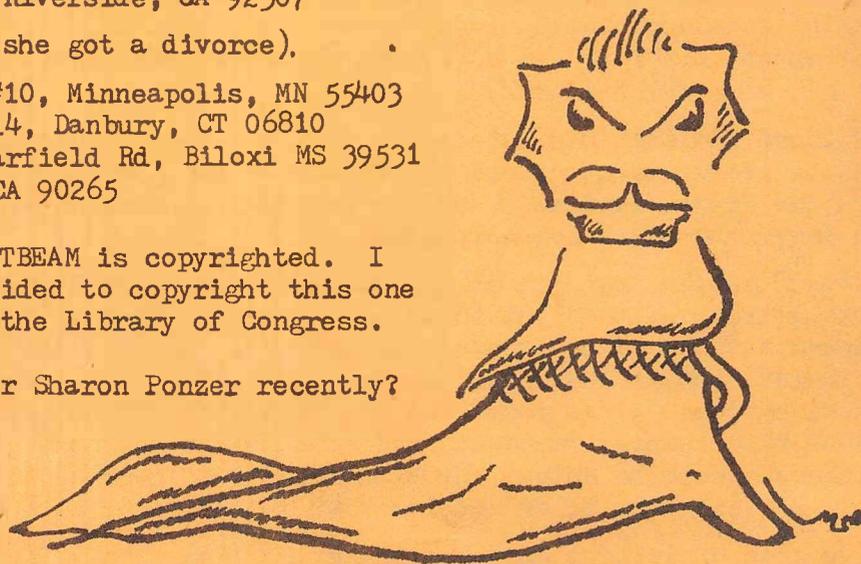
Carol Sather is now Carol Kennedy (she got a divorce).

Carol Kennedy, 1204 Harmon Place, #10, Minneapolis, MN 55403  
Elyse M. Grasso, 300 Main St. Apt 14, Danbury, CT 06810  
Steve de Sante, #2 Rebel Apts, Briarfield Rd, Biloxi MS 39531  
Beth Slick, P.O. Box 424, Malibu, CA 90265

A new wrinkle---this issue of TIGHTBEAM is copyrighted. I was doing same for JUMEAUX and decided to copyright this one too. Now it will be preserved in the Library of Congress.

Has anyone heard from Paul Meyer or Sharon Ponzer recently? Contact your fannish answering service.

This is really it.



# President's Message

John Robinson  
P.O. Box 33,  
Schenectady, NY  
12301

The year is ending. It's time to extend your membership in the N3F so as to continue to enjoy the benefits of Nefferdom.

As it was last year, so shall it be next year, and the year after; no tickee, no washee. Pay up in January or you will be dropped from the mailing list.

If there's any one really big benefit from membership, it's receiving TIGHTBEAM and TNFF. You won't get any after December if you don't extend your membership; and don't think you have to limit yourself to just one year --- send in enough for ten years' membership before the rates go up!

Higher rates are still in the talk stage, but I've heard more and more in favor of higher rates in the face of threatened postal rate hikes. Ask yourself: how much are fanzines going for these days when I don't participate directly? And how much are TIGHTBEAM and TNFF worth? Surely more than is charged!

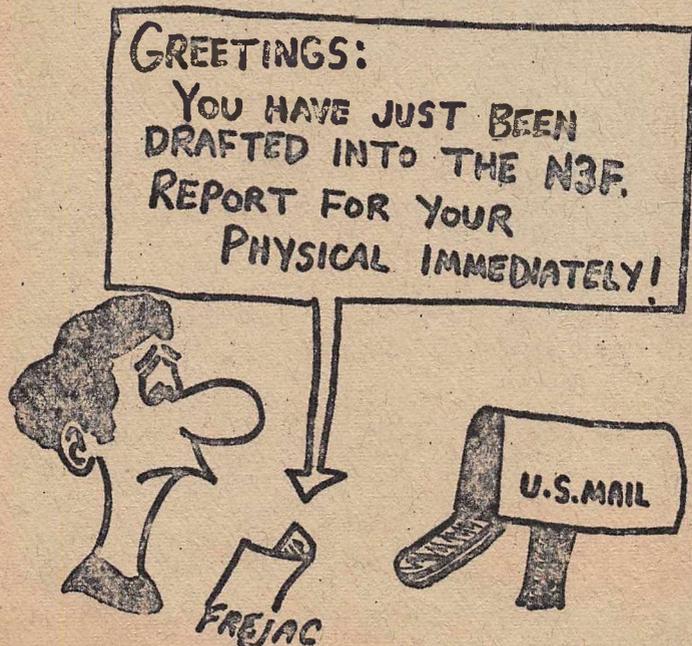
Most of the activities in the N3F do not require membership, but our official organs are what gets the word around to bring in the new blood.

Speaking of new blood, it's the loss of the old blood that forces the need for recruitment of so much new blood. The drive to keep as many of you members is important in that the most critical reason the N3F hasn't grown to what some would like, is that new recruits only outnumber out losses by about 10-15 annually. So we are growing slowly, but only slowly.

I had hoped for about 230 members at the end of the year. It looks like we will have over 200 and possibly as many as 215, but not the 230 there might have been. SunCon turned out to be a lousy recruiting area, and there is was predicted that it would be attended by 3000 neofans and Jack Chalker, only to have only about 200 memberships at the door.

Write to me if you have any ideas you think might be useful to promoting a bigger and better N3F. And don't forget to keep on contributing to both TIGHTBEAM and TNFF whenever you can.

I now turn you back to J.J. Pierce's slushpile reader, who will hopefully amuze and amaze you with an extravaganza of selected article-writing, letterhacking, and all that good stuff.



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Lynne here --- first I haven't gotten the latest new members' list, so I'm not sure how many members we have. However I'm putting an "R" on the TB's of those who have to renew so you'll know who you are. If you think I'm wrong, check with Janie Lamb. Otherwise you'll miss TB in January. Overseas members are exempt from this as they aren't getting TB at all due to a dock strike. The PO will not accept mail for Europe, S. America, Africa, etc. Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia are not affected but mail will be twice as long getting there as it must first get to the west coast which takes about six weeks in itself.

---MISCELLANEOUS NEWS---

Stan Woolston has often said that I should include more news about what N3F members are doing and whatever else comes to mind. So here goes.

Anji Valenza who did the back cover for this issue is also doing artwork for GALAXY magazine. She also bought a horse and a light saber. She has a black eye at the moment because of a disagreement with her horse.

Judy Kopman reads the slush pile for AMAZING and FANTASTIC. She only gets paid for reading stories that aren't accepted. HHHmmmm

I'm reading the slush pile for GALAXY. I get paid whether I accept a story or not.

Jim Baen quit as editor of GALAXY. he is now working for Ace. Not surprizingly Ace has started a surge in publishing SF again. They are publishing quit a bit of original stuff and bringing back titles that have been o/p for years. Scads of Poul Andersons old Ace double stories will be reissued.

JJ Pierce is now editor of GALAXY. He has the rights to an unpublished Cordwainer Smith story. JJ is a real fan of C. Smith. I went to PhilCon with him and three other people and JJ has a small car.

There is a new fanzine coming out devoted to the works/universes of Andre Norton. It is called THE NORTON FILE. I don't know a whole lot about this but for info write Michael F. Polednak, 55 E. 4th St, Patchogue, NY 11772. Include a SASE.

A couple of people asked about the STAR TREK welcommittee. Well Jacqueline Lichtenberg sent me the info on this. If you want to know about ST fandom write (and include a SASE to Mary Louise Dodge, P.O. Box 207, Saranac, MI 48881.

Also according to Jacqueline Lichtenberg, SCUTTLEBUTT published by Mary Ann Bentz, 3830 Mintwood St., Pittsburgh, PA 15201. It is available for 50¢ and 1 13¢ stamp.

Paul Walker is the new book reviewer for GALAXY so he is off fantasy gothics for a while and reading hard SF. JJ Pierce sees to that. Just thought Read Andrus might like to know that.

Elyse Grasso, 300 Main St., Apt 14, Danbury CT 06810 publishes a zine called Luoma'iirax. She is looking for material, mostly fiction, and will read anything unless its lim-ericks or hard core porn. She leans more towards fantasy though and knows quite a bit about anthropology, comparative religion, weaponry, architecture, history, animal behaviour, chemistry, astronomy and physics. Thus she can find holes in lots of stories---like about 90% of GALAXY's slush pile. However she still wants material and is willing to give advice on any of the above subjects. I got quite a bit of help from her myself.

Andy McIlvain, P.O. Box 529, Granger Land, TX 77302 publishes a zine WHISPERS. He also wants material in the form of fiction, poetry etc. He also leans towards fantasy. So where are all the budding authors out there??

Rene and Carol Gobeyn had a daughter, Heather, last August. Since both Rene and Carol are in the Dorsai, perhaps Heather is the first natural born Dorsai.

Elyse Grasso (see address above) has been asked to make up a list of "Books every Library should have for use by the ten libraries she works for. She wants suggestions from anyone who is willing to make them. Get your favorite books on the library list up there in Connecticut. Personally I'd suggest all the Tolkien works plus the Dune trilogy, the last three Bradley books, the tetralogy of Elish's that begins with A CASE OF CONSCIENCE, the LENSEMEN stories of E.E. Smith, the FOUNDATION trilogy. Also a good selection of Kipling and Dumas and Mary Renault.

## THE SILMARILLION

by Dennis Jarog

THE SILMARILLION is the long awaited sequel or rather prequel to the LORD OF THE RINGS since it tells the story of the earlier age in the history of Middle Earth. Names that are venerated or reviled in the dying Third Age such as Beren and Luthien; Feanor and Morgoth come alive in this epic saga of the beginning of Arda. The book which in form is a collection of legends rather than a narrative, stretches from the point where Iluvator or Eru called for the music of the Ainur to the creation of the Rings. But the heart of the book is the Quenta Silmarillion, the saga of the three jewels created by Feanor around which the history of the time was built. Indeed the one real complaint that may be made is that there is not more detailing of the sagas.

In the beginning of the book are two small selections called the AINULINDALE and the VALAQUENTA. The former is a creation epic of the highest mode. It tells of Iluvator, the One who was alone in the void and because he desired companionship, he created the Valar and with them, the Music of the Ainur. For a time they sang in joy and then the One called them and bade them make the Great Music. The void was no more. But even then not all was harmony; there was harshness in the music. For one of their number, Melkor, later called Morgoth wished for his own music. Out of the music came Arda and Iluvator bid for the Vala to make it ready for his other creations, elves and men. There was struggle between Melkor and the other Vala. I wonder in truth why Iluvator permitted this. More later.

The Valaquenta discusses the role of each of the Vala and the lesser creations; the Maiar (Gandalf was one such). The highest was Manwe with his queen Elbereth called Varda. Each of the other lords and ladies has his own special province: one governs the waters and so forth. Lastly is mentioned the Great Enemy, Morgoth and the greatest of his servants, the Balrogs and Gothmaur called Sauron. These sagas show the influence of the Christian mythos --- to my mind it is better. The One presents himself as much more aloof than Yahweh was --- in this way he seems a more perfect being, for he does not have to pander to his creations. Though Iluvator had lesser creations in whom he placed greater trust (wrongly as we will see later.) The theology of the situation brings numerous questions to mind. Is there an equivalent of Hell in Arda? There is Heaven for men go somewhere. Whether they join the One is another question.

The major part of the book is the QUENTA SILMARILLION, which takes in the period from the creation of Ilmaren, the first abode of the Valar in Arda to the Great Battle in which the Vala and their allies finally ended the menace of Melkor --- in between the joy and pain, a touch of things beyond that ordinarily granted to those of mortal blood and the basest of deeds. In the beginning of days, the Vala who had chosen to live on Arda, chose Ilmaren and made the place fit for themselves. Again after all had been ordered, Melkor struck and destroyed it but after a time, the Vala managed to drive him back into the void. Then they decided to withdraw to Aman, the undying lands and thereafter made their homes upon the Felori. The growing things returned and then Yavanna created the two trees of legend; Telperion and Laurelian within were the light of the sun and the moon. Thus the darkness was removed from all Arda. Time came for the coming of the firstborn of Iluvator, the elves.

At this point I would like to consider some of what has been presented. The Valar battles Melkor several times and more strife is yet to come. Why did Iluvator permit this? It is possible that in the manner of the Judeo-Christian mythos, the evil one was permitted to continue to test the faithful. Or maybe there was still hope for Melkor? Certainly Iluvator could have mastered Melkor for he was the creator. So then the music of the Ainar was a test---what remains is who was being tested---the Valar? Or the two kindreds? All three? And with the greatest power came the greatest failure as we shall see shortly.

It is told that the One took long thought on his other children and decided that the Elves were to have the beauty of the Valar and that Men were to have a new gift, the power to pass beyond the circles of the world. In later days there was much question as to whether this was a gift or a curse. However this is unanswerable since it seems that the weariness of longlife can be as bad as the short life. It all depends on what one does with life.

Into all of this come the dwarves, who were not made by the hand of Iluvator, but rather of Aule, another of the Vala. And Iluvator was at first angered, then commanded that they could remain but must sleep until the coming of the firstborn. The uncounted ages passes and Elbereth put into the sky stars for the lighting of Middle Earth, at Cuivienen the elves woke. It was Orome that found the elves and told the

"In the beginning the Elder Children of Iluvator were stronger and greater than they have since become; but not more fair, for though the beauty of the Quendi in the days of their youth was beyond all other beauty that Iluvator caused to be, it has not perished, but lives in the West, and sorrow and wisdom have enriched it....." p49

other of the Valar. And they then persuaded the elves to come to the undying lands. It was at the same time that the Valar again engaged Melkor in combat. He had built his fortress at Thangor-

odrim which happened to be close to the elven kingdoms. This time more than any previous, the assembled Valar won the day and Melkor was doomed for three ages to the void. Meantime the elves undertook the great journey whereby the greater part of the three kindreds sailed over the sea to the undying lands. The elves split into the Vanyar --- all of whom went over the sea and remained everafter; the Noldor---most of whom went over the sea but many returned in the rebellion and about whom most of the rest of the book is about; and finally the Teleri---many of whom never undertook the journey and still fewer actually went to Aman. Upon reaching their goal, the Valar granted them a dwelling place within sight of the two trees and they built Tirion upon Tuna. Ingwe was king of the Vanyar, Finwe of the Noldor, and Elwe was lord of the Teleri, though he never came to Aman.

"...was the noontide of the Blessed Realm, the fullness of its glory and its bliss, long in tale of years, but in memory too brief....the Eldar became fullgrown in stature of body and mind, and the Noldor advanced ever in skill and knowledge..." p63

But strife was quick to develop. Feanor angered over the marriage of his father, grew greatly in skill, but more importantly in pride. Meantime, Melkor

was released from bondage and foreswore to Manwe his pledge never to oppose the Will of Iluvator. In this time, Feanor produced the greatest works over of the children of the One, the SILMARILS. The Great Jewels which contained the light of the two trees, were revered by the Vala and the Eldar. So also did Melkor. Feanor came to oppose his brother Fingolfin and Melkor encouraged this. For the first time, weapons of war were made. Feanor went so far as to raise his sword against his brother and for this was banished to Manwe. So he went into exile with his sons and was there courted by Melkor. But Feanor knew his desire for the jewels and so rejected him. Manwe sought after Melkor but found nothing. Then Melkor, with Ungoliant the greatest of the spiders, entered Valinor and destroyed the trees and thus the darkness fell. Yavanna called for the Silmail, that the light preserved within it might be seen by all but Feanor refused and he and the Vala were sundered. Word came that Finwe, king of the Noldor was slain before his doors and that the jewels were taken. Feanor, hearing this, cursed him and called him Morgoth and swore by Manwe that in the name of his father, he would have those jewels back. Later on, he summoned the Noldor and bad them follow him into exile, to avenge his father.

It becomes very evident that this book is a study in that ancient disease, pride. But the sin falls mainly, I think, on the Valar as opposed to Feanor. True, he was

possessive of his works and cared greatly for his father; but the greater fault is allowing the Freedom of Morgoth. They knew him and knew that reform was impossible. Also they were desirous of the jewels as Feanor charged,--- they said for the benefit of all but where --- no doubt in the court of Manwe. It seems that the suffering of the Noldor were due in no small part to the Valar; the others of the kindreds were not as self-assertive and were therefore docile subjects of the powers. They were skilled in the sculpting of Arda, but as to the children of Iluvator, they were fools, and proud ones at that.

Feanor led the Noldor until they came to the haven of the Feleri in Aqualonde but they were refused passage across the sea. Then Feanor proposed to take the ships by force and thus the first great evil of the kindreds occurred --- the kinslaying. And thus Mandos, the herald of Manwe spoke:

"Tears unnumbered ye shall shed; and the Valar will fence Valinor against you...unto the House of Feanor the wrath of the Valar lieth from the West to the uttermost East...have spilled the blood of your kindred unrighteously and have stained the land of Aman...Eu appointed you not to die in Ea...yet slain you may be, by weapon and by torment and by grief...."p88

Also the Valar took counsel, and created the sun and the moon with the last light of the trees to illuminate Middle Earth for the time of men had also come.

Those of the Teleri who had not come to Aman became known as the Sindar and were governed by Thingol and his wife Melien. Their daughter was Luthien called by Beren, Tuinvel. They built a great kingdom with power, for Melien was a Maia. The Noldor then arrived and began building strongholds and in time, kingdoms while Feanor and his sons laid plans for the jewels. Fingolfin became king of the Noldor in exile. Various of the house of Finwe settled down and such kingdoms as Dothonian, Ard-Galen, Belerland Norgothrond and Gondlin came into existence, In the first years they had the upper hand and began the siege of Angband which lasted for over four hundred years. At this time men came west into the elvan realms of which the most prominent became known as the Edain; the three houses of the elf friends and were renowned ever after in the story and song of the exile years. Over the turn of years, Morgoth grew stronger and slowly began to overtake the elves. It was at this time that the siege was broken and after that, war never ceased. Fingolfin, high king of the Noldor in exile, fell.

Perhaps the high point of Tolkien's craft as a storyteller came with the saga of Luthien and Beren. It is truly a painful time. Beren, after seeing his father's company ambushed by Sauron, wanders with revenge in his heart until he stumbles into Dor-iath and sees Luthien beside the river Esgalduin. He was enspelled and called her Tuin-ivel. Time came and he challenged Thingol for her hand and he demanded a Silmaril as her dower. After struggles too numerous to tell and surviving the dungeons of Sauron, they indeed obtained one from the Iron Crown. But at the last Beren gave Thingol the jewel and died, and Luthien overcome with grief, passed into Valinor and even Manwe was moved, He then permitted them to dwell for a season in the glades of Beleriand, but in repayment she chose to forsake her elven heritage and become mortal and so she alone of the elven kindreds passed out of the world (until Arwen in the Third Age). The union was born Dior Eluchil, the heir of Thingol and later descendants included Elrond and the Dunedain among them Aragorn.

"This doom she chose, forsaking the Blessed Realm,...that thus whatever grief might lie in wait, the fates of Beren and Luthien might be joined, and their paths lead together beyond the confines of the world...Yet in her the Two Kindreds have been joined, and is the forerunner of many in whom the Eldar see yet...." p187

In the meantime the struggle continued and the

fortunes of Noldor and their Edain allies grew worse. It was a mighty host that came to Angband but such was the carnage that it was ever known as the Niraeth Arnoediad, the battle of unnumbered tears. Many were the number of elves and men that fell there....

Here fell, Fingon, high king of the Noldor in exile. Next in the saga of Turin, the greatest of the Edain in all the wars against Morgoth and of the special hatred that he bore for Turin. At this point little remained of the Noldorian realms but Nargothrond and Doriath and small scattered enclaves. Through it all, the curse of Feanor continued to haunt the House of Finwe.

Next in the annals came the ruin of Doriath. Thingol was gone. Dior forged anew the power of the ancient kingdom but the sons of Feanor came seeking the Silmaril that he possessed and for the second time, elf battled elf and Doriath was no more. The curse and doom rang again. Of the blooding only Elwing, daughter of Dior, survived, and her tale comes shortly. She led the remnants of the Sindar to the mouths of the River Sirion.

There remained yet the hidden city of Gondolin. Tuor, the son of Huor, entered it as the voice of Ulmo to warn of impending tragedy. This resulted in the second union of the Eldar and the Edain. For her married Idril Celebrindal, descendant of Finwe. Of this union came Earendil the Mariner. Morgoth found the hidden city and destroyed it. Idril and Tuor managed to lead a few to the Vale of Sirion and the company of Elwing.

"And it is said that time Ulmo came to Valinor out of the deep waters, and spoke to the Valar of the need of the elves; and he called on them to forgive them, and win back the Silmarils....Manwe moved not.....The wise have said that the hour was not yet come...." p244

The sea longing awoke in Tuor as it later did in Earendil and it is said that of all mortal men, he was permitted entry into the Blessed Realm.

I would have thought that by this time the sins of Feanor would have been long paid for. But it seems that besides all the Valar were vindictive. Gil-galad, last of the house of Finwe in exile, became king.

Great evil was still to come. The sons of Feanor, hearing that the Silmaril was still in the possession of Elwing, came down upon the refugees at Sirion and killed most, taking hostage the sons of Earendil and Elwing; Elros and Elrond. They did not get the Silmaril however. Learning that his sons were safe, Earendil wearied of Middle Earth and journeyed unto the uttermost west with the Silmaril. Finally, whether the minds of the Valar had determined that enough punishment for the rebellion and kin-slaying had been suffered, or feared that the creation of Iluvator was in real jeopardy from Morgoth; the great battle was fought in which Morgoth and his hosts were destroyed by the might of Valinor. Finally Melkor was placed into the void until the changing of Arda. The Valar did display their ancient stupidity when they overlooked Sauron who would trouble Middle Earth for two ages yet. And thus the pain-filled story of the Elder Days comes to an end.

Following this are short pieces on the Akallabeth, the downfall of Numenor and the creation of the great Rings.

Pride and incompetence were the chief victors in the Saga of the Silmarils. Pride of the Valar, Feanor, the Noldor, Morgoth, Sauron, the list is endless. No one is blameless, yet the heaviest blame should fall on the Valar who were charged by the One to prepare the way for his children. It seems they hindered more than helped. They allowed Morgoth to run about freely; he should have been consigned to the void eons before he was. And what was the payment for all this but pain and suffered and uncounted deaths. I would hesitate to call the Vala sadists as well but the pain they supposed to be cosmetic seems to be the kind that is used by the master when angry at a disobedient slave.

"Farewell sweet earth and northern sky,  
for ever blest, since here did lie  
and here with lissom limbs did run  
benaeth the Moon, beneath the Sun,  
Luthien Tinuviel,

# REVIEWS

LIFE AFTER LIFE by Raymond A. Moody Jr. M.D.

reviewed by John DiPrete

The author has assembled assorted case histories on men and women who have died, only to be later revived. The subjects have expired from cardiac arrests, giving birth, prolonged illnesses etc. Their personal accounts reveal the possibility of life after death. The reports share similar themes and details and an odd, prevailing sense of mystery.

Such as the following:

"I died from cardiac arrest, and, as I did, I found myself in a rolling field. It was beautiful, and everything was an intense green --- a color unlike anything on earth. There was light --- beautiful, uplifting light --- all around me."

One man recalls,

"I went through this dark, black vacuum at super speed. You could compare it to a tunnel, I guess. I felt like I was riding on a roller coaster train at an amusement park, going through this tunnel at tremendous speed."

Another man recounts:

"I found myself in a completely black void, and my whole life kind of flashed in front of me....I knew I was dying, and I remember thinking that I wanted to provide for my family....I definitely felt the presence of a very powerful, completely loving being with me."

Another account:

"I had a heart attack, and I found myself in a black void, and I knew I had left my physical body behind. I just went on, gliding and moving swiftly, and in front of me, in the distance, I could see a grey mist, and I was rushing toward it. Beyond the mist, I could see people....it was such a wonderful, joyous feeling; there are just no words in human language to describe it."

The reports gathered here contain various after-death accounts of "soul-travel", floating experiences, hearing noises, and numerous other occurrences while dead. The foreword is written by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, a pioneer in the field of dying, whose separate research was duplicated Dr. Moody's findings. Her opening remarks discuss the factual evidence for life after death, and conclude that survival of bodily destruction is quite possible, even probable.

The book contains chapters discussing Kubler-Ross's theories, possible explanations, stages of the phenomenon, and parallels through history. The author feels we may all be fated for a journey "outside the body", when our time comes. His startling document offers hope and comfort for those who question the Unknown.

LIFE AFTER LIFE by Raymond A. Moody Jr.

Bantam, 1977 \$1.95

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THE DRAGONS OF EDEN by Carl Sagan

reviewed by Brod Klinger

THE DRAGONS OF EDEN ( a phrase referring to the human racial memory of a time when pre-humans vied with reptiles for survival, dragons referring to the reptiles, and Eden being the "Human" condition before the difference between right and wrong could be recognized,) is a breezily written, consummately fascinating and ultimately frustrating account on the development of human intelligence. His basic premise is

that human intelligence is a product of the triune brain; that is, the three components --- the so-called R or Reptilian, complex, the limbic system, and the neocortex --- of the forebrain, and the interactions of the three components, results in what we call the human mind. From this, his major postulate is that evolution has not discarded past functions of the brain, but merely modified them by developing new brain parts on top of the older parts, thus modifying but not obliterating the older functions of the brain. This would be somewhat analogous to painting over red paint with white paint and having a resulting shade of pink as the product.

As might be expected, this manner of evolution has created tension within the human mind, and this tension is manifested in dreams and mental illness, as well as more subtle ways. Sagan postulates that dreaming is the human way of permitting the primitive, almost instinctual R-complex to function without it interfering with, or even coopting, the more advanced analytical processes of the neocortex. The limbic system seems to be primarily concerned with emotions, and Sagan theorizes that emotions were evolved to allow us to work in units, as families originally, which our biological evolution made imperative.

His speculations on evolution and on the brain are indeed fascinating, but I was exasperated by the almost total lack of speculation on the manner in which the brain functions. To give one example, Sagan says that information (memory) is not stored by means of electrical signals, yet he says not a word on how information may be stored. Perhaps I am quibbling over something Sagan considered outside of the realm of the book (his subtitle for the book is "Speculations on the Evolution of Human Intelligence.") but the lack of description, as opposed to speculation, seems a dubious practice to me,

This is an interesting, informative, and thought-provoking work, which is marred only by its lack of substantive information. It was marketed for the mass public, which may help to explain the deficiency, and has been on the New York TIMES best-seller list for several weeks now, assisted in large measure by a cover story on Carl Sagan. The book is bringing in the loot, folks, which is probably what the author intended. Despite this commercialism, it is definitely worth reading, although it's not worth buying. (Most libraries should have it by now, and the paperback will undoubtedly be out shortly.)

THE DRAGONS OF EDEN by Carl Sagan

Random House 1977

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A brief review by the editor---

THE CRAFT OF SCIENCE FICTION: A SYMPOSIUM ON WRITING SCIENCE FICTION AND SCIENCE FANTASY  
ed by Reginald Bretnor

Anyone who is considering writing SF should invest in this book. It tells of vast possibilities still untouched by writers and various pitfalls to avoid. How to write hard science-fiction and how to invent phony science that sounds plausible if you don't want to spend six years studying physics. Something I found interesting was "The Construction of Believable Societies" by Jerry Pournelle. Reading this would have avoided some characters swimming in a clear mountain lake even though that future earth was so polluted that the sky was always grey and made me throw the book across the room in disgust. Also you will learn that not all future societies will speak English, so you must make up your mind exactly what they do speak and stick to it. There are many more such details and, if nothing else, you may learn what to avoid. Believe me, as a slush pile reader, that in itself would be a great boon to Science-fiction.

THE CRAFT OF SCIENCE FICTION edited by Reginald Bretnor

Barnes and Noble \$3.95

# LETTERS

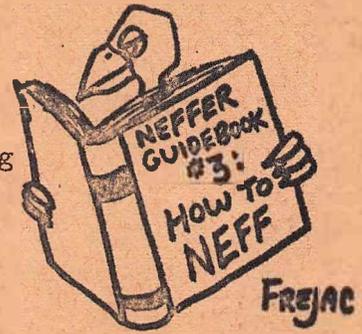
Richard Trout  
530 High St.  
Bethlehem, PA  
18016

It's taking me a long time to catch up with the N3F as it is now since I gaffiated about three years ago. Also I'm way behind on everything and I'm just now getting caught up. Let me say that I'm learning

a few shocking things like you and Joanne suffering from high blood pressure since this has been --- and is now--- my main problem. ((I'm down to normal now.))

Now about STAR WARS. I've heard lots of talk but it seems to me I've noticed something in it no one else has: notably the similarity to WW2! You have those nasties again, Stormtroopers, even a furor in Darth Vader. All the elements are there including the Americans represented by Luke, Ol' Ben Kenobi, the princess and "what's his name."

((Obi Wan Kenobi must be the German refugee who brought the secret of atomic power over.))



Well, anyway that's something I saw nobody else has mentioned. It's been playing here for fifteen weeks. I've only seen it twice but I spent twelve bucks for the sound track album and a poster. ((My brother is a real WW2 nut and I have yet to hear him make that association. He thought SW was a modern WIZARD OF OZ.))

As I said, I'm just getting caught up and starting to correspond again. I'm also working on two novels again and subbing to some fanzines and doing a lot of other reading. Right now I'm onto Conan. I hope to see some of you at PhilCon.

I didn't know your mail went through Paterson. I grew up there. ((Paterson is the center for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th class mail. As for growing up there, you have my sympathy. I live about seven miles north of the place.))

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Sally Syrjala  
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Thanks for the September TIGHTBEAM. A word on letter writing: Did you have the feeling the lack of correspondence may have something to do with the kids who are coming out of the school system unable to comprehend the written word? It would seem that if they are having a difficult time reading, it would be more of a problem to write. I never really believed some of those reports out about how bad the reading/writing problem was in the schools until I went out and tried to strike up a correspondence with fellow fen. I found it to be a lost art. ((I think fen are more likely to be literate if only because they read SF. However it is really surprising how many SF readers learned to read before they started school. I know I did. However I have found that fen have more problems writing in any order rather than in simply writing.))

Anyway from reading this issue of TIGHTBEAM, I would have to agree with those espousing an increase in the annual dues. \$3 a year does seem slightly below cost in view of today's inflationary tendencies. (Good news isn't in the fact that it doesn't exist but merely in that the rate is at an acceptable level.)

A little about me: I was born June 21, 1948 in the same town where I now reside. I started reading SF at about 8 or 9 years of age. I found the TWILIGHT ZONE to be one of my all time favorites in the TV realm and also liked OUTER LIMITS and dare I mention STAR TREK? ((I liked the program; it's those fen who consider it the end all of SF that bother me.)) I have been a senior bookkeeper for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (at the advanced age of 19), medical secretary, office manager for a four-member radiological practice and administrative assistant for a group of retail stores. Administrative assistant seems to be the current euphemism for execu-

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tive secretary. I like the short story format the best. It's a great way to sneak in some reading in the odd moments when waiting for supper to cook. I enjoy reading Harlan Ellison's works and most SF magazines. The wider the range of material, I can find the better I like it. Let's hope the more we are exposed to, the more we begin to learn and understand.

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Steven Beatty  
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Ames, Iowa, 50010

How convenient --- Harry Warner writes that what you need in TIGHTBEAM is an irritating letter that will stir up controversy and impel other people to write, and then later in the same issue Art Hayes obligingly provides one.

If one were to go only by Hayes' letter, he would resign from the N3F if a fair amount of the membership were gay, because a twelve year old boy was murdered in Toronto. Well I doubt the murderers were N3F members; if so, they weren't typical. They weren't typical homosexuals either.

One of the concepts included in the word 'justice' is that people should be punished for, and only for the wrongs that they actually do, not for personality characteristics that are correlated with, or are imagined to be correlated with, the crimes. So the murderers of that boy should be dealt with under the statutes pertaining to murder; there is no need to pronounce special condemnation on all homosexuals. Outside of prisons, homosexual rape is rare. Hayes is going after a mosquito with an atomic bomb; most of the damage he would inflict is on people who are nowhere near the target.

Maybe this reasoning is a bit too fine for some to see. Let's use an analogy that's closer to home. A few years ago a fan in California stole \$600 worth of comic books from another fan. So when Hayes discovers that a fair number of N3F members are comic fan, will he resign? ((There's an SCA member who's been passing bad checks, so does the fact that a number of N3F members are also SCA members.....))

And as you pointed out, Lynne, would it have been any better if a 12 year old girl were molested and killed? Isn't Hayes distressed by the fact that most of the men in the N3F are heterosexual? Or are little girls not as important as little boys?

Perhaps this is not completely fair. Hayes didn't give a complete exposition of his values' system in his letter. Evidently he believes homosexuality is immoral for reasons he does not state. I'm trying to think of what those reasons might be. ((Possibly because homosexuality is condemned by the Bible?)) I don't know Hayes' personality, but most people who believe homosexuality is wrong do so for reasons which are not worthy of the name at all, but are really traditions, habits, or props for their own insecurities, or things they were told in Sunday school before they were old enough to think for themselves.

I don't know if any of these are Hayes' reasons; anyone who knows him might prove me wrong. If he cares to reply, I would be glad to discover that I was mistaken in implying that he is an unthinking bigot.

Hayes says that he is "not interested in supporting, even passively, any movement that would in any way, give the impression of potentially supporting the gay movement." At SunCon a lot of fan, both stray and gaight, wore buttons saying "Happy gays are here again." (Somebody ask Ctein how many he sold.) I wore mine not just in the hotel but in restaurants and while walking a couple of miles through Miami Bitch to an airlines ticket office. Bigotry of the type Hayes displays is rare in fandom except on the subject of religion. Fandom impresses me as potentially supporting the gay movement; the support of many fan is certainly more than potential. In Apa-50 and Apa-69.....well, this letter will be long enough without that. So maybe Hayes will gaffiate real soon now.

Hayes says: "The day I see a fair amount of the N3F becoming gay, then I'll be glad to sever my connection with the organization." So Mr. Hayes, if saying I'm gay hastens that time, we won't miss you much.

Please note that this is not a defense of so-called housing and employment rights laws. If I lived in Dade County, I too would have voted the same way as Anita Bryant, but for vastly different reasons. It is just as wrong for the government to tell individuals, "This must be your policy in renting and hiring" as it is to say, "This must be your policy in selecting sex partners." The only legitimate interest of the state in either case is to prevent force and fraud. (Very interesting to listen to a gay libertarian trying to explain this to a gay socialist who thinks that everybody is born rich and happy and would be able to stay that way without lifting a finger if only those nasty capitalists would stop oppressing people.) (( This seems to be a failing of socialists whether gay or not.))

Also note that the references to Sunday school is not intended as a slur on Christians except those who do not think for themselves. (I can hear several readers saying "That's a pretty big exception." Ah well....) ((You'd get along fine with Arthur Hlavaty who remarked that he'd never be a member of any religion that required him to give up the use of his mind....which left out the majority. Seriously I would imagine that gays have the same cross section of people that other sections of society do --- good, bad and indifferent. I would never believe you if you tried to convince me that gays were all saints any more than I believe that they are all devils.))

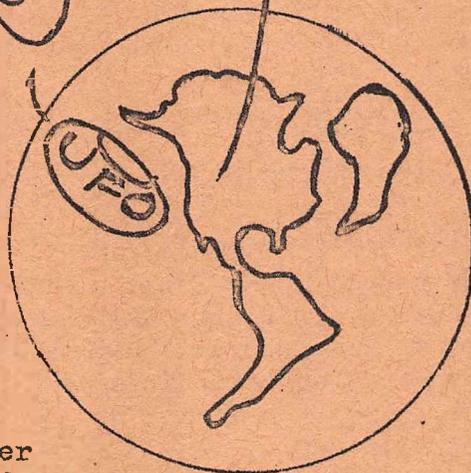
Anji Valenza  
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Brooklyn, NY  
11215

Hurrah! My lightsaber finally came. Now my life is fulfilled. Now I can cut up my underling who fell asleep!!! during STAR WARS and that certain artist, who like Bova, hated the movie because it wasn't relevant. I like "D" movies myself. The people on this subway train are staring at this scabbard, wondering.

What can I say about the September TB? Hmmm I like the color paper it was printed on; the ink was nice too.

Seriously. On the topic of letters versus articles/reviews in TB: please note that what I have to say from here on in is my humble opinion, no matter how matter-of-factly I present the argument. Without doubt the best part of TB is the lettercol. Why? On a count of the people who write these letters have some of the strangest minds going. And I think that strange minds of this type should be jealously, zealously guarded; they're a rare commodity. Now I like the articles too. Because granted can be found anywhere. But --- considering that those in TNFF are all straight-forward reports, where else but TB can one find articles written by people with such strange minds? For example, where else could a review be found that would make me eager to read ILLIMINATUS --- a trilogy; and me a chronically slow reader.

And all because I made a better mousetrap!



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is in danger of forming. So far as I can say, it's just a matter of some of us being more regularly verbose than others, and TB is the outlet of these never still pens and mouths. - As for everyone else, the only thing stopping you from writing to TB is you. Maybe there are people out there who have nothing to say (which in a SF fan, is unheard of) or are afraid of seeing their name in print because in their younger days they were written up in JUVENILE DELINQUENT JOURNAL. These people may have valid excuses for not writing. Clique? What clique? Perhaps those who are bitching would like to suggest ways to get these outsiders to write?

And speaking of writing, I hear Stan Woolston is angry at me for not getting the annual out. I did not get the annual out because 1, I got no official go-ahead from anywhere and 2, I received enough copy for two, count 'em, two pages. Shall I try again for next worldcon? If I do, I'll need copy, and I have no intention of sending out reminders to people every other week.

On to lighter subjects: Loved Hank Heath's story about his baby. Good luck!

I wasn't aware that there was a Membership Bureau. Maybe that'd be good --- if the annual thing is still on, perhaps the head of each Bureau can write up what the Bureau does and how and why and stuff like that there.

I can sympathize with Reed Andrus, re: his letter and also with Lynne, having done my share of zine editing and working with promises rather than copy. I remember growling over that comment about TB "not being what it was meant to be". But I wonder --- is it important that TB is what it was meant to be or that it is responded to and enjoyed by the readers? I'd rather see the latter, even if it breaks with tradition, than see something remain formulated and inflexible --- and be considered junk mail when it arrives. If TB is enjoyed, isn't it being what it was meant to be? But one can't produce something enjoyable without copy.....

Saw STAR WARS 12 times? For me that's too much of a good thing. And speaking of SW, I saw one comment that disturbs me greatly (in Rebecca Jirak's letter). It's about SW becoming "Just like STAR TREK with Warriors and everything." Unlike Rebecca, I do see something wrong with that. She says it will spawn more movies. Well, so did ST and 2001. But how many do you remember --- or want to? STAR TREK spawned more TV SF but how much of that do you remember --- or want to? What ST---SW have, to my great regret, spawned, are Trekkies --- people whose whole existence revolves around one thing to the exclusion of all others. Beatlemaniacs of another generation. The "clique" attitude that worries so many TB readers is prevalent, at least in New York, especially among the more virulent Trekkies. And that nobody needs, especially something really good like STAR WARS.

And thank you, thank you, John Strang. At last someone else gripes about something that's been bugging me for five years. I learned the difference between robots and androids when I was six. But what really hurt was when Cleveland Amory referred to Steve Austin as a robot and the TV Guide editors and others referred to him as an android. Doesn't anybody know any vocabulary?

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Donald Franson I got the September TB on Nov 1. Maybe you could do a GALAXY and 6543 Babcock Ave paste a different date on it. I got the March TB, April 12; the May No Hollywood, CA on July 19; and the July on Sept, 12. In every case, it followed the 91606 TNFF it's supposed to precede. Now you have disclosed the real reason for the delays. It goes to Paterson, NJ where it is kicked around by the ghost of Lou Costello. ((I thought it was because the PO employees in Paterson were functional illiterates. For the record the Sept issue was mailed Oct 4---that's also my brother's birthday.))

What I said about the President's message in TB was not that there isn't supposed to be one, as you quoted me, but that it was not a requirement. Bureau reports aren't re-

quired either, but I'm sending you the latest NFAS list in case you want to use it.

One point I made in the missing letter is that TIGHTBEAM is the only place where the rank and file of the N3F can have their say. The bi-monthly schedule should be adequate for this if it is followed. The reason you don't get more letters is obvious. If the deadline for the next issue is past when the current issue is received, how can there be feedback. Moving the deadline back to the 15th should help and it gives me time to write to counteract creeping genzinism.

I saw STAR WARS finally and liked it. I had read the book first, and thus was able to understand the picture so I won't have to see it eight more times. I was just driving along, saw a theatre sign, stopped and went in. No line. Of course it was early afternoon on a school day. I had been reluctant to get into a noisy crowd, but it wasn't that, just applause at the end. But I hadn't heard that since THE STING. THE STING won the Oscar against predictions because it was popular. Perhaps STAR WARS will too. The Academy voters are not stuffed-shirt critics. ((Actually STAR WARS got quite good reviews here.))

Ken's questionnaire was quite knowledgable, and he only saw it twice. Perhaps further viewings rot the mind.

I, sure Judy Kopman must mean THE WRITER'S EXCHANGE, not the manuscript Bureau which only distributes material for fanzine publication. ((Right. The Manuscript Bureau is headed by Mike Lowrey who was out of contact for a while as he moved to Milwaukee.)) What the N3F needs most is a booklet explaining what the various bureaus are about. Or continuous explanations in TNFF. It's hard for new members to judge what a Bureau does just by a name.

I like the gothic (?) headings in this issue. ((Those headings are medieval Irish and were done by Anji Valenza. I see Anji about once every two weeks or so.))

Dictionary-wise, the plural of "dwarf" is "dwarfs." I agree it sounds wrong, but there it is.

I don't like to argue with reviewers, but Spider Robinson's puns are not very good. His stories, yes; puns, no. And I like puns generally, even Feghoots.

Sixteen pages to the letter section. Does a letterzine have a letter section? I don't see why this couldn't be enough for an all-letter issue. Of course some of these letters are leftovers from earlier times.

Hank Heath's letter is suspenseful as well as humorous.

Contrary to Bob Briggs' remembrances, N3F dues were \$1.60 for many, many years, then \$2, then \$3. (Come to think of it, they were \$1 before then.) It does seem time for the Directorate to present the membership with something to vote on; it takes two thirds to change the Constitution. ((I agree.))

Lindsay Randall: I enjoyed the Santa Rosa OCTOCON very much. It ran smoothly and was well programmed. A lesson on how to build a convention around a dozen well-known pros and some good ideas for discussion. John Andrews seemed worried that the attendance would be too small, but there were over 1500 there. No con report from me --- I only wrote one con report in my faanish lifetime and it ran to 16 pages. ((John Andrews sent one that I may find room for, it depends on how many letters I get.))

Your comment on warriors versus scholars in the Middle Ages. My favorite dark-age hero is King Alfred. He was both warrior and scholar, and of good character too, unlike Arthur, who was not so moral, even if you believe Mallory. Alfred the Great was an actual person too, not an overblown legend, foisted on England by Frenchmen and Welshman. ((As someone of French decent, I resent that. I fact I discovered that even the English branch of the family was originally Norman French.))

Incidentally, the Conan books use real names for fictional lands, events and persons. This could be a disservice to history. And L. Sprague deCamp, who is otherwise an ex-

cellent debunker, happily spreads this non history.

You say you've never seen the N3F emblem. You must have. I've got a rubber stamp given me by Ann Chamberlain. Art Hayes has a printing cut. The N3F emblem exists and can be reproduced, though not easily by drawing. ((Is that what you used on the envelope?))

Two letters from New Zealand? Well the N3F always has been a sort of refuge for outlanders who do not fit into the bigger foreign countries.

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Verna Smith Tresrail      Now that the way has been cleared we are certainly going to attend more SF conventions! We, being my husband Albert and me. Since I'm "Doc" Smith's daughter, SF in all its guises has always been a way of life with me. But due to the fact that we live way out here in the boondocks of Indiana (clear out of God's Knowledge!) and were madly, insanely, bust raising four children on Al's teaching salary, there was little time, money or strength left for fannish activities. But we did get to the special ones when Doc was goh or receiving a richly deserved award.

And of course through the years true-blue friendships developed, never to be forgotten, always renewed. I am here writing to you because of Janie Lamb --- I've wanted to do this for absolutely years. Now besides being in "First Fandom" (long live the dinosaurs!) I am a certified card-carrying member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Howard de Vore and Lloyd Biggles had long been urging us to attend the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti goings on but somehow we were never able to be in the right place at the right time. Ohio friends and fans kept urging us on to Ohio and finally we were able to make it there --- then Al's heart surgery kept us confined last summer (he has retired early from teaching and is doing well), all the children are grown so we can now devote some time to things that interest us.

It is due to Doc that I'm teaching Senior High School English now --- he kept telling me I'd make a great English teacher. ((I had a college advisor who told me the same thing)) One of the courses I teach is "Masters of Science-Fiction" starring you-know-whom. I was most interested in the year's Confusion as it promised a teachers' workshop with Ben Bova on Friday; a speech by Robert Heinlein and the awarding to him an Honorary Doctorate by Eastern Michigan University. And Fred Pohl was to appear at E.M.U. and at Conclave as well.

Conclave was absolutely fabulous. There was an invasion of authentic "Star Wars" creatures to add zing to the Heinlein Blood Donor Red Cross Program. Ben Bova and Fred Pohl were marvelous in a panel, "The Milford Mafia Rides Again" and gave a devastating picture of Writers' workshops. ((I could do that too.))

The banquet was one of the finest such affairs we have ever attended. Not just the atmosphere, the congenial company, super great speeches (one can hardly top Heinlein and Bova) the truly talented and appealing E.MU group of Madrigal singers, but also the food, which we have not always found to be the case. It was a memorable experience and one we will always treasure. ((I've cut this a bit but I'm glad you enjoyed your cons. I just got back from PhilCon where I had a great time. I have a feeling you'll be getting letters from Doc Smith fans. What did you think of Dennis' article in the Sept. issue?))

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Frank Malley      I feel at ease writing a loc now that I have two issues of TB to look at. I was surprised to see my name on the new members list. Is there usually this sort of delay?

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08030

The Prez Sez was totally unreadable.

Dennis Jarog has made a mistake or two concerning the formation of Earth, Arasia, etc. How it really goes is: When our galaxy, The Milky Way, was formed ""By pouring chocolate over chewy nuggat?") there were very few planets, among them Arasia. Then our galaxy coalesced with another causing amny, many planets to be formed ("You got peanut butter in my chocolate!"). Earth (Tellus), Rigel, etc were among the new planets and were

among the new planets, and were seeded with Arasian life. In their desire for power, the Eddorians travelled from universe (plenum, if you wish) to universe searching for one that had enough planets to satisfy all of them. Finally these dudes happened upon our galaxy, and its coalesced counterpart. That's how it all started --- whew!

Of course the dues should be raised; why doesn't someone do something about it?

A logo should be designed for the N3F. ((There is one but I'm forwarding you design as I like it better.))

My zine is coming along slowly, but slowly.... I'm starting to compile material. Still don't have what I want though. I'm looking for both sercon and fannish material.

A single staple in the corner has two obvious advantages, 1) the pages are easier to fold back, and 2) only one staple is needed.

Am I alternate publisher for TB? ((This has to go through the Directorate but I hope so.))

I'm thinking about starting a zine for neos. I feel that there may be a need for a neo zine. The Neo fans guide (or whatever else) is nice; but it is limited in scope. It does not allow for neo participation, nor does it include new fads and quirks. Also once the Guide is read, where does the "neo-point-of-view" articles. Also (again with the also?), it could be worked to discourage the "eternal neofan." Any suggestions for this? ((Well members?))

Ed Connor  
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61604

You are doing nicely with TB. I can remember not too many years ago when a TB editor was very nearly lynched for publishing something other than letters. ((Bite your tongue.))

My eye caught McLachlan's remark concerning THE DARK DESIGN. The next novel in the series; THE MAGIC LABYRINTH, is already written so it will probably be published sometime next year. These two were originally one novel with the latter title but it grew so lengthy that Farmer split it. (He has a story scheduled for the December issue of PLAYBOY, by the way. I imagine it is somewhat risqué --- it was originally intended for HUSTLER but.....).

Beth Slick  
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Malibu, CA  
90265

After well over a year of active fafia, I have finally found my way back to the world of fandom....and I think it's going to feel good. (One or two of you may recall that I was editing TB before personal problems and depression made it impossible to continue.)

However, I am quite happy and things are going well. I have joined the NFAS and will add to that as time and energy will allow.

I find my current life totally immersed in the movie world, which is just right for me. I live with a writer/director/actor/editor (who was part of the OUTER LIMITS crew, We collaborate as writers and have several projects in the works (some SF) and have an agent to publish our stuff. My boss is a movie producer who has recently gone back into production with Columbia Pictures and Jon (A STAR IS BORN) Peters. Together, they are making a film called EYES --- a thriller with some supernatural overtones. The script is very exciting.

I purchased a book called FANTASTIC TELEVISION, which is about SF/fantasy on TV. If you've been waiting for the definitive book on this subject, you can keep on waiting. At \$12.95 a shot, encourage the local library to buy it, and check it out. It is a fun book with synopses of many series episodes --- but I question the selection of shows to highlight and the book must be taken with a grain of salt. It's got neat pictures though.

Reed Andrus: It's been some time since I've written, sorry. Congratulations on your new addition and bravo to your comments in the last ish. I couldn't agree more.

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William Goodson  
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Malaysia

I have been book review editor for the P.C. in Malaysia magazine. I am a firm believer that reading fiction is an effective way to learn about a culture. The fiction of Shannon Achmed, Johnny Ong, Abdul Rahman and Seri Relani help me understand a little of what is happening around me.

Anji Valenza: The local P.O. has interesting rats. They have developed a technique for opening and resealing packets of American cookies. One P.C.V. found his packet of beef jerkey had been consumed. He charged into the local branch office and screamed "Who ate my pork jerkey?" Prayers were murmured and fingers stuck down throats. Moslems do not eat pork! I can hear them now calling "Ambai (yikes) and "ya'allah" (my God).

John Strang: Very few criminals or crackpots are kept in institutes in Russia. Most can be found in forced labor camps. The insane do the work; the criminals help keep order. The unusual amount of coverage given to Soviet dissenters is explained by the fact that the USSR wishes to appear legitimate in the world so among the Soviets fear of bad publicity can help protect protesting intellectuals whereas in Cuba or Cambodia it would have no effect at all.

Lynne Holdom: Anita Bryant is right: all homosexuals are sick and should stop. I wish to quote from Leviticus 18: 22. "You shall not lie with a man as with a woman: that is an abomination." This means that homosexuality is a sin and therefore in the majority of cases something that the person can change by an act of Will. Homosexuals are therefore sick and should be cured. Laws requiring punishment are not effective, laws requiring treatment are ridiculous. Therefore social condemnation of homosexuality as a vice is still a very effective technique for keeping it down and helps the avoidance of tempting people.

Anita Bryant is right about homosexuality being a sin but we do not need to make it a legal crime. I am disgusted at the act, but must love the sinner (not like or approve of). It is interesting that Ms Bryant has become one of the few entertainers to take a stand and actually become involved in a program that would make her unpopular with a liberal, young audience. Jane Fonda and Marlyn Brando made themselves popular with the movie going audience and never took a concrete action; only symbolic ones. John Wayne and Rock Hudson are more known as political conservatives. I respect the lady's drive and committment and wish I could write a coherent letter about her.

STAR WARS has not arrived here yet.

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Lynne here---The Biblical quote is not quite as william gave it as I couldn't read the whole quote so I used the same verse from my Bible: The New English Bible.

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I KNOW the traditional role of iron (cold?) being an anti-magic metal and about horse horse shoes (this may have something to do with the fact that, for Bronze Age peoples, the horse was an animal of awe--- war chariots were first pulled by the wild ass), but that doesn't explain why magicians in D&D area allowed to use daggars --- and incidentally, swords are NOT made out of iron, but out of steel, or an amalgam of iron and steel (as in Japanese blades and the North European "Welded Pattern' blades.) A pure iron blade wouldn't be very effective. ((Isn't steel still 98% iron?)) Nor have I ever noticed that Glamdring put much of a dent in Gandalf's style, nor Turjan's sword on Miir's magic etc., etc, etc. D&D is supposed to be drawn from all sorts of sources, not just from the hash that Anthropologists, Folklorists, and Comparative lit. majors have made of old tales and legends (more intent on classification than on romance.)

off....Art Hayes' comments on homosexuality. My mother and father share those same basic feelings, and it bothers me. They are people. And true, all men who molest little boys are homosexuals, but not all homosexuals molest little boys. I feel that child molesters (and child pornographers --- exploitation of innocence) are the vilest of criminals, and most of them seem to be sick beyond help --- I think Robert X.L. White should have gotten the death penalty, and the three men in Houston a few years ago. ((Are those Houston men the ones who murdered all the runaway boys and buried them along the Gulf coast?)) However, I don't see how anyone should be denied a job on sexual preference --- that's like denying a job on the basis of sex or skin color. Jobs should be awarded on ability and performance. I feel that anti homosexuality (I aint one myself---but neither am I black or female, and I think job/pay should be equal for them too) is just another form of bigotry.

Is there any way I could get hold of Dennis Jarog's ILLUMINATUS article? ((Only if I decide to reprint it. However if we ever do do an Annual, that would be a prime candidate for inclusion.)) I have read vol 1 (haven't been able to get hold of the others) and I love it. Also my favorite fannish ghod is Yog-Xipkode.

#####

John W. Andrews            I was very pleased to see three people offer to work on a  
2301 E. Foothill Rd.      Ms or Writers' Exchange Bu. However allegedly Brazier does  
Santa Rosa, CA            some work on this also. I listened to much of a panel on  
95404                      Writers' Groups at a recent OctoCon here. There are many pit-  
                             falls that can open up in face to face groups. ((Everyone can  
end up hating each other.)) and presumably many more that could happen via mail. I  
plan to write to Kopman and the other parties soon. ((Note Mike Lowrey's coa.)) It  
would appear Andrus aims at invigorating controversy. Haven't read that in TB in  
months. ((Art Hayes seems to have stirred up the controversy.)) Also heartening to  
see such heavy overseas contribs. I'll be goaded to write over there; with the world  
so large, it's hard for me to guess where to write next.

In the review of ASTRA AND FLONDRIX, Johnson steers around the vexed issue: whether heroic fantasy with such crazy humor should be thrown out at the first blast. Tolkien incorporates humor, but from glancing at the book alone, I suspect some extreme self-parody and cuteness in this one. (And it's not the only such novel I've seen lately groan). Thanks to Anji Valenza for the first favorable review I've read yet of MIL LENNIUM. (Since I own a copy, I'd like someone to tell me it isn't a dog, woof, woof).

Irvin Koch: from recent experience, good illo T-shirts cost nearly four dollars or more---so no profit, some risk in a N3F T-shirt venture. I did pass out some freebie Short story forms. Rick Brooks: I'd like to see some extended discussion in TB. Now that it's slack season on the farm, maybe you'd help set the kettle on.

I'm sitting here bawlin' cause the nasty dock strike keeps me from sending any books overseas. (And may hold up, jeopardize any package from Europe to me. ((It also prevents me from sending TB overseas.))

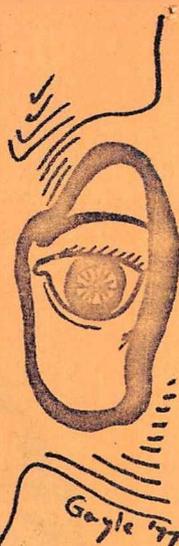
Great idea of Robert Briggs to lure BNF and other notables to N3F rooms. Some people livened up the Huckster room at OctoCon---for example George Barr used the corner of our table to sign autographs. Why not go after young, ambitious writers, who may not have even joined SFWA and are struggling for publicity? Astonish neofen by neowriters. I have a Scottish name---long live Glasgow!. ((MacKenzie is Scottish as well and that's my real original name.))

#####

Rebecca Jirak            Since some people have been writing about their problems of last  
205 Sheldon Ave.        winter; well, I had a few too.

Pittsburgh, PA            It all started with the first day of "Intro to Theatre"---we had  
15220                      to decide if we wanted to be an actor, a director, a stagemanager

or a crew person. I chose either director or stagemanager. Then we chose plays --- I chose Chekov's THREE SISTERS --- so did a wrestler looking fellow. So I gave him my number and asked him to call. I knew something was wrong when he didn't. On Monday I asked him if he wanted to be stage-manager or director. He said, director, I guess. Then he asked if I would sit down beside him and write what he thought of the actors. I said something witty about his being a fool and walked back to my seat. I'm not dumb---I spotted a do-nothing and wanted out. So I told the teacher that I wanted to be an actress. He accepted my reasons, I tried out, and the big day came when we were told what play we were to be in. I was chosen to be in the cast of THE THREE SISTERS! A big smile came to my face. We all went to the back of the room to get started. We, the cast had some questions that the do-nothing director couldn't answer, so I did. By the end of a half hour, I knew I couldn't let this jerk direct the play so I took over and made him the prop and program man. Then the program had misspellings and wrong characters listed and there were no props---not even a fork. The stage manager got the heebies and I made Bob (the erstwhile director) explain what was going on and it turned out he had never even read the play. I got pneumonia and wasn't in the least embarrassed. ((I hope Bob flunked.))



RENEW!

Now to the crux of the matter: Art Hayes---I never want to see you again and we haven't met. Also I don't care if you reply "I am not particularly concerned with ~~Ted White's~~ Rebecca Jirak's opinions." SO You don't support the Women's movement because it supports the gay movement? What about other things the movement supports like Child Abuse Laws and help for the elderly? You can't go around citing one example of homosexual gang rape murder and expect all gays to be out to kill. That's like me expecting all heterosexual guys to be gang rape murderers after reading numerous instances of this. And where do you come off trying to bulldoze your opinions on me?

I especially enjoyed the STAR WARS quiz, the reviews of CALLAHAN'S CROSSTIME SALOON, and ASTRA AND FLONDRIX, and Judy Kopman story on Writer's Workshops which was informative. (DHALGREN was boring) The letter section was terrific---just because I was in it had nothing to do with my liking it. My letter was boring.

Is anyone going to Confusion? the World Con? I may need transportation and/or accommodations. Is this sort of commercial allowed? I am a nice person and don't mind sleeping on the floor.

#####

(Con't from page 10)

more fair than mortal tongue can tell.  
 Though all to ruin fell the world  
 and were dissolved and backwards hurled  
 unmade into the old abyss,  
 yet were its making good, for this-  
 the dusk, the dawn, the earth, the sea,  
 that Luthien for a time should be....p178

The SILMARILLION is truly a powerful book, indeed I may never have written about a better. I note with amusement the fact that it is very popular; but more important, it shall not soon be forgotten. Read it, dammit, if you haven't already.

----Dennis Jarog

Art credits

- Fred Jackson III pgs 3, 5
- Gayle Jakubisin pg 23
- Helen Thilenius pg 15
- Anji Valenza pg 13

*I may be slightly off on pages 5 and 13 as I sent these to Joanne Berger to be electrostencilled and haven't gotten them back yet. All the others are positive on.*

I sympathize with Art Hayes' hatred of child rapers whether gay or straight, but I still don't see how abolishing discrimination against anyone on the basis of sex-preference constitutes the legalization of rape. ((Neither do I)) It's like using "snuff films" (assuming such things ever existed) as an argument to ban sexually explicit material when there would still (presumably) be laws about murdering people.

Re. the debate on wearing dresses by men and the legality thereof. I know of a case of a man who was arrested for wearing a dress on HALLOWEEN, despite the fact that his wife was with him at the time (dressed as George Washington or some such) and they were walking to a party. (No it wasn't this Halloween.)

This may be more pertinent than it seems at first to Neffers, for I have been at cons and picnicks where the doublets, flowing robes and blouses etc, worn as fantasy or SF costumes might have been misinterpreted by the man --- or police officer --- in the street as being feminine costume, especially wizard's robes and elf tunics and so forth.

Be nice if Art Hayes showed up at a con or party dressed as Gandalf, or a Druid, and got busted for wearing a dress. I would chortle. But don't worry, Art; it's all part of the Christian Crusade to stop sex-crazed Gay perverts from raping little boys. ((A lot of Christian clergymen wear robes too.))

I identified very much with your problems with having to prove that you are sane --- I'm only surprised you passed the test --- no reflection on you, but ~~some of those doctors~~, ~~most of those witch-doctors think everyone is nuts but then will always diagnose mental illness to avoid responsibility~~ ~~some~~ are over zealous in their diagnoses. This is especially true now with all the emphasis on 'violence' and a desire to 'get the violent-prone individual off the streets' ~~unless he wears a blue military cap/belt & 1957 police helmet~~. I narrowly escaped being confined in one of our wonderful State Institutions when I dropped in on a counsellor at a College that will remain nameless some years ago. Seems the school headshrinker (the counsellor referred me to him) had had patients suicide in the past, and was obsessed with 'protecting the patient from himself.' I must have an interesting file in that place..... ((Even worse this sort of thing gets around and discourages those who might need counselling from going for it. These people do not need more hassels.))

But I'm not really nuts. Just ask my Dog-Ape Flappergeist. And now I must get back to managing the affairs of my Grand Barony of South California.

Cal Johnson  
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Thanks for printing my book review. I know this sounds tacky, but I hope some of the things that ended up sounding so stupid were your mistakes and not mine. I can understand me or any other fanned screwing up when typing on stencil, but I can't see myself putting down a couple of the things that were there. ((I have been known to make mistakes when typing on stencil but some of the fault is probably yours. I often find that a great deal of what seems great prose when I write looks stupid in print four or five days later. At a Con, Fred Pohl remarked that some of his stories affect him the same way. So you are not alone.))

I enjoyed Ken's STAR WARS quiz. Any chance of his becoming an honest-to-Ghu ~~1010~~ fan? Perhaps someday I shall join a writers' workshop. I would probably end up committing suicide, though.

Harry Warner said in his letter that what TIGHTBEAM needs is someone to write really dumb, irritating letters that make people really get mad (radio talk show hosts are very good at this. After a while, it seems that they get the feeling like they are GOD. Take the one in Dallas who doesn't like the metric system because he can tell you how many feet are in a mile but can you tell him how many feet are in a kilometer. Hummm...doesn't John Robinson have a talk show now?) ((Yes)). Well, I found one that really teed me

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