
...and another thing, Chas

by Zeda P. Mishler

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((The following comprises the verbatim text of the official welcoming letter received by Burbee last summer to signalise his then recent joining of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, otherwise known as NFFF, NFFF, and by other esoteric symbols known only to the cognoscenti. Mrs. Mishler is NFFF Hostess (an analogous job to Rick Sheary's post as Welcomer for the Outlander Society). This is an official letter, written on official stationery, and--we presume--represents the official views of that vast and sprawling Empire, the National Fantasy Fan Federation. The original letter is handwritten without paragraphing, and we've taken the liberty of spacing it out for ease in reading. Otherwise it is as written. ---CB/FL))

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I'm Zeda -N.F.F.F. Hostess. & its my job to welcome all new members in to the club. So 3 cheers and ocean of luck to your venture in to N.F.F.F. & Chas here's some inf. about yourself I would like to have for my records. If your be good enough to give it to me. & Thanks. Your age, Birthday, job if you go to school - put school for work. Your favortie sports and Authors, what mags you read. belong to any clubs besides N.F.F.F., what one's, get any fanzines & what one's. want any more pen pals- How many any special ones? Do you have any pen Pals in Pa. we are trying to get in touch with each other. & if you get to Hohnstown - be sure & look us up - for they have voted our place Pa. Stf. HQ. & fen are always welcome. & Chas my job is to help you fans any way I can. So send me a list of what books & mags you want. & also of what if any you have to sell or trade. for it is my job to get them for you at the lowest cost. & Chas I guess you know .. any writing, drawing & Poets you send them N. F.F.F. they will help you get them printed in some fanzine.

Chas your the 5th Calif Stf. fen I have welcomed in to N.F.F.F. since they voted me hostess. & have you read new mag. Fate yet? If not. you don't know what your missing. I got #2 Fate read. & Chas I think its even better than #1. & Chas if I don't ans. your letters right away - Please don't think I'm forgetting you. for I'm not. But letters sure pile up on me & all letters will be ans But not saying just when. & If I have your name & address wrong you can let me know in your ans. Chas I have inf. on almost all Stf. Club. if you want to know of any - just let me know.

Now I'll tell you a little about us. My husband (John) & I are both Stf. fen. John's 42 Sept. 7, bald headed. & work on Railroad. I'm fat 196 lbs, 5 ft. 4", was 36 July 8. Am House wife, N.F.F.F. Hostess, Terra Society Sec. our sports - football, Swimming, & fishing. Our authors- Abe Merritt & Lee Frances. We read- F.N., Amazing, F.A., Planet, F.F.M. & the other Stf. mag. when they have authors in we know & like. & Belongto - N.F.F.F., Terra Society, Discount, Shaver, Weird & Readers clubs.

Chas I guess by the time you get this - you will have got & read new mag.-From Unknown Worlds Annaul. its a one shot mag. consists of reprints from - Unknow World. & its out as a feeler to see if we Stf. fen want & will make it pay for them to release - Unknown again. I never read one. But fen swear

by it. & Chas I don't know how hep you are on Stf. gossip. So will give you what I have. & if you have any I don't- Please give it to me. So I can pass it on to other fen. & Thanks. Authoress Catherine Moore is Henry Kuttner's wife & E. Mayne Hull is Van Vogt's wife. & Chas did you know Merritt's- Fox Woman -&- Black Wheel was unfinished stories of his? & Hanne's Bok finished them. fen say Bok made them longer than Merritt made his stories - But- that they are finished in true Merritt style. & 3 authors- Bok, Hamilton & Kuttner all wrote finishes to them. & Bok was voted the best. I sure would like to read the other 2 finish. Wouldn't you? Chas they now cost any where's ~~for~~ from \$3 to \$10 @ now. But Avon 25¢ pocket size Book Co. will release them both in Sept. 48. & We fen know of 2 more of Merritt's Stories- When Old Gods Wake -&- The White Road. But Mrs. Merritt says they aren't as far written as Fox Woman -&- Black Wheel was & She doesn't know if there is enough written for Bok to get a idea for a finish or not. & Craig Browning is a pen name for Rog Phillips & Rog Phillips is pen name for Roger P. Graham. & Guy Archette is pen name for Chester Geier. Chas I got a card from Swanson Book Co. & is he ever cheap. I wish I could send him \$100 order- Why in Book net mag.- Metal Monster \$1, Moon Pool \$1, Before the Dawn 75¢, Haggard & Taine 50¢ up to \$1 & Rohmer & Burrough 25¢ to \$1. Mouthpiece of Zitu \$1. Oh I could go on for page & page. I'm sure gone to get some from him.

Chas I never did learn this author's true name. But he writes all good stories. His pen names are - Lee Frances, Leroy Yerxa (Recently Leroy Yerxa died & his wife is carrying on his work & stories under pen name Frances Yerxa) Elroy Arns & Richard Casey. Chas did you get free fanzine- Burrough Bulletin yet? I'm not a Burrough fen. But some one sent it to me. & it sure has a lot of interesting things in. write- Burrough Bulletin, Box 78, Manito, Ill. & tell Vern you would like to get his free fanzine. & Henry Kuttner has a whole raft of pen name. - Paul Edmonds, Will Garth, Charles Stoddard, Hudson Hastings, Kelvin Kent, Cleve Cartmill, Hammond & Lewis Padgett. These author sure have you standing on your head sometimes. Don't they?

Chas do you have fireflys or Lighting bugs (as we call them here) out there? The other night I had a fan here & he never seen them before. & he said he saw these things, but was afraid to say any think for he though he was seening thinks. Did we ever laugh at him. & he lives only 20 mile away.

Chas we didn't get to Torcon Convention & wanted to very much. But from what I've heard - I'm glad we didn't go. Chas I think if you don't like Stf. its O. K. But I don't beleive in making fun of it. They had an auction sale - & a hand written letter of Dick Shaver was sold for 15¢. & one of Keller's first books was for sale. & the hightest bid was \$2.50 & Mrs Keller said it was worse than a disgrace & she bought it back for \$10. & they didn't have any fireworks or any excitement, so I'm glad we stay home & I think we had a better time, There was 2 truck loads of us went swimming is a big stone quarry 45 miles from here. & all the parks around here had fireworks & we went up on the hill & seen them all. & Chas- home fireworks has been bound in Pa. for yrs. & we weren't even alloud to order them out of the state, But I seen more Home fireworks this yr. than all the bounded yrs put together So there must of been a back market some where. & after we came home- we have a Beer Garden across the Street, & Some one there had an out door movies- So we saw & heard it from the front porch. So all in all we had a big 4th.

Chas I always did think Reli

gion & Science should go hand in hand & they have finally got together. This Continent is what's left of Biblical Land of Eden. & in Missouri around Independence was the site of Garden of Eden. & Noah's Ark was of this Continent too. instead of across the water somewhere in Asia. The Legend of the Chiapa Indians in Mexico as well as other tribes teach this same thing & now Science accepts them as facts. for down in Fla. where storm forecasting is at its best, is an expert who proves truth to these facts - He say - He say - The only place the Ark could of been built is in Fla. There is only 2 places in the world where Gopher Wood is to be found (thats the Wood the Ark was built of) & only one of these places where the surrounding country agrees with the Biblical description where Gopher Wood grows & has always grown & thats near Apalachicola, Fla. & another thing is the tides, in order for a ship to land in Asia as the Ark did. having no power but the tides & wind it had to come from this direction.

Well

Chas I guess by this time your tired of me so will sign off.

Your Hostess & friend

Zeda P. Mishler
423 Woodland Ave.
Johnstown, Pa.

certainly i'm a rugged individualist what are you chum? goodnightabby goodniteal

THIS CONVERSATION REALLY HAPPENED.

Transcribed by Towner

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"Burb," said Laney, "it is your clear duty as a member of the NFFF to register a protest against the NFFF's officially endorsing Shaverism."

"I'm not a member of the NFFF," said Burbee.

"The hell

you're not. You're on the roster, aren't you?"

"But I told them I wanted no part of the NFFF. Why it says right on that same page that I requested my name stricken from the roster."

"It's still there, isn't it?"

"Well, yes."

"You'll always be a member of the NFFF," said Laney smugly. "There's nothing you can ever do that will keep you from being on their membership list forever and always."

"But I've never been a member of the NFFF. I wrote and told them so. I even wrote an article in the last Burlblings about it."

"Huh! They don't accept resignations."

"That wasn't a resignation," shouted Burbee.

"How could I resign when I wasn't even a member?"

"You're a member.

You'll always be a member. Forever."

"No! No!"

"Oh yes you are.

That's your name on the NFFF roster, isn't it?"

"Uh, well, uh, yes. But I didn't put it there! I didn't put it there!"

"So what? It's there, isn't it?"

"But why, Towner? Why?" Burbee's voice held undercurrents of madness in it. "Why should the NFFF carry my name on the roster when I tell them not to?"

"That's easy. You're a big name fan, aren't you?"

"No! I mean yes. Good God, what am I saying? Of course I'm a big name fan!"

"Well."

"I

don't get it, Towner."

"Look. The NFFF doesn't amount to anything. It never has amounted to anything. It never will amount to anything. But some of these guys like the ego boo of being big shots in a great national organization. Like it--they love it! Well how can you have a great national organization unless all the big name fans belong to it? I'm amazed they didn't put your name on the roster years ago. Don't let it worry you. It means nothing."

"But I don't want to be a member of the NFFF," said Burbee plaintively.

"You always will be," smirked Laney knowingly.

"Oh yeah? Suppose I never pay them any dues --they'll drop me fast enough then."

"I've paid no dues since 1945. I'm still a member of the NFFF."

"You mean that in 1960 I'll still be a member--even without paying any dues?"

"If the NFFF is still going you will be."

"I'll fix them. I'll move and not tell them where I moved to."

"That won't help. They don't care if the address is right or not. All they want is names to pad the roster."

"What if I go to Europe? To the Moon? To 236½ North New Hampshire?"

"Ah. You are a helpless chattel, a pawn on the mighty chessboard that is the NFFF. You'll ALWAYS be a member, forever, inexorably."

"I'll quit fandom! Yes I will. I can't live without it but I'll quit it anyway. That will take my name off the roster!"

"That's what you think. Once a NFFF member, always a NFFF member. You might as well start adjusting to the idea, because you are going to belong to the NFFF, and like it, from here on out."

There was a suspicion of moisture in Burbee's eyes. "You mean," he said brokenly, "that despite all I can do, that I'll be a member of the NFFF until the very day that I die?"

"What makes you think that death will release you?"

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