Bulletin #13 November 15, 1959

THE

LETTER FORUM

of
The

INTERPLANETARY EXPLORATION SOCIETY
NEW ENGLAND
MEMBERS & FRIENDS

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NEW ENGLAND MEMBERS
& FRIENDS

BULLETIN #13 - November 15, 1959

Next meeting December 6
The Adams Room Hotel Touraine Saturday PM 7-11
Boston, Massachusetts

Topic: THE SURFACE OF THE MOON (& points out)
Guest amateur, Andrew Young (Harvard Astronomer)
Color films on general astronomy, taken from the Bell TV Science Series, will start the program; from there it is up to those present.
We have a good strong hope for the presence of interested members Asimov, Batteau, Campbell.
There will also be a meeting on January 2 - as extra-special as we can manage, in honor of the day.

Minutes: Saturday, November 7, the doors opened at 7 or maybe a bit sooner - the officers arriving at 7:20 with projector found the place all lighted up and full of chatter. Sounded great. We ran off the Bell TV film, "Gateways to the Mind" (psychobiology, the five senses) and found it a mixed lot. This film is free to educational groups, and being planned for very broad audiences, is wellnigh infantile in spots - in others it whizzes past quite advanced information & of a sort which delivers well in movies - the commercial is dignified and informative, yet lengthy and not always apropos; so Dr. Krabek, who kindly brings these in for us, had his misdoubts and asked that the group be consulted, between reels, as to whether this material is of the caliber we need. In reply, the SC.D's seemed to be the first to raise a hand in approval, and, nobody dissenting, we ran the second reel also. Our announced speakers sat in the audience, and kept the ball, as it were bouncing, and the evening turned out to be a circus. The attendance was more guests than members: Arthur Milano brought his mother; Alan Kaplan bade his kid brother go enjoy himself as proxy, and the brother brought a lady friend. (They said they had found it interesting, and would come again, but could not follow all that was said. The secretary said that was her trouble too, but it paid to hang on until things got intelligible again - it seemed to be what they had been finding out all right.)

Business taken up was a confirmation of planned dates of the meetings - first Saturdays of every month hereafter.

& we went home about 11PM -Respectfully submitted
ABH

A WILD SURMISE.....are we getting out an Interplanetary Journal, of sorts, ourselves? The extent and direction of growth in this newsletter.....is it possible? True, we have no subscriptions neither have we funds - but then, we don't have to, do we? As it looks right now, we have a lot of good material and a simple way of getting it around. Is mimeograph good enough? We like to say that Amateurs can do as well as pros if we try hard and focus the effort on a well-chosen project - we are less restricted, having no advertisers to tell us how to behave.

What do you say?

Shall we get ambitious? It will take contributions of several kinds. Your ideas can come in letters, articles, postcard aphorisms - however it occurs to you to send it. We can use funds if it's understood that we can't make long-range plans; we can send sample copies to friends if you supply addresses. The way people keep coming in - lending a hand here and there - nothing has been onerous and much more may be possible.

However, our beginnings have been modest - our watchword has been common sense. This last meeting we had the Adams room a third full so we have lots of expansion room. Mimeo has taken the newsletter to a members-and-friends mailing list of 75, and we plan to send out about as many again as sample copies in this issue. That's quite a jump from the 25 carbon copies of this June, and mind you, so far the only word heard has been very friendly, though some reply slowly (put Harry Robbins back on the list; he came in to the last meeting - likes to read but hates to write so we had given him up). We haven't advertised but can put a notice in the Boston papers as well as Harvard and MIT student publications.

About costs, they are ridiculously low. The Touraine lets us have the Adams Room for $10 a meeting, no matter how full we fill it. Refreshments come to about the same so far; the next meeting is all paid up in advance. About financing plans, we are more amateurish. Donations just keep coming in. With so many new acquaintances and guests, we don't get in much discussion of, you know, by-laws, regulations, that dull stuff. Maybe we should ask a few local people to talk to each other as a committee and draw us up a charter; but our lightweight ways haven't brought us onto any rocks, reefs, or shoals yet. If you are worried, you can find the treasurer and if enough do it at the same time, that would be a committee, in its way. We seem to agree every time we consider practical matters, so that part is simpler than it may look.

IS THIS A REASONABLE IDEA? Shutterbugs can meet with Tom Hill on the Saturday afternoons before meetings, which ought to make a trip more worth the while of people coming from a distance. Andy Young likes to meet amateur astronomers and he has an interesting project going that he can use help with. Mathematicians might do well to call up Wayne Batteau - all of these men are in the phone book, and though they are busy people they have excentional background knowledge. The general meetings are getting to be so pop & jump full of flying topics that some hobby group foci are the obvious next thing.

Again, this is up to individuals. We can put it in the newsletter if you have suggestions; how about this?

SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I, Alma Hill, taking care of secretarial and editing chores to see them get done, have had a barrel of fun but had better resist the impulse to attend meetings during the snowy season. It's about three hundred miles and I'm not as young as I used to be. All the more, it will be interesting to work on this newsletter, handle correspondence, and sympathize with others who live too far out.

Bill Sarill is my delegate. He has promised to make up minutes and has offered to do some of the mimeograph work when he can spare time. However, he is a freshman at Northeastern with exacting studies, a part-time job and other hobbies. Also he has more talent than experience; and to conclude, he can do a wee bit better with help. Bill has a characteristic a lot of bright kids develop - too much feedback on the selfdirection - makes for good but slow results. If you don't want minutes a year late, a supplementary postcard from here and there would be a Good Thing. The fact is, it is hard for any one person to keep track of every single thing at our meetings anyway. However, what Bill reports will be reliable,and he is a good strong speller with a powerful arm on a mimeo crank.

ALMOST FORGOT TO MENTION that January 2, the date of the meeting-after-next, will be the fortieth birthday of Isaac Asimov. He has written like an Elder Statesman since he was a teenager - now, he has run up enough seniority to run for president. Votes, anyone?

MSA

ROSTER
IES MEMBERS AND THEIR INTERESTS

Thomas Hill: Chairman and Treasurer, is a chemist specializing in photographic chemistry for 21 years, currently in gelatines; he has hobbies in the collecting fields (stamps, etc.; Dawn Fan sf stock pile); photography, mainly 35mm color lately; information technology (use of punchcards, etc., as well as photography); sciences in general. As a consultant to the ASAF Air Research and Development Command he has had a chance to see and hear research in process and to contribute to cross fertilization of ideas.

Don Saunders: Gets out this newsletter with some help editing and mailing by the secretary of this group, who describes him as tall skinny and straw-white blond, energetic and a fast man with ideas. Don works at the Air Traffic Communications Station in Millinocket Maine. Hobbies are experimenting in hypnosis & ESP, mechanics, photography, rockets, electronics, and anything of interest in the scientific line.

Alma Hill; Secretary pro tem, considers IES a lot of fun in spare time, but will answer correspondence rather than meetings because of distance from Boston. She teaches at Lee Academy, Lee, Maine, and likes the ride in summer, but not in winter. Mrs. Hill has a Harvard diploma, plus graduate work in the science and technology of education, still doesn't feel she knows beans about this vital matter and hopes to fall over more information via IES. Hobbies include reading, writing, listening, and wondering.

Bill Sarill; science fiction fanzine ayjay and student in Boston. As deputy secretary, will work out the minutes with Jim Hill, the chairman's son and deputy, to assure transmission of information to all members, present or absent. He thinks he can get in some Mimeographing at the Youngs' on weekends. Members note: getting your own articles run off at low cost is easiest via Jean Young - she does this with pro skill at much less than pro rates. Address 11 Buena Vista Road, Cambridge, Mass. Not a member but a beloved friend, she is one of the best looking fakefans in sf fandom.(The only better looking ones are their two children.She takes care of them first and other hobbies later, of course.) For mimeographing jobs with art, lettering, and precision requirements, Jean is far better than most pros. Bill has a homemade Hieronymus machine.

John Campbell: member by courtesy, since he has given IES impetus via Astounding Science Fiction, the magazine he edits. John will not hold any office in this group or admit to any special hobbies

ROSTER
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lest his authors drop everything else.

David Cutts: Says he is a sophomore at Harvard majoring in physics with a wide range of interests through the sciences - would enjoy speculating on almost any subject.

Frank Dito: Moved from Lincoln Laboratory out of New England, but asked to stay on our mailing list. He works at National Air Force Experimental Center in New Jersey, using large digital computers to simulate air traffic control systems; his hobbies include photography of a technical nature, meteorology, and mathematical recreations.

Isaac Asimov: Claims to be a professional amateur scientist, since his entire income is derived from writings along scientific lines, whether fiction or nonfiction. He says that he does not consider himself a biochemist since he does not earn his living that way at present. He seems to have universal interests but no hobbies.

Bill Holst: System analyst, has a SM from MIT in electrical engineering; instead of tangible devices he handles information-theory data-processing, real-time-control, theoretical type engineering. Hobbies and interests include the practical side of electrical and electronic engineering, use and misuse of high-speed, large scale digital computers, theory and practice of music, broader aspects of normal psychology and linguistics. Works at Lincoln Laboratory.

P. Robert Owens: A junior at Wesleyan University, he has a problem getting to meetings since students are restricted in car-use -will Connecticut members please note. After getting his BA he plans to go to graduate school, possibly Caltech, for at least an MSc; he plans to become a rocket engineer. Interests include space travel, reading, model car and space craft building, and in IES his field of particular interest is psionics.

Gertrude Whittum; Secretary of the Springfield sf group, she has a special interest in collecting fantasy and children's literature, as well as science fiction, and is said to have one of the world's largest collections. Special interests in Baum, Burroughs, and in studying accordion playing.

H. C. Solomon: Starting at Northeastern limited his time for awhile but he gets in a 40-hour work week at a local broadcasting station

and expresses a high interest in IES in general.

Harold R. Newhall: Works as a shipper in Springfield. His hobbies include reading and writing science fiction, also hypnotism.

Robert G.W.Brown: Describes himself as a photographic engineer, "a new kind of beast - we are finding out what we are as we go along!" His degree is in engineering physics; hobbies, a little bit of everything, with as much reading in various fields as possible.

Brainerd Wood: An electronic Engineer and mathematician, he specializes in the logic design of digital computers. Employed by Genl. Precision Labs in Mt. Kisco involved in the design of Air Traffic control equipment. Semi-professional interest and member of Conn. National Guard, holding commission as Captain in Artillery. Hobbies and interests: astronomy, parapsychology, design of automotive and other mechanical devices.

Arthur Milano: junior at Boston College majoring in journalism, he edits humor for their literary magazine and it marks him as one of heaven's afflicted. Hobbies include astronomy, science fiction, and drawing comic strips for his own amazement.

Alan Kaplan: Says he plans to join but may not as yet since he is in the marines, interrupting his studies at B.U., math major. His chess game is exceptionally strong (former vice president of Lynn chess club) and so is his love of argumentation.

George Earley: Works for an airplane construction company and not only collects science fiction from away back but also does reviews for occasional publication in the Hartford Courant:-The Spaceman's Bookshelf.

L. Bryant Frank: Runs the maintenance department for a hospital so finds his time too tight to get from Vermont to Boston to meetings but sent two dollars, three cheers, and best wishes. Like the rest of us, he feels that his education is insufficient; of course, as is well known, all hospital maintenance men are practicing wizards who have taken vows against admitting that in public.

Roby LaMarche: Owns an electrical parts concern and likes steamcar and similar hobbies, contributed an article on a new design for a steam engine likely to obtain efficiency by operating at Critical Pressure Point, 3200 psi (in this context, psi means pounds/square inch). Copies of this article are still available free on request.

See our next issue for additions corrections apologies —

POSTAL

Arthur Milano, Boston College, junior year (continued from last Letter Forum) "These clouds overhead today October first could spell bad news for tomorrows morning eclipse watchers (including first person singular) who is going to the highest platform of the lookout tower on Prospect Hill in Waltham (altitude ca. 530 feet above sea level) and film the eclipsed luminary as it rises, which will be about 6:50 A.M. If I'm successful, barring inclement (no relation to Hal) weather, I'll bring the finished products in and show them at our next meeting. I supposed it will be cloudy - every time there's an event of astronomical occurrence, it rains. just tell me that there'll be an eclipse or occultation or collision of two comets in the sky on a date 500 years from now & I can predict what weather will be (February 7, 1951 - moon occults Venus: and it poured; September 1, 1951 - annular eclipse of sun visible here - overcast; I have yet to see a sunny August 12, day of Perseid meteor maximum). Ah me. The next total solar will be in southern Europe on February 15, 1961, if we miss this one. Or we can go out in the ocean south of Nova Scotia on July 20, 1999,to see the next one visible in this region. Oh, well, there'll be four total lunar eclipses visible here in the next five years - one next March 13."

((Andy Young caught a sickabed cold trying to observe rained-out eclipse this time, and when asked why he didn't know enough to come in out of the rain, replied sourly that radio astronomers can observe eclipses regardless of what the clouds are doing. Saunders of Millinocket gave up and folded his equipment and the clouds all cleared away just at the end of the eclipse & he was fit to tie.)) Milano again: "...suggestions for the name of the organization:

1. Amateur Amateurs
   (This would satisfy the want of including the word in title)
2. Research, Inc.
3. Scientific Inquirers Committee
4. Science Aides Society
5. Amateur Technicians Society
6. Canadian Club
   (very refreshing)
7. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Science
8. Wooden Science
   (to compete with Donnelly Ads)"

((That last joke sounds extremely abstruse, but Arthur puts in all jokes, good, bad and impossible. Does nobody take this name recalling seriously? Apparently not...))

POSTAL

"Dear Mr. Saunders,

In connection with La Marche's Critical Pressure Steam Plant---

Correct me if I'm wrong, but I thought the critical point was where vapor could no longer be liquified and not where liquid could no longer be boiled. In other words, steam can be generated at any pressure.

Yours,

Asimov "

"Dear Isaac,

Well, the last time I had anything to do with steam, I burned my hand trying to boil water for a cup of tea - I gave the whole thing up and have since turned to cooler drinks.

Never-the-less, I note that the Boiler Operator's Guide, by Harry M. Spring Jr. (a copy of which I happen to have in my back pocket) states the Sinuous-header type of boiler (a watertube boiler, with tubes located outside the shell) is used for pressures up to the criticaial point. It defines the critical point(about 3200 psi) as being the pressure at which point the density of water and steam become equal.

It further states that a defined water level would no longer be possible above this point. I interpret this to mean that liquid can no longer be vaporized to produce steam above this point.

For further comments, I turn you over to Roby LaMarche, it being obvious that at this critical point, I don't have enough steam in my boiler !

P.S. How about getting out a book - a collection of your science articles found in Astounding over the last few years.It's maddening to go through many many copies of Astounding looking for one specific article when I'm trying to prove a point, or speculate along a certain line thay you have used for an article.

What excellent reference material they would be for a student,or just anyone with an open mind, and a yen for something other than the usual cut-and-dried textbook material.

Sincerely,

Don Saunders"

((Doubleday does those: Only A Trillion contains the definitive and classic work on philosophical science: The Endochronic Properties of Resublimated Thiotimoline. Very good for the intellect.- in its own peculiar way.))

POSTAL

Edmund Meskys, Brooklyn - studies physics for one thing:"Put me on the permanent IES mailing list! To help meet expenses, enclosed is $2.00.

...I liked the zine but won't comment now because

1) I don't have time
2) I want to discuss it & the NY chapter in POLHODE #2*

I don't think that there'll be a POLHODE in the next mailing. I just don't see how I'll find the time to write & pub one between now & Dec. 1. Between the local stf clubs (I only belong to 2 of the 4 local ones) special events, & school, all my time is gone. Thus far I've only written the comments on some 4 or 5 N'APA-zines.*

Could you also send me some copies of any old publications that you have extra copies of, even if they're only one sheeter meeting notices? Including the one that was in the last N'APA* mailing? (I'd like to keep the mailing in one piece, & be able to have in one place all materials pertinent to the IES.

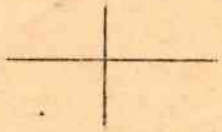
Have you been in contact with Cliff Garvin/32-12, 53 Place, Woodside 77, N.Y.? He seems to be running a NY chapter, altho I've received no meeting notice since May.

Thanks for the*sample ish."

*Glossary of Fanspeak:
POLHODE: stf ayjay
N'APA: National Fantasy Fan Federation Amateur Press Association -
N'APA-zines: N'APA ayjay
Sample ish: stuff you give away that nobody buys in their right minds
((Replied very cordially that he is permanent as requested and the $2 converted forthwith into postage stamps. If a member,he can have all we put out; if not he is welcome to anything not of a members-only nature. However, a back set would take a lot of bother to accumulate out of file copies; for instance, Bulletin #11 was a handwritten scribble-to members only, notifying them that #10 was coming, like a heard of turtles, and meanwhile please note change of schedule and dateof next meeting. But enclosed Bulletins #8 & #10 & LaMarche's Steamer. Wrote at once to Cliff Garvin with similar enclosures and request for local news and will he try to get us the national mailing list? I scold and scold but no reply except sometimes from Kay Tarrant at ASF - John is entirely friendly, but vows he is not an officer. It seems they don't even have a duplicate set of addresses there although they collect and forward subscriptions. We want information circulating. Lawyer Todd, as a secretary, can only be classified as a fine treasurer. Anyway, it surely was nice to turn up some neighbors.))

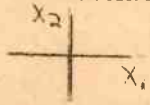
The following article, by Wayne Batteau, was taken from "Ricco's News-letter", and reprinted here for the enlightenment of interested IES members.

HILBERT SPACE
A quick and Dirty View

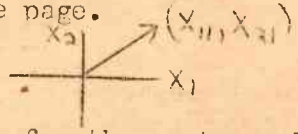


This is a coordinate system in the plane of the page.

This is a vector in the coordinate system in the plane of the page.



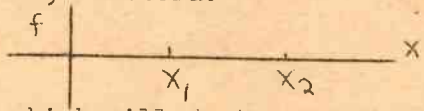
x_1 and x_2 are labels for the referents that make a coordinate system in the plane of the page.



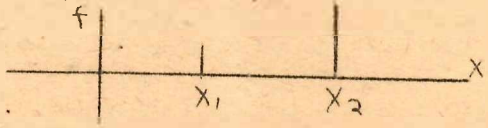
$(x_{11}\ ,\ x_{21})$ is a symbol for the vector called "1" referred to the labels of the referents that make a coordinate system in the plane of the page.

$(x_{11}\ ,\ x_{21})$

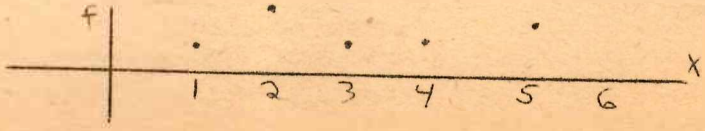
This is the excised symbol, etcetera.



This is another picture which will do to represent the previous obvious coordinate system, referents and labels in the plane of the page.



This is the same vector as before, now in the new system (and we can do without lines x_1 and x_2.).



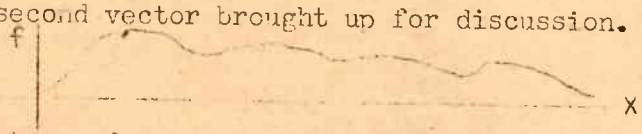
This is a six dimensioned vector which I could not draw in the first pictorial symbolism, and I wanted to, which is why I invented the second system.

$(x_{11},\ x_{21},\ x_{31},\ x_{41},\ x_{51},\ x_{61})$

This is a symbol for the six dimensioned vector in the second pictorial device. The x tells you it is still related to our discussion (whereas y is in Chicago); the left-hand number of the pair tells you which of the pieces of the whole thing is being discussed, and the right hand one tells you that we are still talking about the first vector, and so on.

$(x_{12},\ x_{22},\ x_{32},\ x_{42},\ x_{52},\ x_{62})$

This is the second vector brought up for discussion.



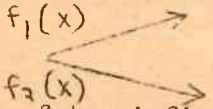
This is a picture of an infinite dimensioned vector because it has that many points on the"kind" line (x, that is). The"value" is related to the "f" line -- how high is how big. This is all about numbers, no mystic widgets.

$f_1(x)$

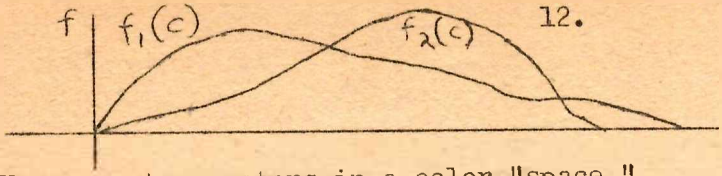
This is a symbol for the infinite dimensioned vector pictured above. You can tell it is the first one by the "1" by the "f". And we are still in the same "space". (see the x).

$f_2(x)$

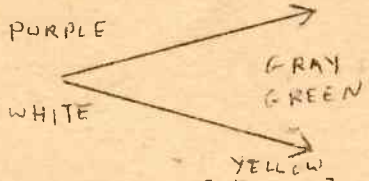
This is the second infinite dimensioned vector.



This is a picture of two infinite dimensioned vectors which form a plane because there are only two of them, even if they are made up of more than a billion pieces each, and we have chosen our paper to lie in that plane so we can draw both of them.



Here are two vectors in a color "space."



Here is a new picture of the color space and the two vectors. By taking a piece of each (if I am allowed to reverse it also) I can get any color I wish.

Pay no attention to the location of the color names. Some fool put them in at random just to convey an idea.

Wayne Batteau

LET ME WANDER

AS FAR AS I WILL,

WHENEVER I WILL,

WHEREVER I WILL;

AND PLEASE ME

WITH

WHATEVER I FIND.

- Douglas Dhu

And with that parting thought we leave you for this month, promising that next month we'll be a little bit bigger - a little bit better - and, we hope, a whole lot earlier. Something to look forward to.

DS