



TIGHT BEAM

Tightbeam

© Lynne Holdom, November 1979 #21

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Letters for the January issue should be here by the 10th of the month in order to be included in that issue. Please write TB on all letters intended for TIGHTBEAM.

If you have an idea for a book review or article, please contact me before sending same. I do not want to end up with two reviews of the same book. This has happened.

If TIGHTBEAM goes astray because of failure to send a change of address, you must pay \$1.00 for the replacement. Coas should be sent to Janie Lamb, and to the editors of each zine.

editorial

by Lynne Holdom

Well, here it is November. The trees have lost their leaves and we had our first snowfall. No, I'm not joking. It snowed here October 10th and we had a lot of downed power lines because the trees still had their leaves.

I will be doing TIGHTBEAM in January, March and May. After that, I'm not sure. I want to see how my novel is going. I have two pages of letters in the January TB done already as I wanted to use all the letters that commented to Chris Martin in this issue and then drop the matter. I don't think any more comments are going to help. That means the discussion on THE ALIEN is what starts off the January issue.

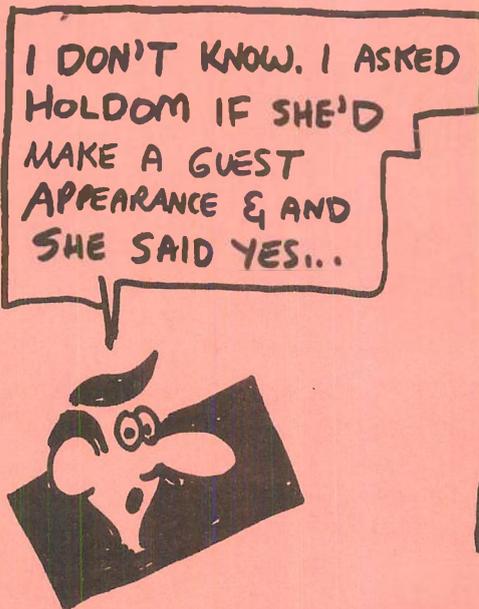
The January issue will have a NASA backcover and (hopefully) a front cover by Anji Valenza. Unfortunately I haven't been able to get in touch with Anji as of the moment I'm writing this. However, only those who are members as of January 1 will get this January issue. If you have a big X on the inside backcover, you will not get the January issue unless you send your \$6.00 to Janie Lamb (address below) by the end of December. Those with a B in the inside backcover have subscriptions that end with the January issue. So you are warned.

Judging by what I have heard from the membership, TB will continue to have articles and reviews -- at least through May. Any new editor will make his/her own editorial policy.

Donald Franson and I have been discussing plans for an N3F table at Noreastcon. One thing we will need in that case, is someone in the Boston area who would be willing to have N3F material sent to him/her and bring it to Noreastcon. William West? Rich Morrissey? Write to either me or Donald Franson if you have a zine or other material that you would like to have on the N3F table. A fanzine directory, or fan directory, or anything similar which would help a neo understand or get into fandom would be especially appreciated. TNFF and TB (back issues) will be sold there. SOUTH OF THE MOON (or everything you ever wanted to know about apas) will also be there. We would also like volunteers to sit behind the table -- as many as possible, so no one person will spent his/her time at the con sitting behind a table.

Another policy of mine will be to charge for TB if anyone wants to fill in because he/she did not renew in time. The charge will be \$1.00. If the P.O. loses your copy, that's another matter. But please do not write to me that the P.O. lost your copy until the first of the month the next TB is due. Yes, the P.O. can be that slow.

frejac funnies



president's message

Irvin Koch
2035 Idlewood Rd.,
Tucker, GA 30084

There is no real President's message. I do have a loc to the Sept TB. Anji's sheep covers were cute.

Perry Glen Moore: As an interesting exercise, you might try rewriting your ALIEN review, doing it the same way Sally Syrjala reviewed DANCERS IN THE AFTERGLOW.

Roger Waddington: There is no calculation of zines to be printed in the "two for" deal as Janie simply passes out addresses the same as for the new members. The editors always know in advance how many are absolutely needed. Most editors tend, especially if getting offset done, to round off to the nearest 100 anyway. As for "outsiders looking in", new members ALWAYS run into that. And since for at least 3 to 5 years, most department heads haven't done anything and have steadfastly refused to write the sort of intro zine you've asked for, and several people have tried to put out such a zine and gotten ZILCH response, I don't think it would work.

ANYONE and EVERYONE in fandom is a potential N3F member as all are potential fen. The best bet in recruiting is general interest TNFFs and TBs.

Rick Brown: Write Bruce Pelz who has a computerized list telling how many times, when and by whom, most possible fanzine titles have been used.

Chris Martin: Don't be surprised that there was no May TNFF. It doesn't come out in May. Let's see. Jan., March, May, July, and Sept TB have all come out though they have, with the exception of the July and Sept issue been 1½ month late getting out. ((Here, I interrupt. The latest issue to come out was the May TB which was mailed June 12. The March issue was mailed April 5.)) The editor got the March TB in the mail on or about the end of April. July went out mid or early July and Sept went out the end of Sept (hurray). ((The Sept issue went out Sept 17.)) Feb TNFF was late. April TNFF was supposedly combined with the June TNFF. June TNFF was mailed out about June 23 so it at least met the limit set in the Bylaws. There was an extra July TNFF collated with the July TB. August TNFF went out mid August. If you are missing zines, it is probably the fault of the P.O. Write the editor who put out that issue. ((I only have copies of the Sept TB. The rest are o/p.))

Also note MysticCon in the Roanoke/Blacksburg area. That group does things right.

My compliments to Patrick Duncan whose writing is at least as good as Lynne's.

* * * * *

new members

Peter Eldredge
72 Bellows Ct
Abington, MA 02351

BD: 4-18-57. Salesman. Inst writing. Will be active. Prefers writing for pubs, corres, pubbing organizing. has typer. Inst SF 12 years.

Nicholas Fuller
Box 495
Hancock, MI 49930

BD: 5-10-43. Seaman. Inst writing, reviewing. Active fandom three years. Fav authors: Chandler, Garrett, Sheckley. Cannot be too active.

Ms A Losin
15 Lockhart Rd
North Ringwood
Victoria, 3134 Australia.

BD: 4-15. Teacher. Inst writing, art, corres. pubbing, colls books, mags, fanzines, stamps. Will devote time to corres. Always inst fandom. Is or was in TDWC, Austrek, Chairwoman of con comms. Fav authors: Asimov, Ellison, Leiber, both Smiths.

Katherine Nickell
6302 Northline,
Houston, TX 77076

Teacher. Has typer, cassette. Member of Southern Lights, Tolkien Society, SCA. Fav author: Leiber.

Brian R. Flynn
9012 Evergreen Dr
Mentor, OH 44060

Joy Moncinell
1947 Roger Ave
Port Coquitlan, BC
Canada V3C 1B8

Peter Silverman
105 E Upsal St
Philadelphia, PA
19119

Mike Zaharakis
4729 Scott's Valley Dr
Scott's Valley, CA
95066

the BRASS DRAGON

by Marion Zimmer Bradley

reviewed by Greg Hills

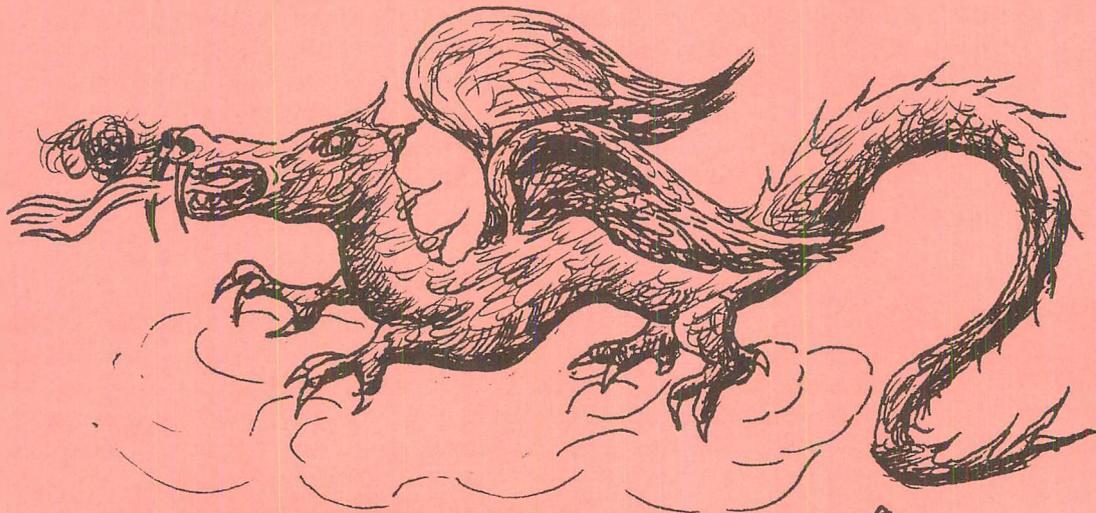
I wouldn't have read this book except that I bought it for Lynne. Having bought it, and being one of those who have a light hand with books, I saw no reason why I should not get some milage out of the thing before posting it.

THE BRASS DRAGON is the story of young Barry Cowan. He is found lying in the street, having been knocked down, and has sustained head injuries. He is wearing a peculiar brown coverall made out of some tough synthetic, and carrying a brass dragon. He has no memory of the previous fifteen months, and no recollection (initially) of who he is or who his parents may be.

After a bit of confusion over people claiminhhim, he is returned to his parents and the story proper begins, with thieves, burglars and general nastiness. Then there is an incident which gives him back his memory, and the events that have Gone Before are laid out for us -- there are some humanlike aliens (the good guys), some dragonlike shapechanging aliens (the bad guys), a trip to Mars, etcetcetc. Nuff said.

The book holds the interest throughout, but is not really very good. Had it been written in a straightforward manner, without so many foolish attempts to create "suspense" by being coy with the background, I feel it would have been better. As it stands the plot simply requires a few convenient coincidences to jog it along. The good laiens take Barry along with them on a trip to Mars. Why is never definately explained; if they wanted secrecy, the best course would have been to simply let him go. Just another flying saucer kook. As it is, of course, he has to go along because otherwise there would be no story.... Again, he is searching in the dark for a solution (while he is an amnesiac) until the nasties chase one of his good alien friends into the motel room he has holed up in. Then he gets another convenient knock on the head that gives him back his memory. Still again, when he is marooned on Mars with his alien friends, they are lucky enough to find a shelter -- with spaceship!! For people acting clandestinely, the nasties seem to have an inordinate number of ships to splash around so they can leave them at their emergency shelters. Then, the head nasty grabs a girl Barry was with -- but doesn't take the opportunity to take Barry and his alien friend at the same time. Doesn't even tie these latter two up, though to get the girl he should likely have been able to have got the others.

In short, I cannot recommend THE BRASS DRAGON. The writing itself is passable, if one overlooks awkwardness in the handling of Barry's boy/girl relationships. But the plot is so riddled with elements blatantly inserted merely to shore it up that it rapidly passes all serious consideration, and becomes a silly rehashing of the type of thing done in Robert Heinlein's HAVE SPACESUIT -- WILL TRAVEL. Besides which MZB seems to know very little of psychology or of biology: acceptable in OLD stuff, but not in something written in 1969.



the fires of azeroth

by C.J. Cherryh

reviewed by Susan Shwartz

THE FIRES OF AZEROTH concludes the first trio of adventures which the half-ghalin Morgaine and her ilin, or sworn man Nhi Vanye i Chya share as they cross from world to world by means of the trans-temporal Gates Morgaine is oath-bound to destroy. In GATE OF IVREL, we learned how Morgaine (frost fair, the songs of Andur-Kush called her, and fatal as fair) came to a land of clans, battles, and honor-obsessed nobles and, in attempting to close the Gate of Ivrel brought ruin to the land before finally accomplishing her mission a century later.

In WELL OF SHIUAN she and Vanye cross to a land in which the ghal, the builders of the gates, oppress humankind, including the remnant of an army displaced in time and space from Andur-Kush. Now, deadly hostile to Morgaine, this revenant destroys the ghalin strongholds in a world soon to be drowned by rising seas. It follows a leader -- the evil ghal Liell who has snatched the body of Vanye's cousin Roh -- across time and space into the green world of Shathan, in which the Gate of Azeroth is guarded by ghal.

FIRES OF AZEROTH succeeds in unifying the many complex threads of narrative and characterization found in the other two books. We progress in our understanding of the ghal, the eldritch, elder race who built the gates and wrecked human societies for a whim. They are frightening in IVREL, decadent in SHIUAN, but in AZEROTH we see them as elven, living in a forest with human companions in a manner that resembles the elves of Tolkien's Lothlorien. They and their human companions, the khemeis, describe themselves as a dream that humans cherish and who, in turn, protect the inhabitants of the human settlements in Shathan, a land of peace and beauty where ghal and human trust one another.

Into this land comes Morgaine, destroyer of armies, and Vanye, her kin-slaying man-at-arms. They pursue Roh and his evil army, determined to wipe out the threat to the proper order of worlds which decrees that no one should snatch for life, either by stealing someone else's body or someone else's land. This is just what Roh and his evil allies Hetharu and Fwar plan to do.

Despite their fears of destroying Shathan, Vanye and Morgaine come to love it. They linger among the humans of the villages until a murder warns them it is time to move on. And they do -- to the ghalin protectors of the land who accept Morgaine as ghal; and Vanye as her Khemeis, or companion. Never before have the two of them been welcomed as allies and friends. We see them warm to the humans and ghal; Vanye befriends an orphan boy, Morgaine learns to relax and trust for the first time in a weary life. Neither is as achingly alone as we saw in the first two books: once again Vanye earns a place in a human community, and he regains his honor.

With this increasing complexity of characterization comes a deepening of Morgaine's and Vanye's relationship. Though they started out as lady and servant, by the end of AZEROTH, we know that they are fated to become lovers: exile in time and knowledge of the gates has drawn them together despite Vanye's fear, initially, of Morgaine's nature and Morgaine's reluctance to lose anyone else for whom she cares. This transformation is subtly and movingly accomplished.

Perhaps the finest transformation of character in AZEROTH comes with Cherryh's treatment of Chya Roh i Chya, cousin and clan lord to Vanye whose body is usurped by the evil Liell. In SHIUAN we see a puzzling ambivalence: Liell wars with Roh for control of the body they share. In AZEROTH this ambivalence is resolved as Roh escapes from his allies, comes over to Vanye and Morgaine, and -- loving Shathan because it reminds him of his lost homeland -- fights for command of body and soul. Does he win? And is it safe for Morgaine to let him live, knowing what he does about Gates? But if she kills him, how will Vanye feel? Human anguish, directly related to the

the fellowship of the talismen

by Clifford D. Simak

reviewed by A. D. Wallace

This is not a major contribution to the fantasy canon, and escapes by a hair falling into the category of the unfortunate 90%. Of course it can be argued, on the basis of Simak's deserved reputation, that it is better than I have made it out to be. If fantasy has a dominating appeal it is to the emotion, because it is unreasonable to assign causality a dominant function in the constructs of the genre, More so than science-fiction, fantasy is a "literature of the impossible", a "literature of effect". Still coincidence cannot be allowed to run at random, or the novel will become a pastiche of disparate episodes. One cannot have too many externally produced baddies being countervailed by too many coincidental goodies.

Although the milieu is that of a "20th century", it is more that of the 12th or 13th century. It is a very English and Christian culture, and this latter is notable. But the Christian component seems more something that the author has learned from "research" than from cultural osmosis.

Chapter 1 produces Duncan Standish (the presumed protagonist), Daniel (his warhorse), Beauty (a burro), Tiny (a huge mastiff), Conrad (a giant), Harold the Reaver (a brigand) and Cedric the Beeman. In Chapter 2 the reason for this congregation is explained. Duncan's father has discovered an old manuscript in Aramaic which concerns the life of the historic Jesus, and this document must be taken to a bishop in Oxenford for authentication.

The journey across desolate lands is fraught with divers perils, and an accretion of characters: Andrew the ambivalent hermit, Diane and her griffin Hubert, Snoopy the goblin, Ghost, Scratch (a Christian demon from a Christian Hell), et alii. Forces of Evil are engaged in skirmishes in the course of the trip. Of course Duncan and Diane discover that they are in love, but the novel is otherwise asexual, or at least the author provides only a chaste love. As might be expected, Snoopy, Ghost and Scratch provide the comic relief, but, it might be asked, relief from what, since the tale is banal and pallid. Although the talisman is in evidence quite regularly, it plays no role in the denouement. The descriptive prose is flaccid, if not flat, and the dialog is frequently 20th century argot, something like "Goddamit, why don't you get the hell out of here." The emotions are hardly engaged throughout but the resolution is surprising.

The problem selected by the author -- that of writing a novel in which the historic Christ is pertinent -- is not a trivial thing. On this point alone the novel fails badly.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE TALISMEN by Clifford Simak

DelRey \$8.95

* * * * *

a stone in heaven

by Poul Anderson

reviewed by P.W. Duncan

In view of all the controversy concerning the writings of Poul Anderson in this zine of late, I decided to read the latest Flandry novel: A STONE IN HEAVEN. It is competently written, lavishly illustrated, and has an Afterward written by Sandra Miesel which I found more interesting than the novel when Ms Miesel refrained from mentioning such historic entities as the Sassanian Empire which I had never heard of.

Normally I like Flandry tales even though I do not consider them great literature. They are good entertainment of an evening. But I found myself yawning through this one, often skimming large parts and quite frequently putting it down. Yet it was typical enough. If it did not have the Merseian threat to parade about, it did have a thoroughly rotten character in the Grand Duke of Hermes, Hans Molitor, who covets the Imperial Throne. Flandry must defend the emperor, even though that emperor is not really worthy of defense. Flandry has gotten more cynical after all (he's older if not wiser now.) There is the usual derring-do and Flandry has the usual female assistant who is practically interchangeable with her predecessors in various other books. There was an alien sentient race in trouble. Why then was this book so flat that the physics lecture on the past of the planet Ramnu was more interesting than most of the adventure narrative? Was I simply sick of Flandry? Was it the result of something I ate?

Not entirely. I reread AGENT OF THE TERRAN EMPIRE recently and liked that though it is fairly formula Flandry adventure. What does seem to be missing is any sense of excitement. Not only Flandry has gotten cynical so that civilization seems less worthy of defense. The tone of the book reeks with the cynicism. Perhaps the action seems forced because Flandry is forcing himself to go through the motions where once he believed civilization might be saved; that it could be worthy of being saved from the Long Night. Personally I'd like to see stories set in the new rising civilizations that arose after the Long Night.

So read the book if you are a Flandry completist; if you like to see the results of imagining an alien ecology and way of life; if you simply want to read a competently written adventure tale. But don't expect well-rounded characterization or deep moments of suspense or even much grief and pathos. And, unless you like the artwork of Michael Whelan and Esteban Morato, don't buy this expensive trade edition, wait for the mass market paperback.

As I mentioned earlier, this is an afterward by Sandra Miesel. It is more interesting that the novel for the insights it gives into Flandry's character. I had never realized before that Flandry did not understand women, but, considering the question, it now seems so obvious, I wonder how I missed it.

A STONE IN HEAVEN by Poul Anderson

Ace Oct 1979 \$5.95

* * * * *

Lest everyone think I have given up on Poul Anderson, let me say that I recently read THE AVATAR. What a contrast to STONE. Except for the times that Caitlin was on stage (unfortunately most of the novel) when I cringed as I have never heard anyone speak quite so much stage Irish -- and I grew up in Ireland, I enjoyed the novel and would recommend it. Maybe Anderson is so tired of writing Flandry tales that this shows through. If so, may he never write another one.

* * * * *

A QUICK FANZINE REVIEW by Lynne Holdom

HONOR TO FINUKA: 1. Edited by Kurt Cockrum, 3491 Iowa, Riverside, CA 92507. \$1.00.

As the name suggests, this is a zine devoted to the works of Jack Vance. If you are a Vance fan, as I am, you will want to read it. At the moment, the graphics aren't too great and the articles are a bit skimpy, but with more interest it will improve. Like Kurt, I also wonder what Kirth Gersen will do when he finishes off the final Demon Prince; I can't see him growing vegetables on Alphanor or retiring to Earth for a life of decadence. Also you will learn about the mysteries Vance wrote. Those I haven't read and they are all out-of-print. **sob** However I must warn you that if you have only a passing knowledge of Vance's work, you will probably be slightly lost. But it is recommended to all Vance fans.

REVIEWS

by Lynne Holdom

I was going to do a trip report but decided that one page did not give me enough scope, so decided to give some brief reviews of books I have read recently.

JANISSARIES by Jerry Pournelle

Ace June 1979 \$6.95

I usually do not like military SF so I am not totally enamoured of Pournelle's work but I got a review copy of this and since I'll read anything.... Basically, a bunch of mercenaries facing certain death are saved by a flying saucer and taken to a planet where they are supposed to grow a certain plant that only flourishes at 600 year intervals when the position of the suns is right. There are humans on the planet that are the remnants of other such drug growing schemes. Rick Galloway, the mercenary captain, is ousted from command. Therefore he takes up with a native princess of somewhat Celtic derivation and..... Well, let's just say that the old ways get somewhat modernized and all the enemies are soundly defeated. Oh yes, there is also the spaceship captain's girl friend, Gwen who is around to explain things when the going gets rough. All in all, it is readable enough but nothing spectacular.

MOTHERLINES by Suzy McKee Charnas

Berkley Oct 1979 \$1.95

I dislike obvious message fiction intensely so it is not surprising that I was annoyed by MOTHERLINES. Briefly Alldera has escaped from a wicked patriarchy where she was brutally raped and is rescued by the Mares, an all female horse culture where all children are clones of the mother. Alldera is thus a new element in the society and the child she is carrying is extremely important to the Mares. (I wonder what would have happened if the child had been a boy but...) But Alldera has been so wrecked by patriarchy that she cannot take the culture of the Mares so she goes to the Free Fems. These have been corrupted by association with men (they are all escapees like Alldera) and so reproduce the faults of masculine culture. At this point I felt like throwing the book across the room.

I have an objection to any novel which suggests that one half of the human race, just by existing, makes it impossible for the other half to be real people. If this does not bother you, you may well like MOTHERLINES. If you feel as I do, you won't.

A WORLD BETWEEN by Norman Spinrad

Pocket Books, Oct 1979 \$2.25

I read this right after MOTHERLINES and loved it. Maybe it was because it punctured a lot of the pretensions of the feminists (called femocrats in the novel). It was just as savage on the super (and not so super) macho ideas of men. Personally I loved seeing those with no message but a bit of common sense and a live and let live policy win out against the extremes of male and female chauvinism. I will also state that there are two very strong female characters in this novel as well as the male protagonist. Pacifica sounded like a place I'd like to live and that's quite unusual in the SF novels I read. And Spinrad does not make all the Femocrats or Arkologist evil madmen or women. He does see shades of grey. This book really deserves a longer review and I may do one; next issue.

BIBBLINGS by Barbara Paul

Signet Nov 1979 \$1.75

The planet of Lodon-Kamaria was just a pre spaceflight galactic backwater until it was discovered to have alpidium which the galaxy needs. There is just one problem -- two nations have had an eight generation war in the mountains that contain the alpidium. So a team of trouble shooters -- three married couples -- are sent to stop the war no matter what. I found the plot rather predictable but found the interrelations between the trouble shooters very well done. The afterword was totally unnecessary however and diminished the rest of the book. This is another novel that had strong believable female characters.

Letters

Michael Roden
982 White Oak Rd
Cincinnati, OH
45245

I want to thank N3F people for all the kind letters about my artwork and about THRU BLACK HOLES magazine/ The Stellar Fantasy Society. It is as I'd hoped, some N3f'ers are now SFS members.

The things I wanted to correct about the TB/109 letter were:

THRU BLACK HOLES 'zine is the official magazine of SFS, the name Stellar Fantasy Magazine refers to TBH.

And... There is only one Director of the SFS and that is Dr. Wilfred Beaver. The letter listed Andy Andruschak as a Director also. However, even though Andy isn't a Director, he is a good friend and supporter/contributor of TBH/SFS...contributing those great color NASA pictures that accompany TBH 'zine as rear covers and inserts at times.

As it mentions in a notation after my letter in TB/109 ... it is interesting to note the similarities between SFS and N3F. But it should be mentioned that THRU BLACK HOLES magazine has paved the way for the SFS's growth, with nearly 2 years work. It is also true, as the TB/109 letter notation mentions, that TBH Productions are of higher quality than the N3F zines. But, we offer no competition whatsoever. In fact the entire SFS arrangement is based on friendship between individual SF/Fantasy fans as well as other fantasy oriented organizations, like N3F.

As to the difference in our subscription/membership prices....N3F/1 year/ 12 zines/\$6. SFS/1 year/7 zines/\$5....The proof of value is in the seeing. THRU BLACK HOLES #7 with its silver front cover with a die-cut porthole, revealing a two-color (red and blue) alien sun-face on page two. And with its dozen pages of full page vintage artwork and additional dozen pages of stories and poetry...and with Ben Fulves' double zine "The Looking Glass/Stellar Fantasy Newsletter... I think readers can see the definite value of these SFS/TBH Productions. ((I found your zine very visually beautiful. It covers an area of SF/fantasy that does not interest me personally -- that of the Lovecraftian, Poe school. But for those interested in these genres, I recommend it very highly. Anyone can get an SFS flyer for the asking, just write to Michael. You may love TBH. If you are an art collector, you should consider getting TBH for the art alone.))

And, like I say, there is no competition here. Only the desire to share friendships.

I will have an article for the Artists' Workshop Activities in the near future. Vern Clark and Alex Garrison (two N3F artists) have been in touch with me and have both become SFS members as well. They are two nice fellows.

((I didn't know Alex was an artist -- he's been holding out on me.))

frejac funnies



Andy Andruschak
6933 N. Rosemead #31
San Gabriel, CA
91775

Received TIGHTBEAM today, 4 October. A nice 35th birthday present. The Space Age is now 22 years old. That is right..... remember Sputnik One of 4 October, 1957?? ((You and my brother Ken were born on the same day, same year.))

Considering my running for N3F Director....I want it understood that I believe in raising the dues. D-spicable dues result in a dispicable club. I see no reason why the members shouldn't be willing to pay the fanzine editors a proper amount for their efforts. ((We just raised the dues; but, as an editor, and seeing the rising costs of paper, printing etc.))

Also with more money in the treasury, we can do special publishing projects.

Remember how Irvin was wondering how to get the SOUTH OF THE MOON editor to give information on apas to TNFF? Well, I have taken over the apa-index from Lester Boutillier. I am quite happy to turn SOTM into a publication of the N3F. After all, in keeping with the mission of introducing neos to the various aspects of fandom, regular publication of SOTM would help.

Please note that I am asking for apa information. And unlike Lester, I will take anything. Quasi apas, mundane apas, private and/or secret and/or invitational apas, comics apas, rotating apas.... I don't care. I want information.

Richard Jasinski
71 531 Szczecin
Ul. Rynkewa, 6/63
Poland

I had a chance to join N3F last year through the kindness and generosity of Janie Lamb who paid my membership fee. Everything was okay until the very day I was appointed Overseas Agent by Irvin Koch.

Oh, God, what happened here in Polish fandom?!

"Member of our club... ..and an American agent!"

Mercifully God let Stalin die shortly after my birth or it would be my ghost writing this article not me... Of course I don't care what the officials instructed by other government officials think but frankly they did forbid me from representing the Polish fan club named the Polish Science Fiction Fan club, abroad any more in any form. Big Brother watches us.

So as an American (secret?) agent, I am not in charge of the Polish fan club any more. But I do want to be and am N3F Overseas agent.

((I hope we did not do you out of a trip to SeaCon. However, when we get a member in a country we had not had a member in, we try to get that member to act as agent. I suspect we will be reconsidering that policy. But I also hope the government is not too angry with you. My goal is to have the government not know I exist.))

cccccccccccccccccccc

FTM3 Steven L. Duff
SAM Div. USS Enterprise, CVN-65
FPO San Francisco, CA 96601

Please include SAM Div. on all my mail. The ship's PO holds it up two weeks without it.

Also, as I told Donald Franson, I'm telling you, I think TIGHTBEAM's contents are the editor's concern basically. In the by-laws it says letterzine, and TIGHTBEAM is certainly that. It's a fine fanzine, one of my faves. It's versatility is what makes it so good.

Thanks to all the people who said nice things about MACK SWAIN. I was both surprised and flattered when people considered it a true story.

George Laskowski: Not many people know or care that there was a Dwight V. Swain. He was a pulp writer, author of works with names like CRUSADERS ACROSS THE VOID. He wasn't very good, but he was a deliberate red herring to make knowledgeable fans who might remember his name think I was writing about him. In truth, I was thinking both of an unknown stf author, still alive, who's been with us since the beginning -- almost. I don't want to reveal his name but he's a very good writer. I also based it on the death of Captain Video down to the plot

LYNNE HOLDOM SHOWS
SUCH WISDOM IN
BREAKING UP THE DULL
MONOTONY OF ALL THESE
PRINTED WORDS WITH
THESE OH, SO CLEVER
CARTOONS.



I THINK I
MAY THROW
UP!



devices I used. Paula Crunk's comments jibe precisely with the way I feel on the matter. Pick up a 1945 issue of THRILLING WONDER STORIES. How many names can you recognize? (Aside from the Hamiltons, Leinsters, Kuttners and Vances.) Have you ever heard of Leslie Northern, J. Harvey Haggard, Arthur Leo Zagat, or Alexander Samalman? ((No.)) All, especially Zagat, were popular in their day. Haggard was both a big-name fan and a prolific writer, from the late 30s onto the 40s. And where are they now?

For what it's worth, I've never been impressed by Anderson.

On DR and ILLUMINATED people: I think DR would be a lot better if it wasn't for the pompous stodginess of the whole mag. I mean, the people whose letters are printed, are almost always ILLUMINATED people. ((Lynne's had letters printed and she wasn't ILLUMINATED the last time I heard. pwd)) What's worse they all share the same basic philosophy. No

real exchange of ideas is taking place; it's all basically back-patting. Of what worth is that? I think the people who write in need to have their world views jangled up a bit, to disturb the muddy layers of their set thinking. No, I don't mean to insult DR readers/contributors, but reading DR gives one the impression of reading a Republican house journal. ((So write DR a shake-up letter. pwd))

James J.J. Wilson
21 Spinning Wheel Rd
Hinsdale, IL 60521

Thanks for TB #20. A very good issue. I haven't received #s 18 or 19 however. ((#19 went out under #109 -- you were sent #18 but I guess Yog got it.)) It seems one of these issues contained a letter by me. ((#18)) which received more response than any

other I've written.

To address myself to a few of those comments: Vernon Clark -- who says, "you're a fucking plain and simple asshole." Strong stuff from a person who knows me through reading one letter. I did not claim to criticize Fritz Leiber's work, I merely stated that I happen to dislike it. The point was that on one hand I dislike Leiber and like Ellison with a passion on the other. This proves that my opinions do not represent those of people who vote on the Hugo awards since both writers have won scads of them. By the way, you state that I "dislike Ellison because of his personality." Where did I state this? Harlan, lastly, is not only my favorite writer but also a valued friend. I refuse to flatter you anymore by quoting from your last few sentences on your opinions of me as a critic. Rather than basing your judgement on one letter of opinion, I suggest you read some of my reviews in SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW, SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY BOOK REVIEW, and some of my articles in such places as FANTASTIC and ANALOG. I further suggest you refrain from putting these fits of rage into print; they can only prove embarrassing.

Perry Glen Moore -- You also state opinions. I do not in the least share your opinion of Orson Scott Card who I will not discuss since he is dealt with admirably by Ted White in THRUST #13. ((\$1.95 from Thrust publications, 11919 Barrel Cooper Ct, Reston VA 22091.))

R Laurraine Tutihasi -- If you are as serious an Ellison fan as you claim, I suggest you write of N3Fs Harlan Ellison Round Robin c/o Linda Frankel, 1261 Central Ave, Far Rockaway, NY 11691.

I certainly hope editors will stop printing reviews of ALIEN. I am extremely weary of reading any more about it although I thought the film was excellent.

Sharron Albert
Box 80925
College, AK
99708

You wanted feedback on definition/difference (if any) between SF and fantasy. This is only my opinion, of course. I have already argued with people about this. Science deals with the laws of science as we know them, usually takes one or two pieces and extrapolates/exaggerates them into a possible future. It doesn't make any difference whether or not

the book deals with the science itself (RENDEZVOUS WITH RAMA comes to mind), or with the people in the possible world (DREAMSNAKE). But given the set of circumstances leading up to the book, that future could be possible. Fantasy, however, shows us a world that could not exist according to science as we know it now (Tolkien, THE SORCERER'S SON, REH, etc.). The forces of magic are usually in place of technology. Some books, naturally, are hard to classify. I consider GOBLIN RESERVATION, the Pern books, and Cherryh's GATE books science fiction. As well as MZB's Darkover books. I try to separate the feel of the book (those just listed feel like fantasy to me), from the mechanics the author is using. Which is usually where I get into trouble with people over this theory. That's my idea anyhow.

Regarding series: I usually like them -- including Pern, Amber, Riverworld, Cherryh, etc. What bothers me is when the books do not stand up individually. Cherryh's usually do, although the second books tend to be weaker. Pern books can all be read separately and out of order, as can the Darkover books (the best of the series as far as I am concerned as far as individual readability goes.) The last Riverworld book was thoroughly irritating: I expected some conclusions after all that reading. ((So did I. pwd)) But the one that infuriated me the most in the last couple years was McKillip's RIDDLE MASTER OF HED. I, at least, knew what I was getting into, because the dust jacket of the hardback stated that if the reader liked books all nicely wrapped up at the end, this wasn't for them. I went ahead and read it anyway. Unfortunately the DelRey pb edition didn't bother to warn people of the abrupt cliffhanger ending. ((Neither did Futura which is the version Lynne has. However she has all three volumes so it doesn't actually matter. pwd)) The only other one that bothered me that much was my first Tolkien book: FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING. I got the first Ace printing and just by accident started with the first book (although it took me months to find them all in Fairbanks in 1965.) I knew other people at the time who read them out of order. No, I wouldn't want to kill Zelazny, or Tolkien, or McKillip (pick them up and shake them, maybe), but I wouldn't mind doing something really nasty to the publishers who don't warn their readers. They are the real culprits. What I like about series is that I get to know the world and the operant factors and the people, so that subtle differences become obvious. And isn't it interesting how Zelazny finished the series (after all, there is a new king in Amber -- I don't want to say who for those who are waiting for the pb), and still left room to write more if he felt like it. Very clever actually.

A comment on a Hugo winner. I was surprised to see THE WHITE DRAGON win the Gandalf. Not that I didn't enjoy it (although I prefer most of the other dragon books more), but I considered it the least fantasy-like work in the category. Oh well. I would disagree with Perry Glen Moore regarding STORMQUEEN: I thought it was better than FORBIDDEN TOWER. ((So did I. pwd)) Isn't it nice how we can amicably disagree? (It is friendly, isn't it, Perry? Perry?) A thought: there are always some of us that think one novel or short story, or Campbell nominee was better than the winner. And there are those who cry that the Hugos, et al. are just popularity contests. But isn't that what makes a good book, it's ultimate enjoyability? Even if a Campbell nominee is not the technician another is, or one novel better written than another, the ultimate test of time will be how many people enjoy reading it. Quality never hurts to hope for, of course, but I for one will read a book I enjoy, more often than a book I think was well written, just because it's well written.

Barbara Tennison: I didn't mean to imply in my letter about utopias-written-by-women that all women were better, more organized, etc. I said, I think, that most of the utopias written by women tended to be positive in outlook, whereas most utopian novels by men

tended to be dystopias. Any conclusions drawn from that will have to be up to the individual (I like to think its because we might be just a little more rational, but that's a personal belief). I will endeavor to obtain a copy of HERLAND to read. Thanks for the title.

Duncan Lucas: You used Eskimo as an example of "recognizably human". Having dealt with them from the local town drunk status to the political arena, there are times I really wonder if there is a common ground between them, and us upstart residents of Alaska. Aliens need only be different -- humanness is not necessary.

Deirdre Murphy: Was I bragging? Really? I think my last little note on summertime in Alaska was more my twisted sense of humor at 3 a.m. which is usually when I am finishing up my letters. Sorry. Describe the aurora? Impossible -- it changes too much from night to night, words don't do it justice sometime and other times it's rather blah. We're still waiting for winter here: we have a dribble of snow on the ground, the temperature still hasn't dropped below +20°F (that's unseasonably warm for us). I'm feeling gypped, somebody send some snow.

Vernon Clark: temper, temper. I agree that James J. Wilson is mistaken about his incredibility that Leiber stays in print, but remember the gentleman that Mr Leiber is. We can merely feel pity, perhaps, that he doesn't know what he's missing.

Chris Martin: I won't agrue with you about Anderson. Sometimes I like him, sometimes I don't ((Me, too. pwd)) It depends on my mood, I guess. If you don't wish to turn the pages of TB into a controversy, may I suggest you stop writing to it, or alternatively, that you be careful how you tend to group people. I am not a librarian (although I do work at a bookstore part time). I am also a legal secretary and help put together a weekly newspaper. I am active politically. So how I wish to spend my leisure time is up to me. I read SF and fantasy. I read about both. I am seneschal of the local SCA chapter (re your comment on retreat into medievalism) and I enjoy playing Dungeons and Dragons once a week. I do not feel I am retreating from the real world in doing so; more like I'm taking a break from the deadly day-to-day realism of trying to live in a town with 20% unemployment. I do not consider myself a twonk, nerd or twitch. Nor do I consider myself a slan. I don't mind if you don't read MZB (although you make pretty strong comments about MZB fans when you probably don't know much about Darkover fandom). You seem to think those people who don't read/think like you are obvious less-than-mundane mediocres. I try to keep an open mind, why don't you. Peace: tolerant co-existence is the best policy. I won't throw you in a concentration camp if you return the favor....

* * * * *

Mary Tyrrell
414 Winterhaven Dr
Newport News, VA
23606

Yes! An honest to ghod loc from me to TB. Like Anji Valenza, I'm back. (See cartoon on page 20. The pony? reminds me a bit of Thelwell's beasties though certainly much fiercer.)

I've previously stated my views on TB's contents, but I'll reiterate for Don's benefit. Keep the articles and reviews in TB! As long as the letters still appear, I see no harm and much benefit in the non-letter items. The first TB I ever received was totally letters and left me, a neo at the time, quite baffled.

I was very interested in Sally Syrjala's review of DANCERS IN THE AFTERGLOW since it is the only one of Chalker's books so far that I haven't liked. I suspect, upon reflection and especially after reading Sally's review, that it is because I came to it with preconceived notions. If Chalker ever slows down enough for me to have time to reread his books, I'll tackle DANCERS again.

A.D. Wallace, I think I absorbed your letter into my subconscious. I work in a library, and someone was asking today why THE DANCERS OF ARUN (sequel to Elizabeth A. Lynn's WATCHTOWER) didn't have a rocket ship sticker on it. I said, "It's not exactly SF." "Oh, it's fantasy." "It's a parahistorical." That silenced her. Really, though, I like the term. I know it's not original with you but it's been years since I'd heard

OBVIOUSLY.



it and had quite forgotten it.

Anji, I like horses but do you really think they feel for their owners? Dogs, maybe. Cats, probably not. (I like most of them anyway.) Horses, I just don't know.

My advice to Rick Brown about starting a zine is simple. DON'T DO IT! However, I realize this advice will probably be ignored. As for "used" titles, you might try asking a fan who has been around for a while if the title you're planning sounds familiar.

((To find out whether or not a title has been used, write Bruce Pelz, 15931 Kalisher St, Grenada Hills, CA 91344 and enclose a SASE. Thanks to Andy Andruschak and Brian Earl Brown. pwd))

I'm not going to continue any part I had in the Anderson debate since I feel that all the main points, pro and con, have been made and are simply being repeated. Besides, I'm not going to change my reading habits, nor do I expect anyone else to change theirs. ((Good point: the Anderson debate is officially closed in TB. pwd))

As for medievalism -- my interest in it is an outgrowth of my interest in history. I do not see the middle ages as being simpler. Merely different. One of the points, I've always felt, of the SCA and similar groups is that one can pick the aspects of a particular time or society that one prefers and concentrate on those. That doesn't mean that one is unaware of the true conditions. One of the reasons I've never joined the SCA is because of the work involved. However if others want to spend their time sewing costumes, making chain mail, or illuminating manuscripts, I see nothing reprehensible in it.

Paula Crunk
1359 Deanna
Cottage Hills, IL 62018

~~~~~

I'm glad to see TB is now dealing with SF fandom in general, and allied subjects, not chiefly N3F politics. TBs reviews were all competently done. I see I was wrong again in my prediction and will henceforth shut up in the prognostication department, but at least the wonderful DREAMSNAKE won, even if FADED SUN: KESRITH couldn't make it.

I don't agree with Chris Martin about Anderson, but I loved his letter. I, too, would like to see good ol' Nicholas van Rijn receive his just deserts, preferably at the hands of the folks he victimizes regularly. I tend to be fairly apolitical in reading/evaluating books -- sure, a conservative writer can succeed in ruffling my vaguely liberal sympathies, but I like to give credit where it's due for sheer good writing, a good handling of the subject and thematic material. Novels that cater to whatever is considered currently correct and right (left?) in terms of social or political theory often turn out to be rather stultifying neo-Utopian tracts. But then I have been accused of harboring dangerous reactionary-medieval tendencies. What it all comes down to is a matter of taste anyway. Chris obviously can't abide any novel or series that doesn't harmonize with his ideals and opinions. (And I rail and rave occasionally re Gor-type books.) Chris may also take a lot of flack re his comments on certain types of fans. As you know, Lynne, I'd hardly show up in costume at any con because I hardly have the figure to flaunt myself in that matter -- or the guts. Well, Eric Berne in THE TRUE BELIEVER did a similar hatchet job on fellow-travellers of political movements: all neurotic failures, said he, who seek in the movement/group the purpose they've missed in their own life -- the support and human contact denied them in mainstream society. I quite agree that some fans may be like this -- hiding from life in a shared fantasy. But if I were Chris, I wouldn't vent my rage on rather sad, lonely folk who harm nobody but themselves -- nor would I leave the impression that the majority of fans are like this.

I don't have to tell you that most folks are into fandom to express themselves, find like-minded friends, maybe just to have a bit of fun. What bothers me about fandom are the groupies -- the "second hand stars" who cluster around a favorite author or phenomion -- who claim to know more about an author's writings and doings than the author knows himself/herself -- who rub out anyone who doesn't seem to be in group material -- et cetera. It's their thing and certainly I, a confirmed lifelong "outré" could never be part of this type of group -- maybe I'm coming from a "sour grapes" position but I do dislike rampant insensitive social climbing and sheer snobbism. (I do not mean to condemn by this the true hardworking faneds, fan writers, fan organizers etc. that turn their interests into constructive use.)

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Andrew Sigel            It would appear that Chris Martin, enjoying the many comments on his  
P.O. Box 366            myriad proclamations dealing with fandom and authors, wishes to expand  
Putney, VT 05346        the controversy by taking every reference to him, and interpreting it  
                              in the worst possible way. If he enjoys being "cursed," that's his  
business, but it's no reason to relate the imagined details to the rest of us.

I have always equated the phrase "execrable taste" with "extremely poor taste," and when I consulted my dictionary (Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition), I found: "3. Very bad, wretched, as execrable verse, taste." No doubt this is what Mr. Mills had in mind, and it bears a striking similarity to Mr. Martin's "2. Very inferior; of poorest quality."

Though Chris created colorful descriptions of what he thinks are various types of substandard fans, I think his definitions and his analysis are narrow, self-serving, and amply laced with vitriol. While contemptuously dismissing the entire fantasy genre (with the assistance of Patrick Duncan) as unworthy of the paper the books are printed on, ((I don't dislike all fantasy novels. Why only last year I found one I liked. pwd.)), he goes on to associate the fans of this genre with "a cancer in fandom." I suppose I should be upset, as I fit into this "definition," and am apparently running amuck in the corpus of fandom, killing it slowly and with excruciating pain. Excuse me while I laugh -- that should hasten fandom's demise by at least a decade.

Fandom is a microcosm of the world around us. As a result, there will be people who are maladjusted, socially inept, and/or have other psychological problems. Anyone who thinks that fans are slans is quite mistaken. But anyone deluding themselves into thinking that there once was a time when all fans were slans, or that such a situation is feasible either now or in the future, is just being foolish. Why can't people accept fandom for what it is, instead of insisting that it must be something it is not?

I hope that Lynne will exercise editorial privilege, as she has in the past, by cutting off this discussion before it goes too many more issues, and interferes with the introduction of new topics. After a point, all that is left is rehashing what has been said, and namecalling.

((As a matter of fact, the Chris Martin affair -- if that's the proper term -- is over as of this issue. Well, maybe a couple of letters that make it just at deadline will be in the next issue but.... Obviously Chris is not going to learn to love SCA types, the Dor-sai or others. Anyone who wants to respond after getting this, can write to Chris Martin directly or to any of the letter writers here. pwd))

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Arthur Hlavaty            A few comments on TIGHTBEAM 20:  
250 Coligni Ave            Lan: I certainly don't identify with Luke Skywalker. He strikes me  
New Rochelle, NY            as a brainless pretty boy who has a great advantage in letting the  
10801                        Force take him over since there is no personality or intellect to get  
                              in the way. IF I were going to identify with anyone in SW, it would be Obi-Wan Kenobi,  
but then my life's ambition is to go from sophomore smartass to Old Wise Man without  
passing through any of the intermediate stages.

THE UNHOLY DEEDS  
AND WORSHIP OF  
YOG-XIPKODE ARE  
RECOUNTED IN THAT DEVIL  
SPAWNED BOOK: THE  
NEFFERNOMICON!



IT WAS TRANSLATED  
INTO ENGLISH FROM  
THE NEFFER BY THAT  
MAD ACOLYTE ARTHUR  
HLAVATY WHO WAS  
FOUND GIBBERING AT HIS  
DESK ON COMPLETION  
OF THE WORK!

~~Denise~~ Rick Brown: The name change strikes me as a good idea, especially since there's now a Denise Brown (nee Huds-peth) in fandom. Like Rick, I support Johnstown in '83 (and Ingostadt in '84), but I'm afraid that since a certain pro writer has taken (or been given) shortness as a personal trademark, Rick's eminently practical suggestion will bring cries of "Why are you picking on Harlan?" ((Could it be that you are a male chauvinist. I'm sure there are a number of female pro writers who are just as short as, or shorter than, Harlan.))

Chris Martin demands that fans face reality (as he defines it).

I know of no less effective way to change human behaviour than by aiming a barrage of insults and orders at people one has no power over. On the other hand, if he wishes to play the Rejected Prophet role, supporting and reinforcing his belief that humanity in general and fandom in particular is too dumb to appreciate his wisdom, then he has chosen the most effective method of achieving his goals. Chris, you might wish to decide which is your Will and then act accordingly, if you have not already done so.

\* \* \* \* \*

Anita Cole  
1303 Ocala Rd #124  
Tallahassee, FL  
32304

I have already written to Donald Franson, and will now tell you what I said about the zines. I said that I liked TB pretty much as is. I actually would like more reviews, maybe shorter than the ones printed now, and more fiction. The locs are important, but not the be-all and end-all of my life. Actually, I probably never would have said anything about TB, since I was satisfied, without D.F's push.

I did not think much of WHITE DRAGON. I had read all the others in the series. I have now read DRAGONDRUMS. In my book, and I am not alone, WHITE DRAGON is an inferior book. It is not as good as any of her other books in the series, and it has many flaws in it, where she tried to join her two series together. She tried to accomplish so much, she ended up changing the characters' personalities around to get her juvenile and her adult series to merge. For this reason, I was extremely upset to see it getting a Hugo. I feel that the fans were voting on the series as a whole, rather than on the merits of that book.

To Rick Brown: if you want a job as a librarian (not all those who go to library school want to be librarians these days), you may wish to look into the prison system near you. They generally have job openings, if they have librarians at all. Here in Florida, jobs are hard to get everywhere but with DoC; they have five jobs open in prisons around the state. The chance to get whole groups of new SF readers is immense. I've got mine hooked. Who knows, maybe some will even rehabilitate themselves from it. On the other hand, maybe bookstores all over Florida will report stolen SF...

Why have so many people gotten hostile? If you don't agree with what someone has said, say so, but why add that he is an asshole or that he lacks brains? Competent writing makes such observations unnecessary, if they are true, by making these facts self-evident.

Since Chris Martin has not read any of MZB, why does he then waste seven lines on a diatribe against Darkover and Anderson together? Darkover, as he would know if he had read any, is not space opera. Furthermore, it is not as medieval in nature as Katherine Kurtz's series which he does not mention. (I like it too). If that were not enough, he then writes a paragraph cutting down an entire profession. I hope he buys all his books,

or his librarian is one of the many librarians who thinks SF is either trash or juvenile fiction, with no literary merit. Certainly, he does not seem to know any librarians. Most of them are intelligent, and enjoy their work.

So, finally, I have this question: Chris Martin, what positive thing have YOU done for the world, SF fandom, or anybody? You have a lot of gripes about everybody else, but I don't see much good in that.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jill Matthews            I just finished the September TB. "Year of the Sheep?" ((That's  
2 Pine Tree Rd        from the Oriental calendar.))  
Lawrenceville, GA

30245                    In answer to your comment in the editorial, I wholeheartedly agree  
with your position, although I'd hate to see you give up the TB edi-  
torship. After being ~~suckered~~ ~~into~~ recruited by Irvin Koch to help  
with the July TB and TNFF (which ought to teach me to keep my big mouth shut when I'm  
already past the deadline for a paying article) I can more than appreciate the problems  
of a faned. I think TB is a fine zine, far and away one of the best I've seen thus far.  
And if anyone's responsible for the quality of a zine (or, in the case of the majority  
of zines I receive, the lack thereof) it's got to be the editor. Quality contributions  
help, of course, but the editor has still got to be the sine qua non that makes or  
breaks the zine.

If Franson doesn't like the contents of TB, let him do better, preferably in another  
zine. Until, and unless, he proves he can do better, I hope he keeps his hands (mitts,  
paws, or whatever) off TB. I realize that TB was originally totally devoted to the locs,  
but find that the present blend of reviews, art, articles, locs, and wahtnot far more  
interesting.

As for the locs in this issue, I have only a few return comments.

Chris Martin: I can now see why Linda Frankel mentioned your talent for offending so  
many people at once. Tell me, with the exception of your high esteem for Helen Steere's  
art, which you were kind enough to mention -- is there anything you do like? (I will  
probably regret asking that question.)

Roger Waddington: I'd like to refer you to THE NEO-FAN'S GUIDE TO SCIENCE FICTION FAN-  
DOM, edited by Bob Tucker, and published by Linda Bushyager. While it's not wholly  
directed to the prospective Neffer (as a matter of fact the N3F's paragraph is far too  
short) it might give you some good ideas for a publication along the lines you suggest  
(including department head reports and the like), so all that might be necessary is for  
some ~~sucker~~ enterprising soul to clip and compile from those issues.

\* \* \* \* \*

David Travis            I support your position about TIGHTBEAM and have told Don Franson so.  
P.O. Box 191            In my opinion an all letter zine is nothing more than an attenuated  
Glassboro, NJ        round robin. His response was "genzine features are an extra, if we  
08028                    can afford them." I think we can't afford not to have them. I re-  
member the old TNFF and TIGHTBEAM -- one letters only, giving a general  
feeling of entering a plotless movie in the middle. TNFF had the same reports all the  
time -- "we need more workers, so-and-so quit, etc."

The genzine features give the letter writers something to focus on and write about.  
((Greg Hills' review of MIRKHEIM which he was disappointed with, started the whole Poul  
Anderson debate. pwd.))

Is it possible Paula Crunk is asking for a little too much ego stroking with the "Poor  
Me" letters? ((Paula's the one who works in the mental hospital, not me. pwd))

It is always pitiful to see a fan determined to massage his own ego and make a "big name"  
for himself by wild statements and personal attacks. I suppose Chris Martin has a "right"  
to do so though.

Dennis Jarog  
P.O. Box 48461  
Niles, IL 60648

My goodness, if nothing else Chris Martin has kicked more than a little life into TIGHTBEAM lately. That is about the only thing I agree with him on. If nothing else, I am a bit credulous that he thinks that his is the proper opinion. His taste is his and he can challenge whatever ghods he chooses, but the methods he uses are hardly the proper way to win friends and influence people. ((They will get one talked about however. pwd.)) In respect to Anderson, I enjoy his work, though as with any author, there are works of differing levels reflecting not only the stage of his career when they were published, but also the effort he put into them. But still, Chris cannot deny the impact that he has had on SF. He babbles about right-wing philosophy. So what. Is he going to deny Anderson's right to expound his beliefs; to do so is to circumscribe his own. ((Well, here I must say that Chris strikes me as a holdover from the late 60's and the days of the New Wave where pro New Wave people inferred that anyone who liked Heinlein, Asimov, Anderson or a book with a coherent plot was a candidate for a lobotomy or responsible for Auschwitz. I resented that then and still do. pwd))

I do suggest that he take Arthur's warnings somewhat more seriously. Besides being abusive, a method that has never been known to placate the ghods, he calls his own sentience into question. Not by me, he does a decent enough job on his own merits. The whole letter sounds a little like the boy who was disciplined for shouting that the sky was falling. It is falling, Chris, but don't worry about it; there isn't room to save everybody anyway. Someday I am afraid Yog will call on you and deliver a message.

It seems to me that his argument regarding Anderson in the balance of his letter refutes itself. He says, "The attitudes of the 50s spawned Anderson." Well, of course they did. In turn his work must be viewed in terms of the 50s. To analyze a book written in 54 in terms of 79 is false and will inevitably lead to misleading assumptions. Should we say that Heinlein was wrong in his "Future History" by viewing his writing of thirty years time in terms of current passions? I suggest Chris stop reviewing apples and oranges in terms of one another.

((There is some truth to your statement. But I suggest that one cannot help viewing a book in terms of where we are now. Thus a book written to be "relevant" dates very badly. This is the reason updating a novel written 20 years ago is chancy. Poul Anderson explains the problem in THE BROKEN SWORD. The Poul Anderson who wrote the original is a different person and it did not seem fair to tamper with his work. This is the reason, I suspect, that so many fans did not like the rewritten BLOODY SUN. The person who originally wrote it no longer exists. Yet, in a basic sense you are right. One cannot expect a book written in 1952 to have current positions on women's or minority's rights. Such a book could not have been published even if it could have been written. pwd))

Who the hell wants to confront "reality" 24 hours a day? ((A confirmed masochist? pwd)) I don't. I enjoy reading about things and places medieval, just as I enjoy a good soap opera, as well as credible hard science stories. What I do not read are stories which are not internally consistent and those which burden me with reality. I see enough of all that very depressing reality with every step I take and therefore choose to escape for an hour or two. ((I'm not fond of reality either but find the medieval landscape even more depressing. I enjoy space opera, hard SF -- almost everything but medieval fantasy and sword and sorcery. pwd))

To be sure authors are not ghods. But they are people competent enough to say, "What if I play god for a moment and structure my universe in such a way that..." And when you realize that I think you will have a better perspective on things. ((I suppose those remarks are for me? I do not deny any author his/her creativity or ability to strike a responsive chord in others. However, I remember the feuds of the late 60s all too well, read back issues of SF REVIEW for the juicy details. I deny that any author has anything he/she could of necessity, advise me on, except writing technique. This is not to say that authors may not be pleasant people to know. pwd))

Scott Bauer  
128 Maureen Cir.  
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94565

I'm extremely pleased to see Anji Valenza and Frejac back in the pages of TIGHTBEAM. I've really missed their artwork (I averaged three smiles and a chuckle more on this issue over the previous two.)

Chris Martin's article ("There's a Revolution Going On") said nothing new, but it said it pretty well. And the subject is one which can bear repeating.

Rating the Darkover novels will always come down to personal preference, as there are four or five excellent ones. In rereading the entire series this summer, what struck me the most was the way in which Bradley introduced early in the series ideas which appear much later. Often in the early books they don't come off that well; either because of the type of plot they appear in, or because her writing at the time was not as good as it was to become. They are valiant attempts, and an indication of what she was to accomplish. Another thing that struck me was that THE WINDS OF DARKOVER seemed to be the book in which her writing began on the path that led to STORMQUEEN and FORBIDDEN TOWER. It is not just the writing, but the tone and the approach to the subject. I think it was the first book that showed how "special" the Darkover series was going to be. ((You are the only person who has had anything good to say about WINDS OF DARKOVER))

Duncan Lucas: I thought that what you said, I said; or that what I said, you said.

Vernon Clark: Please! Nothing stronger than "utterly ridiculous". After all, this is a ~~fannish~~ fannish zine. With this in mind, I would have to agree that James J. Wilson's opinion of Fritz Leiber is "execrable".

Chris Martin: I'm certainly glad you don't give a damn; I'd hate to run into you when you did. And don't feel bad that you have an "utterly ridiculous" opinion; I myself have plenty of them. They help to keep things interesting.

Chris Mills comes in for much more abuse than I do, and to save him some of the trouble of having to defend himself.... ((Especially as Yog seems to have eaten his TB. pwd)) It seems to me that as far as history goes, the body of work is unimportant. Every writer produces bad books. They fall rightfully by the wayside. Writers (and other artists) are judged on their best creations, not their worst, which is what I believe Chris was trying to point out. An example of this in the SF field is Stanley G. Weinbaum. His total volume of work contains more than a few weak stories, but they are unimportant when compared to the great ones he wrote, and on which his reputation is based. As for re-blanketing statements, we have your comment on living in California. 20 million John Birchers out here, right? As far as sentimentality goes, in film history we have the example of D.W. Griffith as someone whose films are filled with sentimentality (as well as half-baked rightwing philosophy). There are indeed flaws to his films, as there are flaws in many of Anderson's novels. Yet Griffith was a great filmmaker, and Anderson is a great writer.

Maybe I'll send you my next cheap ditto zine, Chris, and you can send me one of yours. I've seen DIO, as well as DIAGINAL RELATIONSHIP, and I think your comments on them are more than harsh, they're wrong. Oh well, at least you're optimistic. I see the attitudes of our country returning more and more to those of the fifties, not away from them. ((There are a few good points to say about the 50s: the crime rate was lower, inflation was 1 or 2%; gas was cheap; and there was full employment. Of course there were a few drawbacks too. pwd)) And the "fear of dissolution" theme would seem to be one infusing a great deal of Scandinavian literature, and not a personal "fear of death" on Anderson's part.

I would certainly agree that the best thing about the middle ages is that they are over, but medievalism as a "cancer in fandom"? I might buy a benign tumor, but not cancer.

((I'm glad to see there's someone out there who shares my distaste for the Middle Ages. I have not read much Scandinavian literature but I do remember that THE BROKEN SWORD, AN early Anderson novel set in Viking times, was very gloomy as is Hrolf Kraki's Saga. Certainly BEOWULF was not sweetness and light. pwd.))

Jane C. Raymer  
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Prescott, AZ  
86301

In the year I've been a N3F member I've seen such an advance in the production of the material you send out that I had to send note of my appreciation, thanks and envy. Makes my own state antiques production look rather nil, although it's better for having seen better. ((Thanks. This TB will be less quality-wise than

the Sept one but the Jan TB should be more like the Sept one. Maybe I should send you TB 1 or 2 so you can really see how far I've come.))

I expect you ate, in Brighton, at the same restaurant with the dog, that my daughter and I did. The Castle House. ((Yes)) The young woman who waited table was a science fiction reader, her favorite literature, who had never heard of fandom! We tried to rectify that.

As for dogs at the table... when we went to Mexico a few years back we took our dog and would tie him to the table leg at restaurants. It did not seem to bother anybody and he minded his manners.

Galileo on the back cover was neat.

I overheard MZB mention writing a book titled MISTRESS OF MAGIC, but I guess you know that. She was a member of our tour group, with son Patrick, having joined in Toronto too. ((I'm surprised you are giving me info then.))

Vernon Clark  
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37919

I like the other material in TB such as reviews, articles, etc. I don't like them as much when they force outletters or artwork. Use the reviews, etc. to fill out TB up to the limits advised by the president & Sec/Treas. The letters and artwork remain the meat of TB and I want it to stay that way. I hope you will stay on as edi-

tor of TB. I certainly don't want Grassell fucking up TB like he did TNFF, as I find TB far more important to my enjoyment of N3F than I do TNFF. ((Thanks. I plan to stay on at least through May. Donald Franson wants me to stay on also. But if/when I step down, the president, AT THAT TIME, appoints a new TB editor.))

Perry Glen Moore: I'd say you blew it when you read my comments in the May TB. I thought my one word sentence "Hopefully" displayed my reservations toward STAR TREK THE MOVIE portraying SF on the big screen. Your 'vaulted' examples of 2001 and STAR WARS were not good SF in this fan's mind. Closer to exercises in special effects for SPX junkies such as yourself. I voiced my ambivalent hopes in the STAR TREK movie because of the at the times noticeable concern for story values in the old series (one assuredly would not place hope in the cliched series pulp adventure format STAR TREK was originally crippled with). With the success of SW and CE3K I don't place a great deal of hope in STAR TREK not jumping on the 'danger every minute', 'What, 2 sec went by without a new SPX' syndromes. My votes for the ultimate SF movies would be THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL and FORBIDDEN PLANET.

A.D. Wallace: I agree with you that new definations for SF and fantasy should continuously appear. They serve as the common metaphor of disagreement for interaction between we lovers of the genre.

Anji Valenza: I agree with your pick for the best SF movie. I disagree with you reasoning against my statement on aliens. I'm sure that you and your 'horse' did not develop a relationship except after long hours together and after sharing many activities such as riding, grooming etc. Of course there is the so called 'urge' which causes one to select an animal for a pet. Nevertheless human beings and animals can develop relationships, because man is descended from animals himself. We are all creatures of the same planet, and basic environment. This common ground is what allows your relationship with your horse, me with my cat. Read some of the recent literature on studies of cetacean intelligence if you doubt what I say.



trast between this issue and #109. (Why does #20 follow #109?) ((Because #20 is the number of TBs done since the present editor took over. 109 is the total number of TBs)) I prefer the type used in this issue to the microscopic stuff in 109. I have fairly good eyesight so far and I have no desire to start wearing glasses now. I realize the smaller type helps to cut down on size and so saves some money on mailing, but I feel the inconveniences of trying to decipher each page without a magnifying glass far outweighs the economic factor.

I was also not content with the way the contest stories were presented. It is annoying to start reading a story set in one type face, only to have it switch to larger type on the next page. They should have started on page three to begin with, instead of being crowded onto page two. But since pwd assured Al Fitzpatrick that 109 was not a genuine sample of Tb's normal style, I'm assuming (with a great deal of relief) that future issues will be more like the September one. ((Or like this one. Mimeo is somewhat cheaper. pwd))

As for the question of the inclusion of reviews versus the all loc format, I favor leaving the reviews in. They serve more than just to summarize plots and to advance the reviewers' opinions of the book; they also generate response and discussion, which means more letters. Making TB an all letters zine would result in perpetual rehashing of the same issues over and over again. The reviews and occasional articles provide starting points for fresh ideas to enter the go-round. For example: there will be plenty of SF movies and tv shows this winter. I look forward to reading the reviews to see if my view of a movie differs or confers with the critics'. And if a review causes other fans to write in pro and con, so much the better.

Having earned a degree in history, and having been designated as the family sesquipedalian as a result, I was somewhat taken aback by A.D. Wallace's disgust with S&S/fantasy as expressed in his review of BORN TO EXILE. I am also left with the impression that Wallace was seeking out a new WAR AND PEACE. I have read several of Ms Eisenstein's Alaric stories, and while I don't consider them masterpieces by any means, I did find them entertaining. Perhaps the lack of coherent unity in the book can be traced to the fact that it is a collection of the stories rather than a novel. ((But it's being marketed as a novel. Doesn't the reader/reviewer have a right to judge it as a novel? pwd)) I also find the use of teleportation no more a conceit than starstones, lenses, rings, or magic swords. May I suggest, A.D., that you spend less time using three words that mean the same thing ("argot, lingo, jargon...") and more time improving your own writing. (See what I mean about reviews?)

I guess I may as well stick my two cents in on the Poul Anderson thing. It doesn't surprise me that some people don't care for his work. Everybody has his/her likes and dislikes. What I did find amazing was that somebody has pinned the hack label on him. Chris Martin is either the missing link between the Grinch and the human race, or he has this weird sado-masochistic streak. He certainly seems to be revelling in the uproar he caused. ("Exercrate me again, please! I love it when you exercrate me...") I won't add to his enjoyment by further aspersions on his literary taste. Personally, I like Anderson's fantasies better than his SF, although I have to admit to an affection for the Flandry stories. (I have to say that neither Roger Moore nor Dirk Benedict could play Flandry; the part was made for Errol Flynn who is permanently otherwise engaged.) The only part I find less than amusing was his branding a short story by Anderson "the usual half-baked right-wing philosophy." I had no idea we were back to using political philosophy as the criterion to be used when judging the worth of an author's work. Chris should know that yesterday's liberals are today's right-wingers. I wasn't old enough in the early 60's to know what was going on, but from what I've read and heard, the liberal intellectuals were the supporters of cultural imperialism in Viet Nam. By the end of the decade, they were called conservative intellectuals. I also find the theory that the fear of dissolution reflects Anderson's fear of death a somewhat cavalier, pseudo-intellectual idea. I think Chris should be a little less quick to look for hidden phobias; it's a historical (and human) fact that even in the most corrupt society, people would rather preserve the status quo than face the uncertainties of dissolution and anarchy. These are not always the majority but do form a significant segment of the population. In the universe that Flandry et al. inhabit, such a viewpoint would be expected of career people.

I would also like to point out to Chris that Anderson has already been around for thirty or so years. There aren't many of his generation of writers that have survived along with him. I tend to think that if he were truly the hack you think he is, he would have faded away long ago.

I agree that some people carry the medievalism bit too far. But to refuse to read MZB on the grounds that Friends of Darkover are medievalists is somewhat childish, Chris. (I see Anderson's involvement with the SCA is another black mark against him. Tsk, tsk.) To condemn an entire group of people because some people have difficulty in differentiating between fantasy and real life smacks of the worst kind of intellectual bogotry. There is nothing wrong with escapist activities as long as the person involved doesn't lose sight of real life. I have a friend who is active in a local colonial militia. The group dresses up and marches in parades and takes part in recreations of Revolutionary War battles. My friend also happens to teach history and is well aware that the real battles were far from the glorious things we fantasize. But he enjoys the group because it is an escape, albeit temporary, from the daily routine.

That, for me at least, is the joy of reading SF and fantasy. It's my way of winding down and escaping the tensions and frustrations of the day. Some people have to go a bit farther and be medievalists or Trekkies or whatever. And some of them can't deal with real life, so they go deeper and deeper into their fantasy world. They are, as pwd said, sick and need help, not contempt. A bit of tolerance might help, too. To label them ... "twonks, nards, flammers, twitches, and just plain weirdoes..." belittles yourself, Chris, because it shows you to be less of a free-thinker than you think you are. And by refusing to associate with or tolerate people who are fans of the various sub genres, you are only denying yourself the chance to meet some interesting people.

\* \* \* \* \*

Linda Frankel  
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Far Rockaway, NY 11691

TB's editorial is relevant to discussion in the first round of my suggestion s Robin. Eddie Anderson suggested abolishing TB altogether and establishing a letter page in TNFF.

You may have heard from him regarding that view. I hope there isn't much agreement among the membership. I like TB just the way it is and I told Don Franson so. I am not an admirer of clubzines in general. I usually find them dull. TB is an exception. Eliminate the reviews and literary discussions and you'd have nothing worth reading. I'm all in favor of keeping you in charge and letting you have a free hand just as you have in the past. As far as I'm concerned TNFF should be condensed, but TB is just fine. Not many editors are accomplishing as much as you are. I hope the members give you a vote of confidence.

Yes, Chris Martin does deserve the Harlan Ellison award for vituperation. If he had Harlan's talent, he'd be collecting accolades, but I fail to see why anyone is interested in what someone of his ilk has to say. There's an obvious contradiction in his letter. He claims that fans are imbued with a 50's mentality. Is that why Arthur upsets him? Is it really his 50's conventionalism that inspires so much of Mr. Martin's ire? I wouldn't be surprised if Chris Martin's own 50's mentality is responsible for his discomfort with THE DIAGONAL RELATIONSHIP.

Those who are aghast at the predominately mundane nature of Elizabeth Lynn's WATCHTOWER, would do well to read the second Tornor novel, THE DANCERS OF ARUN. This is not a direct sequel, but it is generally speaking a far stronger work. The intensity of the character relationships recalls A DIFFERENT LIGHT, Lynn's first novel. You will also find the element of psi. Her treatment of this owes much to other writers, but one can definitely describe the result as "a good read." I would like to see Lynn deal with a woman's viewpoint in a novel-length work, but I'm certain that she will eventually satisfy that expectation. ((I recently read MIND OF MY MIND which has a strong female lead character. It's by Octavia Butler. pwd.)) I can only wonder why her publisher makes such grandiose claims for her. THE DANCERS OF ARUN is scarcely "revolutionary", but it is a job well done on the part of Ms Lynn.

I thank Deirdre for her definition of fanac. It is sometimes all those things.

Felicitations to Rick Brown. May he discover all the joys of his gay identity. Those who are interested in examining the gay image in SF and fantasy, please contact me, by the way.

Agreed with Pat on Anderson. All writers do a certain percentage of hackwork. I can't think of a single major pro who hasn't written below par for "filthy lucre". If the patron system were re-established for writers, the necessity of such vulgar prostitution could be avoided. Any volunteer patrons?.

I am an anti medieval Darkover fan. It is possible to be interested in the series because it deals with the following issues: intercultural communication, parapsychology, interpersonal relationships, feminism, genetic manipulation, the dynamics of power, and identity conflicts between individuals. The Darkover novels are not insipid romantic tales of chivalry. If they were, I would scarcely care for them at all since I consider chivalry belittling to all concerned. Besides as Pat pointed out, there is no more unchivalrous period than the actual Middle Ages. What kind of farce the SCA folk think they're re-enacting, I don't know, but they seem to be rather harmless. I probably just lost my back up, SCAer Sharron Albert. Uh, hi friends!

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Sydney J. Davis        I've been in the N3F for a whole year and this is the first  
Ga Tech, Box 36160    letter I've written. (I guess I'm some of the deadwood). I  
Atlanta, GA 30332    joined because I knew Irvin and he made it sound very interesting.  
I had (and still have) problems with the first issues of TB and  
TNFF because I didn't know what was going on and they totally confused me. It's beginning to come together now. I think you've done a good job. I especially like the cartoons. My roommate (who's studying Aerospace Engineering) flipped out at the picture of the Galileo on the back of the Sept TB. She wanted me to frame it and put it on the wall. ((We hope to have another NASA backcover on the Jan TB. pwd))

Yes, I like the articles in TB and I intend to tell Donald Franson so, if I ever get around to writing him a letter.

The book review of DREAMSNAKE really surprised me. It reminded me of a short story I once read. ((The first part of DREAMSNAKE was published as a short story or novella in ANALOG and won a Nebula. That is the story you are thinking of. pwd))

I had the same feeling about the Darkover series as pwd. I think it was my disappointment with Zelazny's books that made me hesitate. But I finally picked one up (STORM-QUEEN) and liked it. So I read DARKOVER LANDFALL, and loved it. MZB can write after all. I know so often I read good stories, that get lost because I can see all the literary flaws in them. Some books just make me ache for a blue pencil (E.E. Smith in particular should have been sent to a creative writing course.)

Why was BLIND VOICES Tom Reamy's only novel. ((It was a first novel and was published after Reamy was killed in an auto crash. Before that Reamy published a fanzine. pwd))

Why shouldn't people write about the classics. If you spend a lot of time reading and enjoying a book, it's natural to fantacize about it, and try to engineer a way that you could go backward or forward and meet the characters. ((I wasn't aware that I said this was wrong. The writer of such novels had better be careful to get the author's permission or be sure that the material is in public domain or the writer could be hit with all sorts of legal problems on publication. Lynne.))

Laurraine Tutihasi: I've never met Harlan Ellison but I cannot stand his writing. There's too much anger in it for me to be comfortable. From what I've heard about him, he's too extravagant for my taste. (I'm basically rather conservative.)

I like Fritz Leiber's works -- especially his S&S.. What a lot of people consider cliches do not appear that way to me. Besides stereotypes can be a very useful literary technique. One which Leiber does not overuse.

I don't know what Sally Syrjala's question was, but I have to disagree with the answer. My roommate informed me that vaporized means "to amke into vapor", a laser does not change one element into another, nor change isotopes. A laser vaporizing atomic warheads would increase the volume of them and would not eliminate radioactivity, although it would spread debris into very small peices.

Paula Crunk: I felt nothing about getting a birthday card from someone I've never met. I don't think this is worth the trouble.

Question: What is a cult novel? I'd read McCaffrey anytine over Cherryh, who is too complex and grim for me. But this is just personal taste and from a literary point of view, what I've read by Cherryh is very good.

I'm ambivalent about Anderson. I like him but with reservations. Sometimes he goes over my head, (not heard to do but....)

I agree with Perry Glen Moore about everything he said. ((One thing that I've heard. I'm not sure just how true it is, is that Anne McCaffrey did not want WHITE DRAGON up for the Gandalf as she considered it SF, not fantasy. However there was a postal strike in Ireland which prevanted her from informing the con committee, or even learning that WHITE DRAGON was up for the Gandalf.))

A.D. Wallace: The best definition of SF I ever saw was from the Lincoln Library. That brand of fiction which deals with technology and its effect on people. This works especially well if you expand people to include aliens.

Roger Waddington's idea for attracting new members is excellent.

Duncan Lucas: I am very pessimistic about the STAR TREK movie. I see so many, many movies where the basic idea is good, but it gets perverted somehow. Like the idea behind THE FURY seemed supurb to me, but instead of carrying that into a well thought out dramatic presentation, it became an excuse for blood on the screen. It insulted me.

STAR TREK, the series, was much better than we had any right to expect, despite inconsistencies, low budget, over-acting, unimaginative TV networks etc. BATTLE STAR GALACTICA was better than I expected, so perhaps the STAR TREK movie will be also.

Sure, I could think out a true alien. I could not live as one, or truly adopt the views of one, anymore than I could those of a Chinese Communist. I could imagine, if I knew the influences and environment well enough, how such a being might think and react.

Rick Brown: I'm fascinated by parapsychology and convinced that I have some talent, and I noticed that most English teachers seem to resist SF.

Ouch! Chris Martin! I hope you never go to work on me. You really have a way with words. I think Dirk Benedict would make a great Flandry, but I really like Dirk Benedict.

Of course the Horatio Hornblower series is alike. It is, after all, one coherent series. AFRICAN QUEEN is not the same, nor is THE CAPTAIN FROM CONNECTICUT (although they have some similarities).

Avoiding reality is a way of coping, Not everybody is strong enough to face reality all the time, or interested in reforming the world. If medieval is how a person feels, or is the way they choose to express themselves, certainly our society is affluent to support that.

You certainly got very moralistic about it. Are you so sure you would like the kind of world the medievalists would create if they turned their energies toward changing the world, instead of enjoying themselves?

Pat Duncan: I really appreciated your down-to-earth comments. It gave another perspective to the issue. ((Thanks. Lynne'll drag me into fandom yet. pwd))

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Rick Brown                   First, I like the way TIGHTBEAM is now set up. When I first  
4510 Centre Ave            joined, I was a neo and had little idea of how fandom operated.  
Pittsburgh, PA            Through N3F I learned, especially through TIGHTBEAM as it was  
15213                       then and is now set up. TB resembles a genzine more than any-  
                              thing else; it gave me a chance to comment on at least some  
things intelligently -- the articles and reviews -- until I had enough background  
for me to figure out what was going on.

Since N3F is a major entry point into fandom, especially for neos, I say that they deserve a break. Keep TB understandable. Let's keep the articles.

Chris Martin: My how vitrolic. Medievalism is "a cancer in fandom." Tsk. You don't like Anderson and you don't want to read MZB. Fine. Let those of us who do, alone, since you apparently don't want to join us. As for the horrid (Gasp!) accusation of being "space cadets, fantasists...." as well as "an infantile preoccupation with costume and ritual," it bothers me not at all. If you ever bothered to check, the name of this organization is the National FANTASY (that's right. Fantasy -- what you have just so roundly condemned) Fan Organization.

Sure, I enjoy fantasy. I also enjoy well-written space opera. So what? I try not to preach. It's boring.

As for magic, I don't mind that deus ex machina, as long as the author doesn't drag it out suddenly and use it to shore up the plot or lack of one. All I require of a book is that it be competently plotted, well-written, and has good characterization, as well as being a "good read." But then, I enjoyed LORD OF THE RINGS, with its magic and all. So sorry you didn't.

Anji Valenza: Did we meet at a con recently? Because that is more of a true portrait of my behaviour at a con than anything I could write or say. I appreciated it.

Is it true that Chris Martin is a pseudonym for Don Rickles? (I apologize to all the Rickles fans out there.)

Perry Glen Moore: I never did like 2001. It may be fannish heresy but so be it. I found it boring. However, I will not try to stop you from liking it ~~like some people~~.

Lam: There have not been many movies where the "hero" was someone I would want to emulate since THE GRADUATE came on the silver screen. Too bad. Probably STAR WARS and SUPERMAN stood out as the best of what was offered -- which is not saying they weren't good, just saying they offered something that had been lacking in the movies for a loooooong time. (Sorry, Anji.)

Everybody: My tentative pubbing schedule is January 1980. I would appreciate such things as locs, articles and other varied contribs. Thanks in advance.

((If I had laran, I could consider sending something in. I guess I'm the redhead that got left out in the laran department. Though Anita Cole did mention her phenominal luck at blackjack that transcends good card sense. Hmmm. ))

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That's all for this issue. See those of you who renew in January where we will be discussing THE ALIEN, among other things. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and the best for Beethoven's Birthday. Happy New Year. 1980 is the Year of the Monkey.

# short takes

Greg Hills  
Wanganui, New Zealand

would happily bet it's the main reason many people remain in N3F, and the main reason others remain active.

Franson on making TB into a ~~stripzine~~ letters-only zine: NO!  
Thrice resoundingly I oppose the very concept of it! TB is one of N3F's main recruiting points at present. In fact, I

You're all going about Chris Martin the wrong way. The way to handle his kind of neurosis is not to leap all over him -- that's what he wants! He actually gains pleasure from being insulted! No, the thing to do is to treat him with luv'n'kisses and otherwise ignore him -- don't react to his more frenzied attacks.

A.D. Wallace  
Metairie, LA

As a very junior member of the great organization and conceal the big stick. I wrote to Donald Franson that I was possessed of some dubity as to the virtue of a letterzine, but that I would defer to the experience of my seniors. My preference is for a genzine more or less along the lines of TB 20 but I shall roll with the punch.

Brian Earl Brown  
Detroit, MI

Chris Martin -- Bill Bridget, why do these names link together? John Shirley, Piers Anthony, Harlan Ellison.... They're all hot heads and a bit foolish in their feuds. So the man doesn't like Poul Anderson; I don't like Jack Chalker. What of it? Some folk actually like Lin Carter. Only a tyrant would insist that everybody like the same things.

It takes only one Chris Martin to disprove that fans are slans. In fact I've seen some pretty strange fans at conventions, but that hasn't stopped me from going to them. It is really sad to see someone take fandom as seriously as Martin has. Fandom is just a goddamn hobby, goddammit!

Cathy Howard  
Louisville, KY

I have received TIGHTBEAM. It was my first experience with a fanzine and I loved every page of it. Donald Franson's full of it.

A wholly letter-orientated zine wouldn't be as interesting. Not that I have anything against letters -- I just like variety. I do hope you continue as editor.

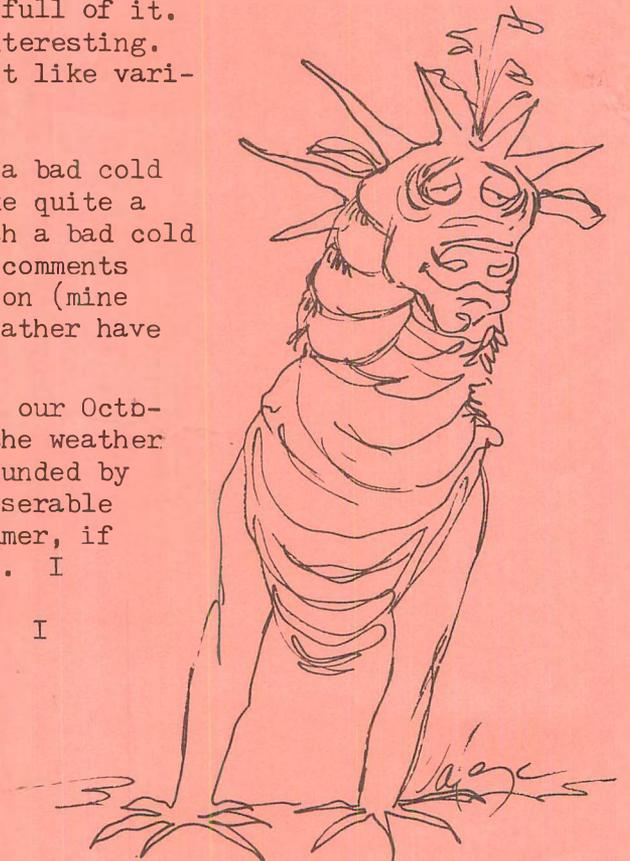
Al Fitzpatrick  
Selby, North Yorkshire

Not another person with a bad cold after SeaCon! Seems like quite a few people went down with a bad cold or flu after the con or so I'm led to believe by comments made by those I heard from who also went to the con (mine among them). Could our beautiful sunny summer weather have something to do with it?

((Summer weather, ha! I encountered weather like our October weather when I was in Brighton. And as for the weather in Scotland.... I think the British Empire was founded by people seeking any excuse to get away from the miserable climate. Scotland is the country that has no summer, if the August weather we encountered was any example. I can see where umbrella makers and rainwear makers would get rich. It rained every day I was there. I like some rain but really....))

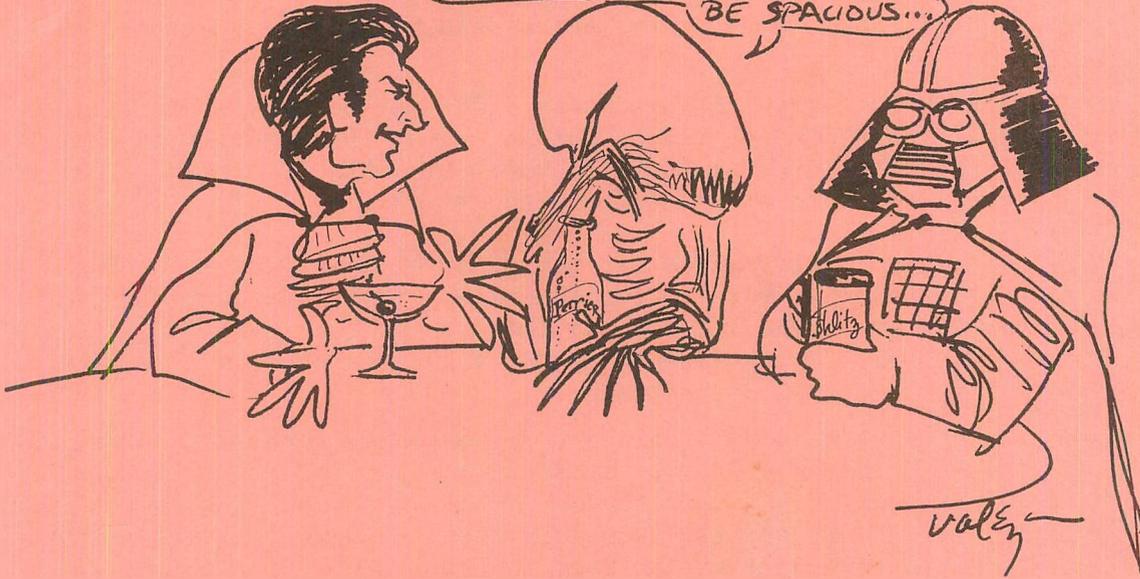
Illo by Anji Valenza →

An "X" here means that this is your last issue of TB unless you renew. \$6.00 to Janie Lamb, Rte 2, Box 272, Heiskill, TN 37754



...YSEE, VADER'LL BUILD THE STATIONS & GET 'M  
ATTACKED, YOU GET TO KILL EVERYONE,  
AND I CAN BLEEDIEM DRY! WADIA SAY?

WELL, THE AIR VENT'S BETTER  
BE SPACIOUS...



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