



TIGHTBEAM

AH, YES, THIS IS IT! This, dear friends out there in neffer-neffer land is the 26th grand and glorious issue of TIGHTBEAM. TIGHTBEAM, the official NFFF Forum wherein you can have your say--provided you don't have a hard-nosed editor--about this and that and sometimes the other. TIGHTBEAM, an official publication of the (fanfare) National Fantasy Fan Federation, Donald Franson, President, and J. Stanley Woolston, Chairman of the Directorate. (Say, what ever became of the Directorate anyway?) This issue of TIGHTBEAM is edited and published by Roy Tackett (Please, no applause, just votes) with the able assistance of Chrystal Tackett and comes to you from 915 Green Valley Road NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87107, USofA. TIGHTBEAM 26 is a Mari-nated Publication with the new double filter and pop top top.

Featured inside you will find you and you and you and why didn't ye hear from YOU? Editorial comments, if any, (if any? IF ANY? Oh, hehehehehehehehehe) will be enclosed in double parentheses and underscored ((like this)).

Quiet now as it is time for the editorial. Ahem.

EDITORIAL

Why not?

26

JULY, 1964

TIGHTBEAM 27
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Co-editors
Lee & Ira Riddle
P. O. Box 681,
Newark, Delaware
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Richard H. Eney
417 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22307
Deadline: 15 October

RENE

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

It is always amusing to me, busily enjoying fandom, to read how "worthless" some people think it is. Nothing is worthless that the doer enjoys doing, and if one or two others get benefit from it, so much the better. It is sometimes said that fandom has No Purpose. Neither has the Universe--so what? If you don't like it--get out. Go Somewhere Else.

Instead of complaining about other fans and how they fall short of perfection by not doing what you want done, why not just do some of what you want done yourself, and maybe set an example?

For instance, I make author indexes because I need them, and they don't exist in exactly the form I want. I have the first Day Index, 1926-50, but 1950 is a long time ago. When the second Day Index comes out (if ever) it will be five years out of date. When I want to find a story in a magazine I usually know the authors name (even if not the year or magazine) and so author indexes are all I need. They are simple and easy to make and not so hard to keep up. Though adding story titles, pseudonyms, etc., would make these indexes more complete, it would also make them much more bulky, expensive and time consuming, and time is the element that usually defeats us.

The large indexes have publishing problems. Did you know the Day Index, 1951-60, was all compiled by early 1961? (I didn't even know one was in the works.) It's just the publishing that's taking all the time.

Some of the comments on my indexes in N'APA consisted of amazement at the amount of research and work I had done. The only thing hard is the publication; I'm already two indexes (IF and FU) ahead. The simple way I do it is not hard. I just get a middle-sized notebook of at least 26 pages; then I get a complete set of magazines, grab the first one and go down the contents page (yes, I know they are sometimes wrong) and write the names of the authors on the proper pages, with the notation of the date. When I've indexed the last magazine, I alphabetize the names and then type up the list. Since I will publish the list I recheck it from the magazines once again, then stencil and proofread them. I would run them off myself if I were an expert mimeographer. Fortunately I have some friends who are and I run it through N'APA, killing two or three birds with one stone. Fred Patten runs it off; it adds at least six pages to the mailing; I save my membership; and I get extra copies to send to others who request them. In other words, I make the indexes for myself, and publish them to share them with others.

My motto is "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush". Would you rather have an index now that enables you to locate stories with a minimum of effort, or a complete index sometime in the far future?

Anyway, the point that I've drifted away from is that fandom is fun, fandom is useful, and fandom is only a drag if you work too hard or worry too much. If you can manage to cut down on fanac without cutting it out altogether, you won't have time to do anything but enjoy it.

TAKUMI SHIBANO ((Exerpts from a couple of letters from the Director of the Uchujin Club which is affiliated with NFFF.))
118 O-OKAYAMA,
MEGURO-KU,
TOKYO, JAPAN

I visited Osaka and Gifu City at the last of March and consulted with Yasutaka Tsutsui of the Null Club and Den Yoshimitsu of the Mutants Club about holding the 3rd Japanese SF convention in Osaka. The 1st (MEG-CON) and the 2nd (TOKON) were held in Tokyo and I was willing to have a Pan-Pacificon this year in connection with Oakland but after discussion with a few friends we decided that our fan-power is not strong enough yet for such as that and decided to have this year's convention in Osaka. We expect it will be smaller than the TOKON and will be held July 26th.

We feel that SF fandom in Japan is progressing gradually but not as well as we should expect. We still have only one prozine and the publication of SF books and magazines seems not a good undertaking here although many newspapers and magazines give us mention very often. We feel that we are attracting attention but no real progress is being made. What do you think of the situation?

CLAYTON HAMLIN
SOUTHWEST HARBOR,
MAINE

Last issue I asked for information on the plan to publish an index of the Lensman stories. Ron Ellick answered me--in great detail--but since the news is Ron's, and mighty good news it is, I will let him make any announcements that are necessary.

It wouldn't be right to jump the gun on him. (You jump the gun on Ellick and it is liable to go off.)

I would like to go further with this, if there is any interest. (Seems to me that the coast of Maine is about as far as you can go.) You probably know that there is a group of Burroughs fans, the Burroughs Bibliophiles. There is a Fellowship of the Ring for those remarkable books by Tolkein. The Conan stories are represented by their own group, and so, too, is Sherlock Holmes. But none for our own Doc Smith and wouldn't you say that he is just as deserving of attention as any of the rest? I would.

So I propose a Doc Smith fan club along the lines of all those others. There will be a regular publication, considering, of course, that there is interest in this. How regular it might be depends on the interest. (If you call this club the Children of the Lens I'll scream.)

Right now I'm working on an index that is definitely NOT included in any of the work Ron is doing. This will be of Spacehounds of IPC. Included will be a long article, maybe you would call it a thesis (I wouldn't.) which will attempt to show that this book is actually a preliminary of the Lensman epic. Not a part of the Boskonion conflict, no, but the prehistory of the Lensman universe. It will show not only the data in favor of this theory but also the discrepancies between that book and the Lens books.

Depending on time available, I may start working on articles on such subjects as Doc Smith as a humorist (the Ganthrips of Ollenole, Quadgop the Mercotian, even Wild Bill Williams in places.) There are more like this. It is an aspect of these stories you seldom see mentioned and deserving of attention.

I'm sure lots of you can think of plenty of ideas worthwhile of being considered and published. And if there might be some fan editor or publisher who might consider doing occasional publishing, by all means get in touch with me. I will gladly arrange to finance such a publication.

No dues, of course, all it takes is interest.

Seeing as how this is likely to be rather time consuming for me I won't be running for the Directorate again this year. This seems more important to me as well as more interesting. Care to join me? By all means write and let me know.

(Hey there, old thing, congrats on the success of the story contest. And to the winners, too. When I denounced the contest as useless I had no idea there was any possibility of the yarns being pubbed in a prozine. My impression was that the winners would be pubbed in a (goshwow) fanzine. I hope you push through your plan for a Writer's Bureau for it would be useful and help to consolidate various things under one department. Reorganize there, Don Franson.)

IDA IPE
1625 E. INDIANOLA AVE.,
YOUNGSTOWN,
OHIO 44502

(Ida mostly repeats her letter from Kreuger's TB about the story quads, announces she is now heading up the pro- and adds:)

There will be 6 robins with 5 members each when we reach quota. The robins will start however with the number we have by the end of July. I'm not going to wait forever till the number is reached so whoever volunteers after robins are launched will be put on a waiting list. And if someone doesn't want to do his chapter it would be wise to send it on and not drop in the nearest wastebasket. This is quite rude and spoils the robin for those who want to do their part. These robins will be kept entirely within the ranks of the N3F.

When the first chapter of a story is done a copy will be sent to each participant. I will also receive a copy so that I might have some idea of where we stand.

At the end of the round then, we will all have a full copy of our particular story. A copy of all contribs will then be sent to the publisher. There will be a month and a half deadline for each round and those who do not make it will be left out of the zine.

Now if there are any of you hesitating in writing to me--I want you to stop it and get that typer working before the end of July.

I have just one more thing to say--the N3F has lost its most active fan with the resignation from the robins and fanzine clearing house of Seth Johnson. I would also like to express my sincere sympathy to Seth at the loss of his mother.

GREG SHAW
2545 LEXINGTON WAY
SAN BRUNO,
CALIF., 90295

In Krueger's TB I had been seeing many references to Eric Blake in #23, but wasn't sure what they meant until I saw his letter in this. Eric, you are a fanatic! "the Passion of Our Lord", "the Virgin Birth", indeed! You sound like these old men who wander around the streets singing hymns and yelling, "Repent! The world ends next Thursday and Jesus is going to send all you sinners to the devil!" Now I happen to be an athiest. (One of the weirder Christian sects.) But I am perfectly willing to calmly discuss theology with anybody and I respect the beliefs of religious people. The point I am arguing with here is not your religious beliefs but that you damn Heinlein because he writes something that disagrees with the precepts of your own beliefs. What about the millions of people who do not believe in Christ? All the Muslims, the Hindus? (Jesus is a Muslim prophet and occupies a minor place in the Hindu pantheon.) Are they all sinners, heretics? You are welcome to argue with Heinlein if he preaches against Christianity, to ask him to defend his arguments. But Heinlein is not wrong, he is not an evil person for disagreeing with the Bible. And anyone who thinks so is nothing but a crank, a religious fanatic, and a crackpot. Enough said. This makes me ill. ("..and I respect the beliefs of religious people") The attack on Seth Johnson. You people should be ashamed of yourselves. And especially those who say he should be "thrown out of fandom". (Who said that?) Seth is a better fan, and has done more for fandom, than a good many of you, I'll wager. Admitted he might have been wrong. But do you think he intentionally did wrong? It was an honest mistake and he even admitted it. I'm not so sure that he was that wrong. His attackers say that he gave fanatical political groups reason to believe that N3F as a group supports them. (Prove that statement, Greg.) Did they assume this or use it in their propoganda? Not the way I heard it. The issue is that a few fans assumed that somebody might take Seth's letterhead to mean this. For such a thing they seriously suggest that he be kicked out? For shame! (Slow down, Greg, 'cause you're way off base. NOBODY attacked Seth Johnson for anything. There were protests against his endorsing the NATIONAL GUARDIAN on club letterhead, giving an implication of endorsement by the club AND the attaching of the subscription coupon to the bottom of the letter thereby using the club letterhead for commercial purposes. Seth admitted he erred, apologized to the club and the matter is closed. Leave it that way.)

Phil Kohn: I agree with you to a certain extent. Granted a person in a totalitarian country could get in trouble for reading and possessing literature that sometimes contains opinions contrary to the opinion required in that country. But to refuse a person membership without his having any say in the matter is going too far. As Art said, the man is old enough to decide what he should do and I'm sure he realizes the possible risk involved. Would a person risk his life to read fanzines? I doubt it. It seems reasonable that he believes he is safe in joining N3F. Possibly he has an OK from the authority. Perhaps he can explain that he is just a science fiction fan (That I'd like to hear). Spain is a member of the UN, the US has bases in Spain, and we have given them financial aid. Unless drastic changes have taken place since 1960, the government, it seems to me, would not be too harsh to its citizens. I think, Mr Kohn, you are making a big to-do about not so much.

JOHN BOSTON
816 S. 1ST ST.
MAYFIELD,
KY., 42066

I think that Norm Metcalf is suffering from a case of one-sidedness. The appeal of fandom for me, and probably for a large percentage of fandom, lies in the fact that the people who are active are for the most part intelligent, open-minded, and concerned about

things which the man in the street ignores--philosophy, politics, literature, etc. ((The reason the man in the street ignores these is he is too busy trying to keep from getting hit by a car.)) It is these people who develop a true appreciation for SF as a literary form, and become fans. ((He ought to get out of the street.)) But this doesn't mean that they will as a consequence be possessed of, or afflicted with a single-minded passion for the reading and discussion of SF to the exclusion of all other topics. Personally, I enjoy the political discussions in KIPPLE as much as the SF discussions elsewhere.

GEORGE FERGUS; I don't believe your statement that "a Neffer cares" is the height of intelligence, just because it is a blanket statement. Also, all you say about Neffers may be true, but this does not prove that non-Neffers don't "care". I imagine that there are plenty of non-Neffers who care enough about other people to be anxious to meet, listen to and talk with fans outside his own small circle of friends". ((Haw. It was only a few years ago that the N3F was a place where nobody cared to meet anyone outside their own circle.))

David Patrick may have been given the cold shoulder by the Establishment, but I think I qualify as a novice and I've never noticed anything of the kind. Maybe I'm insensitive. ((You're a clod.))

In connection with the plan to swap SF material with the Birmingham group, any member of the SF Book Club may purchase two copies of any selection. ((This is as good a place as any for me to thank Hank Luttrell, Fred Jackson, Rosemary Hickey, and all the rest who responded to that idea. It seems to be working.))

ELAINE WOJCIECHOWSKI Phil Kohn: I take exception to yur remarks in TB 25. 4755 N. KEYSTONE AVE., Apparently you do not approve of the thoughtfulness generated CHICAGO, ILL. 60630 by a birthday remembrance. What is the matter with you? Do you feel bitter because you have had a bit of bad luck lately or are you just feeling mean? The tone of your letter suggests anger, or at the least, discontent.

Do you really believe the small amount of money involved could be better spent? At the present membership the cost of postage is about \$15.00, a tiny price to pay for the pleasure it can bring.

Your birthday is July 15. Your greeting card will have to be sent via airmail. Although I live in a large city the nearest post office is more than a mile away. I will take your card to the post office to be weighed, pay the additional postage out of my own pocket and hope it will arrive on your birthday. Yes, it's a bother sometimes, but as long as I don't mind, why should you?

Isn't it nice that someone remembered, someone cared to share your natal day with you? ((Yes. I appreciated the thought behind the card I received. Thanks.))

JOHN KUSSKE, JR. ((John plugs his fmz, MICKEY, available for 10¢ per copy))
522 9th AVE, WEST, Dave
ALEXANDRIA, MINN. Kirk Patrick has a rare talent for saying things in the most obnoxious way. I believe such nasties as Dave are good for the club.
56308 It is when they start making sense, as Dave has, that they become just another fan.

Personally, I don't give a damn if we recruit new fans at all. After one has been exposed to sf for a few years he finds that the field is actually morbid.((?)) Despite what is said about sf being the literature of new ideas I've found most of the stories are mere rewrites of earlier epics. To expect fandom to discuss sf even occasionally is almost too much. It's much more interesting to talk about how Mr. So-and-so got drunk at the last con and approached Miss X. Maybe such talk is not Mentally Elevating, but it is fun and that is primarily what most fans are interested in. Now I will be attacked viciously from all sides by David Kirk Patrick. ((In other words what you're looking for is a cheap vicarious thrill. You can get that from any skin book, Kusske, and have all sorts of "fun."))

G. M. CARR
5319 BALLARD AVE, NW,
SEATTLE, WASH. 98107

((Gem congratulates Seth Johnson on winning the Kaymar Award and thinks all the fuss is a tempest in a teapot.))

As to Phil Kohn's suggestion that N3F set up a Dictatorship to decide who can join N3F and who can't on the basis of whether or not Phil Kohn likes the kind of government said prospective member has --this is one of the most revolting ideas I've seen for a long time. I am very glad to endorse Art Hayes' editorial comments on this suggestion. I, too, think it is up to the member himself whether or not to join N3F and take his chances with whatever kind of Gestapo his government may or may not have. After all, it's HIS government, not ours. And his neck, too. If he wants to risk it, that's HIS decision and HIS privilege. It's the intolerant, bigoted, "I-do-this-only-for-your-own-good" type of meddlers, like Phil Kohn, who end up being the "Big Brother Is Watching You" if they are not stopped--but firmly--before they get a chance to get started.

There's one thing I can't understand: why is it that the kind of mentality which jumps up and down screaming "Censorship!" if a group of parents try to clean up the filthy pornography on newsstands where their kids can't avoid stumbling over it while looking for the latest GALAXY or ANALOG, are the first to rush forward when it comes to an attempt to censor people? These self-righteous types that are always wanting to bar somebody else from the pleasure of their society apparently never heard that Freedom of Choice includes the right to make one's own mistakes? ((In which case why crusade to clean up the newsstands? YOUR reaction to Phil Kohn's suggestion surprises and delights me. I thought you and he were close politically.))

ED BRYANT
300 PARK AVE.,
WHEATLAND,
WYO., 82201

((Ed announces that his fmz AD ASTRA is not defunct, "merely dormant", due to being fafia.))

Mr. Kohn's suggestion that the NFFF bar memberships to citizens of Communist or totalitarian countries was perhaps the most intriguing item in the previous Tightbeam. Adopted and carried to a ridiculous extreme, it could mean that we Nef-fers will be in a few years (circa 1984) signing loyalty oaths in order to renew our memberships. True, this is an exaggerated example. In a more reasonable light, it might occur that a given NFFF administration could use the membership political limitation as a personally biased weapon. ((Do you swear that you are not now and never have been a follower of Tyrannical Al Lewis?)) After all, most countries can be rationalized onto any sort of list (I am perhaps thinking of the socialistic situation across the Atlantic in which our friends Alan Dodd and others live). No, let's admit such members as Dr. Dupla and kick them out only when they show overt signs of belonging to the Communist faith. I'm sure that the vaunted intellectuals in our ranks are capable of recognizing even the most subtle taint of Communism or other undesirable ideology in the correspondence or publications of red-bloc members. ((We have no "red-bloc" members.))

ROBIN WOOD
BOX 154
AMADOR CITY,
CALIF. 95601

I suppose everybody knows that with issue 174, CRY is no more. ((I weep.)) So that leaves TIGHTBEAM, letterzine wise, so far as I know. I notice in the last TB (which finally arrived) that the deadline is either June 1 or June 15. Am hoping it is June 15 as I didn't receive my copy til June 2, which makes it difficult to make the deadline. I thought perhaps typing at the speed of light might do the trick, but I only reached a fraction of that speed before the typer began to overheat....((The deadline for any issue of TB is set by the Directorate as the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication, i.e., the deadline for the Sep ish will be 15 Aug. This is a By-Law and can be changed only by the Directorate, not by individual editors. Hayes erred.))

Alma Hill's writing thing sounds very interesting, however, I have not seen Mathew Drahan's story, which sort of puts the kahenas to commenting on it.

I could bitch about how long it took me to get the last TB. The last one I saw was dated Dec 63, and needless to say, was sort of oldish. I got that when I first joined N3F back

in March. Anyhow, nothing happened for a good while. I finally got one Welcommittee letter, not counting Dwain Kaiser's and the only way he found out I'd joined was that I mentioned it in a letter. So far I seem to know just about as much about N3F as when I joined. I'm supposed to be in on a round robin (Robin in a robin?) but have heard naught from it. Someday I suppose everything will pile in at once, but, darnn, things are moving slow. By the time I find out what it's all about, I'll owe dues again. Egad. (Egad is right. BAILES and KATZ: this is your department. Get busy)

As far as somebody in a totalitarian land like Spain or Cuba or Mississippi getting TIGHTBEAM and taking a chance of getting awakened at three ayem for reading subversive literature...as was said, that's his risk. Tho I could hardly see anything too political in TB. If you start censoring TB with one or two such readers in mind, it won't stop there. Pretty soon you'll decide something else is just a mite offensive to some little group, and so on and on, until you end up with something on the order of Dick and Jane. See Dick Run. See Jane Run. Look at the Dog. This is Spot. Spot is the Dog. Bow Wow Wow. Ridiculous. In all honesty, can you ever say you heard a dog go Bow Wow Wow? I dunno if you learned how to read on Dick and Jane books, but a good portion of the nation does and believe me it is a horrible disillusionment, as a small child, to realize that it's all lies. Dogs actually go WOOF WOOF and ARF and like that.

C. W. "NED" BROOKS
911 BRIARFIELD ROAD
NEWPORT NEWS,
VIRGINIA 23605

The March TB was pretty poor, especially the repetition, but I gather that it was put together on short notice. There were really only three things in it: the NATIONAL GUARDIAN squabble, the question Phil Kohn raised on the danger to people in totalitarian countries joining NFFF, and the letter from Peter Weston of the Birmingham SF Group.

As for the NAT. GUARDIAN, I can't see what all the fuss is about. I did think the letter from Johnson a little odd, but it did not bother me in the least. All this talk of feuds and "handling the matter carefully" and not letting things "leak out to the general membership" is tiresome. I'm a part of the general membership and I want to know anything worthy of note that happens, even if only to glance at it and decide I'm not interested. (Directorate themesong: "Nobody's business but our own.")

I had not known before that the N3F had an "unwritten law" to exclude anyone even suspected of being a communist and I am very sorry to hear it. Shades of Sen. McCarthy! If our Spanish member is to take his chances with being persecuted for the opinions that someone else writes to TB, it seems to me that the US members should be willing to take whatever infinitesimal risk may exist here. If anyone can lose his security clearance for belonging to a nonpolitical organization like NFFF where there is such a fantastic diversity of opinion and probably half the members are not even old enough to vote, then this country is indeed in a bad way. I have a security clearance and I am quite willing to risk the opinions of anyone that wants to join the NFFF. Everytime an organization backs down from these questions of freedom of speech and freedom of association, and allows itself to be intimidated, our principles of liberty are eroded a little bit more and we come a little closer to orwell's 1984. It's less than 20 years now--well within most of our lifetimes.

I'm now head of the NFFF Collectors Bureau and want to hear from anyone who collects anything fannish. Just a postcard with name, address, and field of interest will do although I welcome all letters, suggestions, etc. (Hayes' assumption of an unwritten law barring anyone even suspected of thinking communistic stems from last year. We were considering negotiating arrangements with various stf clubs throughout the world similar to what we have with BSFA. We considered the International SF Society headquartered in Vienna also but rejected it. There had been talk in Germany and Britain that ISFS was a red front and we considered this. Primary reason for not going along with ISFS, however, was that Scudla, the Director, insisted that the only arrangement he would accept was for N3F to join ISFS and pay dues to that organization. Hayes was our contact with ISFS and informed as to our reasons for turning them down & since I did mention the red front talk I presume that's where he got the "unwritten law" idea.)

BUCK COULSON,
ROUTE 3,
WABASH, IND.,
46992

First, Phil Kohn's proposition. He makes it sound all nice and altruistic, but what it comes down to is a request to deny membership to people because they happen to be Spaniards, or Portuguese, or residents of any other country he happens to feel is "totalitarian". I am against any such idea. In fact, I will

not remain a member of any club which discriminates against Spaniards--or even one which discriminates against Jews.

As for Harriett's idea, I fully agree that today's stf isn't as good as that of, say, the 1940s, but I doubt that having authors write what they enjoy writing is any solution. There are thousands of people who "write what they like". Some of them like it so well they even pay to have it published by vanity presses, and some of these are SF and fantasy. I've read a few, and they are without doubt the most abominable trash imaginable. Writing what you like doesn't do a bit of good unless you know how to write. The major problem is that many fans--those who long for the "good old days"--expect their authors to be accomplished story tellers ((Yeah)) and very few of today's authors are. How can they be? The pulps are gone and the slicks want "modern" writing based on psychological gimmicks, and the creative writing classes study Joyce and Miller. No wonder the N3F story contest sold two stories professionally! Fans aren't very good story-tellers when stacked up against ex-pulp writers like Heinlein, Anderson, Leinster, etc., but they know as much about it as anybody else coming up to day. So fans write what they like and the best of them sell because they don't have much effective competition and the readers complain about the results and sigh for the good old days. ((Buck suggests that Nefers trading books with Britifens would do well to get backishs of NEW WORLDS, SCIENCE FANTASY, SF ADVENTURES, and NEBULA.))

MARC CHRISTOPHER
BOX 132,
BEVERLY SHORES,
IND., 46301

Phil Kohn's idea on limiting membership. You'll notice that he said to check first if the person in doubt could be harmed in some way. He was thinking of that particular person not us. Then I read that there is an unwritten law among the Directors that we are not to allow Communists in. I was now ready to shout political discrimination to the skys when Art Got the point over to my thickheaded thinking.

I'm a pretty liberal person and it seems to me that to be a conservative is to like things as they are. But it seems to me that the conservatives are mostly Birchers and instead of protecting the Constitution they want to destroy it. And it turns out that liberals are the ones who stand up for the constitution. It's all very confusing. ((Yes.)) So if it is our job to protect the Constitution, then protect we must.

What I'm driving at is than any legislation against Communists is a clear violation of the Constitution. I was quick to condemn because of this. However, I was set to thinking that in the not too distant future I might be applying for officer's training when I get out of high school and what would happen if they...I decided this was entirely possible after what happened to Al Andriuskevicius. ((What's possible? What happened to Andriuskevicius?)) Also this could be a reason for the extermination of the N3F, we could be labeled a Communist organization and thusly declared subversive. It could happen very easily. They are a bunch of muddleheaded people in Washington after all.

One exception, the people of Spain are not considered to be so terribly oppressed anyhow. And, it must be remembered that a dictatorship is one of the most efficient governments that can be devised. ((Are you saying this is good? They are muddleheaded in Beverly Shores, too.)) I read in the SATEVPOST that Spain isn't the police state it is made up to be. I wonder what Phil has to say about his own country, tho. I hear they aren't so all fired Democratic in Israel either.

I wish we would wise up some time. If and when we defeat the Russkies or Communists if you prefer we will have to face up to some other menace, like new facism arising someplace or internal problems. We must fight totalitarianism everywhere, and the only way we can do that is through a World government. Things are such as they are, that individual

sovereignty is for the birds! The only government that can work any longer is a World government. We will either have that or nothing! And it will all come about in this century. Either complete destruction or world-wide rule. Make your choice now!

JERRY POURNELLE
B2-1210
AEROSPACE CORPORATION
SAN BERNADINO, CALIF.

Re: Phil Kohn's concern about the beknighted heathen of Spain. I should have thought that Art Hayes was exactly right—it is not the proper subject of the Directorate to worry about the effects, if any, on the recipient of N3F materials, so long as the recipient in question has asked for it. Furthermore, although I am not so well informed about Spanish politics as some experts among us, I have been given to understand that the major concern of the Government (is it properly called a Regency, Dr. Dupla, or is Generalissimo Franco Chief of State in his own right?) was the preservation of peace and order, and the prevention of a renewal of the Civil War. The means chosen to accomplish this end are not those which would have been chosen by the older English states, nor are they now as severe as those chosen by some of the newer English succession states such as Ghana. I had been given to understand that dissemination of material which is defined as subversive by the relevant authority was considered criminal, and that in order to make prosecution more effective, possession of such material was also made a crime, much as possession of narcotics is a crime in the US; but that there was no general persecution of other-wise law-abiding citizens (citizens or subjects--which would it be, in the case of a Monarchy with a vacant throne?) Perhaps I am wrong, but I doubt very seriously if Dr. Dupla is in any danger, no matter how inflammatory and anti-Franco material might be in N3F publications (and I am not sure I recall very many such articles recently) until and unless he chooses to circulate such material to others.

For that matter, should we drop Illinois from the list of places which are OK to have members from? I recall that in Illinois a group was prosecuted not long ago under a state statute which makes it a criminal offense to circulate literature which disparages or defames any racial group. One prosecution was instituted against an anthropological report. Thus, if someone wrote an article or letter claiming that, say, Bushmen were congenitally less intelligent than other races (an assertion I do not make but include merely as an example) and an Illinois fan showed this to someone else, why N3F has contributed to breaking the law. To protect those fans, perhaps we should quietly drop them from membership. (Illinois residents may now protest there is no such statute. I don't know; there used to be one and, given time, I can dig up the case citation.)

Then there is the problem of the list of countries which are defined as Totalitarian. I am afraid that I cannot accept Mr. Kohn's list as it stands. Not only do I have a few grave doubts about the inclusion of Portugal--which certainly is no democracy, but which may not be totalitarian; depending on both your definition and your source of information, and possibly, which Province of Portugal you are speaking of--but I am sure that, given RSA, Portugal and Spain as examples there ought to be other countries included.

The Republic of South Africa, for all that its practices depart enormously from those to which we in the Anglican tradition are accustomed, has not seen fit to jail its Chief Justice for acquitting people and then to jail those acquitted anyway--something which Osegyefo ordered recently in Ghana. Even Mr. Kohn's Israel may be susceptible to the Addressat Unbekannt method in reverse; I suspect that he might be at least a little uncomfortable if we started sending him G.L.K. Smith's stuff, or American Nazi Material.

No, since Dr. Dupla has chosen to join a bunch of screwballs like N3F, he like all the rest of us will have to take his chances on the discretion and common sense of the membership, or else cancel. I certainly want no part of refusing a man membership "for his own good." ((Jerry continues that he doubts that the security agencies are concerned with such organizations as N3F; that when he explained it OSI agents either marked down "fraternal" or deleted it altogether. I mostly forgot to listit myself figuring that nobody would believe in it anyway.))

Editors next issue: Lee and Ira Riddle. Deadline for letters: 15 August.

IDA IPE Please put a PS at the bottom of my letter telling the readers to ignore the letter in the March TB. So many things have changed that the material is no longer of any use. ((This is the only uncut letter is this issue.))

JEFF COLE
3932 N. KENNETH
CHICAGO, ILL.
60641

I'm wondering how any person could call STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND blasphemous. It seems to me that Eric Blake is just looking for things to label as blasphemy. I don't know how many Christians he knows that regard SIASL the same way he does, but most of the people I know who have read it, think of it as an excellent book. ((Ah, but are they Christians?)) Perhaps Mr. Blake could explain why the book won the Hugo. He goes on to recommend SAVAGE PELLUCIDAR for a Hugo. In my opinion ERB was one of the worst sf writers that ever lived. ((He wrote fantasy, not sf)) To compare ERB to Heinlein does a gross injustice to Heinlein.

What's the big stink over FANDOM FOR STF FANS? When joining the NFFF I thought the whole club was based on stf and when I learned I was wrong it didn't bother me too much. Most people have other interests besides SF and if anyone wants discussions of SF why don't they start them themselves. ((An excellent suggestion.))

I've been gafia for almost a year but if anyone wants to write to a 14-year-old willing to discuss anything--start writing.

ANN CHAMBERLAIN
2440 WEST PICO BLVD
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
90006

Would like to offer some words of comfort to Eric Blake--many Christians are fans, and so are agnostics and atheists, but this club is obviously neither one...we do not want such controversies discussed here--do we? ((See editorial)) Still, each can be attracted to their own likes, and stay within their own realms, except to discuss today's SF, or compare it with SF of the past or future. Science Fiction and Fantasy is a big enough subject to hold most people if they really consider it. There is room for imaginings--which is also an art of thinking--the corny and the uncorny must meet and learn...they do not heighten themselves by simply criticising wildly. Helpful criticism is unbiased, isn't it? To learn to put the imagination to practical use, and add to real beauty at least in wour World of SF/F...should be something to shoot at.

DR. ANTONIO DUPLA
PO M^a AGUSTIN, 9
ZARAGOZA, SPAIN

Phil Kohn in two letters, one to past editor Art Hayes and another to the President, the Directorate and Membership, gives an alarm cry to my presence, as a Spanish subject, in the N3F roster (for the third year). And this for two reasons: 1, the necessity for all members to restrain their free opinions on some themes they may happen to have in mind, but mainly on Spain and its totalitarian government in order to 2, avoid any danger to my person that I risk if #1 is not fulfilled.

I must thank Phil and I do it very sincerely, but really the matter is not so grave. I have got many fanzines, of which there have been many far more outspoken about totalitarianism than the N3F publications and none has ever been opened. In fact, I am surprised when I read that the U.S. Post Office intervenes upon the content of something sent through its chains. That, to examine literature (or motion pictures, etc.) and remove or prohibit anything considered unsuitable, is for me--and Webster--censorship. I know this is going a bit far off the reality in order to reinforce the argument which is that, as far as I am concerned, I don't know who cares less: the government for me or I for it.

To remove me from the N3F is a privilege of the Directorate but if they choose not to follow your suggestion, please don't overworry yourself. If someone calls at my door at 3 am, in all probability it will be for some professional reason.

And, as I am sincerely convince that your motives are due to pure good will, permit me in correspondence to give you a medical opinion: as you did, if you have an infected tooth, go to the Dentist and, by all means, let Dianetics aside. ((Dr Dupla scores about six points. Very good, Antonio, very good.))

ERIC BLAKE

P. O. Box 26,
JAMAICA 31, N.Y.

Several members of the NFFF have taken stands in opposition to censorship. It is currently fashionable to oppose censorship in the abstract without stating what the alternatives are. But what are the alternatives? (Ignorance, Tyranny, Slavery.) It is unfortunate but true that books and magazines exist which promote subversion, pornography, and blasphemy. These books are capable of perverting the minds of the young or weak. (For example, Lee Harvey Oswald said himself that it was reading books by Karl Marx that caused him to become a Marxist.) If these books are permitted to circulate, it is equivalent to saying that subversion, pornography, and blasphemy are good and profitable things. (Profitable, anyway.)

This being the case, it follows that some authority must prevent the circulation of morally harmful literature, just as the government prevents the circulation of poison in food and drugs. I agree with Felice Rolfe that the more mature and responsible members of a community must do this job to protect the young, the weak, and those who, while of full years, are immature and incapable or unwilling to resist the effects of harmful literature. These responsible persons I see as local religious leaders, other community leaders, teachers, etc., It is their responsibility to warn parents of the publication of filth and subversion, and to keep it from spreading through a community. And they must have, in this work, more protection from the courts than they are getting now. (As a mature and responsible member of my community I flatly deny the right of anyone to tell me what I may or may not read. As a parent I deny the right of anyone other than myself or my wife to determine what my children shall read. As an individual I object mightily when some two-bit autocrat sets himself up as an authority to attempt to control MY mind.)

For Robert Coulson's information, I am 56 years of age and do not expect to "out-grow" my religious views.

If Valentine Smith was the "hero" of "Stranger In a Strange Land", it is only because the world "hero" has been re-defined. Perhaps it would be better to call him the "principal character" rather than the "hero." I use the word "hero" in its original sense--an uncommon man, superior in his physical and moral strength, and a fit model for others to follow. This description fits the heroes in the works of Rider Haggard, E.R. Burroughs, and EE Smith--yes, and in the "Buck Rogers" stories, which have been unfairly maligned.

Phil Castora says that "obscenity is in the eye of the beholder". This sort of moral relativism is a denial of any standards of conduct, and is at best irresponsible and at worst criminal. (ANY standards of conduct?) One man, who can look at a "Fanny Hill" or a "Tropic of Cancer" and say "I see nothing obscene or immoral" cannot set himself up as an authority and contradict a morality 20 centuries old and founded on Holy Scripture. (See editorial.) And the books I have cited are not one-tenth as bad of some of the books and pictures that I have seen in foreign countries, which would flood this country if the bars were let down. (Why Eric, you old rascal, been peeking, eh?)

Phil Kohn has quite a bit of gall, to write from Israel and demand that no "residents of totalitarian countries" be admitted to NFFF. Israel was founded on totalitarian oppression of the Arab peoples of Palestine. And if Kohn lumps together the staunchly anti-communist nations of Spain, Portugal, and Paraguay with the communists as "totalitarian", he is scarcely qualified to say what totalitarianism is. Particularly since Israel is the only country in the Middle East in which communism is legal. (Totalitarian, adj., of or pertaining to a highly centralized government under the control of a political group which allows no recognition of or representation to other political factions. Nazi Germany was staunchly anti-communist, too.)

Why shouldn't the NFFF officially bar communists? (See editorial.) I'm not ashamed to say I'm an anti-communist. Are any other members? (Ashamed to say they're anti-communist? I'm anti-communist. I'm anti any form of totalitarianism including such as the Birch Society....Eric also directs some comments to Paul Gilster regarding the politics of Romulo Betancourt which I dictatorily decree have no place here. Take it up in personal correspondence.)

CREATH THORNE
RR 4,
SAVANNAH, MO.
64485

The lateness of the last issues of TB point out that the rotating editorship could be improved. One thought would be to have a different editor for each issue but a permanent publisher, preferably one with an offset printer who would take care of all the mechanics of the job. The editor would receive the letters, type them up with appropriate comments and send the whole thing on to the publisher. The only problem I see is finding someone who would do the job. If WWW does it for TNFF, why not someone for TB? (Getting editors is no problem. It's getting publishers that is rough.)

Again some true-blue SF fans are complaining that fans don't pay enough attention to SF. Might I point out that everyone has their own tastes? Fandom has gone far beyond the old letter columns in the pulps where the fans debated the merits of the stories, and covers many other subjects now. (If one of the zines came up with a decent lettercol I think you'd find you were wrong.)

Somebody has mentioned the ridiculous idea of older fans "adopting" newer fans to guide them along the ways of fandom. Consider that there are several neofans who don't want to be "adopted" and get along very well on their own. There are many places in this club where a neo can find help. There are several people on the Welcommittee who would be happy to answer any questions the neo has. When a neo enters fandom he wishes to be accepted as an equal. This rather patronizing idea would not create this image at all. (Bravo. Now if someone will wake up the Welcommittee...) We should quit worrying about whether the neo is treated fair or not, just make it a good club with good bureaus that are accessible to all and let the neos participate the same as everyone else. That way if he doesn't get in on activities it is his own fault. (Bureau reports are pubbed in TNFF and Bureau Heads welcome inquiries and participation from all. No excuse for any complaints about not being able to get into activity.)

GRACE COX
225 NELSON BLVD
DECATUR, ILL.

I don't know why I'm in fandom and I don't care much, but I urge all so-minded Neffers to re-examine their motives for entering the club. I had three reasons that haven't changed in the 10 or 11 months since I joined: I like the majority of SF, finances weren't too cramped, and N3F sounded interesting.

Ken has a wonderful point--the only way to judge a book is to read it from page 1 to THE END. Don't stop after the 1st chapter either. I tried that once, with WAR AND PEACE; it was two years before I read the rest and changed my ideas. (Didn't think much of the whole thing, but that's beside the point.)

Arguing would be that simple if everyone weren't convinced he is right. This conviction is all very well but carried too far (as it too often is) this conviction shows the fundamental immaturity of the majority of humankind. Censorable material almost always comes from someone who is essentially immature, and our immature curiosity combined with censorship leads to the behavior which characterized the Prohibition Era. (Said behavior being??) Since we are, actually, that way, judicious editing is necessary.

If an adoption bureau or whatever is established (I hope not) please give some attention to the yearlings we weren't around to be grabbed at once. And although affiliation with the Welcommittee might be the simplest thing, some more stable membership should be established if this is accomplished.

Eric Blake: since SF is obviously not to your taste in these "enlightened days" why not read a piece of satiric fantasy? Especially SCREWTAPE LETTERS by C.S. Lewis? (Everybody should read this I think, but Mr. Blake seems to need it.) (Also recommend Twain's LETTERS FROM EARTH)

PAUL GILSTER
42 GODWIN LANE
ST LOUIS, MO.
63124

No matter what you say, Ken Krueger, I shall always maintain that science will never catch up with science fiction. You prove not a thing when you state that what was science fiction a few years ago is now science fact. Of course, this is true. There are some things in yesterday's SF that indeed are fact today, but by and large SF will always remain one step ahead of science. As contemporary science advances, so does SF. As some new scientific breakthrough is made, SF can build on the foundations of that

breakthrough to picture even more fantastic things. I doubt the day will ever come when science catches up with science fiction.

I wish I knew what Mr Blake is trying to prove with his letter. Is he for real? It would appear so. I for one would know how a Christian feels about STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND, since I am a Christian. I know many fans who are. Yet do you see us screeching about the blasphemy of it? Of course not! Mr Blake reminds me of a Puritan back in the 18th Century or so. Sorry, Eric, but if you cant take STRANGER without doing flip-flops, SF as a whole isn't going to do you a bit of good.

((Paul also more or less agrees with Dave Patrick although he thinks Dave puts it on a bit think. Paul thinks fannish recognition should come from ability--not status. He signs off plugging Silverberg or Coparbottom or somebody--oh, yess, Goldwater, for President.))

DONALD L. MILLER
4314 TENTH ST, NE,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20017

Science Fiction can be an expensive and time consuming hobby. It can also be fun, educational, and intellectually stimulating. I have found that the majority of fen have a wide range of interests, a thirst for knowledge, and are always on the lookout for activities which are both recreational and stimulating.

One of the activities towards which many fen often turn is the playing of board games--which parallels SF as a hobby in that it, too, can be expensive and time consuming, but is also a great deal of fun, can be very educational, and is, I believe, the most stimulating of all forms of mental recreation.

It has been suggested that a "Games Bureau" be started in the N3F. I would be very much interested in seeing such a Bureau get started and in Chairmanning such a Bureau. I have been studying, collecting, reviving, revising, and inventing board games since I was old enough to lift a chess piece. I won't go into details concerning the operation of such a Bureau--the NFF is the place for that--but instruction and guidance would be furnished by the chairman to members wishing to learn new games or improve their skill in old ones, & the principal function of the Bureau would be the playing of various games, either in pairings between two interested persons or through robins in which several interested players would play each other.

Two foreseeable problems might be a loss of interest among those players who experience a few losses before they gain the skill necessary to win and the time interval between moves in playing by mail. The first is not too big a problem and I believe we can overcome the second by imposing a time limit on moves.

The chief purpose of this letter is to ascertain the extent of interest in such a Bureau and possibly translate some potential interest into active interest. With both goals in mind I'll outline a few games in the Bureau's repertory: Jotan: I should think no explanation would be necessary.

Go: a Japanese version of draughts. An easy game to learn to play; a hard one to learn to play well.

Go-Moku: Japanese tic-tac-toe. Not too difficult but a lot of fun and with three or four players can be exciting.

Tablut: simple, rapid, and skillful. A game of ancient Lapland.

Hnefatfl: an ancient Saxon game and the "granddaddy" of Tablut.

Hashami-Shogi: (16 men per side version) a simple, rapid Japanese game.

The Jungle Game: An amusing, popular, and simple Chinese game which can be difficult between evenly matched opponents.

Nine-men's Morris: the most widely played game in the world, played in one form or another by almost every culture on Earth. Seemingly simple but often difficult.

Raimu-Raimu: a Malaysian game which, to people to whom I have taught it, has become the symbol of frustration. Simple in conception but with many, many surprises.

Shogi: One of the most difficult and fascinating games I know of.

Xiangqi: the chinese version of chess. Interesting and unique with different pieces. A wide open offensive game.

Wari: A game completely unlike anything played in the Western World or the Orient. Played extensively on the African Gold Coast and can attain a skill level of chess.

An arithmetical game.

I could go on for pages listing game after game ((and he did)) including such as the Naval War Games, the Avalong Hill family of games, chess and the entire family of fairy chess games, Rythomomachy (the most difficult game ever invented), etc., etc.

I would like to hear from any of the N3F members interested in the formation of a games bureau. Remember that we would like to have you even if you have never played a board game in your life, as long as you have a reasonable degree of patience a certain amount of tenacity, an interest in learning something new and a desire for intellectual stimulation. In other words: YOU! If you have any ideas of your own on how the Bureau might operate, or know of any unusual games please elaborate in your letters. And please write directly to me, rather than to TIGHTBEAM. ((I've no doubt Franson will give it official sanction if there is enough interest. Donald. I'll forward your letter on to El Presidente. Sounds like an excellent activity.))

ANDREW J. OFFUTT
BOX 115
MOREHEAD, KY.
40351

The TB schedule's such a blanked-up mess I have no idea if I'm writing to 25, 26, 27 or 24 $\frac{1}{2}$. I have two 24's lying before me; one is apparently the real 24 (it just stood up); the other is mostly written by Phil Kohn, proving that John Birch exists elsewhere than in these United States.

The attached letter to Ken Krueger is sent to you for publication in TB since it really isn't a personal matter, but a public one. ((Herewith a letter dtd 8 June to Ken Krueger))

Ken Krueger,

I've just recently received two TIGHTBEAMS; both numbered 24. Great stuff! Now there's really something new to controverse about!

I read what remained of my letter and then reread my carbon of the letter I sent. Look, I've been paid for writing and never saw a story hit the magazine's pages as written. As a matter of fact, each time BLACKSWORD is reprinted it's cut a bit more, and one more time will reduce it to a synopsis. That's what an editor's for.

Within limits. He ISN'T to decide what we're going to talk about, whose previously-published comments are going to be answered or remain unanswered, whose idiocy is going to be printed or slashed to unrecognizable ribbons, who's intelligent and who isn't, and rather finally, what's going to be discussed in TB. Religion and censorship are being discussed; they have been. This fella Blake's a bit off, as witness his latest letter in (your) #24 (I'm afraid you're wrong. The carefully tied-in symbolism in STRANGER's too obvious and Heinlein's too intelligent and clever, for it not to have been intended. He certainly isn't first, anyhow; the Christ story is borrowed from Mithra and Buddha; many authorities believe Mithra is borrowed from Buddha; and many feel Buddha's borrowed from something still further back.

He doesn't, to use a common phrase, know what the hell he's talking about.

You refer to me glowingly, use the word "gem" and express the hope I'll write again: appreciated. But you can bet I won't. Not when you're editing. Not when your idea of editing is to destroy the intelligent part of the letter, quote fragments, and finally quote two or three times out of context. I object. When a subject is under discussion, I cannot countenance your--or anyone else's--deciding the discussion's over and refusing to print that part of the discussion which is based on reason and fact and scholarship in answer to that which is based on sickness and mysticism. ((Ah, so. End of letter to Ken Krueger.))

My objection to such extreme censorship isn't based purely on egotism (I'm honest enough to admit that's always involved). ((Uh-huh)) It merely seems to me that Krueger "managed the news" in TB 24, cutting what he wanted to cut and printing what he wanted to print, including some idiocy from Eric Blake, regardless of general interest. In doing so, he cut some 80 lines of my letter and printed 33 along with another 14 lines of his own comments.

My belief is that the sole raison d'etre for TB is that of printing letters. I believe that when a letter is printed, making statements or taking a stand, that same

purpose of TB automatically commands and guarantees the printing of a reply, stating opposing stands...particularly if real honest-to-Mithra evidence is presented.

Now

when a fella has his letter cut he naturally raises hell. I know all about that. I feel this is different, and won't accept an "Oh, hell, he's po'ed 'cause we cut his letter" sloughoff. At the risk of sounding melodramatic, I believe there's a larger issue, more at stake, here than that.

Now Phil Kohn has published two long letters stating his beliefs and taking a stand. Some agree. Some disagree. I'll respect any man for having the guts to take a stand, if he has a fact-founded reason, but that doesn't mean I agree. But I don't know whether to try to answer Kohn's letter or not; the "editor" may arbitrarily decide against publishing my letter on some grounds or other. ((Oh, hell, you're po'ed 'cause Krueger cut your letter. Seriously, though, I'm partially inclined to agree with you. However, there is a matter of time and economics involved. Mostly economics. TB publishers are reimbursed by the NSF at a maximum rate equivalent to 12¢ per member. Figuring roughly 330 members, I will be reimbursed a maximum of \$39.60 for this issue. If I let this go much over 20 pages then postage will consume most of that amount. My object, then, is to keep TB to 20 pages so that it will go at the lowest rate. Considering the cost of mimeo sup- and postage I have no choice but to chop the letters received. There are many of them and some are quite lengthy. I have done my "editing" with an ax, hoping that I have retained the guts of the letters. It isn't easy and I don't like to do it but, while I have no intentions to make a profit on this--impossible anyway--, I want to keep from going too far in the hole. Scream censorship if you wish but you try to put this out for 12¢ a copy and see how you feel about it then.))

Ira Lee Riddle says to send all letters for TB 27 to him at 617 Shue Drive, Newark, Delaware, 19711. Deadline is 15 August 1964.

GEORGE FERGUS
3825 W. 160TH ST.
CLEVELAND, OHIO
44111

Concerning censorship: It seems to me that deliberate suppression of facts or ideas from people is inexcusable, except when such people intend to use the knowledge they gain to physically harm others as in war time. ((Directorate take note.)) Ideas can harm no one. A child or other person not able to judge for himself can take the advice of other people on ideas to which he has been exposed. Obscenity or immorality is solely in the eye of the beholder, as no absolute moral code has yet been discovered. I don't see how any person can presume to order other people who have no harmful intent as to what they may not see and read. I'm not sure what Len Bailes means by censorship being necessary to keep the public from panicking. If my government has done something so terrible as to produce panic, I'd certainly like to know about it. ((It probably has and you won't.))

Concerning books and Hugos: originally I had intended to vote for WAY STATION as the best novel of '63, but eventually I came to the realization that the plot wasn't much good--it was just the interesting experiences of the hero told in Simak's sentimental style that drew me. I took a look at DUNE WORLD. Although it started slowly, the story picked up and became quite exciting. Then the ending ruined the whole thing. I'm going to start a league of fans in protest of a book ending wherein the hero turns into a superman or something equally implausible. ((I won't vote for DUNE WORLD because it is only half a story--and reads like it. The remainder to be pubbed late this year or in 1965.)) It will do no one any good for me to discuss CAT'S CRADLE here, for the very things that make some people intensely dislike it make others adore it.

That leaves GLORY ROAD and WITCH WORLD. Both are fantasy in tone, although technically science-fiction. The man who wrote such books as PUPPET MASTERS wastes himself in ill-disguised preaching while his bumbling hero, too keep the story moving, fights a few token battles in the company of two close-mouthed know-it-alls who won't enlighten him or the reader as to what is going on. We all know Heinlein can write better stuff.

When I first read WITCH WORLD I was irritated by the seemingly arbitrary way in which Miss Norton endowed the witches of Estcarp with various magical powers so that no reader could have any idea what their exact abilities were. However, the book's sequel has enlarged my view of the situation. Therefore I have decided that WITCH WORLD is the best choice for the novel award. It's about time Andre Norton won a Hugo, too. The way her novels are going now, there will soon be too much wild magic in them for even Sky Miller to bear. ((But if it is necessary to read the sequel in order to gain a full understanding of the original does this not make WITCH WORLD also only half a story?))

GIL LAMONT
1970 MASTERS
CHRISTILLA HTS
BELOIT, WISC.
53511

NORM METCALF: Well, what do you want? Strict rules re membership qualifications? Diversity, or variety is the spice of life and the spice of fandom. I don't see why someone can't be a fan, a trufan, a faaan, a hunk of deadwood if they don't want to. How did the non-fans get into fandom in the first place?

Quite a while ago I wrote you requesting info and membership with the Collector's Bureau. I'd like to know what it's all about before I join, but I did request membership anyway. Blame yourself. ((Various members have indicated that they have written to various Bureau heads requesting info on this or that and never received answers. Hell of a way to get members interested in the activity concerned.))

ROBERT COULSON: Add my name to those who don't think the British prozines are the best. The novels were dull, the stories were too, and the only redeeming feature was a few of the guest editorials.

DAVE LOCKE: SF is a gimmick? So are detective stories. So is flight. So is TV. So is Dave Locke. You seem to think SF is a passing fad. It's not. It's a framework for stories of virtually any other literary field and a few stories of its own..

ERIC BLAKE: Cor, now we've got a religious fanatic! ((Helps to balance our anti-religious fanatics)) Well, treading dantly past all the capitalized sludge, I seem to get the idea that Mr. Blake can't bear to see what he'd call "blasphemy". I immediately classify him as a Conservative, highly devout something-or-other, and more likely than not, in favor of Censorship. ((You win a cigar.)) My Ghu, Mr. Blake, you seem to think that you, as part of a minority group (you must be--after all, STRANGER won) should be allowed to dictate over the final choice of the Hugo recipient. STRANGER won because it presents some good, modern ideas about this thing called religion, and throws in theories. ((STRANGER won because Heinlein wrote it.)) Because they don't agree with your ideas, you immediately squeal "blasphemy"; it shocks you, repels you. And you can't conceive of people broad-minded enough to accept any number of theories on the supreme father-image, a god, before picking that which they think best. ((Preacher at Pearly Gates: "What's God like?" St Peter: "Well, She's black...")) Yes, I claim to be an atheist and I am decidedly against anyone who has to preach to all of us who have been "led astray".

KEN KRUEGER: Your method for determining how well you like a books is absolutely the best. But if you don't judge a book by its cover, how did you judge NEW WORLDS by its?

FELICE ROLFE
1360 EMERSON
PALO ALTO,
CALIF. 94301

Having started a collection of ASF and various other zines, I find I'm just not the collector type. (I'm more the anti-collector type) So I have ASF's, a couple years of F&SF, and several batches of other zines to dispose of. THE ASFs are all later than 1942 and I'll be happy to get rid of them at whatever any of you think is a fair price. Anybody interested? ((Do you have any to match the want list I pubbed in DYNATRON 20))

NED BROOKS Krueger says in his #24 that he sent you the part of my letter about Dr Ladonko's ESP experiment. The graphs I made for the letter about ESP would have been easy if Krueger could have gotten the offset issue out. I guess you can handle them OK. ((Probably could have but they never showed up here.))

RICHIE BENYO
118 SOUTH ST.,
JIM THORPE, PA.,
18229

KEN KRUEGER: Ya know Ken, er, Mr. Krueger (after all, I correy with your daughter now, so I'd better show respect), you aren't gonna like this, but you remind me of me, in re your humor. Yes, you are funny in a funny sort of way. That's a good way to be funny, I suppose. Can't think of too many other ways to be funny,

can you?

This will actually have you in convulsions. I wrote to a certain pro, and when I heard from Kathy, I thought that it was from his daughter answering my inquiry if she would like to correy, so if Kathy asks you if you've been writing on the side don't get too confused. Honestly, I thought Philip Jose Farmer was your penname. Chuckle? Don't ask me to explain--it has me confused beyond words.

But for the latest from Krueger's Cupid Club, Kathy and I've exchanged one letter, we have the same birthdays, and we both like Paul McCarthy. More in the next installment in the next issue. (((Sheesh. Now Franson will have to establish an introduction bureau or some such. N3F Lonely Hearts Dept. Put Ken Krueger in charge, Don.)))

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

DAVE PATRICK: Let me see if I've got you straight. You say Fandom's chief problem is that it is cliquish; those outside the clique can't get in and those inside want to maintain the status quo; that these conditions turn away potentially valuable teenagers. I'll go along with that. But your next paragraph...sounds like you've got delusions of grandeur coupled with a few less savory things. I suspect you don't really mean what you say. Fandom isn't a contest and I don't regard myself as a combatant. ((You will)) Did it ever occur to you that most fans don't want your super-cool new fandom? As for the door being closed to the novice--I think this is a very good thing. One of the worst trends which has sprouted in 20th Century America is this business of "I'm here! I'm as good as you...better, even!" Experience is still a pretty good teacher and judgement as to your right to be included in the confidences of intimate groups still rests on their appraisal of your worth--not your appraisal.

I have never been refused entrance into a circle or been snubbed. Fans I've come into contact with have been courteous and kind and have aided me in finding my own particular niche. I've said a few fuggheaded things but when this has happened I've been told "This is an asinine statement (in effect)" never, "You are asinine and unfit." Aren't you generalizing from "They don't pay attention to me" to "They don't pay attention to us"?

NORM METCALF: Most past attempts at a good sercon sfzine have failed due to it either being a first issue of a Goshwow zine edited by J. Neophan or else the editor made the mistake of circulating it through fandom and it was soon sidetracked into Politics, Faaaanishness, and other things.

My idea is to circulate a mag devoted to sf and sf discussion, not to fans, but to other sfinal types (with some overlapping into fandom, of course). The problem is finding out who these types are. Maybe an apa could be formed with an OE who disallowed non-sf final material for credit. If you can come up with the people and a good working definition of sf final stuff to be allowed for credit something could be done. ((Unlikely for the types you are considering aren't likely to be interested in amateur publishing.))

I'd like to plug the Follow-Up Bureau. It's sort of an employment agency. I've gotten fairly good response from would-be employees but haven't heard from people who need the workers. How about you dropping a line or two this way if you need volunteers for your various N3F projects? ((How about the follow-up bureau getting with the Welcommittee and following up on the new members? How about the Welcommittee getting busy on its job, too?))

TIGHTBEAM 27: Edited by Lee and Ira Riddle. Send letters to Ira Riddle, 617 Shue Drive, Newark, Delaware, 19711. Get them there before 15 August 1964. Good Ghod, Lee, it don't seem possible that Ira is now old enough to tackle an issue of TB. Where do the years go? Has it been that long since our San Francisco-Alameda days?

RICHARD BRZUSTOWICZ JR
366 OAKDALE DRIVE
ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14618

The Art Hayes TB #24: Forgiveably nothing much of interest here. A little nastiness re National Guardian which strikes me as being rather immature. And a redundancy from Phil Kohn, and a few Provocations by Alma Hill and

Ida Ipe...nothing much.

The Ken Krueger TB #24. Bigger, understandably. Blake and Offut and all the others in the religion bit: we have here pro-religion and anti-religion. Can anyone come up with a-religion? Most people aren't religious (the way the word is properly used) anymore anyway--not about things that are traditionally religious topics anyway. (I'd probably have done us all a service by tossing out all references to the religious argument in this issue. It goes round and round and ends nowhere. The same arguments, with different principals, were going on 25 years ago in the fanzines of that day. Gee, it's sort of nostalgic.)

Dave Patrick

seems quite upset over the way things are in fandom. Not having been near it too long, I wouldn't know for sure, (does anyone?), but it would seem impossible to avoid cliques in fandom. Fandom is so uncentralized that it would seem impossible to avoid forming relatively small ingroups. And no matter how long a person is in fandom, I doubt that he could ever understand it all...too much hidden hanky-panky. (Don't try to understand it--just enjoy it. It's a ball.)

Dave Locke: the sf in

a story makes for a stricter form in some ways and a freer form in others. Each sf story is done with a certain form: its excellence depends on how well the author uses the form, and the experiences he is trying to communicate. It is not the gimmick which is most important, but rather the way in which the gimmick is used to help communicate.

Eric Blake: when first I read STRANGER I wasn't much on noticing parallels. Nor, evidently, have many of the people who have read it. But now that you mention it, there are connections. Were they intentional? Who knows? Leslie Fiedler? (Who knows Leslie Fiedler?) While STRANGER may have been to you a blasphemous novel (and I, personally, think technical improvements could have been made) I still think it was better than what ERB I've read. And, by the way, there is nothing "sick" in purposelessness--unless, instead of facing it and solving the problem the experience poses, a person ignores it and tries to return to the good old pre-adolescent days when everything was fine-and-dandy and the Bad Guy always Got It. ERB's heroes never struck me as being superior in every fiber of their being--they never seemed much like people. No sense of here-is-a-person; instead it was here-is-a-gadget: what fun.

I have read ALL THE COLORS OF DARKNESS. I enjoyed it but (and this has bothered me a great deal) why did the author have to do what he did to that wonderful dream of looking down at the earth from the moon? He could have made it into a wonderfully symbolic support....(Looking DOWN at the Earth from the moon??)

ROD FRYE
8 SURRY COURT
HAMPTON, VA.
23369

This is for TB, a weird sort of way to communicate to a lot of people to whom I have owed letters for some time, and not of general interest. I'll keep it short if you'll print it. (I am a member of N3f. At least, I paid the dues, received ONE welcome letter, and a few zines.)

Bob Coulson: You don't really want to be an ad man. (No, he wants to be an old grouch) Just the agencies in this area (large, but small compared to NY LA etc) have their hands full just trying to keep ahead of the next agency, not counting trying to promote their clients. (Hell, he is an old grouch.) Related fields (ad selling as opposed to buying) is even worse. (Not as old a grouch as I am.) I know. People can find more reasons NOT to advertise than one can think of the convince them they should. (But an old grouch nevertheless.) Endless chain. The fan-news-thing I mentioned was premature. (Old Grouch Coulson)

Art Hayes: Thanks for writing after my four years gafia--seems I am still in it and will be for some time. (Wonder what makes him so grouchy?) Your views on the zine are sound. As a fan accustomed to mimeo, ditto, etc, repro would naturally take

a lesser place in your mind (and probably most true fans and related types) but to me, accustomed to first class offset, I can't as yet bring myself to it. I seem to be thinking more in terms of a literary magazine now anyway. Fannews is for the birds. As for PROVING one's self in fanzines, as both you and Bjo stress so much, I have always felt that if an editor publishes what he thinks and feels personally and makes it fairly interesting, he has a good fanzine. Fans shouldn't have to prove anything to each other--just be mutually cordial..

Seth Johnson: It seems that an individual can't think anymore in modern times without encroaching on somebody else's ideas of what persons should or should not think. I am 1000% for free thought and exchange of ideas. I think a person should go OUT OF THEIR WAY to collect and read extremist literature whether it is far right, far left, far up, way down, way out, or just wild. A person does not have to advocate the ideas he reads about. Remember this: DON'T DO ANYTHING IN FANDOM WITHOUT ASKING PERMISSION, THEY'LL THROW YOU OUT, BY GEORGE!((Yeah, and they threw George out a couple of years ago.)) The letter-head bit was, in my opinion, just an oversight, or a case of not foreseeing all the possible developments. N3F, however, should not officially sponsor any idea, group, movement, other than their own. But still should allow a free thought exchange to take place. ((I quite agree on that. Nobody took off on Seth for what he thinks or believes--he has some interesting ideas--but because he didn't THINK and, quite unconsciously I'm sure, gave the impression that he represented not only Seth Johnson but also that intangible entity known as N.F.F.F.))

NFFF in particular: My return was unjustified. I am no advantage to N3F nor it to me. No harm intended. That is just the way things are at present. I hope, out of my this years' dues, at least this ONE letter will see print. How about it Roy? ((You got about three months worth.))

IRA LEE RIDDLE
617 SHUE DRIVE
NEWARK, DELAWARE
19711

A lot of people are worrying about the poor bewildered neofan. It seems that he joins the club to meet people interested in SF and finds only "cliques" of people, so he forms his own. I think that this idea has a lot of bunk in it.

I joined at the Discon last year. ((Did you consult with Lee?)) When I got my first TNFF, I just wrote to the Bureau heads asking for info on what they do. I got back letters from all except Don Franson. I just got a card from him saying he'd get around to completely answering my questions sooner or later. ((He spends his time heckling the Directorate but they are seldom awake long enough to read his letters.)) It seems to me that the officers were elected by us voters and therefore they should take heed of our questions--and they do so. All a neo need do is write! ((From some of the letters I've seen this is an awful strain on some of them.))

My dad and I are doing the next TB. Please send all letters to me at 617 SHUE DRIVE, NEWARK, DELAWARE, 19711. ((Don't shout!))

If any of you want a rubber stamp with your name, address, and the N3F cut on it, I make, sell, curse, etc., them. Price is 3 lines for \$1.75, each extra line 25¢. Regular stamps also available for 25¢ less. Write for type chart. (Free advt.)(That's what you think.))

IRVIN KOCH
835 CHATTANOOGA BANK BLDG
CHATTANOOGA, TENN. 37402

The Directorate should look into changing the whole set up for pubbing TB so it will be distributed faster. Maybe a regular commercial printer could be used.((Expensive))

Mr. Krueger's method of selecting a book IS the most reliable but in a bookstore with about 500 different I.F. pbs on the shelf, mine is useful.

It would be nice if the discussion of telepathy and such were broadened to include empathy also.

Marc Christopher was understating when he said we are now in the golden age of imaginative fiction. Anyone who has read any of the digest size

prozines will realize that they are, if nothing else, improving.

A..yone who wants a fanzine that is almost 100% SF should send 30¢ to Hank Luttrell for STARLING. Or join N'APA and read my mess, IMK. ((Yes, join N'APA. A right good group. Write to Fred Patten for details.)

RICHARD MANN
131 BELT ROAD
APO 845,
NEW YORK, N.Y.
09845

Well, the N3F is up to its old tricks again. Today, 15 days after the deadline for TB 26, I get two different copies of TB 24 from two different editors. Jolly.

I'm not disgusted--just discouraged. If I know Roy Tackett two weeks late is simply too late to get into the zine for this time. So if I don't make it in time for TB 26 (or will you name this one 24, too?)((I had given it some serious thought)) forward this to the next sucker.

((Is being done and also a late letter from Gem Carr. We are not only out of time we are out of space as well.))

ROY TACKETT And this, old chums--and young ones, too--is about all there is to the 26th TIGHTBEAM. Once again, my apologies for mutilating your glorious prose but, as explained earlier, it is a matter of economics. Voice your complaints to me, don't bother Lee and Ira with them as they'll have enough to do as it is. Get those letters off to Ira Lee Riddle and remember the deadline is 15 August. And do them a favor--keep your letters short and to the point. Read them over before you send them and eliminate as much excessive wordage as you can. Sure, this is your forum but space is limited and we like to get everybody into the issue. You long winded types ought to join N'APASfantasy forever! Up the N3F! First Fandom Is Not Dead (Oops, wrong club). Adios. Athek, you'r a clown and so long for now.

XXXXX

ALBUQUERQUE, N.MEX. (11) ALBUQUERQUE



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ROUTE 1, BOX 364,
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