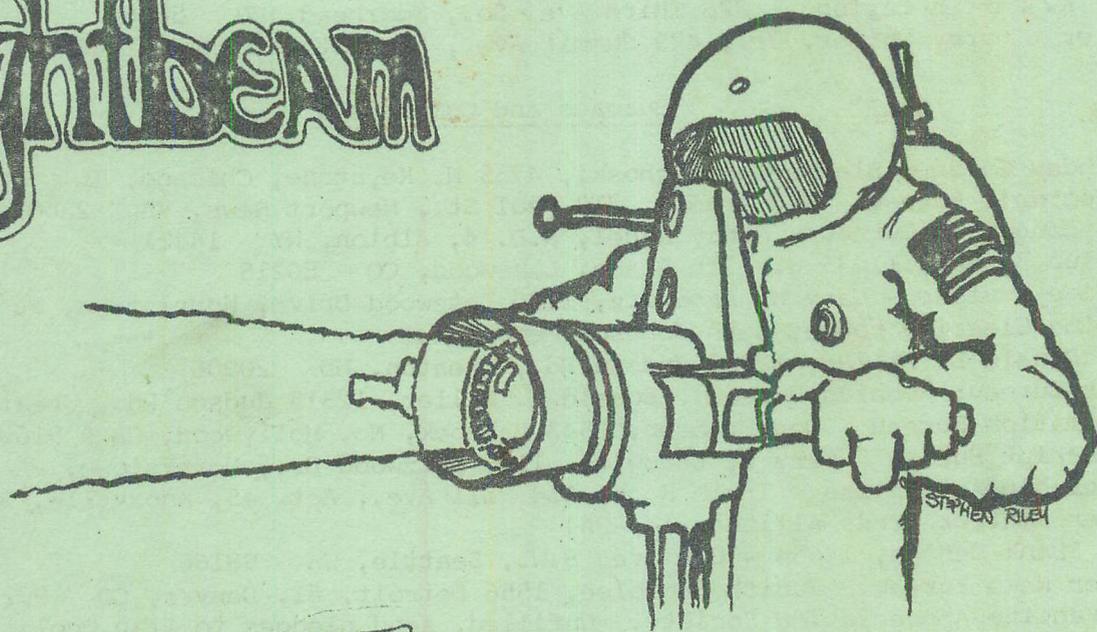

Nightbeam



67

THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION OFFICERS
1971

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CENNOTTS (That's an alphabetized Contents. Heh, heh!)

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Tightbeam #67, May-June, 1971, issue of the letter column of the National Fantasy Fan Federation

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Frank Denton
14654 8th Ave S W,
Seattle, Wa 98166

or

Charles Ruthford
Mail Stop 3NC2312B
9600 Burke Ave. North
Seattle, Wa 98103

Hello again, Neffers,

It certainly seems as though this old rag rolls around awfully fast; just about as soon as you think you've gotten one issue out. Only seems that way, I know.

Last time we were mouthing off a little about the age-old question, to edit or not to edit. I think Chuck (who, incidentally, types all of the letters) has solved the dilemma. Up to this issue, getting his feet wet a little, he had edited not a single word. This time, beginning to get smart, he has culled out some irrelevancies, headed off what might have turned into a raunchy discussion, and generally used some common sense. It seemed close to a toss-up in advice to the ~~LoveLove~~ editors on the question. We will continue to try not to destroy your letters, but when necessary, will do a little judicious whacking. Believe me, editing is not generally a time-saver. You spend more time in trying to decide whether to cut and where, than you would in typing the whole thing out. That can be done unconsciously, if you are a fair typist, without paying much attention to what is being typed.

Profuse and abject apologies to the artists who have been doing our covers. Twice now I have been guilty of not giving credit where credit is due. And it has not been intentional, let me hasten to assure you. Noone has greater respect for the fan artists than does this editor. My own magazine, Ash-Wing, could not exist without them, at least not in its present format. Not being able to draw a straight line with a ruler, you know I've got to respect those who can do such marvelous jobs with pen and ink. Last issues cover was from the pen of Seth Dogramajian, editor of Exile and at last hearing, a student of pharmacy.

This month's cover is the work of Stephen Riley, prepared especially for this issue of Tightbeam. Fine design, excellently executed and we thank Steve for taking the time to do this for us. He must feel that he has a lot of time on his hands, as he just folded his zine, Return to Wonder, which I was very sorry to read. But there are only so many hours in the day, and only so much money that can be poured into a zine. More of this aspect of publishing in the news section.

Well, let's see. What can I start a fight about, without being sued for libel, that is? Nebula Awards have been given by now. Anybody want to argue about that the next time around. No news has leaked out about the SFWA meeting yet, so mayhap it was somewhat calmer than last years. Any rumors floating about?

Ah, yes, my counterpart with the other rag that tries to make this organization go. The old Canuck, himself, Art Hayes. Art has does an excellently fine job on two issues of The National Fantasy Fan. He got off to a late start, as did we, and got straightened out right quick by our Prexy. So at least the major communications link with the membership is working. Now if Art could only come up with some cover art (Art, turn back to cover and feast eyes) he just might be able to produce a zine that begins to compare with this one. But we know Art to be a good soul, and we'll try not to embarrass him too badly throughout the rest of the year. I mean, with all of Art's other outstanding and sterling qualities, well, one can't expect... perhaps, I'd best leave it at that.

Well, enuff for this time. Don't send money; send letters. And live gloriously.

Frank and Chuck

SCHER

Ken Scher
1119 Mott Ave.
Far Rockaway, N. Y., 11691
March 13, 1971

I am attempting to compile a guide to the fanzine articles that have appeared since about 1950 on H. P. Lovecraft, the Cthulhu Mythos, etc. I would appreciate the following from anyone who knows of such articles: title and author of the article, name and ish of the fmz it appeared in, date of the appearance, any previous or subsequent publications of the article, and a 1 (one sentence summary (if possible) of the article.

HOGUE

Rose M. Hogue
1067 W. 26th St.
San Pedro, Ca 90731
February 21, 1971

On to "TB 65" . . .guess it was an oversight not to mention who did the cover?? Notice the artist's name "Dan" on the neck of the assassin...but would really like to see the artist get a little more credit than this.

Like the alphabetized Table of Contents--it reads rather weirdly.
Welcometo you, Chuck!! //Thank you. ccr//

Do you plan any interior art? Remember Gary tried to get contributions for some...but it never really did work out.//Perhaps - if we can correspond with the right people.ccr//

Wish I had time for more individual comments-but gotta get some house work done now so better get going - hope by next "TB" to have more time to comment on the letters.

Do think that Bruce A. Johnstone's idea most ambitious and wish him the best of luck with it - sounds like more than a one-man operation and hope that someone or two will volunteer to help him with it.

WEINBERG

Robert Weinberg
71 E. 32nd Street
Box 901
Chicago, Ill. 60616

I'm glad to see Tightbeam back, and hope that it will come out with the frequency as promised. What is the story with TNFF? No one seems to be sure what is going on. I sent Lewton four columns for the new format he proposed. I received his first published issue, but no one else seems to have. Does anyone know what the story is?

DARRELL SCHWEITZER: I really don't think I insulted JWC when I said Andromeda Strain was an ANALOG type story. Believe it or not, I like ANALOG. However, they do feature a certain type story which can get tedious, and same can be terrible if poorly done. AS is in that class, as was that thing The Siren Stars.

My pick for best SF novel this year has to be Niven's Ringworld. I'm slightly biased, of course, being in the sciences. My room-mate and I have had some nice long conversations on the more interesting ideas in Larry's book. Of course, this led to a deep investigation of black holes, and perhaps a story. But, no matter. Ringworld is one of the best "hard" science fiction stories I have ever read, with some fine characters thrown in as well.

I am sorry to say that my letters are getting shorter and shorter. I am having trouble with a printer for various items. Also, I am president of the Graduate Student Association here. Am writing a book on the pulps, which requires research. Almost forgot that I have a Ph. D. to worry about. Sorry to those who I don't answer and for the short answers to others. Maybe I'll catch up this summer.

HILLER

Frank Hiller
1730 Main Street East
Rochester, New York 14609
March 20, 1971

You stated that you'd be interested in knowing how long it takes third class mail to reach our abodes. I didn't note the date of arrival of previous issues of Tightbeam but this number - #66, arrived March 20. I also received the February 22 issue of I. F. Stone's Bi=Weekly, sent second class, today - March 20. So, GARY MATTINGLY, the pestilentservice of the U. S. does foul up a bit. We don't receive our mail until 3:30 p.m. Addresses just a block away receive theirs around 10:00 a.m. Why? Why? Why? //Have you checked to see if there is a good looking red-head between their house and yours.ccr//

There seems to be some question as to what should be published in Tightbeam. I find this doubt rather odd since I had thought all you people were aware of what Tightbeam is. It's not a fanzine published by one person, or a small group of persons, for egoboo purposes. It is a club service provided to all dues paying members (and to Life members) as a forum for their opinions and ideas. There is no requirement in the Constitution or By-Laws of N3F requiring that these opinions and ideas be agreed to, or even understood, by all the membership. There is also nothing in the aforementioned documents requiring any member to read every letter, or any letter, that appears in Tightbeam all the way through.

I had also thought that it was at least established by custom if not by Constitutional amendment or By-Law, that any fliers pertaining to sf or club related activities put out by individual N3F members may be sent out with club publications. (Tightbeam, TNFF, etc.) (the only other requirement being that if this caused an increase in postage expense of that particular mailing, the member originating the flyer would be required to pay the additional postage. I seem to recall reading something to the effect in one of the President's messages in some issue of TNFF or other. I refuse to look it up though, since my filing is based on that time honored method, "Jam it all into a gigantic pulsating ball of crud."

GERSMAN

Robert "Argee" Gersman
3135 Pennsylvania
St. Louis, Mo. 63118

GARY'S caustic comments will be missed in future TB. Usually truthful, but when you asked for it you got it. Always fair.

DENTON: Ashwire continues to be good as ever, so TB will be same.

SCHWEITZER: Made it to moon. Next step - Mars/ Beat Cosmonaut. Shades of Buck Rogers.

MIKE O'BRIEN: So, its Tasmania. Not Australia. Long time, long silence. British booboo up North/ Australia used to be British Penal Colony/ How N. Z. got started. Long time ago say "British Go Home".

SCHWEITZER: Are you Pierce in disguise? Fay Lincoln, Bea Bohema./ Prejudiced or opinionated.

ROBILLARD: Someone to agree with J. W. Campbell, Arness and "Thing"?
Oh, for the following! Days of Triffid. War of Gizmos. Invasion of Body Snatchers. Haploids Out of Deeps Monster of Eaths End (sic). Mind Thing. Puppet Master. Arkham House Derleth Lovecraft, Merrit Bloch, Stoker, Rohmer Wells Mundy, Bierce. Spider, G -8 Shadow.

HALL

Hal Hall
3608 Meadow Oaks Lane
Bryan, Texas 77801
March 25, 1971

Glad to see TIGHTBEAM WILL BE ON A REGULAR SCHEDULE - it gives something to look forward to, at least for a new member who is trying to get in the flow.

CORRICK: You should be able to locate a school willing to put in an sf course without too much trouble. One of the profs here on the TAMU campus teaches a course called "Science and Literature" and is thinking of expanding it to a 2-semester course. The first would be basically the same course he is teaching now - relations between the two up to Wells. The second semester would cover a selection of modern science fiction. Any course could be based on the SFWA bibliography compiled by Panshin and published in the June (?) 1970 Library Journal, and on their anthology. It seems to me that you would have, to give a fair treatment to the field, to cover at least part of the pre-1926 materials, and also would have to at least touch on the short stories - here the SFWA anthology would be of value, obviously.

SNEARY: Interesting to hear of the Fantasy Foundation/Institute of specialized Literature. What relation, if any, will this have with the newly formed Science Fiction Research Assn? The two seem at least to complement each other nicely. My own feeling is that FF/ISL would be well advised to locate a willing University and make arrangements with the Library to house and MAKE a permanent home. The key, of course, is "make available" - I'm trying to work out a reasonable compromise here at my Library. The material would have to be available both in the building and through interlibrary loan to make such an idea feasible. It would be a problem to locate a Library willing to do this, I'm afraid. Anyway, I'd like to learn more about the collection.

GARY M: mentioned that Texas A & M is starting a collection of sf. I'm a principle buyer, and would be interested in locating fans who would sell or send fanzines to the library.//I'm confused. Are you a buyer for the library? Are you suggesting that you might be able to organize and house such a collection. If so, let us hear more.ccr//

I am badly in need of INSIDE/SF ADVERTISER #6 (1955?). Will anyone sell or loan me a copy of this pub? (Preferably sell)

WOOLSTON

Stan Woolston
12832 Westlake St.
Garden Grove, California 92640
March 29, 1971

My own philosoph about doing a letter column in a fanzine, or a letterzine, is to cut letters to prevent over-repetition and to remove the unconsciously included trivia that is often found in a letter written with both the readers and

the editors in mind.

One rule that can sometimes be applied is "Cut the first paragraph and get to the heart of the matter." Not all people start out with introductory matter, or apologies, but some do - and it makes for a more interesting letter (in my estimation) if this is taken into consideration, especially when letters become more plentiful.

A fan is going to react to what others say if he is not one of those people who originates his subjects - and in either case the result is apt to be some shifting around and hunting for the proper words. Even pros do this, and in fandom, the inclination of many of us is to write "first draft", especially in letters. This can lead to both fresh material and a lot of filler stuff that an editor can help by cutting. It may cause someone to object but especially when there are many letters, I think there is nothing better an editor can do than be somewhat critical. No member should be ignored if her writes presentable material, but in any one instance, someone is apt to be ignored even if the material is worth-while if more letters arrive than there is space to fill. As you get more material, then, I hope you do not fear to do some cutting - and maybe a lot in some of the wordy fold like I am sometimes inclined to be.

A letter can be on one subject or many. I've written on many subjects in the past, to faneditors, assuming that others will write on some of the same subjects and repetition, then, can be avoided by only dipping into the area in which I'm not agreeing over-much with others. In other words, I recognise the limitations in publishing and hope to be able to have something to say that is not going to bore. I think I'm less apt to bore if the editor helps by editing.

I predict that both TB and TNFF will be on schedule soon. I've not heard about the schedule from Art, but by mid-year I imagine he will be out in early June. At that time I'll be advising some fans to be considering what they will write in for platforms as President and as Director. If I speak about the presidency here, it may be helpful.

First, we need officers. The office of President is a key job, because it is an active job and not just a title, as in some groups. The President has to see things keep active, or if not, do something to make it more active. As a hobby club, of course, this isn't a paying proposition if money is considered. But it is something like a second job in time it takes to do all the corresponding that is needed to do the job as I want to do it. When I'm lazy, and put off doing my weekly writing, I can get behind so, when I have to take time to work on reports for TNFF, I get behind more than I should in writing other things, like letters.

I say this now in hope that by mid-year, it will be understood the job isn't easy, and yet so we may locate 2 or more candidates for the job next year. I say job, because it is time-consuming, and takes attention and interest. Knowing about internal affairs is important, because it is possible a President may try to do things that are next to impossible just because they seem like fine things to do - and ignore what is needed, like the deadlines, reports and the like. Some are spelled out in the By-Laws; others are not. Anyone interested in any job - President or Directorate - can write me and I'll not only answer question but write a treatise (if you'll excuse the over-literary word) on "How to be President of N3F by Trying". I'd rater write letters but I might even label it something like the above.

But remember, we do have an Information Bureau, managed by Don Franson. Franson has been president of the club, is oriented towards fandom in and out of NFFF, and can answer questions about NSF, too. We have Art Hayes, official editor of TNFF, and he has been in the Directorate and in the Welcommittee as a member and as its head - and in one way the Wc is a training-ground for active members including officers. By way of the Welcommitttee, a member gets to know the scop of the club, by something close to osmosis. Of course, part of this is because Hayes has been publishing info on his own observations on the club, and the information of others as well. So, even though Art is not head of the Welcommittee this year, he is still a key man to ask about matters including those relating to holding office.

I mention various ways - or various people - to write concerning club activities for one good reason: You may find it easler to write one or the other depending on circumstances. Of course, you can also write others - Joanne Burger is head of the Directorate this year, and Frank Denton is a responsible director this year, too. (Don't ask me to name the irresponsible ones! This is a case when a person is inclined to outrun his mind with his fingertips while writing a letter, and if it was serious, an editor might help by just cutting out the thought. It wouldn't hurt if the whole sentence was cut, of course - I say, sobbingly)///I couldn't resist including this comment, Stan.ccr//

Letters of directorate activities in TB are welcomed by me. Personally, I'd rather there be these letters than have reports in TB - as letters have a different feel than reports, somehow, and we can use variety in flavor of material of different clubzines. I hope you can line up your own reporters to swell the news section, though I will send on news if my fingers aren't so worn to a frazzle as deadline comes up that his is too painful for words. But I do want to commend the section you've put into both issues of TB so far; it shows good editing.;

SNEARY

Rick Sneary
2962 Santa Ana St.,
South Gate, Calif 90280

Just a note to asure Ruthford that I am sure about donation to the Institute for Specialized Literature, Inc. being tax deductible. The IRS as of Oct. 18 recognized us as a charitable organization, and that we come under the provisions "of section 2055, 2106 and 2522 of the Code."

If someone sends us something, we give them a receipt, listing what was received, but not putting a value on it. The donor has to decide what the gift was worth, and it is up to him to make the IRS accept his estimate. So, no one should throw anything away of a science-fictional or Fannish nature. Send it along to Ed Cox or one of the Directors...if interesting enough arrangements can be made for us to pay postage.//I'm glad to hear that you have your status so well documented. This was exactly what I was questioning. Here at our college - an educational institution- any contributions have to be accepted by our Board of Trustees. Very complicated how the IRS says one thing on the East Coast, and another on the West Coast. Thanks for the info. ccr// Though, as I explained before, the ISL is not now very active, but it will preserve anything it gets, for a future library, open to all serlous fannish research.

As editors, your policy is up to you (until the Directorate can stand it no more, and sack you - as they have in extreme cases in the past) but I personally disagree with your plan not to edit letters. Every editor I can think

of has always edited letter columns, to some extent, unless he is determined to publish everything he received//This is where you guys miss the point. The whole TB is one letter column - the letters are not part of some other publication. So, where do you draw the line.ccr// There are two good reasons to cut. One: With a limit on the space to be filled, it is to the best interest of the majority of readers if only the most generally interesting material available is printed. Obviously, some letters, such as ones from Warner and Bloch, are always so well done that they would be used without cutting. But most of us have off days in writing. Or, two writers may say so much the same thing that it is of little point to read it again.

But, a second reason is that you not editing/cutting, puts a burden on the writer. When I write a letter, I write what ever comes into my mind at the moment. Not everything is well thought out, or meant to be very important. Some of it might simply be remarks made to the editor. I've been having letters printed for over 25 years, and I would much rater have them cut by the editor so only the best remains, that to have them "edited" for spelling or grammer (sic). I am not urging you to cut and censor every letter, but to express my personal opinion that you shouldn't have a hard policy of not cutting out dull or repetitive parts. Ask other Tightbeam or letter-zine editors.// Thanks for the interesting comments.ccr//

SCOTT

Mike Scott
Box 2043
Alhambra, Calif. 91803

GEORGE WILLICK'S letter discussing the merits of Campbell's "Who Goes There?" as compared to the film version sent me looking through Robin Wood's excellent book Howard Hawks. At the risk of boring some members not interested in SF films, I'll quote freely from the section of the book dealing with The Thing.

"The Thing was directed by Christian Nyby; Hawks prepared the script and supervised the production. The Thing is a minor work...(in it) there is the Hawksian woman, the equal of any man, yet intensely feminine. And there is the austere and comfortless setting, here a few Nissen huts in the Arctic wastes. But here is another, larger context, a new perspective: outer space. For all the strength and resilience of the characters...the scene where the men spread themselves out on the ice to discover the shape of the spaceship and find themselves forming a perfect circle chillingly conveys the sense of man's smallness and helplessness in a vast and mysterious universe."

"The central conflict of The Thing is not between humanity and a destructive invader, but between two opposed concepts of value embodied in the two groups (Scientists vs Military) whose clash the Thing precipitates. To Professor Carrington (the leader of the scientists) knowledge is the only thing worth living for. Ian is constantly retarded in this aim by all that part of his nature that he shares with the animals: sexuality and emotion. To Carrington the Thing, reproducing itself by dropping seeds from the palms of its hands, capable of neither pleasure or pain, and evidencing, through its spaceship, an intellectual development far in advance of mankind's, becomes an ideal, to be preserved at all costs, even that of humanity: if it is superior to mankind, hasn't it the right to use men as we use, say cattle?"

"There is no question which side the film is on: it upholds the development to maturity of the whole human being as against that of the intellect in isolation."

A final quote:

"The Thing, when at last we see it clearly, loses much of its terror...it ceases to look huge, and its close likeness to a human being (the human of a future to which Carrington looks forward) becomes evident. The impossibility of communication becomes almost poignant - it looks as if it would be so easy to talk to. It is destroyed...reduced to a small pile of smouldering ashes. One of the points that emerges is that science is for man's use - Carrington's viewpoint would turn everything topsy-turvy, making man the servant of science."

One of the ideas in The Thing that struck me was its basic similarity to Well's The War of the Worlds. Both invading forces were asexual, the Martians reproduced by budding and the Thing (which was actually an intelligent vegetable) by distribution of spores. Also, the thought that intellectual growth without equal development can only lead to a soulless monster. Sort of a breathing adding machine!

I thought it was funny that WILLICK warned DOUG ROBILLARD to lay off knocking the classic SF films while earlier in his letter he casually ripped "Who Goes There?" to shreds. Someone should practice what they preach. Although The Thing is regarded by purists as the worst screen adaption of a SF story (my own choice is the moronic Twonky) if it is taken as a separate product from Campbell's story, it remains one of the finest examples of utter horror and grim humor to appear on the screen.

ROBERT SABELLA mentioned Witchcraft & Sorcery. I've seen several copies and they look like someone with dirty feet walked all over them. Maybe it'll get better as it grows older, like cheese.//my wife says the same thing about men.
ccr//

SCHER

Ken Scher
3119 Mott Ave.
Far Rockaway, NY 11691
March 31, 1971

CORRICK: I don't know about teaching a course on sf, but there is a rather good guide on getting your school to institute such a course (for students, rather than teachers) in what may or may not turn out to be a one-shot called Gauss's Theory #1: 20¢ from Carl Gause, 8227 Colfax St., Philadelphia, PA 19136.

SNEARY: Considering that I was answering somebody else's question with that info on Fan. Found., I was surprised that this was addressed to me but I thank you for the information, since I was curious myself. I don't suppose that you could use a willing pair of hands on the East Coast?

I can't agree with you about bad prozines being the place to send bad stories instead of the fan zines...traditionally, the fanauthor gained experience in writing for the fanzines until he got good enough to break into the prozines. Any prozine that prints stories that are so bad that the fanzines would reject them, won't last long.

MATTINGLY: There are a number of college libraries that have large pro- and fanzine collections/...I know there's a library in Toronto (I think that's where it is) calling itself the "Popular Culture" center (or something like that) that solicits fanzines. Sorry that my info is so shaky, but I don't have time to look up the address at the moment. If you're really interested, I'll try

and make a list of the ones I come across, but at the moment I'm going thru a pile of back correspondence about a month thick.

SABELLA: From the responses I've gotten, I've come up with the obvious answers...most of the bureaus, having reasonably competent leadership and reasonably interested membership, and these stayed in action. The trouble was, with little or no outside mention of these bureaus, they didn't seem too active to the outsider. In general, it appears more important that TINF come out than that membership stay up (in the bureaus, I mean), if only because if there are regular reports of the bureau's activities, new members will be attracted.

I am forced to agree with your statement about not seeing Witchcraft & Sorcery, I found it in exactly one candy store, despite the fact that I was looking for it in various places all over Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. The way things are going, poor distribution will kill it off no matter how good it gets (assuming, of course, that these are typical figures).

KRIEGER: We vitally need a frequent oo...infrequency is almost as bad as not at all since it may take a few months worth of bureau reports to convince a new member to join a bureau.

I don't know what you have against Twilight Zone...I thought it was great, tho at times repetitious. Many of the stories and plots were hack-work to any experienced SF fan, but the acting was generally good, and for non-fen, the stories were good, too. Despite a few, a very few, extremely bad stories, Night Gallery was very good...tho I would like to see a light fantasy series on a slightly higher level than Bewitched or I Dream of Jeannie.

WILICK: Despite the fact that the covers are still just as pulpy as ever, I rather surprised myself by enjoying the last few Cohn reprintzines that I bought. After all, Amazing and Fantastic both had quite a few excellent years, and if the choice of stories for reprinting is made with some care, and by someone whose idea of saleable sf isn't Space Marines vs The Purple Jellyfish From Galaxy Q That Ate Jupiter, the Cohn zines should be good. Despite what you say, I think the quality of both Amazing and Fantastic have come way up. They're not up to their 1964 quality, and I agree that White isn't the one to get them back there, but they are much improved.

That story does not contain a "midget broad who was a miniature spaceship after a load of sperm", but rather a giant android (from her creators" (sic) point of view) with a built-in matter-transmitter. And the reason that the story got published was that the point of the story was not a six foot guy screwing a six-inch broad, but the comparison of attitudes between her creators and the six-footer.

ETC: Why is there a "(?)" after the statement that I got two answers to my letter in #65 before I got #65//They were all mailed the same time - or at least within a few days of each other. We were curious about delivery.ccr//

Golana is supposed to come out, so I'm told, once at the end of every semester. I have no information as to whether it will.

Oops, I just noticed that you want us to type one side of the paper only... sorry. I suggest that you mention it prominently in the table of contents. //It is so much easier to read if it is typed on one side.ccr// Speaking of which, considering that Tb is now on a bi-monthly schedule, just what do you mean

by "...the 15th of the month prior to publication."? I, for one, @ldn't get my copy of Tb until March 22.//Translation. We publish on July 1. Copy is due Apr 15. We publish on July 1. Your letter is due by June 15. Comprenhez?ccr//

LABOVITZ: Comments like those could more meaningfully have been replaced by another plug for Canticles. I wasn't complaining that a letter hadn't been answered, but that a group of letters to various officers weren't answered...or even acknowledged. Especially since there were follow-ups. Ah well...with only one exception, my letters have been answered.

KRIEG

Edward J. Krieg
510 North Chapelgate Lane
Baltimore, Maryland 21229
April 1, 1971

GHL: (Labowitz:) I guess you've got me dead to rights. By the way, have you seen the new issue of If for Mar-Apr? Has If stopped publication? Signs are according to Locus and Focal Point that the sf mag. industry is in bad shape.

Concerning Hugo nominees, I really can't nominate anyone. I have gradually stopped reading most of Galaxy, If, etc. and am reading novels. Yes, Gary, I have learned to base my judgments on consistent performance of things - I feel that Galaxy, et al are consistently bad whereas Ted White's magazines are improving by leaps and bounds - a far cry from a couple years ago.

DENTON!: You might be interested to know that Sean Connery is going to play James Bond again - he was talked into it by some people. Jill Saint Jon is going to be the leading lady.

Any fan seen the March 29 Time? Has a good article on SF and a good review of Andromeda Strain (Bob Vardeman take note). Seems that the movie is just as dull as the book. Andromeda Strain is just another version of the dull stuff appearing in Analog now (James Schmitz, Hal Clement, Gordon Dickson excepted). THX1138 - another sf flick received a better review. Could be a nominee along with Night Gallery for a Hugo next year. Night Gallery is returning this fall.

Last, but not least - a big hand to Art Hayes for pubbing TNFF - I received it about four days after I got TB '66.

HILL

Alma Hill

Stan Woolston has asked me to take care of the NFFF Room at Noreascon, since it's to be in my home town, Boston, on Labor Day. There is no way I can refuse to help the club as much as I can, and right now I'm feeling spry enough if I don't overdo; so I'm going to work on advance preparations. However, I have been seriously ill and can't guarantee against further such trouble. So I've accepted this appointment only on condition that I seek a chief deputy and a posse. Does anyone want to volunteer?

It's settled that the convention committee will provide us with a nice room on the convention floor. If I should not be able to set it up, will anyone undertake to check on that? We can't look to the convention committee for help with details, as they are apt to be too busy. As a club, the NFFF stands on our own manifold feet to run our own shebang. I expect to have a kit box stashed with the

hotel with date and room number. This will contain free sf to decorate the tables, extra ash trays (though the hotel may provide plenty) some chess sets, cards, checkerboards, things to have a comfortable conversation lounge, which is mainly what we want. If possible, this will be in a part of the convention area which will be open all night. We can get the hotel to provide bulletin boards and lounge furniture, no problem. Once the place is set up, it needs little care, just somebody to look in occasionally, or wander around the convention wearing a badge, and answering questions if one knows the answer, such as, "Where is the NFFF room?"

We will be unable to serve coffee on the convention floor this year. The Sheraton-Boston is an excellent hotel, the newest, most glamorous, and most hard-nosed in town, very easy to find since it is next to the Prudential Tower, which sticks up on the skyline, about the shape of a stick of butter only bigger. It is an expensive hotel but they are giving a special rate on rooms if you use the convention's reservation card. They are very competent and I expect no trouble with elevators or the like, as has plagued some conventions. They are even providing security areas for valuables, with guards, so we can be comfortable, no question of that. They have coffee shops open all night, so there will be no hardship if we don't serve coffee, too.//How about something stronger, Alma.ccr// The thing to do, as I see it, is to go along with things as they want them set up. In any case, this does simplify things for those in charge of our clubroom. I will certainly be there if I can. I've run it twice before and had a ball. I know I can count on all present to be helpful, because that's the way the NFFF always is on such occasions; but for the best good of the club, I should have deputies too - this time.

Also, we can use ideas. Instead of free refreshments, how about giving out free information? Any other suggestions?

//Strangest things show up in the mail. Gary forwarded the following two letters to us. Received them just the other day. Although they are over 3 months old we thought that they should be included. ccr//

FISHER

Ron Fisher
1st Div
USS Guam LPH - 9
FPO NY 09501
January 6, 1971

Got your "junk kit" today and while the roster and activities, etc., were interesting, TB was simply fascinating.

Until my release from the service, I have a feeling TB will be my biggest interest in NBF. So far (anyway not having received answers from a couple of bureau heads yet), it is the most constructive part of NBF I've seen.

I'm sorry to see your leaving. The four issues I received are extremely well done and I'll miss your snappy comments. Matter of fact, I'd kinda like to try editing/publishing TB or maybe even TNFF - now hold on, don't go sending my name to Stan yet - after I get settled, after I get out of the service. This means probably mid-'72 as it looks now.

I've always had it in mind to put out a fanzine and editorship of either (especially TNFF) would be invaluable training. "Course my main reason for wanting to put out my own zine is so I can publish my own writing - one ed who accepted one of my stories folded immediately and another is about 6 months over-due on

the issue containing a contrib by me. It's enough to give me a complex.//This should kind of tell you something, Ron.ccr// Hold it - before the inevitable - I do intend to submit to your bureau as well as WE soon I get around to translating my hand scrawled ms and type 'em up.

Anyway, thanks for the first real start in NBF for me. TB and you'll probably be hearing from me again sooner than you wish. Listen to the Kiniss...

BRYANT

Ed Bryant
300 Park Avenue
Wheatland, Wyo 82201
January 13, 1971

DARRELL SCHWEITZER: A small nit concerning your list of writers in TB #64. Vernor Vinge is real. He is not Howard Myers. Verge Foray is Howard Myers. How would you like people to refer to you as "Darrell Schweitzer"?

MIKE O'BRIEN: THX-1138 exists in two incarnations. The first was a short project done at UCLA by George Lucas. The second was the Warner Brothers/American Zjotrope feature length version which should be released soon. //It just hit Seattle last week.ccr// It stars Robert Duvall and Donald Pleasence. The company sent me a flyer with a synopsis of THX-1138 on one side; a still of a lady with a shaved skull kissing a similarly shaven male, on the other. Subtitle: "A love story filmed in the 25th century."

FRANK HILLER: The last definite scheduling of Again Dangerous Visions was for May, 1971. However, the book has since been rescheduled for some indefinite time later in the year. The basic problem is that all of Harlan's story-intros have not yet been finished. The stories and Emsh's artwork have long been in Doubleday's hands.

That's it. Nothing controversial this time. Just a few informational bits from my Olympian perch here in Wyoming.

HUGO NOMINEES ANNOUNCED:

Noreascon Committee received 343 nominating ballots. Hal Clement has resigned from the Noreascon Committee to avoid conflicts of interest. Fritz Leiber has withdrawn "The Snow Woman" so as not to compete with himself. Nominees are:

NOVEL - Ringworld by Niven; Star Light by Clement; Tau Zero by Anderson; Tower of Glass by Silverberg; Year of the Quiet Sun by Tucker.

NOVELLA - "Beastchild" by Koontz; "Ill Met in Lankhmar" by Leiber; "The Region Between" by Ellison; "The Thing in the Stone" by Simak; "The World Outside" by Silverberg.

SHORT STORY - "Brillo" by Ellison and Bova; "Continued on Next Rock" by Lafferty; "In the Queue" by Laumer; "Jean Dupres" by Dickson; "Slow Sculpture" by Sturgeon.

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION - "Blows Against the Empire" (record album); "Collosus: The Forbin Project" (movie); "Don't Crush That Dwarf, Hand Me the Pliers" (record album); "Hauser's Memory (TV movie); "No Blade of Grass" (movie).

PRO ARTISTS - The Dillons, Freas, Gaughan, Eddie Jones, Jeff Jones.

PROZINE - Amazing, Analog, Fantasy and Science Fiction, Galaxy, Vision of Tomorrow.

FANZINE - Energumen, Locus, Outworlds, SF Review, Speculation.

FAN WRITER - Terry Carr, Tom Digby, Liz Fishman, Dick Geis, Ted Pauls

FAN ARTIST - Alicia Austin, Steve Fabian, Mike Gilbert, Tim Kirk, Bill Rotsler
(Sources: Locus and Focal Point)

LOS ANGELES FAN SHOT; CAR CRASHES

Edwin Baker, a Los Angeles area fan, was found shot twice in the side, on the passenger side of his car, which had crashed into a tree. His wallet was stripped. Evidently he was shot by a sniper from another car, according to police. The time was after midnight, making it early Thursday morning, on a street that led towards his home at 2215 Crenshaw Boulevard.

Edwin Baker was an ardent follower of Ayn Rand, and an Esperantist. He has attended conventions, and for a short time was in Apa-L, the LASFS amateur press group. He entered fandom shortly after the 1958 Worldcon.

A brief news item about his death was in the L.A. Times, the largest paper there, even though there are about 300 such deaths annually in Los Angeles, and most are ignored till the matter becomes a case before the courts.

UNIVERSAL PUBLISHING HAS ITS TROUBLES

According to a story in Locus, GALAXY is again going bi-monthly, and publication of WORLDS OF TOMORROW and WORLDS OF FANTASY has stopped.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW DIES

Richard Geis, editor and publisher of SF REVIEW, perhaps the best known fanzine around, has, with the current issue, announced its demise. Geis, a professional writer of various types of books, declared in a letter to all subscribers that he could no longer devote the time and effort he was putting into the award winning fanzine. SF REVIEW is a Hugo nominee again this year.

C.C. MAC APP'S LEGACY

Carroll M. Capps, who wrote under the name of C.C. Mac App, and whose death was reported here earlier, had delivered to Lancer Books a new novel, entitled Bumsider. Hopefully it will be published soon. It is reported that another novel is in the hands of Doubleday.

FAN JAMES WILSON EDITS "TWO OVER MARS"

James H. Wilson, technical writer and fan, is listed as Editor of the book, "Two Over Mars" - the book about the camera-eye views of Mars. Rick Sneary was shown a copy of Jim when Jim and his wife came to visit Rick recently.

NEBULA AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Science Fiction Writers Association has announced the winners in their annual Nebula Awards for the best science fiction written in the past year. This award differs from the Hugo in that the Hugo is voted by fans and the Nebula is selected by the writers themselves.

Winners were: Novel - Ringworld by Larry Niven; Novella - "Ill Met in Lankmaar" by Fritz Leiber; Novelette - "Slow Sculpture" by Theodore Sturgeon; Short Story - No Award Given. There was an unfortunate incident at the awards banquet when Master of Ceremony Isaac Asimov mis-read the list of short story awards and announced Gene Wolfe, author of the second-place story "Island of Dr. Death", as the winner in that category, not realizing at first the significance of the "No Award" notation on his notes. (Sources: Locus and Focal Point)

LASFS BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHANGE TWO OFFICERS

Milt Stevens replaced resigning Kathleen Sky and Don Fitch replaced resigning John Trimble at the April 4th meeting of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society's "incorporation board". Milt is a Los Angeles detective and Don Fitch, a member of N3F for many years, attends conventions and local fan activities in Los Angeles and is active in fandom in an extensive way.

VANCOUVERCON A SUCCESS

About 65 persons turned up for the First Vancouvercon in Vancouver, British Columbia. Guest of Honor was Ursula LeGuin, who made the drive up from Portland, Oregon with her husband, Charles, and three children. Her speech entitled "The Crab Nebula, Paramecium and Tolstoy" was one of the highlights of the con. Festivities got under way on April 9th with a pre-con party. The con was of a serious nature with panels and speeches. But plenty of time was allowed for just rapping, and the finale, the presentation of the "Elron Awards" for the worsts in science fiction, closed the con on a light-hearted note. SF3, the Simon Fraser University Science Fiction Society, a group member of NFFF was one of the sponsoring groups. The Vancouver Science Fiction Society and the University of British Columbia Science Fiction Society also were active in the sponsorship. Neffers in attendance were Don Livingstone, Mike Horvat and Frank Denton. Jeff Yates of Fairfax, California was also in attendance. Leland Sapiro, editor of The Riverside Quarterly noted that he would be publishing Mrs. LeGuin's con speech in his publication.

RAPS SEEKING MEMBERS

Do you have access to a ditto or mimeo machine? Care to run off a page or two of your own priceless verbiage each month. Then you might be interested in RAPS, the Rap Amateur Press Society. Started in Indianapolis with a ball of fire, of late it has encountered difficulties. But rather than fold, it fights valiantly onward. No waiting list, no special axes to grind, just good fun conversation among dedicated fans about all manner of subjects, sometimes even science fiction. If you might be interested in participating, write Earl Evers, 1406 Leavenworth St., San Francisco, CA 94109.

N'APA DRUMMING UP TRADE

N'APA, your own Neffer Amateur Press Association, has embarked on a membership drive which hopes to increase the membership, and thereby the page count. A quarterly apa, which requires 6 pages every two consecutive quarterly mailings, N'APA has approached successfully four new members of late. Since this is for Neffers only, we want to encourage anyone who ever thought of joining an apa to contact the Official Editor, Frank Denton, 14654 - 8th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98166 for full details. Help restore N'APA to its former glorious heights and have a lot of fun while you are at it. Don't be afraid to jump in, as many persons have had their first experience in apas in this, one of the oldest apas going. Nobody is bitchy in this one, everyone just tries to encourage better and better zines. We would like genzine editors to consider N'APA also, as nothing prohibits a N'APAZine from going to persons outside of the apa also. Let's hear from you.

