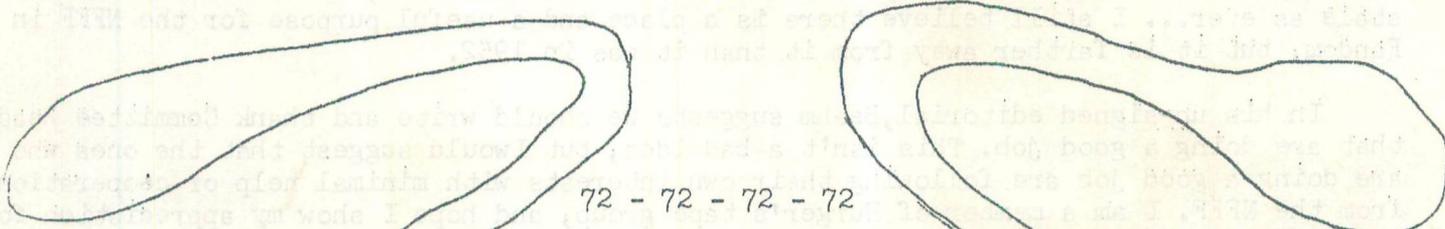


NBF TB



72 - 72 - 72 - 72

March 1972.

See April TNFF  
TO SEE WHO  
THE May  
TIGHTBEAM  
EDITOR WILL BE.

Art Hayes,  
Box 1030,  
South Porcupine, Ont.  
Canada.



Joseph D. Siclari  
Apt 54, 1951 Meridan  
Rd. Tallahassee, Fla.  
U.S.A. 32304.

The general appearance of the magazine is excellent, and the rather assorted types and sizes of pages, quite understandable. Within limits, I've always felt the "message" more important than the "media". Regretfully the "message" content is, as usual, overloaded with sewing-circle trivia and self-congratulation. It probably isn't the editors' fault, as he can't publish better letters than he receives -- but as one who loves letter zines, and has been predominately a letter hack through my fan career, I can only say it is one of the dullest publications I can think of... We are in the midst of a fannish/fanzine boom, with funny zines even coming out of Texas, and the NFFF is as stale as ever... I still believe there is a place and a useful purpose for the NFFF in Fandom, but it is farther away from it than it was in 1952.

In his un-signed editorial, Beahm suggests we should write and thank Committee heads that are doing a good job. This isn't a bad idea, but I would suggest that the ones who are doing a good job are following their own interests with minimal help or cooperation from the NFFF. I am a member of Burger's tape group, and hope I show my appreciation for her work. On the other hand I'm not on Wjciechowski's list, and I can think of few things more pointless than institutionalized birthday greetings. The NFFF is supposed to be friendly (I don't know why, more so than other fan groups), but there is nothing personal in this kind of greeting, no matter how Elaine tries. It is more of the "sewing Circle" nonsense that is pointless, and makes the NFFF seem silly to a lot of active fans.

I would dispute with Hill that the greatest thing the NFFF does is provide moral support for enterprises "we" approve of. The main thing the NFFF does is provide a group to belong to, for those who feel the need. It is easy to join, and can give a -- what I believe is false -- sense of belonging to Fandom. Most neo-fans, and obviously some who never grow up, need something to join, and the NFFF is suitable. I think this is almost reason enough, but it could be done a lot better. But, besides that, I don't see that the NFFF is doing anything to support other enterprises, to a degree greater than one of the major fanzines... especially a notice in one like LOCUS with over 1,000 readers. Certainly Burger doesn't need any help from the NFFF to do what she is doing.

A NFFF room doesn't excite me personally, but I can see its uses, and do support it... Might I suggest an informal series of events, posted in advance for the room? Not only a business meeting, but why not a daily Happy Hour. If you are going to serve anything, do it then. Punch and/or coffee, and all the officers.. at a time when nothing else is happening. When I've wandered into NFFF rooms before, they usually have been depressingly empty. Maybe if a set time each day is posted, more will have a chance to meet other members.

If Koch's interested in doing the work, his idea to coordinate travel plans, and share-the-ride arrangements, should not be limited to only NFFF members. It is an ideal kind of project to get the NFFF good public notice (if done well), and bring new interest and maybe members to the NFFF. Other fanzines would, I'm sure, carry notices of the service, and as a NFFF project, bring the name to many in General Fandom (a few might not want to use it, because of the NFFF's ineffectual reputation, but they are no loss.).

I can't help but feel that the Fanzine Appreciation Society is working backward. The basic idea of getting new fans who are willing to write a letter of comment, together with fanzine editors who don't get enough LoC's is a good one.. As it is, the fanzine editors first must have available a NFAS list, then make the investment of mailing copies of his fanzine to them. A couple may not respond, and the editor is soured on the whole deal. (The why fans change, and lists get old, the fan in question may be out of Fandom completely by the time the zine arrived.) While still issuing pledge cards, it seems to me a somewhat better system would be to publish each six months, a list of fanzines that are willing to send sample copies, and exchange for LoC's. This leaves it to the member to make the first move, and the whole membership would benefit from the reviews, and if well done, interest others in the NFFF.

This issue was the first I had heard of the election results. It seems to me a shame that none of the Officers involved were publicity conscious enough to send a news release to LOCUS or SANDERS. There is little enough that the NFFF does to gain outside notice without blowing this. That a list of members qualified to vote was not in the hands of the Teller is sheer incompetence.

I don't see why our President has to be coy about not talking about NFFF Rooms or Koch's project. Either we do or we don't, and details are useful if available, or if you don't like it, say so. A little bluntness would save time, at times.

Wells outdoes the others in spending space, praising past editors. They did an excellent job, but is it really worth the NFFF's time and money, to say the same thing in a number of ways, when it doesn't tell us anything we didn't know? This should have been

3 Rick Sneary Continued.

edited out, and the letters forwarded to Denton. But Wells is right, a recruiting drive is pointless unless there is more to offer new members than what we have now. What we need is a campaign to find a good Editor. Or even just a good publisher, as others could edit if someone could publish. Anyone with a good machine, a strong back, and editorial skill could save the NFFF and lead it to fame and glory (if they didn't listen too closely to the Officers and the old members), but who wants to do that, when for the same amount of work, they can put out their own magazine, and keep all the EGoboo, and not have to listen to bureaucrats?

NOW, aren't you glad I don't write oftener?

[NO, I'm NOT glad you don't write more often. I'm not going to agree 100% with all you had to say, but there is sense in much of it and so, critical or not, it is worth having such letters printed up in this publication.

As for the "sewing circle" atmosphere of our publications, the first requirement is an editor with editorial capabilities and skill, which would, as you stated late in your letter, revive and lead NFFF to fame and glory. In the absence of such, we who are not with such abilities, struggle to do what we can. So, I am not put out by that particular comment, since I did the best I could and so have no apologies to offer anyone.

While it is true that a successfully operating bureau can continue doing so with little or no help from the NFFF, and both the Games & Tape Bureaus are good examples, such successful bureaus were not always successful and in their crawling days, required what moral support and manpower assistance such as the NFFF could offer. Granted with the right bureau head, a head with imagination and ability, this assistance need not be of long duration, but it is generally required at first. Take the idea of the MOVIE CLUB that is mentioned elsewhere in this issue. This too could be a very successful deal, but right now it requires help and right now, it is NOTHING. By this time next year, it may no longer need NFFF, but right now, it does. For them to drop the NFFF after they have reached the walking or running state is possible and to some degree logical but thankfully, has only been done by a few in the past.

So, the N3F's main purpose is to provide that 'moral' support that Alma Hill says. A new activity doesn't involve a "WE" approval, it requires proof of interest, and of volunteers capable of handling it. It then receives, has to receive from its own activity, 'official' approval. A notice in Locus, for the MOVIE CLUB right now, might help, but isn't too likely. Once the Movie Club has proven that it is a going concern, then a notice in LOCUS will catapult it into the big-time, but right now that moral support is best provided by NFFF.

Again, the NFFF room. You have excellent ideas there, but again, the main hurdle is getting the administrative help for such. THAT is the biggest problem of the NFFF, getting administrative help of ability.

You have an excellent idea for the NFAS, and I'm sure that Scher will definitely give it strong consideration.

List of members qualified to vote for the Teller. May I remind you that as of September 30th., 1971, there was a list of the members of the NFFF, as accurate as I could make it, in TNFF?b And that subsequent issues contained additions to it? If you mean a list typed up for that specific purpose from the Secretary, then I'll let you and Janie discuss that, but I tried to make sure that A list was available to the Teller.

But, generally, I'm glad for your letter. The Birthday Project might also point out, illustrates another important facet of NFFF activities. This is a project that, while originally designed to suit the limited capabilities of Marijane Johnson, has been operating without a deficit for most of the time it has operated. No activity can make such a claim unless there are a sufficient number of supporters. You may not be one, but it keeps getting donations and material to keep operating and therefore, by that fact, illustrates that it is an appreciated and worthwhile activity. It has never, to my knowledge received one cent from the NFFF treasury. If enough members are willing to independently support it, then it becomes sufficiently worthwhile to continue without the particular comment you made. So, for all of your comments, that on the Birthday project is the only one that peeves me a little. The rest is more than worthwhile considering, if not immediately adopting.

So, Rick, write again, and let have the benefit of your fannish experience. I probably won't be commenting on your next letter, but I might just to keep you honest. I hope the next TNFF editor is able to improve on the TNFFs I put out. I think I did a fair job and hope he continues improving it. Times for me to go to work and this zine is actually past it's deadline, so, though late, it will still come out. At the moment, I'm not too particular about the deadline of this issue, but the next TNFF HAS TO COME OUT WITHIN DEADLINE OR NOT AT ALL.

After that, it will be the responsibility of someone else. I am getting to the bottom of the letter pile. I'll leave Stan Woolston to the bottom. I've commented sufficiently, here and there, that a letter from me, isn't necessary.

While it is not absolutely necessary that letters contain controversial material, neither is it a rule that letters should contain only complimentary material either. At times, the 'sewing circle' atmosphere is only too true and it takes a few to break up what many will consider a boring letterzine.

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FAN CONCLAVES - AS AN INTRODUCTION TO FANDOM.

J. Franke.

Local, regional or just a "friendly get-together", however they are termed, small cons afford the newly initiate one of the best routes into the depths of Fandom. Without the hurly-burly of a large specialized meet, or a Worldcon, the newcomer has the chance to really meet, exchange opinions and listen to the wide range of personalities found in this unique loosely-bound confederation of readers, writers, amateurs and professionals. As acquaintances and friendships increase, the cons become a relaxed haven where conversations can be continued or arguments amplified from earlier encounters or correspondence.

In the heartland of the U.S., such cons are held with relative frequency, averaging close to one a month -- though not spread evenly throughout the year -- and there is generally at least one within the reach of any fan with access to a car, or able to arrange a ride with others. Notices of the dates, registration fees, place of conferring, etc., are as varied as the cons themselves. Some may be listed in the large circulation news-zines and fanzines (such as LOCUS, FOCAL POINT, YANDRO and others), some spread their details through word-of-mouth. By whatever means the information reaches you, make every attempt to attend at least one -- it's an experience not soon forgotten.

Last year, our first in fandom, my husband and I attended four cons; PeCon II in Peoria, IL in April; Midwestcon in Cincinnati in June; Wilcon in Wisconsin in July and Chamabanacon in Champaign IL in November. All were different, yet alike in various aspects and all were fun.

Perhaps the best known, and in many ways typical of the larger 'small' con, is the Midwestcon. About 200 fans gathered at the Quality Courts Motel for the hot late-June week-end. They hailed from many states, New York, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, among others -- and certainly not excepting Ohio and spanned all ages from 10 years, to those impolite to mention. Students, housewives, lawyers, writers, hippies and straights. All life-styles, philosophies and professions were represented.

Midwestcon offers no "programming"; no panel discussions, no "Author's lunches", nor speeches -- excepting the Saturday Night Banquet -- only the activities of good conversation and convivial company. Well-known fans and publishers such as the Coulson's, Lavells, Luttrell's, Elliot Shorter and Lynn Hickman to name but a few and Pros like Bob (Wilson) Tucker, Tom Sherrod, Joe Hensley, Gene Wolfe, Leigh Brackett, Andy Offutt, Danny Plachta, plus several others (many, as is frequently the case in fandom, have their feet firmly planted in both camps) were all willing and ready to meet and greet any fan. Amusements ranged from elbow-bending-- soft and hard-- swimming and water polo, Frisbee matches, scanning the wares in the Huckster's Room, eating, or merely curling up on a vacant beach towel or lounge with the latest Ace Double. The dozens of on-going rap sessions topped nearly everyone's list.

Slurs on con Banquets afford easy laughs. However, they are seldom as gruesome as their reputation leads one to expect. For a not-unghodly price (though more than a comparable meal at a medium-priced restaurant), you get the opportunity to rub elbows with fellow machists, munch on rubberized chicken and/or beef and listen to the much-maligned after-dinner Speech by the Guest Of Honor, Committee Chairman and any other notables present and willing. Since fans have small reputations as gourmets, and, after all, togetherness is one of the raison d'etre for attending in the first place, the mild discomforts are borne with brave facades by perhaps half the registrants. The less-than-enchanted or, some would say, wiser souls head for the nearest snack bar or White Castle. They'll hear all that happened of interest during the room parties in any case.

Room parties range from half-a-dozen long-time friends playing guitars and singing folk songs to semi-organized cocktail-type parties put on by committees vying for Worldcon honors. Most are the 'drop-in' sort, signs may be posted on bulletin boards or on room doors. A few are "closed" -- by invitation only, but generally are few in number. The place of registration, or con suite is the place to locate parties, as well as offering an everchanging level of pleasantly esconced in one spot until the wee hours. At motels blessed with functioning (and filled) pools, late night spur-of-the-moment splash parties are apt to occur at almost any hour... depending on the mood of the management of course.

Sunday is a day of peace. The drinkers of the previous night are either sleeping soundly in their rooms -- or wishing they were ---, the teetotalers are wandering about with a "Where IS everyone?" look and the early birds are already packing for the trip home. This is the day for exchanging addresses, last comments on ongoing debates and the happy "See you at the next con" farewells.

PeCon and Chamabanacon are examples of the con with minimal programming. As a rule, there is at least a Writer's Panel -- where the Pros who are unable to beg off gracefully are lined up before a leering audience that is full of impertinent, brash and just

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plain-nose questions. GoH Gordon Dickson, Bob Tucker, Phillip Jose Farmer and Gene Wolfe were exposed to this fannish rite in Peoria, andy offut, Robert and Juanita Coulson in Champaign. There was a vist to the University of Illinois computer center and an Art Show, after a fashion, as well as a banquet at the latter, but the Pecon committee considered the Panel sufficient unto itself. Among the fifty to a hundred registered were a number of college-age attendants...a point to consider for younger fen is that cons held in University towns or committed by students are apt to have attendance higher in proportion in these age-groups. Of course, all cons have all ages represented. Very little generation gap exists in fandom.

Wilcon gave us a sample of the invitational con--really more of an extended house-party. With perhaps 40 guests, the hosts charge a minimal amount for food, which is constantly available, and drinkables are brought along to suit your own preferences. Cons of this nature are even more relaxed in atmosphere than the unstructured Midwescon and offer the chance to deepen acquaintanceships. It should be mentioned that Midwescon may go invitational this year. Too many "crashers", fen who carried their own bed-rolls and slept in the halls, and a few overly rowdy drop-ins strained motel/committee relations. There are those who would take advantage of a situation about the fringes of any group I suppose, but it is a shame that they can inconvenience the rest.

Regarding temerity at meeting new people, especially those with reputations acquired in various media, it is an expected but needless trait in newcomers to fandom. At all cons, informality is the rule, not the exception. All fans, of large repute or small, are perhaps the most easy-to-meet humans on the face of this earth. If you overhear a group discussing a subject that interests you, and practically every imaginable subject is discussed somewhere, sometime, hang around that group until an opening occurs (the conversational ball is usually rapidly changing hands, with participants coming in and going throughout) and make a statement. Fandom is a forum of sorts, you'll be heard. All may not agree, but they'll lend an ear. Soon you'll be embroiled in wconversation or arguement, but the ice will be broken.

Once contact is made an ever-widening loop of acquaintances will form. Meeting and talking with Pros is no exception. They come to cons for contact with the supporters of their craft; giving and asking of opinions is a compliment and the proper thing, never an affront.

Loosen up, keep your eyes open and ears alert and attending a con will give you more of the fabric and flavor of fandom than a year of letter-writing. Fandom is People, all sorts, all sizes -- cons are where you meet them and learn to appreciate them all, each unique and fascinating individual. Perhaps only one will sate your curiosity and be forever enough, but expect to acquire an ever-increasing appetite for them. Like peanuts, one is hardly every enough. Soon you'll be scanning the newszines, looking for dates and places, checking your calendar, trying to adjust schedules and replanning vacations. Then you too, will be hooked-- and quite happily so.

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DONALD LUNDRY, R.D. 1, Box 88, Hightstown, N.J. 08520.

Your note about the Recruiting Bureau struck a responsive chord since I've been trying to get up some sort of welcome package for new fans coming to the LUNACON '72 convention. I am thinking of more than a leaflet - something more along the lines of Tucker's "The Neo-Fan's guide To Fandom". But anything would help.

Would you have anything available that you would like included in this neo-fan Packet? Do you have any suggestions as to how this might best be done?

Finally, would you or some Neffer like to take over the handling of this aspect of the convention. I feel it falls into two parts: (1) Some sort of introductory material handed to new fans at registration and (2) some sort of roving Welcoming committee to introduce themselves to new fans and then introduce them to others.

You could also get together with the fanzine clearing house and have some fanzines for distribution. I'd appreciate your sending me a copy of whatever introductory material you have as well as your reaction to the above.

[ Since my own personal activity is about to be severely restricted, and the time remaining for my current spurt of activity running short, I am unable to respond positively or any way, to the above suggested activity which at least theoretically at least, seems an appropriate sphere for the N3F to assist not only the LUNACON but other cons who might desire us to assist them (and ourselves) in this way. I am unable to serve as a clearing house for suggestions on this matter and therefore, would recommend that all either use next TIGHTBEAM or S<sup>1</sup>an Woolston for a forum for future participation along this line. For the LUNACON, however, more immediate action would be require, from an N3F Official source. This may be a good extra outlet for the N3F Hospitality room/

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JEFF ANDERSON, 1707 Sebring St. N.W.- Huntsville, Ala. 35805.

Feb. 3/72. Received your bag of tricks (Welcommittee Packet) several months ago and apologize for not responding sooner, NFAS aside, I've been busy as hell.

Where did you dig up that Paul Doerr Patter thing? "Patter" would be more appropriately named "Spatter" and why you salvaged it from the dung heap I'll never know. I'm not wasting postage on P. Doerr despite Ken Scher's pledge to respond to everything.

Guano 50's wind-chill chart was worthwhile, but the rest was guano for sure. Guano 40 was a real bummer. Canada's asinine-bilingual legislative record is guano enough, but

to put it through a fanzine is like trying to make a pile of stinking ----stink worse still.

The TNFF issues I'm familiar with, and are properly newsy but I can't help but see that the major interest of most SF Fans, is Fandom and not SF. So much fandom is chatty nonsense, the kind of crap you hear at a ladies' bridge club or a masonic lodge. I can do without.

I've really not been very specific in my criticisms, but the stuff isn't worth more time. I'm not really trying to be a smart-ass. I realize a lot of people get a kick out of something that turns me off, but as I told some other cat, there are so many fanzines around that it amounts to virtual pollution. The best contribution to fandom today is to NOT publish -- or at least, shut down the damn mimeographs.

Sincerely, with peace and no animosity.

The material referred to above was a packet of grab-zines I USED to send to the new members, as part of my Welcommittee membership. The material was not selected as to quality, and while it usually contained some top notch type of fanzine material, it also contained some that were, as has been called, pure guano. However, after studying the U.S. political system, I don't think I have any apologies to offer for whatever inconsistencies the Canadian system may have. For many years, newer fans have complained of the lack of emphasis in Fandom, on SF & Fantasy and the influence of Fandom for Fandom's sake. I will admit this as a general fact and I see nothing that can really be done on this. Peace and no animosity forsure.

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ANN CHAMBERLAIN, 4411 Van Horne Ave., Los Angeles, Cal. 90032.

Jan. 3rd/72. TNFF reached me today, and I am indebted to you for writing me Recruiting Officer's page... well done too. You must think me very negligent. I should probably ask to be replaced by someone who shows more enthusiasm, and who attends all the conventions and actively recruits while they are participating. That IS the time that the opportunity is best presented.

You must have heard, countless times, why we do not seek an overly large membership. All the work is donated, and the more members, the more strain there is for those who produce the two zines, and the more it will cost. The general feeling is, that a membership of between one and two hundred is acceptable, and preferable to a larger number. We have a rather 'floating' membership. People stay with us long enough to learn the 'Fannish' pattern, and go onto other clubs. Or create their own activity. We are still a non-profit organization and do not aim at having an enlarged treasury. Those who are ambitious for a larger more comprehensive club are free to start one, anytime. And I would not be surprised if it didn't happen this year...for this will be the year of changes.

Meantime, the N3F will always be pretty much as it is, late issues of TNFF and TB, as usual, and perhaps an occasional skipped issue. Surely you know there is such a thing

as being involved in something which is so large it is 'out of hand'. That is what restrains us. If you hold, with others, that it is time for a larger club, and you can get sufficient support, and you want to be responsible for that much, let me be the first to encourage you to 're-organize'.

In any event, it seems preferable to have the matter settled one way or another, instead of having two factions within the club working against each other. The old Neffers will remain, the new will branch out. It is the way of life... 'progress'.

Please feel free to print this letter in it's entirety, - no deletions.

Recruiting Officer, N3F.

While there would seem to be the best audience for recruiting at a convention, most of our members are not recruited at conventions, but during the year, through the efforts of individual members, rarely even as a result of the Recruiting Officer. I have advanced the theory myself many times, that we should not recruit just for the sake of numbers, but I must disagree that one to two hundred is a comfortable number for N3F. My opinion is a 300 to 400 number. Over the years, recent anyhow, the policies on recruiting have been primarily the result of decisions by the Recruiting Officer or the President instead of where it is supposed to be, in the hands of the Directorate. On finances, I have always been a kind of watchdog, trying to avoid over-zealous spending and I have frequently subsidized the club's operation to make sure that finances would not be a problem. I am doing this again this year, with two TNFF's and one TB that will NOT be charged, but I am against a dues increase for sometime yet. Let the treasury go down, through natural attrition to a much lower point than now before a dues increase should be called for. As for starting another club, I would point out that one of the oldest legally chartered club could be re-started, the I.S.F.C.C. and I am the only remaining officer with records of the club. Ann designed a very nice club emblem too for it. Anyone want to revive it?

Feb. 11/72. To start I'd like to thank GEORGE BEAHM for a very good TIGHTBEAM. Glad to see more art in the issue. Hope the issue to come continue with the practice. Steve Your art gets better all the time. Sheryl's art is improving, and as anyone knows every letter you get from her has an original on it. At least this has been the case here.

Other memorable pieces were the house on page 5 and the windup monster on the opposite page. But what topped it for me was the Sams illo on page 10. I really liked that.

Let's hope we have an editor by the time this gets to where it's going, via Stan.

Suppose everybody has heard the rumor that Art Hayes is getting married and dropping fanac totally. Hope the first part is true Art, but the second, hope not. None the less, hope you have a happy marriage.

Alma Hill did get my story. Can't remember if I sent it to your old address or your new one.

Seems to be much action for and against NIGHT GALLERY. What with 28 hours of prime time (between 6 & 10) ((that's being generous)) here there are two hours of what is SF oriented programming and one half of that is old Star Trek reruns. Now to watch Night Gallery you have to have cable and if you don't have that to watch Star Trek, you have to have a special antenna. No antenna, no SF shows. That's not so good. So it seems that Night Gallery is about all there is on prime time major networks (NBC, CBS, ABC) Star Trek is on an ABC rerun station across the border. Canada produces no SF of it's own so we up here have to take what is given. And really, Night Gallery isn't that bad. Sure it's nothing compared to big budget biggies Billy the Kid meets Dracula. Just to mention one of the bigger alumni of the field. Recently there have been some TV movies. Not much but better than nothing, really. Besides what kind of budget does Serling have after all he's only one hour out of 28, about 5 1/2% of the time. Nothing compared to the one on James Garner's Nichols. He alone gets about \$40,000 per show and Dean Martin gets about 50 grand a show. That's just two stars. Until something better comes along you've got to put up with what you've got or get off your butt and change it.

NFAS: Koch: Got MAYBE and will send required response as soon as possible. Thanks.

That's about it for now, again I welcome anyone to write. Might not write very good letters but will keep on plugging.

One problem both artists and fans have, is that there seems to be a deficiency of comments dealing with artwork of any quality. Time and other pre-occupations prevent me from including artwork in this issue, other than a cover, but encouragement for artwork should continue. Yes, I am to be married, April 15th, in Willowdale. There will be a large reduction in fanac, can't continue justifying \$1,000. a year on fanac with the expenses of married life to contend with. But, it is NOT true that I will be dropping fanac totally. After the next TNFF, there will be silence from here until at least the end of May or maybe the end of June, but I'll be back on a reduced level. Will continue with directorate duties, will continue with the two Collins Index, the birthday calendar (almost completed), correspondence, and occasional publishing such as one more issue for the Tape Bureau, and possibly an occasional Thru The Haze. Mediocre SF on TV or Screen should not be excused on the basis that that is the best we can get now. We should continue to try to get more than Star Trek reruns.

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In a recent issue of TNFF, there was an article on a proposed professional publication of amateur stories, by L. Ron Hubbard, Jr. This following letter from LRH, jr. brings it up to date.

L. RON HUBBARD, jr.

Feb. 3/72.

To answer your question concerning the relationship between L. Ron Hubbard and myself. He is my father. We have not seen each other or been in contact for many years.

Thank you for printing my letter in N3F. It was also disseminated in other fanzines.

I was rather disappointed in the overall response, having received very few contributions. Due to that and my other activities, I will have to defer the project until a later date.

It would seem, on the surface at least, that there are two distinct categories, professional fans and professional writers. With the members of one group rarely crossing the boundaries of the other group. The answer may be in the fact that 'professional' fans have become so objective they are unable to acquire the high degree of subjectivity required of a professional writer.

Your N3F is a very good magazine and I enjoyed the copy you sent me very much.

I had hoped that this project might have developed into a vehicle that might have benefited our writers, and specially both the Writers' Exchange and our Story Contest. I did not have any information on the project other than as printed in TNFF, but had hoped that investigations by the proper authorities in N3F might have resulted in something beneficial to both. Unfortunately, it would seem that the response has not been sufficient to go ahead with this project in the near future. Still, it might be worthy to consider the possibility of such a project's use in the future, where the pulp zines do not take up the output of the Story Contest. Whether the idea can even be considered as a potential project of the N3F is rather unlikely, still, investigations of the idea might be worthwhile. We, the N3F, have been involved in a professional publishing venture before, years ago and it might be feasible again in the future. Within the ranks of the N3F members, we have both professional writers and publishers who could advise on the idea.

Muchos gratias for that windfall of magazines!! I apologize for not replying at once, but I have been trying to catch up. Also Ed Connor sent me MOEBIUS TRIP 9 & 10, and I was trying to catch up with them and send a letter. I did send one off, but too late, as I received one today from him, hoping I'd received the mags. Fine work they are too. I've replied again and also revealed I was, perhaps unfortunately, planning to lay a turgid bomb upon him. It's nearly finished, and, although NOW he tells me he hates to use fiction, it'll go out anyway! If he does not like it, or just cannot use it, perhaps I'll send it to the Mss Bureau.

Meanwhile, I have been going thru the literature you sent me, of which a fair few are N'APAN. I am still not with all the terminology, but I gather Apas are more or less closed groups, some of which have waiting lines for entry. Some of the sheets you enclosed were good, others were still the work of young minds, finding a place to roost. And so much of the space is used to reply to other people, who in turn will probably use as much space to reply to replies to their original statements (if there were ever any First statements. These things may simply have just been going on all the time!) I think Ken Scher in MICROAC has a good point in bemoaning the lack of a system of bibliography for fan authors, many of whom do not even keep track of their own stuff. I can agree. When I was somewhat active in fan circles a quarter century ago (I am uncertain whether I was an active neffer, but I may have been, I know I always received Walt Dunkelberger's FANEWS, bought Keller's BURNING HART from NFFF, etc.) I had articles in a number of fanzines, and letters in many. Today I not only do not know which zines -- I NO LONGER EVEN HAVE THE COPIES! Sic transit gloria. There seems to be a veritable plethora of fan mags, so perhaps it is too much to catalog all entries, maybe even presumptuous in view of their ephemeral nature. Nevertheless, the Index has merit, for the occasional article and author who is or becomes meaningful and important. I suggest EACH publisher prepare, at year's end, an index, and file it with N3F. It is a bit of work, but would be part of a solid repository. The obvious next step is to collate everything... a lot of work, I admit, and I am not volunteering. However, I suspect some fans would enjoy such a task. It could well prove to be something along the lines of the fine SCIENCE FICTION COLLECTIONS INDEX you sent me, and truly far more unique.

Incidentally, I hope it is allright for me to send on to others some of the material you sent me. I have various fan friends not a part of N3F or any group, and it may encourage some new interest. I'm not certain that you WANT a much larger membership, for I believe the work only gets that much more; however, a few can't hurt, and any organization gets inbred without new blood. I told Ed Connor, indeed, that many letters and articles were written by the same people, often (as above stated) in reply to one another.

Please pardon my not commenting or replying personally on each APA enclosure. DOORKNOB OPENED A BLUE EYE AND LOOK AT HIM is a monstrous and cute title, which may, with luck, devolve to DOBELAH to use the initially workably, or to DOORKNOB. Blue Eye is okay too. The page is the work of a likeable youngster, who is enthusiastic about his hobby, and has, bless him, no axes to grind. BIBLIOMANIA MELANCHOLIA has a masthead with style! And he reprints an author who also has style; Kenneth Grahame's first line lays bare the truth about book-collectors, that they often do not read the stuff! I got them all, resubscribed, and now, each issue goes smack dab from the mailbox to the shelf! I glance at the title page, the adv page. This kind of collecting, therefore is known as eating and possessing your cake simultaneously. SF COLLECTIONS INDEX is a noble effort. Inote, for example though, one I.B. Stinger title, where there are four or five collections, many of the contents fantasy extant, even before SEANCE. And Stanley G. Weinbaum's FANTASY PRESS title MARTIAN ODESSEY is omitted, etc. Please do not misunderstand; this is not a complaint. However, I would have appreciated a few further explanatory notes on the Introductory page. In any event, there are numerous titles listed which are new to me, and, by extension, must be new to other readers, and the Index cannot help but be very useful. It was obviously a work of love AND LABOR! Anyway I appreciate this useful volume, and THIS one I shall retain!

I do hope to contribute to as many zines as send me copies and requests, and so long as time, patience and energy hold up. Also creativeness. While I and anyone can write letters, and all the zines prove this, letters are really no big deal, except in egoboo, a popular word I see in all the zines, and, rarely something constructive.

That'll be it for now. If you wish to use any part of all this in any zine anywhere it's okay with me. However, I must admit it all is really middle-aged parvenu ramblings. / Middle-aged parvenu ramblings it may be, but there's an interesting letter from a former member who has returned bubbling with practical ideas. The idea of a fanzine Index, as mentioned here, is broken down into a method that would fit in nicely with the work of such as Fanclubs, FCH, NFAS, Collectors and other Bureaus, who could farm out the sectional work in this to fans wanting work. As for new members, it is my personal opinion that the N3F should try to maintain between 300 and 400 members. Over this may be too much work, under 200 gets somewhat skinny with too little choice of volunteers to do the work /

Just received TIGHTBEAM 71. The art and repro throughout really looks great. Too bad George quit after only one issue. Oh, by the way, although it's probably listed already in the front, for TIGHTBEAM 73 send your letters to me, because it seems I will be pubbing TB for a while. It would seem George got a great deal of cooperation from many in order to get TB 71 out. I hope this cooperation can grow through all the club and enlarge.

I think a listing of members' likes and interests would probably help, although it might take a bit of space. It might be nice for the correspondence bureau, Memac, and N3F members get together and publish a little listing of people's interests, maybe monthly in TNFF and TB.

Although I'll send a note to IrvinKoch on this, Kansas City Fandom is planning on getting a charter bus to LAcon. We need at least 33 people total (We'll have some from KC also, of course). As far as I know presently, round trip will cost \$54. For anyone interested, write to me and I'll keep you informed as to what's happening on this. There may be some of us too, driving and stopping off at Albuquerque for Bubonicon the weekend before.

Other GNUS: There will (Allah providing) be a convention in Kansas City this summer (June Hopefully). A N3F liason person will be there, me. Again, more gnus later.

I wonder what thoughts there may be wandering about concerning publishing a small booklet with bureau heads summarizing the activities that take place in their bureaus to be sent to all new members? Agree also it would be nice to have regular bureau reports (semi-regularly, at least).

Although I'm a little late, here's my vote of thanks for ALMA HILL, too. Alma, if I show up at the LAcon, I'll be sure and show up with my jar of TANG 9or iced tea, at least. I wish the N3F had an extreme overabundance of funds so we could pay for two rooms or even 3, at the worldcons. Higher dues would help, we can't always count on the wealthy people who contribute money to the club. How about if I second the motion to raise raise the dues to at least \$3 per year. It seems we're showing a deficit per member per year, and you know that can be a little bad on cold days.

The KC club although mainly working on internal growth presently, has some side plans of organizing some sort of regional club-confederation-such. Again, anyone interested in the idea, should, you guessed it, write to me.

If we get more members, I'll publish 400/ TNFF'S and TB's too. I'm also working on getting free use of a beautiful offset press too, so..... I think a new Fancyclopedia could be a little helpful.

If anyone wants to correspond, I'm willing (hopefully able too). General interests, I like well-written SF, Fantasy (whether it be NEW WAVE or OLD WAVE, if there are actually such things, fannish activities, exploring, a little bit of psychology (I like Skinner better than Pollo May), South African history, the medias, and a bunch of other stuff too, if that is of any help.

Also, many thanks to those who voted me into a Director's seat(?). I hope I can live up to the position. Also, anyone with ideas, questions, criticisms, etc. yep, write to me.

That was a nice Phantasmagoria ad, too.

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 [ Unfortunately, this issue of TIGHTBEAM will not contain much art, just ain't got the time, currently. Which brings me to Gary's plans. If he gets to publish TNFF AND TB, he better forget a lot of other plans he has, such as extended correspondence. He'll have time only for his private fannish correspondence, because the rest of the correspondence will deal with planning of the zines. Unless he can dig up a lot of slave labour down in Kansas, he will find that BOTH zines, specially at a 400 plus circulation will wear him out quickly and I would not recommend that Stan Woolston allow this for more than a couple of issues at the most. I've been trying with only medium success for TEN years, at least, to publish such an informational booklet for use with the new members. Until recently, I was sending out an equivalent, not a complete one, to new members, and the response has always been encouraging, take note of Ben Indick's letter, which was, in effect, a response to what I had been sending out, a New Member Packet, and take note too of Donald Lundry's LUNACON request too. There's space here for some to organize this, How about it, Roy Tackett. You organize this deal into something more than I was able to. There are many things that I see could be organized into useful results with the right man placed in charge. Volunteers needed./

Feb. 16/72. VERNE F. O'BRIAN, 1320 Arthur Ave. Las Vegas, Nev. 89101.

(10) I was put to both a-blush and bashment at George Beahm's remarks on me in TB #71, encouraging as they were, because I was unable to comply with President Stan's request to handle the job on TB for 1972. Unfortunately, my copy of TB#70 must have gone astray, as I never received it, consequently didn't know Frank had mentioned my name therein. If I had, I would have written George posthaste, I knew from Stan that George was to issue #71. Ah well.. anyway, I was sorry I could help out at this time as I know Stan was hardpressed to keep TB's fine continuity unbroken. Perhaps I can be of assistance later.

George, you did a fine job on #71, in keeping with the fine issues I received from Denton -- the only TB editor I had seen in action prior to yourself. Jackie Franke mentioned in a letter to me she was glad to see some drawings inserted in the typography for a change -- I'd certainly agree with that. Jackie has a story and some drawings she stencilled coming up soon in my new fanzine, STARWORLDS -- the first issue was dated Nov. 71, but only finally issued last month. Next issue should be out in April 1972.

Steve Reilly's fine artwork (Steve wields a real Pixy-pen in his drawings -- 99 & 44/100's more Elfin!) helped liven up the issue, as did the other art. I believe your Rotsler drawing on page 9 (a cosmic cannonball) came from LOCUS #82 though.

I enjoyed the letters very much, but have not been a member of N3F long enough to follow the running patter and re-patter of the original remarks by the members that inspired the comments, etc. I always like Rose Hogue's letters as they picture her as a very cheerful girl! That's always refreshing -- besides Rose likes STARWORLDS! She even sent money -- hail, Fair Rose, and..uh..tell your friends.....

Garsh, after reading the first paragraph of George Wells' letter I nearly fell off the salt-block I was parked on while perusing the issue, and in my haste to get in the house to check Days' Index for a name similar to mine I nearly lurched into the water trough -- my gait's none too straight or steady anyway. I sure didn't remember any old pro with my exact name, and was pretty sure there wasn't any or I'd have read or heard about it by now, but thought I'd better check, Nope, there was David Wright O'Brien (many stories in the old Ziff-Davis mags), Fit-James O'Brien (killed in the Civil War), and two O'Briens who were pseudonym's of the Binders and Arthur C. Clarke. Besides, these were spelled slightly differently from mine, O'Brien is the most familiar way and Mine's O'Brian. My father died when I was about 10, and later on I suspected he was spelling it incorrectly. My mother was Spanish-Basque and not positive, as my dad was born in Bridgetown, Barbados, B.W.I. in 1888, and had no Birth Certificate -- but my mother did have his Certificate of Service and discharge from the BWI Regiment (A mostly Negro Unit but with some white West Indians) and said paper definitely showed him as Henry O'Brian. I was able to confirm the spelling many years later when I visited Bridgetown to see the place and see if I could locate any relatives or a birth certificate. I found neither, but was steered by a black family name O'Brian to an old cemetery near town where I found the tombstones of my grandparentss - Marked O'Brian! So at last I was sure! I was curious about the black family and why their name was spelled like ours -- I didn't care but was wondering if my ancestry were mixed up in slavery. But later a lady at one of the government archive offices set my mind to rest -- she checked some old records and felt sure my paternal ancestors had been bondservants from Ulster in Northern Ireland and hadn't been involved in any slave-holding. She also told me part of the family was buried on the windward side of Barbados, but I didn't have a chance to get over there.

Excuse me I got far afield there, but I can tell George Wells that I know for SURE that my father read both Jules Verne and H.G. Wells and I was named for old Jules' surname. My Dad was a mining and mechanical engineer and admired their works. He never read any prozines so far as I know, but there were many Verne and Wells hardcover books in his engineering library -- these I recall seeing but don't have them now. I prefer the works of H.G. Wells of the two, however, and if I had HAD to do it, I'd have preferred to have been named Wells O'Brian... given my choice, of course.

I didn't have enough copies of my first fanzine venture STARWORLDS to pass out samples to all the N3F members, but did manage to send to quite a few and apologize to all those I missed. Stan Woolston said I should let N3F members know (in a notice for such in my zine) that they can get copies at a reduced cost. Five for \$1. or 20¢ for a look-see, or trade, or contributions of material. Unplug!

[ Verne sure got carried away and I was carried away with him too, expecting him to come up with historical adventure stories of his family. Unfortunately, he left us hanging and in fact, tried to make sure we didn't get too adventurous a picture of his past history. We all have rather picturesque views of the Spanish main and the Barbados of the past and he won't prevent us from using our imaginations which probably will be able to make an adventuresome story out of it anyhow, more than possibly the facts would actually support.]

Feb 6/72. DAVID K. PATRICK, 27 Silver Birch Rd., Tumersville, N.J. 08012...

Dear Art:-

Carrying on the tradition of my predecessor, this is a reminder that you owe 6 pages of 35 copies worth for 3/15 of N'APA.

GUANO was originally, for a couple of issues, devoted to printing embarrassing excerpts from RoundRobins, then, when N'APA started, it was transferred to N'APA. I was a member of N'APA for most of the time since it started, was out of it for a year when I was out on the East coast, but through trickery, etc. have managed to keep the GUANO numbering matching fairly closely, the numbering of the N'APA mailings. Now, even though my dues were paid for 1972, I find that it is advisable for me to drop out and the above notice I received from Dave meant that if I didn't have material as mentioned for the March 15th mailing, I was OUT due to inactivity. I am sorry that this is so, but it is something I decided anyhow a few months ago. Other activities in my future will take precedence, but I do recommend N'APA to all. It has been interesting to me, often-times hectic as the various critical periods of N'APA usually involved me rather actively, but I hold no grudge against those with whom I exchanged rather strongly worded views and I wish only the best for N'APA. (Write to Dave for information).

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KEN SCHER, 3119 Mott Ave. Far Rockaway, N.Y. 11691.

Considering that the contents of your letter to me commented on missed bureau reports, I am embarrassed that that month I missed a report. However, I have made it a practice to do 'interim' bureau reports in TB, so anyone looking there will get the same information that they would have gotten from TNFF anyway.

However, as this is the only Bureau report that was my fault to have missed (Stan Woolston screwed me up my first month as NFAS head by telling me he would use part of a letter that I sent him as the Bureau report and then neglecting to do so.) The Bureau is doing quite well... mostly, I gather, because the Welcom is pushing it to new members. The basic problem with this Bureau (as it has been since I joined the NFAS) is that it isn't enough to get members... in fact, for this bureau at least, that's the least of the job (and in that I include all the paperwork concerned with keeping the Bureaus working smoothly). The big part is getting faneds to make use of the NFAS. At the current time, there are less than a dozen faneds sending their zines to the NFAS. I'm prodding others, but it's slow work and due to such minor problems as finals, STAR TREK Con and my father's heart attack, I lost almost the entire month of January due to Fafia.

Anyways, it's an uphill fight, but I'm slowly turning this Bureau into more than a list that nobody used anyway. I agree with you about Bureau reports, which is why I send them to both TB & TNFF, but if I get the faneds to send us copies, the members will come even if I don't do anything... which is why I am giving that end of the Bureau so much attention.

Thanks for the NFAS Stationary... I'm having more done with a new letterhead, but until that's ready, this will come in very handy for photostating information form letters to carry through until I finally get the NFAS booklet ready, I know what I want to say... but I can't combine it meaningfully.

I have always advocated USE of both TNFF and TB for one's personal ends and even for a personal fanzine. Even more so should it or they be used for publicity for a Bureau activity. I consider that in Tightbeam, LBureaus should be publicized in a different format, but still publicized in it, as well as in TNFF. TNFF is primarily for REPORTS, TIGHTBEAM is primarily for DISCUSSION and both can be well used to advance an idea, a project or an activity. However, don't be too hasty to blame Stan for causing you to miss a TNFF report. He may have included the information in the BUNDLES of material he sent me for each issue of TNFF and I may have been the one to cause the mix-up. I don't know and it's too late now to remedy it.

However, an activity such as NFAS is so small in its area as originally defined, that I have been continually surprised that it has lasted. You, now, seem to have the same idea and are trying to expand it somewhat, first step being to get the Faneds interested, and when that has been achieved, another step can be added. Such as the NFAS depend more on the imagination of the head than many others, and I do think you can make NFAS something special, given time. Keep at it and use your imagination.

The Stationary.... That was NOT the intention of the blank sheets I sent to you. I was too busy to explain it and now, whether it is carried on is up to the next TNFF Editor. My idea was to get a standard design for each activity and these designs would appear in TNFF whether there was a report or not, blackmailing the Bureau into making a report. The design was available for letter-heads too, but the blanks were sent to you, with several ideas involved. One was approval of the design. Another was for you to use the sheet to make up a report for TNFF. Actually, the idea worked too well in a way, in that I was beginning to get so many reports that I was hard-put to keep TNFF within the budgetary limitations. And I wasn't finished with ideas for additions to TNFF, so that it would have increased steadily in size. Good that I am out of it after the next TNFF/

Jan 24/72.

I would like to propose a new activity for the N3F-- a Movie Club. This would be one in which a group of interested fans gather and review, discuss, cut-up, and parody SF and Fantasy films and television programs. They would write articles on past shows and movies for nostalgia and for information for those not able to have seen such films.

This could be quite a service to the fan because SF films are very much a part of the field. There is a Hugo Award classification for it, and everybody who's ever been to a con know how integral "the slow grind" is -- those late night films weenjoy so much.

During the last five years our field has been treated with a growing respect: we see such films as 2001: A Space Odyssey, THZ-1138, A Cockwork Orange, and the ABC series, Teevee movies such as "The Astronaut", "The People" (more on that later), "The Night Stalker", and we have "The Sixth Sense", and "Night Gallery".

This club could be carried in the pages of the TNFF. Later a fan with a mimeo could draw up a clubzine and publish articles and LoCs by fans and lists films; this, like Joanne Burger's Tape Club, can be a separate N3F Bureau. Members could conduct Polls and help collate. As for now, that is my major(?) activity. I hope I have a favorable response from all of you.

"The People" is one movie that is definitely a fine motion Picture. The characters are well rounded and believable. I wonder who the artist was who drew the pictures in the "I Remember The Home" scene. It did seem odd and peripheral at first, and Kim Darby "shuffled" through her hole without life, but later on, it grew more engrossing.

Good to see Bill Shatner back in SF too. I certainly hope it becomes a regular Television show for either '73 or '74. It is definitely Hugo material. Although I haven't read Zenna Henderson's "People" books, I certainly will watch for them.

#### REVIEW:

BEST BET - The People. on Movie of the Weekend is a strange, gentle and really nice film. It's also science-fiction, but without horror or villainy. It's beautiful to look at, filmed among the majestic redwood trees in Northern California (San Rafael) and it has a fine performance from Kim Darby, as a young school teacher who comes to a strange community, where people dress in homespun and shuffle their feet as they walk. Dan O'Herlihy, who came over from Ireland for this role, is one of the "elders" and Diane Varsi is the gentle healer. Chris Valentine is the boy who becomes Miss Darby's major project. William Shatner has a small role as an outsider, a doctor who visits the community. This is a pilot for a series, as you'll note in one scene as Miss Darby and Shatner discuss possible future plots. It's on Channel 7 & 9 from 8.30 to 10 o'clock, (somewhere).

[I dimly remember you from the Boston do, but while I can even remember where you sat at one time in the Neffer room, I can't remember well enough to be sure when it comes to identifying you in my slides. However, that is not the subject under discussion at the moment, it is a new N3F Bureau.

First of all, formation of a new bureau is more than just a request being made. A new Bureau can be started almost any time, on anything, provided certain conditions are met. First there must be interest, and equally important, volunteer(s) to handle it. This is one Bureau I can visualize as having a rather wide range of possible interests and activity. It could be an important bureau too, such as the Tape Bureau.

So, if YOU are interested in getting such a bureau going, it is, for the moment, up to YOU. Drum up interest, interest to the extent that those interested are willing to volunteer if you don't feel YOU can take it over. A one-page SILVER SCREEN article in every issue of TNFF, covering SF/Fantasy films or Shows. Encouragement of written articles submitted at first through the Manuscript Bureau for use in genezines around, later possibly as you visualize, in a Bureauzine. Remember too that there have been some rather good amateur film presentations made too, the last I saw was by LASFS.

So, the Movie Club, could get article writers, review writers active and contributing to the fanzine field. The Movie Club could encourage amateur film productions for presentation at Conventions. Part of the group could deal with the technical aspects of movie production, including such as animation. There is really no limit to what could be included in this activity, but FIRST, it needs someone to handle it, to coordinate it. It could be divided up into interests with specialists in charge of sub-sectors, but it has to learn how to crawl first., and such is involved in someone continuing letters to TB, write-ups for TNFF, reviews and articles for the Manuscript Bureau. Once you have PROVEN the interest and volunteers are there, Stan Woolston will make your position official, but you can make use of TB & TNFF NOW for publicity. USE the official zines for your own nefarious purpose, that's what they are there for. Maybe Don Franson might be able to dig up the answer to your question as to who that artist was.

So, whether N3F gets a MOVIE CLUB or Bureau, is, at the moment, entirely dependant on YOU and how many others you get involved, and how active the volunteers will be. I can see this bureau as potentially valuable. It's up to you to make it so.]

Jacqueline Franke sent the article which is the result of a conversation-by-mail we've had on this important area of fan expansion. I think cons -- local or larger -- are important ways to expand awareness and interest in the field, and so supplement correspondence and other fanac.

In a way the purpose of the Neffer Room is to provide an atmosphere for relaxed conversation similar to the one Jackie mentions for the regional cons. The Westcon, while a regional, has grown to be quite a well-structured and planned convention, but the chance to talk in halls or late-night parties helps bring the larger cons down to the personal level that the smaller regionals still have as their main focus of attention. I've been to "noncons" -- parties held at time of a con but so far from it, that many could not attend; in this way those who couldn't travel all those miles could get some of the flavor of talking to pros and fans "left behind". The LASFS has had a Fanquet to celebrate the coming-into-prodom of some, of one (or more) of their members, and this is generally an annual affair -- with its appeal in the chance to listen and talk to others in the same area of interest as oneself, as well as to find a way to tell those who have finally sold a story that you're glad. Lately LASFS has been having quarterly banquets and they too offer a chance to hear fans or pros speak, and to speak to them-- this at least partly to help this fanclub in Los Angeles gather more money for an eventual meeting-hall of their own. It may be a year or so more -- but the fund is growing rapidly. Seventeen thousand and growing isn't bad for a local fanclub! (I could get exact number but I have the copy of DE PROFUNDIS buried -- and I wanted to quote some news from it too.)

I've written several people in hope of getting a Hostess lined up to work with the LACon Planning Committee -- and Fred Patten knows I can be reached on the subject in the meantime. A Hostess can collect games, material, even money volunteered by some fans who want to help out -- and make sure it is at the convention hotel in time to be placed in our room. I hope we can find out more about the room soon too -- and when the location is known, you'll be told.

In recent years smaller local cons around the coast have started, with emphasis on small groups discussing subjects with, usually, a pro in charge. This makes it possible for the "grass-roots" fan to get his views across in a way that others can consider them in a roomful of people that is not overpoweringly large. Size does have a way of inhibiting some fans, so talking in a smaller room, or with a group of a size similar to one you might have in your living-room, has advantages. At cons, it seems there is always conversational exchanges from speaker or panel members and the audience, but usually it is known people -- people who may have expressed similar views before. This reminds me I once thought it would be a good idea to ask questions or make statements on sheets of paper provided in the audience and picked up for those who are too shy to stand up and "sound off". It could bring conversations off on other tangents.

In N3F, by writing a personal letter they can get their views across in this way. In letters to our letterzine, of course. Many do. It would be interesting if everyone could set down their thoughts on a few things that interest them, if they have been discussed in a current issue or not and send it in. A sort of "poll" might be interesting too, but I'll not suggest that because I know the danger of making such suggestions; I'm not sure I've time to gather so many views, tabulate them, and report results. But it should be fun to see!

The idea of the enclosed article was that new members, and members who have never attended a con, should at least get one fan's view on the subject. Of course it is a viewpoint; I think it is sound. And maybe we could have copies made for new members too.

Art, I've been thinking of one thing -- not related to above. Birthday cards you've published for this project have had artwork that would be useful for a full year, and give all of us a chance to see them. But it seems we don't have so many run off. It might be a good idea if we could use original artwork to do more of some earlier designs -- and after a few years it shouldn't hurt to get a duplicate card for that matter, if it meant we all could see what the ones used were. I'm thinking of those with fancish designs. And maybe the art could be used as headings for the Birthday List - using older pic of course. Anyway, in some way I'd like to know the older art for cards can be seen by others. If you can think of a way for us to do this I'd like to hear. Maybe some year I'll be able to offset some of these designs -- or new ones -- on my offset press.

As you get LOCUS and the German material, I won't have to excerpt news from there. I like the info in the German news-release on activities there. Australian news is coming in more often too via zines. COR SERPENTIS #2 arrived a short time ago -- half a year late - which shows despite its slow rate through postoffices that the Monash University S.F. Association has good idea of what Fandom is. The three talks of Buck Coulson, Brian Richards and Brian Aldiss to the 1968 Melbourne SF Convention shows that distance

(14)  
Woolston - continued.-

is not inseparable when fannish ingenuity provides a way - and sending tapes by mail can get a viewpoint halfway 'round the world much easier than most of us could go there in person now. (Maybe by 1975 there will be many of us ready and able to go to a Worldcon in Australia -- in person. Anyway, that seems to be as likely a location for the 1975 convention as anywhere, and shows that Fandom is not limited to the northern hemisphere, let alone the U.S.A.)

I've material coming out in FAPA shortly and N'APA for March, if I get around to running it off. APAs are another area where fannish words are important. And what has all this in common? Fandom is wordsmithing. It is having subjects to discuss, and discussing them -- whether by letter, fanzines, at cons or however. APAs are collections of fanzines, and as such anyone can present a new subject or a series of subjects, just as a letter to TB can. Bureaus have areas that are accentuated -- which means it is easier to talk on certain subjects there. And officers of NFFF also discuss things, depending on their duties.

Prodom is wordsmithing too. Some of the areas overlap, but the pros write some of their words with sales in mind -- books, magazine stories, articles, criticism and so forth. Fans often do the same -- write for magazines, both viewpoints and stories -- but mostly with publication in fanzine in mind. And this can be good -- even if we only realize that many pros are "graduate" fans who are often still at least partly fans at heart.

Ah, I'm wordy -- maybe because I'm not sure how long you'll be involved in correspondence, at least as extensively as previously. As it is written to you, Art, I imagine it could also be used in Tb if you see fit. With excerpt of this paragraph, most likely.

All this has to say, I guess, is that actifans are wordsmiths who keep at it. Many become well known. I hope we have more every year!

To Stan Woolston, from Gary S. Mattingly:

It's fine with me... to do Tb in May and TNFF in June. No problems are foreseeable. I should have no major problems, maybe a few minor ones, in putting out TNFF from then on. Although I don't know yet, I may be able to help with the publications bureau, publishing if needed. I'll know within a few weeks."

#### NEWS FROM Woolston:-

Fantasy Amateur Press Association mailing #138 for February arrived with brief reports from President HARRY WARNER, Jr. and V/P RICK SNEARY, both saying there's nothing official to act on -- so it is functioning well with material from Sec/Treas. Bill Evans and O.E. Greg Calkins. RICK SNEARY sends out the annual Egoboo Poll, allowing FAPAAs to vote on favorite material in re of contributions to past mailings in area of Best regular Publication, Mailing Comments, Editor or Publisher, writing non-fiction, humorist, single issue of a contribution, best poetry or fiction, artist and/or cartoonist, and a few other titles. Waiting list has 33 members -- larger than many APAs. This time 4 members dropped out, which is about average -- and membership is listed as 63, meaning Milton F. Stevens, an L.A. area fan (and a good man to get police work information) and John Bangsund, an Australian from Melbourne, should be in by next mailing. Jack L. Chalker's Mirage #10, at 81 pages, is the largest contribution by far this mailing, with Moonshine at 26 pages the next largest. Harry WARNER's usual 24 page HORIZONS and Earl and Jan Evers' Zeen are 24-pagers. A Petition to save the membership of Dave Van Arnam, who is stuck in Mexico and unable to contribute required pages, is in the works -- which means it may be successful or not.

Fanzines produced by Neffers come and go. To find out how many are produced now is the desire of SHERYL BIRKHEAD. Any help in compiling the list would be welcomed. Send title, address and other information to SHERYL (or get it to TNFF) so it can be published. If you want names and addresses of those who wish to respond to fanzines in some way (perhaps subscription, contribution of material or letters of comment) say so when you write please. Feel free to tell kind of material wanted, too -- it may bring some response when published. SHERYL BIRKHEAD, 23629 Woodfield Rd., Gaithersburg, Md. 20760, is also NEFFER NEWS BUREAU Manager so send her news too.

I am negotiating, or trying to negotiate, for a couple of regular columns by well informed fans, for TNFF. Can't mention names at this time as it could interfere with the potential success of these negotiations. These columns would deal with such activities we should have further information on, such as TAFF, HUGO and other nominations. With the new TNFF editor (GARY S. MATTINGLY) it seems likely that the practice of including news in similar fashion as has been developing lately in TNFF will be continued.

∫ The wordsmith Woolston didn't leave me enough room at the bottom of this sheet to get my two cents in, so I guess I'll have to use a sheet more to get my last word in. That is one advantage of being editor, you get the last word on anything in an issue.

Dear Art Hayes-

Received your jolly good letter today. I must thank you for all the help and interest you've shown me. However about two months ago I received a Bullzine, TNFF, and an application blank, all from you (at least with your address on it). Subsequently I sent in my application. After about a month and no cancelled check, I sent another letter in. I guess one worked because a letter from the WC head arrived today with yours.

My family lives in Rangoon, Burma, and I am finishing high school in the U.S.A. before going to college here. I received an introduction to Fandom and N3F from Stuart Stinson when I bought some magazines from him, and he threw in some TNFFs.

The Round Robins sound interesting and jolly good. But, I don't quite understand what's done in them (I understand the technical parts of moving it around but what do you write about?).  
Chezu Timbadai.

[The purpose of including the above letter is to pinpoint a few items I wish to comment now about. In the past, the more active recruiters KNEW that if they wanted some material sent to a potential member, they could write to me and I'd send material and usually a letter. This is what happened to Sean, someone, forget who now, asked me to send material to him and I did. I would like to make it plain that this is unlikely to do much good in the immediate future as gradually my publishing will be reduced to only an occasional bit and I won't be available to the recruiters as help in getting additional material out to potential members. So, it is up to the recruiters to get together and see that a recruiting booklet is published with the idea of having a summary that might interest readers to joining the N3F. In addition, while the Publications bureau is officially responsible for keeping a supply of application blanks available on request, I've kept a supply of such blanks rolling around for years and I think the Recruiting Bureau should keep their own supply available for their use in recruiting. The recruiting booklet would be a briefer, a summary if you will, of an Activities Booklet that becomes available to new members after they have joined. The Activities Booklet would contain greater detail on what each activity entails, and preferably also Constitution, By-Laws, and N'APA By-Laws, and the latest Roster.

Now having used Sean as a springboard to make those comments, I'll get back to Stan Woolston's letter and my last word on it. As Editor I even get to give the last word to the President.

Conventions:- A wonderful institution that as many fans of any degree of experience should have the opportunity of seeing first-hand. I've attended mainly World Cons, 1955, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60 & 1971. In 1970 I attended my first pseudo-regional convention in Toronto and I call it a pseudo-regional because it had about 700 or more in attendance and was intended to take the place of a World con, on this side of the ocean, the official con was in Germany. So, because of its nature, it couldn't be compared to the more relaxed atmosphere normally associated I'm told, with regionals. I won't be at the LA Con this year, but I probably will be at the 1973 con in Toronto. So, I am for Conventions, TAFF, HUGOs, Democracy and motherhood, etc. But... and this I mentioned about ten or so years ago, the purpose of N3F is NOT prostituting ourselves to conventions committees, where our purpose and usefulness has diminished anyhow, but to improvement of fan activities for the rest of the year when there aren't conventions, and for those of our members who rarely get to conventions, and we have many who have never been to a convention and who may never be. In Boston, we tried to serve a useful purpose, and Alma Hill did a wonderful job, but we did not serve a useful purpose there, with too small a room, unable to serve refreshments, and in general, not even able to provide much useful information that wasn't more easily available from the Committee information room almost right across from the Neffer room. It didn't cost us much money, but a saving in money is not in itself a basis to judge on the usefulness of a project, nor is waste of money, of course. If we can develop, partially along the lines Rick Sneary suggests, a program of special events for the Neffer room, special Rogues Gallery presentations that has been suggested in the last TNFF by several members, we may have something useful, but unless we can do something like this, I would suggest that we abandon the Neffer room, as not within our capabilities of being useful to fans at conventions. That MUST be our purpose, being USEFUL.

Birthdays cards:- I have some good designs to run off now for this. I will be running them off as soon as possible, unfortunately I cannot see myself able to do this until June at the earliest. Reprinting previous designs for the use of the Project has been done before, however, never for general distribution. This can be done, as I still have, somewhere in my files, all previous designs I ever ran off, and a few that were run off by others. This can be discussed again later, but since half of the members will have seen them before, I am of mixed mind as to its value.

NEWS: So we can use news items from other sources, such as LOCUS, but the use of such material, STOLEN (they don't object, true) from other publications, or from newspapers, has left me with a partially guilty feeling, and this should be done ONLY until we can develop better news gathering facilities of our own and gradually reduce this

Hayes - Continued.

piracy to only exceptional items. We have members who are even in charge of other clubs, or are BNFs in other ways, and they can provide us with just as much original news as LOCUS and the other newszines get. Let THEM reprint from US for a change.

And speaking of important BNFs in N3F, some should be used to run an N3F publicity group. Let them get off their duffs, and start doing something in and for N3F. We have a bank of fanish talent that is just useless because we can't seem to make use of it, and it is a real BRAIN-BANK too, one with great potential. We have the potential of being all that the original founders of N3F expected it to be and more, we have the ability and the manpower, but none of it is willing to do anything about it. It is not enough to just sit back and say that those of us who are trying, aren't doing a good job, what is required is for those with the ability to do that GOOD job, go out and DO IT. I know Stan would just love to revert to a less active state, and I've tried getting out and letting others do it. I'm going to do it now, but for other reasons. Let those with the ability I KNOW they have, use it to make the N3F what it should be and can be.

Now, as to the paragraph you did (Stan did) not expect to have printed. It is important that the next TNFF come out on time, early in fact, for much of April and May, I'll be out of communications except for Directorate business and even there for much of April. I'll be damned if I'm going to be active in fanac during my honeymoon. However, once we get moderately well established in our new home, the backlog of publishing I still intend to complete will be completed, and the back log of correspondence will be eliminated and I'll continue with correspondence within a limit not much less than has been the case in the past. I'll probably be seen more often in the pages of Tb than I've been seen too. I'm not going gafia, and I'll still be around, just not quite as active as has been the case, and much less in the publishing field, which is the costliest to me. So, I'll continue as a wordsmith of a kind, a letter-hack if you will. I won't be running for Directorate in 1973. But don't worry about address changes, Box 1030 will remain good (though I may get another to go along with it) for at least most of 1972. In any event, Janie has another address deep in her files that would remain good for a few more years no matter where I am, and I could give you another address now that would also be good for many years no matter where I am. Delivery of mail has never been a problem for me. Wish it were so with many of our members who seem to be having difficulties all the time.

THRU THE HAZE will come out late this year and a few times in 1973 too, in the large format I'm using for this LIGHTBEAM. Next TNFF will also feature this large size, just have too much of this size paper on hand, so will have to use it up in some way in the future.

I have a backlog of art that was intended for TNFF. This will be sent on to the new O.E. sometime in May, for his discretionary use, either in TNFF or Tb or to send to the MssB. It will take me at least a year to get out of active fanac. I still have confidence in N3F becoming what it should, given time. But my part in it will have to be less than it has been.

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DASFA Feb. Star Trek Con II. Vol. IV #2.

(In view of the importance given in this issue of Convention attendance, excerpts from this issue of DASFA seems in order as a last filler.) (Steve Barnes)

"Aside from the fact that the Star Trek Con turned out to be twice the expected size and four times what I was prepared for, experiencing your first big con is something that has to be lived through to be understood. There is the excitement of meeting people you have only corresponded with and there are those "names", Asimov, Clement, Roddenberry, that are to be worshipped from afar. There is a continual schedule of events which include those priceless "Bloopers", that make the trip worthwhile by itself.

I did find the constant crush of fanatic "groupies" who have somehow invaded Trekdom a little disconcerting. To find oneself caught in a small corridor between two hundred of said groupies and their hero, Roddenberry, is an even this middle-aged lady would have glad to pass up. At least one cannot deny their enthusiasm.

The weekend has its rewards, however. The room parties my erstwhile room-mates, Judith Brownlee & Carrie Peak, organized were nothing short of fantastic. I met people I had only heard of and never expected to meet. Energetic Langsams, Hal Clement, Bjo Trimble, Dorothy Fontana to name a few. It was forth the night of lost sleep to see this lovely lady, her disciples gathered adoringly at her feet, seated in our room happily discussing Star Trek, the scripts, Gene Roddenberry and Leonard Nemoy. It is something I will hold very dear for a long time.

All in all, it was a unique experience. The good far outweighed the bad and as for the fanaticism of the younger fans, I find that in looking back I can excuse them also. After all, it is for them that the show carried its strongest appeal. They believe in mankind's future and that there can be such a future is the message Star Trek hoped to bring to us all. The final registration for the con was in the neighborhood of 2500, as there were 600 pre-registered and 800 expected. Hopefully a Star Trek spin off will come. Roddenberry would like to do a full length, large budget film with original cast.