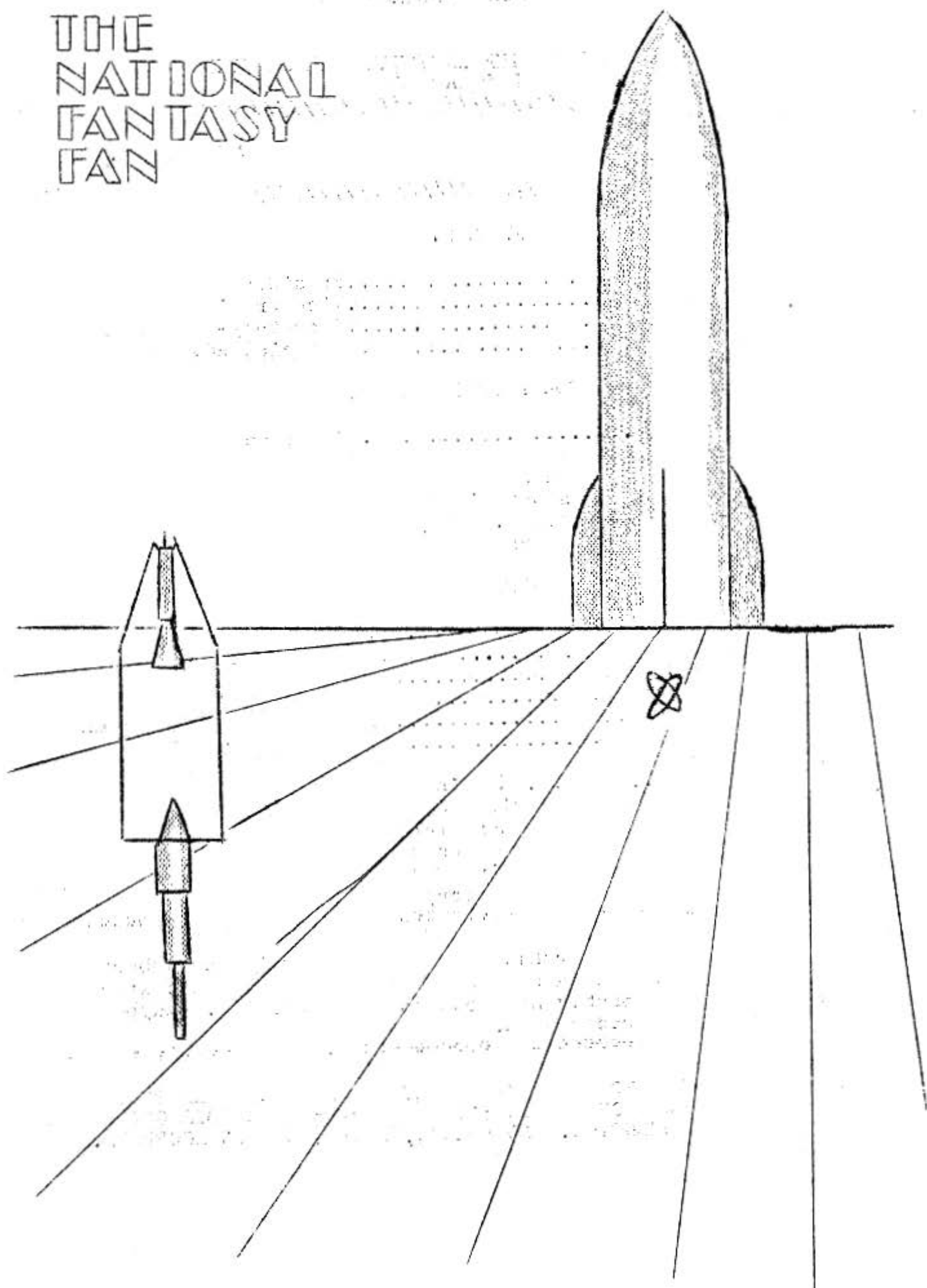


THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN



THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN
FEDERATION

SEPTEMBER, 1946

Vol. 5, No. 6

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And this time the orchids go to Oswald Train and Robert G. Thompson for helping to assemble the last issue of this sterline fanzine. They will probably help out on this one, too. Maybe it's the free beer that attracts them.

DON'T ALL YOU LOVELY PEOPLE FORGET THAT YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO SEND A DOLLAR TO THAT LOWLY CHARACTER milton a rothman AS YOUR CONTRIBU* TION TO THE NEXT CONVENTION. NO FRANCS, MARKS, OR YEN ACCEPTED.

DUPLICATING

by Earl Kay and Walter Dunkelberger

(Previous chapters of this series appeared in the February and April, 1945, issues of The National Fantasy Fan)

Now that you have a good stencil cut and are ready for the reproduction process, it might be well to ponder a moment on the fundamentals behind this process.

You have watched, and possibly have performed the task of lettering by using a stencil -- tracing already cut out letters, or sweeping a broad brush over a cut-out stencil firmly held to a surface which is to be lettered. It is this latter method which is the fundamental principle behind our mechanical duplicating (mimeograph).

A mechanical duplicator consists fundamentally of a stencil (already discussed), a source of printing fluid (ink pad) and a method of pressing the printing fluid thru the stencil on to the surface on which you desire the printing to appear. In reproducing by the means we have under discussion it has been found that moving the surface to be printed between a rotating drum on which the stencil has been placed and a roller (which presses the surface against the stencil squeezing the printing fluid through it) is the most efficient. We shall group our discussion in the following manner: I, rotating drum; II, Ink pad; III, Impression roller; IV, Surface to be printed; V, Feeding mechanism; VI, Slip sheeting.

I. ROTATING DRUM: This cylindrically-shaped object holds the ink pad over which the stencil is held by suitable clamps. The drum is then rotated by an attached handle.

The drum also serves other purposes. On some machines it is hollow and the interior is easily accessible. In such a case the drum's surface is perforated and the ink pad may be inked from the back thru the perforations. This inking process may be performed by the manual use of a long-handled brush, or by some automatically moved, brush-equipped, ink container. Whichever method is used, this "inside inking" is the most convenient for the amateur publisher, for it keeps him from getting inky fingers while removing the stencil to reink the pad beneath it for long runs.

The closed drum necessitates the removal or lifting of the stencil while ink is applied under the stencil. It is a very clever operator who can apply just the right amount of ink to the drum. Too much and the first few copies run thru are blotched. Not enough and the job has to be done over.

The drum must be kept clean and the bearings lightly -- tho well -- oiled for the best results. Paper lint mixed with ink causes more trouble for duplicating operators than all other things combined.

II. INK PAD: Once a mechanical reproduction device has been acquired, the operator can't do much about changing the drum or other mechanical equipment, but he can and must change the ink pads -- frequently.

In selecting an ink pad, the following points should be taken into consideration: (a) that it fits without making alterations (true you can make your own but experience has taught the writer that the inexpensive ones purchased at the supply house were best in the long run); (b) fuzzy on one side, smooth on the other; (c) the pad does not shed lint or ravel easily.

After placing the pad in its correct position on the equipment, it is advisable to ink it thoroly from both sides and allow the ink to saturate the pad before trying to use the duplicator.

If an inferior pad is used the ink will rapidly clog it and necessitate the removal of the faulty pad. The ink wasted in such a replacement costs more than several good pads would.

After completing a run always remove the stencil and cover the ink pad and drum with a suitable cover. An oiled heavy paper is usually provided for such purposes by the manufacturers.

On exposure to air and to the chemicals in the stencils, the ink clots, thus clogging the pad. For this reason it is advisable to change pads at given intervals: after so many stencils have been run, or after a definite period of time (say a month or six weeks.)

III. IMPRESSION ROLLER: This is a composition roller (usually rubber) held in an adjustable device below the rotating drum. The surface to be printed passes between it and the drum. It is the function of the roller to press the paper to the drum. "Stripper plates" are attached near each end of the roller to the side standards of the drum holder. The paper passes under these and they pull the paper away from the drum as it rotates.

IV: SURFACE TO BE PRINTED: This surface may be anything from paper to thin sheets of metal. Care should be used in the selection of the surface so that good results may be obtained.

There are many brands of "mimeograph paper." This is primarily a highly absorbent grade of paper usually distinguished by its rough (in contrast with typewriter bond) surface. It should, if possible, be lint free.

The proper selection of paper grade for any given job should be governed by the following points: size, color, absorbent qualities, opacity (this is governed by the "weight" of the paper), and its ability to lie flat.

Size and color depend on the job at hand. Absorbent qualities of the paper are inherent because of its processing (lightly pressed together, not coated, etc.). If a surface is not rapidly absorbent it becomes necessary to keep successive sheets separated by slipsheeting to prevent the unabsorbed ink from getting on the back of the next sheet. Opacity of a paper is important particularly when it is desirable to print on both sides of the sheet. A weight of 16 pounds (commonly called "Utility Grade") should not be printed on both sides as the printing will show through. 18# is a poor paper for both side work, but as the National Emergency has decreed it a substitute for 20# we will have to use it, altho we don't have to like it. 20# is (normally) the lightest weight that should be used for nice appearing two-sided work. The quality of lying flat, particularly while being fed into the equipment, is very important, as a paper that curls and tends to fold causes many difficulties such as paper manning, crooked printing, creased paper, etc. Yellow "second sheets," commonly called Railroad Manila, is the worst offender when it comes to curling. It is practically impossible to duplicate on both sides of this paper.

V. FEEDING MECHANISM: The mechanism for feeding paper to the drum and impression roller varies with the type of equipment. Some must be hand fed a sheet at a time while others have intricate systems of rollers and friction arms that precisely feed a sheet at a time in exactly the manner the equipment is set for.

Fundamentally the automatic feed system can best be illustrated in this manner: An amount of paper is stacked on the side of the equipment on which the drum rotates downward. The stack is held in place by long metal guides on each side of it while on the end of the stack opposite the drum is a back stop clamp against which the paper butts. All three of these guides are adjustable so that the stack may be moved to either side or away from the drum, thus regulating the margin widths (side to side) or spacing the copy on the sheet vertically (moving the back stop.)

The side guides are equipped with tension pads (usually sponge rubber). These serve the dual purpose of holding the stack in line and of providing a tension to hold the pile of paper from moving when the feeder arm moves the top sheet into the drum and roller for duplicating. The feeder arm is actuated by a lever arrangement attached to the rotating drum. It swings into place on top of the stack of paper and has an adjustable weight which holds the fingers of the feeder arm down upon the stack of papers in various degrees of pressure. Light weight paper needs less pressure to move a sheet forward off the stack and out from between the tension pads than does the heavier paper.

This feeder arm also has an adjustment by which the paper may be fed a little sooner in the cycle of drum rotation or a little later, thus supplementing the adjustment of the back stop. As the drum rotates, the feeder arm drags back and forth across the stack of paper. The back stop prevents the top sheet from being shoved

off the back and as the drum comes around toward the proper position for impression, the arm begins its forward sweep and takes the top sheet with it, shoving it between the roller and the drum. As soon as the sheet is making contact, the drum begins its pull and moves the sheet on from there while the feeder arm reverses its travel and begins dragging back over the stack to prepare to shove another sheet forward.

It is important that the rubber tips on the feeder arm fingers be given a good deal of attention. They are necessarily rough, and as they wear smooth their efficiency lessens. When they get smooth they should be rotated and a new surface exposed to use.

When you run out of rough surfaces, the rubber tips may be abraded by rubbing them with the jaws of a pair of pliers, or even with your thumb. Often the smoothness on the rubber is due to an accumulation of oil from the ink. -- Ed.7

In like manner the sponge rubber tension pads should be kept free of lint and as they wear should be adjusted or replaced.

A very important point to remember is that before stacking fresh paper in the feeding mechanism, you should ruffle them, making sure that each sheet is separated from its neighbor. This prevents them from binding and lessens the chances of feeding more than one sheet through at a time. Ed.7

VI. SLIP SHEETING: When the paper does not absorb the ink fast enough, and one wishes to keep all trace from appearing on the back side of the next sheet, it is necessary to slip sheet. This is accomplished by laying a sheet of paper or other material over each sheet as it falls into the catcher, thus preventing the sheets from coming into contact with each other.

Regulation slip sheets are the easiest to handle, but are rather expensive. They are designed to operate in automatic equipment that drops a slip sheet each time a duplicated sheet drops into the catcher. This special size and design are the cause of the extra cost.

After the run is completed the duplicated material with slip sheets still between is stacked somewhere to dry. This drying process may take anywhere from a few minutes to several days. The absorbing qualities of the paper and the weather set the limits. Coated bond paper takes the longest, and the writer has experienced a wait of three days during damp weather, and even then thought the sheets should have waited longer.

When dry, the sheets and slip sheets are separated, re-stacked, and the back side may be run if the publisher so desires.

Subsequent chapters in this series are in progress and will appear.

NFFF at the PACIFICON

by
E.E. Evans

Editor's Note: This is the authorized publication of a personal report on the N.F.F.F. meeting at the PACIFICON as sent to President Dunkelberger. There has been no attempt made to change it from the personal form in which it was written.

-oOo-

Firstly, as I told Lorraine, everything is all OK, and that damned telegram was somebody's idea of a joke -- a rotten one, almost everyone agrees.

I had talked with Tucker, Rothman, Widner and some of the others before the meeting, and particularly with Rusty, whom I put on the program to make a talk of explanations on several subjects.

I made a little talk, of which I will send you a copy in a few days, when I get a little rested up and feel more like copying. Then I read your message. In that, I took the liberty of making two little changes, which I felt would be for the better. I took out Laney's name, and substituted "this certain director", feeling that it would be better to let the other side mention names first, which they did. I also added "Chairman of the Board of Directors" after Harry Warner's name, for the benefit of those who might not realize or know his position in the NFFF. Otherwise it was read as you sent it.

Immediately I was through with that there were several hands of people who wanted the floor, but I overruled them with the explanation that Rusty was to make a talk that might answer a lot of their questions, and that I would wait until after that to open the meeting for general discussion.

Rusty had brought his file of official correspondence, and referred to it from time to time to give direct quotes on what he was talking about. He gave a very fair and straightforward account of the various troubles that had beset the NFFF during the past seven months, and stated time and again that the organization was not dead, and that he was against any dissolution. (Incidentally, Walt, Rusty, although he was in on the work of getting the Fantasy Foundation started, and is very interested in it, has never been a party to any "plot" against you or the NFFF in any way. Also, a s set up, there is no need of nor intention of there being any rivalry between the FF and the NFFF, as they are created for different reasons. There might occasionally arise a case where they might overlap in some proposed project, but if the head of the NFFF (whoever he may be in some future time) will keep in close touch with Ackerman, those things can be amiably worked out and the two gangs work TOGETHER instead of in competition.)

Following his talk, Laney asked for a general clarification of that noted quote, asking that Rusty read the entire paragraph, since he claimed that quoting it out of context made it seem differently intended than it was intended.

There was considerable discussion about the matter, and Laney admitted that it was an unfortunate incident in which he had been too precipitate and a little later a show of hands declared that the members did not believe that he had done it with any intention of sabotaging the NFFF, but because he really believed that the organization had outlived its usefulness.

During the discussion it came out that it had been because most of the officers and others who had so believed were led into that error because of the earlier reports that very few of the former members were retaining their membership by paying their 1946 dues, which Widner explained at some length by telling how he had been delayed in getting the full reports up to date by the incidents of his leaving the army and trying to get readjusted to civilian life and settled down into that new routine once more. Several of the critics also admitted from the floor that they had been fooled by this membership mix-up, and that the latest report of the number of members and their names, and the amount of money in the treasury had changed their minds.

I'll be perfectly frank and tell you that there was some criticism of your work as president on a couple of counts, but no one even hinted in any way that they did not think you were trying your best to do everything you could for the organization. It is felt that you are the type of fellow who works best under direction of someone else, rather than being in charge of things and others. I have come to feel this, myself, but I want you to remember that that is absolutely no reflection on you at all, for there are more people of that type than any other. It was all agreed that you did a magnificent job as Secretary-Treasurer, while Bob and I had charge.

Laney made the charge that you had presented no prepared program for the year, but I brought out by asking him direct questions, that neither had the Board after you had failed to do so. I also made him admit that no one had ever taken any direct steps to get you out of office if they thought you were incompetent, but had taken it out in yelling at you.

It was the general consensus that you were working very, very hard to put the NFFF across, but that you lacked the complete ability to sublimate your personal feelings to the good of the work -- a thing that anyone must do to put over such an organization of individualists as we fans are. There was also the feeling that you should have worked out and presented a program of things to be accomplished during the year, as soon as or even before you took office. It was also agreed that when you failed to do so the Board should have done it, and I asked for and had passed a motion that the Board be requested within the next 30 days to prepare and submit such a program -- and I stated that I felt that I had enough influence with you so that I could get you to accept any such program they might propose.

My purpose in asking this was two-fold: It would put it up squarely to the board to show if they were any more competent than you were, since some of them had claimed that you were not; and that it would give the NFFF something concrete to work on during the balance of the year, and would keep it going and functioning until the elections this Fall, and the beginning of the new year.

It was also urged, and mentioned by several, that influential fans who had the interests of the NFFF and fandom at heart should file petitions for some office in the NFFF, so that we could have plenty of competition in the coming election, and really get a chance to vote for our choice

It was this year.

It was brought out that there was not and need be any competition between the Foundation and the Federation, and that there was no reason why they should not work together at all times. May I suggest here that it would be a splendid thing if you wrote a letter to Ackerman (he is General Manager of the Foundation), offering the NFFF's best wishes and offers of cooperation between the two organizations.

As to the guys who sent the telegram -- I am not going to try to find out who sent it, for it really doesn't matter. It has been spread around that it was done, and there is general condemnation of the culprits. I mentioned to a couple of fans that it cost me over three dollars to phone you and straighten you out on the matter, and this morning when I woke up an envelope had been slid under my door, containing three one-dollar bills, and childishly printed on the outside, "Good for one long talk". So let's just put it down to either childishness or drunkenness, and forget it, since trying to hunt down who did it will only cause more enmities if we do find out, and it isn't worth that to one's peace of mind.

THE HOAX

(Reprinted from FANEWS #280) Dunkelberger received the following wire the morning of July 6th - FEDERATION DISBANDED 82-14 DIRECTORS APPROVED. FUNDS VOTED ATOMIC SCIENTIST WASHINGTON - WALT.

Oddly enough that action was entirely possible. If the Directors had so voted it could be accomplished. Dunkelberger laid off work and consulted an attorney, sent the following wire to Walter J. Daugherty (PACIFICON DIRECTOR) - ACTION ILLEGAL. AIR MAIL DETAILS AND LIST OF VOTERS - DUNK.

On the attorney's advise Dunkelberger proceeded to draw up papers restraining the Treas. from dispersing the funds without a balloting of the entire membership and papers were drawn up for action against the Directors involved (who ever they might be) for misusing their offices. Details were not completed on Saturday so action was deferred until Monday.

((Letters advising the Directors not at the Pacificon of the wire and requesting a statement of their position in the matter were placed in the Air Mail Sunday morning.))

Sunday (early evening), Evans called long distance from Los Angeles. He was unable to reach Dunk so he gave the message to Lorraine that the wire concerning the disbanding was a hoax and should be charged off as a prank of someone with a juvenile sense of humor or in a drunken stupor.

In as much as a great deal of expense had been gone to thus far in the matter, a little more than \$30 in lost time and attorney's fees, Dunk wired Evans the data on the hoax wire and asked for an investigation. Western Union demanded details when the wire was filed. It seems that the sending of such a wire comes under the heading of fraud and WU does not approve of the use of its services for such purposes....Upon seeing the seriousness of the matter Dunk tried to withdraw the wire he had filed but it had already been sent. When he left the office he had not signed ..(a) complaint and WU was uncertain as to what they would do. ((To date no action has been taken that we know of.))....

It is a bit difficult for us to understand just what useful purpose the above .. mentioned hoax accomplished. We trust that the perpetrators...enjoyed

the sellers. In our own case we don't like the idea of putting out \$30 for no "value received". If they got thirty bucks worth of fun out of it - we're glad someone did. For ourselves it was too close to the truth to be funny.

Editor's Note: Dots in the foregoing item denote the deletion of letters or words from the original publication. This was necessary as the item, as originally published, concerned more than the one hoax to which we refer. Material that appears in ()s did not appear in the original.

-o0o0o-

PREXY'S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Milton A. Rothman for his diligent work in doing the drudge task of putting out the NATIONAL FAN-TASY FAN the past few issues. The quality has been excellent and we appreciate it. We hope that he will extend our appreciation to those of the Philadelphia Science Fantasy Society who assisted him.

Now that we know what occurred at the Pacificon meeting and that the situation has been aired I'm sure that we can face the situation a little more objectively. As my only interest is the good of the organization and I stand ready, as always, to cooperate in promoting the welfare of the organization working with anyone and everyone for the continued growth of the NFFF. I see no reason why we can't forget the past and begin anew.

The FINLAY LITHOS (all 8 of them) are now at hand and need only a folder to make them ready for distribution. Current rush on print shops and paper shortages make it difficult to contact a printer and get it done right away. Carlson and I have a couple of local ones on tap, but they seem to want a little more money for the job than we want to put in to it.

The Bibliography of Science Fiction (Bill Evan's) is progressing very nicely. The short run mags are completed and Astounding is done. Most of the work, that is completed, has been stenciled and is now being mimeographed. Bill Evan's is doing all of the cataloging and Bob Peterson is doing the stenciling.

The Fan Handbook is now in the stenciling and duplicating stages. The usual let down of activity during the summer months worked its damage. Lynn Bridges, who is stenciling all of his own headings and introductions, reports that progress is very rapid. Maddox and Dunkelberger have the check listing ready and only waiting to match the format of the other copy before stenciling.

The Bookcom is making its own individual report in this issue. I believe that the plan looks very good and should be backed 100%. I'm sure that Spencer will have no difficulty finding willing hands to help and willing pocket books to subscribe for the results.

Two projects I have no reports available on are the FAN ANTHOLOGY and the WELCOM Booklet. The last I heard was last spring when both committees reported that work had reached its final stages. If anyone has any data on these will they please forward it to me at once?

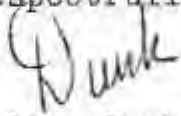
The amendments presented for your discussion in the August Bulletin have brought a few comments, it's too early for complete returns as yet. These comments are presented in the article following this message.

The resignation of Norman F. Stanley as Chairman of the Planning Committee has been received and Sam Moskowitz, well known and well liked New Jersey fan, has been appointed his successor.

Andy Lyon has been appointed to fill out the unexpired term of Milton A. Rothman as Official Editor. Milt, as explained before, has resigned to attend school.

If you haven't already done so, but desire to run for office, rush your petitions so that they will be on file with Art Widner and Marty Carlson before October 1st. Art Widner's address is: 121 Norton St., No. Weymouth (91) Mass. K.M. Carlson's is: 1028 3rd Ave. So., Moorhead, Minn.

Respectfully submitted


Walter Dunkelberger
President of NFFF

THE AMENDMENTS

Before presenting the comments that have been received on the proposed amendments I would like to explain why these amendments are necessary. I will take them in the order they appeared on the proposal sheet.

Concerning the Sec'y granting memberships. As it stands it is necessary for the Sec'y. to poll the Board of Directors, a task which usually consumes at least 30 days. Frequently that lapse of time causes a new fan to lose interest and he will drop out. Empowering the Sec'y to act, subject to review, would eliminate this "red tape".

The second proposal dropping the "grant membership" clause in the Directorate powers is only introduced to avoid conflict with the first proposal.

The third proposal concerns broadening the powers of the Board of Directors. I believe that they should have these powers. The organization should not be so set up as to operate on the initiative of one individual. The act would not only give the Board added powers but added responsibilities.

The fourth proposal concerning the dropping of a member for non-payment of dues only legalizes traditional procedure and a Presidential Order of this year.

The fifth proposal deletion of revocation of membership by the Directorate clause. This should be deleted as it is a needless repetition of the section referred to in proposal number two.

The sixth proposal concerning the deletion of the restriction on officers from holding more than one office at a time. Personally I'm in favor of retaining this "as is" but its deletion would remove the barrier for the President, or any other officer, to assuming the office of Official Editor should the need arise.

The seventh proposal concerns the election of an official editor. This is one of the most important offices in our organization. It should be elective so that the members themselves might choose who they would have editing the official organ.

The eighth proposal concerns the removal from office of an officer not doing his duty. At the moment we have one Director who hasn't taken any part in official procedure since March 27th. He has not been heard from since April 8th. The President has requested his resignation and did not receive a response of any nature. When the matter was presented to the Board of Directors they voted two for removal and two against removal of this Director from office. An impeachment procedure would be lengthy and expensive. It is our belief that in such a case the President should have the power to remove this officer from office, subject to the review of the Board of Directors.

The ninth proposal eliminates a section which duplicates the proposed amendment in proposal eight. Some may think that this removes power from the Board of Directors, but if they will examine proposal number three, they will find that the Board still has the power under the broadening act.

Below I have listed some of the comments received to date:

"On the first proposal I think that a member should be stricken from the membership for not voting as well as neglecting to pay dues."

"The power to revoke membership should remain in the hands of the Directorate." ((I'm sure that on reexamination you'll find that it does.D))

"The proposal to do away with subsection d of Art 5 A I looks, to me, like the attempt of someone to concentrate all power in the hands of a chosen few. For, I inquire, what other reason could there be in eliminating the prohibition against holding two offices at the same time?"

"On the last proposal I think subsection e should stand, unless someone wants to do away with the checking powers of the Directorate." ((This section you'll find would be covered in the broadened powers of the Directorate.D))

Above are some of the comments that have come in. Look them over carefully. Review the proposed amendments carefully. They are presented toward the end of a better organization.

-oOo-

REPLY TO LANEY

I see no reason why either Dale Tarr or I should apologize to F.T.Laney. On the contrary I believe that Francis T. Laney should apologize to the entire membership of the National Fantasy Fan Federation for so conducting himself that his motives and actions could be suspected of treason.



Walter Dunkelberger

REPORT OF THE BOOK PUBLISHING COMMITTEE

The NFFF Book Publishing Committee was formed to investigate the possibilities of our organization publishing cloth-bound books of interest to fantasy hobbyists. The facts have been gathered, and all that remains is to select material for publication.

First, our purpose. We do not propose to compete with Arkham House or any other professional or semi-professional publishers of fantasy books. We plan to publish material other publishers will not use, not because it lacks quality, but because it does not fit their editorial policies or would not appeal to a wide enough audience. We will aim chiefly at the limited number of active fantasy fans, with particular attention given to members of the NFFF. Our editions will be much smaller than professional publishers can handle, and will be published on a strictly amateur, non-profit basis.

In order to obtain small editions at reasonable prices, we have decided to utilize a special method of printing by which type-writer-style print is reproduced by embossed metal plates. This process provides a sharp, clear, easily legible page, and aside from its unconventionality should be entirely satisfactory. The books would have title and contents pages printed by the usual method, would be bound in cloth, and could have illustrated dust-jackets as well as interior illustrations.

The price? Well, a cloth-bound volume of 50,000 words (short novel-length) with illustrated dust-jacket, in an edition of 500 copies, would cost about \$1.50 per book. Longer books would cost correspondingly more -- e.g., a 100,000 word book would cost slightly less than twice as much per copy. These books would be choice collectors'-items, and would provide a handsome and lasting format for worthwhile fantasy material. If a workable method can be evolved, NFFF members would, of course, be allowed a special discount.

What material would be used? We contemplate anthologies of the best fiction, articles, poetry, and perhaps artwork, from the fantasy fan-magazines. Also any new material of value. In addition, we are investigating the possibility of obtaining professional material -- tho this may involve an extra cost-factor. SUGGESTIONS for material will be gratefully received.

Who would do the work? The undersigned would like to handle most aspects of production and distribution, but we'd like the membership to provide volunteers to handle the immense job of making a typescript of the book for the printers. This task would probably have to be split up among several persons. Individuals or clubs who can and will do this typing are urged to send in their names, giving some indication of the number of pages they will undertake to type in a given period. This project cannot succeed without the help of such volunteers.

How about financing? The NFFF treasury would pay for advertisements, postage, and other incidentals. Also, it might make up

a portion of the cost of publication, to be paid back when all the books are sold. However, owing to the limitations of our treasury, most of the cost would have to be made up by advance orders. Only if we can sell the greater part of the edition previous to publication will it be possible to publish. Customers would, of course, risk nothing -- if publication should have to be cancelled, for any reason, the club would immediately return the money.

What can you do about it? WRITE TO US AT ONCE -- give us any helpful ideas you may have on how the committee should function, what material should be used, etc. And if you have access to a typewriter -- preferably with pica (large) letters -- help us out by volunteering to do typing!

Paul Spencer
J.R. Whitman
88 Ardmore Rd
W. Hartford, Conn.

////////////////////////////////////
How about reversing the usual way of choosing material for an anthology? Let each fan writer submit one or two items of his which he would most like to have included in an anthology. These could be weeded out by the editor. I am sure the quality of material acquired in this manner would be the highest, and it would make the writers happy. Ed.

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LOOK FELLAS, A LETTER DEPARTMENT!

We hear from Boff Perry:

Put me on record as approving of the Speer constitution as is with the following exceptions:

2. "fractions proportionately" is rather impractical if carried out to 29 decimals. Why not, "quarter fractions proportionately?" This to prevent a new member having to pay $38\frac{1}{4}$ cents dues for the remainder of the first year.

2&3. I think it would be better to have all finances arranged on a fiscal year beginning July first and elections, etc., done on a calendar year basis rather than vice versa as Speer has it.

Dunkelberger's rebuttal to Speer was inconsequential. Would he be so kind as to enumerate "its the article's many errors, inaccuracies and faults"???

Let's not have the mistaken impression that to be succesful our constitution needs to be as complex as that of the US Constitution. Evans and Dunk seem to have this idea with their "checks and balances."

In an indirect democracy these may be necessary, but in an org-

anization of less than 200 where the membership votes annually, they are hindering. Is there any good reason why the Directorate and the Executive positions should be separate entities? Work in the Federation should be largely that of committees. How about a list of one-man committee jobs? I'm sure I could find a good job somewhere in the list.

And please include a letter section in the mag for those who have constructive ideas but are unwilling to write to article length.

Yerz

/boff/

PS: I enclose a dollar for support of the Philcon.

The typing for the book mentioned by the Bookcom above is a nice job for you fellows who are looking for a committee to be on. Remember, tho, that this is one typing job that must be perfect. No errors allowed. Ed.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Here I am waiting for the secretary's report, as usual. Tsk, Widner.

Pages 5 to 8, inclusive, of this issue were stencilled by Dunkelberger.

Pages 1 to 4 were run off on cheap paper, while the rest was done on Hammermill Mimeo Bond at \$1.50 per ream. I find that the extra cost pays off in the long run in saving of time, energy, and wastage. The Hammermill paper, which I bought because there was nothing else in the store, runs thru the machine like a dream, with a complete absence of off-set, and none of this breath-holding wondering whether the next sheet will crease or be out of registration.

Well, the less I talk here, the more room there is for other crud.

Tally ho.

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re the amendments

Proposed III-/A-3-7d: Why grant the secretary discretionary power to grant or not grant membership to individual applicants? That is virtually the only change wrought by this amendment.

Repeal of V-A-1-d: This removes the prohibition against multi office holding. The plain effect of it is to make possible the concentration of more discretionary power into one man's hands. What hypocrisy to claim that the old constitution's essential features of "checks and balances" should be preserved, yet advocate allowing the same man to hold several offices!

VII-B: The fantastic argument that the official editor should be elective, because this year's president has not been able to find a person to handle it for the whole year, hardly requires refutation. If the president can find no suitable person to appoint the job, how could the nominating committee find a suitable person to be elected to it? The appointive method at least has the merit of flexibility, in that more than one person may be appointed to handle the job, and that unforeseen interferences with an appointee's ability to discharge his duties can be met by replacing him with someone else who can handle it a few months.

III-A-1-d: Here is a prize piece of denseness. A method is provided by which any official can be removed --- except the president! It is obviously motivated by and framed only to meet, the situation we had this year. (Altho there is no reason why a leader with a grasp of the realities could not have said to the Board: "Joe Fortier has ceased to function as a director. (Citing evidence.) To replace him, I nominate Carl Smith." If the Board approved his choice, the directorate would be complete again, and they could go on to do something else instead of waiting for a constitutional amendment to rescue them.) But the amazing thing is the omission of any provision for removing the president, when that is the very thing which, according to the sentiment of the Pacificon, was needed this year! This amendment, I might mention, was Dunkelberger's, not Tarr's, and Tarr is no longer in favor of any of these piecemeal amendments.

Repeal of III-B-1-e: This is complementary to the above, taking out of the hands of the directors the power to initiate a removal, and also depriving them of their power to issue temporary restraining orders when officials have acted wrong.

In general the draftsmanship of these amendments is poor, and likely to cause trouble. An extreme case is the mentioning of the official editor in the section on the official organ, but failing to include him in the section listing other elective officers. One may lightly wonder whether, if these amendments were adopted the spelling "offical" would have to be retained. Several proposals are obviously ad hoc, inspired by difficulties which have arisen this year, and do not go to the basic faults, excessive verbosity and detail, and cumbersome machinery, which have produced these difficulties, and will produce more in the future.

The following constitution is to be presented for a vote at the coming election. While it appears to be leaning over backwards in its effort to avoid complexity, the sponsors feel that this is the answer to the grotesque results obtained in trying to amend the present constitution bit by bit. Ed.

Resolved: That the constitution of the NFFF be amended by substituting for it the following, to go into effect with elections in June, 1947.

1. This organization, the Fantasy League, operates in the field of activity which has grown up around interest in science fiction and other fantasy. It is intended to perform any desirable functions in that field which an organization can do better than unorganized individuals.

2. Members join upon approval of the Board. Dues are \$1 per calendar year, fractions proportionately.

3. A Board of five is elected annually in the summer. Each member may vote for five people. The five receiving the greatest number of votes become the Board for the next year, and the one with the most votes is president.

4. The Board passes on appointments of all other officials and committees. Under rules adopted by itself, it has complete authority over acts of the organization, and may delegate power to officials.

5. In the monthly or bimonthly official organ, any member may speak at reasonable length on affairs of the organization, and all formal votes of Board members are given in detail.

6. Constitutional amendments, proposed by five members, must be approved by a majority of the members who vote in the annual election.

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SECRETARY'S NO-REPORT DEPT: On September 1 Art Widner wrote me: "Hope to finish big installment of Blatant Peast & secyreport this week, so prepare thyself accordingly. Also comes platforms from Phil Schumann for director & maybe yhos for pres." It is now Sept 19 and nothing has come yet from Widner. Tomorrow we go to press. When I invite people over here to help with the assembling, then on that day when they come, this publication is finished. Ed.

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Members from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and all points east: Don't forget the PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE to be held the afternoon of the last Sunday in October. Speakers are Sam Loveman (friend of Lovecraft) and George O. Smith.

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