

TNFF

This is, believe it or not, The National Fantasy Fan, August, 1969; published for the National Fantasy Fan Federation by Gary H. Labowitz, 1100 Betzwood Dr., Norristown, Pa. 19401 who gets the blame for this emergency issue.

Since this is the cover I guess I can write a cover letter (or cover story if you prefer) as to why there was no July Tightbeam and a late TNFF. The missing TB is due to several factors which include: I quit my job and took a new position with a new, young, and hopefully growing company which involved doing cleanup work at one job while getting familiar with the new one; I have suffered a couple of (not serious) hampering illnesses of late, culminating with an incredible stiff neck (still with me a little) which has kept me in bed weekends for three weeks in a row; 1,000,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ things to do around a house in summer; and, of course, summer doldrums. Heaven knows there is a mound of material here ready to go on stencil but which I just haven't gotten the steam up to begin. Once started it will get done. I have completed the cover artwork for both Sept. and Nov. TB (both beauties) and since we vacation the last week of August (including the Con) I hope to get back fresh and perking the first week of Sept. and get out a real good, thick TB. Meanwhile, it appears I have been asked to get out the August TNFF on an emergency basis and this is it.

The major decision seems to me to be whether to add a few pages (or even a couple dozen) and make it a giant issue OR send out the emergency and put all the accumulated material in a Sept. TB. I have chosen the latter course for two reasons: 1) getting the material on stencil the way I want it will take an additional day or so and I don't know that I will have the time while we are packing, taking the dog to the vets, etc. and 2) a large issue would have to go out 3rd class, insuring its arrival after the Con for most; meaning Sept.

By keeping the Aug. TNFF smaller it will go out this weekend 1st class. My only regret is not having time to update the files and provide a new roster. However, I plan the new roster for Sept. TB so if you are changing address for school put the new address on a card and try to get it to me before Sept. 9. I will hold the roster til then and run it that evening. Hopefully, the Sept. TB will be run, collated, and in the envelopes waiting for the rosters for mailing the 10th.

Anyway, that's the plan. Hope you had a happy summer, too. Write those letters to TB (yes, Jophan, there is a TB ... somewhere) and you'll be hearing from me all too soon.

Keep smiling,

Gary

WILL YOU BE A CANDIDATE FOR N3F DIRECTORATE OR PRESIDENCY FOR 1970?

Ballots for the annual election must be distributed before October 10, and so those seeking office for next year are urged to inform both the Secretary (Janie Lamb) and the President (Stan Woolston) that they will run. This will insure their names will be placed on the ballot. Write-ins will be acceptable, but a successful campaign for someone not on the ballot would be hard.

For this reason candidates are urged to write up a platform and send it along with their notice that they are running to Stan Woolston, 12832 Westlake St., Garden Grove, Calif. 92640.

The Election article of our Constitution says:

The President and five members of the Directorate are to be decided by the membership in an annual election of those officers. Ballots for the election are to be distributed before October 10th and the elected candidates take office on the following January first. Any member may seek office by complying with the official requirements which are to be published in the official organ at least two months previous to the filing deadline.

No person may hold two elective offices at the same time.

Each member may cast one vote for each of the five candidates of his choice in the election of the Directorate. The five candidates receiving the largest number of votes are elected. Ties are resolved by majority agreement of those elected candidates not included in the tie.

Of the candidates for President, the one receiving the largest number of votes is elected. In case of a tie, the elected Directorate chooses a President from the tied candidates.

That is all the Constitution has to say about elections. However, the President's duties are mentioned; he is to conduct the affairs of the organization, and make appointments. The official information as described here is part of the affairs of the organization, and of course similar to instructions passed along in the past.

Harry Warner is the official election teller.

You may run for office, or urge your friends to run. Candidates can write letters to Tightbeam or use other means to campaign such as their own fanzine. Friends of candidates can write letters and use their fanzines to encourage members to vote for their candidates, if they wish. But remember, first candidates should inform secretary and president. (Janie Lamb, Rt. 1, Box 364, Heiskell, Tenn. 37754.)

NEFFER NEWS BUREAU...NEWS NEEDED!

Mike Zaharakis (1326 S.E. 14th, Portland, Oregon 97214) likes to pass on news concerning what fans are doing, but he needs to be told. Please write him, giving details--if you are going somewhere, doing something, publishing, working on a project--or whatever it is. The Neffer News Bureau was set up to answer the curiosity of fans.

HOBBIES BUREAU IS UNDERWAY

by Michael S. Young
801 Main Street
Corinth, Miss. 38834

Numerous delays of all kinds prevented the Hobbies Bureau from commencing with a full boiler of steam, as I had hoped would be the case. However, we have stoked up the boiler now and are progressing nicely.

For the benefit of those who don't know I will explain a little how the Bureau works. It is designed for persons who have hobbies and like to share them with others. It is mainly represented by a bureauzine, DEW POINT, published bi-monthly (or monthly when there is sufficient material). It's sent free to all members. In this publication are articles, letters, etc. written by members and others, in which they discuss various aspects of their hobbies.

The first issue of our bureauzine will be out by the time this report is published. The second issue may be finished as well, depending on a number of circumstances. If you would like copies of these, but are not sure you'd care to join the Bureau, just write me or Richard Burgis and copies will be sent.

We hope to keep the Bureau relatively open-ended; we think that no firmly-set, permanent policies should be made, but rather the Bureau should be allowed to evolve and develop in whatever way its members desire. This being the case, suggestions and comments are always welcomed from both members and non-members.

Hopefully, this has given you a general idea of what the Hobbies Bureau is about. If you think you are interested and would like to know a little more about the Bureau, drop me or Richard a note and we will answer your questions and urge you to join our little group.

The one dollar membership fee for the Bureau will take you through calendar year 1970, regardless of when you join, so the sooner you join the more free copies of Bureau publications you will receive.

The Bureau is beginning to roll along now, but members are desperately needed! At the end of the report is a list of the present membership (correct to July 6, 1969), and as you can easily note, our cup doesn't runneth over with members. So puh-lease JOIN US!

Everyone who has a hobby (or wants one) is wanted. So do join the Hobbies Bureau--today.

Even if you haven't any interest in our Bureau, we urge you to take part in some other bureau or club activity. Our club's purpose is to help fans enjoy more fully, and share with others, their common hobby of science fiction. Why not let the NSF help you to really enjoy SF? Be active--!

--MICHAEL S. YOUNG

THE HOBBIES BUREAU--CURRENT MEMBERSHIP BUREAU

Michael S. Young (Manager), 801 Main Street, Corinth, Miss. 38834

Richard Burgis (Assistant Manager), 16737 Knollwood Drive,
Granada Hills, California 91334

James Beshires, P.O. Box 526, Reidsville, Georgia 30453

Michael Farkash, 10400 Amestoy Ave., Granada Hills, California 91344

Rose M. Hogue, 1067 W. 26th Street, San Pedro, California 91334

Dr. Askold Ladonko, Apartado 911, Caracas, Venezuela

Don L. Miller, 12315 Judson Road, Wheaton, Maryland 20906

Joseph D. Oliver, 3410 Beechcraft Dr., Alexandria, Virginia 22306

Stan Woolston, 12832 Westlake Street, Garden Grove, Calif. 92640

NOTES ON CORRESPONDING AND N3F

W. G. Nutting and Mike O'Brien are waiting to be placed in a Round Robin. When others send in information about their willingness to be in such an exchange, it will be started. As correspondence is at the heart of N3F activity, there should be enough willing members to start it soon--so write to Stan Woolstonnow if you want to be in a general-discussion Round Robin, or one with special subjects in mind. Mention your interests, or whatever activities you'd like to discuss.

Ron Fortier replied to a Welcome letter by asking information about Round Robins. A Round Robin is a way for a group--usually 5 persons, including the person starting it--to have a sort of "bullsession by mail." Each person takes a turn in bringing up whatever subject they wish, but they usually comment on what others bring up, as in any conversation. The first letter is usually introductory, with something of each person's individual interests, activities and plans, and a brief autobiography helps too. Sometimes fans discover, after being in a RR or so, that they really aren't bad correspondents, even though previously they may not have written many letters, in their mundane lives. Of course the same is true for regular correspondence.

It usually takes about a month, or a little more, for a "round" of a Robin. Actually the time-lag depends on how far apart people live and how they respond, plus other factors including other interests that may distract from an immediate response. I know some Round Robiners who habitually "bounce back" mail, just as they reply to a letter received the same day. This was the practice of Seth Johnson, who started over 150 RRs and wrote individual letters including welcoming ones--and I wonder if any were just two pages long. Some RRs of his lasted for years--and if they ended it was usually because someone didn't bother to send them on when the bundle got to them. These "dying RRs" are one of the hazards of writing group letters, but actually it is less of a problem than when individual letters cease, because others in the RR may quiz others till the person making the break is found. If this doesn't bring the RR alive again, others can start up again and bypass the "stopper."

One way to get around these "stopped robins" is to have a carbon copy sent to the person starting the robin. With this, it is easy to tell when a stoppage occurs.

At one time the Round Robins and the Correspondence Bureau were handled together. Actually there are other activities that have the correspondence approach, including the Overseas Bureau (where you can write in English or other languages, perhaps), the Taperspondence approach, or to Tightbeam. You can write officers or to Bureaus--not to forget that Kaymar Carlson has managed a page of ads for TNFF for a long time now.

Both the Round Robins and the Correspondence Bureau need managers. So write the President if interested either to head an activity or just to be a correspondent. Mention what you believe should be pertinent information even in outside interests. stan

----- WESTERN ON STRIKE...

Whether the strike at Western Aviation will affect convention-bound Neffers for the Labor-Weekend at St. Louis isn't certain, but avoiding last-minute decisions to go might help insure a seat on a plane. Other strikes may be called to affect flights too. In a time when Man has proven it is possible to walk on another world, it is still not always possible to move around on this one...

Trying to keep in touch is sometimes a big problem in fandom. This is true for the volunteer in N3F, too. For instance, Gary Labowitz is editing this issue of The National Fantasy Fan, hoping to get it out by August 10 even though I as President didn't ask him to do it till about two weeks before then. Because Wally Weber hasn't produced the June issue yet, this move on my part is meant to get us back on schedule. This could help you keep in touch...

It has been said that the second half of the year finds directors less active than the first half. I doubt this will be true this year --but if this observation is generally true, it may be partly due to the feeling that the campaign for next year is a sort of end of the current administration. Or is it that with summer fandom enters a lull--and the time is a contagion that affects directors as well as other fans? I'll leave that up to you--but notice elsewhere in this issue that the rules for running for office as a director or as presidential candidate is covered.

In past years candidates for office had strong representation in the Welcommittee. This is natural enough, because writing letters is a key activity of N3F, and the Welcommittee is related to every other club activity to the extent that Wc members discuss activities to new members and often volunteer to help out when there is a need. I am glad that Art Hayes plans to expand this activity three-fold. But it means he will not run for any office next year, he says. This will give him a chance to concentrate on one area of N3F activity--meaning there are openings in Directorate and N'APA to be filled.

Leo P. Kelley, manager of the Short Story Contest, wrote that with the change of ownership of the Galaxy magazines, and because he is traveling extensively, Fred Pohl asked to be relieved as judge of the Contest. So Leo asked Edward Ferman to take on the job, and he said yes. In this case the change has not caused a problem, and we are lucky to get such an experienced editor to serve as judge. Already Leo has almost a dozen stories, all of which he has read and acknowledged. November 1 is the final date to send manuscripts to Mr. Kelley--and remember, you can get a copy of the entry form and rules by asking for them from Leo P. Kelley, 500 East 85th St., New York, N.Y. 10028. This is the correct address--and remember to fill out the form for each story.

At times the head of a bureau has to resign. Sherry D. Hale has stepped out as head of the Correspondence Bureau, so we will have to attempt to find someone to take her place. She did a good job, but cannot be expected to continue when other matters must take up her time. I'm seeking a replacement--and will be writing letters after completing these stencils with this in mind.

Also, with Richard Labonte not having time enough to work on the Round Robins, someone else is needed for this. I've started one RR with emphasis on writing and fanzines, and want to start another soon. So write me if you are interested, either in being in a RR or in heading this activity. For either Correspondence Bureau or RRs, the name and address of the person in charge will be listed so anyone can get in charge. For Corry Bu, name, Address and interest will be published, so others with similar interests can get in touch. I will keep you informed if I get a reply to this!

VOTING FOR HUGOS

By the time TNFF is out, there will be little or no time to vote in the final Hugo selections for 1968. However, it is not too late --or too early--to consider the advantage of planning for voting next year.

The St. LouisCon folk asked that those who vote for a particular category make sure their vote is informed. With the reading categories this means reading all or at least most of the books, novellas, novelettes and short stories, or not voting in categories not really evaluated. Of course there is no way to insure everyone heeds these words of advice, but perhaps they will help more people plan ahead so, for next year, items that are nominated can be listed with the publishers so this group of important entries can be read before voting.

To help, it would pay if the titles and the place where they can be read are listed. Some will be out in paperback form, others inazines. Not all material will be easily available for those who have not purchased them when published, but libraries and bookstores can sometimes locate such material.

Uninformed voting can upset or warp any choices made so they become either votes for personalities or votes by the uninformed for other reasons--maybe because of a bias for a certain author or actor.

There has been some discussion in fandom to the effect that the best material is not always put into nomination, or so much crud is nominated that, combined with ignorant voting, the Hugos mean little except as a financial boon to the authors. Whether true or not, it is possible to make this less likely if individuals with a real love of SF and fantasy take time to examine the fiction for this year and nominate with care--and then, perhaps, write articles for TNFF, letters for Tightbeam. If it encourages more informed voting for Hugos it would be worth the effort.

TAPE BUREAU--IS IT FOR YOU?

The monthly Newsletter is continuing to appear, and the Stinson magazine coming out soon, the Tape Bureau is worth investigating. If you like old radio programs, or talks and pannels from cons, or want to correspond by speaking into a microphone, write Joanne (55 Blue Bonnet Ct., Lake Jackson, Texas 77566). Tell her your tape speed and interests, and consider contributing to the magazine: material will speed its issuance.

HOBBY BUREAU PUBLICATION NEEDS CONTRIBUTIONS

Steve Young intends to let the magazine he is working on be the main voice of the Hobbies Bureau. (Its name is HOBBIES Bureau, too--the heading above is about the Hobbies Bureau.) You can tell about the hobby of your choice, and maybe locate others willing to trade or otherwise be active.

HARRY WARNER UP FOR A HUGO...

The Election Teller of N3F is up for a Hugo--not for his vote counting, but for his letter writing, article writing and general fan presence around fandom. Winners of Hugos will be known at the St. LouisCon--another reason to attend. The Labor-day weekend should be an exciting one, with fans and pros to meet, and a Worldcon in Germany a likely outcome...

JULY 20--Day One of New Age...

Future history books will possibly consider July 20 the opening of a new age--the age of Space. Man has set foot on another world than Earth. On July 26 a bunch of fans gathered at the Woolston place and this was a conclusion reached. The way SF was mentioned in the newspapers and on TV inspired the comment that SF too has entered a new age--and maybe an age where it will be examined with more seriousness than it has in the past.

But in fandom, except that conventions may become even larger, fandom may remain much as it has been. Some fans will remain specialists; others will expand from one interest and one activity to others--perhaps achieving a sort of human fission point. Too much activity can lead to mafia, but other fans will appear from the readership of the books and magazines (or the viewership of TV and comics).

George Nims Raybin of the Recruiting Bureau is quite active at Worldcons--and we have quite an influx of new members then. Although we have never tried to get large numbers, we are available for persons ready for fan activity, and by joining at Worldcons dues of \$2.25 pay for the rest of the year and all of next. If you have a friend who you think would enjoy being a member you might inform him.

Mike Zaharakis is another recruiter--but not limited to Worldcon time. He phoned me today (July 29) that he recruited one member who is interested in a Comics Bureau--and is dependable, and willing to be active in it. It takes more than one fan to start a bureau, but you will have a chance to read what this person has in mind--later.

Raki also said that Lisa Tuttle will be helping with news for the Neffer News Bureau with American news. Good!

I talked to Bob Vardeman, who was in charge of Complaints last year, and he got so little response he was bored with it all. Actually such an activity is there for anyone who want to write--and of course anyone could write a Director or the President and get his point across too. But with a special officer, it might help avoid extra time-consuming exchanges. Well, personally I'd not object to letters, and would only consider appointing someone new to this if a member would speak more freely to a non-officer than direct. Well, this may be an advantage to such an "ombudsman" activity. But I've received several complaints myself, and imagine it's more effective than having someone else, for the most part. I'm used to be in the middle of N3F affairs, including differences of viewpoints. So I'm inviting your criticism--if you'll try to make it constructive. That means not assuming that I understand you without being told in some details, including the who, what, where, when, why and how of it, if pertinent. And of course advice and volunteers for activities are welcome too. I may have not seen last TNFF and don't know all it should contain so maybe I'm repeating myself--but the Games Bureau is functioning very smoothly, with publications and activities continuing with the usual new things introduced to meet needs.

Somewhere I've two letters--one from the Trimbles with something I wanted to quote, and another about a contribution to a good fan project. I'll probably locate it after mailing this off. This is too hastily written with things I should have left out (or for Gary to decide on)...but I want to get it out. Next TNFF should be less rushed.

Stan

SOME WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Stan Woolston)

Ned Brooks, Chairman of the Directorate, asked me what reply I got from the landlord of Seth Johnson when I sought information on what mail might be there. He wrote he burned all of Seth's things.

I habitually report to Directors, and try to remember to pass news along to members. One item I told directors was that the ad for Mike Barnes and the Fanzine Clearing House is paid up for three months in F&SF, so Mike can decide if he wants it reworded after seeing it in print. You can send Mike a half dozen or so copies of your current fanzine, or ones you get, and be a real help in setting up the FCH, which is a Memorial for Seth Johnson. After he handled it for ten years it is no more than a logical action that we name it for Seth.

Seth's "career" as starter of RRs lasted longer than the ten years he handled FCH, I think, and bears the imprint of his handling as surely as FCH--but he did not originate the RRs. Still, some time some of his reports (excerpts of information) might well be republished. He was an "idea man", and wrote directors and presidents freely. Though he is not known for holding elective office in N3F, he is probably capable of being credited with more ideas that functioned because others adopted his suggestions as anyone else in the history of N3F.

Directors have discussed the idea of a sort of Ombudsman for non-U.S. fans, probably in the form of an "Overseas Director". Perhaps I should let Ned Brooks write up the report--and he may get it in to Gary Labowitz and so make this superfilous--but the idea might be worth thought by the membership. The idea would be for a Director to be appointed as a sort of contacts-man with fans around the world. But while this can be arranged, right now anyone can write a Director (or the Chairman)--or write the President--to seek action or answers to questions. I welcome such letters, though at times I may overlook replying.

I've a letter dated April 7, for instance, from Paul Beddoe--and he asked me for a copy of TNFF and Tb. For all your information, I seldom have an extra copy of this, though a few would come in handy from time to time. Paul replied to my welcome letter in which I offered to answer questions or find someone else who could get an answer--and then I must have not answered his query. If I goof, feel free to write again; a letter sometimes get lost.

And the report from Mike Young, destined for the April TNFF about the Hobbies Bureau didn't appear there, so I guess it too is accasualty of another such exchange.

I told W.G. Nutting I was going to start a RR, but I haven't put him in one yet--for which a public apology is in order, I guess. If you said you'd like one, and I haven't replied, or if you decide to be in one, write me please! Tell me if you are interested in a general discussion or what other interests you have that may influence the type of exchange you would like. I like RRs, and would welcome hearing from you.

If everyone who plan to go to St. Louis for the con does, N3F will be well represented. I hope Mr. Ferman can attend the meeting of N3F members in our room there; as Story Contest judge it should be interesting to have him say a few words on the problems of editors and writers. Anyone attending might well glean news to send in for TNFF, plus reports on the convention, with information on Hugos and other awards announced there included. I know that First Fandom will announce the new Hall of Fame personage, and Forry Ackerman will probably announce the award he calls the Big Heart Award there, too.

--Stan

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don. Of the more than 100 Hugos presented over the past 15 years you can count on one hand the number of non-US winners: Eric Frank Russell, Arthur C. Clarke, Brian Aldiss, Walt Willis, and NEW WORLDS. Russell, Clarke and Aldiss received their awards for their contributions to American magazines. Willis won his by writing for what was primarily an American audience. The award for NEW WORLDS was presented at LONCON I in 1957 as the Best British SF magazine. ASF also won that year as the best American SF magazine.

The problem has been one of American dominance and lack of exposure for non-American SF. With the exception of NEW WORLDS foreign SF magazines are not seen here. I personally have seen several issues of Japan's SF MAGAZINE and it is a thing of beauty. SF MAGAZINE features reprints from U.S. and European magazines, stories by Japanese writers, reviews, fan columns, letter column and about anything one could want in a stfzine. The covers are striking, interior art good and there is a plentiful use of photographs. SF MAGAZINE should be a contender for a Hugo any year but it isn't mentioned because no one in the U.S. has seen it. I once suggested Takumi Shibano's UCHUJIN as best fanzine and was told that we couldn't possibly award a Hugo to a magazine we couldn't even read.

What is needed, it seems to me, is expanded contact with fans overseas. We need some sort of clearing house through which fan and stf news could be sifted and where items of particular merit could be brought to the attention of fans of all nations. Jean Muggoch's EUROPEAN LINK might be a good start in that direction. The NSF might undertake, with the co-operation of known overseas fans, some sort of survey and census of world fandom with a view towards strengthening ties and making fandom more international in scope. And, of course, one of the best steps would be to award the 1970 convention to Heidelberg.

Eventually, I think, some sort of international SF/fan organization is going to have to come into being to oversee the conventions and the Hugo awards. There is no reason why the NSF could not take the lead in that direction.

[I'm not so sure I consider myself an "Earthman" first and American second, as you imply. In fact, I reject that idea entirely. Being an "Earthman" is true as a matter of classification of astrological biology, nothing more. The aborigines are "Earthmen" but I do not reel a strong bond with them; I find it quite unsurprising that a large country like ours, given to economic excesses and indulgences like publishing sf while the rest of the world is busily rebuilding from a disastrous war, has taken the lead in speculative literature; in the same manner it leads in the Western and Detective fields. Much of the imported stf I've seen reminds me of the late '40s writing so behind us is the rest of the world. No doubt there are large and will be larger groups of fans in other countries. This is no reason to say: Ergo, European/Asian stf is as good as American. Likewise as regards fandom. And then there's the language barrier. Sigh. ghl]]

STAN WOOLSTON 12832 Westlake St., Garden Grove, Calif. 92640

If you continue with your idea of a "monthly TB" for a while this year may well be a reversal of last year when TNFF was monthly -- except you did more than monthly TB's then, too. Volunteers seem always to be adding their extras and I know others besides me thank you for your "gift" of the extra issues over the usual bi-monthly ones.

HERE IS YOUR personally autographed copy of the August TFF.

It is also besmudged a little.

FIRST CLASS

FROM: Gary H. Labowitz
1100 Betzwood Dr.
Norristown, Pa. 19401

FIRST CLASS

TO: Ron Smith

644 S. Court St.
Medina, Ohio
44256