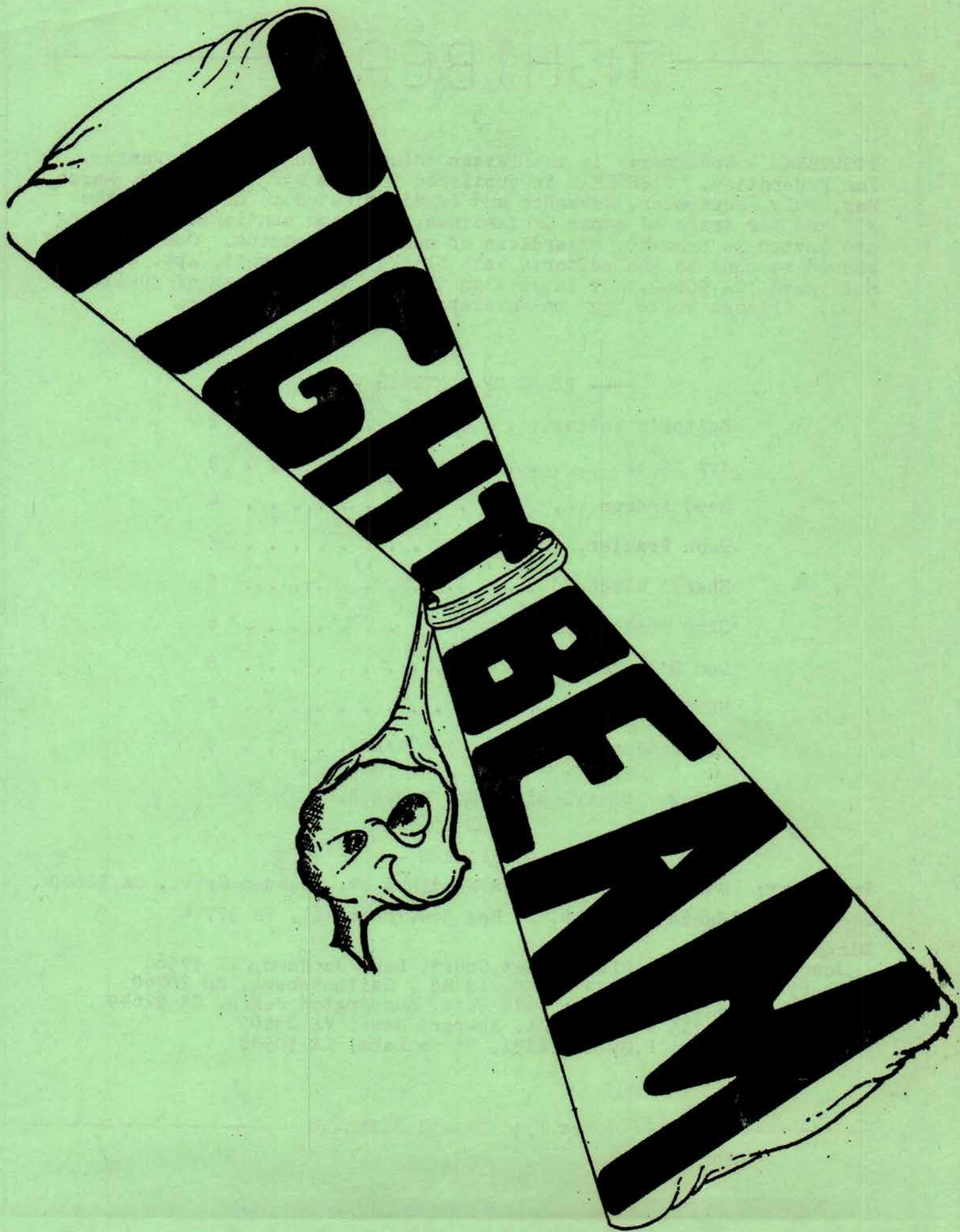




TIGHTBEAM

TIGHTBEAM - November: is the letter column of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. TIGHTBEAM is published for the N3F in January, March, May, July, September, November and is distributed to members of the N3F and for trade of other SF fanzines. Persons mentioned in passing are invited to comment, regardless of membership status. Contributions should be sent to the editor: Beth Slick, 9030 Harratt, Apt. 2, West Hollywood, CA 90069, not later than the 5th of the month of publication. (Please write "Tb" on envelope.)

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EDITOR'S LETTER

Since we seem to be getting quite a few new members these days, I'll mention that this is the letterzine of the N3F. Comments on TNFF, fandom, science fiction, or whatever, should be addressed to Tight-beam. If you've got something that has been bothering you, or a novel that particularly delighted you, let us know about it and you'll get plenty of feedback from the other members.

New members are encouraged to write letters, too. Don't hold back because you don't know all about everything that is going on underneath the N3F banner. (who does?) Fresh ideas are (and should be) a mainstay of this kind of publication. So, new members, what are your first impressions and perhaps suggestions about the N3F.

The rest of you shouldn't become so jaded about your membership that you don't have a moment to drop a line, even if it's to say that you're getting sick of my green paper. (If you are, tough luck--I just purchased another 10 reams of it). Otherwise, your suggestions, comments and general feuding and rabble rousing are welcome and expected.

*

I recently got my hands on the 1972, In Search of Dracula, which I recommend for anyone who is fascinated by Dracula and vampires. It seems that there really was a fellow named Dracula who lived in (or near) Transylvania.



Where's your
letter?

The real Dracula earned the nickname "the Impaler" by killing literally thousands of people in that manner. Coupled with his other activities, he made Bram Stoker's character seem like a Boy Scout. The book makes chilling, though fascinating, reading.

Speaking of horror stories, the two-part FRANKENSTEIN: THE TRUE STORY will make another TV appearance at the end of December. If

you enjoy filmed horror, this is an interesting film to catch.

*

I hope you have a happy holiday season!

Keep on Writin'!

Beth Slick

RT

AYES

P. O. Box 550
Schumacher, Ontario, CANADA

20 September 1974

Seasonal Hallucinations: -

I find myself with the March TB (in which I had a letter) and the May & July issues, neither of which were disgraced with my presence. Must rectify this even though I am too late for the next issued which should make its appearance any day now. If the next issue comes at a time when I'm of the mind, then I'll write again.

March: I've always opposed the change of N3F to "International 3F" because I always felt that a name change could not create the climatic change, that the N3F, despite having 'some' international members, is not truly an International Organization and as some mentioned, its first responsibility is to make it more successful on the National scene before trying to gain pretentious appearances by a meaningless name change.

Regardless of whether Southern Fandom Confederation has 180 or 800, the fact that the N3F DID operate well with around the 500 member mark and could have continued doing so at an even larger number had we tried. So I am still of the opinion that we need not worry about too many members. When that day comes when we can justifiably worry about this, then we can become a real confederation and split into two, having governing bodies for each, under a supreme governing body. But that though is meaningless at the moment since we are not too likely to get to that size in the immediate future.

When Janie Lamb finds that the duties she has in the N3F, because of size, I am sure she will find no opposition from the President or the Directorate, if she appoints assistant(s) to whom she would designate certain duties. In other words, let Janie handle it as she sees fit. She'll find a way.

Hospitality room or N3F room. I don't think it is fair to say that it is up to the Host or Hostess of the room, when it comes to the idea of exhibiting N3F activities and a test room for future con activities. The Hostess has her duties. She can make the room into a divided area or closed to restricted activities at designated times, but those activities are the responsibilities of others. If the Tape Bureau wants a booth in the N3F room, it should be possible to arrange it. If the Rogues Gallery wants an exhibit there, a section can be arranged. If a closed period is required to exhibit slides, then it can be arranged, but the hostess merely provides the room or space, and those responsible for the activity proceed. The Host or Hostess would not be responsible for running all the Activities that could go on in that room at all times. She would be overall supervisor of the room. She could refuse to allow some activities of some Members from taking place, but once the go-ahead was given, unless the thing got rough or dangerous, physically or legally, she would stand back. But, provided we do get a room from the concom, and provided we don't have too popular an activity at the same time as a concom activity, the concom need not even be asked to give permission, we just go ahead, specially in the quieter times.

Overseas members. What is needed is getting them interested in forming their own activity & in the N3F. We don't provide activity for anyone, even in the U.S. Fans here find other fans in the N3F running what they like and join. If they don't find what they like, they can start it. The same applies to the Overseas Members. It is up to them to start doing what they like in connection with us (and conversely, those of us who find it useful and of a type we like, can start something with them). We are searching too much trying to find something for them. We should concentrate on getting them interested in starting things in the N3F, possibly of a type that is consistent with the difficulties of distance and language. But, leave the N3F as N3F for a while yet. This item has come up many times in the past and can be brought up at what seems a more opportune time.

Plugging ones personal fanzine in TB? I consider this a perfectly proper item for anyone, including the editor, in these pages.

As for recruiting (now with the July issue) ads in the prozines might work, but we have the best recruiters in the members. Encourage them to get their friends in, and mention in the other fanzines, and we'll get all the members we want.

The Picture zine of the Pros. If it has been mentioned seriously in the past, I missed it. How much would Sheryl say the "subscription" price should be? Seems that even \$2 sounds rather low.

Siclari: When an activity is such, for the N3F room, that is may need only a section of the room, usually dividers are available to separate the room for the period when such an activity is going on.

REED

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Salt Lake City, Utah 84106

ANDRUS

26 October 1974

An Open Letter to the Members of the N3F

So it's Election Time. How do we know. Because people have been getting sillier and sillier in the pages of TNFF and Tightbeam. And I just received a fat envelope containing, among other things, Mike Kring's campaign statement: "A Vote for Me is a Vote for Me!" How cogent. How precise. How insipid.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not knocking silliness. After all, I've corresponded with John Robinson and find his peculiar brand of insanity somewhat refreshing. But once in a while, a Cause emerges that I wish someone would consider seriously for a change.

The Kring flyer, the 1974 ballot, along with a couple of other pieces, I assume, printed and distributed by Joanne Burber. As you all know, she also prints TNFF. Beth Slick is responsible for Tightbeam. Everyone with me so far? Good. Then did you know that Our Yesterdays supplement to the Discon issue of TNFF was put together and printed by Sheryl Birkhead. Does anyone know about the hassles she went through trying to get that fine effort finished? About the broken mimeo? About the missed deadlines? The thing damn near failed before it was begun.

Suppose, just suppose, that similar problems occur with Beth or Joanne? Mo TNFF. No Tightbeam. And Why? Because there was no backup system.

Okay, Consider the hostilities abated. I am suggesting that part of the N3F funds be diverted for the purpose of establishing a central printing house, to function only in case of emergency and for special projects such as balloting and Our Yesterdays. Obviously an object the size of a mimeo cannot be transported from place to place. I don't think it would have to be. All we need is someone to take the time to run masters made up by someone else--and only once or twice a year!

I do hope someone takes this seriously. This backup could eliminate a great deal of pressure put upon the few active members of the N3F.

Well, candidates?

(b(As one of the aforementioned editors, I like the idea of a backup system, although I leave the details of how it would work to the Directorate. But I certainly do think it is worth consideration.))

DONN

1455 Fawnvalley
St. Louis, MO 63131

BRAZIER

30 October 1974

Sorry I never got to see you in Calif -- my son had so much lined up for us all to do that it was practically impossible even to make a phone call. And this week he has transferred back to St. Louis, and I'll probably never ever get to Calif. again.

Had to write because of the Alma Hill piece in TB. Janie Lamb sent me a carbon of a general letter to tell fans that Alma had died. I had been worrying about such an event. I went back through her letters to TITLE and picked out enough short quotes to give her a while page in issue #33 which I'll be mailing in November.

Alma's article lets me in on another of her interest I really didn't know about. But how helpful her article for embryonic gothic writers. This is not my chief interest, but writing in general is; thus it came as a surprise that the gothic was so severely formularized. 'Course that sort of thing makes a writing guide so valuable to the neophyte. Had I set out to write a gothic I would have had an old house in it all right, but the rest of it would have been out-of-formula I'm sure.

Amazing how much faanish news I was able to pick up from this issue of TB. Depending on space in some upcoming TITLE, I may use some of it. Or put some in one of several columns I've launched in other fanzines.

(b(My only contact with Alma had been the Gothic story 'letter', which impressed me by its perceptiveness and humor. The page of quotes in TITLE was equally effective, and quite fitting. # Donn's letter prompts me to put in a plug for his Manuscript Bureau which receives articles, reviews, fiction, etc. and disperses them to interested fanzine editors. If you're a writer, but not too sure where to send your material, or an editor looking for material, contact Donn.))

SHERYL

BIRKHEAD

23629 Woodfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20760

1 November 1974

Ah yes, another Tightbeam--and a thank you to Beth!

Glad to hear that the various and miscellaneous problems (what have you) are settling down and that both the new job and mimeo are progressing nicely.

I've finally written my dues check for next year. Now I have to mail it. Anyone else out there as forgetful as I am? REMEMBER TO RENEW.

(Um--hope my wholesale use of solid black areas doesn't tax that repro! At least you'll get a chance to see what happens).

We will all miss Alma Hill--she really was a mainstay and a backbone to (at least) the Writer's Exchange. Yes, we'll miss her.

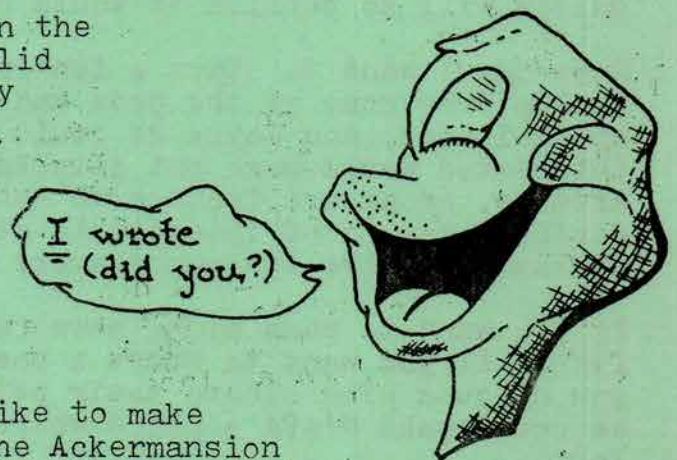
I'd like to see Will Norris write a report for TNFF and an 'in-depth' letter to Tb--after things get rolling a bit with the Teaching Bu. I'm curious/anxious to see if it can be put to good use (I've no doubt it is useful, the problem is merely to utilize it.)

Ah--didn't know Anne McCaffrey would be in the states so David Shanks' "P.S." about the Boskone was a pleasant surprise. She's one nice lady.

Perhaps a Christmas present to me from me will (at long last) be a donation to 4E. I support the idea wholeheartedly!

THINK ABOUT TAFF AND DUFF CONDIDATES. At least, remember to vote when the nominations are out.

(b(No complaints about solid black on the covers--I'm so pleased I can do a solid black area that it is the least of my worries. Would you believe the only reason I got the new mimeo was so that I could print up your artwork the way it deserves to be done? # Thanks for reminding us forgetful types (or procrastinators) about membership renewal. Be sure to make your \$3 renewal check payable to Janie Lamb, whose address is on page 1. # If any others would like to make a Christmas gift like Sheryl's for the Ackermansion send your present to Stan Woolston who will see that it gets to its destination. His address is on page 1 and on the letter that follows.))



STAN
WOOLSTON

12832 Westlake Street
Garden Grove, CA 92640

2 November 1974

With 1975 the man who was in charge of the Neffer Amateur Press Alliance

for several years, David K. Patrick, will have resigned as official editor. The job of this man has been the official mailer of the group collecting fanzines and seeing members get a copy, plus publishing a number of pages each quarterly mailing to get lists of members, their fanzines in bundles, and rules before the members. As long as they are Neffers they can adjust the rules of the group, and in fact rules have been changed from time to time. Still, mainly it has been a way to express views and know others can comment on them, either in personal fanzines or ones that include other's material.

Lately there has been a "lull in the conversation". Well, at least it has some resemblance to the lull in which a roomful of people suddenly find that if they're still talking they are almost a monolog. Some have moved, had job changes, become students--and so dropped the apa. One trouble with this is that there is word-of-mouth publicity so that with a large group it is easier to get new members--but with fewer members, the publicity for new comers is less pressing. However, with a little effort this lag can be reversed, I am sure--so some time ago I decided a "campaign" to remind Neffers of the opportunities of this group would be in order.

But with the election issue of TNFF I knew there would be a chance anything not related to the election might be left out--so I should use Tightbeam rather than that issue. Well, sometimes this can be effective--so why not now?

You are urged to consider joining this apa now. Write me and I will be able to tell you if I have located a man or woman to be the new official editor of N'APA. I'd like to know, whether you want to be OE or not, if you would publish for the group, and what you'd charge; I ask this because to save time I would prefer to type stencils and mail them in so I can be in each mailing, perhaps. And a similar arrangement should be beneficial to many others. Of course if the official editor will so publish it would be ideal, avoiding double postage costs.

Some day I want to start a fanzine on SF-fantasy writing, and get articles from some of the pros and others. Others have some idea of a special zine, and maybe we could have some of these in N'APA if those interested would work out details. An artist might want to have an artzine, or an art feature in most issues. Whatever interests the individual may be of interest to others--and it would help insure each publication have its own flavor.

If you want to pass along news (and anecdotes) of fans in your region, fine. If you want to start a poetryzine, fine. Or essays. And if you discuss with others their pet dreams relating to fanzines, maybe we could make N'APA a place where fans try out their dreams in fanzine form.

We have bureaus for games, and much more. But for what is not already manifested in the club, it would be interesting to see what having a personal interest displayed by members might develop in to.

I think it might be very good--and invite you to consider doing some thought about it. And if it results in a better N'APA, or just a one shot on the subject, fine.

DON

DAMMASSA

19 Angell Drive
East Providence, RI 02914

5 November 1974

I sure hope you're successful in keeping TB on a relatively regular schedule. Back when I first was becoming involved in fandom (can it really be two years ago?), I used to actively look forward to every issue and the latest installment of my running argument with John Kusske. Alas, John has dropped out of sight for the most part these last couple of years, but if TB can come back stronger than ever, maybe John can also.

David Shank's appreciation of Wetham's book puzzles me, because I found it to be a rather shoddy and dishonest piece. Shoddy because of the many errors of fact. These have been mentioned in too many places for me to run through the list again, but just as an example, I find it difficult to credit the research of anyone who refers to "Agatha Christie's Lord Peter Wimsey" novels.

The book is dishonest partly because of its conclusions. Wetham concludes that fandom is a fairly monolithic body which actively opposes the use of drugs, is against sexual libertarianism, and is essentially a pro-establishment institution. Wertham makes this seem convincing because he has either carefully edited out contradictory evidence, or blinded himself to it.

But the greater dishonesty is that Wetham did not write a book about fanzines. He used fanzines to support his arguments in a book about sex, drugs, and violence. Sloppy research can be shrugged off. A perversion of research to advance one's own view is hypocrisy of the worst kind.

NEFFER NEWS

Dorthea Faulkner, long-time SF fan, died July 24. She was an Outlander (the group that put on the 1958 Worldcon in the Los Angeles area), and was once a member of N3F. Years ago her sister gave her a trip to England, where she attended a British convention and so met many people she corresponded with or read as a SF fan. She wrote stories under the Rory Magil penname, and she will be missed by many a fan and many a pro she has met and corresponded with over the years. Until this October news (which is supposed, when bad, to travel fast) was found out, so it is like hearing of the recent death of a friend. She has made gifts of some of her books and other SF to ISL and Los Angeles SF Society, except for books by Robert Heinlein, which went to a relative.

The SF-Fantasy Short Story Contest is being judged now, with stories due to be in hands of the Judge, Terry Carr. Next year we hope to have the contest announced early, with rules roughly as of '74.

Neffers News Bureau Chief, Sheryl Birkhead (23629 Woodfield Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20760) seeks news for both clubzines. Please remember that news about members is just as much sought after as information on a new publication or anything else in the SF or Fantasy area.

" OPERATION COOPERATION " FOR N'APA

Fanpublishers and people who can locate others to publish their material should find activity in the N3F amateur press group worth involvement. Right now is the time to write in if you would like to be a part of the group.

An apa is something like a conversation, and lately many members have moved on to other things (maybe starting their own general fanzines, or some other activity) resulting in an "akward silence". This means there is room for others to move in and join the conversation--and to find the value (or interest) in amateur journalism that is available in a group such as N'APA. SF, Fandom, conventions--or any other subject--makes interesting material for such publication. And of course, besides the more personal "diary" or personal observation type of zine, there may be people wanting to start a "little genzine" or one slanted at their special interest (in writing SF and fantasy, say), or the weird, or fiction--or anything. Why not "let yourself go" and get involved in the group, letting it fit your own particular interests?

With the first 1975 mailing due in March, there is time to write in with ideas and also with enthusiasm enough to do more than just give ideas. What? At the end of the year, the current "official editor" will resign from the job and you might like to be the editor. As the one who collects the mailing material from each member and put them in bundles to go to each contributor, you would handle the funds (apa dues) or appoint someone to do that for you. You would list the contributions to go with the bundle, and do whatever else was needed to make the group dynamic. The President will make the "official editor" appointment, so you are urged to get in touch and give details concerning you publishing experience, etc.

So if you have ditto, mimeo or access to some sort of publishing equipment that could be used, and if you are interested in being a part of this (as a contributing member or official editor) write the President. Publishing a few pages each mailing, or more than a few, can provide a lot of interesting reading and commenting. If you have discovered the fun in corresponding with people with mutual interest, you will find the diverse N'APA mailings even more fun.

TIGHTBEAM

Beth Slick

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