

ward length for magazine publication, just on the borderline between short story and novelette. I think about 5000 words would be a reasonable length to aim for (if you can control the length of the stories you write - I can't).

The N3F has had previous experience in publishing the winners. In 1962, when we had a Publications Bureau that did a lot of pamphlets, they printed a booklet of winners in the first contest. It wasn't in great demand, though it sold for a reasonable price, and the experiment wasn't repeated. More recently, in 1979, Irvin Koch published some of the stories in TightBeam (he was contest manager as well as temporary TB editor) and it put a big dent in the N3F treasury, because there were so many pages and it went to all 300 N3F members. The following TBs weren't filled with appreciative letters. Face it, if a story appears in a fanzine, it's looked at as fan fiction, regardless of its merits. The only reason for fanzine publication, in my opinion, is for getting constructive criticism, and this is seldom seen here. If the TightBeam publication is meant as a means for criticism, not just as a showcase, it may be of value. But expense is the most compelling reason for not printing the stories from the contest. It's a waste of money the contest (or the N3F treasury) doesn't have. We have no pipeline to Scientology funds.

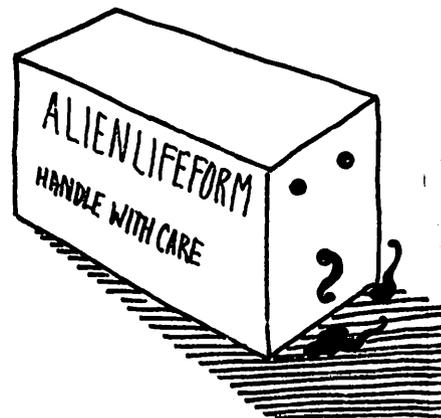
((Back in December of '83 I put out an all-fic ish of TB, with the '84 contest winner, a story translated from a Japanese prozine, and a short-short filler. The LOCs in response were totally underwhelming. While many said they enjoyed the ish, no one spent more than a line or two commenting on it. Since comments are what make up the meat of a letterzine, I can't really say the issue was a success, even if it was universally enjoyed.))

At the N3F Short Story Contest we would like to encourage entrants to try to become professional writers, most of whom didn't start out with a novel. Writing short stories, not for your own amusement, but to please others, is good practice and the publication of a number of them can make a reputation that will help in the

selling of a novel (if that's your goal). As there are not as many entrants (despite all efforts) in the N3F contest, there is a better chance to win a prize. We allow non-members of the N3F to compete but charge them a dollar more - one solution to the "outsider" problem.

I have never seen the stories as they have gone to Ed Ludwig, but judging by his comments, they are a long way from being salable. This is strange, because in the distant past some of them *did* sell, and a few of the contestants went on to become SFWA members. Don't write less than your very best, take your time (but not all year!), and do a good job, don't just toss one off; and maybe we will see some improvement this year. I will get to see the stories this time, and I'm looking forward to it.

By all means, if you have a short-short story, send it to Ed Green (his new address is P.O.Box 843; Fullerton, CA 92632). But don't forget the regular annual N3F Short Story Contest, which has been going for a quarter of a century and has outlasted many a rival contest. I just hope this doesn't mean a fall-off in N3F entries. It's a hard job to get people to enter, even after they have sent for the blanks. If you want one, or a dozen, write to me. No SASE needed for N3F members.



S T O R Y   C O N T E S T   R U L E S   A N D   E N T R Y   B L A N K  
1985 National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) Amateur Short Story Contest.

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, whether members of N3F or not. We define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two stories to the professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories must be original, unpublished, not more than 7500 words in length, and must be science fiction and/or fantasy in the opinion of the judges.
3. Manuscripts should be typed on one side of 8 1/2 x 11" white paper, double-spaced, with the title on each page. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript, to insure impartial judging. Photo copies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants may enter any number of stories, provide each is accompanied by a separate entry blank and fee. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the return of the story at the end of the contest. Keep a copy in case of accidental loss. We are no more responsible for lost manuscripts than professional editors are.
5. Entry fees are \$1 for N3F members in good standing, \$2 for non-members. The extra \$1 is for printing and publicity, paid for by N3F funds. The basic \$1 is for judges' expenses and prizes. Members of N3F are encouraged to enter the contest, but will not receive preference in judging. Due to a long-standing agreement with the British Science Fiction Association, BSFA members pay the same fee as N3F members.
6. Cash prizes totaling \$50 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$25, Second \$15, Third \$10. Honorable Mentions and semi-finalists will receive a choice of paperback books available. All entries will receive critiques.
7. Send all manuscripts, together with SASEs, blanks, and entry fee, to the contest manager: Donald Franson, 6543 Babcock Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91606. Checks payable to Donald Franson, dollar bills, or unused stamps (mint, not recycled) are acceptable. All entries must be received by December 1st, 1985.
8. The Preliminary Judge, who will pick the 10 or 12 semi-finalists, will be a knowledgeable N3F member. The Final Judge will be a professional writer.
9. The N3F assumes no publishing rights or obligations. We want to encourage pro sales, not fan publication. All entries will be returned after the contest is over. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. A full report will be made to N3F soon after the first of the year.

ENTRY BLANK (Detach or not, as you wish, but must accompany story.)

TITLE OF STORY (for identification).....  
 AUTHOR'S NAME & ADDRESS.....  
 .....  
 .....

Enclosed is entry fee of \$2 (N3F or BSFA member, \$1). I have read the rules for the 1985 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and agree to them.

(Date)..... (Signature).....

BOTTOM LINE: THIS FORM MAY BE REPRODUCED FREELY, AS LONG AS IT IS EXACT COPY.

CAROL MULARSKI: (Mar.8) Saw mention of interest in having someone do a directory of SF series in TB#136. I think I might be interested in doing something like that. However, any extensive writing I do from now on has to be something that I can also use to get tenure from OSU (besides, obviously, things like N'APA and round robins). So I was wondering if you'd be interested in having the project expanded a little.

First of all, I might want to contact a professional publisher, since I believe there would be a market for this outside the N3F. I'd like to make it an annotated bibliography of SF and Fantasy series, giving brief synopses of series, whether they're considered SF or Fantasy, and of course recommended sequences to read them. I'd do some of the annotations, for the series I particularly enjoy, but would need other fans to do annotations to other series. Of course, it should be worked out with the publisher what they'd be paid for their efforts. I'd be editor and decide which annotations to use, if I got multiple submissions for the same series.

I won't be able to start on this project until this summer - I've got my fan novel to type and a research project to start for a journal article. But I am interested in doing it if you think it might be a good idea to go pro on it. I'd certainly appreciate everyone's advice and support. So, please let me know.

((I think it's GREAT! While I'm aware that a number of SF "encyclopaedias" have been published in recent years, (and more are still coming out), I do believe Carol can still offer something unique enough to be worthwhile. I wrote her of my enthusiasm, and received the following in reply:))

(Mar.24) I've been thinking about it a lot, and getting advice from my friend Connie (she's been my writing mentor since 1976). She thinks it's a good idea too, by the way, and is needed by SF&F readers everywhere. So you've originated something big! Another fan friend of mine (Chris Callahan, the one who's publishing my SW novel) thinks it's salable too, and is excited about the project. She'd be interested in writing some annota-

tions for it - what do you think about a non-Neffers writing?

((I think that's just fine. The N3F may have high aspirations, but as yet we've not managed to corner the market on talent - and whether it's LOCs in TB or articles for special features and projects like this, talent is the criteria.))

First of all, I think the title should be something like "A Guide to Science Fiction and Fantasy Series". Connie's best suggestion to me is that I define "series" by at least four books by the same author in the same universe - otherwise, I'd be including every series of short stories that never made it into collection form, and also trilogies, which are popular and almost demanded by fantasy publishers. There'd be no end to the annotations if I didn't limit them that way. I'd also like to limit it further by saying that the books must be currently in print, or at least that the newest book in the series must have come out in the last five years. Again, if we try to cover every series of stories to come out since Hugo Gernsback - well, it'll just be impossible.

((Sounds reasonable, as long as you leave some flexibility in there. It's been well over five years since the 'newest' Barsoom novel of ERB came out, but I'm sure recent editions have been published within that time span.))

So, the basic organization of the book would be: An introduction, written by me, explaining the purpose of the book, how we define SF and Fantasy (very loosely!) and the criteria for inclusion in the book. Also, I'd mention how I chose the annotations for each series. Then, I'd go into the series, give each name of series, list the books in recommended reading order, short synopsis of the situations and characters (it would be hard to summarize the plot line of a set of books!) and perhaps some commentary from one or more Neffers. Of course,

I'd give credit where credit was due to the person(s) who wrote the synopsis and short reviews. This is very tentative, and I'd be glad to get suggestions from anyone on content. Finally, I could have an index

with "science fantasy" mixed in. It looks like I will have to start reading Science Fiction again so I won't be left out in the cold. The only problem with reading Science Fiction is that the line is being blurred between Science Fiction and science fact. I prefer to read fiction which is as far removed from reality as possible. Oh, well.

((Should I tell him the truth about us, folks? Nah, I'll let him find out on his own.))

PAUL DOERR: Besides overpopulation, there are lots of other reasons why the people of the Third World can't themselves, which I won't go into here. And as for space colonization solving the overpopulation problem, it just won't work. Physicist Gerald K. O'Neill and other scientists have made detailed plans for space colonies that would house a million people by the year 2050. That won't even make a dent in Earth's rapidly growing population. We are currently adding some 80 million people a year. All that space colonization would do would divert trillions of dollars and scarce natural resources that would be better used to solve our own planet's problems. I'm afraid that we won't be able to colonize the 'heavens' until we have a one-world economy and a world government. One nation, or even several nations co-operating together, just won't be able to do it. But don't get me wrong! I'm all for the space program, but I prefer unmanned space probes that will increase our knowledge first.

(If you haven't already guessed, I'm no fan of Reagan. What he plans to do to space is a crime. I just hope saner heads prevail and his Star Wars scheme is not implemented.)

((Unmanned probes may be more cost-effective from a purely rational point of view, but they haven't the glamour to draw the popular support needed the way manned flight can. And eventually, some sort of colonization will be needed to utilize the vast hoard of resources beyond our skies, so why not start soon! I don't like the SDI, but if missiles in space are the only way to get muscles in space, then let's do it.))

Enough on mundane topics. I agree with DAVID TRAVIS on his assessment of

Gene Wolfe's *Book of the New Sun*. They are a remarkable achievement in imagination and deserve to be read not just once but many times. As for books that I would recommend, David Eddings' *Belgariad* series is an extremely good set of books. It probably won't be read by many of you SF fans, seeing that it is straight Fantasy, but the way it is so well written, I think that it deserves a chance.

I guess that's about it. Remember, a french fry's favorite movie is *Grease*, and (this is the important one) there is a pond in Russia without frogs or tadpoles.

((Uhhh, right.))



DONALD FRANSON: (Mar.8) TightBeam readers who never read TNFF ("just boring lists") may not be aware that the N3F already has a short story contest, in light of the effort to start another one in TightBeam. That's all right, because Ed Green's competition wants only short-stories. ((And for the record, Ed will be editing an all-fiction section for TB, not running a contest.)) In the annual N3F contest, which is now open for 1985, there is no lower limit, and the upper limit is 7500 words (the Hugo/Nebula definition of short story). It is unlikely that too short a story can compete with much longer ones, though 7500 words is an awk-

my continued delight, no one is), I could always ignore them since this is a correspondence club and I don't have to actually face them in person.

I consider fans to be people involved with fandom, as well as just readers, media people, gamers, comic book people, Trekkers, WHOziers (I like that term, don't you?)([\*groan\*]), etc. They are all fans; it's their perspective of SF/F that differs. And though I have commented in the past on the different perspectives that fans (of all types) have, I don't think that any of those perspectives are wrong -- limiting, perhaps, but not wrong -- and they should in no way be excluded from consideration as fans. I realize the desire to use the term "fan" to connote certain people's involvement in fandom, beyond "just reading the stuff". But I started out "just reading", then grew into Star Trek and comic books and all types of media, then fandom itself - I have always been a fan.

(If proto-fan, such as you were, wish to think of themselves as "fans", I have no objection. But let's not force the issue. Not all "just readers" would be happy in fandom.)

Now to TB#136 - LAURENCE GRAY: Thank you for one of the most charming letters I've seen in TB since I joined! It was so marvelously chatty! There should be more letters like this. Many people who write seem to think that they're writing a mini-essay (myself not excluded); they forget that this is a letterzine and that letters are just your regular old conversations set to paper.

(Oh oh. While an occasional "shotgun" style letter is good for a change of pace, and spreads the egoboo around, I strongly prefer the mini-essays. How do some of the rest of you feel?)

That was a very interesting point you brought up, Laurence: it does seem that everyone here wants to become famous as a Science Fiction or Fantasy writer! It had never occurred to me. Maybe the N3F just naturally attracts would-be SF/F writers. How many years have you been in the N3F? I have been here a year. I like anchovies, too, but not everything on a pizza. I like cats and have had lots of cats as personal friends, but never owned one myself. I wear glasses or contacts,

depending. Your letter was just so... so... nice and warm, I guess are the words I'm looking for. I hope you plan to write more often!

I guess that covers it. Oh, I'm glad we're planning to do a trivia quizbook. Let's all send in questions - should be fun!

(Yes, do still send me your trivial questions! The 8-page preliminary booklet in TNFF was just made up from requests to the bureau heads and a few others, so with the whole club participating, we should be able to do an even larger one in the future! So far, only a few have given me any more questions. Ten apiece is what I'm asking you for, but I'll take 5 or 55. And if you thought the preliminary questions were too hard (or easy), make yours easier (or harder)!)



FRITZ BITTRICH: (Mar.7) I'm a new member of the N3F. I recieved my first issue of Tight-Beam last week, and thought I'd write a LoC. (Gee, I'm already starting to pick up the language.)

From what I can gather by reading my first issue (#135), the large majority of you folks are Science Fiction fans. As a freshman in high school, I cut my teeth on Science Fiction, but I have gradually been weaned until most of my fiction reading consists of Fantasy

of authors, series names, and book titles.

By the way, I'm definitely reserving to myself the right to write annotations on the Belgariad, the Deryni books, the McCaffrey Dragonrider series, and Asimov's Foundation series (which wouldn't have made my criteria if he hadn't done Foundation's Edge a little while ago!). I'll probably accept other commentary on these, if well written, but my hand will definitely be in those pies! As for other series, I'll have to rely on N3F members, since either I haven't read them, or have but wasn't impressed enough to remember every little detail.

As for the publisher, I have no objection to going with the publisher who has published the N3F stuff before. As I've since found out, just so it's a legit publisher, the publication counts for tenure. I'm not all that concerned with making money from this thing, so much as getting my job security! And I have nightmares just thinking about contracting with and paying all those people - I guess a lawyer could take care of it in a publishing house, if I go to someone like Del Rey (who just might be interested in this, who knows?). I certainly wouldn't want to try to tackle it all myself, I'd mess up for sure.

(Well, uh, you see, the N3F was the publisher, and except for Tales from the Burning Hart, previous projects haven't really been much more than standard fanzines, as far as I know. But NESFA, LASFS, and some major concoms have put out enough books over the years that I guess the know-how and reputation resides in fandom to do it if we need to. But by all means, lets go to the pros first on this.)

(Well, there you have it, Neffers. YOUR chance to write a book! Now, let Carol know what series you'd like to do; or what ones you'd like to see done, so she can make some specific pleas for them next time around.)



ALLYSON M.W. DYAR: (Mar.9) When you edit your own letterzine, LoCing someone else's seems a bit like overkill. I figured, though, that if Ronnie Reagan can send you a LoC, by ghod, so can I! I agree with MICHAEL PERALTA - do keep TB as a letterzine only. Fiction is nice, but LoCs are better.

I'm really not sure what to say re: JOE SICLARI's comments on the N3F. Neofen have to start somewhere and the N3F is as good a place as any. Perhaps we do tend to promote our services more than others, but then that's probably true because we are more familiar with our own services. I can find fault with the N3F on one aspect - I was an actifan for over five years when I was living near New York City before I had ever heard of the N3F, and that was only because I was sent a copy of TNFF that mentioned the Star Trek WelCommittee.

While the N3F might not offer any unique services, we do have many services under one roof - one-stop fandom.

I'm rather in favor of an N3F sponsored convention though I'm really not sure how practical it is. Sure there are plenty California fans to hold it here, but what about those folks that live in the boonies? I think a better idea would be to have N3F sponsored events at previously established conventions. However, anyone foolish enough to put on a N3F

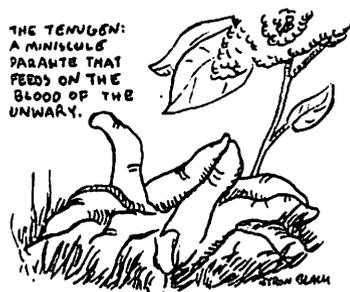
convention will have me in attendance, assuming I'm still in the States by then (having a spouse in the Air Force assures me of nothing but constant moves).

Interesting trivia about critic Roger Ebert being a former fanzine editor. Has anyone bothered to write him and ask? I should have realized it, though - there was something about his critiques.

Kevin Atherton brings up the subject of "Fanac Widows". When I got into fandom over 12 years ago, I made up my mind that if I was going to get married, it would be to a fellow fan. As it turned out, I did marry a fellow fan and we've been married for almost 4 years. I did opt not to go to Turkey with him because I had had my fill of overseas life (Japan, though, is a possibility for his next assignment and you couldn't keep me in the States if he gets it!). I've known both fan-nish couples and those friends married to a "mundane", and I'd say that the dual fannish couple is a bit happier than the "mixed" relationship. I will admit that having two fans in one house does have its moments, especially when there's only one computer. (We made it a policy that it "belonged" to whomever had the more pressing deadline - there was always the Selectric II. We did, however, end up getting a second computer.)

Since Kevin brought it up, how about it readers, how many of you out there are married to fellow fans and to non-fans? How are you doing? Is fanaccing a problem between you and your spouse or do they just tolerate it? I'm one of those strange folks who loves surveys and results, so I'm particularly interested in any answers.

((Yes, and when it comes to loving your computer, are you willing to just carress the keyboard, or do you have to perform "the act"?!))



THE TEMUGEN:  
A MINISCULE  
PARASITE THAT  
FEEDS ON THE  
BLOOD OF THE  
UNWARY.



DAVID HEATH, JR.: (Mar.11) I applaud your reaction to Dave Bates after his tirade against Reagan. I'm not a strong supporter of the President. But I am a strong supporter of America, and the expression of ideas. At first I questioned why you printed that letter, but your retort to Dave illuminates what might have been your motivation. You must be doing something right - I'm actually reading the words in TB now. I've had a couple of questions directed at me in reference to why I printed certain pieces of art. I figured I'd answer the questions in open forum. I won't refer to specific pieces of art, but one questioned the content or subject matter of a piece of art and the other questioned the quality of art. Since I work autonomously and no one reviews the art I place in the zines I guess I should throw out my two rule-of-thumb guidelines for the members (in case anyone really cares) so that anyone can feed back to me their thoughts.

My guidelines for art submission are 1) if it's by a Neffer it has top priority to get in a zine, 2) try to print what the Neffers want. Of course I try to make the zines visually pleasing; but since I'm the lone Art Director, that ends up the way I like it. Certainly I listen to the few LoCs with constructive criticism of my work, so if you have heartburn, write me direct or through Owen. Also, if you think a piece of art is "crap" and tell me, I tend to ignore you unless I have seen art by you. I go by the 'don't knock it till you've tried it' theory of criticism.

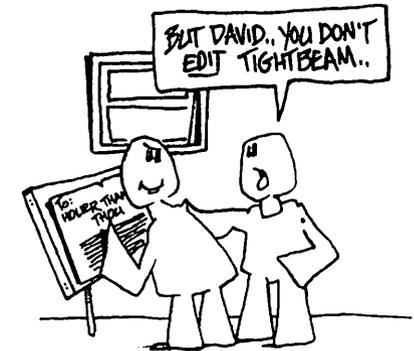
plan far enough in advance to be certain of attending WorldCon '86??? I have trouble knowing what's up for next Tuesday.) Then before I had the chance to print this out ((the original is dddhh dot matrix)), TB#136 arrived, which makes this even longer (the wonders of word processors).

((Sorry for the interruption. I really shouldn't be so hard on those dm printers. Most (including Frances') are at least better than yellow crayon on a grocery bag. Especially since grocery bags have gone plastic.))

First to TB#135 - JOE SICLARI (regarding his comments about the N3F made in a letter to T.KEVIN ATHERTON): I don't think "the N3F's services inhibit a fan from exploring the rest of fandom" at all. On the contrary, it opens up the rest of fandom, especially to the new fan. If I hadn't stumbled into the N3F, I would still be wandering around wondering, "What on Earth is fandom, anyway?" I had heard about 'fanzines' (whatever those were) mentioned by a friend of mine in passing, but it never occurred to me to find out anything about them, nor had I any desire to. Nor did I even remotely consider going to a convention. Through the N3F I made friends with people much more involved than I who frequently said, "Hey, I know this great person..." And I often get letters out of the blue that say something like, "I know so-and-so who's a friend of yours, so take a look at this." Also, there's this one Neffer (DHjr) who saw fit to send me a lot of "old zines /he/ had lying around the house" (many thanks!), and through those, I made contact with a lot of people and zines outside the realms of the N3F. So you see, the N3F isn't restrictive in and of itself at all. If members become involved to the point of having no other outside fan-nish interests, then it's their fault and has nothing to do with the nature of the organization.

DAVID HEATH ('cuz he's art editor): I feel I must say something about Jerry Collins' art - I just love it! You already know I do, David, but I figured, why not tell the world - this guy is fantastic!! The strip on p.44 is a masterpiece. More people should LoC the art in TB; I'd like to hear what they think. You're really doing

a great job, David. I think this issue's art gave me more pleasure than any that have gone before, probably because of all the humor. I love it when you make fun of Owen (sorry, Owen) and the membership et al. Some have been absolutely wicked! AND all the con related art was great, too. Stanley (my husband) and I flipped through and laughed all the way! Now, I don't mean to praise only David and Jerry (though admittedly they are two of my most faves!). Let's see more Leach, more MJM, more TKA, Wilcox, Mintz, Kochell! There are a bunch of other people whose art I really enjoy, but whose names I have misplaced, so more of them, too!



SCOTT ESTES: Me, too. I've been reading SF/F since gradeschool and always considered myself a fan, although I just recently became a member of any fan-type club(s). Before the N3F, all the "real fans" that I had met were largely as you described them: "totally insufferable". Which is one of the reasons why looking into fandom or picking up a zine or attending a con had never entered my mind (as mentioned previously). It was nearly impossible to talk to them, and when I did, I ended up feeling like I was a total idiot, completely "out of the know", and quite inferior to their "expanded intellects". I decided to try the N3F because 1) I really wanted people to talk to who shared my interests, and 2) I figured that if they were really obnoxious (which, much to

Is S.F." and "What Is The Difference Between S.F. And Fantasy" type panels. Nothing is or can be resolved and so what if it were. (That phrase sounds as though it could have come from a John Cougar song. Maybe I can sell it to him.)

Let me know what movies you would like to see shown at the con. This is another area where repetition runs rampant, rearing and leering and drooling on the floor. There must be many excellent movies that are rarely shown and who but the members of the N3F and Claude Degler would know the titles of such sadly neglected and often ignored pictures? No one, I boldly cry to all who care to listen.

(Now, now, no need to cry about it. Here's my hanky. I expect this issue will be too late for suggestions to reach you in much time for a con in November, since publicity needing a name and film reservations need to be done months ahead of time. But maybe we can lay the groundwork for future cons. As for a name, SF cons always have such frivolous ones. How about something official-sounding, like Tennessee Forcaster's and Fabricators' Function. WE'D know it was for people who forecast the future and fabricate stories about it, and what TNFFF really stands for, but the mundanes could be fooled into thinking it would be a dull meeting of weathermen and builders.)

WILLIAM CENTER: In your editorial (TB#135) you comment on how many of the people attending cons today are only marginally fans, a marginal fan being someone who doesn't read. What to do about it? Nothing can be done short of turning away people who don't fit our (I hope you don't consider me presumptuous for saying "our") ideas of fandom. Soon conventions would be down to attendances of 30 or so people, like they were 40 years ago. We can only ride out the current wave of new fans. Not to say that all new fans are "bad", or even that marginal fans are "bad". The main gripe I have concerning marginal fans is that they seem to love weapons. There are maybe as many people selling weapons as books at many cons today. I have seen several people with real guns at cons. I don't know whether or not the guns were loaded, but I can imagine how the

newspaper article would go if someone were shot (or run through with a sword) at a con.

Concerning Songs About Space: A song not as well known as Bowie's "Space Oddity" or "Ashes to Ashes" or Elton John's "Rocket Man" is "Birth on Mars" by Bow Wow Wow. It's about a girl who can't wait to emigrate to Mars. It's much better than my description, honest.

(One I heard only once on the radio, maybe 10 or 15 years ago, had as a chorus "And the green hills of earth are x million miles behind", with the x getting larger each verse. Anyone know it?)

Recipes: Where can I send my recipe for Weenies Flambe with Commander Pike Barbecue Sauce?

Ending: It is certainly high time, perhaps past time that this letter should just suddenly stop



FRANCES McMAHAN: (Mar.6) Golly, TB #135 was so long (but good and long!) and I had so many thoughts while reading it that I hardly know where to start. I really enjoyed the special convention issue. Having never been to one myself, it added quite a few more lines to the mental picture I have of a con. Now I'm really hankering to get to one! (Not that I have not had opportunities, but somehow they always fell on days when some other occurrence of vast import is planned. Ah well, all I can do is keep trying.) (But how do you people

VICTORIA A. SMITH: (Mar.12) Now that spring break has arrived, it's time to pick up my trusty graphite word processor and compose (\*gasp, shock\*) another LoC!

I wish to state that my time at NASFiC will probably be taken up to such an extent that I will be unable to organize a pro-space letter-writing campaign there, despite the suggestions of several people that I do so. I would be willing, however, to plan one for ConFederation (the 1986 WorldCon). Someone suggested the founding of an N3F L-5 chapter. As a matter of curiosity, how many people would be interested in such a project?

(I would be!)

(133)PAT MATHEWS: Heinlein's attitude towards sex seems to be a masculine fantasy - "Women really want sex just as much as horny young men do, and wouldn't it be nice if they'd admit it?" Then he throws a sop to his female readers by making the men "appreciative". Reality is usually somewhat different from this plotline. Number of the Beast took the germ of a good idea - what would happen if you actually could visit fictional universes? - and the loose end left dangling at the end of Time Enough for Love about Maureen's fate, and nearly talked it into the ground. I'd like to see the Canadian version of TNotB sometime to see if it does have material that was not included in the American version.

(134)OWEN LAURION:Your comment to JEFFERSON SWYCAFFER on the non-use of women by SF and historical military overlooked the fact that the Nazis have had a lot more publicity here in the western world than have other past aggressors, so it's easier to think of Nazis in connection with the SW Empire. Also, the color of the military garb, the connotations of a formalized "evil" military force, etc., help to reinforce this connection. Hooray for your comments to him on the benefits of space!

(Jeff was trying to say that the Empire was purposely made to mimic the Nazis, I said, and still do, that it was just a generic Evil Empire, and could as easily be compared to the hordes of Tamerlane or the Mule as those of Hitler. I expect that if the other two trilogies are ever done, we will find in the first one that

Darth Vader will be one of the good-guy rebels fighting for the overthrow of the corrupt Republic by the Empire, and in the last one young Bail Solo will be battling for independence from the decadent Second Republic of Jedi Master Skywalker.)

JEFFERSON SWYCAFFER: I do not like either scary nor depressing stories. Life is rough enough without such abuse of one's adrenalin and/or emotions. Of course, that's my own opinion.

JIM ALLEN et al: Keep those pro-space cards and letters coming in to your Congressmen and Senators, as plans are afoot to reduce spending for a space station. The L-5 Society and others are currently mapping out plans to counteract these unfortunate ideas.

MARY LOU LACEFIELD: On your ST-IV pun: double groan!

MICHAEL MACOMBER: Send Harry Stubbs (aka Hal Clement) on the shuttle! He's a teacher and an SF writer!

ROSE SECREST: You've reread some books only a dozen times? *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*, and others, have been reread so many times by me that pages are falling out of them! They don't "lose their appeal and thrill" over two decades, either.

DAVID HEATH: The hike in hotel rates at cons has also been a factor that has forced many hucksters to professionalize or vanish. In the 7+ years that I've been attending cons, room rates and membership prices have doubled or more.

CURTIS PHILLIPS: It's true that age matters little amongst fen. An N3F con is an interesting idea, especially as fandom is starting to undergo natural decrease (two local fans died in the last year and a half of natural causes) as well as natural increase.

JEFF WILCOX: Join something else besides the N3F and participate in that to help limit burn-out. I switch back and forth between APAs, the N3F, local (and larger) cons and clubs, Round Robins, school, Pern and Dark-over fandom, work, hiking, medievalism...

(And notice where, in that list, the N3F and work rank, respectively.)

ROGER WADDINGTON: There are more pros today, thus creating an infor-

mation overload when attempting to judge the quality of their writings.

DONNA GRAY: I appreciate filking, but when I try to sing, I "yowl in loud disharmonies", *ju'st/lik'e/owen*.

(((\*Gasp\*!)) How did you manage to bug my shower?))

(135) WILLIAM CENTER: WorldCons (or other cons, for that matter) do not necessarily make money if certain precautions are not taken. Believe me, I know. The increased amount of SF available at mundane bookstores may have contributed to the decrease in the proportion of hucksters selling books at cons.

SYLVIA BUMP: The "goddess" novels are the long-awaited "backlash" to the stories with an underlying Christian theme (e.g. the Narnia series) that we have seen over the years. The frequency of the "goddess" novels may decrease as time passes. Meanwhile, isn't there some sort of "equal access" rule for the propaganda of major political parties? And shouldn't that apply to religion in SF and Fantasy?

LOLA ANDREW: Still enjoying watching the Round Robins disappear into the maw of the Merry Mail Manglers & Mislayers (MMM&M)?

EDWARD GREEN: I'm still excited about every shuttle shot, and it's a damned shame that the major networks don't give the detailed coverage of flights any more that they gave to the first few. The local university station (least-watched of 3 area PBS stations) did broadcast extensive coverage of the satellite retrievals. It was fun to watch the astronauts attempt to secure footholds on the walls of the cargo bay and work hard to avoid bumping the satellites. After the EVAs, there were 15 or 20 minutes of a full-scale shot of the Earth as the shuttle orbited - absolutely fascinating as I watched it on my roommate's color TV.

A minor question: when you referred to our coming "closer to starting the big one than they have ever done", are you referring to recent events (since Reagan took office), or earlier ones?

MICHAEL PERALTA: Admittedly, many fans are inept and/or neurotic, but that does not necessarily make a fan or apply to all fans. Some of our local members wear three-piece suits to meetings! Are they inept in Mundania?

((I don't know about Mundania, but here in Albuquerque, wearing a three-piece suit to an Alpha meeting would certainly be considered neurotic behavior.))

KEVIN ATHERTON: The N3F, to a degree, offers "one-stop shopping" - book, fanzine, and con reviews, news, notices of upcoming cons, LoCs, contact addresses, art, an APA, various correspondence and RR opportunities, and other fannish activities/opportunities. I think that this convenient "packaging" serves members of the N3F. Under the current leadership, they are virtually the only people served by the N3F. It would be nice to spread the benefits of the N3F to fandom as a whole.

BOB MATTHEWS (con report): Marion Zimmer Bradley had such a large turnout at her talk at LACon II that they closed the room! The WSFS Business Meeting was the usual wrangle over site rotation, etc. I've heard rumors that Philadelphia and Washington are seriously considering bidding for 1992. Spoof bids include Antarctica/McMurdo Sound '88, Atlantis '88, L-5 in 2025 (a bit more realistic than 1995), and New Zealand in 2096.

SCOTT ESTES/OWEN LAURION: Is it possible that many "mere readers" of SF/F would "socially interact with each other" if they knew how to find each other? I think that the "interaction" definition of SF/F fans is a clear one; I'm currently reserving my opinion as to whether or not it's a proper one.

People do *not* become kindly, helpful, warm, non-political, etc., just by "joining fandom". The accumulation of strong, ~~highly~~ intelligent personalities in the same club or organization inevitably leads to some quarrels and politicking and leader/follower cliques. However, a failure of a newcomer to make at least half the effort in reaching out to these jargonated groups can make matters worse and easily lead to that "shut-out and turned-off" feeling.

ROSE SECREST: I had a hard time in trying to hear the proper words to "All of My Love". This is what I could make out of the verses:



responsibility to feed other nations. Show them how, yes; but support them, no, nor finance their doing it. We did it alone. They can too, or else.

I'd rather spend a *lot* on guns we would probably never need (if we had enough) than to skimp and not have them when I needed them (and we would need them eventually). Aggressor nations and criminals are aggressor nations and criminals. They are not fools. I think the Soviets are financing a lot of the nuclear freeze and unilateral disarmament stuff. It benefits them. Nuclear freeze and unilateral disarmament types have never thought the matter out completely.

☺...

As for space, fen, recluses as many are, introverts as many are, have aware, inquiring, adventurous minds. They have thought the fantastic most of their lives. They *know* the impossible is possible. Okay, TV is old stuff. And video players are rapidly becoming so. And even computers are becoming common. But how many fen had TV years ago, got videoplayers & libraries of tapes (as well as sound tapes (reel & 8-track & cassette)), and got (or built their own) computers as soon as the word went out? Fen are in the leading edge of thought. Perhaps they make their living writing it (Heinlein) or perhaps in science (Forward) or astronomy (Sagan). Didn't Sagan begin in fandom in the 40s? He wrote a LoC to Astounding back about then, I believe.

Fen in space? Check some of the astronauts' reading choices.

Fandom, and the SF/F-reading public, is leading the way, and has been for some time now. Not much clout, perhaps, as "fandom", but as individuals the story is some different.

((Actually, considering their occupation, the surprise is that many of the astronauts don't read SF, and even among those that do, none are fanatical enough about it to have ever been involved in fandom.

On the other hand, Taras Wolansky sent me a clipping that Ronald Reagan was a fan of Edgar Rice Burroughs, particularly the Barsoom series starring ~~John~~ John Carter. Thanks, Taras.))



DAVEED LAWSON: (Mar.6) As a new member of the N3F I cannot but notice that few of the letters contain salutations. You notice that I have succumbed to peer pressure.

((Actually, most do start out "Dear Owen" or "Dear Neffers", but both for conformity and to preserve space, these are routinely cut. Likewise, the first paragraphs of most letters are more personal notes to me than matters I feel would be of general interest (like telling me to stop interrupting, or recommending a typing teacher or asylum), and so they, and closings ("Sincerely", "INEFFably Yours", "Clear Skies") are also routinely deleted.))

There has been a lot of talk about an N3F con. The club I am president of (Curtis Phillips is the V.P.) is having a con the first weekend in November. I would like to make it a predominantly N3F con and welcome any suggestions for a name for the con (the current choice being TransmaniaCon - no association with the John Shirley book of the same name) and ideas for panels. I am tired of the same sort of panels at nearly every con I go to. Curtis and I heard Allen Wold and Harry Stubbs (Hal Clements' real name and the probable reason for his use of a penname) have a nearly identical discussion on a panel at the same con three years running. I am tired of "What

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(("Hand me the whip, Mr. Spock."))

Over ages of development on Earth have created certain traits. Would we change them on another world - Luna, for example, where everyone obviously would depend on everyone else (even if only to not leave an outside door open)?

The question was asked, why haven't we received signals from space. The question was partially answered in the next paragraph. "Our signals could never reach the nearest civilization, if any, in a thousand years. So, disappointed again, we concentrate on listening; and now, it seems, we have not heard from them either." Well, if we realize our signals would need more than overnight travel and spinelessly give up, why do you think some other race out there hasn't had the same defeatist reaction?

If other races are as belligerent as ours, how many decades out of thousands of years will they (or we) be capable of sending such messages before blasting themselves back into the mud? Is humanity cyclic? Are the gods & goddesses (Thor, Zeus, Freya, Aphrodite) the vaguely-remembered names of ancient heroes and heroines? In a thousand years from now will primitives encamped on San Francisco Bay, in fear at night, pray to Kndy or Wash? Will they ask sexual powers from Mirlyn or Jaki? Will they fear Hit or S'lin? Will they remember in myth a Golden Age when gods walked the earth and spoke from pole to pole and walked on other heavenly bodies and exchanged hearts? Have we been this far before, little lemmings?

PHOEBE: I dunno about Ewoks not beating stormtroopers. There's a relatively tiny creature called the wolverin, also called an Indian Devil. Even the bigger bears and lions back away from it when it is on the prowl.

OWEN: Re: comments in my own LoC in TB#135. I like the "colonys" spelling. In fact I would prefer just adding an s to pluralize any word. Sometimes I yield to temptation.

I mean cloning the people. What will you give when you're 90, for a new 16-year-old body? If hearts can be transferred, why not brains? Aren't they already working on it with animals? What would a crippled or deformed person give for a perfect body?

(Two complaints. First, while scientists may, indeed, be trying to work on "body transfers", the work is progressing slowly, and public outcry may well prevent it from ever reaching culmination. And secondly, your original comment was about using cloned bodies for interplanetary colonization, not for life extension. Two or three years to raise a food-animal from ova to maturity may be cost-effective. Sixteen to raise a new body for a farmer (who could as easily be recruited at only 20 on Earth), plus the equipment and medical personnel needed, would not be.)

(I also questioned Paul's statement that Libya, Afghanistan, Iraq & Iran had the bomb.)

The Moslem nations chipped in for a bomb-development program. They have a share in the success. Don't forget, Israel had nukes for a couple decades before they admitted it. They were behind several "losses" of nuclear material over the years. So, essentially, they "have" nukes, though they may not be able to get to the triggers as yet.

☺...

PAULA: The debate between using money for defense or for 'charity' will never end. I care about the safety of me and those I like more than I do about any number of strangers' welfare. However, consider one thing. If we don't spend enough on defense and are stomped, the 'poor' will be a lot worse off than they are now. Consider conditions in foreign countries. Also, the constant revelations of the dishonesty of the 'takers' doesn't help the rest any.

This is an exciting, wonderful, beautiful world where we may develop/evolve/become whatever (good or bad). Would you die by preference in WW III and so give up your chance to achieve godhood because of pique, fear, aversion to danger/pain/work/poor conditions, someone doing something you don't like, etc.?

ED: I see no wrong in spending our money on moon trips rather than on starving foreigners. Disregarding the potential benefits, I feel no

in the dying firelight,  
To chase the feather in the wind.  
Within the glow that weaves  
a cloak of delight,  
The noose is frayed and hangs on end.  
For many hours and days,  
the hands ever sooth,  
The eyes to close, the flame to dim,  
At last the arm is straight,  
the hand to the loom,  
Is this the end or just the beginning?

Chorus:  
All of my love, all of my love,  
all of my love to you  
(repeated)

The cup is raised,  
the toast is made yet again,  
One voice is clear above the din,  
Proud Ariane,  
one word my will to sustain,  
For me the cloth once more to spin.  
chorus and instrumental  
Yours is the cloth, mine  
is the hand that spells time,  
His is the farce that lies within;  
Ours is the fire,  
all we can find,  
He is the feather in the wind.  
chorus

The feather, in this interpretation of the song, is the self-destructive tendencies within and without us. Only if these are dispelled are we going to make it out there in this version of the universe.

(I was undecided about printing this, both for copyright reasons and because one really has to compare it with your LoC on page 23 of TB#134 to understand why it's here. But enough people have asked I decided to run it for them.)

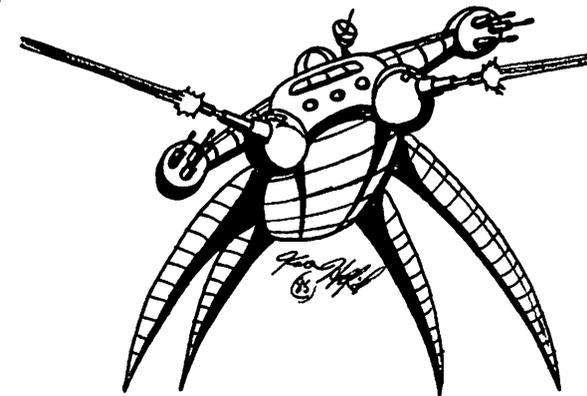
(136) LAURENCE GRAY: I can write filk lyrics (especially parodies such as the Backrubbers' Anthem, based on the alternative Maryland State Anthem), but not music. Perhaps we should team up? I've been reading SF for over 20 years now, and it's still enjoyable.

AL MORRISON: I'm not too sure who I am myself. A double Gemini (12th house Sun), a Scorpio moon, several interesting aspects.

DAVID HEATH: I liked the angry smiley faces. There's been a lot of smiley faces in recent APAs that I'm in! I also liked the Dec. TNFF cover very much - a bit reminiscent of Giles (a British editorial cartoonist, humor-

ous, like a Buchwald/Herblock cross).

(Smiley faces do turn up in the darndest places. Like the one on a Martian crater that Carl Sagan showed in a recent Parade article ☺, or the Alaska Airlines motto David sent to me: "Sit back, relax, and fly with a happy face!")



ROSE SECREST: (Mar.12) I have been trying the past several years to be a generalist. In college one is expected to major in something, but I try to get around that by reading books outside my major and squeezing as many humanities and liberal arts courses in as I can. I explain this so that no one will be surprised by the two widely different topics I present here.

Last week, in between naps during a painful flu, I read *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky for about the tenth time. Now that I have concentrated more and more on science fiction, I noticed this time around that some things in the book parallel tendencies in science fiction. Is it possible that this is more than the product of a fevered imagination, I asked? I then thought that not only was the study and analysis of science fiction important, but it was necessary to see it as part of a greater literature, spanning all written fiction...The elements that comprise science fiction can be seen just about everywhere, not just ancient great literature. I'm not saying that all fiction is science fiction, but

that a lot of it has elements of science fiction. Which came first, the techniques of science fiction being first created in science fiction, or did science fiction get its strange elements from other fiction?

Second topic: I notice that in most professional science fiction magazines a part is devoted to science. Science has its place in science fiction, and its absence is noteworthy, too...At first, science made up a large percentage of science fiction, hence the name, while fantasy has remained free of it. Nowadays there is not much of it making up quite a bit of a story, and sometimes it is present, but as a background, as if it is obvious that this will continue to be a technological society...Michael pointed out to me a tendency in science fiction to have magic, witchcraft, or mysterious pagan going-ons in a time of advanced technology. Both of us find this disgusting, but science fiction might be going historical stages. As a simplistic example, rationalism, the concern with logic, clinicalism, technology (as it was in the 1800s), science, and mechanics was replaced by romanticism by the next generation. Psychologically it can clearly be seen why writers and artists did this, and this is probably happening now, and it can be seen thanks to historical precedent.

If any Neffers are interested in these two subjects, please write to me. I would like to see these opened up, and maybe even formed into bureaus if anyone is interested.

((SF as Literature is, I suspect, a prime topic for the Education Bureau to handle already. On the other hand, most early SF clubs were actually science clubs, with modern-day ham radio clubs, rocketry clubs, and perhaps other specialties I know not of tracing their history back to the same beginnings as we have. But they branched towards the science (actually technology), while we went towards fiction (embracing fantasy as well as SF). I don't know how well any re-merging of the branches would take at this late date, but I'd like to see at least a pro-space bureau started as a questing step in that direction. Comments?))

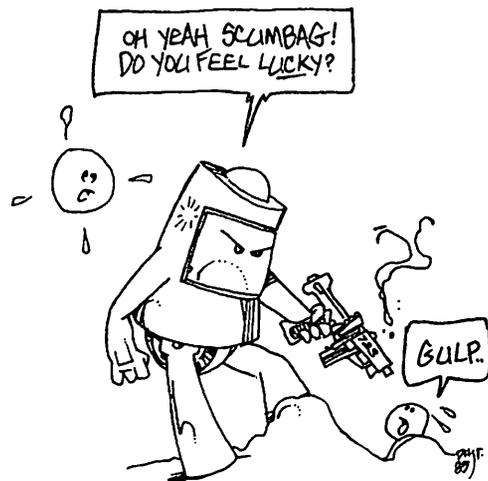
How new is new? How long can someone say "I'm new to the N3F"?

((The term is entirely relative. David Heath, Lola and meem are still "new" Neffers to old-timers like Don Franson, Joanne Burger, Howard DeVore, or Lynne Holdom, since we've only been in the N3F for 5 or 6 years. While David was commenting to me just lately that TK Atherton is still just a neofan, having only discovered fandom a year ago, despite having dragged in an entire new generation of fans behind him.))

BYRON: I was disappointed by the personal shields in DUNE. I'm not the type of person to back myself up with equations, but nature abhors waste. Not only are the shields explained in The Dune Encyclopedia, but both physical laws and common sense insist that, unless the law of conservation of energy is violated, along with the second law of thermodynamics, the surface area must be kept at a minimum. That is why soap bubbles and the Earth (more or less) are spheres. The personal shield would completely cloak the body with its own shape, not a rectangular shape.

SCOTT: It is completely sufficient to read and enjoy science fiction and therefore be called a fan. Of course, if one wants to participate in fan activities, no one's stopping them. I don't see, however, how that sort of fan can condemn the other sort.

LAURENCE: I have four cats, more on the way, and wear glasses.



PAUL DOERR: (Mar.4) I wonder how many around San Fran Bay would be interested in holding a NefferCon? I'll pitch in. As Owen suggested, an N3F membership should be included in the con price.

Somehow (by default or ambition?) the cons have been taken over by the money-oriented. I don't see why an old-style inexpensive one couldn't be run. They always were before. No one got-rich-quick but they always managed, and they were quite pleasant. Money isn't everything.

((As I recall from my meagre experience, meeting room space, film rental, and refreshments were the three big expenses in order of size. The free beer in the consuite can be made BYO easily enough, but hotel prices have gone up, and films, once a rare luxury, have become staples. Small-budget cons can still be done, but they take a lot of ingenuity. Are we up to the challenge?))

The last few N3F pubs have been EXCELLENT, and bigger. The N3F should produce the leading publications in SF/F fandom to uphold its 'duty' and to get more members. Membership, with two publications and a great variety of services, is no more expensive than subscriptions to most fanzines and crudzines, and cheaper than many. With the vastly-improved quality of the pubs, why not consider other publications?

I like art and would be willing to pay a bit more to see it in color.

((With Neffer a Bad Batch (which is now finished, and should be with this ish unless technical or economic considerations delay it till nextish), we should be beginning to put out more occasional one-shot special publications. But the N3F is not all of fandom, and so we'd also like to call your attention to the many fine pubs put out by LASFS, NESFA, the Filk Foundation, TAFF, DUFF, and many independent concomms and faneds too numerous to list here.))

((I, too, would like to see more color. Our printer has the capability of doing serigraph-type covers, but was only called on to do so once, before David's reign as art editor. The slight extra expense should be within our budget, but the form is not one I've seen many fanartists use.))

/On the subject of pubs, does anyone want to put out your own fanzine on fiche? Send me 98 8x11 sheets and \$60 and I'll send you 100 copies, and probably some change. That's how easy it is to put out a fanzine on fiche now. I think a 25-page zine, adding ink, stencils, paper, etc. would cost at least half that much, and the postage more than the 22¢ to mail the fiche.

There are several companies into microform now and some of them are very big, in this country and foreign. Practically every library now has a fiche reader and a microform card catalog. In some, you can now borrow readers as you can borrow movie projectors & films or talking books and a player, or phono records. Ours even has computers for people to use (only Apple IIs, but--).

Microform & computers are the library of the future. Our library is about ready to handle videotapes, too. An entire series of books is now on fiche (the PS books). I expect to see SF/F on fiche in the near future, for sale in stores.

☺...

KERRY:/Re: Willie in IJ&TOD/ Someone will do to anyone (woman or man) anything she will tolerate. Nothing is free. A fall costs hurt. Eating too much costs fat. Looking at a pretty woman or a beautiful sunset costs at least the time taken. Nobody can force anyone to do something they really don't want to do. Of course, the refusal can cost death. You decide what you do/don't want and what you will/won't pay. Self-reliance, self-responsibility, self-determination.

SYLVIA: "My Father's house has many mansions." The Bible might be referring to other planets. Someone went up in a whirlwind, a good description of jet beast by a primitive.

((Or maybe a rescue helicopter?))

PHOEBE: The author of Star Trek Lives! wrote a lot about the "brotherhood" and hope in Star Trek and the good effect it has had on people. Incidentally the acknowledgements in that book listed 36 women and 9 men, and women outnumber men in buying John Norman's Gor books. Have they something in common?



MIKEL NORWITZ: (Mar.12) I have two more (get ready) "hEro-wok couplets" for the collection: Want some fun? Just for a lark, Feed an Ewok to a shark. If you're feeling in the pits, Chop an Ewok into bits. Egad, enough already. I'm starting to regret getting into all this. You people are just encouraging all my bad habits.

((Jaws and Halloween! If you want to get that way about it: Want to try your chainsaw out? There's some Ewoks round about. Want to see an Ewok rave? Pop him in your micro-wave. Don't you think Ewoks are cute, When blended well with bamboo shoots?)

By the way, all these verses scan well to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star".))

I didn't like JOB at all. The first 2/3rds was all right, and I liked the ending, but I thought the rapture and Heinlein's Inferno sequences a bit offensive. I am very far from being religious, but I could have pictured Madylin O'Hare just loving this. I don't approve of ridiculing other people's beliefs.

I thought I was the only Neffer who likes "Prarie Home Companion". Don't you just love those powdermilk Biscuits? I've been looking into opening a Day-Old Bakery branch down here in Phoenix, myself. Does anybody other than Owen out there know what I'm talking about?

DAVID: What on Earth is wrong with recipes? Books, food, and sex are my three favorite hobbies, with music coming up as a close fourth.

And speaking of music, I'm glad someone mentioned Mozart's Cosi fan tutte. ((Someone did? Not in TB.)) I am fairly familiar with the composer and have quite a few albums by him, but had never heard of that piece. I've always thought Cosey Fanny Tutti's name was too weird to be original. Now I know. That's almost as stupid as Henry Cowell/Henry Cow.

((Mozart? Cosey F. Tutti?? Henry who??))

CURTIS: "Shambleau's Oatmeal-Pecan Delights"!?! So good they'll suck your soul out, eh?

OZONE: Try L.A.Morse's *The Old Dick*

for a humorous 'tec novel.

MONICA: I don't believe it; somebody likes the same kind of comics I do! Try *Ronin* and *V for Vendetta* for more of the same.

To all: the new Arthur Clarke book will be *20,001: The Ultimate Adventure*. You heard it here first!



LAURA TODD: (Mar.12) I, a humble new member, will now write my first LoC. I'm finally going to sound off about one of my pet bitches in SF: books where there is no plot resolution, but instead you're socked at the end with the realization that "why, this must be the first of a series!"

Several years ago I read one called *The Calling of Bara*, by Sheila Sullivan (1975). Set in a post-collapse world, it involved an evil coterie that was re-learning the secrets of technology and atomic power. The book ended with the villain escaping and the conflict unresolved. I never did find a sequel. Was there one?

((I've never heard of it.)) Another which fits this category is *Voyage to the City of the Dead*, by Alan Dean Foster. The protagonists journey to a mysterious ruined city and discover the alien race which has created the planet. But the mission and purpose of this alien race remains a mystery and we're left to speculate "will this question be resolved in a later book?"

I call this dishonest writing. If the author intends to write a series,

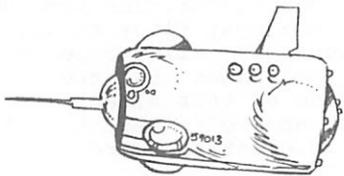
let him or her tell us so on the cover. Volume I of the \_\_\_\_\_ Series. Then we can decide whether to make the investment of purchasing the entire series. I sometimes wonder if some writers do series because they're just too lazy to wrap up their plots - or maybe they've written themselves into a corner and they hope that after stretching the plot through a few more books, we readers will have forgotten the fix the characters were left in at the end of Volume I.

As an aspiring writer, I've had my stuff ripped apart at writers' workshops for far lesser sins than leaving my stories unfinished. How come professionals get away with it?

The ideal series is one where each book has a self-contained plot, but where enough interesting tidbits of history and culture are dropped to suck you into the next one. Darkover is the best example; Jacqueline Lichtenberg's Sime/Gen series is another.

To be continued.

((While we're waiting for Laura's next installment, I'll add that this is a peeve of mine, too, but I expect the blame falls not on the writers (with a few exceptions like ADFoster) as much as on the publishers, since it is the publisher who decides what will be written on the cover. For example, the five books of the Belgariad cost, collectively, \$17. Who wants to pay \$17 for a paperback novel? (Though in this example, it's good enough to be worth it.) But \$3 for the first book alone is what people expect and are willing to pay, so the publisher puts it out in \$3-\$4 segments, and suckers us in. And are readers likely to do anything about it? Readers? As far as Engulf & Devour are concerned, readers are Couch Potatoes who are too lazy to turn on the tube.))



SALLY A. SYRJALA: (Mar. 14) It is quite encouraging to see the bureaus starting to be major points of interest. Such a thing is not only a good incentive for joining the organization, but also a good incentive for those who are already members to make their membership a more active one.

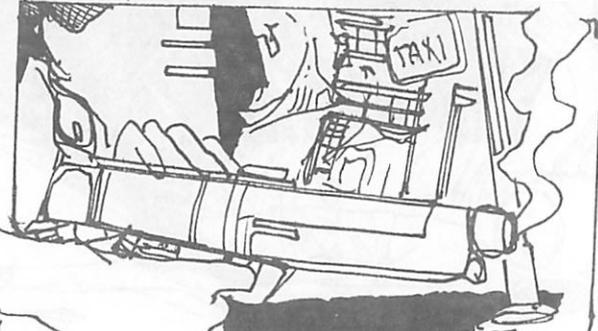
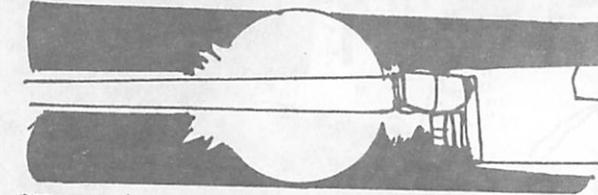
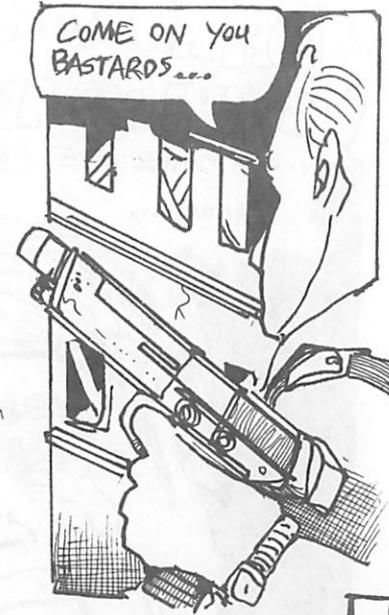
One feature I always look for in any zine - be it fan or pro - is the review column. I like to see how others view the films and books I have encountered and to see how our viewpoints mesh.

DUNE was one of the holiday films which I enjoyed. I look to films and books as being two entirely different mediums. What a book can express easily a film has difficulty in converting to its images; conversely what can be shown with the greatest of ease has difficulty in being translated into prose. The two mediums are two entirely different languages and should be regarded as such. I am not overly familiar with the DUNE plot line, yet I had no trouble in following the sequence of events in the film. I enjoy a film that does not have a plot that can be followed as easily as A--B--C. To me the film was a visual delight and I enjoyed seeing it very much.

JOB: A Comedy of Justice I read on a purely escapist/entertainment type of level. It was good to see a book which said there was not only "one way" to reach salvation.

On to the letter topics department. I do not view SW as simply a "fun" excursion. George Lucas said on the Public Television special on the saga that he liked to use image upon image in presenting material. I take the "fun" action/adventure line as being but the upper-most level to the saga. If it were the only layer, the saga could never have supported all the fanfiction and letterzines which have been devoted to it over the years, nor could it have triggered the debate it has managed to have arise over its content. For it is the telling of a basic mythic fairy tale. How we view that myth tells a lot about our philosophies and mythic interpretations.

How to view The Force? Is it a neutrality which would make the converting of it to either good or evil





# ALL OUR YESTER DAYS

—BY JERRY COLLINS and DAVID HEATH JR. ©85—



a manipulative process which would be against its nature? Does any form of manipulation of it cause "a disturbance in The Force"? Must this then be neutralized? Therefore, does the existence of "good" make the existence of "evil" a necessity to re-establish the equilibrium?

There is a philosophy which says that there is only a set number of possibilities in the world. Therefore after a while all things will have apparent likeness appear within them. This can be seen between the rendering of Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom and some of the SW saga, particularly *The Empire Strikes Back*.

Both TESB and TOD have settings in high places - Bespin's Cloud City and Pankok Palace. In each place our group of intrepid wanderers are met in a "very friendly" manner which was only camouflage for what was to come.

Each film had our weary travelers invited to a banquet. Said banquet was about as enjoyable for each group. Leia wore borrowed robes to her outing, as did Willie. Indy even senses there is an overlapping at this point when he tells Willie that she looks just like a princess. This could have been wistful thinking on his part as Indy most likely would have preferred the company of the princess to the performer.

After each of these banquets our hero underwent a torture sequence. Indy's was of a much more primitive aspect than was Han's, but the results were the same. After this action, both entered into a state of non-being. Han went into his carbon freeze state, and Indy into his blood-induced trance.

Both were awakened by those who loved them. Han by Leia and Indy by Short Round, who even said "Indy, I love you" to be sure you got the point.

In TOD there was the mine car chase which was set amid unmined ore. In TESB there was the chase through the asteroid belt which could also be said to be unmined ore.

There was a living carpet upon which our group trod in both films. In TOD it was the living insects and TESB it was the inside of the stomach of the space slug. This gives new meaning to the term "red carpet".

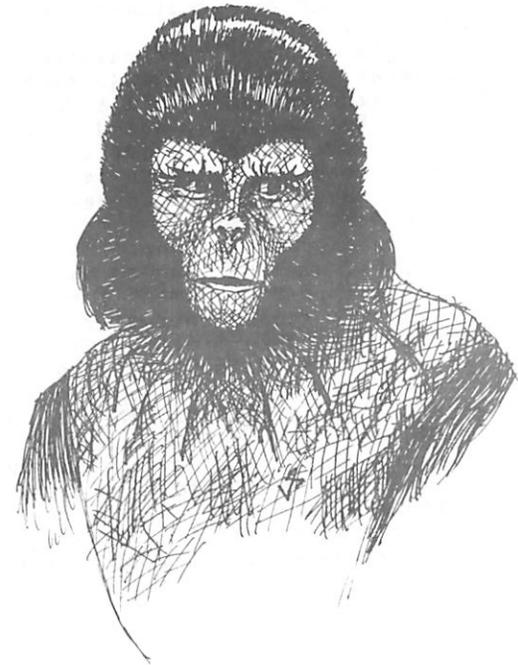
Both films tell of a betrayal of the diety. In TOD it was the evil priest who betrayed Shiva. In TESB it

priest who betrayed Shiva. In TESB it was the evil emporer who betrayed The Force by twisting it to his designs. In each case the evil human was cast into a chasm. The evil priest took the gorge to be snapped up by the waiting alligators, and the evil emporer into the core of the Death Star.

The ending of each film was amid a grouping of non-technological people - the celebration in TESB was in the Ewok village and in TOD it was the Hindu village.

I find it fun to look at various films to find the common thread which can then be followed to see the line of thinking, the myth usage employed, and whatever other basic underlying elements there might be. Do any others of you do this same sort of mental anagraming with films?

*(I doubt anyone else has done it as thoroughly as you, Sally. But your parallels are interesting, even if a few of them, like the living carpet, might be stretching it a bit.)*



MICHAEL J. MACOMBER: (Mar. 14) LAURENCE GRAY: Yes, I understand your mistrust of the Soviet leaders, but I also think this mistrust is one of the major problems. We're both anxious to end this madness, but nobody will even negotiate reasonably, because of this horrible wall of suspicion between us. That's why I think the U.S. should make the first move, and prove our sanity, and our peaceful intentions. I do have trust, and I am absolutely certain the Soviets would fall in line, with a sigh of relief, in fact. We shouldn't keep waiting. The more we wait, the more dangerous things get.

O'course, before we do anything productive, we have got to get Six-Gun Ronnie out of office. His much-too-offensive foreign policy has a tendency to block any effort the American People might make to show their Peaceful Feelings.

((What Peaceful Feelings? The idea that the U.S. is a peaceful, complacent nation is a myth perpetrated by the noisy but powerless idealists, and left unchallenged by the true leadership because it comforts the unsophisticated who are willing to believe it. In Afghanistan, the Soviets are supporting the legitimate government. In Nicaragua, we're supporting the rebels who want to overthrow the government. Atrocities, unfortunately, are the side effect of all sides in any war. But the U.S., not U.S.S.R., is the guy with the big stick. I don't think we need to apologise or rationalize overmuch - but we do need to realize that the U.S. is a military power, not a pacifist one.))

Hey, why am I getting so much backlash to my pro-disarmament letters, anyway? If I recall correctly, the majority of nuclear-related SF has always been in the same vein as my views - in the 30s, in the 40s, and even in the radical 60s. Why suddenly has fandom in general gone anti-disarmament? Please, if anyone out there can explain, I would be very grateful.

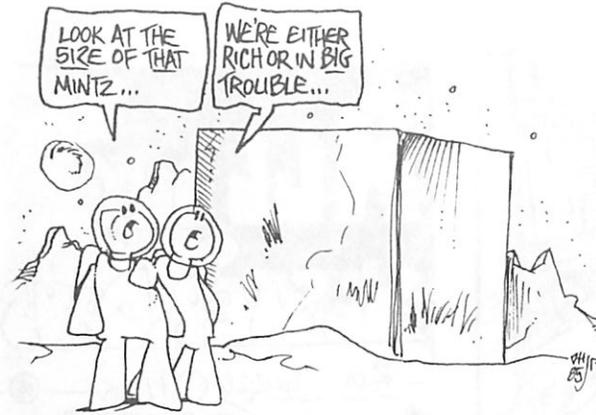
((Anti-disarmament has two connotations. Anti-war, and a peaceful future would put Heinlein, Pournell, Dickson et al out of business; and anti-atomic bombs which equals anti-atomic power; anti-atomic research, and ultimately anti-science or technology.))

Thanks, Laurence, for your back-up of my llog, hand-wringing tirade on Eric Jamborsky's attitude toward media fandom. I did go a little bit overboard, but hey, what would you do if someone called you a Hoo-ey? ((Wasn't he one of the robots in Silent Running?)) You're right, we should try and stick together, because, after all, we are supposed to be interested in the same thing. Somewhat. And the differences between us should not be gaps, but rather bridges, a way to introduce each other to new and different aspects of fandom.

And speaking of Fandom (cute transition, hey? But aren't we usually speaking of Fandom?) - on the subject of the Current Media Cons and the Good-Old-Fashioned Fan Cons, well, I only started attending cons at the end of 1983, and all the ones I've been to so far have been Doctor Who Cons, but - I have noticed that my enjoyment level at a con is directly related to the amount of fan-involvement in organizing that con. The more fan-involvement, the better the con. My two favorites of the past year were PanoptiCon/Time Festival in Columbus, and Buffalo Who-Fest in Cleveland ((Cleveland??)) (right), and both of these were entirely initiated, organized and run by local fan clubs. My least favorite was probably the last one I attended, a Doctor Who Fan Club of America event in King of Prussia, Penn. The DWFCA obviously doesn't know anything about conventions - I mean, they had reserved seating at the panels, and they ran the Trivia Contest and Auction while we were in line getting autographs. There was virtually no mingling with the guests, and we were constantly being herded here and there, like so much cattle.

By contrast, the Columbus and Buffalo cons were very homey, very fannish events, with a lot good old fashioned fan/guest and fan/fan mingling, and simply a general atmosphere of purpose and community. I loved them.

ROLM LANCASTER: Glad to see another Who-fan in the N3F. Have you checked out the Round Robins Bureau yet? You should really get yourself on to one of the Dr. Who robins, hopefully the same one I'm on. I'd like to hear



with teeny little men driving them. I went up there to check this out, and when I asked him what they were he said they were "de laurions".

But he is not the only one! Another member, a certain directorate member and artist/editor, has also established himself on a mountainside (called Praise David Mt.) and is selling little pictures of himself wrapped in poinsettia leaves as --yes -- "Christmas Heaths"! I could hardly believe it myself.

What can be done for the poor Neffer who is tired of hearing about these fly-by-night gimmicks? Well-- He (or she, for those of the female gender who are not he's) can come up to Praise Jim Mt. and for the low cost of \$9.95 purchase a one ounce bottle of "Jim Juice" which will kill the bacteria in any nose, throat, or toilet bowl; and is good for whatever

else may be Allen ya. (Plus, with every purchase of \$100 or more, customers get a free pass to Praise Don Mt. (named for a certain, unnamed director) to see the playboy franson!)

Read next issue when another certain director-person sings the romantic ballad about a Bill being returned after being improperly addressed -- that's right, "Return to Center".

Coming Soon To A Local Issue Of TightBeam In Your Area!



(Anonymously sent from a certain director currently living on an AFB in Northern California. This letter is not supported, sponsored, or read by anybody with any taste whatsoever.)

((I'll say. That letter stinks so much it's clogged up my center. It has all the literary merit of that famous novel we all read (back in second grade), "More Franson Neighbors". It took some names andrew them allen to the breaking point, and I think Jim should own and all an apology for such horrible puns.))

That had to be the funnest letter I've written in the past few months, but the last two issues of TB have driven me to it. It's nice to see some members becoming active and interested.



either. That's why I'm including two items: an interview with Andrew Szatkowski, president of PSMF (I am not a member of PSMF) and Poland's #1 fan, and my brief article about Science Fiction today.

Recently, I have had the chance to see some American SF movies unknown here in Poland during semi-legal video shows sponsored by Swinoujście SF fan club, viz.: Star Trek I & II, "V" (fantastic!!!), Galaxina, Fireflash, Airplane III, and many others.

(Fireflash? Airplane Three??? I suspect something is getting lost in the translation, here. I hope.)

(Anyway, Richard also mentioned he has some short stories translated from Russian by the Strugatski brothers, and an article on Soviet SF that need a home. If any of you faneds would like something different and classy in your next ish, drop Richard a line. For that matter, some of you writers might want to send him something he can translate and print in some foreign journal (he translates to several languages besides just Polish and English).)

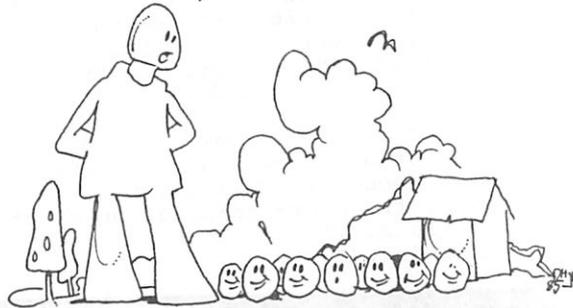
WE HIT THE JACKPOT RAND!  
IT'S THE BIGGEST MINTZ  
EVER DISCOVERED!!



JIM M. ALLEN: (Mar.2) Submitted for your approval: A letter to TightBeam!

My God! Can it be? Can it really be!? An issue of TB with no bickering, bantering, arguing or name calling? Unity among members? People coming out of the woodwork, tossing ideas out, left-and-right, as if there were

OKAY...SOMEBODY  
BETTER TELL ME  
WHO THESE GUYS  
ARE...



no end to the creative genius that has been hidden in the N3F for so long?! And Lola, dear Lola, with her charming little letter on how the N3F is different. Why, I think (\*sniff\*) I'm gonna (\*sniff\*) cry. This Just Can't Be! It can't, it can't, it can't! Our club can't be developing a personality and purpose on its own, can it? No, no, it's too good to be true, it won't last, it will change, it always does! Shall I allow myself to be swept away with, uh, N3Fmania? Yes, YES! Take me, take meeeeeee!

Heh, heh, heh. Nobody ever said fandom can't be as much fun as an orgasm.

Now, seriously, I'd like to inform our membership about a great scam being perpetrated by a certain N3F member-- an officer-- whose initials just happen to be OKL. I'm not mentioning any names, but this member just happens to have a mountain named after him (Praise Owen Mt.) and is charging people to come up and actually bow to him and praise him. As if this wasn't bad enough, he sells teeny little cars



your views on Colin Baker, Tom Baker, changing the shape of the TARDIS, and the possibility that the BBC might cancel Dr. Who. Oh! My Lord, I really should mention that, shouldn't I, for the benefit of other Who-Fans. Yes. Well, there is a rumour going 'round that the BBC might just cancel our favorite Time Lord. Of course, it's prob'ly not true, but in case it is, you should really write letters to the following addresses, immediately:

Michael Grade, Controller

BBC TV

Woodlands, 80 Wood Lane

London W12 0TT

Alastair Miln, Director General

BBC TV

White City

London W12

and Margaret Thatcher

10 Downing St.

London

(Unfortunately, the Dr. Who hiatus is a reality, but public opinion might keep it just a temporary one, and not a permanent cancellation. For the most recent update on the situation, our own Fan Clubs Bureau head, De Ghysel, can give you the latest info. Just write her and ask.

And yes, evidently since Dr. Who is produced by a government agency, a letter to Mrs. Thatcher is a recommended part of the campaign.)

One last item before I close this off. I would like to announce the founding of two new fan clubs, the Dangermouse Fan Club of America, and Team Banzai: a Buckaroo Appreciation Society. The first can be reached by writing to me (my address should be on the contents page) and there are currently no dues - and no cards, no buttons and no newsletter, kids! Some day soon, tho, if the response is good. The second is being run by a friend of mine from upstate New York, Dan Clement (winner of the Costume Competition at the King of Prussia Con!), and his address is: The Banzai Institute  
491 O.P.T.L. Rd.  
Spencerport, NY 14559.

He's in a similar situation to mine, just waiting to see what kind of response he'll get. So respond already! Support your local fan club! (Or your national one, for that matter.)

Well, I imagine I've offended someone by now, so I'd better creep away, quietly.

KATHERINE C. CHRISTENSEN: (Mar.16) The following is actually a letter of comment, in spite of the unusual format.

### INTERVIEW OF A FAN BY A REGULAR PERSON

INTERVIEWER: So, this month we interview a Science Fiction fan, who is a person who...

FAN: Excuse me, but I want to make it clear that I am a Trufan.

INTERVIEWER: I beg your pardon?

FAN: Well, I'm a *real* fan, unlike all these other imposters.

INTERVIEWER: Oh. And who are these other people?

FAN: Fringefen, mediafen, gamefen... all sorts of people, really. But I am one of the elect.

INTERVIEWER (Making an astonishing mental leap and assuming that "fen", to a fan, is a type of plurality): I see. And how does one distinguish one of the elect from all the rest?

FAN: Oh, there are numerous ingenious tests. For example, only trufen have the intellectual capacity to grasp such phrases as, "Rae bnc the paleo's LoC!"

INTERVIEWER: Yep, that's ingenious, all right.

FAN: And then only trufen have an interest in fannish history. Were you there when Furry Hackerman told BJ Tremble that Star Trek was dead?

INTERVIEWER: Can't say that I was.

FAN: You see! But the most important test is that all these other so-called fen never, ever, ever read. Anything.

INTERVIEWER: You don't say.

FAN: Oh, but I did! (Heh, heh.) It's a proven fact. Mediafen especially, simply never read anything. Not even the phone book.

INTERVIEWER: I've heard of this tendency towards exclusivity among fans. The acclaimed sociologist, Dr. Whoot, recently published a paper on the origins of this trend. He has several theories, actually. One of them is that some fans, lacking adequate familial ties, attempt to embrace fandom as an extended family. They don't want to berate the members of their own family, but they can't help noticing that certain fans don't fulfil

behavioral expectations, and so an effort is made to refine the definition of what an actual fan is. It does seem odd that this refining is done on the basis of group identification - media fan, gaming fan, and the like - and not on the basis of the strengths and weaknesses of particular persons.

FAN: What a pack of lies! A pox on his firstish!

INTERVIEWER: Another of his theories is that most people, science fiction fans included, have little actual power in this world, and creating elaborate codes by which a fan may be accepted is an attempt to manufacture at least the appearance of power and control.

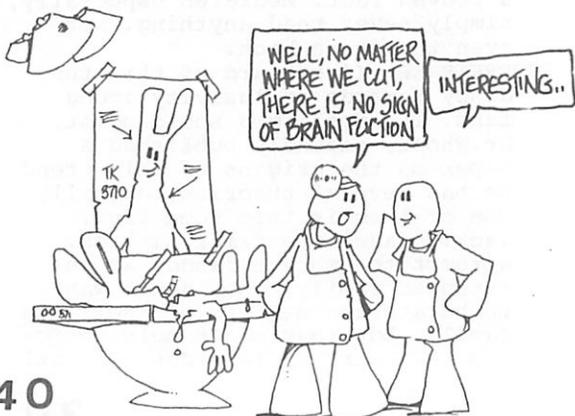
FAN: Another vicious lie! May he be locked in a dark room and forced to hear tapes of Mister Rogers reading *The Chronicles of Gor!*

INTERVIEWER: Possibly most plausible is the theory which suggests that science fiction fans are creative hangers-on, who haven't the creativity with which to stuff a tomato, and they attempt to obscure this fact from their conscious recognition. Their most obvious maneuver is in the elaborate rules for establishing ties with other fans.

FAN: Say, what am I doing talking to you? You're...you're...mundane! What if it's catching? Aaaaaaaa-uuugh!

INTERVIEWER: Well, there he goes. Join us next month for an interview with one of the men behind the madness: a science fiction writer!

((Fortunately, the next Tight-Beam won't be out for two months.))



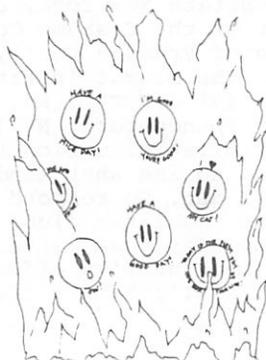
ARTHUR L. RUBIN: (Mar.19) It might be useful to try to print electronic mail addresses for those members of the NFFF on E-Mail systems such as the Source, CompuServe, MCI Mail, etc. I suppose this might be better addressed to the head of the Computer Bureau, but as applied to TightBeam, it provides additional contact points for direct (and usually faster) correspondence. For instance, notice my MCI MAIL address is 216-5888.

LAURENCE GRAY (rect:Jean): "Elephas Frumenti" is mentioned in a book by deCamp, *The Purple Pterodactyl* (or something like that). I believe it is a miniature flying elephant, which metabolizes alcohol. If anyone else has a better recollection, I would appreciate finding it. I would like to read the book again some day.

MARY LOU: In regard "Band from Argo", the parody of "Banned from Argo", by Leslie Fish (in the book *Westerfilk I* and the record "Solar Sailors", available from Off Centaur Publications, POBox 424, El Cerrito, CA 94530), there is a song "The Band from Argo", by Curtis L. Katz, found in *Philk Fee-Nom-Ee-Non #18*. PFNEN is available (for \$1 per copy, plus 50¢/copy postage) from Philk Press, POBox 599, Midway City, CA 92655-0599. The current issue of PFNEN is #43.

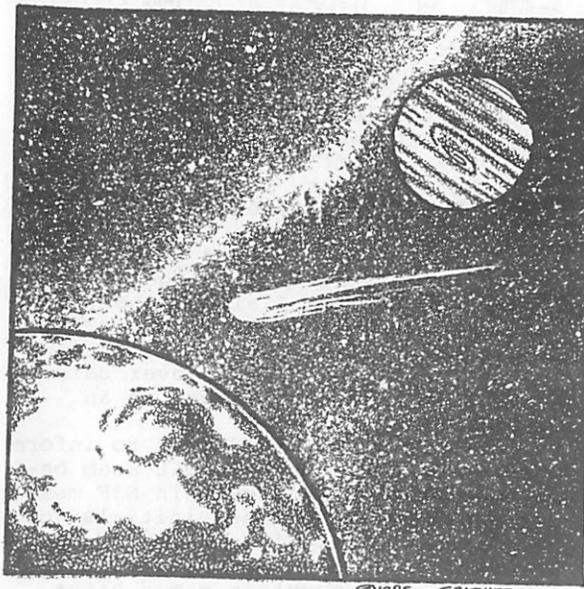
To whoever is responsible for the smiling faces: Have you read *Partially Sage* by Shari Ajemian & Sarah Newcomb (a book of parodies of traditional folk songs, available for \$8.95 from Off Centaur)? You might note especially page 75. I refuse to comment further on this.

((I have seen it, and since you've cited the price and all, I think reprinting that cartoon should be considered a "brief excerpt for review")):



story could have been as well presented if it had been simplified for the average movie-goer. (KS)

NIGHT OF THE COMET:## Dry humor: I also admire the way they achieved a genuinely eerie post-holocaust effect on a very limited budget - even though the electric lights and plumbing still worked. Definitely camp - but was it intentional?(SC) Night of the Comet saw limited release. It's a warm-hearted social comedy about two Valley girls who survive the near-annihilation of the human race. I'm still chuckling over the ending. (TVW)



THE NEVERENDING STORY:## Charming without being patronizing. (CD)

ANDROID:## Android could have been appreciated as a comment on what happens when machines become almost as complicated as people: some of the mechanicals come off better than the humans. (SM) Android didn't seem to get much exposure - was humorous. (DH)

ELECTRIC DREAMS:## A funny love triangle story with a great soundtrack. It deserved more than it got. (NR)

THE ICE PIRATES: Hilarious, it takes a poke at many of the popular SF movies of today. Even the plot was as good as *Star Trek I*, for example. (BB) Totally humorous, I laughed all the way through; it was tongue-in-cheek parody and satire - did audience not realize this?(AG)

Thanks to all the respondents:  
N3F members: (TB)Theresa Buffaloe, (CD)Cheryl Deel, (AG)Augustine Gauba, (DH)David Heath, (AK)Amy Kisil, (FM)Flint Mitchell, (CM)Carol Mularski, (MP)Michael C.Peralta, (KS)Kerry Schaefer, (PS)Phoebe Strother, (LT)Lucy Takeda, (DT)Diane Thome.

SFF SIG members: (RA)Robert F.Acker, (BB)Bruce Boyd, (CB)Charles C.Burgess, (JC)Janet F.Caires, (LC)Lara Christy, (GC)G.L.Colbert, (NC)Norman L.Cook, (SC)Sandra Cunningham, (SD)Stephen Donaldson, (PD)P.A.Durrans, (NL)Nancy Laney, (NM)Nina Matthews, (SM)Stephen K.Metzger, (NR)Ned Raggett, (RS)Ross W.Starkey, (TW)Tim Wargo, (SW)Scott Warner, and (TVW)Taras Wolansky.

RICHARD JASINSKI: (Feb.6) I'm sorry I have not written for so long, but I have had serious problems (which are not over yet, unfortunately). After my mom's death I changed my job and now I am working again as an interpreter/translator of English, but now downtown in the Szczecin Shipyard. It is better paid than the same job 50 kilometers away at the munipicle chemical plant. Besides, I have English classes for adults on Fridays, translate and review SF for Polish prozines and publishing houses, and supervise SF series for the Szczecin publishing house GLOB. So you see, there are a lot of things I have to do, and I have not mentioned all of them.

I hope our club (the N3F) is flourishing. I have not heard much from N3F members, and I am afraid you have not heard much of East European Fandom,



ious nonsense. (RS) Buckaroo Banzai confused many people, and its wit was largely unrecognized, as well as the good performances - John Lithgow as Dr. Emilio Lizardo is one of the most wonderful things I've ever seen. (TVW) Subtle, off-the-wall humor - probably too gentle for people who need to be hit over the head with a joke. (CD)

GHOSTBUSTERS: Bill Murray & special FX, also the humor. I like a movie with a story line that is unpredictable. (JC) Humor/acting/premise. (SC) A spoof on horror shows...made me laugh. (GC) It was a hilarious, easy to understand story with great songs. (NR) Hilarious nonsense. (RS) Ghostbusters gave us the rational fantasy genre at its best, with intelligence, humor, romance, imagination - and even heroism, as the small band of brave men challenge overwhelming odds. A triumphant film. (TVW) #/#

2010: It had good effects, got the main ideas of the book that it was based on across, and was very well done. (LC) Good entertainment: plot, characterization, acting, SFX all well above average. (PD) Cinematography and SPFX. (SW) 2010 because there is finally a movie that shows that Soviets and Americans can work effectively in space - instead of blowing each other up. (AK) Good acting; visual beauty; emotional and imaginative story; sense of wonder. (MP) It was better than its prequel. Realistic yet creative. (DT) #/#

THE BROTHER FROM ANOTHER PLANET: #/# Great acting; Harlem setting. (SD)

STARMAN: Very "human" storyline, good acting. (CM) #/# Well-developed plot; good characterization. (DT)

GREYSTOKE: Cinematography, settings, attention given to animal mannerisms. (TW) #/# Felt immersed in story - overall treatment of story & characters very good. (TW) Beautiful, more faithful to the original. (CD) I thought Greystoke was the best Tarzan movie made so far. It made me 'believe' the Tarzan story could be real. I was surprised that the public did not like it more. (PS)

STAR TREK III: I especially enjoyed the further insights into the Vulcan culture. I do so wish someone would do an 'anthropological study' of them! I find it fascinating that such a logical people would have such a cult-

ishness about their private lives. A "hunter/shaman" balance? (NM) Star Trek III was well made and well directed. The special effects were good but not overly numerous. The story was interesting and the plot moved along nicely. It was in the ST tradition and not boring. (TB) The Search for Spock deals with relationships. People are important in the movie, not just special effects. (PS) Characterization! (LT) #/#

SPLASH: In a year of incredibly bad films, Splash was the lesser of many evils. (FM) #/#

ICEMAN: #/# Good characterization. (DT)

ALL OF ME: Steve Martin's performance in All of Me was simply incredible and transformed a typical screwball comedy into something special (NC) Steve Martin's physical comedy - the guru character. (TW) #/#

INDIANA JONES: It was exciting and I enjoyed Harrison Ford and "Short Round"'s performance. (NL) #/#

THE LAST STARFIGHTER: A thoroughly enjoyable adolescent fantasy - boy becomes hero and gets the girl - which also has enough breadth to include both good and bad aliens & an agreeably roguish Centauri as well. (SM) #/#

DUNE: Although it was not as good as the book, it did present the wheels within wheels intrigue. Special effects were good and Elizabethan sets added to the powerful effect of the movie. (BB) Dune stuck reasonably close to the book. Visual imagery was striking, but the film wasn't overwhelmed by special effects.

More than any other of the films, it keeps haunting me. (KS) #/# Dune was over-rated. The book was a very difficult subject to convert to the screen. In the time period they had to work with they managed to get the major points. I like the fact that they stayed true to the book with only a few deviations. The casting was wonderful. The makeup was awful. (TB) Made for Dune fans and we are grateful. (DH) Imaginative and beautiful. (MP) Critics probably didn't like it because it was hard to follow if you hadn't read the book. This is a valid criticism, but I'm not sure the sheer complexity of the

not sure the sheer complexity of the

SHARON HUNTER: (Mar.18) Comments on TB#136:

ROBERTA GELLIS: I agree that the Star Wars series was fun. But it also stressed friendship, love, camaradery and caring, which a lot of movies don't care about any more. All they do care about are how many special effects or blood & gore they can cram into a movie. And there was logic in SW - Ben and Yoda both stressed that in their teaching, when they told Luke to use logic over emotion in using the Force

((It was logical to turn off his gunsight when attacking the Death Star? It was logic and not emotion that made Darth switch sides at the end?))

ROLM LANCASTER: I have to agree with you. When I first joined the N3F, I felt lost too. I relied on friends who were already members and the Wel-Committee to help me get acquainted. I have an idea, Owen. Why not a small booklet with each bureau head given a paragraph to give a few details on what their bureau does.

((Your wish is my command. I thought your idea so good, I've already asked the BuHeads, through BonFire, to send me write-ups on why their bureau exists and how a newbie can get involved in it. But it will be a few months before it will see print, and in the mean time, thanks for noting that guiding new members is part of the purpose of the WelCommittee, too.))

LAURENCE GRAY: You can count me on the glasses (I wear them) and have 2 cats. Fifteen would be too many, though we did have 13 once when I was younger. Two are enough, but I wouldn't trade them for anything.

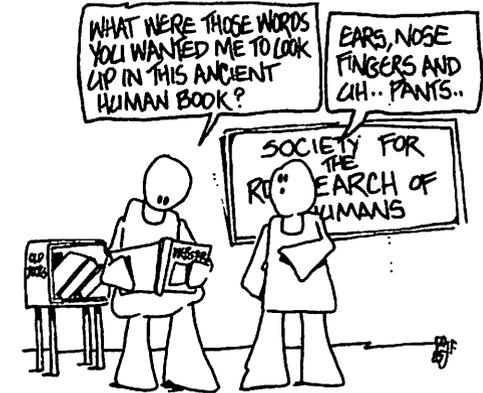
MARY LOU LACEFIELD: I've heard a suggestion of bringing the Mirror Universe Enterprise to our universe to replace the original Enterprise. Or would it have been destroyed too? I agree with your comment that "being nice doesn't hurt". It's too bad that more people can't accept that. The world might be a better place if more people were nice to each other.

I'd like to compliment David and the other artists on the artwork in both TB #135 & #136. It was really excellent.

TARAS WOLANSKY: I was going to participate in the movie poll until I found I'd only seen 4 of the movies

listed all year.

((I went and filled out the form, and then forgot to mail it in! I find myself wondering now if the high rating I gave to Brother from Another Planet would have significantly altered the results much.))



KEITH TARPLEY: (Mar.20) Greetings from beyond the Vortex.

DAVID HEATH: Okay, I'm writing a LoC. Would you forgive me if you knew I had sacrificed an Apple computer for my penitence? Due to a fire I've been busy playing insurance games. But now, Heath, you're in trouble! Picking on me in front of the N3F! Shame on you!

By the way, the question of tank hatches was settled once and for all after the battle of Menkor V. Due to a metallic alloy naturally present on the planet's surface, sensors incorrectly showed an earth-standard atmosphere. When the hatches were opened in the standard procedure, the crews were surprised to find themselves in a near total vacuum. From this time on, all crews have worn vacuum suits, and all hatches have been composed of a variably permeable membrane force field. Expensive, but effective.

And of course there are explosive sounds in space. Fighters are built for fighting, leaving little room for communication extras. Any time a highly energetic blast or radiant power weapon is used, static is caused on

all nearby speakers. When a vehicle explodes even greater amounts of static are caused on radio equipment, as also occurs when craft use power to accelerate and decelerate. Fighter jockeys thus changed their favorite phrase from "Let them eat lead" to "Let them eat static"! First attack run completed... (Of course, I could forgive you if you can convince me that T.K. Atherton's Bureau of Puppetganda is behind it all.)

[[David, I think you've just been shot.

(\*Bdzaap\*)(\*crackle, crackle\*)]]

ROSE SECREST: I'm very aware of which authors I read. When I find someone who I enjoy I immediately look for other works by them. And vice-versa for ones I don't like. Too little time to read what I know I'll like, much less what I won't.

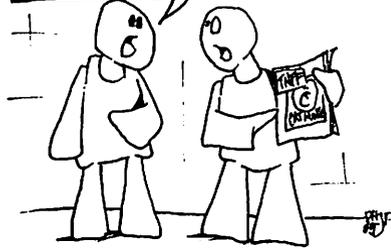
OWEN: Stonehenge can't be a disposal for magical byproducts, too many holes. It's obviously merely a filter. Keep working. When you're two months ahead of schedule like the prozines you won't have enough time to worry about Neffer inbreeding. I'll give the N3F a 6 on a scale of 10 so far. Try for 7.

GARTH SPENCER: Okay! I've put myself in writing. It's your turn. If Heath keeps this up we'll soon have enough to form our own society of non-active members. There's only one of him. There's already two of us. But we really needed for him to add a couple more lastish. He's just not dependable.

Enough! I'll be around from time to time. Past, present, or future. And you all have Heath to blame. And Owen, and Lola, and Mary Lou, and...



ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME THERE IS ACTUALLY SOMEONE NAMED MINTZ???



PHOEBE STROTHER: (Mar.22) I have been wondering something: how does Cadbury keep the yellow creme separate from the white creme in their Creme Eggs?

About having an N3F con: if it was close to me I might go, but I'm a poor lady (librarians mostly get paid with tax money), so whether I would go would also depend on how broke I would be at the time.

ROLM LANCASTER: The purpose of a club is to get to know people, have fun, and discuss things. Now, N3F members live all over creation, so LETTERS are the only way we can do all of the above stuff. Long live the letter-writing Neffers! Long live TightBeam! Yea, Owen! Yea, David! Yea, Howard DeVore! (Who is Howard?)

[[Good question. I'm glad you asked that, but I don't know how the yolk in a real egg stays in place, either.]]

Seriously, Rolm and everyone else out there who put out an effort to write letters to Owen to put in Tight-Beam, I like letters, and most of you have said something which I found interesting. I think most of us feel that way.

DAVID HEATH: I'm guilty as charged. I love Spock. I also like, admire, and have a crush on Leonard Nimoy. Besides everything else he does, he also writes some of the most sensitive poetry I have ever read. He wrote a poem called "We Are All Children" which ends with these lines:

"We are all children  
Of various ages  
We are all children  
The near and the far,  
Give us the peace  
To search not for sages  
Give us the strength  
To love what we are."

Title | Winning | Total # | Average | # of First  
Percent | of Votes | Rating | Place votes

The Terminator	97.1	7	4.71	2
1984	96.6	3	4.67	1
Repo Man	89.2	5	4.40	2
The Natural*	88.8	2	4.00	1
Special Bulletin*	88.8	1	5.00	1
Buckaroo Banzai	87.8	8	4.50	1
Ghostbusters	86.8	18	4.44	6
2010	86.8	20	4.25	5
The Brother from Another Planet	78.5	2	4.00	
Starman	76.4	10	4.00	1
Greystoke	72.7	14	3.79	
Star Trek III: The Search for Spock	67.6	25	3.64	4
Splash	66.6	15	3.80	1
Iceman	65.6	5	3.40	
All of Me	65.3	7	4.00	1
Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom	60.0	22	3.23	1
The Last Starfighter	56.2	13	3.54	1
Dune	54.2	22	2.95	2
Night of the Comet	53.5	3	3.33	
The Neverending Story	51.5	10	3.40	
Countdown to Looking-Glass	50.0	2	4.00	
Firestarter	44.4	6	3.33	
Gremlins	44.1	12	2.92	
The Philadelphia Experiment	43.3	5	3.00	
Android	42.3	3	2.67	
Red Dawn	40.0	8	2.88	
The Ewok Movie	31.2	12	2.67	
Runaway	31.0	1	2.00	
Dreamscape	29.0	6	3.00	
V: The Final Battle	28.5	13	2.62	1
Supergirl	24.0	3	2.33	
Conan the Destroyer	17.6	9	2.44	
Impulse	17.2	1	2.00	
Electric Dreams	13.3	3	3.00	
Oh God! You Devil	12.5	2	2.50	
C. H. U. D.	10.3	2	1.50	
The Ice Pirates	7.1	8	2.38	
The Power	7.1	1	2.00	
Sheena	5.0	2	2.00	
Slapstick of Another Kind	3.4	3	1.00	
The Warrior and the Sorceress*	0.0	1	1.00	*write-ins

when sappy and light is commercial. Good direction. (CD) #/# Grim beauty and a fine sense of the novel's tone. (MP)

REPO MAN: Repo Man had a fascinating blend of comedy, satire, science fiction, and fantasy. It was unpredictable and exciting (it kept me awake at the midnight screening at the WorldCon, and I usually have trouble staying up past 10 P.M.). (NC) (1) Dialog, (2) Punk hero, (3) Soundtrack. (SD) #/# Repo Man was praised by almost everyone I know who saw it, it is just that not very many did see it, prob-

ably because it defies a one-sentence description. (NC) Totally unassuming SF (?) tale that had strong messages about our society. (AG)

THE NATURAL: #/# Viewed as a fantasy, you are allowed to view the sweet ending without regrets. (DH)

BUCKAROO BANZAI: A spoof on sci fi...made me laugh. (GC) #/# Buckaroo Banzai was indeed the average film that it was reviewed as, but it had a potential that was missed by the writer and director - hopefully this potential will be attained in subsequent (if any) films. (NC) Hilar-

THE 1985 (I.E. 1984) MENSA SF/F MOVIE POLL  
by Taras Wolansky

This year's movie poll differs from the last two annual polls in that it was thrown open to the membership of the N3F. This has increased the size of the sample and (theoretically) improved the reliability of the results. I am only able to hit the high points of the data here, and an expanded version of this article in IdMJ still doesn't cover it all. For example, figures on the N3F and SFF SIG seperately. If you want more data, or me to massage it in some way, let me know.

WHAT WAS THE BEST SF/F MOVIE OF 1984?

When a poll respondent ranked a film number one, this may be regarded as equivalent to an answer to the above question. There are two reasons I do not regard this method of selecting the best film highly, even if it is how we pick our heads of state. One is that it is biased by how many people happened to see the film; for example, Ghostbusters got six times as many first-place votes as 1984 - but six times as many people saw Ghostbusters. The other is that a respondent's opinion has the same weight if he saw thirty movies or one. (This is not hypothetical: that is how "V" got its vote.)

Which brings us to what I consider the most valid way to rank motion pictures: If you want to know which of two films is better, ask people who have seen both films. It was to permit the asking of this question that poll respondents were requested to rank the films they saw. If you rank one film above another, then that is the same as saying you prefer the one to the other. So we can take all respondents who saw both film A and film B and let them 'vote' the winner.

But this does not generate a rank order by itself, because of the so-called "voter's paradox". Film A may outpoll B, and B outpoll C, and C outpoll - A! (This is not hypothetical, either.) So we take one more step to generate an overall ranking: count how many pair comparisons each film wins, which gives us the answer to the question---

WHAT WAS THE MOST PREFERRED SF/F MOVIE OF 1984?

Motion pictures are listed on the next page in order of their "winning percent", that is, the number of pair comparisons won divided by total comparisons (sans ties). With some exceptions, and aside from cases in which the number of votes is very low, the results for the N3F and SFF SIG respondents taken seperately are similar. A few interesting divergences: Splash managed only 47.6% from the SIG respondents (9 votes) but 62.8% from the Neffers (6); Indiana Jones, 48.3% from SIG (12 votes) but 60.6% from N3F (10); Dune, 33.3% from SIG (13 votes) but 84.0% from N3F (9).

Two questions were also asked in order to elicit comments on the films. "What was so good about the film you rank best of 1984?", and "What films do you think were underrated and what did you like about them?" These comments follow, with the initials of the respondents.

THE TERMINATOR: The Terminator featured a very well characterized female protagonist and some really nifty action scenes. (NC) The script, direction, pacing, imagination, those "flash-forwards" into a surrealistic future hell, and stop-motion photography towards the end of the film. I walked into the film not knowing what to expect and was most pleased. (CB) It was a story that relied on 2 classic SF premises to tell an exciting, suspenseful story. (AG) I rank it best because it takes its genre (violent fantasy fiction) to the limit without embarrassment. Arnold Schwarzenegger seemed by accident to be cast in a perfect role, and the time travel paradox was made interesting by the human element of a love story. (DH) #/# The Terminator was well recieved as an action flick, but its intelligence and emotional depth were not sufficiently noted. (TVW) Imaginative, logical, and exciting. (MP)

1984: Excellent conceptualization of the novel. Outstanding performances. Grim and brutal at a time

LAURENCE GRAY: I like your attitude. You write good letters. But I hate anchovies. I have a cat, though. Her name is Jennifer, and she's an old lady of 13 years. She lives in the house most of the time except in the summertime, when she spends most of the time hiding in the vines in the flowerbed. Lola has a picture of Jennifer's head among the vines.

((Thirteen years old, humm. Does that mean the picture is of the traditional "vine covered cottage"?)

I also wear glasses. Of all modern inventions, I consider spectacles the most wonderful. Remember when you discovered leaves on trees?

If I were to be a space colonist, I would want a musician along. Music has always been part of the human soul. Each culture's music reflects the thinking, feeling and history of that culture. Canned music is fine, but living, growing, developing music is what touches us most deeply. If I were living in space, I think the music written by a fellow space colonist would best reflect my own experiences.

((Ever watch a violinist, how sharply and quickly he moves? Or a drummer? Contrast that with the slow-motion of astronauts. I don't know about writing it, but playing music in space should be a different experience from doing so on Earth.))

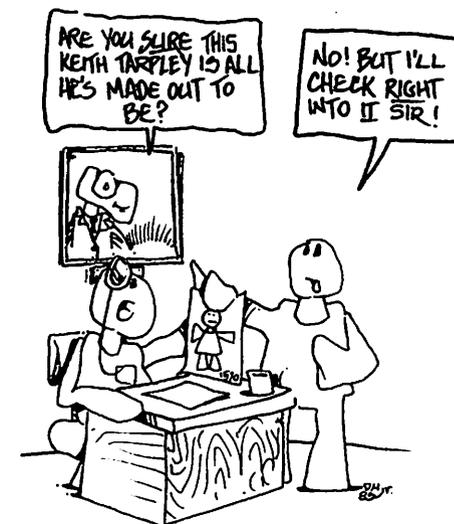
JUDY WRIGHT: You surely do write nice poems. Thanks for asking the definition of gafiated. I think you are right about "lonely, like-minded people" becoming actifen. Also add the word "creative" to that phrase. There are a lot of lonely people in the world. Instead of sitting in a corner moaning "Woe is me...", all of us have done a little reaching out. That is creative.

EVERYONE: I read a good story in the May, 1985 Analog. The name of the story is "Earthgate". After I read it, though, I began to wonder: do we expect to be "handed" the easy means for star travel? I do think that we will maybe find many answers to our questions in space, and among those answers, perhaps there will be some which will help us in our journeys to the stars. But life is never so easy as to hand us ready-made answers to our problems. Life usually takes

hard work. Finding the remains of an advanced civilization which had gone before us would be nice (such as the Heechee), but I think unlikely. (Is anyone out there?)

((I also enjoyed that story (in which the secret of teleportation is left for us, on condition that we first discover hyperdrive and also cooperate with another space-faring race). But I also wonder what would be the result of finding some other race had already made all our discoveries. Would we develop first an immense inferiority complex, and then revert into a racial catatonia (if this is the standard response to first contact, it could be an answer to the Fermi Paradox), or would we scrap our own history and blend into the advanced race's culture? What has been the experience in the past when isolated races have met, like the European and Amerindian?))

I would like to say that I have enjoyed getting involved in the two Round Robins which I am currently helping to round. And I think Lola deserves a BIG CHEER for getting it all organized. Just imagining the logistics of it all boggles my mind!



(you see KT. I have the power of the artists' pen!!!) pwr

MICHAEL C. PERALTA: (Mar.23) Gosh!

Thanks for the nice plug for *Hackzine* in your editorial! I must demure and say that HZ is hardly as professional and interesting as TB or TNFF. It has become a weird combination of a letterzine and an APA. What quality it has is purely the work of the wonderful, talented people who contribute to it.

DUNE (ROSE SECREST and BYRON BLACK): This seems to be one of the few SF films this year which is causing genuine controversy. I have a theory (I have lots of theories) based on the comments I have heard or read. It seems that those who love the book and consider it a masterpiece hate the movie; it also seems that those who don't like the book very much enjoy the film. The few mundanes who wandered into the picture by mistake were confused and bored. I find the film to be a sheer joy, and I would call it the best SF film of the year with the possible exception of 2010 and 1984.

((Hmm, first time I've been classed with the mundanes in years.))

"Half a brain...is all we use...at any time" (ROBERTA GELLIS): I believe that this common folk tale has been disproved by recent research. It seems that we use all of our brain at all times. Of course, the human mind is still quite a mystery and we can say very little about it for sure.

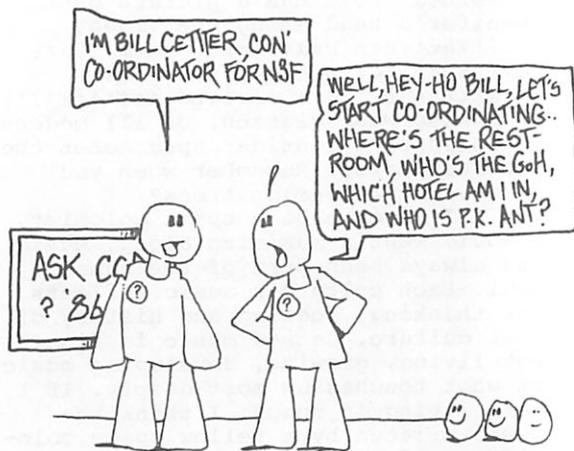
Music and SF (LAURENCE GRAY): Lloyd Biggle, Jr., Barry Malzberg, and John Brunner are all musically talented SF writers, and the late James Blish was quite an expert in the field. Can anyone name any others? (Oh, by the way, Laurence, for the record I also like cats and wear glasses. I suspect both traits are quite common in fandom.)

((But do you like anchovies?))

Authors and stories (ROSE SECREST): I, too, tend to look for stories by authors whose work I have enjoyed in the past. This has the advantage that I usually have some idea what I'm getting into. (A novel by Clarke is unlikely to have bad science, for example.) On the other hand, I tend to miss works by new writers that I've never heard of. I would probably never have read anything by David Brin if it had not been for the Hugo nomination he got for *Startide Rising*. Stephen King has recently revealed that he

wrote the novel *Thinner*, supposedly by one "Richard Bachman". I suspect he did it to see how a book that did not carry his "brand name" would be received.

Beautiful back cover! Let's see some more by Chris Soto!



TAMARA VERMANDE: (Mar.26) Dear Great and Holy Editor;

Howdy! I'm a newbie with problems. I'm going to be running the personnel (Gopher) department at NASFiC in Austin. I'd like to beg, plead, even threaten, if necessary, other Neffers to volunteer. I need people to work all aspects of the convention, from programming to operations to administration.

Volunteers will have the unique opportunity to see how a convention is run, and to know that they had a hand in making it run smoothly. Sounds great, doesn't it?

If you'll write to me at:  
PO Box 12985  
Ft. Worth, TX 76121,  
I'll send a volunteer form and more information.

I'd love to see a large Neffer turn out of volunteers. Nothing would thrill my fuzzy little heart more.

((Okay, troops, here's our chance to take over! Go get 'em!))

## A Movie Review of **The Brother from Another Planet**

by T. L. Bohman

Every once in a while a real gem comes along: One of those low budget, little-known films that is a joy to watch. I thought *The Lathe of Heaven* was one of those. It was a movie that explored genuine science-fictional ideas with serious wit and humorous compassion. *The Brother from Another Planet* is another. The given situation, the "what if", is just a bit far-fetched. A slave from another world is sent through an interplanetary underground railroad to freedom in the U.S. of A. Harlem, U.S.A., to be exact. He is, in fact, enough like an American black to pass for one of us, as long as he keeps his shoes on. The Brother, as he is known throughout the film, is of course different in some ways, too. He speaks no English, or any verbal language at all for that matter, but is eloquent in his gesture and smile. He is an empath; he can see and feel though the present to the past with a touch wherever life once touched before. And he can heal with a touch; bruised knees, severed limbs, deranged video games. The former gifts go unnoticed, perhaps because the Brother is shy about their use. The last gift is not. He gets a job repairing video games.

The movie would be a joy if only for those who populate it: the bartender and his slightly looney flock, the woman who takes the Brother in and gives him the clothes of the man who ran out on her, little Earl, who somehow never seems to notice that the Brother doesn't talk, the two midwestern whites who get lost en route to their convention and get sloshed in the bar on their way to asking how to get back to the subway. ("Man, aren't whitefolk *strange!*"). The pace quickens, however, with the two Men in Black. Who are they? Policemen? Bounty-hunters? Whoever they are, they're after the

Brother. They're strong, too, and it seems that nothing, with the possible exception of a city bureaucracy, can stop them. They are also the strangest creatures you've seen this side of the moon ("Man, they're even *stranger* than those other two!") and their antics are both terrible and hilarious.

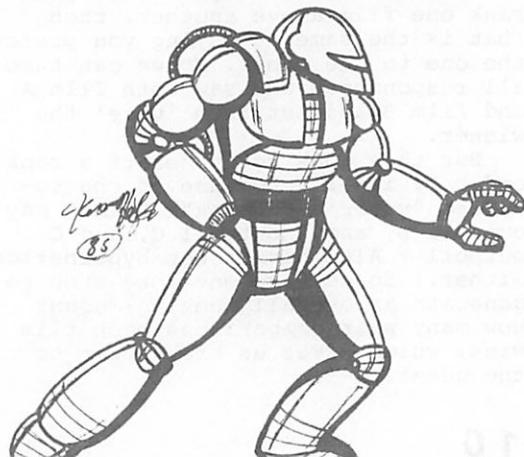
Unlike *The Lathe of Heaven*, *The Brother from Another Planet* does not lean strongly on its sfnal ideas. They are only a setting for the personalities and their interactions, and for the unobtrusive social commentary. John Sayles' movie is not perfect. Occasionally it seems a little sanctimonious, and if it sometimes tries to take itself too seriously, it also tries too hard to spoof itself. No matter: these are minor flaws in a delightful film.

The plot of (try pronouncing it this way:)

**TheBRUTHER  
fromANUTHER  
PLANet**

is simple and straightforward. I've already given most of it away. But I can't really convey the warmth and charm, the tenderness and empathy. This movie made me smile, and chuckle, and laugh, and nod my head in recognition and maybe (while I wasn't looking, you understand) even cry a little. I liked it a lot.

Terry



most of the submitted films are video ones.

RJ: You have already done a lot of things as far as I know. You have even published fanzines and fan books as the very only fandom in Eastern Europe. Is that true?

AS: Yes, actually, we have begun to publish two magazines. One of them, titled PHOENIX, is a sophisticated literary zine and the other, titled SFERA, is a bimonthly journal. Frankly speaking most PSMF local clubs publish fanzines of their own. The best one is Poznań's KWAZAR, which was awarded the EUROCON 1983 AWARD as the Best European Fanzine. Besides, we publish a few books, such as anthologies of young Polish writers, for example SPOSÓB NA WSZECHŚWIAT, which appeared in 1983. However our ambitions are endless and we would like to step out into a higher and more sophisticated level of publishing. We would love to publish more books. Just as many as Polish fans need. We expect that this year we will see such a book. It is to be an anthology of Polish New Wavers, titled ROK 1984.

RJ: Are you in touch with other East European fandoms?

AS: Yes, we have good friendly relations with Czech fandom. They do not have a federation as we have, and fandom in Czechoslovakia is rather a group of loosely connected small SF fan clubs. But they are all very friendly. We are loosely linked with Hungarian and Yugoslavian fandoms, too.

RJ: And what about Western fandoms?

AS: In 1984 during SeaCon '84 there was our representative in the U.K., Mark Milewski, who got in touch with some western fans. However so far contacts are just limited to correspondence.

We are planning to expand our publishing market and publish one of our magazines in English to enter overseas markets, too.

RJ: Are you in touch with any American SF club?

AS: No.

RJ: No?! Why, as you know, American fandom is the greatest and most influential all over the world. You can see that well enough if you count votes at WorldCons, even those organized outside the USA.

AS: It's caused by our inferiority complex. We fear that we have nothing to offer such a big fandom as the US one. There is nothing like that with relations with European fandoms. As for Americans, we are not only scared we have nothing to offer, we are also afraid that Americans are only interested in Stanisław Lem, that there is nothing like Polish science fiction for American fans.

RJ: Do you believe that after this interview is published in the USA and Western Europe, it will be easier to get in touch with Western fandoms?

AS: We shall reply to any offers of co-operation, letters and invitations. If there were many letters from the West it would help us a lot, too.

RJ: What about Swedish fans? Swedish fandom is the closest Western fandom, and the easiest to reach, isn't it?

AS: We have no relations with Swedish fans, but we would love to get in touch with them. We would invite them to Poland, as we have many events worth seeing. Our clubs could exchange materials, news, and visits. We might publish a multinational magazine/fanzine, as well. I personally am interested mostly in an exchange of materials and news between our prozines SFERA & PHOENIX and Swedish prozines.

RJ: Thank you Andrzej for the interview, and let's hope Polish fandom can soon join the real world family.

To write to PSMF, send your letters to:

Polskie Stowarzyszenie  
Miłośników Fantastyki  
Ul. Żwirki i Wigóry 30  
00 - 975 Warszawa (Warsaw)  
Skr.poczt.77 (P.O.Box 77)  
POLAND  
attn: Andrzej Szatkowski

JEAN LAMB: (Mar.29) I think the idea of having special issues is an excellent one, and I am looking forward to seeing them.

As far as series books go, who's going to be the fool to take on the Dumarest or the Gor books? Not me!

One thing I didn't like about the movie DUNE was that there was no scope for character development by Feyd-Rautha. He didn't start out as that rotten a person in the book; in fact, Count Fenring (I believe) said that Feyd-Ruatha might have been a half-way decent person had he received Atreides training, rather than being corrupted by the Baron. Sting is capable of more than standing around looking crazy and sexy, and it's too bad he wasn't allowed to show it. I must admit that the casting of Princess Irulan was perfect; she looked just like I had imagined her. Beast Rabban was also done well, as he was obviously a Harkonnen but not terribly bright.

I just got through reading JOB myself, and if Alex Hergensheimer is astounded to see people obeying traffic lights without a cop in sight, he ought to come to Klamath Falls - running red lights is almost as popular as Rajneeshe jokes. I did enjoy it, though - when Heinlein pulls a deus ex machina, he doesn't do it cheaply.

((K-Falls has a red light?))

I agree with ROBERTA GELLIS - there are times when the brain is overloaded and only the SF/Fantasy equivalent of LaVern & Shirley is welcome. As long as it is not ones only diet, bubble-gum for the brain is fine.

((It can even keep the mental teeth clean for those biting comments.))

DAVE BATES: How does Playboy work in the centerfold in Braille? Details, details!

Owen: I know there's a small SF coterie in Argentina, anyway. ImaginAPA had an Argentine correspondent for almost a year. We haven't heard from him for ages and have been trying to trace him. (He didn't send in any more material after the change in government. We hope there's not a connection.)

((The N3F had an Argentine member back when I first joined - Mae Strelkov of Cordoba. As I recall, her son was also an active fan, though not in the N3F. I haven't heard of either of them

in years, nor any other fan activity south of the boarder, except for an occasional U.S. fan on assignment.))

LAURENCE GRAY: Elephas Frumenti is the Latin name of a small parasite that lives in bars and other purveyors of alcoholic beverages; first discovered in Gavagan's Bar (of which there is a plethora of stories). That is, the common elephant fly ("Did Ya Ever See an Elephant Fly?") of which Dumbo was obviously a grossly mutated form. Their weight-to-wing ratio demands an extremely concentrated energy source. It is supposed that they existed in a non-flying form (though they still had wings) until the invention of distilleries.

Evolution in Action also covers those fools who ride motorcycles without helmets, or ride cars without seatbelts.

OWEN: Considering the effects of senility on gamers: none, if you're familiar with a couple of the DMs that I know.

((You mean they'll never get senile or that it will never be noticed?))

Intriguing idea about the shuttle, Laurence. Whatever Boss Hogg's overweight was, it would be probably made up by Michael Jackson's underweight. Harlan's kinda small and skinny too. (I once saw him at a seminar where he claimed to be 5'4" - then I found I could look him straight in the eye, and I have to tiptoe to be 5'3".) Heinlein deserves the trip, but does he deserve both Hogg and Ellison?

MARY LOU LACEFIELD: There was an editorial in Analog a few months ago entitled "Sex, Drugs and Rock&Roll".

AL MORRISON: I don't make up charts, but I can look at one and make a few wild guesses. I have also written a few sun-sign summaries (one for American Astrology, May 1983 (I think) on "A Taxing Predicament" or something like that), but I'm nowhere near your level of expertise.

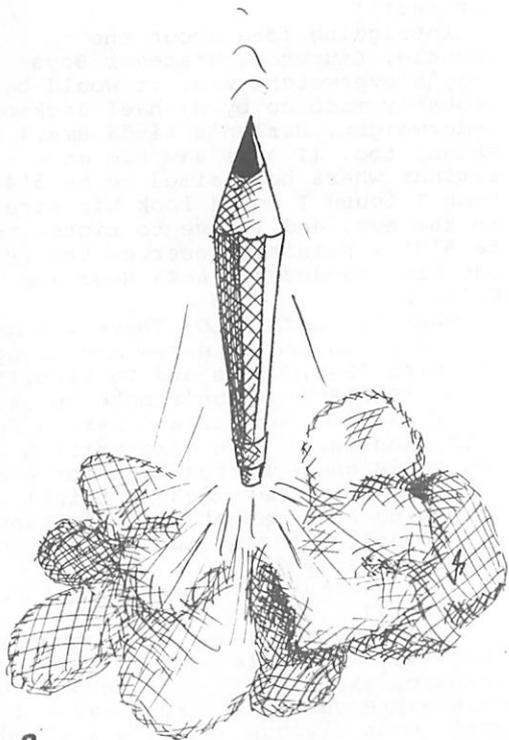
((Oh, horrors! You're another one of them!))

I usually don't say much about my interest astrologically speaking in here, as Heinlein fans tend to take on his prejudices towards same. (I won't even discuss Asimov's attitude.) Then again, after reading Asimov's



article on Velinkovsky, it's obvious that he refuses to take anything outside the mainstream of science with even simple politeness. (I don't think Velinkovsky was right, but the way Asimov treated the man in his article was a little overdone.)

BYRON BLACK: I was looking forward to 2010. The timing of its release was perfect. You see, my husband and I went to 2001 on our first date, December 8, 1972. We were married a little over a year later. We were able to see 2010 on December 8, 1984, the 12th anniversary of our first date. Now, if only they could have made 2010 so it could have been released by December 8, 1981 it would have been perfect (2001 + 9 = 2010, of course!). But it worked out pretty good as it was. *(But then think how long we'd have to wait for the next one, 20,001!)* I wish they could have done a little more on the interaction between HAL and Dr.Chandra, as was in the book, but alas such was not to be, the director or whoever choosing instead to spend more time on purty pictures of Jupiter.



TERRY L. BOHMAN: (Mar.30) Well, it's good to be back.

Actually, I haven't been out of the N3F for too long, though I have been rather inactive lately. I even did a cover for TNFF once (please don't bother looking it up - it was that bad), but that's another story.

Unless you've joined (or rejoined) the N3F recently, you probably don't appreciate the job that the WelCommittee does. I was overwhelmed with the friendliness of the greetings. Thank you all!

TNFF and TightBeam are fine zines. If I had my druthers, I'd rather have my letterzine salted with a few occasional features and reviews, but the letters are fun and they're the meat of a letterzine, so I'll read TB however you do it. (Brief space follows for R.E.I. (rude editorial interruption):)

*((Well, usually, I do it with a typewriter, but just the other day I got this new secretarial supplies catalog from some outfit named Fredricks, out in Hollywood...))*

DAVID HEATH (TB#135): Yes, I was also surprised by *The Terminator*. I had expected nothing more than a mayhem extravaganza. Well, the movie wasn't 2001, but it wasn't *Son of Godzilla Slips on the Green Slime*, either. Arnold Muscledurger's acting style ("bulldozer boroque") did fit the part of a cyborg. The Linda Hamilton/Sarah Connor character was especially interesting. The Terminator has come back through time to kill Sarah because something she will do threatens his future. When he arrives, Sarah is a characterless wimp who plods through her day planning nothing beyond her next date. But through the ensuing struggle just to stay one step ahead of the Terminator, she grows stronger. The irony, then, is that not only does the Terminator fail to kill her, but he has made her into exactly the person who will threaten his future.

(TNFF 44.6): Speaking of fannish definitions (see below), beware: letting it be known that you would actually feed your child in preference to fanac could be dangerous.

PHOEBE STROTHER (TB#135): Your comments on *The Greening of Mars* were interesting enough to make me look for

It is now the largest-circulation magazine in Poland, and it seems to be becoming more and more popular as new and more energetic people join the staff. Three people deal with non-Polish SF now, viz. Rodek, Toruń, and Lech Jeczmyk.

They seem to be capable of facing a new challenge. It is not dull officials, such as those who would not permit the publishing of a SF magazine in Poland for years. Now, it is their own colleagues, Andrzej Wójcik (head of the SF department of KAW), Andrzej Krzepakowski and Tadeusz Markowski. These three left FANTASTYKA a year ago and began to expand the SF dept. in KAW. Wójcik, who is very influential, forced the ruling powers in Poland to start publishing another SF magazine, OMNIBUS SF. It is due to appear in March, 1985. And two other semi-prozines, sponsored by the Students' Publishing House, ALMAPRESS, are due to be published in Warsaw soon, too.

However, there are many problems which should be solved fast. One is the great demand for Anglo-American SF. Polish publishers do not have hard currency, so 99.99999% of all contracts can be signed only if the western writers accept their royalties in untransferrable Polish currency!

I believe, however, that such a giant as FANTASTYKA will survive, mostly because of the good will and help of our western friends who accept Polish zloty. If we had not had such good friends as Donald A.Wollheim, E.C.Tubb, or Carolyn J.Cherryh, few SF works could be translated and published here.

Besides books and magazines, Polish fans from Katowice broadcast a monthly half-hour TV SF program. This year Łódź fans and Łódź TV will broadcast another SF program, including a SF competition with 15 subjects, like aliens, Polish and Anglo SF, robots, etc. Polish radio (channel 4) will begin to broadcast a permanent nightly SF program, too.

A guess I can make for tomorrow deals with changes within Polish fandom. I am sure this year Swedish and Polish fans will meet, as both countries are so close. And hopefully fans from West Germany, Denmark, and Finland may visit Poland, and conver-

sly.

Maybe Polish writers will become known outside of Poland. Believe me, such writers as Mr.Janusz Zajdel, or Adam Wiśniewski Snerg are better than world-wide known Lem!

### 3. INTERVIEW

Mr.Andrzej Szatkowski is president of POLSKIE STOWARZYSZENIE MIŁOŚNIKÓW FANTASTYKI, which translates as "Polish Science Fiction and Fantasy Fan Association". PSMF is an independent organization of Polish fans and pros dealing with fantasy and SF. It has 14 branch clubs/offices all over Poland and some other clubs non-supervised by branch offices. The Association was founded on June 15, 1981 and has 2.5 thousand dues-paying members. It gives an annual award, "Złota Sepulka". PSMF is not supported by any government or private sponsor, so collects money not only from dues, but also by publishing its own magazines, posters, etc. The following interview with Mr. Szatkowski was conducted by Richard P.Jasinski in Świnoujście on Jan.25, 1985 during Polish FilmCon 2.

RJ: Have you ever tried to present Polish fandom and science fiction abroad?

AS: No, we have not.

RJ: This interview is to submit Polish fandom to our western counterparts. What is your idea of presenting Polish fandom abroad?

AS: It is hard to submit Polish fandom as a whole, especially to those who do not live here. Fandom is very varied in Poland. There are several SF clubs in Poland, totally about 30. Most of them are generally oriented; that is, they deal with most science fiction books, movies, art and music. Their interests also include fantasy in all the aforementioned forms. Most Polish fan clubs and other similar organizations have joined PSMF. It is a form of federation rather than a monolith.

As a federation of clubs, PSMF is able to put into life many ideas of fandom which could not be provided otherwise because of great expense, such as "Dni Fantastyki", Days of Fantasy and Science Fiction; and SF Movies' Public Presentations,

## 1. BACKGROUND

Polish Science Fiction comes from Utopia, and Adventure. Ancestors of Polish SF were the 18th century utopian novel and the 19th century travelogue. Modern SF novels appeared at the end of the 19th century, but SF never was so popular a genre as it was in England and America, mostly because Polish literature was more concerned with national liberation of an occupied country than with any other subjects.

The first authors to gain popularity were Stanisław Lem and Boruń and Trepka. In 1951 space novels started to appear, to be followed by other hard-SF books in the 50s and 60s. The most serious problem was lack of a publisher who could publish science fiction regularly.

Two editors of ISKRY publishing house, Mr. L. Jeczmyk and Mrs. Janina Zielonko, began to publish their first science fiction series "Fantastyka: Przygoda" in 1966. It is continued by Mrs. Zielonko alone.

Two other publishers, WYDAWNICTWO LITERACKIE and NASZA KSIEGARNIA, began to publish their own series of SF and horror books. WYDAWNICTWO LITERACKIE bought all copyrights for Lem's books and started publishing a hard-cover edition of his collected works.

There was no fandom in Poland in 1974. Since then some SF clubs have been started. Fans watched films, met writers and other fans, but almost 10 years had to pass before new, real and active fandom was formed.

Political turmoils in the beginning of the 80s enabled fans to publish their own SF magazines without the authorities' official permission. The Silesian Katowice club started to publish their fanzine FIKCJE regularly then.

Three years ago fans in Warsaw, Katowice and Wrocław and Gorzów Wielkopolski began to publish (absolutely illegally) their own books, including a collection of Robert Sheckley's stories and some novels. No royalties have been paid so far.

In 1982 five former SF fans in Warsaw (the most active ones) became professional editors. Jacek Rodek, Darek Toruń and Andrzej Krzepakowski

founded the very first Polish prozine, FANTASTYKA, and their competitors Marek Nowowijeski and Wiktor Bukato became heads of ALFA publishing house, the first strictly SF publisher in Poland.

## 2. TODAY

Today we have four main publishing houses that deal with science fiction: ISKRY, which publishes two series, including cheap 40-page story collections.

KAW, which publishes three series so far; paperbacks, magazine-like books, and critical works. Most of its books are debuts of young Polish SF writers.

CZYTELNIK, the most respected SF publisher, although Lech Jeczmyk, the leading Polish SF translator and SF expert, was forced to leave it (probably for his political sympathies and illegal publication of Kurt Vonnegut's MOTHER NIGHT?). Has been publishing one series of SF books, including Klien, B.Show, etc. since 1956.

NASZA KSIEGARNIA publishes thin slick books, mostly for youth and children.

Three other publishers, WYDAWNICTWO LITERACKIE (Cracow), WYDAWNICTWO POZNANSKIE (Poznań) and ŚLASK decreased their number of published SF books and have become less and less popular among fans.

The most influential SF prozine in the field is undoubtedly FANTASTYKA. Its great popularity (200,000 copies published per month) results from two things, good editorship and a regular supply of SF novels and stories. Most of the novels and stories published in FANTASTYKA would otherwise never appear in Poland. It takes five or six years after a book is accepted by the publisher before it passes censorship and is published! A magazine is speedy. Novels are serialized over two issues, and one or two are in each issue.

The monthly has also gained prominence outside the field. It is both enjoyed and respected for its great popularity and high quality.

the book. But your definition of "fiction" eluded me. Isn't something "written...in the form of a story" fiction, even if the story is used to convey factual material? Lots of fiction is used that way. Textbooks for gradeschool children, be they history, science, or whatever, are often written as fiction simply to make them more palatable. Clarke's *Prelude to Space* could almost have been a *Popular Science* article on how spaceflight is likely to be achieved. Larry Niven, among others, seems so much in love with physics that he continually tosses episodes, even whole stories, into his fiction just to illustrate scientific principles.

It may be silly to argue literary definitions with a librarian, but it's safer than taking a poke at Arnold.

Isn't it odd how people tend to define prospective mates? "Right fella = Catholic" is probably quite revealing. I'm single, too, but were I to describe an ideal spouse, I'd probably mention things like intelligence, sensitivity, compassion, sense of humor, curiosity, and yes, "female, single", but certainly not "Mormon (or an appropriate analog) SF fan." Fascinating.

*((Certainly the traits you mention are important, but you start out with the ones that can be easily quantized, made definite yes/no - particularly when they imply a whole range of assured compatible behaviors and beliefs, as designations of Mormon/Catholic/fan do. Not that the whole range will be identical, but at least it's an essential start.))*

BRIAN GARNER (TB#135): Your con-report was great! I enjoyed it despite not being a Trekkie, oops, Trekker. It was personal the way few reports are. I don't think it made me want to go to a Star Trek con, but it let me understand your enjoyment.

SCOTT ESTES (TB#135): Welcome! I think you'll find fandom in general, and the N3F in particular, is as open and friendly and accepting as any group you'll meet. You will find, however, that fandom is a pretty diverse bunch. You'll find (a few) three-piece suits, punk haircuts, and the usual snot-nosed brats. Can you accept us, particularly those of us that do not

meet your high standards of dignity, propriety, and right behavior? Read over your letter again. I don't think I've read such an expression of hostility, distrust, and arrogance in a long time. "Asinine", "insufferable", and "evil" are not words of friendly acceptance. Yes, indeed, there are elitists, arrogant snobs, and obnoxious misfits in fandom, and probably some of them are Neffers. They diminish us all. So what else is new? Did you really expect fandom to be a utopian isle in a corrupt world? Fandom is a pretty wonderful place if you're mature enough to understand that it is bound to have its warts. And no, a definition of fanishness as more than simply reading the stuff is *not* asinine. It's simply a definition, a fairly commonly accepted one (surely you've heard the phrase "I'm not a fan, I just read the stuff!"), which in no way insults those who just read the stuff. Just because I don't define fans as those who play chess, doesn't mean that I have anything against chess-players. By many definitions of "fan", a full-time professional science fiction writer who engages in no other activities is not a fan. That's not asinine and certainly it's not insulting - it simply defines what I'm talking about when I refer to a fan, or to fannish activities. Frankly, Regency dancing has never fit into my definition of fandom, but I'd never lift a finger, or my voice, against anyone who got enjoyment out of that activity.

If I've ruffled your feathers, I apologize. I have a tendency to be undiplomatic at times. Welcome, please participate in whatever activities interest you. By all means try to change what needs changing. Talk to those who seem so intent on excluding the world from their microcosm. Writing indignant letters to TB is a good way to stimulate awareness, but will probably not be successful in reforming fandom. Try to maintain a sense of perspective. And wonder. There is much to wonder at in this world. Enjoy! And peace be with you, friend.

MICHAEL PERALTA (TB#135): We have probably seen at least a hint of punk SF in a movie, *Liquid Sky*, made a year or two ago. It concerned the visit of an alien which lived by ab-

sorbing opiate-like chemicals produced in human brains during orgasm. The absorption process, unfortunately, was fatal for the human. The alien parked outside the New York apartment of a woman very heavily into the punk-drug-sex scene and her promiscuity kept the alien well satisfied. The interest of the movie lay, for me, primarily in its depiction of an alien society: the urban social life of the woman and her friends.

ROSE SECRET (TB#136): DUNE was an interesting movie, though not necessarily a good one. I've read the novel a couple times and admit that I enjoyed the movie. But I was disappointed for many of the reasons you mentioned. Everything was too compresses, almost as if the movie was made to be six hours long and then pared down to the bare bones. I do not believe that a movie can be good only by being faithful to the book. The two media are different and what works on paper may not work on the screen. Dune might have been a better movie, and the spirit of the book better preserved, if it had been less literally translated.

BYRON BLACK (TB#136): If what Hollywood did to Dune (and others) was artistic license, perhaps Hollywood ought to have its license revoked.

LAURENCE GRAY (TB#136): I am fond of all sorts of animals. I just happen to be housekeeper for a pair of cats because they're relatively easy to take care of. (I like dogs, too, but don't have enough room.) Fifteen cats, however, seems a bit excessive.

Yes, indeed, *Time After Time* was a delightful movie. Have you seen *The Brother from Another Planet*?

DAVE GARCIA (TNFF 44.5): The "Superhero Code" is terrific, an instant classic. When do we get Rule 2?

WILLIAM CENTER (TNFF 44.5): What percentage of fans would you guess regularly go to cons? I'd guess a minority. (There aren't too many SF cons in East Thetford, Vermont, I can tell you!) When you figure how spread out the Neffer population is, it's probably not surprising that there isn't a large contingent of Neffers at any given con. Good luck, anyway.

TERRY BOHMAON (TNFF 45.1): Probably I ought to know you since our addresses are the same. I don't know *Jerry Bohman*

either, but I do get TNFFs addressed to him. I don't mind, but please note, HOWARD or LOLA, that the date on the label should be 2/88, not 2/86.

Yup, I guess I just missed the abuse.

Thanks, EVERYONE, for all the excellent artwork and interesting words.

((You're quite welcome, Larry.))



JOHN GRAHAM: (April 3) Wow! The Avengers make the cover of *TightBeam*! I am impressed. (Sorry, I'm just an Avengers fanatic.) Anyway, seeing as I'm here, I might as well throw in my comments on TB#136.

Actually, I found *Dune* the movie to be better than I was expecting. But since it was one of Dino's films, I had very low expectations. It seems that everybody is in agreement, though - 'tis not a good film. I think it was a mistake to attempt to cram a book the size of *Dune* into a two hour film. (Now maybe a five part mini-series, or maybe a show for *Masterpiece Theatre*--)

I don't know whether the craftsman has different criteria than the layman on the great debate on "What is good?", but I would say that the craftsman looks at a thing in question differently than the uneducated layman. For example, I've dabbled a bit in the "art" of humor, and can sit through my 195th viewing of the Marx Bros. *Duck Soup* with nary a problem. Even though I can recite the script, and know all

She didn't seem to mind.

Southern parties are much more relaxed. First of all, there are more of them at any given convention so the party-mongers are spread rather more thinly. There's often as many as 20 at one of the bigger conventions as compared to 3 or 4 in the North. At most cons, anyone else who's holding a con within the next two years will host a room party; thus at Kubla Khan last year I went to a ChattaCon party, an IstaCon party, a DSC party, two Atlanta parties, etc. The bid parties are the best. That's a party where the host is bidding for the right to run one of the "bid conventions" like WorldCon or the DSC in his city. A big reason why I supported Atlanta over New York or Philadelphia for the 1986 WorldCon bid was that Atlanta fen threw tremendous parties all over the country for two years. They'd have prodigious amounts of food: cookies, cakes, fudge, wierd but tasty little desert things, the usual potato chips and such, and INCREDIBLE peach daiquiries. I didn't get so much as a stale Cheet-o out of the New York or Phily phans.

At most of the lesser southern cons the con suite usually provides bath-tubs full of soft drinks and beer. (Seperately, in cans, of course.) Kubla Khan also thoughtfully furnishes coffee and tea, but they make up the cost of this service by choosing *Red White & Blue* beer as their principle alcoholic beverage.

Conversation at the southern parties tends mostly to concern other parties:

"Boy, Khen, those Atlanta folks shore do make fine peach daiquiris."

"Yep, Irv, they shore do."

"Yep. Let's us go on down to the Chattanooga party and git us some hushpuppies."

A final note must be mentioned concerning the late-night character of convention parties. While the northern parties don't change much as the night wears on, (you *will* notice more "Howdy-Doody" type people just sitting around and grinning along about 4 A.M., but they're mostly harmless) at southern parties a strange and terrible change takes place in the con suite. Large, sweaty, hairy creatures wearing dark, ill-fitting clothing and souvenir "digger" hats that they picked up at

the 1975 WorldCon in Australia creep into the room, glare all the comics fans out and begin playing *poker*! With an occasional glare over their shoulders to keep the room clear, they'll play until dawn and then they'll pack up their cards and their loose change and creep away as mysteriously as they came. One presumes that such creatures exist at northern cons, but there they have private rooms to play in, whereas in the South all the private rooms are filled with parties.

It should be remembered that all these observations are rather general and should not be applied to any particular convention. SF cons are as individual as the people who run them and sometimes just as strange. Which of the two, northern or southern, do I prefer? Well...probably the southern ones. They don't make you work quite so hard to be a fan. Apparently many others agree with me as Atlanta won the 1986 WorldCon bid. (You'd have thought that Philadelphia would have at least provided some Ritz crackers and cream cheese, but no.)

See you there in the con suite!



FANNISH HORROR STORIES: CONVENTIONS, NORTH AND SOUTH  
by Curtis Phillips

One of the fannish advantages of living in the Appalachians Mountains as I do is that I'm pretty well equidistant from the sites of most of the better SF conventions east of the Mississippi River. I can hop in my car and in just a very few hours be in Atlanta, Louisville, Chattanooga, Washington, D.C., or even Lancaster, PA; all of which have become fannish meccas on their respective weekends of the year. (10 hours will put me in New York which, like L.A., is a fannish mecca year-round.) In attending these and several other conventions over the past several years I've noticed some characteristics of these cons which seem to me to reflect the nature of their respective cultures.

The northern conventions like NovaCon in Lancaster, PA, Starcall & The August Party in the Washington, D.C. area, and BaltiCon in Baltimore tend to have highly organized programs, be faster paced, and have noisier parties. (Whether that's a disadvantage or not would depend on what kind of parties you enjoy.) Multi-track programming is common, which usually results in small audiences at each event. Often a panel discussion will have more panelists than attendees.

Southern cons, like ChattaCon in Chattanooga, Kubla Khan in Nashville, and the DeepSouthCon which travels from city to city around the South each year (it's in Huntsville, Alabama next year) usually have a much looser program, are paced to allow naps if you so desire, and have parties that are much more relaxed, yet at the same time, much more intense. Make no mistake, the South takes its parties seriously. These cons usually have only a single track of programming and sometimes no programming at all. (But no one cares.) Program items are generally less serious than in the North, ("The History of Rape and Pillage in Science Fiction" by Robert Adams at StellarCon 6 in Greensboro, NC for example) which is okay as their chief function is to provide a break between parties.

Northern cons tend to have an atmosphere about them that makes you feel as if the convention is going to end

*Real Soon Now* so you'd better hurry and get to that panel you wanted to hear or hurry and take one more run through the dealer's room. This is largely because most of the people around you *are* running to do those things. It's made worse by the fact that "Killer" has become *real* popular among the under-16 crowd at cons lately. ("Killer" is the game where you find a dozen or so "assassins" stalking each other around the con in an elimination-by-pseudo-death contest. It's not unusual to be walking down some dark, out-of-the-way corridor in the hotel and have a young gunsel leap out of a shadow at you, level a very real looking .45 cal. shaped dart gun at your head and scream, "DIE, YOU MUTH...!" then, "Oh, sorry", as he realizes that you are not, in fact, his intended victim. Then he'll leap back into a shadow and you'll be left alone to compose yourself before moving on in search of a room party.)

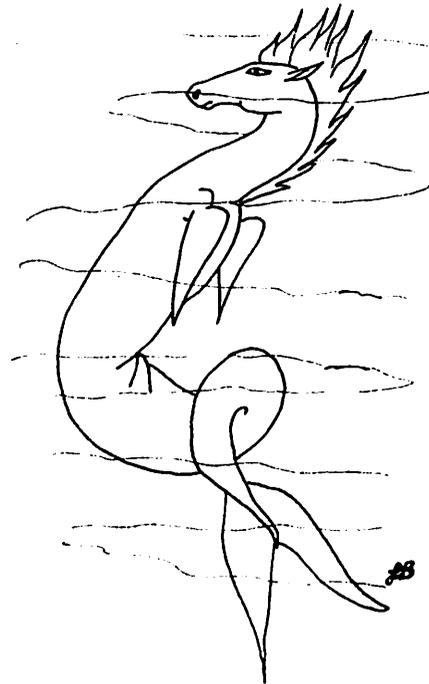
The atmosphere at a southern convention is mostly one of relaxed indecision, which results from so many people trying to decide which party to go to next.

Parties are, in fact, where the differences between North and South are most noticeable. Northern conventions don't serve alcohol as often as their counterparts in the South, and when they do it's usually dark beer or mixed drinks. (I'm talking about room parties as well as con suites.) There's almost always a lot of people in the room *talking*, often about science fiction. The rooms are crowded, particularly around the doorway - which is the preferred place to stand and talk at these functions. In spite of the crowding (or quite possibly because of it) the overall theme of these parties is "always room for one more!" Indeed, the doorway gang will usually grab a hold and pull you into the room if you seem hesitant. (I once saw them pick up a NYT (*nubile young thing*) and pass her into the con suite over their heads until they found a space on the floor for her.

the gags, I can still appreciate the delivery and performances of the actors. To someone who's only purpose is to get a good laugh, the film becomes relatively worthless after a few viewings. Now in the case of teaching SF, or any other literature for that matter, I have yet to figure out what the criteria is for great literature. I think that teachers should pick material that best exemplifies the principles of the genre. Popularity should be taken into account, definitely, but I don't think it should be catered to.

*((Catered to? I wasn't talking about classes on Great Literature, I was talking about classes on Science Fiction! Asimov or Clarke may never rival Tolstoy, but should they be banned from the classroom for that?))*

On surviving a nuclear war: when does such a conflict end? Surviving the initial exchange is one thing, but then you have to deal with fallout and nuclear winters. I wouldn't mind surviving the blasts if I had a good fallout shelter handy. But death through radiation poisoning is *not* an appealing way to go.



ROGER WADDINGTON: (Apr.23) At the risk of re-opening the nuclear debate, how many out there saw what might be called the British response to *The Day After*, i.e. *Threads*? (And how many managed to sit through it all?) I'm probably prejudiced, but I found it a far more realistic picture than the Hollywood-style, disaster-movie approach; a more honest attempt to think the unthinkable, show the unshowable. (Maybe even shock the unshockable: I understand three minutes had to be cut before it could be shown on American TV! Is that right?) Like TDA, it was impartial. Those against could say "This is what will happen if we don't give up nuclear weapons", those for could reply "No, this is what will happen if we do give them up, and leave ourselves defenseless". But in either case, a welcome attempt to bring the human dimension back into the nuclear strategy. In fact, I think the only group it didn't give any comfort(?) to were the survivalists, or at least those indulging their wilder fantasies of living off the land in some macho, redneck roost. I hope it gave them thought that life after the Bomb won't be as romantic as the literature suggests. That far from the cosy ideas of our great-grandfathers hacking hacking out the wilderness and taming the land, life will be nothing more than nasty, brutal, and short.

Even before *Threads*, though, I'd had my doubts about survivalism. Even in such places as Colby Corners. Not even by living on an island would we escape being decimated. No, all our strategies, all our scenarios seem to be based on the idea that the missiles are all centered on the largest cities, each other's missile sites and airfields, and other places of strategic importance; and thus in the vastness of America (and Russia), some will escape outside the area of the missiles. But is there any country, prepared to launch a nuclear attack, who would want to leave any in the opposing country alive? Who wouldn't make *sure* there was nobody left to retaliate, whether with conventional weapons or even bows and arrows? The prime targets of large cities and military bases, yes; but my strategy would also include a series of missiles not aimed



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- 49..LoC.....Roger Maddington - 4 Commercial St, N Yorkshre Y017 9ES England
- 50..LoC.....Lloyd McNallie - POB 528-287590, Malla Malla MA 99362
- 51.....Membership application (pass it around)



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NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION

Membership Application

- ( ) New Member
- ( ) Reinstatement
- ( ) Current Member
- ( ) Gift Membership

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ (optional) Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
How long have you been interested in Science Fiction? \_\_\_\_\_  
How long have you been involved in Fandom? \_\_\_\_\_  
What Clubs and Cons have you attended? \_\_\_\_\_

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What type of SF or Fantasy do you like? \_\_\_\_\_

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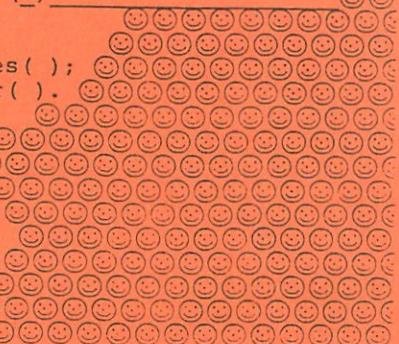
Sponsoring member (if any) \_\_\_\_\_  
Which of the following would you be willing to help the club with: corresponding ( ); organizing activities ( ); recruiting at cons ( ); taping for the blind ( ); other ( ).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Dues are \$8 per year, and include subscriptions to both the club's official zines, TightBeam and TNFF. Joint memberships for two people at the same address, including one set of subscriptions, are \$12. Make checks payable to 'N3F' and mail to: Lola Andrew; P.O.Box 713; Webster City, IA 50595.

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  - o Books or Magazines
  - o Fanzines
- ( ) Comics
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# June 1985

