

POSTWARD

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NFFF MAGAZINE
OF LETTERS
AND COMMENTS



"—THE MAN WORTH WHILE
IS THE ONE THAT CAN SMILE
WHEN EVERYTHING GOES DEAD WRONG."
— R. KIPLING.

OF COURSE THIS IS FAHRENHEIT 451

ALMA HILL

Lee Academy
Lee, Maine

May 13, 1959

What do the members think of John Campbell's Interplanetary Explorers' Society? I sent Ralph Holland some gossip on stencils, which he may use in the C-O. However, I have a bit of knowledge more than John has printed, which I dug up with more ingenuity, perhaps, than tact. And I still wish I knew more. So here's my two bits with hopes to trade last.

The week before the Solacon I was in New York and tried to see John but couldn't, he was all booked up. I was sore, too, because I had written ahead and asked but a few minutes, (I didn't realize then that the man does not know how to talk a few minutes) and since he named Mondays and Wednesdays with no specific date, I had assumed nothing more was called for.

Well, he had mentioned one Benham, and my subscription to IES had been acknowledged by a lawyer with a Wall Street address and surprising name (Michael Todd) whom I asked to explain himself a bit, but he did not.

Well, you can't frustrate a scientist after facts; I called Todd's office and told the secretary to cancel my sub and transfer it to a straight donation -- and did they have a mechanism for handling this request? Secretaries are very discreet, but this one sounded reasonable enough so she bit. She was a very good secretary too -- would do no such thing without written authority; quite right. She said the funds are deposited and not drawn until called for, and as far as I could tell, nobody had authority to draw any. As treasurer, Todd could make and hold the deposits, which he apparently does well.

So far, so good. But one of the secretaries, Campbell's or Todd's, I forget which, had assured me that although in the half-year since John had announced this idea, no reports had been issued, they had been working on it very hard "night after night to all hours". Aha say I; where have we seen this before? Don't you just get the picture?

I located this Freddy Benham, and we seemed to understand each other. He has an office suite in a bank on Madison Avenue. If you go to see these people in the early morning their clients are apparently not yet awake and they are at leisure.

I dug out various credentials and a few character references, written for me by professional associates for certification purposes and at hand for this other case, and I said, what's the scoop?

Benham is a nice young man, maybe forty or two, and he, like all three secretaries, liked the IES idea. He is an organizer by disposition; he organized Saints and Sinners, and the Secretaries of Famous Men, and some other club which I forget. At that time IES had about \$1500 of the \$15,000 needed. (John says it has about 50% of amount made now instead of the 10% as of then.) I told him what I had been thinking about that big brag about the committee working long and late. It's a sure sign that they are getting nothing done and all heated up about nothing much.

"We have a lot of boys like that back in Boston, too," I told him. "They are just lovely people and so interesting you could listen all day and never weary, but when it comes to anything practical there is no getting them down to earth. They just lock horns and go around and around on which is the best word for something they both agree on perfectly well already."

The dawn of beautiful agreement came into Benham's eye and he grabbed his note pad, saying he had to have my address; and yet the upshot of our conversation was that I would not promise to do anything or recommend them to any friends around Boston. Here is why: Their communication is completely bottlenecked via the Campbell/Todd team. Campbell is a great editor, a natural for output that way; he is also a good essayist and a good lecturer. It would be unreasonable to expect more -- but as things are set up, he is the only person to whom people will write. Now for a beginning club to answer no mail is madness; but it is rare luck if you can get so much as a postcard out of John unless you are an author; he has to expatiate to some of those. He just has no time or talent for the small prompt exchanges of a good club secretary. Worse than that, he is a pure spoiled brat where incoming mail to him is concerned. He gets so much response from readers, via his famous needling editorials, that he

has wads more than he can ever use and need only pick a few and discard lots of lovely ones, casual as a breeze in an orchard in blossom time. But smooely hokes, everyone of those letters is either a member or a potential member, and some of them are the type who pass the word around to dozens! Some have plenty of funds. For a project of this size, \$15,000 is peanuts. New York alone is full of people who could write out a check for the whole thing if they saw the cause as good, which it is. As I understand it, Todd, the trustworthy guardian, has all these letters in safe custody. I visualize a wicker wastebasket neatly festooned with gray legal tape and locked up inside a filing safe.

This is not to suggest that any of these guys are nuts -- they are just doing things the way they already know, only it doesn't fit the situation. John says let everybody else form groups and he will report what he sees fit as soon as they raise enough dough. To him, this sounds perfectly reasonable.

People just won't form groups that way. We want to know who else, in our own area, has already shown interest in IES; then we will get in touch with any of those who want to be active, or if they just want the magazine they can say so. Then we will see about interesting some of our friends, or expanding as the case then appears. Poor Benham had a sad experience: they had a lecture going at Columbia University and he brought about 50 of his friends (he didn't tell me this but some other gossip who was there did) and they were all dilettante types, polite but visibly very very bored. I dunno what such people expect, mad monsters or what, but bored they were and drifted away never to return.

For our kind of fun you have to have a special set of tastes, then you have to reach an understanding, then you kind of work up the topic, and done right, it CAN get hilarious. But you can't just walk up to anybody on the street and go boo! Isn't that so? Benham himself is the right sort and the only one willing to take any responsibility for new people. He said he was putting me right down as a charter member of the group and I should come to the next meeting.

But school was on and it is an awful distance, unless you fly, and I get airsick. The expense is no joke. In fact, I offered to put in the cost of my trip instead of my presence so they could have some loose funds for postage, but I never heard more from that idea.

This April, I didn't have time to see both so I saw John. He is the bottleneck. People won't write to anyone else. He says they have half the money they need. When asked what they are doing to raise more, he says they are going to get out a mimeo progress report and include the local addresses. That was three weeks ago as of now. I wouldn't be surprised to see it tomorrow and I wouldn't be surprised never to see it. John IS an amateur at this point, and it merely complicates things that he is a pro at a point which the project has not yet reached.

He seemed MUCH more interested in a bright idea he has, to change the name to the International Philosophical Society so none of the stuffed shorts of this world will be peeved. What the subscribers will think does not seem to give him pause. What this project really needs is one good -- just reasonably good -- chairman, the kind with an indstructible temper and the ability to know where the point is and when to put things to a vote. I nominate Ralph Holland. I bet you anything whatsoever that there is as of now NO central nexus -- all gone home disgusted and frustrated.

Now this is what I want to say: our civilization can use an idea like this. It should prosper. Perfectionism will get us nowhere and so will sloppiness and negligence.

So what's wanted and after that, what's possible?

/s/ Alma

Jim Maclean

May 12, 1959

P.O. Box 401
Anacortes, Washington

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Ralph Holland thinks something should be done about prozines. So do I. I like to read good Stf; it's a safe assumption that all other Neffers do too; and it's getting harder to find. Has been for quite a while. I think Campbell had a good point

in a semi-recent editorial: stf deals with facts and extrapolations too many Americans are becoming less and less interested in confronting. Zines fold, editors pay less, quality drops. Well, we can't do much in short range terms about that, but we are potentially a very effective lobbying group. How many members regularly send carefully thought-out letters of criticism, advice, desires to prozine editors? Is any organized activity taking place along these lines? If we could manage, say, fifty a month along substantially similar, practical lines, I don't think it'd be ignored. Agreement as to types of feasible improvement to be pushed for should be fairly easily obtained.

The overseas membership problem is a real one. I'd personally be willing to kick in dues for a couple of fen in dollarless areas, and a Neff-wide campaign might get quite a few more; but there should be a simpler solution. No ideas yet, though, interested in Ralph's.

Now, I like the European approach to stf! The American attitude has real advantages, but the two are not incompatible and could be to a degree cross-fertile. Scientific speculation is the heart of stf, and while I like some fantasy very much, I remain basically an stfan. And scientific speculation divorced from science is semantic nonsense. It's the creative thought, the boundless mental horizons, the infinite possibilities of stf that make me a fan. Most of the fen I know have a much better and broader grasp of the sciences and the yet-to-be-scientized than the average American, and a greater interest in them; if they didn't, they'd read Westerns. Why try to deny this, to claim that we're just average Joes and don't understand or give a four-letter-word about that egghead stuff?

I very much like Honey's idea of three or four personal background/interests/hobbies/why-I-love-stf letters/articles from members per ish of POSTWARP. People are, after all, the most important and perhaps the only real ingredient of fandom and Neff. That sort of thing can really help lend an air of vitality and meaningfulness to the zine.

Re Art Hayes and the Welcomittee, just at first blink, having received the Welcoming as a new member, I'd say the WC's doing a fine job -- as far as it goes. Where else can it go? Well, it can give new members a thorough rundown on all Federation membership activities, with samples of as much as possible -- then get him well started in the activities in which he's interested. The present stap at this sort of thing is rather feeble and leaves most of it up to the new member's own determination and investigative powers. Suggest a good, big mimeo'd info package in addition to the current one, containing such a run-down -- with a couple of the most recent ishes of the o-o and POSTWARP, sample N3F-Apa zines, list of subjects Seth's robins discuss, etc., etc. Could be standardized, easy to put together and follow up on, minimum of individual WCers type-writer cramp & c. involved, and would seem to me at least to be an even bigger help than the present approach.

Seth's idea of branching out into ISFS members for our recruiting is a good one. From my own correspondence with Erwin Scudla, he'd be quite willing to give a hand in such a project, feeling that the more organizations in the international field the better, and there are an awful lot of continental stfen who read and write English.

Now for mine own subject. A couple of Neffers have recently asked me if being involved in a correspondence exchange with Soviet stfen wouldn't be apt to cause some difficulties for members with government jobs, particularly security-sensitive jobs. I wrote the Department of State asking that specific question, and I quote the reply: "Considering that the United States has been implementing an officially negotiated exchange program with the Soviet Union for over a year, there is no reason to suppose that participation in exchanges should, in itself, reflect detrimentally on Americans employed by the United States Government. Persons involved in work of a sensitive nature, however, should obtain in advance an assurance from the security officer of their organization that contact through correspondence or directly with Soviet citizens will not reduce their effectiveness." A bit Micky-Mousey, but that's the gov't; I think it can be considered a fairly green light. Elsewhere in the same letter he reiterates that the Department of State is ready and willing to help any "nationally recognized organization" get started on an exchange program of its own devising.

Bhur beatha, charaidean.

/s/ James MacLean

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I personally don't see much connection between Campbell's editorial and our effectiveness as a lobbying group. Lobbying, while it can produce some results, generally

following your line of reasoning will not work as this will not induce more people to buy the magazine, and the cycle has thus started again. It's a good, interesting question, tho. Let's have some discussion. There is no program, at the moment tho, as you suggest.

Some solutions are trading subs to magazines, stamps, coins etc. in exchange for membership for overseas fan. But, as you say, something should be simpler.

The Personality Corner deal, I reinterate, will probably not appear in FW. FW is a letterzine, and has been cut down to \$12 an issue for 3 more issues this year! Ridiculous, I know, but this leaves little room for 'corners.' Maybe Ralph can take them, tho. I do have one on hand that perhaps I can squeeze in. I dunno.

A lot of discussion, thish on your subject of Russian-American discussions. It is interesting to note, however, that from the poll, the vote was overwhelmingly to have such a situation. More discussion in next letter. >>

ART RAPP

April 17 & May 13, 1959

RA36886935, Firing Btry
1st Msl Bn (Cpl), 40th Artillery
Ft. Bliss, Texas

Perhaps I have no right to comment on the topics discussed in the current POSTWARF but with supreme illogic I shall do so anyhow. You have only yourself to blame.

1. Changing the title of N3F to reflect its international character. Tsk, they were arguing this back in 1948! Apparently N3F is an organization that does not take action without thorough consideration beforehand! The most pertinent and sensible comment seems to be your editorial query: what do the non-U.S. fans think? If the present title irks them, that should be a strong argument in favor of change. Otherwise the whole matter hardly seems vital enough to lose any sleep over.

2. Whether or not to accept Communist members, or members from Communist dominated countries. Ugh, now unlike the preceding matter, this one is really vital. While in theory it would be the thing to do, on the basis of N3F being a nonpolitical group in which the political views of its members are not in issue, and perhaps on the basis that accepting such members would actually help to promote understanding between the divided halves of our world -- as a practical matter, I can't advise too strongly against it.

a. First, no matter how innocent your motives, such action on the part of N3F would be enough to blast your reputation in the eyes of most of the (American at least) nonfannish world. If I recall correctly, the latest loyalty questionnaires I have been called upon to fill out go beyond asking, "Have you ever belonged to a Communist organization?" or words to that effect, and also ask, "Have you ever belonged to an organization which has known Communists in its membership?" At the very least, if an N3F member had to answer "yes" to such a question in the future, it would involve him in a more detailed and searching interrogation to establish his non-subversive character; is a mere hobby club worth going through such?

b. Second, without being paranoid in our distrust of the Communists, let's not also underestimate them. The opportunity to infiltrate and exploit an organization like the N3F would be irresistible to certain Soviet agencies -- and being professionals at that game, they no doubt would have no trouble in doing so.

In short, if you must find out what behind-the-Iron-Curtain fandom is doing (and I admit it would be fascinating to know,) the most feasible method, in my opinion, would be to let them form their own organization, with which you could swap letters and fanzines, but remaining strictly aloof so far as organizational ties are concerned.

3. Getting more SF and Fantasy into N3F: this has always been a problem. We tried many things a decade ago, such as WelCom leaflets which listed pros' pennames, prozine checklists, lists of currently-published fanzines, etc. Review columns in TNEF are pretty much of a necessity, at least if TNEF is to unblushingly represent itself as the OO of a Science Fiction and Fantasy fanclub.

Trouble is, reviewers normally concentrate on books and ignore the magazines, which despite everything I feel are still the main source of the literature which interests us. (At least 3/4 of the hardcover and pb fantasy is reprinted material

which originally appeared in the magazines.) Anything like a comprehensive attempt to review the current prozines is a real chore; I know, since at times I've tackled such assignments. Not only does it require too much time and effort on the part of the writer, but no fanzine has the space to spare for a column which tries, even briefly, to say something about every story in every prozine.

The solution? I'd suggest a department called "Sense of Wonder" perhaps, or "Hits and Misses". Keep a columnist on a standby basis to turn it out if there's a big blank space as deadline approaches, but invite the N3F members themselves to write it, in the form of 500-words-or-so analyses of some one book or story which hit them with more than the routine impact. These reviews should be something on the order of a Boy Scout's good deed: a fan's way of calling the attention of other fans to an item that they may have overlooked in the flood of print that pours ceaselessly over us.

Most of us, I'm sure, have at one time or another seen the New York Times Book Review Section, or the Saturday Review. This is the sort of thing fandom should have in respect to its own special field of interest -- and note, please, that the publications mentioned do not depend on a few regular columnists to do all their reviews, they use many short articles by many people.

Another way of making TNFF a publication that members will read to learn about Fantasy, rather than organizational bureaucracy, would be for the editor to pester the pros of an article now and then. (Not stories -- pros get paid for stories, and only a most unprofessional fannishness would induce one to give away something he could just as well sell.) If you stress the fact that here's a chance for the author to speak directly to his audience, and also don't harass the poor guy for additional material just because he came through with an article once, I'm sure TNFF could sport many an eye-catching byline on its contents page.

In the two issues of POSTWARP I've seen, you and the rest of the fans who are currently active in trying to make something of N3F have succeeded in communicating your attitudes well enough to make me a bit ashamed of the way I have at times gone out of my way to ridicule N3F since I ceased to be a member of it.

The point I want to make, however, is that the features of N3F which I ridiculed or satirized were ones which invited such treatment. For instance, the neofan bursting with enthusiasm for some revolutionary idea, which (tho he didn't realize it) was old stuff to most other fans. The lateness, irregularity, and general sloppiness of N3F official publications. The awesome bureaucracy of the club which ground its millstones endlessly with no perceptible results. The hypersensitivity of the members who were active in N3F affairs, resulting in their impossible attempt to please everyone by avoiding any action or idea which might have the least possibility of controversy. And last, but not least, the continuous flow of ambitious plans which were laughably beyond the capabilities of N3F to accomplish, at least when only a dozen or so people were trying to operate on the theory that if only they could strike the proper spark, the entire membership would somehow instantly be fired with their same type of enthusiasm and willingness to work for the club.

Now, almost all of those factors are present in N3F today. Some of them are an inevitable part of what the N3F is trying to accomplish: you can't have an organization devoted to introducing neofans to the possibilities of fandom without having to nurse them through the throes of what might be called fannish adolescence. You can't have an organization in which everyone is free to express his views on how the club is being run, without listening to more statements of what you are doing wrong than what you are doing right.

But in several respects, N3F has improved beyond my wildest expectations: If POSTWARP is any sample of the quality of current N3F official publications, one need no longer shudder at what will happen to the local postman's opinion of you if you become an N3F member. The Directorate shows a healthy ability to take decisive action where it is needed (referring of course, to the Rehorst expulsion; not knowing the background of this I cannot judge the merits of the case, but surely if the Directors were able to reach the unanimous decision required by Article II paragraph 4 of the Constitution, it seems likely that their action was necessary). And the plans being considered, at least as reflected in POSTWARP's letters, seem nowadays to be based on "what is possible?" rather than "what would be nice to accomplish?"

I might mention, also, that G.M. Carr and Wally Weber have often made favorable mention of N3F in their SAFSazines; you know, there have always been 100% NFFFers -- but usually those who were 100% everything, until their wildest enthusiasm had no power to influence anyone who heard them; or people who made such extravagant claims for N3F's potentialities and the wonderful benefits of being a member that their attempts of gain recruits were intrinsically laughable. But when people like Carr and Weber, whose judgement I have learned to respect from their views on other topics, praise N3F -- well, it is a powerful incentive toward making me take a closer look toward the club as it is today, rather than automatically shrugging it off on the basis of what it has been in the past.

It seems N3F is beginning to grow up a bit: I wish it success in the process.

/s/ Art

On your suggestion of a column in TNFF, all I can say is that it's up to Ralph. 1st the necessary space would have to be found and 2nd good reviewers would have to be found also. It is interesting to note that on the poll fanzine reviews were most wanted followed by magazine and then movie in last place. Books were almost not mentioned. (My mistake for not including them by name on the sheet.)

Art Hayes, for a brief time last year, had something approaching the WelCom leaflets you mentioned. But he's given them up because of a lack of interest in them of the members and the officers. Perhaps if he could be sure of getting up-to-date information on the club from all the officers he would re-issue them. But one of his kicks during the time he's been head of the W-C is that the officers don't keep him notified of what's going on.

The whole discussion of getting more SF and Fantasy into N3F goes back to Wallace West's letter in the Nov-Dec '58 issue of FW. I'll again quote one section of it:

"Federation officers might well do some very serious thinking about how the membership can help upgrade the quality of science fiction writing and editing, and how they can encourage new writers to enter the field and older ones to stay in it."

I think that your idea of articles by pros might help to fill this requirement more than anything we've had in years.

It came as a surprise to me that Wally Weber likes N3F to the degree you seem to indicate. Not having received any correspondence from him on the subject I just naturally assumed we were mutually disagreeable, especially after reading the following quote by Buz Busby in INNUENDO #9.

"I pick up...wally's mail...once or twice a week. So I have seen cards welcoming Wally to fandom (and after eleven years, it's time somebody did welcome him,)...."

So I was pleased to find that these incidents have not wholly driven Wally mad.

And thank you very much for the notes on what you criticized in N3F. The next letter somewhat amplifies your statements.→)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

BUZ BUSBY

May 16, 1959

2852 14th Avenue West
 Seattle 99,
 Washington

You invite comment -- "what's wrong (if anything) with N3F?" and like that: OK, will do. First, though: while it is fannish tradition to make funnies about N3F (probably in retaliation, originally, to overblown claims and drum-beating from a few of your more fanatical members), comments herein will be of the sincere-type class.

I can tell you in one sentence what's wrong with N3F from my standpoint: it is entirely too much preoccupied with its own organizational activities -- parliamentary foofaraw -- rather than with its stated purposes. To me, this is a drawback that rules out N3F as a club that I'd enjoy. It wouldn't deter a great many people, perhaps -- obviously your membership includes a goodly number to whom organizational mechanics are highly enjoyable -- otherwise you wouldn't have so much of it.

← Perhaps, before proceeding any further with this letter I should make mention of the fact that Buz has been a member, and is able to get a pretty good view of N3F through Wally Weber. So he isn't on the 'outside' of N3F as some might think. I've made this statement to forestall any cries that he's talking through his hat. I might also state that he is a highly esteemed fan, not given to taking indiscriminate pot-shots. So no cries of 'unfair' etc., please.→

In this characteristic of being bound-up in organizational politics, N3F most resembles the standard Mundane organizations -- lodges, fraternities, specialty clubs, etc. -- all of these are infested with people who love to wade through Robert's Rules of Order in their bare feet. The trick is to short-circuit them, if you deplore this sort of thing as I do, or failing that go away and leave them to their own type of enjoyment. (Our local so-called science-fiction club, the Nameless Ones, is dominated by people who Love Meetings-For-The-Sake-Of-Having-Meetings. I haven't attended for two years.)

Ordinarily, the amount of procedural bickering is proportional to the length of the Constitution and By-Laws of the group. Yet your group gets an inordinate amount of hassle out of a concise, apparently clear-cut, one-page Constitution. So there must be a joker or two somewhere in the deck; let's look for them, hey?

Your preamble and Articles I, III, and IV, are perfectly straightforward. Article II leaves too much room for pulling and tugging back and forth. Define the duties and powers of the president more exactly, and then give him a free hand with them except for the Directorate's power to remove him from office and reverse the action which prompted the removal. (In other words, the Directorate could not overrule the president without removing him from office. You'd be surprised at the amount of nit-picking and hesitancy you could get rid of this way.)

It strikes me that your Article V created a year-round Open Season for brigands: anybody can start up a petition for anything at any time, if for no other reason than that things are getting dull for him. Seems to me that if Article II were spruced up as above, there should be no need to allow petitions to be presented except at the annual election. Most of the petitions I've seen mentioned appear to be the result of a setup that fosters indecisiveness, per the remarks on Article II.

And that's about all the booby-traps I see in your Constitution. The suggested changes are minor, actually, and by themselves would not change the activity too much. Now I have a question, Alan. Do you as editor of POSTWARP have full editorial control of the material you publish, as GMC indicated you do or should have? If so, I fail to see why (for instance) it was necessary to expel Rehorst -- couldn't you, once the general attitude became evident, have simply summarized the club opinion and said, "That will be all of that old stuff, in here"? And to carry it further, couldn't you knock out a lot of the fruitless bickering by editorial prerogative? If necessary, you could append to the excised letter, as: "Jophan also demands that the Directorate expel Crumbum because the latter offends him", or something of the sort. Many lettercols wind up with a batch of quick summaries of this type. At any rate, such editorial action could clear the decks for more fruitful activities, or at least leave space to find out if more fruitful activities are possible.

I was wondering why FAPA, with its detailed 3-page constitution, isn't in worse shape for procedural bickering, while N3F is as above stated, and I think it's like this. FAPA knows what it wants to do: exchange fanzines among its members on a scheduled basis, and see to it that all contribute as well as benefit, and do this in the simplest and most efficient fashion. N3F wants to be all things to all fans, and has never been able to agree upon workable boundaries for activity, long enough to make the activity really effective as intended. (I use FAPA as a comparison because I am not yet a FAPAN and so can speak "from outside" with respect to both organizations.)

I note that Janie Lamb shares Jan Penney's horror (as expressed in SLANDer #4) of scheduled activity requirements as used in the apas. Well, I don't blame anyone for disliking deadlines, but any organization that depends on a reasonable average level of activity in its members, has a problem with "deadwood" -- people who receive the mailing-bundles but never contribute to them unless forced to do so by these same Activity Requirements, which are actually forgotten by the more active members -- FAPA requires 8 pages once a year; Harry Warner produces 24 pages 4 times a year for FAPA, or 12 times the AR. SANS requires 6 pages every six months; Burnett Toskey publishes

roughly 12 to 15 times this amount, and never misses a quarterly mailing. So I guess Jan and Janey just aren't predisposed to apa-type fanac -- which is no slam at them -- to each his own, and all that.

Hmmm -- I know darn well that there were a number of other interesting items in amongst the boring (to me) Local Politics. (And note -- the Politics did not bore me just because it was N3F Politics -- as I said earlier, it's the sort of guff that leaves me cold, whether encountered in the N3F, Cascade Dachshund Club, Nameless Ones, American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Veterans of Foreign Wars, or the Community Club.) But it's too late in the evening to do any sort of effective job of digging through all the natter to find the interest-sparking items.

So thanks again, Alan, for sending us POSTWARP. I hope the foregoing comments come out sounding as constructive as I mean them to be. Admittedly, I am commenting "from outside" and may be over-simplifying and missing a lot of points that are clear to you and to the membership of your group -- there is no intent here, to be giving you The True Word From One Who Knows, or something like that -- I'm just calling them as I see them from POSTWARP and from a few N3Fzines I've seen previously. Fair enough?

Best,

Buz

Well, I think Buz did a very good job of calling them. Most of what he said I am forced to agree with, and I'm trying to edit out the 'bickering' as he calls it. Before this, I've been content to publish almost everything ^{under} the table of discussion, but I think perhaps Buz is more right than I. And, I do have full editorial control over everything I publish.

So thanks again, Buz, for writing. For those Neffers who are at this moment quite willing to take a rawhide whip to the posterior of Buz, please read the next letter thoroughly. I think it explains, in more definite terms, what Buz meant by 'bickering' and 'procedural Politics'. And I again repeat, that I agree with Buz, and with Gary. So forward, Mr. Deindorfer. . . →

%/!

GARY DEINDORFER

12 Knoll Drive
Yardley,
Pa.

June 1, 1959

It's really hilarious, all the way through. Ha. Gad! An alleged Science Fiction club, that's N3F, and emphasize the alleged. Wow. Science Fiction? Hmm, no doubt if you went up to the average N3F member (or a person that is average for an N3F member, that is) and asked, "Say fellla, what do you think of the latest issue of FUTURE S-F?", he'd no doubt say very haltingly, "Un, what was that? Did you say Science Fiction? Gee, I'm not sure what that is, un..." And he'd know as little about Science Fiction as he does about fandom.

Mainly, he'd know as much about Science Fiction as fandom because he certainly never mentions the phrase in the club, that's for funshlugginer sure, bho! Instead what fills the N3F crapzines, the myriad, never ending N3F crapzines? Hah! Not antagonistic controversies, that's what. Burning arguments on all manner of stuff, most of it on how to make the club better or purges or executions of members and all. The way everybody gets worked up about throwing Paul Harold Rehorst out, for instance, filling whole letterzines with the argument, with people taking sides and threatening to quit the club. Boy, that was a funny idea.

Then there's something about having members sign an oath attesting to the fact they aren't Communists or something. This is all well and good, and aside from the fact that I don't think it is a damn bit necessary, I have nothing particularly against it. But what does N3F do instead of presenting a vote very quietly? Why they get intensely worked up about it, and again it is a burning issue. In short, whatever little problem is created or springs up to confront the poor trod among members, it becomes an insurmountable obstacle, a profound crisis.

Garishly,

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Gary

Gary goes on to tell how he is going to join with Ron Ellik and others in poking fun at pompous ol' N3F by way of fanzines. In fact, he states, "Our group might even or-

12 Third: explicitly stating that the N3F as an organization is interested in setting up a correspondence and exchange program with Stfen in the USSR and other Iron Curtain countries with United States Department of State approval if some minimum guarantee against overly-boring propaganda can be obtained.

Fourth: Direct and empower the committee to inform the Department of State of this official interest and work with Department of State officials in preparing a program for Iron Curtain Stfen consistent with the Department of State's existing program and views, and put this program into action when finally approved by both the Department of State and the Directorate.

The program for both non-Communist and Communist countries should consist of plain correspondence, round robins, exchanges of amateur publications and prozines, soft and hard covered books -- all the usual paraphernalia of fanac insofar as language differences may allow. Individual specifications would have to be worked out in accordance with the interests of the participating Neffers and the characteristics of the Stfanac in each country involved.

That's about as detailed as it seems possible to get at this stage -- does it seem adequate? If not, what else do you think should be planned (bearing in mind that any further plans must necessarily be tentative) before presentation of the program to the membership for the final vote?

Aha! Just received the latest issue of TNFF. Beautiful job, no? Fran's column is particularly fascinating to me; it wouldn't seem out of place in, say F&SF at all. Certainly an effective method of drumming up business for her bookstore -- if I could afford it I'd have both those books on order right now! Relevant to this letter, however, is Ralph's bit on the 'International Correspondence Project': As I've indicated above, and as I've said to various people, the State Department must have an indication of official interest on the part of the Federation and a tentative outline of the projected program before it can go any further than it already has in its communications to me. The East-West Contacts Staff of the Department of State has stated in three different letters I have in my files that (a) any American citizen or group of citizens could go ahead and organize and carry out such a project without informing or obtaining permission from the State Department, since this is still after all, a free country; (b) the East-West Contacts Staff stands ready to fit such a project into the officially-negotiated USA-USSR cultural exchange program and give its originators whatever assistance it can in making arrangements with the Soviets, etc., if the program is sponsored/promoted by a "responsible, nationally recognized organization in the field of Science Fiction" and a preliminary outline of the program is sent to it for perusal and amendment where necessary. The Department of State, let me repeat, has already approved the general idea over a year ago, when it made the exchange agreement with the USSR. Approval in this specific instance, as a part of that exchange agreement, will necessitate the Federation first taking and expressing to the Department of State an official interest in the project and presenting a tentative plan for its conduct.

If what Ralph and the directorate want is a repetition to them of the sort of general assurance the Department of State has already given me, I'm sure they can obtain it by the same process I used. But nothing beyond that can be done without some sort of official NFFF action, however tentative.

Comhail mhath oirbh.

/s/ James MacLean

JONI CORNELL

Box 326
Smithton,
Pa.

May or June, 1959

I know I didn't renew my membership in NFFF. Wanna know why?

I was brought into N3F under false pretenses. I was rarin' to help pub fanzine and said so. Never heard anything about it, though. Even offered to type stencils (I've done this before) and still no offers. I got married shortly after I joined and my husband said I could keep my fanac up if it didn't interfere with my housework.

Wellsir, that left the WC out, and I don't like PRs. So naturally I just neglected to keep active.

So I'm going to renew my membership and restate my offers. I'll be active even if I don't have the time. To state: I have done art work for a teacher to show technique to her college class, three of my paintings were exhibited at an art show. I was considered the best writer in my class. I can stencil typed material and art work. When I concentrate I can make perfectly straight margins. Anyone want me help?

Going to send you a cover for F.. Keep up your hilarious editorializing.
signing off,

/s/ Joni Cornell

←←This letter seems to indicate one misconception in N3F. A person joins N3F and on the membership blank offers to do something. That's all very well and good but please remember that these same people may not have the time, or something else later. They will not be taken advantage of unless they actually write and offer. I don't know how many would-be writers and artists there are in the N3F. But I do know that about a month ago Raleigh Multog, head of the Manuscript Bureau wrote me and said he had absolutely NOTHING contributed to the Bureau. Nothing!, even though he's been the head for over six months. So I know that I take these offers on the membership blank with the proverbial grain of salt. F. is always open to artwork. Don't wait to be asked, 'cause you won't be. If you have something you think is good, send it in!

Getting back to this specific letter, I'll mention Joni's cover will appear on the next issue. Now she's actually sent something in, it's getting published. I rest my case.→→

AL ANDREWS

May 18, 1959

1659 Lakewood Drive
Birmingham 9,
Alabama

As for the Soviet and American fans working out an exchange, it may be a possibility, but I fail to see any real promise of any solid accomplishment -- I'm not against it, merely unconvinced of its final worth.

As a collector, I'm fully in favor of a pro-zine index and am perfectly willing to go as high as several dollars for an index of worth. I don't know just what is suggested that the index include, but I think it would do well to cover several points: One is the time it would cover. Would it endeavor to go from, say, 1923 to 1958? I think it should have the feature of a check-list, but certainly more. A listing of stories would be of interest, or a listing of stories by authors. The idea of initialing each story with a symbol, provided such a symbol system can be devised that will give a wide enough variance. Of course, the symbols can be used in combination, which will help.

One thing I would G*R*E*A*T*L*Y A*P*P*R*E*C*I*A*T*E : If anyone knows of ANY SF fan in Birmingham, Alabama (regardless of age, color, sex, or what have you) would they please tell me his or her address, so I can get in touch with them? I have asked many fans here and abroad to let me know if there was a fellow-fan in my city, but they knew of no-one. Can anyone suggest a possible way I could find out? I'M DESPERATE! Please write me TODAY if you have any information on this.

Sincerely,

/s/ Al

←←You have a misconception on the index which I hope is contained only to you. I've no intention of trying to put one out from 'way back when, which would be useless, as fellow Neffer Don Day already has put out such an index. What I was planning was a yearly index -- just to cover the current year. It was to include a listing of the stories, and the magazines (with contents, etc.) Possibly the authors, also, though it would be hard to find out just what is a pen-name and what isn't. The symbols system has always been originated by Bob Tucker and Julius Unger -- we could use it very easily with few changes. For example, the 1941 yearbook used about 48 symbols. We could probably cut that number down somewhat, but the main work is just getting people to do the classifying and stenciling. Any offers?→→

TOMMY SNOW

June 30, 1959

Lazy J Ranches
P.O. Box 445
Roswell, New Mexico

The National Fantasy Fan Federation as a body and as individual persons have proved to this writer that he has held one point in complete error. The Federation has shown without doubt that the great majority of white men and other races, not of the Indian, are truly honorable people. For the first time in the writer's seventeen years a group of strangers have banded together to aid and assist the writer and his family to come from beneath an unexpected burden of attack.

Although the attack was launched upon G.C. Snow through the name of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, it was soon disproved to be of Federation origin. The actual participation of any Federation member was of such minor magnitude as to be of complete unimportance.

Concern has been expressed that such an attack may occur again. Please accept this as complete assurance that the pseudo-religious organization responsible for this affair has been rendered completely impotent to repeat this action. Highly competent legal counsel of nationwide organization has assured all directly concerned that the efforts of this outside group are completely confined to their own existence, and that it is not improbable that this pseudo-religious organization will disband from their own incompetence to remain united.

It is quite impossible for this writer to express himself clearly in this unfamiliar language. Please allow for any misusage of the English language. Even were the English language an everyday usage, it would still be difficult to formulate an expression to convey the gratitude felt for the mass assurance of good-will forwarded by so many of the members of the Federation.

To each of the Federation, the most sincere wish that your lives be as bright, as quiet, and as sure as the sweep of the evening star.

/s/ Tommy Snow

←(It is difficult for me to say anything, except that it is with a great feeling of relief that I have been told that the Federation was not at fault. My feelings now, I assure you, are the complete opposite of what I felt when I first was told of the incidents. I'm glad! For more on this, see Ralph's editorial in TNFF.)→

CLAYTON HAMLIN

May 15, 1959

28 Earle Avenue
Bangor,
Me.

There are several letters in this latest issue I would like to comment upon. GMCarr's, for example. I hope I didn't say I thought NSF should be devoted exclusively to discussion of SF and Fantasy. I certainly didn't mean that. But it should be given its proper place among a group that, after all, is a bunch of Science Fiction fans. Recently it hasn't been so, as many of you have commented to me. It isn't the duty of the club to discuss this, by any means. That is up to the individual members, if they wish to. But at least the club should admit there is some interest in it. Perhaps I could be considered a heretic on the subject -- if you don't agree just ignore me. I don't want to start a fight.

Incidentally, there are now four of these SF Round Robins making the rounds and will be more, shortly.

If Mrs. Carr would be willing to expound her theory at further length, I would be only too happy to set up a robin that would give her the opportunity to do so. I will pick out a most congenial group for her that will give her ideas careful attention, and I will promise there will be no fights of any sort, though there may be some disagreement with her premise.

Now Seth Johnson is a good friend of mine, I am sure. But his idea that you

As for the questionnaire. My reasons for not being for a prozine index, is that I do not think we would be furnishing Fandom with a good service, since better indexes are already being offered professionally. Why should we go to all the work (and it would be a lot of work) to compete with sem-pros like Don Day (N3F member)? A prozine index in TNFF would take up room that would be of better use for other material. However, it would be advisable for TNFF to boost for N3F memberzines. Membership in N3F would give the faned extra publicity with a large membership. It would be in line with club policies, or what I think they should be. New departments could be a use made of the FAN-FILE that Janie has, and for which there is little use at the present. I am all for the FanFile, do not wish for it to be disbanded, no matter what, but it could be used more, in TNFF. The Historian could have more articles on N3F too, but it should not be too statistical sounding. A little humor from past issues would be good.

The reason why I believe in telling you to use your own judgement in editorials, even though there may be times when I disagree almost violently with your methods, is, especially in an Official Zine, if the Editor can't sound off, half-cocked though he may be at times, then official pubbing becomes a real chore. Now, in some ways, I am somewhat in agreement with the ISFCC method, of having the OE a part of the Directorate, then he can sound off with greater authority. We shall see if I can get away with it in ISFCC. Another ISFCC idea I think should be adopted, is a round robin between the officials, in which all thinks are discussed, and voted upon. Another RR could be launched for the types such as me, who are not in the Directorate, but the RR would have a connection with the Directorate. There should also be a greater exchange of information between the departments. I think the Welcommittee has always passed on all information on itself to the other departments; why not them to the WC? We need that information, since we are the ones who are in most frequent contact with the new members, and we often are dumbbells who don't know what in heck is going on. I get complaints all the time, but can't answer them, because I don't have the information I should have. Sure, I direct them somewhere else, or try to get it...but even then the information doesn't come out.

Back to the editor's duties. I wonder if it might not be a better idea to have the editor keep his comments on the letters to a separate editorial, say at the start of the group of letters or letter section, or, in your case, as part of the main editorial. Just an idea.

A Friend,

/s/ Art Hayes

←The compromise is an interesting idea, but there doesn't seem to be very much to compromise with. The petition just didn't make it, I guess. Nice idea, tho.

Yes, it would be nice to have more from the Historian, but it seems to me that almost everything has already been covered. I'm hoping that my reprints will sorta cover the lack of new things to be covered. I wish I could think of a use for the Fan-File -- can you? There must be something we can use it for.

Seems to me that if the editor is sounding off half-cocked, as I do quite often, that would be an argument for him not speaking with any authority, rather than giving him more. Which is a powerfully big reason for me either not to become a director, or stop editorializing.

I believe that the Directorate already has an RR circulating between themselves. But since we have about 15 officials, a general one would be unwieldly. Good idea, tho. And if it did not get bogged down, would help distribute info. As to whether I use a separate editorial -- I guess it would be preferable, but actually, it wouldn't be nearly as much fun. →)

HEY THERE -- YOU WITH THE ITCHY PEN OR TYPERWRITER !!

As you have probably judged from preceding foofaraw, there's a Bureau in N3F called the Manuscript Bureau. Its function is to accept manuscripts and then redistribute them to needy faneditors who apply for them. So far no use has been made of it. Well, if you like to write, or draw, the MB needs poetry, artwork, stories, cartoons -- everything that goes into a fanzine. It also needs requests from faneditors! So write: Raleigh E. Multog, 7 Greenwood Rd., Pikesville 3, Maryland. He's in charge! And, he'll be more than glad to fix Y*O*U up!

FLOYD ZWICKY

May 12 & July 27, 1959

1602 Fifth Avenue

Rockford,

Illinois

17

G.M.Carr has a good point in her remarks about the importance of SF in correspondence. Let's face it, SF is not a widely read field in the sense that Western and Detective fiction are. Further, it is a relatively new one and doesn't have the wealth of writing talent to select from. For that reason, I rather doubt if one could sustain much of a correspondence if he restricted his writing to SF exclusively. And sure, much of it's rubbish. Personally, I feel that if I get a really good story out of each half dozen or so, mags, I have had my money's worth.

I think the SF fan is such, not primarily because he likes this field of fiction, but rather that he is usually a person with an active and inquisitive mind, willing and able to share his thoughts on a wide variety of subjects with other similar people. And where better to find such kindred souls than among SF fans?

Janie Lamb's letter from Al Lopez reminds me that we should all make a practice of publicizing new developments as we find them. Many of us read trade papers where such things are announced and described. It was in one of them that I learned that there is a government sponsored anti-gravity study going on. A quotation from one of the scientists said cautiously, "Progress has not been entirely disappointing."

As you know, one of the things that runs RRs into the ground is lack of new subjects to write about. We tend to gnaw away at the same old ones until we have said it all a dozen times. So it behooves us to scratch around a bit for new things to write about. For that reason, I have taken to rewriting and simplifying items from "Scientific American" to see if there is an interest in this sort of stuff among fans and to see if it will provide ammunition for RR's.

I wish you would ask for comments about them. They will provide the science and I hope fans have the ingenuity to furnish the fiction. Art Hayes has printed a couple in the ISFCC 0-0, but I haven't yet had time to get reader reaction.

In "News Front", a management magazine, 11th and 12th grade High School students were interviewed. I will give you some of the answers, by boys, and including only those at the top of the list.

In career preference, 38.7% preferred Science or Engineering; 8.2% chose Manufacturing; 7.3% Teaching; 7% Retail; and 5.7% Mechanics or Crafts. (Judging from College enrollments, this is wishing, isn't it?)

To the question, 'Prefer to work with....', 66% answered things and 23.2% answered People. (Fit this into the picture!)

Company Preference. 18.3% chose General Electric, 11.2% chose General Motors, 6.3% duPont, and 3.6% Westinghouse. (Tribute to advertising?)

Name Resented Most. Egghead 31.1%, Proletarian 10.5%, Spendthrift 10.4%, Reactionary 9.7%, Huckster 8.6%, and Capitalist 8.1%.

The magazine made no attempt to analyze these figures, but since I find that most of the subjects fans discuss are Sociological, this sounds like a wonderful group of figures to fight over.

Best Regards,

/s/ Floyd

((Since it looks as if I'll have some space left over, I will present one of Floyd's condensations in PW. But I'll need a good reaction to continue the practice.))

A*L*S*O H*E*A*R*D F*R*O*M

...or the column type Buz Busby suggested. In the interests of saving some space this exists. I have a few more letters here -- for which I say thanks. Two say:

Ex-member Gavin Brown tells me he took over the Trading Post while he was still a member hoping he could waken up the members. It was a free service, but despite this, and the fact so many Neffers register as 'collectors', only one member ever took advantage of this service. He's disappointed in N3F. Address is 47 Causeyside St., Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland.

Bob Lambeck says Holland may have good intentions but the part of his letter dealing with 'give and take' indicates N3F should be just one, big, happy blob, not worrying or caring if it's going uphill, downhill, or disintegrating.

NFFF MAGAZINE OF LETTERS AND COMMENTS (Plus the Editor's sacrilegious ramblings)

←←The Directorate, in its benign kindness, has allowed me three more issues this year. This has come about due to a lack of funds, due to a lack of recruiting, due to an excess of laziness on the part of about 80% of NFFF. Therefore, this makes it necessary to combine issues. It also makes it unnecessary to attempt to 'catch up' on lost issues. I still wonder if I would have made it. Anyway, until January, this and 2 more issues will roll from my mimeo. And just when I was getting ready to conscript labor in the form of other N3Fers. Ah well....→→

~~perhaps if the lazier element of N3F would get off its behind and recruit the directorate would reconsider~~

This is a section of POSTWARP henceforth to be known as

PERSONALITY CORNER

Bill Mallardi, 214 Mackinaw Avenue, Akron 13, Ohio

Sex: Male

Age: 22

Status: Single and Girl Crazy

Phone: (For Young Femefans) TE 6-4846

I was born in Akron on April 6, 1937, and have lived here ever since. Guess I'd better describe myself before I go on. I'm 5'12" tall (?) (That's what I tell everyone I meet), weigh about 160 lbs., have brown eyes and hair, and have a light complexion.

Went to public school until I was 10, then went to Catholic grade & high-school. Had odd jobs, like selling spudnuts house-to-house, pinboy, curb-boy at a drive-in, & finally ended up at an A&P. Graduated from St. Mary's High in 1955, tried college but got tired of studying & like a fool I quit. Started working nights at the store in 1956 and been there ever since. Right now I'm trying to get on the City Fire Department, and I'll let you know if I make it, if you're interested.

I discovered Science Fiction when I was 15 & I happened to see a paperbound book in a magazine store. The title of it was "Science Fiction Terror Tales" edited by Groff Conklin. I bought it, read it, & have been an SF fan ever since. My favorite authors are Ray Bradbury and Robert Heinlein, & I prefer short stories -- especially those with surprise or twist endings. I read novels too, though. Have collected some SF books & also borrowed some from the librarys to read.

Am also interested in 'Flying Saucers' & like others in the club I believe in them. I've been contemplating joining the Akron UFO Observation Club, & that way I would be able to report anything that occurs to the club. However, since I work nights, it might not be possible. Any comments, anyone? I've been trying to get a book by Major Donald Keyhoe about Flying Saucers that came out a few years back. I forget the exact name of it, though it had Flying Saucers in the title. Can anyone help?

Besides SF & Fantasy I enjoy dancing, archery, all kinds of music from "rock" to Bach, baseball, football, bowling, and most all girls!! I ask you, besides SF what else is there, but Girls????

←←(Another TAFF vote for you, Bjo!→→)

I was vaguely aware of SF clubs when I first started reading it, & tho I was interested in correspondence I didn't know how to go about it. Used to read 'Letters To The Editor' & Classified columns in the prozines, and that's how I came across

it's ridiculous running out of money with so many potential but lazy recruiters in dear old NFF!!!!

Marijane Johnson's name. We exchanged a few letters; she told me about the club & was my sponsor when I joined.

I've written two pop-type songs, but haven't gotten anywhere with them so far. They're both copyrighted, but that was easy. The hard part is trying to get them published. Also tried my hand at SF and article writing, & I like it, so I may keep on if I'm encouraged with what response from anyone I may get.

Besides being an SF fan I am also a confirmed "MAD" mag reader, as I hear a lot of SF fans are too. Whether this means anything significant or not, I'll close this thing on a mad note:

"What! Me worry?"

Science-Fictionally Yours,

Bill Mallardi

←Okay, people -- now it's Y*O*U*R turn to send something in. No, Bill. I'm not trying to say I don't classify you with people. Down Bill, down!→

pidgen languages

as adapted from Scientific American by:

FLOYD ZWICKY

In view of the millions of words used up by fans annually, it might be assumed that there is among them, some interest in language. Pidgen languages are an interesting phase of linguistics, if only because they are not too well understood by the majority of us. The Feb. 1959 issue of "Scientific American" deals with the subject in well-researched detail.

It is quite commonly thought that pidgen is merely a ludicrous mispronunciation of a language, an opprobrious form of speech such as the "no tickee, no washee" attributed to Chinese laundrymen. But investigation has shown that this is far from the truth. Pidgen has its internal consistency of sounds and grammar that qualifies it as a language in its own right.

It will help to first define three terms. First is lingua franca, meaning any tongue serving as a means of communication among groups that have no other language in common, such as English in India or the Philippines. Second is pidgen, which is a lingua franca that has become simplified and restructured according to the native tongue of the users. For example, pidgen English in China is somewhat different from Melanesian pidgen English. Third is a creole language. When a pidgen has become of such importance that it has displaced the native tongue of the area, it then becomes the native tongue in the sense that it is spoken, and taught to children, to the exclusion of any other. In that case it must be expanded so as to cover all the needs of daily life, and it has become a creole. Louisiana creole in this country is a good example, and Haitian creole, also based on French, is another.

These pidgens number about 24, the most important in point of number of speakers being based on English, including those spoken in Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia, Hawaii, Australia, the Antilles and China. Many of these are now being written and taught in schools. The writing has been developed and regularized thanks mainly to missionaries, and is sensibly based on phonemes, or functional units of sound. Vowels are uniformly pronounced as in Italian. The sentence, "I have three books" then becomes, "mi gat trifela buk", and not, "me got three-fellow book". For those interested in what happens to French, there is a Haitian Creole proverb meaning, "He who gave the blow forgets; he who bears the scar remembers." It comes out, "Bay-kal blie, pote-mak soje", instead of the misspelled French, "Baille-calle 'blier, porter-margue songer."

Since the purpose of this article is not so much instructive as amusing, a list of

FANZINES FOR YOU -- FANZINES FOR ME! For you who have seen only a few fanzines, NFF has just the service for you! Send \$1.00 to Seth Johnson, 339 Stiles St., Vaux Hall, N.J., and you'll be sent a rather wide variety of fanzines to choose which ones you'd like to subscribe to. Better'n writing to 20 dozen people for sample copies! ?

words with their derivations follows:

MELANESIAN PIDGIN	DERIVATION	SOURCE WORDS	MEANING
BAGARIMAP	ENGLISH	BUGGER 'IM UP	WRECK, RUIN
DISFELA	ENGLISH	THIS - FELLOW	THIS
FAIT	ENGLISH	FIGHT	FIGHT
FAITIM	ENGLISH	FIGHT 'IM	STRIKE, BEAT, HIT
H&ISIMAP	ENGLISH	H'IST 'IM UP	LIFT
NADARFELA	ENGLISH	ANOTHER FELLOW	ANOTHER
OLSEM	ENGLISH	ALL THE SAME	THUS; SO
PLANTIM	ENGLISH	PLANT HIM	BURY
YUMI	ENGLISH	YOU - ME	WE, US
ORAIT	ENGLISH	ALL RIGHT	ALL RIGHT

Frequently criticism is made that these languages are not worthy of serious consideration because they are not written or because they lack grammar. In the first case it may be pointed out that there are many languages that do not have written form or that only acquired it recently. Nevertheless, they were languages in every sense of the word for hundreds or thousands of years. And also that languages were spoken many thousands of years before any of them were written. In the second case, the pidgin languages do have a grammar, if a simple one, and that it is as fixed as the grammar of European languages. Predicates are often missing but a close examination seems to show they are unnecessary. For example, "mi plisboi" means "I am a policeman". (Me police boy) Or, "yu redi?", means "Are you ready?". Or even "Tink-tink bilong mi olsem" means "my opinion is thus".

Recently there has arisen a type of over-solicitude for class or social position. This kind of thinking, combined with ignorance of the true status and function of pidgin recently caused the United Nations to call upon Australia to "eradicate" pidgin from New Guinea. Their request was phrased in unnecessary involved language, but the reason given was that pidgin appeared to place the natives that used it in a lower social position from that of the immigrant groups from which the pidgin originated. The social distinction does indeed exist, but it is not the result of the pidgin. The men who showed such concern for the Melanesians ignored the fact that it is well-nigh impossible to eradicate a language, and they failed to consider the situation if the pidgin were eliminated. Either the natives would have to be re-educated to speak American or British English, or the white population would have to learn the native language (or languages). Further, in New Guinea, with its multiplicity of tongues, Melanesian Pidgin is the linguistic cement that holds economic life together.

Another criticism of pidgin is of the humble, slangy, or frankly vulgar origin of many of its words. Examination of English will show many such words that have traveled from vulgarity to eminent respectability. It would appear that the primary requisite of a language is that it be useful in satisfying the needs of everyday life and communication. In this respect the various pidgin and creole languages do qualify, and that some forms are future national languages in embryo. In all likelihood new pidgins will continue to arise when the situation calls for them, and will either die out when the need is gone, or acquire longer life through the creative process of creolization.

←←For more interested people, they might look in Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction in, I think, '57 or '58, some issue then; for L. Sprague de Camp's Language for Time Travelers.→→

 3 P*O*L*L R*E*S*U*L*T*S

I assume that by this time (August 13), all the poll sheets have come in that are going to come in. Therefore, it is high time that I collate the results and present them. Hence this.

Assuming that I haven't lost any of the returned sheets, 52 people voted. YOU know who you are, so I'm not going to say just who. But the rest of N3F should be ashamed of itself! That's only about a 33% return. I hope it's better at election time.

"1. Do you want a prozine list published?" Some people abstained on this question, but counted up it worked out 25 for and 15 against. Ann Chamberlain said, however, that the magazines listed should be at the editor's discrimination of which are the most widely read.

"2. Would you buy one at \$1.?" 21 people said yes, which was the important answer. 20 others said "no", but I wanted to be sure of how much we could take in for sure. I don't know if it'd be enough, though. Maybe.

"3. Will you work on it?" 13 sterling people said yes, and a few more said maybe. It would seem like enough to get the project moving. After I move, I intend to get out a mimeo letter on this, and I'll start organizing the project. Thanks for the vote of confidence, people.

"4, 5, 6, 7. Do you want magazine, fanzine, movie, or othertype reviews in TNFF?" Ol' Ralph's outfoxed me on this anyway, since he has fanzine and a book review column going now. However, magazine reviews and fanzine reviews were the most wanted, with movie reviews a poor third, and books were mentioned by name. But anyway, as Art Rapp told me, it isn't what you have, it's how well the reviews are written.

"8. Are you in favor of MacLean's suggestions?" This was a stinkeroo. I got all kinds of answers to this question -- some of which beat-around-the-bush an awful lot. However, assuming it is through the State Department etc., 27 said yes, 13 said no, and 12 either didn't answer, said they were neutral, or beat-around-the-bush so much I couldn't tell what they were saying. Ann Chamberlain said yes, if the fact that other countries object to American's demands that they speak English, could be overcome. Esther Richardson retaliated by saying, "Yes, but only with the English speaking ones. Clayton Hamlin however, just said he thought the language barrier would be too great a problem, besides which they wouldn't accept our ideals anyway. Emil Greenleaf however, reminded me that "He who sups with the Devil should have a long spoon." He also said, "I strongly feel the contact should be by mature educated NSF members who are capable of spotting Communist propoganda and answering it. So to let the younger, impressionable members of the club tangle with the Soviets is like giving an idiot a hand-grenade." Hmm, I guess I get off here. Too bad I have to agree. Emil also went on by saying, "SF is quite liable to get lambasted by the PTA, American Legion, DAR and others because by some people, we will be labeled subversive, and SF will be called Communist oriented literature. It will be a great day when it shall be a crime to buy a copy of GALAXY. So those are two things to consider before attempting to meet Communism in the market place. Even if we do it under the sheltering wing of the State Department, we should be no less cautious."

The late Hank Snow also was against the idea -- it went against his moral principals, and he also said he has had direct contact with the USSR, its peoples and its government. So, he thought it was beyond the DESIRABLE scope of the activities of the organization.

Floyd Zwicky then said that if it went against either anyone's principals, or might endanger someone's job, the idea should be dropped. No-one mentioned their job luckily. But Emil, I imagine, is still against it. And there's still, among the 13, people like G.M.Carr who said she thought the International situation is ticklish enough without our well-meant meddling.

Alma Hill said, "Sure, why not send our propoganda around? Only why JUST the USSR -- why not all science fiction groups everywhere?" A good point. But Al Andrews said, "The broad idea is fine, but the details could get sticky." Another good point, but one which I think MacLean is already working on, judging from his letters.

Floyd Perley said, "Sure, if they read SF.", which after Harry Warner's letter, may be an issue in doubt. Marijane Johnson though just said, "Under right circumstances." which is about as ambiguous as you can get. Fred Michel tried though, by saying, "Yes, if we can have our say." Comeon, people, and TELL us what you mean! I'm so thick-headed I don't see just what you're driving at -- especially since that was all you said. Just to wind this up, I'll quote another one which said, "Apathetic toward same.", which was submitted by Bruce Pelz. That's as bad as just saying "No." We'd like REASONS for your answers, ya know.

In resume, it looks as if an official referendum will be taken. There were enough "Yeses" given to make it practical -- and above was about all of the really good comments. (Whups -- excuse wrong verb there, please.) Anyway, the result was interesting.

"9. Are you in favor of a name change?" The results were so ridiculous here I don't know why I bother to record them. Only 6 were in favor of the change, to things like I3F, International Fantasy Federation, and United Fantasy Federation. Two or three other members were like Floyd Perley who said, "If necessary for progress.", but so many said "No" that I won't go into any discussion. I might add that this also gives me a good reason to cut discussion on the question for about the next two years. I'm sorry for Gary Chambers who campaigned so vigorously for the change, but by printing the petition with the membership list, we gave you more than a fair chance to put it through. The members just don't want it -- but if you want to do something, there's lots to be done.

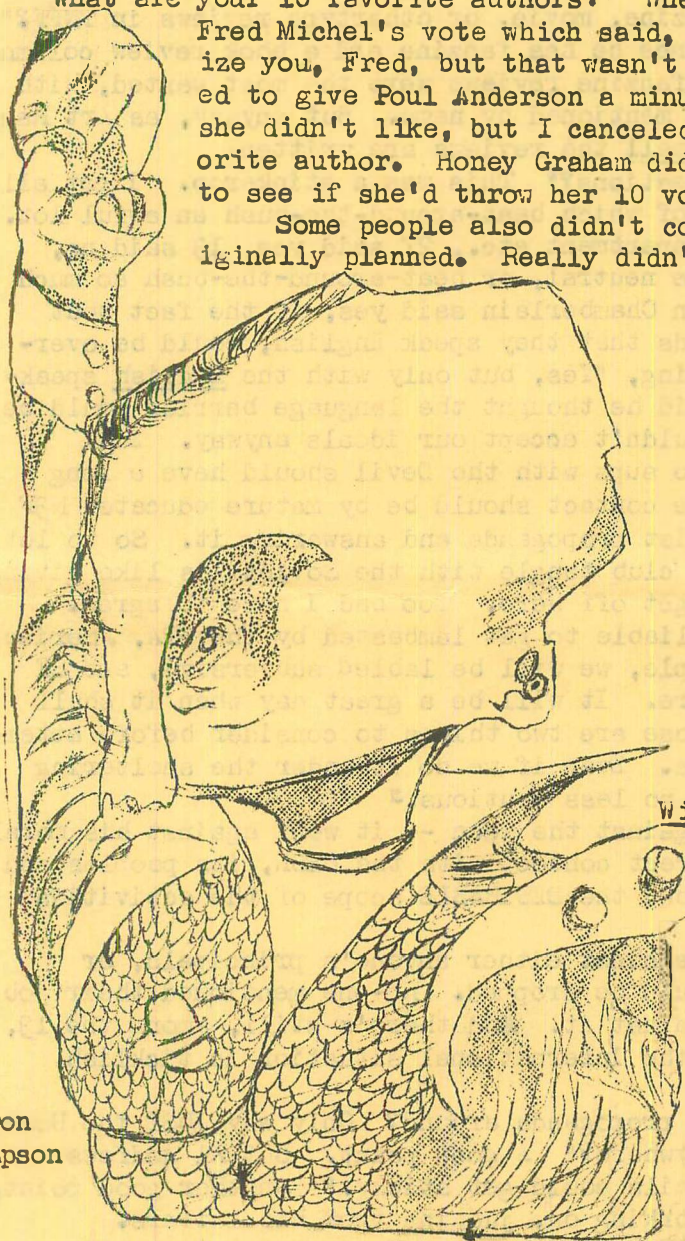
"What are your 10 favorite authors?" Whew. Here's the results, not including Fred Michel's vote which said, "All of them." I don't mean to criticize you, Fred, but that wasn't just what I wanted. Elinor Poland wanted to give Poul Anderson a minus vote because he was about the only one she didn't like, but I canceled it out with mine, 'cause he IS my favorite author. Honey Graham didn't vote, which was too bad -- I wanted to see if she'd throw her 10 votes to Rog Phillips.

Some people also didn't confine themselves to SF authors, as I originally planned. Really didn't matter though. They also didn't confine their votes to living authors. I too, am guilty though -- I cast the 1 vote for Sax Rohmer. But enough hack! Here're the results:

Asimov came in first with 32. Heinlein next with 24. Arthur C. Clarke came in with 14. Bradbury, Sturgeon, van Vogt, all had 13. Robert Bloch, Poul Anderson, and Eric Frank Russell tied with 12. Fred Brown -- 10. Sprague de Camp was alone with 8. The late H. Kuttner, Robert Sheckley, Murray Leinster, polled 7. Rog Phillips and Bob Silverberg (with Sam Salvin Knox pen-name votes added) had 6, along with Clifford Simak while Fred Pohl, Lester del Rey, Wilson Tucker, H.P. Lovecraft, and Kornbluth had 5, as well as Fritz Leiber. Getting down low now. Leigh Brackett, Richard Matheson, Philip Wylie, Henderson, H.G. Wells, scored 4. Alfred Bester, Chad Oliver, 4. Merritt, John Wyndham, John W. Campbell, Jr., Hal Clement, James Blish, Avram Davidson, Andre Norton, Charles Eric Maine, received 3. Rendall Garrett, George O. Smith, Philip Jose Farmer, H. Beam Piper, August Derleth, H. Rider Haggard, Raymond F. Jones, James Branch Cabell, Algis Budrys, Tolkein, Damon Knight, Judith Merril, Willy Ley, scored 2. And finally,

Northington, Clingerman, Jack Vance, Robert Howard, John Christopher, Gordon R. Dickson, D. Gordon, C.S. Lewis, John D. MacDonald, Sam Moskowitz, Robert Moore Williams, Everett Ruessell, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Julius Verne, Sheil, Macken, Wheatley, Dunsany, K.F. Crossen, Hugo Gernsback, E.C. Tubb, Harold M. Sherman, Richard Shaver, James McConnell, Wilson Kane, Slaughter, Wilmar Shiras, Rex Gordon, E.E. Smith, E.R. Eddison, Mervyn Peake, Manly Wade Wellman, Sam Merwin, Jr., Agatha Christie, Jane Austin, Marguery Sharp, Elizabeth, Charles Dickens, Max Ehrlich, Rebelais, Voltaire, Anthony Boucher, Huxley, James Gunn, Martin Greenberg, Schmitz, Katherine MacLean, A.B. Chandler, Catherine M. Moore, Nathaniel Hawthorne, McIntosh, Pangborn, Philip K. Dick, Mac Reynolds, Andrew North, Richard Wilson, Margret St. Clair, Charles Beaumont, Jack Finny, and Sax Rohmer.

WHEW!!!! What a job to collate!!



Don Simpson

Now let's try to see just what these results mean -- not including such authors as Charles Dickens. (REALLY, G.M.) As I see it, even placing on this poll was a G*O*O*D T*H*I*N*G. As those who tried it saw, it was difficult to narrow the field down to just 10 authors. I personally could have named at least 25 without even trying hard. So my personal conclusions are that all who even hit the poll are to be applauded, while all above 10 should have flowers. Incidentally, the results of the poll will be sent to pro editors. I thought they might be interested. I might also mention that I might make this into a yearly poll. However, next year I'll make some refinements on both this question and the next. Speaking of which.....

"11. Name your 5 favorite magazines." On this question, as well as the last, a few people went overboard and answered too many magazines. However, I've done no cutting. As you can see, not all the magazines are SF; again, I reproach those who answered in such an ungainly fashion. But anyway.... I might also mention that when defunct magazines were mentioned, I didn't bother to list the result. There were quite a few votes for Satellite SF, but I thought it was gone. I hope I was right -- but the number received was disconcerting. Anyway....

- 1 ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION -- 33
- 2 THE MAGAZINE of FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION -- 30
- 3 GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION -- 28
- 4 AMAZING SCIENCE FICTION -- 19
- 5 IF -- 18
- 6 FANTASTIC -- 8
- 7 SCIENCE FICTION STORIES (Also called the Original SFS) -- 8
- 8 FANTASTIC UNIVERSE -- 6
- 9 NEW WORLDS (British) -- 5
- 10 FLYING SAUCERS -- 3
- 11 SEARCH -- 3
- 12 FUTURE -- 3
- 13 NEBULA (British) -- 3
- 14 PLAYBOY -- 2
- 15 SCIENCE-FANTASY (British) -- 2
- 16 SATURDAY EVENING POST -- 2
- 17 SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES (British Edition) -- 2
- 18 ESQUIRE -- 1
- 19 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC -- 1
- 20 ELFINA (Swedish) -- 1
- 21 LONDON MYSTERY MAGAZINE -- 1
- 22 ELLERY QUEEN MYSTERY MAGAZINE -- 1
- 23 NATIONAL REVIEW -- 1
- 24 SPORTS ILLUSTRATED -- 1
- 25 VITAL SPEECHES OF THE DAY -- 1

"13. Will you purchase N3F letterheaded stationery?" 22 people said yes for sure. A few more said possibly or maybe. Everyone else said no. Eva Firestone said only if the skull picture is NOT on it. Ann Chamberlain wants it on the thinnest paper possible. Floyd Perley says yes, and then mentions some fan postcards that were put out by Perri Press in 1945. That would be by member Donald Dey. I personally don't know anything about them, though.

"Do you wish I wouldn't comment on letters?" Kibitzing is the word for it, really. This was actually an oddly worded question, but the results were gratifying. Thanks people. Both Joan Emerson and Jim Chambers suggested that I cut my comments down and just stick to the point, rather than prabble on, which is a G*O*O*D idea. I take up too much space, and I'm trying to cut them down. I just overflow, though.

"14. Have any suggestions for improvements?" We received quite a nice bunch of

W A N T E D

Merijane Johnson, 1011 E. Hoffman Avenue, Spokane 22, Washington, says she is looking for a copy (or copies) of the N3F 0-0 that contained her story "The Awakening of Clancy". She wants it only to make a copy, if it's wanted back, so she'll send it back. And if several people have unwanted copies -- all the better. It appeared late last year, or early this year. So help a good kid out -- eh?

suggestions. I'm sending a complete list to Ralph, in the hopes he'll publish it. But I'll briefly touch on some of them.

James Chambers suggests that we develop a department to handle the difficulties of foreign fans in obtaining US currency to pay dues.

Joan Emerson wants a column in TNFF that would act as a newsie in respect to the doing of fans and clubs outside NFFF. A sort of "Jr. FANAC", I imagine.

A bunch of people wanted more discussion on the subject of SF, and less looking down on the subject. However, others don't want NFFF to be so serious and take itself so seriously -- "be a club to have fun in," they say. In other words, be fannish. The two really aren't uncompeable! Let's try, hey gang? would

Bruce Pelz wants the publicity for N3F to be edited (which, of necessity, /be a hard job.) He says, "Edit the publicity for NFFF; loud-mouthed enthusiasm is worse than no help, particularly if the same loud-mouth is vehemently against some other branch of fandom, such as the Apas."

Dave Cohen suggests an N3F Prozine, and cites as an example, the one the London Circle had a few years back. This is an interesting idea -- especially since Chick Derry in FANAC #40 said he wanted to publish such a thing -- he has both offset and letterpress equipment available. Wonderful idea. I might mention though, for the real 'enthusiastic' people, that quite a large dues hike would probably be in order. I'll unofficially look into it, though.

Seems to be about all of the poll. The last two questions indicated that more polls were wanted, and I'd better think up ideas for questions myself. Ugh!

So that's all for this issue. Deadline for next issue is about September 15, 1959. I'm moving, as has been indicated before. Starting September 1, 1959 all mail, fanzines, etc., should be addressed to me at 4550 West Maple Road, Birmingham, Michigan. I might mention that this now puts three of our number in this one lonely li'l town. Ha!

Last issue I mentioned a fund to get the 'zines to the overseas members within a decent length of time. However, very few of these members bothered to make mention of this, or even write. As an ultimatum, either they write, or I'll revert to sending these by 3rd Class rather than 1st class. Clear?

Enuf said, except --

W*R*I*T*E*!*!*

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ALAN J. LEWIS -- EDITOR

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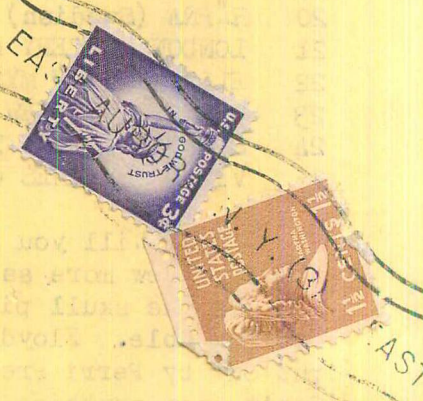
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