

RALPH M. HOLLAND

1899-1962

TIGHTBEAM 12

"if you don't write - you're actively wrong"

The official 'letterzine' of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. This issue edited by Ray C. Higgs, 813 Eastern Avenue; Connersville, Indiana

----- MARCH - 1962 -----

F A N D O M S A Y S

Ralph was the one indispensable man in NFF. He possessed unique qualities which fitted him for the post of President and he carried that office with outstanding success and ability.

ALBERT J. LEWIS, Director
and Acting President, NFFF

This sad news was a great blow to fandom. We are losing a great fan, a great fellow, and above all - a great FRIEND.

JO JO and RACY HIGGS, Editors
EXPLORER - I.S.F.C.C. 00

In losing Ralph, we have lost a genuine statesman, a fan who possessed the many personalities necessary to weld together the many activities of our organization into a functioning entity.

JACK HARNESS, OE - N'APA

PAT SCOTT
Box 401
Anacortes, Wash.

I find all this pother over what should or should not be included in a fanzine rather amusing. In the first place an editor is going to put whatever he jolly well wants to in his very own zine - for few (if any) fen are very much impressed by public opinion. Second place, that is only as it should be. You can't please everybody, and if you don't manage to please anybody you'll soon know about it. The same rules (or lack of them) should apply to TIGHTBEAM. The urge to conformity has shown its ugly head several times now in connection with TIGHTBEAM, and in my opinion this urge should be at all times nipped in the proverbial.

Is there anyone besides myself who would like to see a fanzine review column in one of the promags and hasn't entirely given the whole thing up as hopeless? If so how about a little concerted action on the subject? There are several mags who might consider such a feature if they were hit upon hard enough.

Why is it when talking about sf movies no one ever mentions THE NEXT VOICE YOU HEAR? Admittedly it was not ballyhooed as sf, but that was its good fortune. Good acting, good script, restrained underplayed treatment, but almost no one seems to have seen it. I also would highly recommend THE FABULOUS WORLD OF JULES VERNE. Anyone who has not seen this one is really missing something. There is one bit of a little man-powered sub that's worth the admittance price all by itself.

\$2.00 a year for dues does not seem to me excessive. By all means keep the membership year as it is - it is just asking for needless trouble to change.

EDWARD E. SMITH
Leesburg, Indiana

One of the drawbacks of the gypsy life is the unavoidable delay in communications. Thus, I didn't learn of Ralph's death until yesterday. Janie wrote me---for which I thank you, Janie---but it took that long for the letter to catch up with me here at Clearwater, Florida.

Ralph was a good man. He did a good job. With him it was never "What's in it for me?" but always "How best can I serve?" Modest, unassuming, able, dedicated; we will miss him tremendously. I hope that we can find someone big enough to fill his shoes.

I thank the membership for making me a life member. While it is of course expected of us old fogies to view with alarm and to point out that the younger generation is going to the dogs, I haven't been able to find much to grouch about. In fact, it seems to me that in the last couple of years the Federation has done more and has done it better than for many years previously.

That is particularly true, I think, of TIGHTBEAM---a name I like. The system of rotating editors, for some reason or other (I could mention a lot of possibilities, all of which could be wrong) has put life into it.

My temporary address until next Spring sometime is:
Skylark Mobile Home Park, Rt. 2, Box 708, Clearwater, Florida.

MIKE KURMAN
231 S. W. 51st St.
Miami 44, Florida

According to the circulation figures released by those four mags and printed in TB #11 by Lewis, ANALOG's still beating the rest. AMAZING and FANTASTIC made slight rises, but F&SF has now passed AMAZING in circulation with a huge jump. I dunno why -- the material in the mag isn't that good. Could be newstand distribution - just about every stand here has F&SF, but only about half have the Ziff-Davis zines. I imagine GALAXY's circulation is about 50,000; and IF probably is last. But I don't know for certain, as I haven't seen exact circulation

figures. AMAZING remains my favorite mag, with FANTASTIC trailing close behind. ANALOG has descended to third since 2 or 3 years ago -- the material has been getting progressively worse. Many have stopped reading ANALOG -- but my aunt subscribes and gives me her copies when she's done with 'em. GALAXY is fourth, then comes IF, and trailing behind at the end is F&SF, which has turned into a piece of s--t.

Censorship is getting quite bad now. Down here there are movements being made to take ERB Tarzan titles out of the public library. If this is passed (and there's a good possibility) the school libraries will follow suit. Something should be done about this. Now most of these books are in the children's section, and I can understand taking them out of there. But who put 'em there in the first place? They should be put in the adult section -- to remove them from this portion of the library is ridiculous for virtually every book there has some "cuss words" and many have ten times as much sex as anything Burroughs ever wrote. Some are even seven-day books -- which proves their popularity! The average adult seems to love this kind of book. And you'd be surprised to see the age group who regularly purchases "True Romances."

And not to ignore TIGHTBEAM #11 -- the cover was superb. But then anything and everything done by Bjo is usually Grade-A in quality. And 22 pages isn't SO small.....

CLAYTON HAMLIN
28 Earle Ave.
Bangor, Maine

Mighty nice seeing a letterzine with the Higgs imprint on it again. Can remember perfectly well how they were awaited back when I joined, 1958 that was. Of course the name was POSTWARP back then, rather than TIGHTBEAM, but there really wasn't too much difference in the content from what we have now. In fact, quite a few of the letter writers were the same ones that still seem to appear these days.

That sort of brings up a point suggested by Thomas Armistead in the last issue; just how come so few of them actually write for the letterzine? Al Lewis also adds something to this, when he stated that he printed all the letters that he received this last time, and still it only came to 22 pages.

No complaints understand, it was a fine issue, had lots of variety, all sorts of different viewpoints (which after all is the one thing that a member has to offer in a letter), excellent editing, and very fine repro. Can't ask for much more than that.

But there are SO many others that belong to this club, and they must have many fascinating things to say, they certainly do in personal letters.

Some names? Why sure. Bob Jennings, you write fascinating six and eight page personal letters, so should be able to find the time for a couple of pages for the letterzine. Larry McCombs, you above all could come up with something worthy of publication, and so could Lt. Dave Hulan. From a look at the entries in this story contest Jack Chalker and Charles Waugh should certainly be able to come up with something plenty interesting.

And it isn't just these newcomers by any means. Take a look at the roster that came out a while back, and you will find quite a number of members that must think pretty highly of the club, cause they are paid up for quite a few years more than is needed. Maybe they just don't have the time for this sort of thing, but they sure seem to have been around for a good many years, and these long term renewals would indicate that there is something of interest. Anyone like to wager they couldn't tell us all kinds of interesting things about how the club has changed, and why it is that they always seem to stick around, even if they are practically unknown to most of the members?

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Some names? Oh, Kaymar, and Eva Firestone. There is W.S. Houston

who is sort of a fabulous mystery man, I sort of wonder how many neo faneds have received actual cash money for their fanzines from him, even zines that they were going to publish, before they even come out. I had it happen, and certainly won't forget it. Take Conrad Peterzen who has been a member of this club for a long time now, even through times that membership dropped below 100. Then not so long ago I was reading an old issue of Captain Future, and there in the letter column was a letter from another member, name of George Raybin. Interesting letter too, I can tell you. Darrell Richardson, there is one who has been a lot of fans come and go and who certainly should be able to speak competantly about it all, better than modt of these upstart youngsters with two or three years behind them. I wonder if Winston Dawson, or Al Lopez or Floyd Perley are as much a mystery to you as they are to me? Shouldn't really be, they have been around for quite a few years. Speak up people, if you can find a spare moment.

In fact, if anything should come of this plan for a special 21st anniversery issue of TNFF or TIGHTBEAM who better to speak their piece about the clubs becoming of age than some of these who remember it when it was just a child? You listening Bob Farnham? Janie Lamb, Stan Woolston, Ralph, Ann? And though it is sort of ungrateful to ask a pro author to spend their time on something like this what fan could possibly ask for more than a few words from Doc Smith, or Dr. Keller, Wallace West, or the grand old man that gave fandom its reason for being started, Hugo Gernsback? In gratitude, sure, but these people are pretty special to our members.

Lots of newcomers too, and they can be mighty interesting as well. Jim Knotts, Eddie Bryant, Dave Locke, Bruce Robbins. How about it? Kris! Make yourself known. I'm sure no one will complain, in fact it may take them quite a while to recover from it.

It's not as though the letterzine isn't interesting at all, because it certainly is, as lots of members have made pretty clear recently. But just imagine what might happen. In spite of Al haLevy, who does indeed probably have good cause for complaints, there are a good number of fans around who most certainly do know how to write a fascinating letter. Granted, they are all to seldom members of the Welcomittee, when they are found the members that really appreciate letters are quick to involve them in all the personal correspondence they can handle, so Welcomittee becomes too time consuming for them. It is a tough problem, almost as difficult as how to write a personal letter to someone you don't too much about, it usually takes the exchange of a letter or even two before someone can adapt to the sort of thing that would be most appreciated by the new comer. There are so many things in fandom that it is hard to immediately decide that one special aspect of it is exactly what they want to find out about. This isn't the best way, but with a good majority of new members it works out pretty well, long enuf to keep them interested till they find out the particular people and activities that interest them most.

Can't have a letter without mentioning science fiction, so a thought for consideration. Guess we all appreciate the ones that come up with a style and type of writing that makes them big name writers, imitated by all and sundry. The Merritt's, John Campbell's, Doc Smith's, Kuttner's, Van Vogt's, and Hoineins, So just once lets put in a good word for those less famous ones that year after year turned out real competant work, not spectacular maybe, but an awful loy of fun, and in-massive quantity, and high quality. Ed Hamilton, Chet Geier, Malcolm Jameson, Ross Rocklynn, Nelson Bond, Jack Williamson, Jack Vance, and always and forever, one of the great ones, Murray Leinster. Believe me,

they are appreciated, or do you want to argue?

Now to all you good club members, how about writing a letter of your own, if you don't, you know what will happen. Just have to put up with more drivel from myself. But ah, won't that be the day, when my own regular letter is just forced out of this letterzine from sheer force of merit from the really interesting people in this club. Go rite ahead and do it, I sure don't mind.

RONALD J. WILSON
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Spokane 18, Washington

Anyone interested in the confused workings of a mundane mind?

It appears to me that most fen must have eased into fandom rather than being faced with it all at once. Therefore, some might find it amusing to learn how a neo (in the broadest sense of the word) reacted to the awing spectacle of stf fandom.

I have been acquainted with fandom since a chance notice of an editorial in F&SF sent me packing to the Seacon. It is significant to point out that I had no knowledge whatsoever that such a thing existed; for never in my seventeen years had I heard so much as a rumble of the movement. (This may be partly due to the fact that I live in the same state as Seattle which Al Lewis so aptly titled an 'outpost of civilization'.)

Upon my arrival at the convention site, I was confronted with the weirdest collection of homo sapiens I have ever seen. Immediately I became aware of the fact that everyone seemed to know everyone else. This was strange to me for their name tags listed everything from Potsdam to Birdland.

As I was standing in the lobby looking precariously at the of beards floating about, I was approached by what I took to be Our Man in Havana. This uniquely dressed individual was Walter Breen who, spotting my need for help, instantly took me under his wing for the duration of the convention.

From him and neo-loving FJA I learned about such fannish terms as BEM (sorry Pat) and saw that there actually was a certain degree of organization behind this seemingly chaotic affair.

The next three days were filled with wonderful experiences; one of the best of these being the acquisition of dozens of friends. I would like to state here in all sincerity that I have found no other group as warm and hospitable as the stf enthusiasts at the Seacon. The N3F Room graciously welcomed both Neffers and neos alike.

The Con was over too soon and I found myself temporarily out of contact with fandom. I applied for membership in the N3F and with the arrival of the membership package (which assured me that the N3F is a nonproforg) I saw the outlet for expression.

To me fandom is the linking factor for hundreds of individuals who, as thousands of individuals do not, know what science fiction really is. Why fandom is made up of the kind of people that it is remains a question. When my mundane friends ask me: "If fandom is so great, why haven't I heard of it?" I can answer: "It's great because you haven't heard of it." Fandom is the kind of thing that is found by people who are looking for it; people who have an interest in something so strong that they want to share it with others.

Fandom is a wonderful thing and it must remain relatively small and unknown to be so then I say more power to it.

DAVE LOCKE
P.O.Box 207
Indian Lake, N.Y.

Al haLevy's letter is well written and humorous, but his logic and facts break down simply because he doesn't know what the Welcommit-

tee is all about. I never sent him a welcomletter because I wasn't in the N3F at the time, so everyone can understand right now that there is nothing personal going on in this letter.

Now, the purpose of the Welcommittee is not to gain correspondents for the Welcommittee members. I suppose some of the group may be looking for more correspondents, but that isn't, or shouldn't be only, why they're in there. Why are they in there? Well, what is the name of the committee?

More experienced fans (like haLevy) can join the club and move immediately into club activity and projects. And they do this, and without anyone aiding them. Neos, however, have to be shown not only what there is to do, but how to do it. The Welcommittee provides this information -- that is their purpose.

On to the form-letters which haLevy mentions several times. They aren't a substitute for writing personal letters -- yhey're necessary and they serve a good purpose, and I'll continue using mine until all the information about the fanzine clearing house, Ms Bureau, round robins, N'APA, publishing-collecting-writing-drawing-correspondence, etc that is contained in it is covered in Franson's information booklets, or, until the booklets come out, in form-letters. The form-letters are not substitutes for personal letters, they are sheets of paper containing definite information and details that the neos are supposed to learn and that we must tell them. When all of these information booklets come out, we can drop the form-letters, but until then it is necessary that we use them.

And we are the only ones who use them, Al. We are not "getting them in reply." This quote, and the fact that you misunderstood the purpose of both the Welcommittee and the form-letters, indicates that you are not very well acquainted with the subject you are talking about.

We do have some people on the Welcommittee who write letters all day. We have some who seldom write. There are extremes in both directions. To each his own --- to me: FIJAGH; I spend on all phases of fanac a moderate amount of time. When I start exceeding my happy medium I start cutting down on fanac. I think that's the way it is with most fans -- probably even with most of those in the Welcommittee. As for some fans corresponding just to write letters --- I don't doubt it, every group has the right to a few oddballs. Fandom may abuse the privilege, but then neither you nor me nor any other fan has to write to anyone he doesn't particularly like. In a hobby you can pick and choose a little.

Personal letters. I always write one to the new member, and I do the best possible job that I can with the information that I've been given. What information are we given? Name, address, birthdate, occupation, length of time read SF, which fanac (writing, art, corresponding, pubbing and collecting) are you interested in, will you do pubbing, stencil cutting, corresponding, or clerical work for the club if asked, what typeface typewriter do you have (if any), and do you have any kind of duplicator. The amount of information we receive on a new member averages around 20 words. We can't turn out masterpieces, but most of us will try to turn out the best personal letters we can with the info we get. The first letter is the hardest, because we're writing to a stranger. If Mr. haLevy would give one of us a chance, I'm sure he would find a good correspondent.

Excellent job on the last TIGHTBEAM, considering that West Coast Al had to use every letter received. Good edit job, good layout, excellent cover.

What we need in TIGHTBEAM are a few good feuds to shake up the

dust and shake off the monotony. Why don't we recruit Willick or give him a free membership or something?

I'm only kidding.

RAY TREVINE
3875 Church Ave.
Fresno 25, Calif.

Membership dues are again due. When I read the NZF ad in the Seacon Report, it said dues were \$1.60 per year. All right, I sent in my dues, not expecting to have to pay until September or October of '62, whichever month I joined. I was surprised when I found out that I had to shell out another \$1.60. I'm not complaining. I'll happily pay up, but you should state what you mean by \$1.60 per year when you advertise - explaining that you don't mean a year from when one joins up, but from Jan. to Dec. no matter in what month joins - or am I wrong?

I am in agreement with Don Franson. It's a pretty good thing. I like the cover pic and all that, but I doubt if I'll ever use it. If asked I wouldn't decline it. Also, about A KEY TO THE TERMINOLOGY OF S-F FANDOM. There is another publication, or did you know - called GHU'S LEXICON which I received when I joined. I presume every new member did too - so what's the use of another similar publication. The money could have been used on another project.

Has anybody ever published a HISTORY OF PUBLICATION OF S-F MAGAZINES - or something on the order of - such and such mag started publishing in '45, changed editors in '46, ceased publication in '47, switched to Bi-Monthly in such and such a year and then monthly in etc. - that kind of stuff.

As to the TIGHTBEAM itself, I enjoyed it.

ANN CHAMBERLAIN
2440 W. Pico
Los Angeles 6, Calif.

Long time since we last exchanged letters, - how are you doing by NOW? The Chamberlains have put some roots down and feel much better than during the first year in L.A., but we could stand to be a lot richer, too. David has had to make frequent trips to the hospital -- cramps in his legs, varicose veins, lesions, - they said he isn't a neuro, just needed glasses..but HE knows how his nerves are...poor guy.

I've been lucky, picking up piece work I could do at home. Have been doing some gift items for a local gift shop. Last year I was doing long-hand addressing, and that was plenty of work, and I bought no diamonds with that money, either.

According to the latest astrological developments, an eclipse stellium will take place and really upset this old world. Five major planets in conjunction means things could get pretty serious. Mother nature is throwing the biggest book in the universe at us..fires, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, et al...and California is slated for earthquake also Japan and China. Mr. Krushev will be unenviable..his position is shaky by then, and someone will try to murder him and maybe they will achieve their object. Much more than this will happen all over...ALL the astrologers are agreed.

I am not going to look for a hole to crawl into, or worry one bit about whether or not I will be a survivor. What happens, happens. I will deal with whatever comes as best I can, like everyone else.

One of our new members, Bob Allison of Canada, has contacted a jeweler who will make NFFF emblem tie-bars and pendants, earrings and cuff-links, for one dollar each. How about that? He wants a guarantee of one hundred dollars worth of business, so it will be worth his trouble having the die made in which he will cast them in silver. So I hope to round up 25 members who will each order four dollars

worth, to get this show on the road. We'll be the first club in fandom with emblem jewelry!

ROY TACKETT

915 Green Valley Rd. NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico

First off note the address, particularly when you get around to addressing TIGHTBEAM 12. That's a permanent change there.

Ol' Tyrannical Al did a lovely job with #11. A very fine job, that. The Bjo cover is excellent. Nice that there is no lettering. Makes it suitable for framing.

Al haLevy's complaint about the Welcome Committee has some justification. It is true that the purpose of the committee is to extend the official hand of friendship to new members and this they do very well. The Welcome Committee does show the new members of the club that we're glad to have them as part of the membership. But, really, they don't say anything. When I rejoined the club last year after an absence of several years I received roughly a dozen welcome letters. They were all cheerful, friendly, and charming and with one exception utterly devoid of any information. The one exception came from Seth Johnson who passed along the info that Ann Chamberlain made Neffer rubber stamps, Esther Richardson made photo stamps, and the name of a stationery supply company that sold mimeo supplies at reasonable rates. I think that this is the sort of thing that the Welcomittee should tell new members. I'd guess that nine out of ten new Neffers are neos who would be most appreciative of these little bits of info.

This is sort of in line with Stan Woolston's suggestion about one of the uses of the Neffan News Service. If any of the members run across something that might be of interest to the rest of the membership, such as new sources of stationery or mimeo supplies, for example, they should pass the info along to Stan who could, in turn, see that the word was passed in the NFFF or elsewhere. Stan's suggestions all have merit as a service to new members.

Back to the Welcomittee for a minute, one of the things they might do is explain the NFFF to the new members. What the official set up is, what the directors do, the function of the various bureaus, etc. A letter saying "Welcome to the NFFF" in a loud voice may be very nice but it still leaves the new member completely in the dark about what he has tied up with.

Hmmm, Ol' Tyrannical Al, like Mercer, now has his own day. Refer, dear friends, to the Westercon plug and then proclaim it throughout the microcosm that the thirty-first of June shall henceforth be known as "Lewis' Day."

Ronel would seem to be quite correct in that the only times that TAFF really has news are at the beginning of the campaign when the winner is declared. Nevertheless there is a long, dry spell in between these two events when TAFF needs publicity. The Squirrel mentions the fundamentals of TAFF in his letter but how many of the newer fen know the history of TAFF? A suggestion for a bit of publicity is the annual or bi-annual publication of TAFF's history along with a list of the delegates. TAFF is one of the finest ideas ever conceived by fandom and certainly needs more publicity than it currently gets.

Something that fandom might give a bit of thought to is the possibility of changing TAFF to TOFF (Trans-Ocean Fan Fund) at some future date. There's some people in Australia who might make dandy delegates and Japanese fandom is beginning to emerge.

Bill Warren: Hooboy; you done hit a nerve. With me anyway. Call it science fiction, SF or stf and I'll smile happily at you. Call it "scifi" and be prepared to meet me at high noon with loaded plonkers. Scifi. Ecceh!

I'm generally in agreement with your list of good stf films although you've mentioned a couple I haven't seen. I'd add to the list the following: "Things To Come," "Metropolis," "King Kong," "Dr Cyclops" "The Invisible Man" (the Claude Rains version), "Frankenstein" and a couple of others that don't come immediately to mind.

James McLean: I can see no reason whatsoever for such a publication as the "Journal of the IES". Contributors to that particular journalistic mistake say that they need a place for the publication of their sometimes unorthodox ideas. Various vehicles for the publication of their ideas have been around for years. Stfzines.

"A Key to The Terminology of S-F Fandom" is a nicely done publication. The NFFF does well to sponsor such as this.

Raise the dues? Why not? Provided the raise isn't too outlandish. Franson's suggestion of \$2.00 per year or \$3.50 for two years isn't bad at all.

ARTHUR H RAPP
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El Paso, Texas

I'd like to make a few comments inspired by Al haLevy's letter in the January TIGHTBEAM. I'm not about to argue that he is wrong, that he should have been all thrilled and flattered by

the Welcommittee letters he received upon joining NFFF. Obviously he wasn't. The only viewpoint of his that I dispute is his implication that the Welcommittee is of no value.

Admittedly, the letters he received upon joining NFFF were of no value or interest to him. But how typical is Dr. haLevy of new members? He is, as Al Lewis' note at the conclusion of the letter attests, a prominent member of an active local fanclub, an experienced fantasy hobbyist, and widely known in some sections of fandom. To such a person, of course, the mere fact of getting a letter from another fan is hardly a thrilling experience. No one (least of all the Welcommittee members themselves) could be surprised at his reaction to their overtures.

On the other hand, he states that he joined NFFF on the assumption that it was a group of people interested in corresponding. Surely he is at least guilty of a hasty judgment when he subsequently dismisses the letter-writers as not worth corresponding with, without even answering any of their letters. Perhaps, by his standards of judgment, none of them are worthy of a reply -- but what in Roscoe's name did he expect, when to them he is only a name on the roster? They have no way of knowing, until he tells them, what his experience and interests are.

I'll concede that many of the Welcommittee letter-writers are noted more for the quantity of their correspondence than for anything memorable they say. Since this is a strictly volunteer activity, it naturally depends upon those NFFF members who find letter-writing a pleasure in itself. On the other hand, I'm sure that Dr. haLevy has, prior to this, joined various national organizations -- I wonder if in any of them, other than NFFF, he received a personal "welcome aboard" from his fellow members? Personally, upon joining various professional and scholastic organizations I've received nothing more than my membership card, issues of the official publications, and an occasional letter pleasing for contributions to some fund-raising campaign or other.

It must be remembered, too, that many (perhaps a majority) of new NFFF members are either newcomers to fandom, or geographically isolated from personal contact with any other followers of this hobby. To such people, the Welcommittee letters are the key that opens an entire world of enjoyment. From the correspondence begun with Welcommittee members, the new fan learns, eventually, how to enter into whatever specialized form of fanactivity appeals to his own interests and inclinations. And

it is this which justifies the existence of the Welcommittee, despite the indifference of the occasional person who has no need of their help in finding his niche in fandom.

Dr haLevy's most serious charge is his complaint against mimeographed form letters. His is not the first voice raised against this practice. The mimeograph is the keystone of fandom, but is no more suited for a personalized message than would be a public address system for exchanging dinner-table conversation. Now, even for the Welcommittee, the mimeo can be useful: I can visualise, for example, a member duplicating an essay on the organization of fandom and its various forms of activity in which a newcomer might want to participate. But this standardized information should be an enclosure to the Welcom letter, not the letter itself. (Of course, the letter could be reduced to a few sentences, saying "here's some information that might interest you," and so on).

In short, I believe the Welcommittee is ably performing a somewhat thankless task which is of immense benefit both to the NFFF and to the new members who are the targets of its efforts. If the Welcommittee did not exist, NFFF might present a more sophisticated appearance, but it would be a less friendly club.

Could the Welcommittee function be improved? I believe so. Back around 1950, when I was a Director of the NFFF, we provided the newcomers with material to pass on to the new members. These mimeographed enclosures were known as "Welcom Leaflets" and consisted of such things as a list of local fanclubs, a list of fanzines to which the members might subscribe, a checklist of prozine issues (of course, by now such a tabulation would run to many more pages than it did in those days), a list of stf authors and their pseudonyms (this was a very popular item), and a catalog of publishing supplies which could be bought by mail. I believe that, to newcomers in the world of fandom especially, such material is of tremendous interest, and difficult to obtain. These leaflets need not be elaborate, printed booklets, in fact, they should be produced as economically as possible, so that it is feasible to revise them as changes occur. Particularly to the isolated fan, such information is in itself worth the entire price of NFFF membership.

It must be remembered that no two fans are alike in what form of fanactivity they find most interesting and rewarding. Personally, I would be bored to death at the job of writing Welcommittee letters to people I'd never heard of before. But since there are NFFF members who are willing and able to provide such a service, I feel that they must be encouraged, and helped, not criticized.

And in conclusion, I hope that Dr. haLevy eventually found, in NFFF, some other features that impressed him favorably. If he didn't then we are falling down as much as if we failed to welcome new members. For NFFF is supposed to compass all types of fanactivity.

RICHARD C. FINCH
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Whittier, California

From Popular Photography for February, comes the report of a new wide-angle camera for 70-mm. to be used by Cinerama, Inc., to make movies with a 160-degree field of view. The camera will shoot the Cinerama feature to be shown at the Century 21 Exposition, Seattle, Wash., in April. The film will be of a simulated 12 minute space voyage, and will be projected onto a 75-foot in diameter, 8000 Square foot hemispherical screen partially surrounding the audience.

A book which I can recommend to everyone interested in peace in our time, and an end to war for all time, is: Towards a Science of

Peace, by Theo F. Lentz. There are no promises made, but good suggestions. That the suggestions are good ones is why I recommend this book. I believe this is a book that would interest Isaac Asimov.

Thinking of transoceanic fan funds, why not have a Trans Pacific Fan Fund? Not only bring fans from Japan, but from Hawaii, Tahiti, Burma, wherever fans are to be found in friendly Asian nations.

Seth Johnson tells me he has placed a 15 word ad to run for one year in both AMAZING and FANTASTIC mags for the Fanzine Clearing House. This requires that they (neo-fans and others interested) send one dollar for one bundle of fanzines. He requested that all of his fan friends and I hope this includes everyone in the club, as he has helped all of us indirectly, set aside their fanzines for 1961 that are in mint or near mint condition, and send them to him. I will ask those faneds I am in contact with to send copies of zines they haven't been able to sell or give away, and also new ones in bundles, preferably of 60 per bundle, and as many bundles as possible. Incidentally, faneds should come out ahead on this, at least in the number of new subscriptions.

Thinking of mail, a comment on junk mail. If something isn't done now, I can see the taxpayers paying freight on mail that wants us to attend a dance which took place the year before, and here we are on Pluto. Or buy now, this shinny 1985 auto, last year's model, and its 1990. Still in space, but on Mars. Might as well be on Pluto. Why don't we request that prices be raised on junk mail, instead of regular letters?

DONALD FRANSON
6543 Babcock Ave.
North Hollywood, Calif.

I never had the pleasure of actually knowing Ralph Holland in person though I saw him at the Solacon in 1958. However, through his letters and magazines I had

grown to like, respect and admire him very much. In the brief period I've been in office, we Directors have received many letters of valuable advice and encouragement from Ralph. We will all miss him.

For the benefit of anyone who is confused, I wish to clear up the matter of succession once and for all. The NFFF has no Vice-President, having abolished this office some time back, and so there is no "automatic" succession. The Chairman of the Directorate does not automatically succeed to the office of President. The Directorate votes, as soon as possible, to appoint a President for the remainder of the unexpired term. In the interim, the Chairman of the Directorate assumes the duties of administration, during which time, though still a Director and Directorate Chairman, he can't vote as a Director except on motions of appointments. Thus there is no vacancy in the Directorate.

The pertinent paragraph in the Constitution is very short, so it would be best to quote it here, so you won't have to look it up. (The complete Constitution is in the April, 1961 TNFF).

ARTICLE II - OFFICERS.

2. If, for any reason, the office of President becomes vacant the Directorate appoints a President to complete the unexpired term. Any interim administrative duties are performed by the Chairman of the Directorate, during which time he may not vote in his capacity as Director except on motions of appointments.

If it should happen that the Directorate votes to appoint one of the Directors as President, there will be a vacancy in the Directorate then. It has been customary, though it's not in the Constitution, for the remaining four Directors to elect a replacement. There is no "automatic" succession to Directorate either; this is only when a new Directorate has not yet taken office. At least two precedents are avail

able, the election of Art Hayes as Director in 1959 on the resignation of Larry Sokol, and the election of Albert Lewis as Director in 1961 on the declining of the office by Guy Terwilleger. There is no provision on the NFFF Constitution for special elections to fill vacancies.

TIGHTBEAM is a forum for the members, but it also may serve as a place for some sort of an unofficial report, in case anyone wonders "what are the Directors doing?"

The Directorate has been very active in its first month. Art Hayes as the outgoing Chairman has been most helpful, also Janie Lamb, the Secretary-Treasurer, and of course the President as mentioned above. Many subjects have been discussed and plans made, that do not show up in votes cast or in Directorate reports. More of an indication of activity would be a count of the official letters received by me (some of them as long as 11 pages) since being elected: 33. I wrote 8 others myself, none very short, all concerned with plans for club activity. These letters of course were carbons sent to all officers.

On the other hand, I haven't heard much from the membership, only Larry Crilly and Stan Woolston sending in suggestions. Of course, as I said, Tightbeam is the best place for suggestions, as well as complaints.

Now to comment on Tightbeam #11. Al HaLevy's complaint about the Welcommittee is old hat, but still valid. The only thing I have to add to it, or perhaps detract from it, is that the Welcommittee letters have been almost the only contact the new member has had, outside of the O-O. The additional printed literature should remedy this. Lest you think I am trying to make publishing the N3F's main activity (having criticized the Welcommittee for making new fans think correspondence is the N3F's main activity) I am not. Publishing has been underemphasized recently; I don't intend to overemphasize it.

I agree with Stan Woolston that an inactive member is still an asset to the club, since his dues pay for activities. A list of addresses which fans may write to for various services is in process of being compiled now, as the second Fandbook; primarily it will be a listing of clubs, but will include all sorts of things. I don't intend to let it get out of hand and get too big. Since many things change frequently in this line, it will have to be an annual pamphlet.

Though the subjects may have come up about the same time, any increase in dues should not be tied in with the increase in publications, since it is hoped that these will almost pay for themselves and not be a drain on the treasury.

Regarding Bill Warren's letter; there are so many new fans who start out in fandom talking about stf and soon something discourages them. Why so? Reading any discussion of stf is a pleasure to many, even if they have nothing to add or comment to make. Yet, the lack of comment by the stf fans, and the volume of comment by the fannish fans (saying we don't want to hear about stf) soon changes the neofan's attitude. Actually, though, the fact is that the stf fans do not comment because they are not the commenting type--would rather read than comment--read stf, or letters and articles about stf. But the impression the neofan receives is that "we" don't want to talk about stf -- "we" being the ones who comment, a minority in fandom, nevertheless. Thus another enthusiastic neo bites the dust, and fandom is the loser for the stf articles he might have written later if he had met encouragement rather than discouragement. What the neofan who quickly flies from stf fails to realize is that nowadays the hard core of stf fans is surrounded by a mantle of fans only slightly interested in stf; there are just as many stf fans as ever, but it takes some time in fandom to find

this out. So outsiders and newcomers see only a fandom which seems to be uninterested in stf. I'd like to see more stf in fanzines; not by trying to convert non-stf fans to stf, but by showing more stf interest on the surface. One of the ways to do this is by encouraging the stf enthusiasts who come in from outside. Seems like even the N3F could be more stf-minded. And, to prove my point, I have nothing to comment on in Bill Warren's letter.

Say, in addition to Archie Mercer's day, we will now have Albert J. Lewis's Day--June 31st. (See Westercon advertisement in the last Tightbeam.)

I approve the idea of James McLean to do something about the IES (I hope he has given up the other idea for good.) I am a member of the Interplanetary Exploration Society (so is Alma Hill). Unfortunately I haven't had the time to even read the last two Journals. I joined IES before I found fandom, which satisfies me now as a means of communication. I have a soft spot in my head for Santesson though, he edited FANTASTIC UNIVERSE and made it one of the most friendly-to-fans prozines before it folded. He was pleased with the complimentary copy of FANBOOK #1 I sent him.

Bradbury wrote a little stf, but not very much. So did Lovecraft, for that matter. But both should be considered fantasy writers. That is, if you don't consider Bradbury a mundane writer nowadays.

Index to SF Mags 1961 would have a further use I'll bet Al didn't think of. It would help in selecting the Hugo nominations, if it comes out in time. Short stories have gotten little serious consideration, possibly because people can't remember all the titles, off-hand, to nominate the best ones. An index would help.

I favor, to the extent of one page only (such as Kaymar sends in) ads in TNFF. Too many ads would be boring to many.

Nice of Clay Hamlin to lend out all his priceless magazines and books -- something I could never in the world bring myself to do. One result of his generosity is the Captain Future article in Bob Jennings' fanzine FADAWAY. Send for it, if you are interested in Capatain Future, and other good stf-slanted stuff. Address is: Bob Jennings, Box 1462, Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, Cookeville, Tennessee. He may be out of it, so write him for details. Regular sub rate is 15c or 4 for 60c, no larger subs accepted. Bob always has an interesting, stf-slanted fanzine, even if he does misspell Hamilton (in, of all places, a Captain Future article).

Racy, you have some good ideas for the convention, keep plugging them. Especially plug-worthy is the idea of good fanzines--one shots or regular issues--to sell or give away at the con. They are ambassadors of good-will for fanzine fandom--or if they are Neffer zines, for the NFFF. But, let me emphasize this: crudzines are just the opposite. Crudzines drive people away. I picked up a lot of NFFF zines at the Solacon intending to join N3F, took them home and read them, and didn't join. Two years later I joined because I felt I ought to support the club's efforts, since I was pretty deeply involved in all of fandom. But the impression I got at the con itself was favorable but studying the Neff zines turned me off, somehow.

It's a good idea to honor the charter members in some way, perhaps bring some of them back in the club. L.R. Chauvenet is active in fandom again. Other charter members still around or available are Henry Ackermann, Ray Bradbury, Larry Farsaci, Charles Hansen, Damon Knight, Dave Kyle, Bob Lowndes, Bob Madle, Elmer Perdue, Ross Rocklyne, Milton Rothman, Jack Speer, Dale Tarr, Bob Tucker, Harry Warner, Jr., Julius Unger, Art Widner, and some others I may have missed, in addition to

the three who are now members, Forry Ackerman, E.E. Smith, and Don Wollheim.

An NFFF get-together at the Chicon sounds like a good thing. I don't favor a banquet or lunch or anything--just a big meeting degenerating into a party. And for heaven's sake-- not at nine o'clock in the morning. Nine o'clock at night would be more like it. Plus a 21st anniversary edition of TNFF for the non-attendees, as well as to sell at the convention.

I don't think we should call it off because of the recent sad news. He wouldn't have wanted that.

ESTHER RICHARDSON
3627 N.W. 65th Court
Seattle 7, Washington

Sure swell sending you a letter once more Racy. Received TIGHTBEAM 11 yesterday and found it most interesting and thought-provoking. I can't recall if I

sent Al Halevy a welcome letter or not as I was away most of the summer and did miss some new members, but after reading his very snide, smug letter I hope I missed him. I wish to assure him that at no time during the few years I've been on the Welcome Committee have I ever sent any kind of a letter except a personal one. I always read the short notes of information about each new member, note the age, interests, etc. and then try to send that person the type letter that might appeal to them. From the many wonderful answers I've received time after time proves that my humble efforts must of been appreciated. May I suggest that Mr Al Halevy step down from his little glass pedestal and start mixing with the hard working, warm-hearted members of the Welcome Committee. He may be able to discover from us what the word "tolerance" means?????????????

I agree with Stan Woolston about favoring an "inactive member over no member at all." After all, why wouldn't their dues be as much help as the real active member? Speaking of dues, I think it would be a good idea to charge two dollars when first joining and then go back to the dollar sixty a year.

My compliment to BJO on her clever cover on TIGHTBEAM - 11. I am very fond of her style of art work.

I thought "A KEY TO THE TERMINOLOGY OF S-F FANDOM" simply wonderful. I would of been tickled pink to of gotten something like that when I first joined the N3F over five years ago. I had just discovered Science Fiction and all of the new expressions had me baffled. I told Eva Firestone this and she was kind enough to take time out and write down by hand many of the different S F abbreviations and I about have worn out that particular sheet of paper looking up the different explanations. Thank you a thousand times Donald Franson and co-workers for sending me your FANBOOK No. 1.

Bill Warren left me pop-eyed and breathless after reading how many books he has read. Am trying to figure out how he does all of that reading and keep up with his school work??? He must be one of our out of space wonder men that has slipped through incognito??

I really enjoyed TIGHTBEAM No. 11 Al Lewis. You did a wonderful job.

JERRY POURNELLE
4314 Roosevelt Wy NE
Seattle 5, Washington

Unlike many "neofans", I see no reason for rushing into lettercols the day after enrolling in the ranks; but TIGHTBEAM #11 was so well done that I feel that I should add

my commendations to the others that undoubtedly will be pouring in. The cover was an actual work of art, the zine was excellently laid out, highly legible, the comments short and to the point with a minimum of

esotericism, in short #11 rates superior on all counts.

I should like to add my comments on the general controversies raging in TIGHTBEAMS 9,10 and 11, namely, dues, the nature of Tightbeam, and the creation of an N3F genzine. First, I don't think that a hike in dues to \$2 annually would hurt anyone. I do think that a raise in initiation fees would hinder recruiting. I am sure that I have received \$2 worth of goods and services from N3F since I joined. I have only seen 4 issues, but I think (except for an illegible one) that TIGHTBEAM is just what it should be now. Why change it?

As to genzines, why not solicit contributions from any and all interested; form a special committee of all those willing to donate time and effort to starting it; and fire away. If it becomes more or less self sufficient, then there is no problem. If not, those who wanted to start one have had their fling, and it didn't work. The command structure is simple enough. The Directorate of N3F has two choices--appoint an editor acting as publisher, or appoint a publisher who will appoint his own editorial staff. A portion of the zine should be reserved for Directorate or Presidential material, the rest under the control of the Publisher or editor. This is the normal way of handling such situations. An editorial board with say six members, two appointed by the Directorate, two by the President, and two by the four so appointed, with a rotating scheme of retirement--staggered terms, I mean--is another way out, but they would have to appoint either an editor or a publisher to be able to get any work done.

I would like to thank all those on the Welcomittee who sent me letters, especially Marijane-- even those two or three who sent me unreadable mimeo'd "personal" letters with a meaningless scrawl in handwriting on the back. Makes me proud to be a member. Seriously, I haven't time to answer all the letters, and I hope that at least this part of my letter gets in TIGHTBEAM...thank you one and all for your letters.

A couple of years ago, I read an editorial by Campbell calling for a gentleman amateur science group. I thought it a splendid idea at the time, but until it was mentioned as IES in TB #11, I had given no more thought of the group. I am glad to know that it is alive. If, as indicated in McLean's letter, it is in serious trouble, I think that all fandom should be interested in keeping it alive. As a professional scientist, more or less-- I can assure each and every one that a well-spring of ideas from outside the profession is exactly what we need, that a fandom of science as Campbell's editorial suggested would be of great value. Some of my stuffier colleagues may not be willing to admit that, but I think most would if pressed.

Now we have, within the ranks of the professions, nutty people whose sole purpose is to generate ideas. They usually do, profusely. Most of their output is sheer nonsense, but if it is all filtered and sorted properly, some of the best material comes from them. Unfortunately, people like that usually come in repulsive packages. No one can get along with them, after a while no one bothers to listen and sort, and soon they are off in a corner, babbling. Complete disintegration follows. Their problem seems to be that they don't--and of course can't--sort their own material, and think their inanities as valuable as their other work. And often they want charge of laboratories, staffs, equipment, etc. If it be given to them, the result is inevitably--in my experience--disaster.

Therefore, gentleman amateurs, who work from outside the profession, can, if they have channels of communication leading from them to the pro's, and from the pro's to them, be immensely valuable. They don't suffer from the same defects that our repulsive Brownian idea men do; they cost less; and are less intimately associated with others. Also, as

it is a hobby, they are quite likely to be less repulsive, in fact, can even be likable, I think. Incidentally, there are those who think I fall in the repulsive generator category. Luckily, not everyone does. I have written McLean offering my services. I urge all who are even remotely interested in the problems of the future to do the same. IES is not only potentially powerful, it or something like it is vitally necessary.

BILL DONAHO
1441 - 8th St.
Berkeley 10, California

Bill will serve as the next editor of our letterzine- TIGHTBEAM- so please note his address, and send him your letter for the May issue. Remember the deadline for the May TIGHTBEAM is APRIL 21, 1962.

C H I C O N III - The 20th Anniversary World Science Fiction Convention will be held in Chicago at the Pick-Congress Hotel, August 31-September 3, 1962. Guest of Honor will be Theodore Sturgeon. Send \$2 to George W. Price, PO Box 4864, Chicago 80, Illinois.

W E S T E R C O N XV The Fifteenth Annual West Coast Science-Fantasy Conference will be held at the Alexandria Hotel on June 31 and July 1, 1962. Guest of Honor will be Jack Vance, and Fan Guest of Honor will be Alva Rogers. \$1 gets you a membership, progress reports, etc. Send your dollar now to William B. Ellern, Treasurer, Westercon XV, P.O. Box 54207, Terminal Annex, Los Angeles 54, California.

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