

This is page two of T I G H T B E A M number 15, the Official Letterzine of the Official Letterhacks of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. This issue is the September 1962 issue of the publication, and if you can't say anything else about it, you can at least say it is late, current Pacific Standard Time being September 30, 1962.

This issue is being published by Wally Weber, box 267, 507 Third Avenue, Seattle 4, Washington. The NOVEMBER issue will be published by:

Donald W. Anderson
141 Shady Creek Road
Rochester 23, New York

The deadline for the November issue is as soon as possible, so by all means do not hesitate. Hack now and think later.

I have here in my heated little palm a letter that you will not see in this or any other issue of TIGHTBEAM, but I will quote a paragraph from it, awkward though it is to type with a letter in my palm. The paragraph goes as follows:

"Art Rapp has appointed me to publish the January issue of TIGHTBEAM, but so far I haven't received a copy of the issue that was supposed to be out this month--if possible, would you please send me a copy as soon as possible? I'm trying to get an accurate picture of how this issue is published, and can only do so by studying previous and present issues."

The return address on the letter was Lee Riddle, 144 Elkton Road, Newark, Delaware. If memory can be trusted, Lee was publishing an excellent fanzine titled, Peon, about the time I first heard about fandom. Lee admits he hasn't been around fandom for $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, so you guys out there bring him up to date on how TIGHTBEAM is published.

AFTER you've written to Anderson for the next issue, I meant!

Letters this issue have been printed with a minimum of cutting. Only my typos have been added for flavor and that personal editorial touch. Don't expect Anderson to do the same. And certainly don't expect Lee Riddle to do the same in the January issue; he's had $4\frac{1}{2}$ years to relearn how to type and spell and punctuate and edit.

Aside from feeling a trifle sheepish at being so tardy (but not too sheepish, since being tardy is a trademark of mine), I've had fun this issue and want to thank Art Rapp for the chance to publish it. Maybe I'll actually thank him someday. Even better, maybe I'll even publish this someday.

Pages 3 thru 14 were typed on Hercules stencils manufactured for use on Gestetner duplicating machines; all the rest were typed on Gestetner number 62 white stencils. In all cases, stencils were typed with a Gestetner typing plate backing and a plastic film cover. The text was done on a Royal standard typewriter, age unknown other than that it is well past its prime, and the letter headings and the snide comments at the bottoms of pages were typed on an even older, practically prehistoric IBM Executive typewriter owned by Jim & Doreen Webbert. The cover heading on the cover was stencilled with an A.B.Dick lettering guide number 686 and an A.B.Dick stylus number 472 using a Gestetner writing sheet for stencil backing. The illustration on page 14 was traced with the same stylus and backing sheet and using an H.E.Geist Co. Slide Sorter for a light table, then retraced with a 39¢ Scripto ball-point pen in an attempt to improve the lines. This issue will be run on 20 lb Exact Mimeo paper with black 217 Gestetner ink on a model 120 Gestetner. This is a Fenden Publication (this time). --Wally Weber

Roy Tackett

915 Green Valley Rd. NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico

25 July 1962

W. Wastebasket Weber,

Not satisfied with hacking up letters in CRY, eh? Gonna have a go at butchering the letter hacks in TIGHTBEAM. [Yes. We'll start with (ugh) you. WWW]

Letter to TIGHTBEAM #15:

Dear Tight:

Quick! Report it to HLGold. He's right. I tell you there are aliens among us.

Or else 915 Green Valley (anybody think of a good fanname for the place?) is haunted. Which doesn't seem likely since it is a new house and nobody's died here yet.

It's like this.

'Tother night the water-softener regenerated itself (which is more than you can do, Weber, you unregenerate you) and somehow or other the drain stopped up and overflowed and, of course, flooded the utility room and the kitchen. Now, by Ghu, Roscoe, and other fannish deities, when we retired for the night all was well but when I got up in the early ayem to let the dogs out and found the place adrift there in the middle of the floor was the envelope Ol' Tyrannical Al had sent me containing the mailing labels for TIGHTBEAM #14. Nothing else.

I managed to salvage a few of the labels but most of them were ruined.

Now then, answer me this: how did the envelope full of mailing labels get out of the desk drawer and into the water in the middle of the floor? Can it be that someone worked a spell? Are there dark forces plotting against the N3F? Quick, Hamlin, Hayes, and other adepts, delve into this mystery. Perhaps by concerted effort we can stave off the powers that performed this vile deed.

And as for you, Bob Lichtman of 6137 South Croft Avenue, and you, Lady B. Hutchins of TCU (are you a Texas Christian, Lady B?), I have only one thing to say to you two and that is this: There ain't nobody named Bill Wolfenbanger.

Roy

Pat McLean

P.O. Box 401, Anacortes, Wash.

July 14

Dear Roy; TIGHTBEAM,

Don't know if this will make it in time - but would like to say that birthday card designs with a sfional slant are needed. Last I heard Art Hayes was holding the designs and looking for help (proolly). Trouble seems to be twofold:

A. Lack of designs.

B. Lack of somebody to repro what designs there are.

I'm sure the latter can be taken care of if the artists in N3F will solve the former. I've gathered up promises for a few (done some myself, of course) and am harrying the landscape in general for more (designs, that is, artists). Please send birthday card designs to Art Hayes -- he may not like it -- but if not he can send them to me -- then I shall hold them and weep, proolly, cause I've got no mimeo (sob).

Regards,

Pat McLean

Send letters for November TIGHTBEAM to Donald W. Anderson at 141 Shady Creek Road, Rochester 23, New York

Gary Labowitz (and Gary Labowitz again)

8233 President Court, Kansas City 31, Mo.

First let me say the artwork (shud it be Art and Nancy Rapp-work?) is much better than I have ever seen it in N3F.

The WC has always been a sore spot in N3F but never because of its activity. I can remember the days when there was no WC and the problem was to get people interested in writing new members. The fuss by an oldtimer of having received a letter too "basic" for him seems artificial at most. I myself would consider it a pleasure to see such letters. When I first joined N3F I did not get welcoming-explaining letters. I just waded in -- and drowned. My having been O-O and Director before I could walk had a lot to do with my dropping out again when I went to college and got married.

At the time, also, confusion reigned. The president was in the middle of a feud and the whole thing ended up with his disappearance, taking the treasurer as his bride and the club treasury as a vacation bankroll (honeymoon). If it were not for some steady heads (Stan, Eva, Kaymar, Ralph, and later -- Art) the ship might have sunk.

But as they must have known, fandom is a hearty group. When deadwood accumulates it must be cleared away. And once it is cleared away fandom grows and prospers again.

True, an editor of a mag can publish what he wants. But TB is not one man's mag -- it belongs to the club. Take note Art and use a little more editing pencil on those letters that border on bad taste. And the rest of us could use a little restraint and good taste in our writing at all times. It only takes a little slip to sink N3F. Nuff said.

Sure happy with Fandbook 1. To none of us who went through the arguments and discussions concerning these terms are the definitions quite how we might have defined them. Overall, a great job. If done without reference to Fanspeak, Ghu's Dictionary, The Neofans Guide, et. al. it is a remarkable job. If with, why the arbitrary dropping of some terms? Most prominent among the missing: Ackermanese, Gafmoi, and LMJ. There are probably more.

Will write again. Let me hear from you all.

Keep smiling,

Gary

Now, dear readers, here is an example of a man who sticks to his word. He said he would write again, and just a few days later the following letter appeared in TIGHTBEAM's wandering mail box. WWW

Dear Wally,

It seems like I just wrote to Tightbeam. Somehow or other, N3F has managed to make me write twice in two weeks. I don't like this. No one should be that active. Costs too much postage.

"Included in this of TIGHTBEAM will be a questionnaire." So it was in between page 2 and 3 maybe? If you promise, Racy, you gotta deliver. Or else don't promise! This is true for all the rest of you not deliverers out there that are presently snickering behind your beards. (Oops, sorry Eva, didn't mean you.) Why is it that when people join this group they tell us (through the questionnaire) that they correspond like crazy. When time comes to write one letter that will go to the entire membership (saving them a great deal of postage) they aren' around. Well, you can't legislate against human nature and this isn't an ape so there are no requirements for fanac but it seems that those not writing (and getting written to) are missing a lot of the benefit of being in N3F. So much for lectures.

However, Racy, if you will send me a couple of questionnaires (no, I'm not stuffing the ballot box, I happen to have a wife who is a fan also, a femme) I will gladly fill them out.

Aside to Les Nirenberg: You might not be a good guy to know, too. Things like that depend on your outlook. For example, John Campbell doesn't like people competing with him for the meager output of sf -- at \$1-\$7 per throw.

Wilson: Ron, I personally thought Canticle for Leibowitz was not only an outstanding book, but a well thought-out statement of which way the world is going. As such, it ranks with more "mature" works that deal with science. For example, there is still the controversy as to whether or not "The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus" is sacrilegious or not. Before you bring up Canticle as a case in point of sacrilege please take a little longer and more probing look. Authors' motives are very difficult to judge when they work with conscientious effort. If it were not so I could have spent much less time on the two above mentioned works. As well as many others.

Bryant: Only 80 or 90 to complete a pb collection! Egad man, I am willing to buy your duplicates, but pray tell how you got such a thing! Of course, I sold most of mine a couple of years ago (during a fit of gafmoi) and destroyed my cross-indexed files. However, I am busy building it back up again. Would sure like to trade you my collection for yours even, if what you say is true.

With a parting shot at those who don't write and a resounding "hazzah" for those who do I will leave you alone.

Keep smiling,

Gary

Robert P. Brown

1484 Elm Ave., Long Beach 13, Calif.

Ye Ed of Tightbeam:-

References to Letters pertain to those in TB 13.

That sketch accompanying Dave Vanderwerf's letter brought on the chuckles and reminded me of how I felt a few years ago when, reading some fanzines that I had picked up. Actually, it was only after reading Fancyclopedia II and Fandbook 1 (recently obtained), that the remaining "mysterious" terms were clarified.

Pat Scott's letter seems to have the best suggestion so far in reference to WC goofos.

Larry McCombs idea about biographical sketches of BNF sounds good.

Several neofans have mentioned the fact that in spite of the mimeoed greetings, the friendly feelings expressed by the welcoming committee was pleasing to them. Belong(ed) to a number of different organizations, and even the philatelic groups send only a printed form of welcome after the dues go in. Some groups do not bother sending that much. Soooo, more power to the welcome committee, even with the occasional goofs.

In other fanzines, have noticed the occasional outburst against Shaver, Dianetics, metaphysics and Campbell's push of Psi, etc., etc. Almost forgot the flying saucers and RAP.

Was under the impression that Fandom as a group was noted for openmindedness. Far horizons and all that sort of thing. Don't get me wrong now - am not claiming that one has to believe all this stuff. But, some of the items take an extremely caustic attitude when writing about these off the trail ideas. Not too familiar with the Shaver material but have contacted people and groups involved with the other ideas mentioned. Oddly enough, they think they are openminded and those outside of THEIR group are not so. HMMMMM, interesting, isn't it?

The following incidents will give some idea of the "mundane world" reactions.

Usually take a stack of SF mags aboard ship with me. About half way across the Pacific, the gang runs out of reading material and someone invariably comes up to the radio shack to ask me if I have any magazines to spare. They will take

US News, Readers Digest, and various other general magazines without question. However, the reaction on seeing the SF mags is a common one. "You read that JUNK?" Or -- "I knew radio ops were supposed to be crazy; now I know it." Wondering what the reaction will be to some of the Fanzines that I will be taking along in the future?!

Get this one. Had laid aside Dr. Mays book, Man's Search For Himself, while copying a weather report. The skipper came by, took a glance through it, and pityingly commented; "You don't want to read that sort of stuff Sparks. My brother used to read that ~~z/zp~~ crud and he ended up in a straight jacket."

Best

Bob Brown

Michael La Rochelle

1894 Eloise Avenue, Pleasant Hill, California

August 7, 1962

Dear Editor, or Wally, or Whatever,

Ah, my first letter to TB. I would have written to TB #14, but nothing in TB #13 provoked me to write a letter. TB #14 is a different matter though. I find plenty to comment on; like:

Paying \$1.00 to enter the story contest isn't good at all; that is, just to find your story at the bottom of some meentions list. If that's the kind of story you write, I don't blame you for not wanting to pay the buck. WWW One can write to a prozine and find out if he's made it or not; rejection slips are certainly free, I can testify to that. And then again, if your story is good enough to be printed in a prozine, why pay \$1.00 to find that out? Just send it in to a prozine, and then they pay you, a much better arrangement for the author.

And then DAVID HULAN'S letter comes to mind; he states that the purpose of the Welcommittee is to welcome the neo into N3F, give him a few tips, and then drop him cold. I can't quite go along with this. Ask any neo and he'll tell you that one of the main values of the Welcommittee is that you get a lasting friend and correspondent. I think instead of just having people writing and giving a few tips to a neo, the Welcommittee should encourage a long correspondence. And as for writing a letter to a stranger being hard, I must disagree. Ann Chamberlain is one of the best welcomers I've ever seen; tell the neo about yourself, let him get to know you, ask his hobbies, his profession, etc. My Good God, there's half a million things you can say to a neo; but I am on Dave's side on one point; let the neo ask you questions in the second letter or so. Telling him to write to certain people in your first letter is confusing to the poor, tired neo. Remember, neo-fen are only a little short from being human, and that first letter with a dozen or so names in it tend to make the neo feel like jumping off the Golden Gate Eridge.

JANIE LAMB stated that a new member got "Who's Who in SF Fandom Index to Zines, etc." Both that I mentioned I never received, so what gives? I guess that just goes to prove you aren't very new around here. WWW

The cover of TB #14 was the best I'd ever seen. I found TB 13's cover nothing special. So what do the rest of you see in it?

HERBERT BODENSCHATZ'S letter touched a warm spot in my heart -- SF MOVIES. When I joined N3F, I knew that its prime interest was literature, not the movies, but why, I don't know. SF movies, being seen by many of the public that don't care too much about sf influence the opinion on sf greatly. My idea was a club within a club; a special section of N3F reserved for those who watch sf and fantasy movies with relish. What are your ideas on my idea:fen? Write me and let me know; if I receive enough response on this idea to make it seem a success, I'll write Art Rapp and ask his official statement on the idea.

In Roy Tackett's editorial in TB #14, he states that fantasy is practically forgotten, and he's right! Why I enjoy fantasy more than I do stf, and I think

that fantasy should be brought back to at least the same level as stf. After all, isn't the name of this club the NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION?

Well, as my closing statement I'll just say that Roy did a great job on TIGHTBEAM #14, and that he deserves all credit due.

Fandomly yours,

Michael La Rochelle

Jerry Webb

Cottage 15, Boys Town, Nebraska

August 8, 1962

Dear Wally,

I am a resident of Boys Town, Nebraska, of which, I suppose, you have heard. Originally I come from Minnesota.

Since I have been in Boys Town I have heard of an incident that would make humorous stf reading. I plan to write it up and send it to Dave Vanderwerf's zine, the Fen Pen.

Being the only N3F member in Nebraska, I have been feeling mighty lonesome, but I am working on getting a few others to keep me company.

I want to thank all the members of N3F who have thus far begun a correspondence with me. I want especially to thank Janie Lamb and Dave Vanderwerf, also Ann Chamberlain and the other members of the Welcommittee.

Fantastically yours,

Jerry Webb

Frank Stodolka

13508 Smith Drive, Hopkins 26, Minn.

Aug 12, 1962

Here's a letter from one of those neos that David Hulan had the gall to speak so darned efficiently and practically about. (While you're taking a bow, Dave, you mind if I kick?).

I think Roy Tackett did a great job on the last TIGHTBEAM. His comical editorial comments at the beginning as well as the sharp criticisms that he managed to stick in edge-wise so skillfully (a practice I will soon have to master) really sent me. Chrys Tackett, by the way, did a dandy job on the cover, but somehow I think that that octopus would look better if it were right-side-up and not upside down. Somehow this rather funny position tends to distort what I believe to be a very serious symbolical theme.

Frank Hillers suggestion about the fund for fans who haven't got enough money to pay for membership fees and such sounds good to me. Besides depending on fellow Neffers as source of names for the list of needy potential members, I vote that we elect a separate committee which would both take care of fund raising operations as well as doing a little "detective work" in order to find people who've heard of the N3F but haven't been able to join.

I second Ron Wilson's defense for Heinlein's (Bow) STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND. Any person who thinks that book is dirty should read some of the crud that's been coming out of France lately. If you think their MOVIES are dirty, then some of their BOOKS will really send you (straight to the nearest garbage can to get rid of that trash, that is).

Well guess that is all for now Wally (??Wastebasket??). [?!WASTEBASKET!! -

WWW/ Keep up the good work!

Sincerely yours,

Frank Stodolka

National Fantasy Fan Federation memberships can be renewed by Janie Lamb, Route 1, Box 364, Heiskell, Tennessee.

nag nag

Donald Franson

6543 Babcock Ave., North Hollywood, California
(Letter for Tightbeam. Don't lose it like you do Cryletters.)

August 11, 1962

Dear Wally,

Roy Tackett is wrong when he says that "fantasy is rarely mentioned," these days. It has practically taken over the prozines, as well as fandom. Really now, Roy, aren't all these specialty clubs in fandom like Hyborian Legion, Fellowship of the Ring, etc., all, all fantasy-oriented?

As for the name, in the old days "fantasy fan" meant both sf and fantasy fan. Now "science fiction fan" means both. Yes, it does show how old the club is, but it does not show that the club was once only a fantasy club, or that fantasy interest has decreased. The NFFF name could be changed, but it isn't too bad (except for a science fiction fan to explain that fantasy means imagination, not hallucination). Every term in it, "national", "fantasy", "fan" and "federation" has been challenged as a misnomer. The name "International Science Fiction Correspondence Club" would be so much better and more accurate, for the N3F, that I wonder if the ISFCC would consider letting us borrow it?

Seriously, it's possible that a merger would benefit both clubs, anyway. This has been brought up before, so I see no harm in bringing it up again. Tightbeam is supposed to be the place where you bring up all kinds of ideas that are only in the wondering stage. The only thing to remember is that these are only trial balloons to be punctured.

I will proceed to puncture someone else's trial balloon, Frank Hiller's proposed fund to pay dues for members who can't afford it. The deserving members who can't afford dues, and either contribute something else valuable to the club, or get a lot of deserved pleasure out of membership, can be counted on the fingers of one hand. This fund is not necessary, and would be an invitation to chiselers and freeloaders, who, in the final analysis, do not appreciate free membership anyway. Also, I don't see that anyone, who doesn't have real problems like those few I mentioned, is so badly off that he can't afford 4 cents a week. Come now. If you want to do something for the N3F, contribute something directly or indirectly to the Treasury, or pay dues for someone you know, as is being done now by some. I don't believe in setting up a charity board with all its problems. The N3F has enough problems.

Non-renewals are a big problem. Those who don't pay dues shouldn't get benefits which are paid for by dues, isn't that simple? Yet year after year, delinquent members are carried past the first of the year, at a loss to the club. It used to be that generous OEs carried them for two or three issues, or even till mid-year, but this has been stopped. It's a special problem of the calendar-year system, because all of the memberships end at the December issue, theoretically, and non-renewals should not even get the February issue, or even the January Tightbeam. But they do, don't they, and who pays for them? The Treasury. Yet, if they were cut off, there would be complaints, and also circulation would be smaller of these issues. This is one of the reasons why I advocated changing from the calendar year system to a membership year system, so there wouldn't be so many drop-outs at once. If we must keep the calendar year, we should have some other means of encouraging renewals ahead of time, so that it wouldn't be so much of a problem for the Secretary-Treasurer and the OE at the beginning of each year.

This is why I moved that we set up a Renewals Committee, to study the recurring problem of renewals, and find means to encourage them. (This has been called a Non-Renewals Committee, which is a negative attitude. We have always treated the problem of non-renewals; we waited until they didn't renew, and then reminded them.) Wouldn't it be a better idea to encourage renewals before the

end of the year? Like continually saying, "Why don't you send in your renewal for 1963 now, instead of waiting for the last minute, making more work for the Secretary, worrying the officers no end that you are going to drop out?" Well, why don't you?

A more concrete inducement would be some kind of benefit for early renewals. We always (or usually) publish a roster in October. How about giving some small benefit (not necessarily club-financed; perhaps there will be donors) to all who are listed on the October roster as paid for the following year? It would behoove anyone to get his renewal in early and get the benefit. There could be a choice of benefits; however, not something so valuable that one who lost out on it would quit the club in disappointment.

Another idea would be to restrict voting to those who renew by October. (Don't get in an uproar, this is only a suggestion). Doesn't it seem logical that those who aren't going to be in the club the following year should have no say in who are officers then, or what the constitution should say? We already have a rule that candidates must be paid up for the next year (the year they are running for; seems logical, doesn't it?) before they can file for office, so that the club will not have to drop them for non-payment of dues at the same time as the new officers are installed, making it necessary perhaps to select someone else. It doesn't seem right that a prospective non-member should elect officers for the next year. However, this would run into constitutional difficulties, I suppose, and I'm not sure that voting privileges are too much of an incentive anyway, since the membership doesn't half care to vote (last election only about 115 voted, according to my estimate.)

I wonder if Stu Hoffman could publish the names of the voters (not who they voted for, but who voted) in his election report? They do this in fanzine polls, and in TAFF, and it might serve to encourage voting. I don't want anyone who isn't interested to vote, but I would like to see more making an effort not to miss voting, if they intended to. And this is a good place to mention that I, too, am running for the Directorate (who isn't?).

The big trouble with the story contest now is lack of entries. When the previous Directorate voted to open the contest to non-members, and charge a fee, they thought this would get more submissions. I think it may have discouraged Neffers because of the possible competition. I say, to solve both problems, we should restore the limitation to Neffers only, eliminate the fees, and pay the expenses out of the Treasury. I don't favor the official publication of any but the top winners. The others can go to the Manuscript Bureau and find their way to fanzines, privately financed, thus eliminating one of the prohibitive expenses of the contest, which is the publishing of too many pages of prize winning stories -- it's just too much money for the Treasury to spend, on top of the prizes. This way, the fans can get fanfiction, the secondary winners can get their stories published, and the N3F can remain solvent. I have nothing to do with policy on all this, but I imagine this is how it will work out. I am very much in favor of a continuing, successful, story contest. When so much encouragement is given to amateur artists, why not more for amateur writers? But no pros, Alma.

I've never said that Neffers, or any fans, are unable to spell. I've only gotten myself in dutch by pointing out particular misspellings, which is something the common carper at fannish spelling invariably fails to do. Instead of appreciating this individualized service, however, some fans consider it an insult and get all huffy, or try to pass it off as a joke. On me, probably, for bothering.

Janie is quite right that the information on amount of dues to pay is all on the application blank. But not all new members see application blanks. Are recruiters instructed to emphasize these amounts, or do they just say "send \$1.60" no matter what time of the year it is? Do N3F ads all mention this? Some do

and some don't. Seems as if \$1.60 has been dinned into fans' ears for so long that they automatically send \$1.60 when they decide to join up. That's what I did, having no application blank. It happened to be in November, so it turned out to be the right amount after all. But \$1.60 is only good this late in the year, or in the first few months of the year. Most of the time the dues you should send in, in order not to get short-changed, is \$2, \$2.40, or \$2.80. If they raise the dues to \$2, without changing the calendar year system, it will not be \$2 all year, but \$2.50, \$3, and \$3.50. My plan was to set the dues at \$2 per year, payable on the anniversary of joining (with perhaps a slightly smaller amount for renewals, to encourage them) and this would be always \$2, any time of the year. If this is wanted by the membership, we'll have to work something out to eliminate the objections Janie mentioned. I don't see, however, that late-renewing members would have anything to complain about if they missed an issue because they didn't renew on time -- it would be their own fault. Any change in dues, either amount or method of figuring years, would have to be in a constitutional amendment. I don't favor giving the directorate power to set dues (I mention this only because it was mentioned -- only as a trial balloon, of course). I agree with Janie that fractional-year dues are too little. However, even this could be worked out (this is real wild; listen to this before you get out your pin): Have an initiation fee and an annual dues, which latter could be divisible by quarters. Say you pay a dollar when you join (this would pay for the initial expenses, which are large) and an additional \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2 or some fixed amount annually. This would be an advantage in several ways: it would make it cheaper to renew than to first join, so members wouldn't be continually dropping out and coming in again; it would make it possible to divide by quarters, so that latecomers wouldn't have to sign up for two years to pay by quarters. If the basic rate was still \$1.60; a member joining after July 1st would pay \$1 plus .80, or \$1.80; and could not complain about being gypped or forced to pay for two years. Pretty radical, but sounds like it could be worked out. There really should be an initiation fee, because there are many benefits sent to a new member, as Janie points out. If we must retain the calendar year, this would eliminate some objections to the present system. It will still be confusing, though.

Now to get off N3F business, and talk about science fiction. If Stranger in a Strange Land wins the Hugo Award, it will downgrade the Hugos, in my opinion. If this is an award for the man, Heinlein, change it to an award for the man; don't give it to his worst novel ever, just to honor him. I wish he would have won it for "Have Spacesuit, Will Travel" rather than Starship Troopers. Stranger in a Strange Land is utter crud, poor writing in every way. I acknowledge that Heinlein is the king, but I don't believe that the king can do no wrong. No, I didn't read all the reviews, I read the book itself, isn't that enough?

Also, anyone defending SIALS on the basis of its "revolutionary" ideas, (while admitting it is poorly written) is forgetting that the main philosophy in here is a very old one -- that we are all brothers except the majority of squares, marks and clods who can't make the grade. This is the Chosen People concept. But any philosophy these days, dealing with the entire world as we must, can't be that narrow. No religion which does not cope with all people is any better than a scientific theory which does not include all phenomena. There are two ways for exclusive religions to deal with outsiders; either convert them, or condemn them to hell. There doesn't seem to be much chance of converting with Heinlein's methods of preaching, so... In other words, there isn't much deep thought in SIALS -- I attribute this to the possibility that Heinlein wrote this as his first story and has just dredged it out of the crudpile now. There's nothing in it to shock anyone, either. It's just a long nothing. Heinlein is a great stf writer, but this is his very worst. I don't feel that it is an

insult to Heinlein to say this is utter crud. Maybe he knows it's crud, himself, and meant to play a joke on the reviewers (and the fans, as it might turn out.)

Gee, this is too long for Tightbeam and you never cut letters. Well, you'll just have to crowd out something else. Nothing lost, Don. I just left out a letter from some crank named Valentine Michael Smith. --WWW/

Yours,

Donald Franson

Felice Rolfe

1360 Emerson, Palo Alto, California

August 13, 1962

Hi:

Many thanks, whoever is responsible, for TIGHTBEAM. Being new, I won't comment on club affairs just yet, but one thing does make me curious; this matter of "paying dues for those who can't afford them". Considering the rates I pay for babysitting, I'd think that anyone could raise \$1.60 these days. Maybe that's just the impression I get from living in the relatively affluent Bay Area.

Ron Wilson's complaint about the Downey-Tarzan episode reminds me of the nut who came to San Francisco this week. Name of G. Clifford Prout. He is conducting a crusade against naked animals; boxer shorts for horses, half-slips for cows, etc. He claims he has nearly 40,000 other nuts backing him. What some people won't do for publicity. It must be that; nobody could be serious about nudity in animals, could they?

And a comment on Roy Tackett's comment on Herbert Bodenschatz' letter (is that anything like an anti-anti-missile missile?) American schools are coming out with something like Bodenschatz' schedule. Since Sputnik, there has been a tremendous acceleration of science and math education in the public schools. (Perhaps even to the point of unbalance.) This summer I got a look at some of the material written by the School Mathematics Study Group, and it's fantastic. As an example, although not directly related to the SMSG materials, the University of California at Berkeley offered the following intensive short course this summer: Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers, discussing, in part; math as a language, numeration systems, properties of mathematical systems, language of sets, inequalities, power arithmetic, and proof. And I understand that in the Greater Cleveland area, some radical changes are being tried, including set theory in kindergarten! Looking at one of the 2nd grade tests, I was amazed at the preciseness of language being asked of those kids on this program.

I'd be highly interested in hearing from anyone who has had experience with the new math curricula; or whose kids are being exposed to it. I'm a math major myself, and my kids will soon be starting this stuff, so I have a double interest in finding out how it is getting through. Or if it is getting through. Methods of proof for 7-year-olds. Good grief. I had enough trouble understanding proof at twenty-seven. ...I remember reading an sf novel which mentioned in passing that the logical way to teach math was to start with the calculus and end up with fractions.

Thanks again --

'Cerely

Felice Rolfe

Clayton Hamlin

Southwest Harbor, Maine

FOR TIGHTBEAM

It is nice being the "loyal opposition" to the directors once again, on this matter of a dues increase. It has been a long time.

I'd like to give you some figures to look over here, that seem to prove rather decisively that no increase is necessary. See if they mean the same to you.

Dues \$1.60. per year. Basic expenditure, 12 issues of TNFF and Tightbeam at 10¢ each, a nickel extra for the election issue. Total \$1.25, which leaves 35¢ for extras.

Roster as of April 198 members, so let's figure 200 as a basic figure. 35¢ times 200 is \$70.00. Doesn't look good, eh? Convention calls for that much (for the time being we will ignore the fact that the convention expense was refunded last year).

But here is the catch; not all members require 12 issues. Join after April 1 and they need nine, after July 1 it is six, and after Oct. 1 it is a mere three. This of course for those who don't take advantage of the chance to pay for a partial year along with a full year.

As a director last year, I had the opportunity to work this out, just how many paid for more than a year, and how many merely paid for the calendar year. It was like this: April to June members, 70% calendar year only. July to Oct. 50%, and Oct. to Dec. 25%. I assume these figures are still valid for this year, at least let's assume so for the time being.

Here is the way it works out, using new memberships this year. As of the June TNFF there were 32 new members. This would mean 22 who require 9 issues only at 10¢, leaving capital of 70¢ to work with. This makes available for spending \$15.40.

I've been told that as of the middle of August the membership is pushing 300, which would mean an increase of 70. Half of them at just six issues, you get a buck clear to work with. Total additional funds, \$35.00.

Can only guess at how many will join during and after Chicon, but at a guess let's say 40, of which only 10 will pay the partial year. Still, with necessary expense only 30¢, it leaves \$1.30 to work on, a total of \$13.00.

Add them together, you get funds of \$133.40 to be spent for extra benefits over and above the basic publications. Convention, \$75.00, though that is a maybe after last year, not a certainty. Story contest \$20.00, secretary supplies possibly \$30.00, this spent for new members. Fandbook was \$12.00 though a recent publication that will be used for recruiting, and comparable to this, was free. Art Hayes did it.

Add them up, and you will find that IF the allocation for Chicon is required, it wasn't last year, you come to a mere \$6.00 or so that is needed to be taken from capital to pay current year operational expenses. The treasury as of June was \$372.30, and if you like deduct the 44 members of that date who had prepaid dues. Only one year though. Anyone who has been exposed to a high school course in bookkeeping knows that working capital is figured on current liabilities, and that means one year normal expenditures. But take out 44 dues at \$1.60, and the treasury still reads, over \$300.00.

From here, it looks mighty good for a supposed non profit group to operate on income, with no more from the treasury capital than this at worst. It doesn't look like a valid basis for a dues increase to me. How about you?

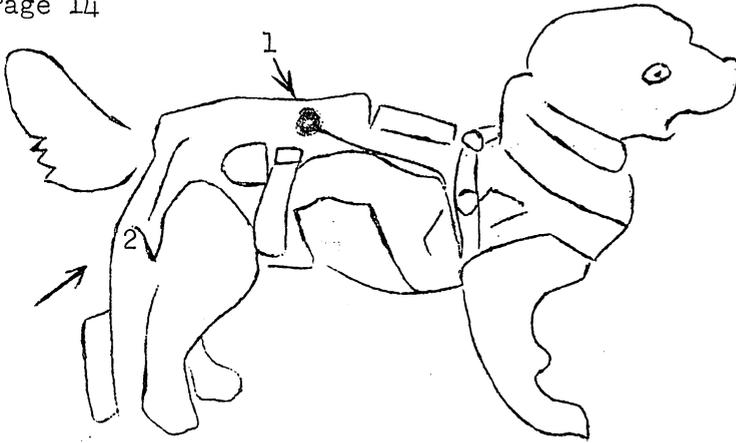
Clay

Richard C. Finch

148 $\frac{1}{2}$ N. Pickering Ave., Whittier, California

One of the reasons for this letter is the interesting, to me, method used by the Russians in training the dogs which they sent up in satellites.

The first thing I wish to describe, though, is the arrangement used to allow the dog to relieve himself. The tracing I include here will show it.



1. Cloth retaining harness
2. Bag for receiving urine and feces

This isn't a very good tracing but it is good enough for the purpose.

The first training the dog underwent was to be taught to remain in special cages and become familiar with the laboratory equipment. Gradually, the volume of the cages was reduced and made approximately the size of the space the dog would be placed in in the cabin. The space was 600 x 220 x 450 mm., so the dogs chosen were small, weighing about 6000 grams. That is about

23.622 by 8.6614 by 17.7165 inches, and if anyone can do better, let him. It is difficult enough to go from mm. to in., let alone to translate the inches, including the decimal points, to feet. One kilogram is 2.2046 lbs, so 6000 grams is 13.2276 lbs., whatever that is. My math is lousy, as anyone can see.

At the same time as the above was going on, the dogs were taught to carry special clothing as well as the bag for toilet purposes, and the pickup devices for recording physiological functions. This preparatory period was thought to be completed when the dog tolerated a 20-hour period in a close-fitting cage, wearing all the equipment, without showing any disturbance in its general condition or any localized damage.

The rest of the training was in educating the animals to use the bag instead of holding the feces and urine, and making them familiar with the cabin and the machinery noises. Their food consisted of 40% dried bread powder, 40% dried meat powder, and 20% beef fat. 100 grams per 24 hours of this mixture compressed satisfied the dogs' food requirements for 20 days. Tests showed that the dogs average water requirement was 120 milliliters and not over 200 milliliters. One liter is 1.0657 liquid qts. One milliliter would be one thousandth as much. The final form used was to mix agar-agar with a sufficient quantity of water, giving it, with the right amount of agar-agar, a firm consistency.

This is interesting because of the preparations which must be made for humans. For example, as a passenger, must I use a bag always, or only when I put on a spacesuit? And, if not always, what do I do? For the astronauts, chemicals are all right, but what about a whole shipload of passengers? I remember that a murder was once committed in a spaceship by a character in a spacesuit releasing the flush mechanism while someone else was using the cubicle. Then he pulled the door shut. Water wasn't used; just the vacuum of space. The toilet cubicle was described as being a mess, as the guy inside had literally exploded.

Now to another subject. Anyone wishing to be an official recruiter, I can promise much egoboo for actual results reported to me while you are a recruiter. To be one, all you have to do is put on the application blank you send out your name, and underneath that, member, recruiting bureau, and report what results you have had on the 15th at the earliest or the 25th at the latest of the month two months before mailing date of T.N.F.F.

Dick Finch

If you haven't the time or inclination to write a letter to the November issue of TIGHTBEAM, write a letter to Donald W. Anderson, 141 Shady Creek Road, Rochester 23, New York and let him know about it.

Lawrence Pinsker

7716 N. Marshfield, Whicago 26, Ill.

21 August 1962

Dear Wally (or should it be "Dear Tightbeam #15"?),

With Rich Wood recruiting from comicbookdom, and Forry Ackerman inviting his readership of FAMOUS MONSTERS and SPACEMEN to Chicon, it seems that we will have to open a kindergarten to care for an influx of "fen" who know SF and fantasy from movies and comic books. The responsibility of raising these youngsters to know what good SF is thus passes to the hands of the N3F. Art Hayes, in TNFF for August says we may have to cater to their wishes (i.e., find experts on comics for the Information Bureau, on monster movies). Very well; why not change their outlook a bit, and direct them to Norton and early R.A.H. (I bow, RT) and start them in on good SF-fantasy. Sure, let'em continue with FM and SPACEMEN; the latter I often find entertaining; the comics, too, started them on the way to Fandom, so let them have that. But first show them the real stuff, and then, when they are ready, and at least have a glimpse of what we talk about, THEN let'em join the N3F.

At any rate, should a host of four-foot replicas of Dracula and Frankenstein enter the Masque Ball at Chicon, I'll know into whose heart to thrust my stake.

You can't escape from religion and sex in SF (except in Norton's books maybe). Look at the Hugo nominations: DARK UNIVERSE, STRANGER, SENSE OF OBLIGATION, and, in a way, THE FISHERMAN, involve religion, not to mention the "Hothouse" stories (might include "Scylla's Daughter" too). Sure sex is here to stay; gone are the days when the Skylark's crew of sex-oblivious heroes and heroines went freewheeling through space. (Don Franson: was it Schuyler Miller who commented on the apparent lack of reference to sex in the Skylark series?)

Speaking of STRANGER: apparently a bottler of soft drinks has recognized the significance of "grok" more thoroughly than we realize. They seem to have precogged at least one facet of that tenuous term: take a look at the motto on any 7-Up bottle.

See you at Chicon.

Yours,

Lawrence Pinsker

Bob McDermott

17 Aircraft Road, West Haven 16, Conn.

August 24, 1962

Dear TIGHTBEAM #15:

Having been in N3F for only a month, I seem to have come in right in the middle of the welcommittee furor. I don't see what the whole thing's all about. When I joined, I received a total of eight welcommittee letters. Those which had any printed matter enclosed were also accompanied by a personal note, but usually the letters were personal greetings with some information about the club, telling me that if I had any questions that they'd be pleased to hear from me. I made it a point to answer all the welcommittee letters, and a number of people (including of course, Seth Johnson) started to correspond with me. I think Lt. Hulan is wrong not to want the members to correspond with the people they greet; there's nothing that helps a neo get going more in fandom, than to have a few correspondents, especially if the correspondents are fairly well known fen who seem to be taking an interest in him. It gives him confidence. Another way that the welcommittee helps is when it sends via individual members, fanzines. This gets him into the swing of letterhacking and writing. The welcommittee, just as it is, is a great service to the club.

To Bill Warren: I too thought that fanzines were for the most part "little science fiction magazines". They are in truth (excepting a very few, such as

FANTASMAGORIQUE, which I believe is now dead) magazines containing articles and stories OF INTEREST to the average fan of science fiction.

Last year, before entering N3F I heard a lot about the writing contest. Who wond anyway?

Even if Charlie Brown was a homosexual (something, incidentally, which I've suspected for a long time) I don't see how you could get away with banning it anyway. As Seth Johnson, and for that matter, anybody else I come in contact with, knows, I'm violently against the banning of any book, regardless of its subject. In my opinion banning a book is taking away one of the most important rights of man, that of free choice. I'd be interested in hearing from anyone with opinions on this subject, whether pro or con.

Bob McDermott

H. James Hotaling

4637 S. W. Condor St., Portland 1, Oregon

September 2, 1962

Since I've just joined N3F and received a copy of TB#13 along with a miniature but extremely useful dictionary, I wish to indulge in what probably every neo does, ostentation. The terminology key makes me wonder where old Danny Webster has been these last few decades. Egoboo, what a perfectly nasty word for egotism and how appropriate!

I see that a number of letters in TB#13 referred to business of the Welcomittee and I agree to what appears to be the consensus of opinion, that all the committee can do is to get out a "Hi there!" along with a terminology key and the latest ish of the zine. However, there seems to be a kind of a vacuum between potential members and those who are Neffers. Pre-mem-info is very slight and in this day and age, there are hordes of clubs which vie for one's time and money. Naturally, most people would want to get some info about the organization before they contribute and it is here where some work needs to be done. Roger Cox said that it was awfully hard to find fans and a little more difficult in getting them to join. Some of this difficulty would be removed, I think, if the club published a one-time-one sheet mimeo giving a short history of the club, what it does, cost of dues, etc. A cardinal rule of advertising is to get the name out before the public; N3F could do something on the same principle. Copies of this info sheet (written in such a way that it wouldn't be outdated in just two or even six months) could be sent to every member of the club and when someone asks about N3F, the Neffer could just mail it along with a personal note. I've been reading s-f off and on for ten years and until this year I've never heard of the N3F (ahem, yes I know, blasphemy!) and a sheet like this may help to remove this void.

The idea of an amateur research journal which Larry McCombs mentioned briefly is intriguing but I feel it should not be limited to the methodological sciences such as math, biology, physics, etc. By increasing the scope of such a publication to include all thought, philosophy, ideology, psychology, sociology, metaphysics, just to name a few, interest would be greater since s-f does not concern itself exclusively with rockets and propellents but people as well. Because of the enormous amount of work involved, I think the publication dates would be more practical if quarterly. To protect the authors from outright plagiarism, it should be copyrighted in the name of N3F (if it is the publisher) with a standard release of all rights given to the writer when and if it is requested. The copyright, which costs \$4.00 per issue, would also serve as a direct invitation to all readers to participate actively. It is not that the works would be worth stealing, but the copyright would remove the stigma "we hate legal action but we could and will do something about it" which is invariably found in every zine I've had chance to read. While, as Larry says, "a large part of the problem of apparent discourtesy and boorishness among fans is due to simple misunderstanding" is true, the fact that these attributes exist regardless of cause is a symptom of

a need for some kind of protection or preventive maintenance, as it were. Also, some of the information to be found in such a periodical may have value to someone, somewhere.

Thinking in a more practical vein, the financing of such a zine must necessarily reflect careful and systematic thought. The cost could be met several different ways; the first and probably the easiest would be a direct subsidy by N3F which would relegate a portion of its dues to the journal, i.e., dues to N3F would be \$1.00 more per year if the Neffer wishes to take the periodical. A second method would be by subscription only and subscribers would not have to be Neffers but anyone interested in amateur theorizing. All this is based on mimeo. If plans are to be more grandiose, such as printing (which costs from \$8.50 to \$12.50 per printed page) other financial means as well as circulation answers will have to be found.

Yes, I've even considered a title or two to toss into the ring and see what emerges. One delightful tongue twister would be Phthengesthai, the Greek word to utter. The Finnish word for compare, Katso has a beautifully harsh sound. By employing another Greek word meaning critique, I came up with Kritike Amateur, which to me doesn't sound so hot. Our work thesis comes from Tithenai, Greek meaning to put. Perhaps by adding something like the Latin work Novus (new), Arguere (Latin to prove) or Theorein (Greek, to view) to something in the modern mode, someone may be able to come up with a title not found in normal lexical channels but still complimentary to the argot of fandom. Of course, there are always the mundane titles like Journal of the Amateur Theorist, which to confuse the cryptographer for a minute or two, may be put simply JAT or JOTAT, but I'm sure that fans endeared to the use of acronyms will be able to come up with something better than that.

In any case, I feel there is a need for such a zine and I would be very interested in such a publication as long as it is not restricted to the mathematical sciences. Since the purpose of this kind of a zine would be the communication of ideas, I agree also that it should not be devoted entirely to metaphysical speculation either. Probably, it would have two sections with the editor serving as moderator.

There is a lot of room for thought here, so let's see what the rest of you think.

H. James Hotaling

Alma Hill

463 Park Drive #11, Boston 15, Mass.

September 4, 1962

Dear TIGHTBEAM:

As this is written, Chicon fangathering must be scattering to the far parts of the galaxy; so for Neffers the next main event is the election. We are going to have to decide a point of policy which has been vexing the officers ever since we lost The Walrus. I have been holding my peace, in public, rather than upset various good projects going on. But as this is a basic matter, the members are entitled to a full explanation, now we have a chance to act.

My platform, as filed with TNFF, is a brief statement to the effect that I stand for more and better services both to our members and to the field, as most of you know I have always done.

The problem that needs explanation, and lots of it, is what type of services the members want. I personally object very much to the idea that NFFF ought to be run as a second-rate aggregation, fugg pasture, or as Lichtman says (describing our apa in Fandbook #2, an official publication, written by the apa's official editor and published under the aegis of our directorate chairman Al Lewis) "Neofan's Playground".

Much as I like neofen, and much as we need plenty of those to keep the ranks full, nevertheless I feel that many of those are actually full of lore and wisdom already, and that the rest of our membership runs pretty high to talent in various ways. We have recently published a survey of the membership, showing that we have all sorts: collectors, writers, readers, artists, letterhacks -- when Roy Tackett noted that TIGHTBEAM hears from about 10% regularly, he was reporting a degree of interest which would be considered phenomenal in mundane. Our publishing fans, as he says, include some of the best; and if we also have some crudzines going, that also is true of unorganized fandom.

In other words, I agree to any amount of tolerance; what worries me is this frank adoption of low standards. It seems to be based on a misunderstanding of what this outfit is, how it works, what has made it prosper.

It is a matter of record that I voted against the appointment of Art Rapp to the presidency. What was not reported was my serious question concerning his qualifications. In fairness to all, be it said that I think that everybody meant for the best. But a group ought to be able to stand some plain speaking for the sake of full understanding. Art Rapp was not even a member when his name was first brought into consideration. They only took out one membership, and Nancy held office on that. It may not have been his fault that NFFF was so unlucky when Art held office before. He is evidently talented, and seems to mean well. It cannot fairly be held against him that he resigned when he first went into the armed forces, as he was sent overseas. The point is: he also let lapse his membership, stayed outside making anti-Neffler jokes, and when he said he was re-joining, and was asked to run for office and get to know us again, he replied that he would not have time because of the work he has to do. It surprised me that he accepted the nomination, as I had written in person, several times, and received no reply, nor did the directorate have any direct communication from Art until after the publication of his official acceptance in TB. This is enough to fret any director who is concerned about the executive attitude. He seems to intend to run for election this fall, although he says himself that he may be sent overseas again, in which case we would again have the problem of a president by directorate appointment instead of by membership election. Will somebody please help me worry about this -- can't we do better somehow?

Certainly fandom is a fun thing. But it takes more, in some ways, to get along with an organization that just to publish one's own wit and fancy. Club officers have to be of a particular type that gets fun out of seeing the group prosper. As most of our members are more or less of this sort, and have been gallantly bailing us out this year, right and left, it is really mostly a question of where to take hold.

This is entirely, as far as I am concerned, a clean matter of policy with no personalities involved. Or, if you like, you could put it that I think that all the persons concerned are okay. But what do they want to do; does it coincide with what you want? And do we all understand what we want, so as to take similar directions?

To show you the kind of ready-made opinion I don't mean and don't easily agree with, here are Art Rapp's words, describing NFFF in the latest TNFF: "This is the opportunity year for comparative newcomers to seek NFFF office; many of the year-after-year officials of a short while ago are no longer active, and others would like to cut down on the amount of their activity." Now, those are the people who stood by when times were harder. If they knew how to save the bacon then, it is no cause for rejoicing if they fade too far back, too soon. And to call them a "clique" because then they were few: is this fair? Haven't they been opening the doors to all fans of good will? As Art Rapp has failed to gain my endorsement, how many others have been unable to make connections with him? And since he writes well and seems intelligent, can it not be just a matter of how he goes at it?

We have some fine people around, but it seems to me that before they can be good officers, they need to know how to be members.

A group activity like this one, carried on mostly by mail, with people scattered all over this planet, has particular characteristics and needs. It takes study and patience -- and don't ask me to describe all it needs in every detail, because I'm not a very long-standing member myself. Also all-wisdom is not mine; I just know some things. That part about study and patience keeps proving true, though. We have been going along on the momentum of one of the most gifted executives I have ever known, and still this did not become visible all at once to fandom at large. Now the members have been pitching in with good will, and one thing to do is to see the importance of that.

We need to find a chief executive within our membership and solidly with us, whether of-old or new-come; but certainly being acquainted with our needs and ways is a useful kind of knowledge for such work. We need a communicative, friendly and fair minded person. Surely that's not too much! This outfit is full of those! We were just getting things to where the presidents can relax more. Last year the directorate ran so quietly that The Walrus started wondering if we were doing anything -- until, as he said, he started adding up all we had accomplished. Well, when it's all friendly it IS that easy.

This year, if you will look at the record, you will find that I voted NO on several motions because we just did not have enough information to justify action. Right now we are considering a motion to reactivate the Correspondence Bureau (though we don't know who will do the work -- so how can this be ready to make rules about?) and to put it under the Membership Activities Bureau (although the bureau chief is one of those who have asked for less work). Now, if this seems sensible, proper, constructive, and all great fansmanship to you, then I am all wrong and you should vote me out of office. I would just go on being a terrible pest to the executive branch, fussing and fretting and waving flash-lights in the path of progress. No hard feelings on my part; I wouldn't want to be in office unless we are going to be trying for the best we can accomplish. That may be much, little, or a heck of a struggle, but that would be the only way I'd consider interesting at all.

Sincerely,

Alma Hill

Arthur H. Rapp

4400 Sunrise -- Apt 4, El Paso, Texas

3 September 1962

Dear Wally:

I guess it isn't very cricket of me to dispute Clay Hamlin after the nice things he said about me at the beginning of his letter in the last TB, but he's dead wrong when he says we don't need a dues increase in NFFF. Look at it this way: out of the \$1.60 per year that members are now paying, \$1.25 is earmarked right from the start for the cost of TNFF and TB (10¢ per issue for 6 issues of TB and 5 issues of TNFF, and 15¢ for the election issue of TNFF). That leaves us the princely sum of 35¢ with which to finance ALL other NFFF activities, such as the publication of information leaflets, donation of Art Show trophies, purchase of advertising space in Convention program booklets, operation of the Hospitality Room at the Con, and so on.

Obviously, this is impossible, and the gap between what we spend and what the members pay in dues is made up in two ways: by donations from individuals and groups to the NFFF; and by profit-making enterprises conducted by the NFFF.

To take the second category first, what profit-making enterprises do we have? The answer is, darn few. In this class would be such things as selling the remnants of the old NFFF Lending Library, which netted the NFFF \$13.60 at the last Westercon, and the sale of FANDBOOKS to non-members (or extra copies to

members who want more than the one they receive free). Anyone who has ever tried publishing a subscription fanzine will understand how ridiculous is the idea of the sale of NFFF publications, no matter how worthy, bringing in enough profit to support the club.

It is, therefore, donations that keep the NFFF financially solvent. These range all the way from substantial official grants like the \$75 which the Seacon allotted NFFF for Hospitality Room expenses, to such minor items as NFFF officials paying for their own stationery and postage used in the conduct of NFFF business. Many of the donations are anonymous and their existence hardly suspected by the membership at large -- I could probably name at least half a dozen NFFF members who, one way or another, contribute at least \$50 per year to the NFFF; some kick in many times that amount.

The point is, while we could not continue to operate without these unsung angels, should we remain content to let them pay for our fun, or should we ourselves shoulder at least as much of the burden as we can? The price of everything has gone up in recent years -- remember when science-fiction magazines sold for 10¢ a copy, Clayton? Yet NFFF dues have been \$1.60 for so long that I can't even remember when they were last raised. In fact, for all I know they may have been \$1.60 per year when the organization was formed!

It is true than in a few cases -- very few, I might add -- members might find a dues raise to \$2.00 per year a financial burden. Here's where Frank Hiller's suggestion of a dues fund might be useful. The vast majority of our members would hardly notice the increase pinching their pocketbooks, yet it would make a tremendous difference in the amount of funds which the Directorate had to operate with. Many a tempting proposal for new NFFF projects has been reluctantly shelved by the Directorate because no one could answer the question, "Where's the money to pay for it going to come from?"

Best,

Arthur H. Rapp

Nancy Rapp

4400 Sunrise -- Apt 4, El Paso, Texas

Sept 4, 1962

Dear Wally,

Imagine this! You're the first TB editor to ever get a letter from ME!
(Oh stop blubbering!)

First...I hope you had a real ball at the Chicon...Art and I were sorry we weren't able to detour up to Chicago in time for the con. We DID make it as far as Roseville, tho, and had a wonderful visit with Nangee...and we all kept thinking about you-all at the con..hoping you were having a good time too.

Second...I'd appreciate it if you'd mention the fact that Art and I are TWO separate members of N3F. The reason? Wal, we are both running for reelection in the October N3F elections (Art for president, and me for the directorate again) and altho we've waited since March for some kind of notification from the sec-treas that she'd listed us as two separate members paid up to the end of 1963; so far she hasn't even mentioned us as renewals in her official reports.. nor acknowledged it in private correspondance. The check WAS cashed, tho, so we have proof if needed. And since we expect this coming election to be a dandy one, I think it's wise to let the whole membership know that the Rapps are not being illegal in running (or holding) two official posts in the N3F. When we found out that Art was asked to become the new president we immediately sent Janie Lamb MY 1962 dues plus enough to cover Art's and my 1963 dues. Up until March I'd been riding on Art's N3F membership...my own had lapsed when we were married. So, let it be known to all you neffers that the Rapps have been two separate members since early in 1962 and are paid up, as separate members, till the end of 1963.

Did you notice Ron's report about the new tape bureau? Sounds like a GREAT idea! Art and I were thinking of getting ourselves a taper for xmas and if this new bureau really gets going, it'll be a double pleasure owning a taper. I can hardly wait to get some of those fannish tapes...and especially the ones of the old radio stf-fantasy shows that I used to listen to every week. I remember one such show...THE HERMIT...which came on around 10 pm sunday nights... and I've never heard any other fan mention it...so I'm curious as to who-all ever heard this particular series. It was MUCH better than inner sanctum. Gee... if we do get us a taper for xmas I'll finally get to hear that tape wraï ballard sent me in 1957! Wowsie!

Wal, time to get supper. I'm looking forward to this issue of TB....some-how the thot ofwallywebberzines croggle me...and a wallyweber issue of TB seems real mind-croggling. So croggle me good.....

Nance

Michael D. Kurman

231 S.W. 51 Court, Miami 44, Florida
Dear Wally,

Aug. 17, 1962

I hope you get some more flashes, Frank Hiller, because your idea of a fund to pay the dues of prospective members who can't pay their own way sounds great! But don't you think a dollar is too much? About 50¢ or so seems best to me; or you could have contributors pay either 60¢ or \$1 to pay the \$1.60, 'cause if you start trying to divide \$10 or so into buck-sixty segments you're going to run into a bit of trouble. Seriously, though, do you really think there are more than a few fen who can't pay their way? Of the present membership, I can think of three who might have some trouble. And with new fen, how are you going to know whether they're freeloaders or not? Before you start on this fund, I think you'd better wait and see how the rest of the membership reacts.

About the story contest winners -- if the manuscripts couldn't get into Ziff-Davis, they're not going to get into any prozine. Which all seems rather surprising. Not one of fifty stories was pro-quality? But then why should Cele or any other pro-ed buy a story by a mere FAN when they can have Sharkey and Merrill and Blish and Laumer... Bob McDermott tells me IF is serializing a novel by Heinlein, though I haven't seen it yet. RAH in IF! What's the stf-world coming to?

As to a pro category in the story contest, who's going to enter? Why should a professional author send in an entry when he knows he can get his work published in a prozine anytime he wants? Protected category for amateurs!?! Who else enters? The semi-pros aren't much better than the fen who haven't yet sold. And I bet that not many of these so-called "semi-pros" entered the story contest. The contest is all right now; why try to change it? If something is tried and it doesn't work, the non-Neffers'll start snickering. "Heh -- N3F goofs again!" Don't say that's all over-and-done-with now, that there's no more prejudice against the club. There's plenty, I can assure you. I'll take this subject up with anyone personally.

But, Dave Hulan, do you WANT members in the Welcomittee who will only welcome one neo a month? K know what happened when Art was chairman -- I was a member and I welcomed everyone that came in with at least a card. Most of the new correspondents replied to my welcome that they were disappointed -- that they saw so many names on the W/C roster but they only got four or five letters. It's a big let-down upon entering the club. I remember that some members told the neos that they were going to get scads of letters. Imagine the poor new member when he finds only Seth's inevitable two-page greeting and a few other dehydrated hellos. I'm PRAISING Seth -- he was the only W/C'er who welcomed the neos RIGHT. Anyway, Dave, it all adds up to this: Please THINK before you take in

any newcomers who are only going to work sporadically. Go by past records. I think a small, close-knit group that really WORKS is much better than a large, spread-out group with one member welcoming this neo and another member another neo... You get what I mean.

Well, after all this grotching and all these reactions I'll make the same simple plea -- write to TIGHTBEAM! Sure, I've been falling down on this, but I've been busy (no excuse). But then there's no excuse for a ten-page zine, either. Remember TB eight, and Art Hayes's tremendous ten? Why can't they all be like that? Let's give the publisher of #16 some work!

My tentative N.Y.C.-in-August plans have been shattered, and I won't be able to get to the big town before January. Just a note to those who were expecting me. And best wishes to all..

Michael D. Kurman

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