

TIGITBEAM #18

MARCH, 1963



TIGHTBEAM #18 is edited and published for The National Fantasy Fan Federation by Double-Bill: Bill Mallardi, 214 Mackinaw Ave., Akron 13, Ohio and Bill Bowers, 3271 Shelhart Rd., Barberton, Ohio.

The above co-editors also publish a bi-monthly genzine under the title of DOUBLE-BILL. Subs are 20¢ per or 6 for \$1. to Bowers; also available by the usual means. We think its rather good, so why not send for a sample?

(This is BOWERS): While we realize that this is a rather smallish TB, we have accomplished the somewhat difficult feat of getting it out on time. We hope that you like it and it stirs some comment. We hope too, that you'll remember Dave Hulan is the next editor, and you'll try to get your letters to him as soon as possible, so that he'll have a bit more time than we did.

The last TNFF, dated Jan. 63, brings up a question in my mind. My files are completely messed up because of moving, but I was under the impression that TNFF & TB were alternating bi-monthlies. Then I get Jan. issues of both (and both a month late). Am I wrong, or did one or the other switch schedule in the last year?

(BEM HERE:) We were hoping to have the proposed deadline for the next TB, to announce for everybody's benefit, but Hulan hasn't got it to us yet, so we'll have to do without it. It seems that Riddles' lateness with his TB has really messed us up. In order to get OUR issue out on time we've had to cut its length. Almost everyone who hadn't sent their letters until they received #17 had to be left out. So, like Riddle, we'll forward them to the next Editor, Hulan.

ISN'T IT THE TRUTH?? Up to our deadline of Feb. 25th we had enuff letters to make a full issue of 20 pages or so; so we stencilled them & started to run them off. Naturally, on the 25th itself we expected a BIG rush of letters to cascade on us in order to beat the deadline. A check of the mailbox on that day brought us -- you guessed it!-- absolutely nothing! BUT, on the 26th, 27th, & 28th they came! AND the 1st!! If we'd received those letters before the deadline (and they were all good, too) we could have used them easily, but at the time they did arrive we were in the middle of publishing, and had NO time to put them all onto stencil, run them off, etc., thus making a bigger issue. Thus you will find in this two people having parts of two letters printed -- (Part of the forwarded ones from Riddle, plus ones they sent to us), while others who were late are not represented at all. We're very sorry about that, but if Lee's TB had been on time a situation like this would never have come about.

Needless to say, we feel this is an interesting one, with some very good letters on the whole. Particularly interesting, I feel, is Bjo's, who leads off the issue, (and who also did the cover -- taken from D-B's art files) and Roberts' which finishes the issue. His comments on "NFFF run on the basis of secrecy and fiat" rings very true to my ears, & his petitions should be backed by the membership, I feel. They have a right to know what is going on in the club, in all matters. (Tho possibly not ALL things discussed by the directorate need be published, just the important ones.) Hafta quit for now, running outa room. There were many letters I'd have liked to comment more on, but its impossible, so lets just hope you like this issue, and that our TIGHTBEAM is the START of a very long string of TB's published on time. Happy reading, folks, and thanx for letting us be a part of it all. Bemish regards, BEMallardi & Bill Bowers

(Remember, #19's by Dave Hulan, 228-D Niblo Dr., Redstone Arsenal, Ala.)

BJC TRIMBLE

Hello!

5734 Parapet St.
Long Beach 8, Calif.

It seemed about time for me to contribute something to TIGHTBEAM again, and besides, I have some very important things to say.

About a year or so ago, I blasted off at some of the elements in the N3F which were impolite and childish. Unfortunately, most of the actual people involved got completely off the track of the point, and took up several side issues instead. Even more unfortunately, the main point did not even sink in where it should have done the most good, in almost every case. As we can all see by the childish actions abroad today in the club. And if the shoe fits....

Meanwhile, I'm not here to bury Ceasar, but to praise Seth Johnson.

That is not a typo; I'm here to say some nice things about Seth, and I would appreciate it if you would publish those words for all to see. It is true, and it is fitting that it be published in these pages, where I first charged Seth (among OTHERS) for selfishness. The charge still stands for the others, by the way, but that is not the point of this letter.

The main point is that during this year or so, Seth and I had sort of called a truce, if we can call it that. At least we were speaking (by mail). However, I did not keep track of Seth's activities, nor was I much interested, I'll admit.

Until about Thanksgiving time. A wonderful time, that; the very beginnings of the holidays, the growth of warm feelings for your fellow man, the distant ring of giving and loving that is to come to the fore within a month (and then, sadly, to fade away for another eleven months!). Seth wrote me a note at that time, telling me about some deaf kids who needed mail.

He put it to me without pride; these children needed mail, contact with a world which should care about them, and someone to tell them that they were loved. Seth knew that he could not do the job of contacting people all by himself. He knew that I could do it. So he put pride aside, and asked me to help. I can't tell you how much stature Seth took on in my eyes by that act! And how much he grew in the eyes of others who know the whole story. It was a selfless thing to do.

The project has grown. A first newsletter went out with TNFF, and the response has been so good that we are considering branching out to more schools. Seth has been personally instrumental in contacting outsiders who will take the project up with their own organizations.

The whole N3F has something to be proud of, for you are responding beautifully to an appeal which should be answered by anyone who knows what it is to doubt yourself; to be lonely; to feel lost, or by anyone who knows what it must feel like. I am quite proud of this organization, now.

I did not feel that way two months ago, when childishness and silly backbiting seemed to hold sway. But now, with the club doing all in its collective power to help this worthy project, I am very proud to belong to its ranks!

And most of all, I am proud of Seth. And I wanted you all to know that. This is, if you will, a public apology to a very generous, kind-hearted, and hard-working man. Without him, these children would still be without the love and attention you are giving them. Without him, Elinor Poland (the teacher in the case) would not be a newly rejoined member of the N3F. And best of all, it is because of Seth that this project will go

(BJO TRIMBLE, concl.)

on--due directly to his encouragement and support--to more schools and more lonely children; building intelligent and contributing citizens of our future.

This is not just a "fan" project. It is one of the most gratifying and worthwhile things that I have ever encountered in a busy life of projects. And I have Seth Johnson to thank for introducing me to the idea; for putting his pride aside to benefit these children.

All official information on this project will be in TNFF or in the newsletter MOTLEY (available from me). No information should be taken as fact unless it is signed by Seth Johnson, Elinor Poland or Bjo.

Questions should be directed to me, as Elinor is very busy with the school, and Seth will pass them on to me, anyway. Also, questions will be published in MOTLEY, with answers, to aid everyone in gaining more information. I will try to answer all questions; you do not have to obligate yourself to take a child to ask a question. All names will be kept confidential, of course.

What does MOTLEY stand for? In bad initialese, it could mean "a Moment Of Time to Love Every Youngster" or anything you wish. I don't care, as long as the children are kept happy! Right, Seth?

Thank you, N3F, for being so big-hearted. Thank you, Seth, for being a true gentleman!

And thank you, TIGHTBEAM, for giving me a soapbox once again; I hope you enjoyed it much more this time around!

Best,
Bjo

PS: One more point of interest: we have replies from Germany, Canada & Japan because of Seth. The project is growing well. Local Neffers have been putting their all into this without letting it become a part of the N3F politics. Wonderful!

-oOo-

GARY LABOWITZ
8233 President Ct.
Kansas City 31, Mo.

Dear TIGHTBEAM:

Well, it's that time again. Time to write. I hope you're flooded with mail so I'll make this brief. Just a hucksterish note: copies of my zine "Canticles from Labowitz" are available for 25¢. The zine is distributed in N'APA & SFPA but with additional material of interest to those groups. The basic zine though should be of interest to members of N3F.

That cover for Dec. TNFF was great! I'm always open for that kind of art.

Work is sending me to St. Louis for a month so I don't know what will become of "Canticles" for March. Perhaps I'll make it. Incidentally, members who want to join N'APA but don't publish, can publish through me at cost.

Keep smiling,
Gary

-oOo-

Holly F. Horowitz
10223 Woodworth, Apt. 1
Inglewood, California

Dear Editor,

As to the pun in Mike Shupp's letter (TB 16) my mind must be disgustingly clean because I have hunted & hunted for the pun and I cannot find it. May I please be enlightened.

Alma Hill's suggestions on mounting pictures are excellant but nix on the saran wrap; use real cellophane. The only trouble is that here in

(HOLLY F. HOROWITZ, concl:)

L.A. you have to buy it in \$5. lots except around Christmas when you can get it for 25¢ in small rolls.

Has anyone really been watching the Analog predictions on the weather where they compare the predictions of a well known astrologer with a roulette wheel? Should be interesting to see who wins.

Personal data- I've been reading SF, mainly Analog for about 14 years now but never had the urge to communicate till now. Compelling interest at present is in ESP. I would be very, very interested in corresponding with anyone who shares this interest, has had psi experiences, or who knows the field. Enough said for now-we have a loosely knit group of people here on the coast who are working with an idea to finding out what-the-heck-its-all-about & would like new members, distance unimportant.

Doye Nagreb

Holly F. Horowitz

ROBERT A. FARNUM Dear Editor:
506 2nd AVE.

DALTON, GEORGIA

After 17½ years with N3F it is with galling bitterness that I witness the abrasive influence of a clic, long jealous & derisive of N3F, getting into high places and spreading corruption.

Therefore, as of the above date, (FEB. 14th, 1963) N3F and Fandom and I part company.

SFG (Southern Fandom Group) has been torpedoed too, the same as N3F will be unless it takes a physic & purges itself of subversive elements. With the same bitterness as others betrayed feel, I bid N3F and Fandom

Goodbye. Robert A. Farnum

(I'm very sorry to hear that Bob is leaving fandom....he's been a loyal neffer for many years. Lately there hasn't been much heard from him, since, from what I understand, he's been sick & bed-ridden. The exact details of his reason for leaving is not fully explained, but mayhaps its best that way. Naming names would just cause MORE dissention in the club. I printed his letter word for word, (which was rather difficult due to the fact that it was written in long hand and some words were hard to make out.) Hope I did it right, and in answer I must say, Goodbye and good luck, Bob. --BEI)

DONALD FRANSON

6543 BABCOCK AVE.

NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

I am keeping up my record of a letter to every Tightbeam since I joined N3F, but will try to keep them shorter. My only complaint about recent Tightbeams is that there is little or no editorial comment. I hope future editors will

put a few lines at the end of each letter, but of course, not go to the other extreme and over-shadow the letter-writers.

There seem to be a lot of unanswered questions in TB#17, so maybe I can fill a page or two with attempted answers.

Stephen Hodes (and others): I wasn't very serious about restricting voting rights to early renewals, it was just a random thought, remember? But everyone takes this up as something to argue about, while ignoring my serious proposal of having some benefit for early renewals. I'd rather have a benefit than a penalty, if it doesn't cost the club much. What kind of benefit? Some N3F booklet, or some donated stf item. It would be easy enough to work out the details: just send it out with the October TNFF to everyone whose name is on the October roster as paid up for next

(DON FRANSON, cont.)

year. It would behoove each member to get his dues in early enough to appear on this roster in time--which would be no later than just after the Worldcon in September, I imagine. No benefits for late early renewals.

Phil Kohn: The Overseas Bureau has been formed to deal with just such problems as you mention. Contact Roy Tackett, and help us work something out for the more isolated overseas members, such as yourself. It is hoped that liaisons with fan clubs in Britian. Germany and Japan will take care of problems in those fan-populous areas, leaving other areas to be dealt with directly by the Overseas Bureau.

Harvey Forman: your suggestion about re-publication of Dr. Keller's book, SIGN OF THE BURNING HART, sounds like a good one, if someone like Stu Hoffman will do a good job of it--our Publications Department is set up only fo mimeo work. I haven't read the story--was it well-liked enough for reprinting? Incidentally, the title is mentioned in another Keller story, "The Literary Corkscrew", as that of a novel the protagonist was working on. That is, it was mentioned in the magazine version (WONDER STORIES, Mar.'34). It was edited out of the book, TALES FROM UNDERWOOD. (Oh, Dr. Keller, what sharp eyes we have.)

Jerry Pournelle: Sorry, I meant to say that no scientific theory is any good that does not take into consideration and explain any (not all) phenomena that may contradict it. So a religion, to be good enough for the whole human race, cannot be exclusive. (Even stipulating "human" is sort of exclusive.) Heinlein's wasn't exclusive? Yes it was--you had to be a certain dedicated type of person to want to go through all the training required, learning the Martian language, etc. A slight switch on STARSHIP SOLDIER's military caste, where those who liked the military life had an advantage over those who liked freedom better. For preferring army life they were given civilian citizenship--I never did get this contradiction. The old soldier never dies--he just re-enlists--and so never gets to vote. Pardon my picking on Heinlein--I told him at the con that I liked every one of his stories except the last two. He said that he hoped they would not be the last two. A good comeback, and I hope a good prophecy.

Stan Woolston (and others): The Story Contest Committee has almost finished drawing up the rules for the 1963 N3F Story Contest, and I've appointed Clay Hamlin chairman of the new Story Contest Bureau. He will have a preliminary announcement in this TIGHTBEAM, and the complete rules will be published in the April TNFF. As the closing date will be October 31st (Hallowe'en--that ought to be easy to remember), there will be plenty of time for entries, and we hope there will be a lot of them.

Larry Pinsker: Beware of Greeks bearing gift memberships. This has been gone over long ago as something we don't want--we want volunteers, not draftees. We have enough deadwood without bringing in reluctant deadwood. (My apologies to deadwood, but we would like you to come to life.)

Piers Jacob: I'll bet you hear from Norm Metcalf--he is also interested in word & page counts--figures them out with a slide rule.

James McLean: Perhaps suprisingly, I'll have to disagree with you. I've always considered that the doubter has contributed more to science than the open mind--the one who is willing to believe anything and everything. All those things that you listed that were said to be "obvious nonsense", are obvious nonsense. Open-minded types are too ready to believe this stuff, while doubters doubt until the facts turn out to be fancies. Remember Bridey Murphy?

(DON FRANSON, concl.)

On the other hand, do readers of science fiction stories believe them without protest? Maybe they do nowadays, because they don't care; but in the old days they wrote in to the magazines arguing irately with the concepts in the stories. While realizing they were only fiction, they still seriously discussed the ideas involved. (If ANALOG readers comment on the fiction, the editor must be cutting it out.) A few modern authors, such as Fritz Leiber, do put plenty of ideas into their stories. (Yes, Leiber writes ver fine science fiction, not only the fantasy he is noted for.) There is still little comment on the ideas, in any letter column, or in reviews. More attention is paid to the literary worth--what's wrong with science fiction fans any more? Do they accept stf ideas--with, perhaps, a yawn?

David Keil: Candidates for N3F President had a longer period to file this year than ever before. The extension of the deadline made the period to file from about the middle of August, when the August TNFF was recieved, to October 25th, over two months. There was plenty of time to file, if anyone had been interested. No one was, apparently. Only two candidates to choose from? A year ago there was only one candidate. Two years ago, two. Three years ago, one. There haven't been three candidates for President since 1958. And this was not because Ralph Holland didn't want opposition. He pleaded for it. So did Rapp. No soap. All these better qualified people you speak of won't run for President, let's face it.

Norbert Laus: I don't know anyone in fandom, outside of a handful of Neffers, who hasn't the highest respect for Art Rapp. The undeserved criticism in recent N3F zines reflects, not on Rapp, but on the N3F.

Yours, Donald Franson

//What's wrong with science fiction fans? Precisely that--most become stf fans at the cost of being stf readers. At least this is what I found in my case, and at present I am trying to strike some sort of balance between the two extremes. Anyone else have the same problem? WLB//

BILL OSTEN
Box 7133 Apex Station,
Washington 4, D.C.

Greetings & salutations;

I am primarily a collector (inoffensive type), not a letterhack. But TIGHTBEAM seems to leave a vacuum to jump into. Here goes. I got the info-sheet on the N3F dues. I sat down with a calander, a ream of paper and my sliderule. Several hours later, I had two choices. I could run it thru the IBM 7090 (I have had a programming course) or I could turn the whole mess over to my lawyer. Then I got an inspiration. The sums mentioned ran from \$1.60 to \$3.00. So I wrapped up \$3.00 and sent it off. Next month, Janie will inform me that my membership has expired, but would have run another 2 years, 5 months, 3 days, 17 hours and 39.5 minutes if I had sent in \$1.60 instead. Cest la morte.

This Atlas of the Heavens sounds interesting. Even bigger than HABBAKUK, maybe. But more expensive. Nuts to Don Franson. Shea and company were quite a bit more believable than EE Smith's characters. And that goes for the non-humans, too.

Roy Tackett says PANIC BUTTON will never compete with ANALOG as P.B. does not print stef. So what? ANALOG hasn't printed any stef in years. Even changed its name to illustrate that point. JW Campbell is as bad as Palmer--only without Palmers' good points.

Dreamed up an interesting theory to cover STRANGER. Heinlein has not been working on a future history series but a philosophy series. Covering ethics, morals & other abstract fields. Started probably with the Venus

(BILL OSTEN, cont:)

story. Gathered momentum in STAR BEAST. Reached a peak in CITIZEN OF THE GALAXY; HAVE SPACE SUIT, WILL TRAVEL; and STARSHIP SOLDIERS. Then fell to decadance in STRANGER. A full cycle. I may have some of the titles & dates mixed up, but the idea is there.

To Norb Laus - don't apologise. Nobody else does. Why should you? Just dig out the old typer and hack out an inflammatory letter to good ol' TB. Zap forward. You, too, can get into a lovely feud. At least N3F feuds don't end in court. Just a lot of heat and little light shed on a subject. Everybody has a good laugh at how certain people get mad when pricked verbally. The participants let off a little steam, to the amusement of all concerned. As long as John Law is excluded from the party, feuds are an interesting part of the N3F. I have been keeping in tabs with the N3F for several years now, tho I just joined. So I can, if necessary, give exact titles & dates. Given time to go thru my files.

A SNARL at Mike Shupp. Evidently, he has not seen an E.C. comic. Yet he probably reads MAD Magazine. Which is picto-fiction. E.C.'s idea to combat the comics code and add respectibility to comics. When Wood gets busy on a Ray Bradbury story, the results are quite a bit better than most of the s-f I read. Especially ANALOG. Which I no longer read. However, I am not defending comics. They are 99-44/100% crud. Even after the funny comics are weeded out. Still, almost anything (except ANALOG) is not all good or all bad. And it is the predominance of neos, not fringe-fen that lower the N3F respect. Genfandom has gone thru many stages of fringe-fandom. Read "The Enchanted Duplicator". Read "T.E.D." anyhow. It's very good reading.

Tablecomm is working on mag preservatives. Durk Pearson is working on things to keep old pulps from rotting away. I am working on a transparent spray/plastic to hold together those already near gone. A bugproofer would be appreciated. With all the money spent on stefcollecting--and none on preserving these precious tomes, things cannot last another century without help. A purist might object to a mag that has been "restored" and "protected" but that is the only way to keep some of them from falling apart.

Actually, I am not the supreme authority on everything. I keep telling my Disciples that. And have left myself open to disagreement on many subjects with this letter. So, fire away.

Happy saturnalia,
Bill Osten

//Some people DO apologize--see Bjo's letter. And your constant harping on ANALOG irritates me. No one could care less than I about JWC's editorials and crackpot articles, but ASTOUNDING and ANALOG has printed some of the best fiction in the field, nevertheless; besides, Sky Miller's column is worth 50¢ itself. And did you ever see a more beautiful mag than the NEW ANALOG? - WLB//

FELICE ROLFE
1360 EMERSON
PALO ALTO, CALIF.

It occurs to me that the deadline for TIGHTBEAM will have passed before things slack off around here. "LMJ" as an abbreviation for Loud Mouthed Jackass, I like. I can sure use that around school.

Hi yourself, Roy Tackett. I'm thinking of joining SINA, so I can put pants on my cat. Diapers. About getting a prozine to publish the winner of the story contest...they might do it if they didn't have to pay for it. Think?

Mike Shupp: There's no law against an interest in psi; Campbell's isn't an interest, it's an obsession. I like to read other kinds of sf too.

(FELICE ROLFE, concl:)

I was much interested in your observations on the science-math program in your area. Ours is a high population, high-income, high-level-of-technical-competence area. But math equipment really isn't very expensive -- all I've had to buy so far is pencils and paper. Of course, if you learn math like I learn math, that can certainly be expensive. Seriously, though, people do get discouraged from studying the sciences and math, because it requires the use of logical thinking --- which is work, is not instinctive, and which both classical and modern curricula go out of their way to avoid. It used to be thought that making children learn math, Latin, Greek, etc., would result in an increased ability to think. This was in the days of McGuffey's Readers. Modern educators threw the idea out. Unfortunately for them, psychologists have verified it -- they call it "transfer", and there is substantial evidence that learning discipline in a particular course will result in general improvement in thought organization. (If nothing else, it'll teach a kid to stop bitching and start studying.) From my own experience, I'd say that logic is like a piano -- you have to practice it in order to learn it; and the liberal arts, such as English (Hi, Al) are not appropriate practice. (Now watch me get jumped on.)

Rich Eney: I shared, at first, your opinion of Larry McComb's "amateur research journal", but now I'm more in favor of it. There must be plenty of technologists in fandom, amateur or otherwise; there are certainly enough around here. I don't think that Larry meant anything along the line of the Journal of the Amer. Chem. Soc., or Mathematics Monthly even. As for the unappreciative audience, Tolkien fandom has zines slanted toward it, with certainly as esoteric a jargon; lots of footnotes would be needed there too if you were publishing for fandom as a whole. Maybe that gets my point across, but I'm not sure -- what was I saying about thought organization? Changing the subject to Stranger, doesn't a religion have to be pretty narrow, considering the psychological type which is attracted to religion, or am I going to get jumped on again? That's that, I think. 'Cerely,

Felice Rolfe

AL LEWIS

1825 GREENFIELD AVE.
LOS ANGELES 25, CALIF.

Here it is Valentine's Day and no TIGHTBEAM for January.

We've had the worst luck on trying to keep this thing on schedule this year! Donaho defected and Rapp had to publish for him, which set Tackett back, and then Weber was set back by the Chicon; Don Anderson published on time and now Riddle is late! Well, we keep trying, and this thing better be out on time, ya' hear?

Since there is no TIGHTBEAM for January I can hardly comment on the contents thereof. But I can at least offer to take a poll.

Koichiro Noda of Japan sparked this one off; he is a television producer, collector, and translator of science fiction for SF, the Japanese prozine. He is planning a series of articles, one a month for a year, on the twelve greatest heros in science fiction. He asked a deceptively simple question: who are the twelve greatest heros in science fiction? Now naming the twelve greatest stories would be no problem; the problem would be to keep the list down. But heros? The first half-dozen come easy. Then it rapidly becomes difficult, and you find yourself pulling in some rather far-out types. Are they heros or aren't they? Science fiction? Or---

We polled a LASFS meeting and out of about twenty, one person ap-

(AL LEWIS, concl:)

peared on fifteen of the lists, one appeared on ten, and it went down from there. I'd like to see what sort of a sample we could get from the N3F --- if you'll make out a list of the twelve greatest heros and send them to me, I'll compile the results for the next TB. I'll publish the LASFS results then, too--I don't want to bias the sample.

I'd like a list of the twelve greatest science fiction heros--you don't have to rank them, just include them if you think they belong in the top dozen. And it is your definition of greatest, your definition of hero, and your definition of science fiction.

And your reasons for choosing these particular twelve might interest the readers of TIGHTBEAM.

Best,

Al

STAN WOOLSTON

Dear TIGHTBEAM editors--

12832 Westlake St., After reading through the list of "officers and Garden Grove, Calif. committee heads" and Table of Contents of TNFF I got down to where I was ordered to write you, and being a meek (but manly) lad I do as I am told.

Reading the inside front cover of TNFF is more than a ritual to me: it is a quick way to find out if various activities that might be found in the club are activated. I'm very happy to see that Art Hayes is listed for the Correspondance Bureau: in years gone by I enjoyed my activity in that area of the club. It reminded me that I want to write Norm Metcalf about the Collector's Bureau--but I'll read TNFF through to see if Norm says something that will change my mind, or encourage me to write with more enthusiam. Rosemary Hickey, in Publicity, might get a letter from me too--if I can think of an excuse. And Tackett and the Overseas bureau tempts a letter.

It's lucky I've been collecting stamps for years. Now I can use 'em, even before payday.

I hope the Manuscript Bureau position is filled at once. This is the one area I believe we need an active head, and it is one where there has been a change of Chairman quite often. I've a letter here from Seth Johnson and he suggests that some sort of department be set up to make activity here steadier, as it is now as independent as any activity in the club. I concur. Another possible way to handle this might be to have the President appoint someone to serve on a standby basis for ANY position that is open--which would mean to contact several people and find what activities they would be willing to fill and have them take on whatever job was open at a moment's notice. If some of the past active members were approached, they might volunteer. Such a group might be called and Emergencies Activities Committee.

This club has enough activities organized so that almost all areas of fan activities are covered. As such, it would be ideal to keep the information before the public (and members) as much as possible. The list inside the front cover is a step in the right direction, and I believe the special riders with the club are also very helpful in this regard. Though not an official club activity, THRU THE HAZE could be a real help in this IF the active members would write briefly what they are doing and who is doing what. In other words, members can help Art with a NEWS MAGAZINE FOR NFFF FANS. Anyone in a center of activity can send Art the news they know about, and from past experience I know he will use it.

Having a permanent stand-by Editor for TIGHTBEAM is a fine idea. It gives it much of the advantage of a "committee". However, I wonder what

(STAN WOOLSTON, concl.)

would happen if (say) someone didn't produce or get in touch with anyone by a certain date; would he then write a select number of fans and request material, and produce a rush issue? Maybe that old idea, of asking "writers" to keep a carbon copy (or sending it to Lee Riddle) might be a usable method: then if something happened to one editor he could open the envelope file where he tossed the envelopes and construct an issue.

How to publish a fanzine is a problem. How to make the Neffer Amateur Press Alliance work better is, partially, a matter of how to pub a fanzine, and as quite a few clubmembers haven't had much experience it shows in the club not being up to full size yet. So I'd like to see some help by those who have pubbed a lot to the newer editors--perhaps by taking on some as co-editors (with their own part of a joint magazine); partially with material explaining how to build a personal zine; and partially thru the imitative process of doing a good job in making a zine of their own that displays brilliant application of editing skill.

Maybe a member of the Alliance could publish a group fanzine--using contributions by various members who could be approached to meet the standards the editor could encourage them to reach. Frankly I've not thought about this all the way through, and I can see that I'm of two minds here: if each member pays for his stencils and writes his material, it would have the advantage (to the newcömer to publishing) of being a way for him to avoid some of the headaches of editing, so he could concentrate more on the word side of the job. On the other hand, if editing standards are dictated by the fan in charge it would really be HIS zine. In any case, for him to get official credit for material, to survive as a member, he would need to write at least 6 pages every two mailings--and as such he'd be doing a service to newcomers. The problem is a double one: is the idea of such a publication an assent to new members (or inexperienced members as far as publishing goes), and is anyone around who would set up such a project?

To me there are so many interesting subjects to discuss that I will have to stop writing before running down--so I'll just say good luck with your issue of TIGHTBEAM.

Cheers,
Stan Woolston

DICK HINTMAN
46 Wildwood Rd.,
Andover, Mass.

Dear Membership,

I would like to say a few words about the N3F voting system. To sum it up, it stinks! This was the first year in N3F for me and hence my first chance to vote in

it.

I recieved the Oct. TNFF late in October and was given a ballot which had to be used in two weeks or so. I don't remember exactly how much time there was, but it was hardly enough. Somewhere in this issue, some ten people whom I know only by name pop up and tell me to vote for them. Most of them did as well as could be expected, putting forth some sort of platform; most told me of their past fanac, others gave me their name and address and that was about all. How am I supposed to know their competency as to running N3F? I am speaking for most neos who were new and didn't know these people. So then I pick out any five people and send in the ballot. A little while later, I learn from other fen certain facts about these people, facts that would have changed my vote. My complaint; We aren't given enough time to discuss the candidates with other correspondants.

I suggest conditions be changed. I suggest that the candidates start

(DICK HINMAN, concl.)

campaigning early in the year by writing to every TIGHTBEAM, giving their views upon various moves that the Directorate makes and what they would have done in the same situation. I suggest that platforms be in for the August TNFF, though the voting deadline not be changed. However, this has us discussing candidates all year, so I futher suggest that the term of Directorate be for two years. One year isn't much time for a body of people to do much or work effectively, especially when the lengthy process of mail is their communication. All of this can also apply to the President. This is the worst of many faults with the N3F government and I hope some of you will listen to this small voice from the deeps. Perhaps I am taking this all too serious, but N3F seems to want to have a good government.

Yours truly,
Dick Hinman

IDA IPE

1625 E. Indianola Ave.
Youngstown, Ohio

Now hear this all you grippers! This concerns the Welcommittee, and various other matters. My welcome into the N3F has been anything but calm. I've been literally flooded with letters. I've heard from Seth Johnson, who is in the Round Robin I just joined, Fred Patten concerning N'APA, Richard Hinman, Howard Williams concerning CINDER, Ron Matthies, Alma Hill, Stan Woolston, Bob Lichtman concerning N'APA, and Al Lewis, not to mention Janie Lamb, THRU THE HAZE, and SHANGRI L'AFFAIRES. Maybe this is because I'm interested in corresponding and collecting, but I think you'll agree that it makes a fella (or girlla?) feel wanted. I would have begun to think twice about the N3F if I hadn't recieved those gorgeous letters.

Harvey Forman - I agree 100% with you that Seth Johnson writes very well. But since it's your opinion that none of the others can write, I must disagree with you completely. The letters I recieved were well written and very informative.

Piers Jacob - Here's what you've always wanted:

Dear Piers,

And here's some advice for you, you conceited snot...

Need I say more. Not only was your table boring, I found your whole letter boring. Keep trying!

Alma Hill - I haven't forgotten those carbon copies. You'll get them one of these years.

Don Anderson - I'm sure you won't be the only one making room in the mud for Piers Jacob.

Jim McLean - There was quite a good article in LIFE or LOOK sometime back about dolphins. They are intelligent (there is no way of getting around it), but I doubt if they are superior to man. It only follows that if they are smarter than us, they should be up here, and we should be down there.

Just a word concerning an H-bomb war. My own feeling is that the Russians will be just as cautious about starting a nuclear war as we will. With our great defensive system, the Russians will stand to lose as much or more than we will. It will be a Pyrric victory for the winner, though.

Dave Keil - I agree with you 150% about STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND.

In conclusion I would like to suggest that we have more TIGHTBEAMS like TB #17. It was great!

Ida

CLAY HAMLIN
SOUTHWEST HARBOR,
MAINE

Hi: Subject to directorate approval, I guess I am in charge of the third annual story contest run by the N3F. The club has run two of them, sometimes we goofed (quite often in fact), but generally it worked out rather well. This year, our president took decisive action to make sure that the goofs were eliminated; he appointed an advisory committee of just about everyone who had been involved before, and who had indicated an interest in this contest in the hopes that all the bugs could be worked out of it before it got going.

I think it is going to be a big thing this time, and live up to all the promise that had been hoped for it. It should in fact become as big a thing for the potential writers as the fan art exhibits have been for the artists of fandom.

The story contest will be open to everyone, members of the N3F or not. But since it is a Neffer project, it was thought best to give the members a slight break, not in the judging (no one is going to get a break in that, be very sure) but in the matter of entry fees. There will be no entry fee for members of the club, anyone outside the organization will be required to pay 50¢, stamps allowed and even preferred. EVERYONE will be required to send a stamped addressed envelope with their contribution, this is a requirement for submission to professional magazines, and entrants in this contest had better learn it.

There will be something to the advantage of every contestant here. The rankest neo, with a story that hasn't the vaguest chance of winning will receive criticism, at least enough to tell them why. I'll even make sure that the preliminary judging will be by fans who have totally different viewpoints in what a story should be, and thus assure that even if it's the sort of thing that makes me grit my teeth in anguish maybe one of the others can find something good to say about it.

If you happen to be a promising, or even a proficient, fanzine writer, this should especially work to your advantage. There is a vast difference between fanzine writing, and what it takes to be professional, and quite often it only needs a few incisive comments to point out just why you fail to get the pro slant. The variety of judging will be helpful there especially, might as well admit it, I personally rate a story on emotional impact, originality, and excitement, but there are others much more qualified to rate on such things as grammatical construction, continuity of the plot and characters, and just plain quality of writing. You will get at least that much of a breakdown and criticism on your epic work and your talent as a whole.

There will be no special category for short short stories. They will be judged by the same standards as the others, and maybe harder. IF a new Fred Brown turns up, it will be quite obvious, naturally and he might even win, too, since a competent short short has an impact that can't be found in a longer story. It is, however, not an especially salable length, and thus no special encouragement is going to be offered, since the motive of the contest is to promote professional and salable writing.

-***-

(Cont. next page:)

NEFFERS! Back your TIGHTBEAM. Don't forget, the address to send your letters to for TIGHTBEAM #19 is:

DAVE HULAN
228-D NIBLO DR.
REDSTONE ARSENAL,
ALABAMA

CLAY HAMLIN, cont:

If this works a hardship on the typical fanzine writer who simply is too lazy to develop a good plot to the extent it deserves, so be it. I have personally seen all too many stories deserving of 3,000 words that didn't run over 1,500. It is a trend that we hope to eliminate here.

As little as a month ago I would have laughed at the suggestion that there would be salable stories entered in this year's contest; that seemed something we would need to wait another year for. Now I have changed my mind, from having been closely involved in Alma Hill's Mark project that you have heard of in TTH. There is one author in that group who has sold one story already, and looks well on his way to a second right now, with many more to come. Therefore, the club rule about amateurs only needs clarification, the one that says only authors with no more than two stories sold are eligible to submit stories to the contest. Therefore, and the rule will be stringently enforced, the definition of amateur status will be that stories will be qualified as amateur if the author has sold no more than two stories AT THE TIME OF RECEIPT OF THE MANUSCRIPT BY MYSELF.

Why sure, that will make it tough for the rest of the entrants to come up to that level. We are looking for the best stories though; there will be only three best, so what of it. It is costing you nothing, you can still find out why yours isn't that good, so do you really want more? If you come close, be very sure that we will keep you in mind, and make sure you get all the encouragement in the world, so you have a chance next year. That is what Alma's project is for, it goes just a step beyond this contest, and if you are that close to selling, be quite certain we have your best interests at heart. However, there will be one qualification to this, maybe unnecessary, but the only fair thing to do: Any story which is sent to the contest, and later sold professionally (including revisions) will be disqualified for awards in this contest. Anyway, who in their right mind is going to send their best story to us if they think they can sell it. It will, after all, pay about four times as much that way. But if of course you have rejections from a prozine that look good to you, send them along, the more the merrier.

Yep, if a story looks pro, we will be sure to let you know. Don't hold your breath until it happens, but miracles can happen after all, even that kind.

Final judging will be done by professionals, one or more, maybe by editors, which in some ways would be better. There may be only one, they are not likely to have over five or six stories submitted to them, to choose the winners from, and it is not likely they will say much about any of them. From the first year's contest it was found that they could not add much to the comments already made by the preliminary judges. But when it comes to judging degrees of quality it is obvious that no amateur is especially well qualified to do so. So you can be sure of top quality judging, an unprejudiced viewpoint, and all those little things that make the difference between an excellent story, and an excellent salable story.

The organization is almost completely set up, the complete rules will be published very soon now, in the next TNFF. It is time to start working on your stories:

Faneds are welcome, in fact they are invited, to spread the word around through the pages of their zines. The more publicity the merrier.

Just a last word for the moment. A friend of mine, who is a pro author with over thirty stories to his credit, once gave me some advice

(CLAY HAMLIN, concl:)

about anyone who wants to sell. He said, there is only one way, you write, and write, and then write some more. With himself, it took a quarter of a million words of writing before he made his first sale. He then sold his next ten in a row. And plenty since too. He is the one that first suggested this idea for the story contest to me three years ago, and the advice is still the same, if you want to be a writer, you have to write. So how about starting the first few thousand words of your quarter million. Who knows, it might take less.

For the curious, who suspect there could be some easier way of getting a sale (and writing is far from easy), and who feel this is just a guy who doesn't know what he is talking about, I refer you to the new anthology Analog 1, and a story titled Monument, by Lloyd Biggle, Jr.

But anyway, write those stories. You certainly are not going to win any of those awards any other way. And for those not quite writers, I ask you, where else can you find out so easily why you aren't selling. If you want to sell, and think you can some day, this might be the best investment of time you ever made.

And please folks, after wading through the fifty entries of that first years contest, let me give you one word of advice, A SINGLE INCIDENT DOES NOT MAKE A STORY. That was the one thing that eliminated some of the loveliest ideas and concepts I have ever read from contention with the prize winners.

One more thing, another award, and a personal one of my own. The writer not among the three prize winners, who seems to have the most promise as an author, will receive a one years subscription to the prozine of their choice with my compliments. The judging of this will be by the preliminary judges only, and the announcement of the winner will be made at the earliest possible moment after the close of the contest. For your own benefit, quantity of stories submitted may be a deciding factor in judgement of this winner, you can't tell much about a persons talent from a single story. And take special note, this is for PROMISE, not necessarily for immediate salability. Is there a young Bradbury, or Kuttner, in the place? Lets find out. Good luck. Clay Hamlin

DAVID M. ETTLIN
3424 Royce Avenue
Baltimore 15, Maryland

Dear Bills:

N3F needs reforms desperately in one certain area: the Manuscript Bureau. I have submitted a plan to Don Franson that sounds like a collective farm of fan writers. That is what it is and what it is meant to be. It is my contention that a bureau with this one's scope and magnitude must have a director who can get decent material to give to decent fanzines. If I am not appointed Chairman of this Bureau, the next TIGHTBEAM will have the entire idea. I think that certain bureaus of N3F must be maintained if we are to continue moving forward.

Sincerely,
David M. Ettlin

FRANK HILLER
99 Sellinger St.,
Rochester 5, N.Y.

Sheesh, talk about egoboo, I must have re-read my own letter in TB #16 about six times. It was the first long letter I had in the thing. Won't say anything more about the "Indigent Neffer's Fund" except to say that that original note wasn't sent to TB. It was sent to Janie Lamb, who apparently thought enough of the idea that it should have been aired in TB, so off it went to TB. Thanks, Janie.

(FRANK HILLER concl.)

To Roy Tackett: It's a nice thought that we could get the prozines to guarantee publication of the winning N3F story but ya know, they have certain minimum standards that would have to be met (at least I think they do, sometimes I wonder about that) and would you guarantee to buy a story, for publication that isn't even written yet?

Gary Labowitz: Eh? From commemorative stamps to the space race in one easy jump. A bit croggling to say the least. Re: your idea of commemorative stamps on fan correspondence. A number of fans, Seth Johnson's name springs immediately to mind, already follow this practice. If their correspondents don't collect they usually have friends who do.

The squawks over a buck entry fee for the story contest would seem to indicate that there are more indigent neffers than we at first thought. Al Lewis says, "with the N3F picking up the tab." Oh ho ho ho, more jokes in this funny paper this time around. Seems that there are plenty of burdens on the N3F treasury without adding this one. Supposin' we open it to all of fandom, charge a buck entry fee and then let the N3F pay any expenses over and above what is covered by the entry fee.

While the thing has since folded and the only names in the table of contents of the first three (and only) issues were all Grand High Mucky Mucks with no lowly type fen in evidence there was an amateur research journal. It was called "The Journal of the Interplanetary Exploration Society". It was touted by Campbell in ASTOUNDING (or ANALOG or whatever it was called at the time. Alma Hill was connected with it and was editor and publisher of a sort of newsmag sent to subscribers to the JOTIES called "Logic at Work". Don't think it folded due to lack of support (though that may have been a contributing factor) but for reasons that I don't want to go into because it might open me up to a libel suit. (Those reasons have NOTHING to do with or in connection with Alma Hill just in case it seemed as though I was implying that.)

Mike Shupp: True, we shouldn't squawk too loudly about Campbell's taste in stf since there are five other zines we can buy in place of it. Some of us, though, have a sort of proprietary interest in our entertainment mediums and have a tendency to say, "Why does he print that junk in my magazine? After all, I paid fifty cents for it didn't I?" Right or wrong, some of us do get this feeling from time to time. In addition, Campbell doesn't seem to print psi stories so much as he prints "sermons" expounding the current Campbellian Dogma. I expect some Astrology stories in the near future what with this Goodavage he's running.

By the way, anyone know what happened to Street & Smith? Condé Nast is now the pubber of ANALOG. Seems to be more than just a sale of the mag to Condé Nast since editorial address and staff listed under ANALOG's masthead is still the same.

Pleasant nightmares, folks, Frank Hiller
// It is my understanding that S&S was sold to Condé Nast a few years back, but they maintained the S&S title as a subsidiary until recently. Anyone know for sure? And if "Goodavage" isn't an egotistical way of Campbell's saying he has a "good average",... VLB //

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DON'T FORGET!

DAVE HULAN

228-D Niblo Dr.,
Redstone Arsenal,
Alabama

DICK HINMAN (Again!)
46 Wildwood Road
ANDOVER, MASS.

Dear Membership,
Well, it was a little annoying to get TB #17
a few hours after I had mailed my letter to #18,
and since TNFF came today I have decided to
write another letter for TB #18.

The cover of #17 was a real beaut, I'm sure you will all agree.
Steve Hodes, I disagree with you. Perhaps these little cute fantasies
are appearing everywhere, but there isn't much new in the way of good
fantasy. Fritz Leiber, I feel, is about the only real producer of fantasy.
As of now, that is.

Phil Kohn, I'M not too sure what you mean by the index to the com-
plex or imaginary number. The only index I know of is the index of a rad-
ical. So if you mean the n th root, n being a complex number, of a com-
plex or imaginary number, then I would imagine the imaginary you
want would be the imaginary part of the complex number(n). (Howzat,
agin?! --BEM) However, I feel it is a little more than this, since you
get into different systems and that stumps me.

Bill Mallardi's letter was interesting. I'm beginning to think some-
thing in our government isn't quite right. And you officers can interpret
that anyway you want, but I'm not accusing any of you of grand larceny
or murder.

Larry Pinsker's idea for giving Asimov a special Hugo brings some-
thing to my mind. Why not have a category for the best new anthology
each year. Seems pretty practical to me, though there are a few holes in
the idea. But there are a lot of good anthologies coming out. I suppose
the arguement against this is that they aren't original stories.

Man, Piers, that must have been quite a chore, but it sure is inter-
esting, inaccurate as it may be. What next? The number of periods in each
pocketbook or something?

As my letter of two days ago indicates, Dave, I'm 100% with you on
the voting issue. I certainly hope the new Directorate will do something
about this. And I will say right here if they do not None of them will
get my vote next year and I shall encourage others not to vote for them.
That's how strong I feel about this.

Everybody still seems to be argueing about STRANGER IN A STRANGE
LAND. Forget it. There's nothing anybody can do about it now. IT's won,
no matter how good or bad it is. How about this year? Keith Laumer pro-
duced a real beaut with A TRACE OF MEMORY, and Sharkey's ITS MAGIC, YOU
DOPE was one of the better novels. Fortunately PODKAYNE OF MARS couldn't
possibly win, even the Heinlein droolers didn't like it, so RAH will have
to wait another year or so until number Four. I shall be surprised if he
doesn't get another Hugo before he's thru. Back to this year, the rules
of eligibility and all of Hugos is interesting, but I have a question
which this doesn't seem to cover. What if a story appears as a novellete,
then later in the year is expanded, can it win both the novel and short
story category that year if it is good enough?

What in the devil are fanzine reviews doing in TNFF? If this must be
done, this meaning the reviews, why not do them as a separate thing or
perhaps in TTH. But not in TNFF.

Back to Hugos again. Al Lewis is right, the British mags are good,
very good. My favorite is SF ADVENTURES. You don't find anything like
their short novels in this country. I've only seen one copy of SCIENCE-
FANTASY, but if it is any measure of what the mag is regularly like, it
does indeed deserve a Hugo.

(DICK HINMAN, concl:)

This publication of Story winners is impressive and encourages me to enter this coming year. Even if it's not professional, it certainly is a goal.

No more time! And I had more things to say. Who knows? Perhaps I'll write a third letter for this ish.

Yours truly,

DICK HINMAN

(Ohh, I hope not! Write any MORE letters to this ish, I mean. Save it for Hulan's TB, ok? Seriously, tho, in regards to your question about a short story possibly winning both novel & short category, I highly doubt if it would ever happen. I'm not up to date on all the rules tho, so bring it up at the Discon or to any Committee member, it may not even be covered by the rules.--BEM)

DONALD F. ANDERSON Hello dere, everyone! I probably made a few people 429 Cedarhurst Ave., a little mad last time, and if I was insulting, I now apologize. There, I do feel better now; its true apologizing is good for the soul, if I have one.

Three cheers for Lee Riddle's edition of TIGHTBEAM. Very good copy-pip-pip-pip.

First a plug. After sitting on my rear for the past few years and watching N3F and the rest of Fandom waddle along with their secrets and very own type egoboo, I've decided I've accumulated enough knowledge and guts to join the fish in the sea, mainly to try my cotton-pickin' hands at putting out my very own type fanzine. Everyone prints the type he/she desires, so I've decided to do the same. I've often felt that fandom needs a good historical fanzine. That is, not only dealing with history history, but also with the history of fandom, stf, fantasy, and that type(s) of history. Like everyone else who first starts out, I'll have to depend on you out there in the peanut gallery for a start. I would like anything you might have to offer in the way of material (even fantasy or stf based on some historical aspect would be welcome). I can't promise to accept everything that is sent, but I will try to print everything I think is interesting enough to appeal to a number of fans and try to help others with their material on contents matter, grammer, and such. I'm not a neo or a pro type fan, but just some guy who has a lot of information stored away and would like to share it. I've got to get some use out of seemingly useless college courses from a liberal arts type college.

J.E. Pournelle (hi, there, J.E.!) talks about the religion in Heinlein's disputed masterpiece, STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND. According to Je (I'll call him that to save putting periods after initials) God created a Hell before he created man because he knew there would be a need for one. Great, then God wasted his time creating such a wicked old creature like homo sapiens. What's the use of creating unless you put your very best in it and have pride in your work. By Je's statement, God is a pessimist; wasn't even sure he could create a perfect or near perfect creature. In fact, God was sure he couldn't, so he built himself a waste basket (hell) to throw all the useless people away, before he wasted his time creating us! You'd think he would have something better to do with his time. If God can't build a better me, why should I believe him superior? Right, I can't even build a me, but if I knew what I would turn out like if I did know how, I'd forget the whole deal. Anybody for trying to convert me?

Down with ANALOG, up with Cele Goldsmith. (Everyone happy, hi Dave Keil.).

(DON F. ANDERSON, concl.)

ANALOG stuffed the ballot box at the Chicon. (Gripe, Gripe, Hi big-hearted Howard, everyone to their own opinion. I too served on a Con committee; Pittcon. ANALOG bribed the officials at the Chicon. (Well, its a different statement anyhow.))

I'm glad to see Don Franson is really on the ball and has appointed a committee to look in the needs of the story contest. Clay Hamlin came up with a great idea in the story contest and it sort of got bogged down there with rules and money type troubles (mainly, no one would pay the ridiculous price of entering.) So if everything works out allright and the committee gets the contest back on solid ground again (with a hand in hand reduced entry fee), I might even try using my dubious talents at writing some sort of real art. Show you're behind the committee if they come up with some good recommendations by supporting the contest. Entering is one sure way (and about the only real one you'll get, neo's listen!) to find out whether or not you got what it takes to write and if it can be improved. (In fact, everything can be improved, right Alma Hill?) Dig in.

The worrying over Cuba done by the present government is pretty darn ridiculous and is taking their attention from the real troubles in Europe (Berlin and DeGaulle's self styled Grand Plan) and South America (a number of countries which any time may become communistic). We let newspapers push us into one war with a Spanish speaking nation before the turn of the century, don't let the press do it again. Loud mouthed politicians and rumor spreading Republicans only get voted out of office. We have too much to lose by picking on Cuba, the friendship of the rest of the Latin countries, and maybe even pushing them into Communism. Protest, tell the government to get their minds on the real business at hand. Tis your right!!!!!!

Enuf said. Remember, I'll kindly like your articles, fiction, comments, and what have you on proposed Anderzine #1. (HI Janet B., remember me?) Gracias amigos.

Don F. Anderson.

SCOTT KUTINA (This is a combination of two letters, one of which
16309 MARQUIS AVE. was forwarded on to us from Riddle, and the other
CLEVELAND 11, OHIO was sent directly to us. A lack of space & time pre-
vents us from printing both verbatim, so this letter(s)
may be a bit more edited than any others sent to us -- sorry Scotty; hope
you like the way we've handled it. --BEM)

Dear FOLKS,

Greetings and salutations!!

Dave Vanderwerf: What is your address up there at MIT?

Alma Hill: As long as you're working on birthday cards, why not make some f&sf Christmas cards?

Janie Lamb and Nancy Rapp: Now ladies, shake hands, give each others hair back, back off, and SMILE! Seriously now, this is exactly what the N3F has sworn to stamp out. I mean, how would it look to some non-neffer if he heard that our { ex- } president's wife and our secretary-treasurer were feuding over some silly little thing. Now isn't that kind of child-ish?

Mike Shupp: What d'ya mean most pb originals are better than HCs? I'll admit that the pb's print some real gems now and then, like LITTLE FUZZY, but most of the originals are real bombs. Most of the time these

(SCOTT KUTINA, concl.)

so-called originals are just reprints of novels that were only pubbed in prozines, i.e. Van Vogt's WIZARD OF LINN, the sequel to THE EMPIRE OF THE ATOM. As far as reprints go, lets have more of them, because they have supplied me with many books I otherwise could not have gotten in HC. What's a matter Mike baby, don't like constructive criticism? I.e. Mike La Rochelle. I agree with your idea of letting neffers get into the short story contest free and charging non-neffers. I agree, nix on comix. Do you know some fugghead-type neffer wrote a letter to a comic book and said that they (the comic book) were the last hope of sf. Now isn't that the most assinine statement you have ever heard?

As far as my stand on fantasy goes (...) I believe there is definitely a shortage of GOOD fantasy around nowa days. One of the best I've seen recently was in FANTASTIC, February, I think. It was called THE TITAN IN THE CRYPT and it continued the tradition of the Lovecraft School, which I am trying to emulate.

As far as SIASL goes, it won the Hugo, and you can't change it. Enough fen must have thought it was good enough or they wouldn't have voted for it, I know I did. I think the first two Podkayne installments were good, but oh that third! It seemed like RAH got sick and tired of the story and said "forget it" and left his people hanging there. I hope his new one coming up in F&SF is better (GLORY ROAD is the title.).

Somebody send me some hairs from John Campbell huh? He is ruining ANALOG and I'm going to make a voodoo doll and twist his arm until he fixes it up. The first issue with the new format was terrible, it literally stunk. The Reynolds and McIntosh were the only half decent ones. I must congratulate Fred Pohl for his terrific job of revamping IF and for the GREAT job he did in bringing out his new 'zine WORLDS OF TOMORROW. That serial by Clarke is really terrific and so is the rest of the issue. I like the two-tone illos he is using. Agree?

What in God's name is the matter with psi? I like psi stories, especially the Darrel T. Langart stories (Ain't that actually Randall Garrett?) about that certain building in DC that houses the Institute for Metaphysical Research, and the People series by Zenna Henderson are some of the most moving stories I have ever read (and believe me, I'm not moved very easily). I believe the club should support the Hospitality Room at the Cons, but that doesn't mean they shouldn't recieve donations. As long as somebody is bringing up the subject of old radio programs, does anyone remember X MINUS ONE? It was sponsered by GALAXY and was on Thursday nights here in Cleveland. It went off the air 7 or 8 years ago. Some of the stories they had on were REQUIEM and THE ROADS MUST ROLL by Heinlein, PROJECT MASTODON by Clifford Simak & A GUN FOR DINOSAUR by de Camp. Those are all I remember. Can anyone help?

Stephen Hodes: I agree with you. Fantasy is definitely slipping into the previously all stf mags, but it isn't much. Last year and the previous year there was a total of 3 stories that could be classified as fantasy in ANALOG. Digest that JWC.

Lee Riddle: Congratulations on a GREAT cover. I didn't think that kind of quality was possible in amateur pubbing; once again, it's terrific.

I have a great idea. Let's us neffers (notice Piers Jacob, the bad grammer) start a "Bring Back UNKNOWN & WEIRD TALES" campaign. How about it?

How about the new TWILIGHT ZONE. Pretty good, eh wot? I'm glad Serling is finally getting some good stuff for programs. I still regret the loss of THRILLER. It was one of the best shows I've seen, not including TTZ.

Clear skies people.

SCOTT KUTINA

RICHARD ROBERTS

Pent House, 35 E. 6th St. to TIGHTBEAM 17: limit comment to a few issues,
New York 28, New York and comment thoroughly. O.K.

STRANGER is not in Heinlein's usual style, if I remember correctly; hence, many people who like his usual style were disappointed. It isn't inferior to his usual stuff, but different from it. As to the theology: "All that groks is god" is Brahman, not Pantheist; pantheism says that all that is, grokking or not, is God. If all that groks is God, then any intelligent being will take his place in Nirvana or have another chance at qualifying. The main differences are: 1. His nirvana is more like the earlier than the later Nirvana of the Brahmans (the Vedic poems, not the Upanishads.) My first thought was that having people who have already qualified for running things report back for more Earth assignments was also an innovation, but, since they are God, this is only the old idea of Avatars; nothing new.

As to Michael Smith having been around before: REALLY! A prophet preaching, being martyred, ascending to heaven to rule. You mean you have not heard of even one of: Tammuz, Horus, Jesus Christ, Zoroaster, Mithra? And those are only the first five that occurred to me. I'm sure that there were two or three that I missed. On the second thought, I may have been wrong in including Zoroaster.

As to the Rapp-Lamb business. My initial reaction to Rapp's letter was that people were being nasty to Art, and he wanted official proof that he was now "legit". As other letters, including Tucker's in TIGHTBEAM 17, indicate, it was easy to read into her letter what Janie said could be read into it, an accusation of petty theft. However, it seemed that Janie's letter ended the matter and that it should be left buried at that point.

But the Rapps and their friends refused to leave it buried. Both Nancy Rapp and Al Lewis wrote letters that were too strong for what went before; Lewis' could only be called hysterical. Especially when he demands that Janie apologize; for what? Add Art Hayes reply and, since this affair is not dying a natural death, I feel that this reply should be given: publically.

First, let us bury the apparent issue: 1. Nancy Rapp has disavowed any intention to call Janie Lamb a thief, petty or otherwise. Thus the charge is dead. Even the implication was unjust. 2. Janie both pointed out that she had already taken care of the problem of official notice when she got the letter and said there was not enough time between Nancy Rapp's letter to Janie and her letter to TIGHTBEAM to allow for a reply. So: 1. leaves us with what is, most charitably, Al Lewis and the Rapps making a mountain out of an undersized molehill. 2. indicates that even the molehill is ersatz. So why make such a continued issue of it.

Since it is imaginary, there must be a real issue lurking somewhere in the dark. From the communications, Art & Nancy Rapp and Al Lewis do not want it made public, and Art Hayes and Janie Lamb are trying not to do so, to prevent a deep split. What can it be?

Alma Hill, in her letter or resignation, indicated that she, A DIRECTOR, had not been informed of club business since August, 1962, because she was opposed to the policies of the majority. There are other comments on both the said Al Lewis and Art Rapp indicating that they want the NFFF run on the basis of secrecy and fiat. Now the usual corollary of such a policy is that if the person so running hasn't yet committed high crimes and, he will. And Art Hayes has implied that he has record of past high crimes and misdemeanors.

THEREFORE: I officially hereby make a petition, which follows:

(RICHARD ROBERTS, cont.)

RESOLVED, that a report be made by the directorate to the membership in each issue of TNFF of all matters adopted since the previous report. That on the application of 10% of the membership, any matter can be reviewed by the vote of the membership and rejected. THIS MEANS ALL ACTIONS. Any action not so represented is NULL AND VOID. Divide membership review into matters of substance (issues) and of procedure.

Argument for the resolution: The only way to make certain that this policy of secrecy is never tried again is to enforce a policy of full disclosure; the SEC has found this highly efficacious in decreasing the number of frauds. The only way of enforcing a full disclosure proposal is this: if it is not disclosed it is not an action. The reason to allow a vote to overrule is this: even with disclosure, someone may say--If I get this proposal through, I don't care if the members find out. Now, if any proposal can be harmful, a small group can force a review.

It will be argued against the proposal that a small group can louse up matters by forcing all things to a review. This, is not lousing up anything. If all matters are reviewed, they should be reviewed in sections: one for substance, one for procedure. I provided for it, by addendum.

Now I did not say that anything was done wrong; nor did I say that Art or Nancy Rapp or Al Lewis was a monster, but that Lord Action said, "Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely." Actually it is immunity that's at stake; when opposition is uninformed about what's been done, the result is absolute power plus absolute immunity. My resolution is based that the members of the club should be informed of the running of the club; in shouldn't be run by secrecy, nor fiat. The basic constitution is democratic; since this is, all decisions should be published, as in any democratic body.

To complete the burial of the apparent issue in this feud, let us make a second resolution:

RESOLVED, that Janie Lamb is performing an exemplary service to the N3F as its Secretary-Treasurer, and has been doing so for the entire length of her term. The membership takes this opportunity to extend the highest commendation for both the length and quality of her service to the Federation, and to hope that it is long continued.

The basic reason for this resolution is that Janie was the butt of an unjustified attack, which was made for reasons unknown to this member. She should be assured by the members that they haven't the slightest connection with this attack, that they appreciate what she is doing for the N3F, and that they want to see her there for many years to come. Furthermore, by unanimous passage of this, all people concerned can signify painlessly (without loss of face) they wish the feud to end; by passage of the first resolution, they wish to prevent its recurrence. That is another basic reason for the first resolution; to prevent future feuds over anything but the issues themselves. If a disagreement comes from the actual causes thereof, it can be resolved and it will remain resolved; but if the apparent issue is a phony, as here, then, as here, it may seem resolved, but will pop up again, because it has not been really resolved. So the final reason for my resolutions is to promote the health and long life of the NFFF.--R. ROBERTS

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JANIE LAMB
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HEISKELL, TENN.

TO:

Rosemary Hickey
2020 Mohawk
Chicago 14, Illinois

Return Requested

PRINTED MATTER-Return req'd

