



TIGHTREAM #21 - SEPTEMBER 1963  
(Published for NSF by GM Carr)

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THIS IS TIGHTBEAM # 21, EDITED BY G. M. CARR, 5319 BALLARD NW, SEATTLE, WASH.

(Art Rapp, Vicenza, Italy.)

1 July 1963

Dear Gem,

Reading TIGHTBEAM 19 reminded me of several matters upon which I have something to say, so here goes --

Psi phenomena: One of last year's projects which never got off the ground was the formation of a parapsychology group in N3F. In fact, it was the prospect of participating in such an activity which led Nan Gerding to rejoin N3F. Last year's directorate felt that such a group would not be of enough general interest to warrant creating an official department to handle it. But as Dr. Ladonko's and Nathan Bucklin's letters in TB 19 show, there is a considerable segment of the membership who would be interested.

Nangee (Nan Gerding, Box 145, Roseville, Illinois) has been working with the parapsychology department of Duke University for years, and the last time I talked to her was willing to organize esp tests and experiments for any N3F members who were seriously interested in the subject.

Now, as a Director this year, I swing a little more weight, in some respects, than I did as President last year -- but I'm still not going to rush out and introduce a motion that the N3F organize a Parapsychology Bureau for you members interested in such things. Rather, I'm going to point out that a similar situation existed with respect to tape-recorder fans awhile back, and instead of pestering officialdom to create them a bureau, Ron Ellik and a few other enthusiasts went ahead and organized themselves, then asked the N3F administration to grant official recognition to their enterprise.

In the words of the Prophet (Roscoe, not Ghu), Go Thou And Esp Likewise. In other words, if you people are really interested in promoting some activity in the realm of parapsychology, you can get yourselves organized without our help -- because YOU are the ones who know what sort of activity your group wants to undertake. Once you've got the nucleus of a group, then ask the Directorate for assistance, financial or otherwise, and you'll find us falling all over ourselves to help you make a success of your project.

As a start, I'd suggest that any N3F member interested in parapsychology research write to Dr. Ladonko. I'm sure he, with the help of your suggestions, can take it from there.

Next item: Write-in votes in N3F elections, and my Machiavellian motives for not allowing them last year when I wrote the election call for TNEF. This is an interesting example of innocent bungling. You see, back about 1948 the Directorate passed a motion that write-in votes would be permitted in N3F elections. But as the years passed this was forgotten by practically everyone. And when I went to write the election call for the 1962 election, I tried to insure against errors by modeling my message on one written by Ralph Holland. Unfortunately, grabbing an old TNEF from the files at random, I chanced upon one which predated the Directorate motion, and thus in all innocence I copied the words "no write-in votes permitted". If I'd known that I was violating an ancient Directorate rule, I'd have been glad to have allowed write-in votes -- although I can't see any reason why they should be permitted. What reason would a willing candidate have for not filing for office in the normal manner? And if he is unwilling to serve, what good will writing in his name on the ballots do?

At any rate, this was one of the reasons why this year's administration set out to compile a list of all past rulings which are still binding on N3F, as related by Dave in his editorial in TB 19.

If Ron Wilson (referring to Ed Mesky's letter in TB 19) considered A CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ sacrilegious, I wonder how he reacted to THE ELEVENTH COMMANDMENT? That was a fascinating story, but as I read it I kept wondering what a Catholic would think of it.

Of course, by the time you read this letter in TB, you probably already know that both Nancy and I are candidates for election to the Directorate in the coming year. My motives for running are, I trust, adequately stated in my platform in the last TNFF -- but I must confess that I encouraged Nancy to run for office. Honest, people, my wife is both competent and conscientious when it comes to performing Directorate duties....

Hoping you are the same,

/s/ Art

SFC Arthur H Rapp, RA36886935  
Hq Co, 1st US Army Msl Comd  
APO 221, New York, N.Y.

oOo

(Ira Lee Riddle)

July 8, 1963

Dave Locke and all the others who say GALAXY is the best SF mag out: Have you seen the new "Worlds of Tomorrow" yet? To my mind, this mag by far outdistances both GALAXY and ANALOG, in just its first three issues. I say this with all due respect to the others, but I feel it is true. If I had to pick my favorite between GALAXY and ANALOG, I would refuse to do so.

Al Andriuskevicius: I read your letter in TB 20, and came up with a better one. Prove to me that we are living. I believe that everyone and everything on the "earth" is in Hell, suffering for its sins. Prove that we are not, with solid proof; then prove that your proof is proof. (P.S. I personally believe that there is something in the nature of what we call ESP, but I am not sure exactly what it is.)

John Kusske, Jr.: I have been reading SF for about seven years now, a good bit of it from magazines, such as F&SF. About three years ago, when F&SF began to tend toward more fantasy than SF, I threw it away in disgust. To this day, except for an occasional story, I have not even touched it. No, I do not consider it a SF mag any more.

Dave Patrick: I find myself in the same predicament, but I can't do much about it, as I am still in school. I think that one answer to the problem is to make some SF required reading in school, such as "Stranger in a Strange Land" or "The Stars Like Dust". A few doses of reading such as these would do a lot to ease the problem.

Ira Lee Riddle

617 Shue Dr., Newark, Del. 19711

(ED. NOTE: IRA LEE RIDDLE IS THE SON OF LEE RIDDLE AND HELPED LEE PUT TOGETHER THE PREVIOUS ISSUE OF TB. HE HAS JUST BEEN SIGNED UP INTO N3F. LEE RIDDLE (Sr.) EXPLAINS HE USES THE OFFICE ADDRESS FOR PERSONAL MAIL "... ABOUT N3F SO THAT FAMILY MAIL WON'T GET MIXED UP WITH IT AT HOME. IRA WILL USE 617 SHUE DRIVE; GOSH, TWO RIDDLE MEN IN FANDOM! HE, OF ALL THE FIVE CHILDREN IS THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS SHOWN SIGNS OF FOLLOWING THE OLD MAN'S INTEREST AND WORK, AND I HOPE, SOME OF THESE DAYS, WILL HAVE A FANZINE OF HIS OWN COMING OUT.")

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2.

.....oOo.....  
DEADLINE FOR TIGHTBEAM #22 WILL BE OCTOBER 15 -- THAT'S RIGHT, THE FIFTEENTH!  
.....oOo.....

(Enid Jacobs)  
Dear TIGHTBEAM,

July 16, 1963

Most people have at least a vague idea of what they mean. But they make the mistake of assuming that everyone, in some strange telepathic way, knows what they mean. Thus do misunderstandings, feuds, murders and other interesting - though anti-social - things occur. Take the latest issue of TIGHTBEAM. (Note the way I led into it. Subtle, huh?) David Patrick seems to be working on the assumption that everyone agrees that fandom has a Purpose, is "for" something -- the perpetration, advancement, and standard-lifting of science fiction, one would imagine. Of course, most fans ARE for (rather than against) this ideal, albeit in a passive sort of way, rather than the doggedly determined manner David seems to imply they should display.

Actually, fandom seems to be more of an excuse for people who are more or less kindred spirits to A) find out that there ARE others like them in the world and B) converse on many topics, of mutual interest, in an atmosphere of comparative freedom. Thus, the LOC or article on politics, theosophy, or the writer's personal habits is as much a part of fandom as are those on the qualities of current sf. So you would NOT have been "thrown off the course" to pick up a copy of any fanzine at all, David, even a more specialized one. The fact that it is accepted for an sf fan to publish a zine that doesn't concern sf (or even to include non-sf articles in a general-zine) tells a great deal about fandom -- mainly that it is not so specialized as to exclude all non-sf subjects. A subculture, fandom bristles with sub-sub groups.

And then there were Scott Kutina's comments -- denied that there was potential fan material in comic book readers. Hmmm. You seem to imply, Scott, that this is not so because of the quality of the sf in the comics themselves. Could Norwood have possibly meant that the TYPE of person who reads comix, especially into and past his teens, is the TYPE of person (individualistic and so on) who might become easily converted to fandom? Of course, not having seen TB#19, I've been feeling my way in the dark around here. Sort of like Beethoven who said, on leaving a party (early) "Is there anyone here I haven't insulted?" Better leave before I bring down the wrath of the readership upon me. Incidentally -- I enjoyed TB immensely.

Sincerely,

/s/ Enid

Enid Jacobs, 3914 Brookhill Rd.  
Baltimore 15, Md.

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WHO WILL THE EDITOR BE? I DON'T KNOW -- LOOK ON PAGE 23...  
.....oOo.....

(Felice Rolfe)  
Dear TB,

July 17, 1963

Tell me, did I just happen to join in a bad year, or does the NSF carry on like this all the time?

I agree with you, GM, that the proposed "dual membership" amendment is unnecessary; but not for the reasons you give. I just think that it probably wouldn't simplify anything. I doubt that any uninterested spouse of a member is going to take the trouble to join, no matter what we do to the membership requirements. Would your husband? Mine wouldn't. And especially not to give me an extra vote, as you imply.

(EQ.NOTE: MAYBE I HAVE A DJM VIEW OF HUMAN NATURE'S ABILITY TO RESIST TEMPTATION. UNDER THE PROPOSED DUAL MEMBERSHIP, YOUR SPOUSE WOULDN'T HAVE TO JOIN. YOU COULD JUST ADD HIS NAME TO YOURS (IE, MR & MRS) AND YOU'D BE ENTITLED TO AN EXTRA VOTE WHETHER HE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT IT OR

NOT! NOW, MAYBE I UNDERESTIMATE FANNISH ETHICS. I HOPE SO. BUT I WOULDNT GUARANTEE THAT I'D BE ABOVE YIELDING TO SO LEGAL -- IF UNETHICAL -- A TEMPTATION, SO WHY SHOULD I ASSUME OTHER FANS WOULDNT, ALSO, ESPECIALLY WHEN GIVEN OFFICIAL PERMISSION TO DO SO BY A VOTE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP?)

Al Andriuskevicious: you weren't talking to me, but since you bring up an interest of mine -- logic -- may I join in? I don't believe in God for the same reason I don't believe in psi, which is that I don't care for the idea of "believing" in things. I want them supported by either physical or logical evidence. Nevertheless, I support you on one point; it's self-defeating to insist on having evidence about psi before experimenting, since the purpose of an experiment is to produce some evidence. Either for or agin, don't forget.

May I offer two definitions from Webster's New World Dictionary?

1. "Deduction: in logic, reasoning from a known principle to an unknown, from the general to the specific, or from a premise to a conclusion. Opposed to induction."
2. "Induction: reasoning from particular facts or individual cases to a general conclusion."

In philosophical logic, either of these can be misused; but they both exist. I don't offhand remember the names of the fallacies they result in, but you can get such obvious nonsense as: a) by deduction, from "some fans don't feud" to "J. Estes Grotch doesn't feud"; by induction, from "J.E. Grotch feuds" to "all fans feud".

In mathematical logic, induction not only exists, it is a very powerful method of proof. Both induction and deduction will yield true conclusions, if your hypotheses or premises are true. In math you can know whether or not they are, because you can prove them, again by logic. In philosophical reasoning, you can't know for sure whether or not you've started with true information, and therefore neither induction or deduction are completely trustworthy. That's why a distinction must be made between "true" and "logically valid".

Enough of that. Now you've heard of inductive logic. It does exist. Shall we feud?

Sincerely, /s/ Felice Rolfe  
1360 Emerson  
Palo Alto, Calif.

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WRITE THAT LETTER TO TIGHTBEAM RIGHT NOW -- 1ST COME, 1ST SERVED YOU KNOW...

(Paul Gilster)

oOo July 18, 1963 oOo

I am writing this letter in response to several letters which appeared in TIGHTBEAM 20.

Firstly, I comment on Arnold Katz's brilliant epistle. Mr. Katz says, quote.

"If you don't want ANALOG to become another SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, don't argue with J.W.C. about the editorials. Ignore them completely and write to J.W.C. about the stories. If enough of us ignore those aspects of ANALOG which are undesirable maybe John will get the idea that we don't give a damn about what Joe Blow thinks of the Dean Drive!"

Heaven forbid that ANALOG should become a SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN! But, I'm afraid that Mr. Katz' plan is doomed to failure. John is as obsessed with his scientific insanities as he thinks his readers are. And those few fans that like his scientific ramblings will continue to write in and say so. I doubt if we can get John to change. Besides, those editorials always make me laugh; one of the few really funny facets of the pro-

zines. First, John says that according to unshakable logic, which he has just formulated, the earth contains the only intelligent race in the universe. The next month he says he was wrong and goes on to point out that we are only one among a vast universe that probably contains millions like us. Then, next month, he says that the only intelligent life besides us in the universe live on the gas giants. Great fun. I've always wanted to turn out a fanz titled THE JOHN CAMPBELL INSANITIES, which consisted only of picking out some wacky editorial from a past ASTOUNDING and pointing out just how ridiculous it is. The only thing I lack for this is files of ASTOUNDING. Darn it!

I agree with Scott Kutina. I bought a few conix long ago connected with SF, but then had much more fun at the library, where I found a copy of Asimov's FOUNDATION. This was a little too much for my then childhood intellect, but it did send me over to the sf shelf where I got a few Heinlein juveniles.

I also agree with Dave Locke. I never did really like ANALOG, and I hate F&SF as far as its format goes. GALAXY prints good stories, as Dave points out, and it's in an attractive format. GALAXY's best in my book. While I enjoy AMAZING and FANTASTIC immensely, GALAXY just has better stories. Let's face it, gang.

/s/ PAUL GILSTER  
42 Godwin Lane  
St. Louis, Missouri 63124

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N3F NEEDS 6 VOLUNTEER EDITORS PER YEAR FOR TIGHTBEAM. SEE PAGE 23.  
..... oOo .....

(Scott Kutina)  
Dear Membership,

July 20, 1963

Congratulations once again to Lee Riddle for another fine issue of TB. The cover was great and the print was readable, much better than the usual mimeo stuff. I couldn't believe it was actually 20 pages. Once again, congratulations.

Concerning the different prozines: Dave Locke is right. As far as straight sf 'zines go, GALAXY IS THE BEST, and I don't think it has suffered any under Fred Pohl. At least he isn't pushing Dean Drives, Psi, and whether or not Eskimos are dying in our faces. Look at last year for example, GALAXY had THE DRAGON MASTERS, THE PALLAD OF LOST G'MELL, and COME INTO MY CELLAR (which was originally on the ALFRED HITCHCOCK SHOW). 1961 was the last good year that ANALOG had, what with THE FISHERMAN (TIME IS THE SIMPLEST THING) and A SENSE OF OBLIGATION (PLANET OF THE DAMNED). Last year was not too bad, but it wasn't good either. A LIFE FOR THE STARS, ANYTHING YOU CAN DO, and the "El Hassan" stories were the only outstanding stories during the whole year, and this year (so far) has been an almost complete dud, except for THE HATE DISEASE. Even the sequel to DEATH WORLD bombed out, and his editorials keep getting worse and worse.

John Kusska: Rick is referring to last year's F&SF which is the one voted on for the Hugo. I'm going to have to agree with Rick there, even though it pains me, because F&SF is my favorite prozine. This year is just about the best they've ever had in the past few years. NO TRUCE FOR KINGS, GLORY ROAD, FAST TRIP, HUNTER, COME HOME are just about some of the best I've ever read. I have a suspicion though, that when Poul Anderson wrote NO TRUCE, he had just seen the movie, THE TUNES OF GLORY, and that he had based his regiment along the lines of the Scottish regiment.

Dave Ettlin: What ever happened to the ChiCon tapes? HMMMMMMMMMMMM?

Gil Lamont: Rejoice boy. Ballantine has decided to put out the other four Mars books, just for you. Ian Ballantine must be telepathic or something.

As far as ESP and that jazz goes, its fine in the magazines and that, but when somebody starts practising it, well Big Brother here we come. Dave Locke, you haven't heard anything yet. Try touching noses and practising ESP. That's what we do in

school, and its got holding hands beat by a good, country mile. Believe me, the point gets across might fast.

As far as the Kaymar Award goes, I back Frank Hiller 100%. Hint, hint!

Nat Bucklin: Our esteemed publications bureau was supposed to have a booklet explaining TAFF in detail, but due to certain complications it never got off with the last issue of TNFF.

Religion in sf: I'm for that. The church isn't perfect, kiddies, and isn't sf the best critic for all sorts of stuff? Well, I'm all for criticism whether it's government, sex or religion.

As long as we are on the subject of heroes and villains in sf.. Why not heroines? The girls have had their share of lumps, Heaven only knows, so lets see what kind of a list of heroines we can make up. Just send it to me. O yes, it doesn't matter if they are BEMS, just as long as they're female and some sort of heroine.

I will blab this announcement one more time. A club is being formed. It will be called THE ORDER OF CTHULHU, and will be devoted to H.P.Lovecraft, and the Lovecraft Circle of writers. Anybody interested, please contact me. Thanks.

Guess that's it. I've shot my mouth off enough, so I guess I'll go.

Yours truly,

/s/ Scott Kutina  
15509 Marquis Ave.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44111

TIGHTBEAM EDITORS FOR 1963 SO FAR, HAVE BEEN RIDDLE, MALLARDI/BOWERS, HULAN, RIDDLE & CARR. WHO WILL BE #6? SEE PAGE 23.

(Mike Shupp)

July 14, 1963

Dear Tightbeam:

Tightbeam for July came today, commendably on time, and I figured I might as well write a letter for once. It's been a year or so since I last wrote, so I figure the membership can stand another Shupp letter....

G.M.Carr (and TB ed): this letter of yours in TB #19 brought out an interesting point that should be remembered when voting on the dual membership amendment. On the other hand, it seems to point to your noticing a rather regrettable lack of character, potential or otherwise, in some members.

(ED. NOTE: THAT'S RIGHT, MIKE -- I HAVE NOTICED THAT WHEN YOU GIVE PEOPLE -- EVEN FANS -- A LEGAL OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SOMEBODY ELSE, EVEN IF IT IS AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE BY THE OTHER FELLOW'S STANDARDS -- THEY USUALLY DO IT, UNFAIR OR NOT. SO WHY EXPOSE THEM TO TEMPTATION?)

But there's really nothing to keep such a fan from paying the dues for his unfannish spouse and voting twice, but the extra two bucks. How about a compromise amendment on the lines of "Married couples may join the NFFF by paying dues of 3 dollars a year. Such a dual membership may receive only one copy of any club publication, but both may vote and hold elective office as individuals." The one could still vote his inactive spouse's vote too, but at least he would have to pay for the privilege. Actually, it might be better to eliminate dual memberships entirely and make the fan pay two sets of dues, but since he would really need only one copy of club publications, he should be sent only one. And charging him for something he never got (i.e., club publications) would be ridiculous. Please comment?

(Ed. NOTE: HOW DO YOU KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THEY WOULD WANT MORE THAN ONE COPY OF CLUB PUBLICATIONS? SOME MIGHT WANT THE EXTRA COPY FOR GIVING AWAY, IF NOT FOR THEIR OWN USE. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IS SOMETHING FOR THE COUPLES THEMSELVES TO JUDGE, NOT FOR AN OUTSIDER TO DECIDE. BESIDES, IF THEY DIDN'T WANT IT, THEY COULD NOTIFY THE SECRETARY THEY ARE MAKING A VOLUNTARY DONATION TO THE CLUB OF THE UNNEEDED EXTRA SET. PERSONALLY, I FEEL THAT ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED ENOUGH IN N3F TO WANT TO BE A MEMBER, SHOULD PAY DUES. FURTHERMORE, ANY MEMBER NOT INTERESTED ENOUGH IN N3F TO PAY A MEASLY TWO BUCKS WORTH OF DUES ANNUALLY, ISN'T DESIRABLE, AS A VOTING OR OFFICE-HOLDING MEMBER. "DEADWOOD" MEMBERS WE CAN'T AVOID, AND WHY SHOULD WE? IF THAT'S ALL THEY WANT FROM THE CLUB, THEY ARE ENTITLED TO IT. BUT WE CERTAINLY DON'T HAVE TO SUBSIDIZE DEADWOOD BY LETTING THEM IN FOR HALF PRICE!)

Jeff Renner: Right, evidently the Roman Catholic church does not consider A CANTICLE FOR LIEBOWITZ to be sacrilegious. However, if any of you fen out there consider CANTICLE or Blish's A CASE OF CONSCIENCE to be sacrilegious, and have copies you might otherwise consign to Circular File #13, you might just casually mail over this-a-way. I'd be glad to have another copy of CANTICLE, and I've been looking for a copy of A CASE OF CONSCIENCE for two years now. CANTICLE is one of my favorite sf novels, even for such a fire-baptized agnostic as I. Really, the thing that scares me about CANTICLE is that it was pubbed with a jacket blurb saying "...it falls into no genre, certainly not science fiction..."

Dick Hinman: Sauron (The Lord of the Rings) O'Brien (1984)  
John Petty (Slan) Blackie DuQuenne (Skylark series)  
Balkis (Pebble In The Sky) Scholar Phelps (Highways in Hiding)  
Goniface (Gather, Darkness!) "Roger" (Triplanetary)  
Maurey St. George (Titan's Daughter) Tjorstern (Sentinels of Space) (sic)

David Ettlin: Your ass buro proposals are interesting, but it sounds like it might strangle the Buro under a couple of tons of red-tape. To go down your seven points: 1. is fine, and doesn't the Ass Bureau work that way now anyhow? 2. and your 4.5 rating proposal sound rather superfluous, with the Neffer Annual Story Contest. It, too, has three judges, and since the final judging is done by a pro, his opinion might be more valuable than any offered by non-pro fen. And should the Buro have the authority to judge a fan's work? You have no guarantee that the prospective fened might rate highly something you had assigned to a 2 rating. Certainly fan writers, beginning at least, might need some criticism and evaluation, but I think this would be better served by something on the lines of Alma Hill's "Mark" semi-pro project. 3, 4, and 5 are more red tape. 6. is also, but point 7 is fine.. But shouldn't you leave this to the fan manners of the fened, instead of trying to enforce something un-enforceable?

John Kuske: "...appalling remarks by the big bad editor tearing helpless nees to pieces.." huh? I take it you are referring to David Kirk Patrick's letter in TB 19? Although it didn't look that way to me. The Big Bad Editor was simply answering some of Patrick's comments -- and very angry ones most of them were. But Dave Hulan is entirely within his rights of editorial comment in doing so. As a matter of fact, I thought he did an excellent job of answering Patrick, far better than I would have done. But, really, "...tearing helpless nees to pieces"? Come now, Dave Hulan has shown exceptional patience and ability in helping nees. How would you like it to receive a letter from some teenage boy, a stranger hundreds of miles away, asking for info on fandom? Particularly when said teenage boy - me - apparently had the impression that you were probably a bright twelve-year-old (because no adult would really be interested in fandom!) when in truth you were in your twenties. And, as a final crowning insult, said teenager had put a crudely made, homebuilt envelope in the letter, stamped, so that said (imagined) twelve-year-old wouldn't forget all about it!

Now I did that, and if you could take it as well as Dave did, then - and only then - would you be qualified to make dumb cracks about "...tearing helpless nees to pieces."

Certainly comments made by nees are likely to be discredited, or at least taken with a grain of salt. Six months in fandom makes you an authority? Moscovitz and Ackerman should be hanging on your every word? Let's not be silly.

After you get into fandom you should take a little time to learn the ropes, and to get rid of any preconceptions and false impressions you may have acquired before joining. Then go out and learn things as they really are. But its like being voted into Congress. There are, of course, many things you will not like; many things that you should dislike, many injustices. But over and above all that you will find reasons for politicians acting the way they do. You will find a little understanding, and after some time you, too, will be firmly enscoured in Congress. But to get back to the analog, or parallels, a freshman Senator certainly wouldn't be qualified to pass judgements on some issues. Particularly if these issues and judgements required information that this Senator had not yet learned, or couldn't learn for some time.

Nathan Bucklin: what now? Two intelligent nees!

Palmer puts out a few zines about the size of Science Digest. Don't know what their names are, but I think they come out at least bi-monthly. Search, Fate I think. Mostly these deal with saucers, and so on. A series of books (well, zines -- but they cost a buck and a half) called The Hidden World has been reprinting the Palmer-Shaver myths. Palmer is putting out the whole thing from some far off place -- and what ever happened to Shaver, anyhow?

You might want to read these. Clay Hamlin has all of the series, I believe. You might ask him about it. Might take a while, though -- I'm still reading them.

I don't like short issues of TB either. Particularly since when I write -- which is rather rare, and most of those never get in the mail in time -- I write loooooong letters insert for affirmative profanity from editor.. HOW TRUE, HOW ~~!!%&! TRUE~~ AND, UNFORTUNATELY FOR ME, ALL OF IT WORTH KEEPING and these are likely to get out. I'd even be willing to up the dues to 2.50 a year for a thirty-page TB. Which ends this TB letter. Hack away, Gem...

/s/ Mike (Shupp)  
Verona, Ohio

.....oOo.....  
YOU, TOO, DEAR READER, CAN DRIVE A TB EDITOR TO ~~#!~~ SO WRITE TODAY. SEE PAGE 23.

.....oOo.....  
(Phil Roberts)

July 24, 1963

Dear Gem,

Thanks and congratulations to Lee Riddle for his fine paper-master offset and superb typing in TIGHTBEAM #20; though the material he had on hand was far inferior to #19, his treatment of those scarce letters has made them so legible that I think I can even reread it to add a few personal comments of my own:

JEFF RENNER: You have included another good discussion of Miller's CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ and again I am lost in neither having read it, nor understanding the nature or form of this apparently classical work. It sounds from goodness. I was even mildly pleased with Mead's THE BIG BALL OF WAX with its post-innoculous (sic) Molly Blood. Geritol of Religion in her time, the satire of the pleasure state in the Confessional. This displays my lack of foundation in stf which will be further revealed in this little note.

AL ANDRIVSKEVICIUS: (sic) Your comparison of psi to God is at the same time ridiculous and also very true. It depends upon the conception of "God". To me, God is an internal thing, and I refuse to reflect upon or worship anything which is supposed to symbolize God. I consider my conscience - my brain's governor - to be the most ultimate God, or at least my AT&T Telstar link with Him. The pomp (awe, pomposity?) of an organized religion's ceremony is a grand reminder to join in some extra-terrestrial communication, but a reminder. To me, my mental power comes and goes (not referring to IQ), depending upon both my physical and sexual state at the time: since there are strong periods of the prowl and periods of complete satisfaction where any mental broadcasting is weak. There are times when you can strongly influence another, or others. I am so unconsciously aware of this that I would never concentrate on a certain card which is important to me in a game of Canasta. Even though I accept this and much more, such as my mental power controlling my physical health, I cannot even begin to consider psi as any thing for concentrated study, no more than why there is a rainbow. Even love is a complicated form of psi, but I think they are equally elusive...don't you?

DAVE EITLIN: Your rather complete plan for the MS Bureau brings me to awe. I have to make a trivial suggestion though. Include both a respectable typing skill and at least a mid-Senior High knowledge of grammar as additions to your legibility clauses. OK, huh? Well, I'm not really trying to get pushy or anything about this, but the mental distraction of adding an 'o' or subtracting one, sticking in a 'doubleyou' or pulling one out and maybe adding another 'o' on the word 2 is amazingly staggering!

DAVID PATRICK: I couldn't agree more; the common fanzine is the greatest deterrent to a neofan's further participation in fandom, or his striving for BNF -- or ITF (In There Fighting) -- hood in existence. I doubt that anything can match the frustration I felt at my first glances at both YANDRO and FANAC respectively. Even our fairly wide-open Satire Fandom became inhibitive with name worship and slant toward its noble end. This is why there is concentration on hero and villain contests, and argument over various science fiction progines...this is what the honest young neofan is prepared to discuss, and in a sense, deserves the chance to discuss, until he develops his own ingroupishness.

C.W. BROOKS: Re ANALOG's ads; you weren't really prepared to buy 500 pp pamphlet on erotica possible through the manipulation of the thumbnails; or a tract on Skinning Skunk, were you? Those fancy ads in ANALOG are not only heading up its roll of readers to the technician set, from the fang-and-monster set, but are paying real money -- plus that small thing about status. I do not buy any science fiction progine, since FU and GALAXY in the ninth grade. But I have upon occasion participated in newsstand-perusal of GAMMA, AMAZING, FANTASTIC, WONDER STORIES, F&SF, GALAXY, NEW WORLDS, IF, and ANALOG. From careful reading of titles, authors, and subheads, ANALOG comes closest to fulfilling the intellectual need which I feel must be fulfilled by any reading, stf and otherwise. So close indeed, that I intend to buy a copy the next time I am in Indiana -- soon. Of course, this assumption of superiority is simple conjecture, and I will byghod have my careful and probably just as unfounded opinions ready by the next TB. This is nothing indeed; I have no more basis for an accurate judging of good or bad stf, than for fan fiction...

FRANKLIN HILLER: Well, here's another endorsement raising Seth to my shoulders. Since his letters to my name on his Welccommittee list, we have been talking, kidding, and satirizing about farm life; even here he has slanted the letters to my -- the neoneffer's -- interests (even though I'm trying to find out more about him!)

GIL LAMONT: I have been trying to define what a "hero" is. It seems that there have to be many types of heroes; is he a person who risks his life (and limb) to perform a dangerous act for another human, or is he a rather incapable person who overcomes his own negative introspective attitudes -- himself -- to perform a common task?

My other TB extra topic: I have been hit by a bright (and, I hope, original) idea for a fanzine. Titled BULLSESSION, the little mag would have a four-or-five-man Board of Directors to decide mostly serious and sometimes humorous topics for discussion in the upcoming issue (topics for first issue could be announced in TB), then everyone would be invited to write their most profound or satirical views upon any or all of the subjects. Then each bunch of selected and good discussion would be inserted under the proper title, with a few very interesting subheads to induce the purchaser to read on, under each broad title. Whatchathink, fandom? This is the type of mag I would like to READ, and it is the type I would like to see edited. Comments?

30

/s/ PHIL ROBERTS  
283 Hoopingarner Road  
Rural Route 1  
Bronson, Michigan

P.S.: I would like everyone to write:

AB David R. Pope, AF 16764605, Flt. 867,  
Box 1525, Lackland Air Force Base, Lackland, Tex.

He's in basic training; interested in everything from girls to model railroads, and a great guy! Please write, and tell him I sent ya!

(ED. NOTE: LOOK, PHIL, INSTEAD OF JUST ASKING FANS TO WRITE TO YOUR FRIEND, WHY DON'T YOU ENROLL HIM IN N3F? IF YOU THINK HE'S THE TYPE OF GUY THAT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LETTERS FROM NEFFERS, THAT'S THE WAY TO MAKE SURE HE'LL GET SOME. THEN YOU WRITE AND TELL HIM ABOUT IT SO HE'LL KNOW WHAT THE SCORE IS! IT'S AWFULLY EASY TO MAKE NICE SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THINGS FOR THE OTHER FELLOW TO DO -- EVEN SO FAR AS TO ASKING THEM TO WRITE LETTERS TO YOUR FRIEND -- BUT THE REAL WAY TO GET AN ACTIVITY STARTED IS TO BEGIN IT YOURSELF AND THEN ASK OTHERS TO JOIN YOU AFTER YOU'VE ALREADY STARTED THE BALL A-ROLLING.)

.....oo.....  
OCT 15 IS THE DEADLINE..OCT. 15 IS THE DEADLINE..AW, C'MON, FELLAS, BE EARLY...  
.....oo.....

(Jim Harkness)

20 July 1963

Dear Gem;

TB #20's cover... well, what can I say? Real proxy (hmmmm, that word didn't turn out right) looking, and the drawing itself was excellent. Dear Mr. Hunter Sir, how about sending me something?

Since everybody seems to be jumping on Campbell with both feet, I may as well hop into the act. My contribution: JWC's politics are okay, but his science stinks. F'rinstance, not too long ago he said that when a person takes strychnine, his bones are broken by sheer muscle contraction. Hah, Strychnine works directly on the heart, paralyzing it in the contracted position. Anyway, the tendons would rip out of their origins long before the bones even weakened. I'm a strict science fiction fan, though, (fight, anyone?) so I like ANALOG, GALAXY's better, though.

I don't know who made the goof in Jeff Cole's letter -- him or the typist -- but that name is Dr. Askold Ladonko, not Ladonka. Wow, that's almost libel.

Dave Locks: Where did you get the idea that eighth grade girls are inexperienced? Well, maybe in retrospect they are; but Sons Age When I Was There, it did not seem thually to me. But I was.

I don't see how sacrilege is possible unless a person is outrightly attacking all beliefs of his religion.

James MacLean: (from TB#19) Hew, pray tell, does the layman learn hypnotism? From a quack book or a quack doctor? No offense, Jim (I own a gun, yes, and I know it's dangerous) but I asked some competent people in the field (one psychologist and one psychiatrist) and both told me to let it alone. To learn hypnotism safely takes a long time and a reliable teacher. You may have taught yourself, but are you sure that you can control it?

Nathan A. Bucklin: Perhaps "All That Earthly Remains" was sacrilege, but I doubt it. If Mr. McCapp is of any faith other than Christianity -- and perhaps Muslim, since they recognize Christ as a prophet -- the story is no more sacrilege than a story ridiculing the Roman gods.

(ED. NOTE: WEBSTER DEFINES SACRILEGE: "...DESECRATING THAT WHICH IS SACRED" SO ANYTHING WHICH IS STILL REGARDED AS SACRED COULD BE THE SUBJECT OF SACRILEGE, REGARDLESS OF THE BELIEFS OF THE PERSON DOING IT. IN FACT, ONE OF THE HAZARDS OF EXPLORING NEW CULTURES IS THE DANGER OF FAILING TO RECOGNIZE, AND RESPECT, THE VARIOUS OBJECTS WHICH THE NATIVES REGARD AS HOLY. BLASPHEMY, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS DEFINED: "TO SPEAK (OF) WITH IMPIOUS IRREVERENCE" WHICH IMPLIES A DELIBERATE DISRESPECT TO THAT WHICH IS KNOWN TO BE REGARDED AS SACRED.)

I agree with you. People should stop griping about dues. (I can talk. I'm paid up through '64.) With all the stuff the club puts out (12 fms per year, enclosures, blanks, story contest, tape bureau, fanbooks, indices, etc. etc. ) we get our money's worth.

Lastly -- a plug. I desperately need subscriptions to my 'zine, STRANGER THAN FACT. I got a number of single orders, but this is unreliable. If I can get about 75 to 100 subs (a high total, yes, but I'm sure it's possible) I'd like to stop printing copies for anything else except spas. Subs are \$1.00 per year (four issues). Please, please subscribe. I am at present still selling single copies, for 25¢, and orders are welcomed.

TIGHTBEAM #2 was a good issue, Lee.

/s/ JIM HARKNESS  
112 W. Harding, Greenwood,  
Miss.

.....oOo.....  
WHO'LL PUB TIGHTBEAM #22? WHO'LL PUB TIGHTBEAM #22? WHO'LL PUB TIGHTBEAM #22?

(Joe Staton)

.....oOo.....  
July 23, 1963

John Kuske: PLAYBOY IS NOT A GIRLY MAGAZINE. If you want girly pix, there are plenty of zines around that feature nothing but this. I buy PLAYBOY regularly, but not just for the girls, nor do I think most of the readers buy it for this reason. If you want to see pix of girls you can always buy these mags like VUE, PIC, etc. I like PLAYBOY because of the good writers like Bradbury, Beaumont, Russel, Gold, and others. But then, maybe I'm in the minority. All I know is there are dozens of PLAYBOY imitations that contain a lot more sex, and their literary content is far below PLAYBOY's. Not that PLAYBOY is the ultimate in good literature, but they do maintain a pretty high level. Right?

Luck /s/ Joe Staton  
469 Ennis St., Milan, Tenn. 38358

.....oOo.....  
(pc from Don Franson)

Luck on TB. I wish to apply some verbal corflu to a type in my letter in TB #20 where it says I am "opposed to two terms for elected officials." I am NOT opposed to two terms -- I'm even running again myself. I am opposed to two-year terms. That's too long a ride on one ticket. Your letter on joint membership is same as my position on subject. One dues, one vote seems fairest in a club which has no other qualifications for membership besides paying dues.

/s/ Don

(Peter Fieber) .....ooo.....

To:

G. M. Carr

For Tight-Beam 21

IT IS A SAD AND PROUD THING TO BE A FAAN! (Lee Riddle, TB 20)

1. question: Why proud? 2. question: Why sad?

1. Why a proud thing?

Because we are faans and read s-f, and maybe are a little more intelligent than our fellow-men? That isn't the answer only a shift. Or that we are - as Heinlein said - "time-binders"? Rather I think there ISN'T a motive to be proud. Well, we're fans, we read stf. We've a hobby, no not only a hobby, it's a little bit more than a hobby.

(ED. NOTE: EVIDENTLY PETER BELONGS TO THE FIAWOL FACTION OF FANDOM -- THOSE WHOSE SLOGAN IS, "FANDOM IS A WAY OF LIFE!")

But -- IS IT A REASON TO BE PROUD? There are many other groups with other interestings, fans not s-f fans but fans like we! They change beer-mats, collect stamps, read whodunnits, or emulate an idol, with one word: They fill their spare time with an employment -- like we do! You'll say that isn't a comparison. But, YES IT IS! Sure, it isn't the best one, but better one than none. You'll say too: "We're people looking forward! We're forward our fellow-men! We look forward to the future!" But do we? Or does it only seem to us that we do? I think the latter! So we're in the last resort NOTHING MORE than the "others". They do their thoughts about the world and the future, too, but not only like we. And that is, as I think, the sole difference between "them" and us, or do you have another opinion?

(..OR AM I MISTAKEN AND HE'S A FIJAH FAN AFTER ALL?)

2. Why a sad thing?

Because we are more or less pitiful smiled at our "crazy ideas" and the business with literature about utopia and "this firing in space"? Or because we produce - in the true sense of the word - a fanzine night after night and in a hardly toil? At first it isn't an answer, and second it is still wrong too, for we do all this only voluntary. Therefore it can't be an argument. Because we are considered to be .. "slightly crazy" (to express it humane)? That isn't the wisdom's last end, for some peculiar collector is denoted to be queer, respectively crazy and nevertheless he isn't to style with "sad"! WHAT is it, consequently, which induces us to feel ourselves sad?

(ED. NOTE: MIKE SHUPP SAID "THE FULL QUOTE I READ IN YANDRO, TO WIT: 'IN THIS MODERN AGE OF ELECTRONIC AIR CONDITION, IT IS A PROUD AND LONELY THING TO BE A FAN.' THE ORIGINATOR, I BELIEVE, IS A NEFFER. WILL WHOEVER RESPONSIBLE STAND UP AND TAKE A BOW.." SORRY I HAD TO CUT IT FROM HIS LOGGING LOG)

WHAT induce us to think to be a faan is a sad and proud think? Don't take it me ill but I think THERE ARE NO ARGUMENTS!! We have no motives too to seclude ourselves from the "others", how we do. Have you another opinion? Okay, that's self-evident your right claim. Moreover I'm such one of this clique, which named itself s-f fans, and I'm barely to distinguish from the other fans.

BUT THIS MUST ONCE BE TOLD!!

s/s Peter Fieber  
285 bremerhaven-1  
grashoffstr. 39/111, GERMANY

(ED. NOTE: OKAY, KIDS -- HERE'S YOUR CHANCE FOR A GOOD DISCUSSION. BUT I SUGGEST YOU WRITE DIRECTLY TO PETER, BECAUSE I'M AFRAID TB #22 WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HOLD ALL THE COMMENTS -- I KNOW HOW MUCH GOOD STUFF I'VE HAD TO LEAVE OUT OF TB #21 FOR LACK OF SPACE. AT LEAST SEND A CARBON COPY OF YOUR COMMENTS TO THE GUYS INVOLVED -- IT SEEMS SUCH A SHAME TO LEAVE ALL THOSE BRILLIANT REMARKS ON THE CUTTING ROOM FLOOR... 20 PP JUST ISN'T 'NUFF.

TIGHTBEAM #21, % G.M.Carr

(Mark Zibelman)

This is a comment on comments from TIGHTBEAM #20, as are many TB letters. In fact, so many TB letters are comments on comments that I agree with the neos who can't just step in and become a part of it all and can't feel they belong.

(ED. NOTE: TB IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE LETTERCOL SPILLOVER FOR TNFF, WHERE MEMBERS CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THE MEMBERS. SHORT LETTERS EXPRESSING OPINIONS ON CLUB POLICY, PENDING LEGISLATION, QUESTIONS ABOUT CLUB SERVICES -- OR REPLIES TO SAME, ETC. IT IS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE A PLACE FOR DETAILED MGS -- WE HAVE N'APA FOR THAT. I SUSPECT MANY MEMBERS DO NOT REALIZE THEY ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF TB EDITORS WHEN THEY USE TB AS A REVIEWZINE. THESE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ARE WHAT GIVES AN APA ITS CHARM, AND I URGE ALL YOU FANS WHO ENJOY WRITING LOOONG LOCs TO TB, TO GIVE N'APA A TRY. THERE YOUR ESSAYS WILL BE APPRECIATED.)

I know exactly what it's like -- a month ago I was one of those neos. I still am a neo BUT no longer have that lost feeling. I haven't pubbed any fanzines, joined any apas, and I doubt that many neos even want to do so right away. You don't have to be lost until you are this active. Good grief, neos, correspond! You must have received Welcommittee letters--answer a few, it's quite painless. Write to TB, surely you can make just a short comment on all the comments on neos, then there you are, making comments on comments and you belong and can laugh at the poor stumbling news. If there are local clubs in your area, join them as well as N3F (it's strange to see what other fans look like).

I didn't receive TB #18 or #19, anyone know where I can pick up these issues? Perhaps they were burned in Framstead.

You religiously perverted fan: try

For I Am A Jealous People, a short novel by Lester del Rey for some real blasphemy. (In Star Short Novels ed. by Fred Pohl)

David Patrick: You are so right about the image of SF. I too had someone in school ask, "Do you really believe that stuff?" Why should we be regarded as fanatics (even if we really are?) How about a sort of public relations department in conjunction with the recruiting bureau?

/s/ Mark Zibelman,  
1017 Wilde Ave.  
Drexel Hill, Penna. 19027

oOo

TIGHTBEAM % GM CARR

The recent (or is it something that's always been with us?) discussion in TIGHTBEAM about "neos" is kind of amusing; like so many adjectives it's the (written or vocal) intonation and context that determines whether it's simply descriptive or a term of villification. As a matter of fact, I tried to be a neo, and didn't quite make it. I'd been pretty active in fandom back in the early '40's, but dropped out completely around '47 or '48, except for occasional contact with fans on a non-fan basis. Then, a couple of years ago I got to wondering what was going on in fandom, and asked an Old-Time-Fan I was still in touch with to recommend some fanzines I might subscribe to. One of the zines was Redd Boggs' DISCORD, and apparently Redd broadcast my "return to fandom" far and wide. Gone my dream of being a neo, and reliving those faraway years of the past. Ah, to be a neo again! Is this dotage setting in?

Lee Riddle did a beaut of a job on #20 -- about my only complaint would be that he didn't interpose any comments of his own, which I hope you, Gem, will do.

(AS IF I COULD RESIST THE OPPORTUNITY??? - MY ONLY JOG IS NOT TO MAKE TOO MANY

Also, I hope that I'm an exception in having cost the N3F 18¢ in postage for this issue. My copy has a 4¢ metered stamp on it, 8¢ postage due, and a 5¢ stamp finally brought it to me. If I'm not alone in having cost N3F a little extra money, I'm all in favor of an assessment or dues increase. For the entire membership that would amount to about fifty bucks postage, which seems pretty steep.

Hmm -- at least I'm a neo in TIGHTBEAM (and where did that name come from, anyway?)

Regards

/s/ FRANK (WILIMCZYK)  
447 10th Ave., New York 1, N.Y.

(Roy Tackett)  
Dear Gem,

000

25 July 1963

After TB#19, Dave Hulan said that the editor could use ten more days in preparation of the zine. From the 25th to the 1st wasn't really too much time. Or till the 10th, either, for that matter. So the Directorate passed a resolution--since the deadline of the 25th was by tradition only anyway--that the deadline would be the 15th of the month previous to the month of publication. Therefore, the deadline for the November issue will be 15 October, and on the 15th for all issues thereafter.

TB 20 was another excellent job by our one-time Peon with another fine cover. Sorry to hear that mundac will limit fanac, Lee -- it happens to all of us -- but happy to know that business is good.

There will be two proposed amendments concerning joint membership on the ballot in order to give the members something of a wide choice. The first will be the one discussed by Gem Carr in the last TB which would permit married couples to hold a joint membership, paying one set of dues, but allowing each to have a vote. The second is essentially the same except that it limits a joint membership to a single vote.

What with all the discussion over joint memberships, the Directorate decided to let the membership itself make the decision. Speaking for myself, I am not particularly enthused over these joint membership proposals. I am, in fact, opposed to them. I think that Gem pretty well covered the arguments against them in the last issue -- the first is unfair to single members or to those married members whose spouses aren't interested in fandom. The second would serve only to pad the roster with largely non-participating members. My own recommendation is that the membership reject both of these proposed amendments to the constitution.

David Patrick (and others): You've come up with what is a typical complaint amongst younger fans. Somewhere along the line you discover stf and it is, goshwow, the greatest thing since Clove gum. You get all fired up about it, only to discover that most of your acquaintances think you're some kind of nut for going for the crazy Buck Rogers stuff. Then you stumble across stf-fandom and here, you think, is a group of people who think as you do and among whom you should fit in quite well. So you come charging into fandom all full of enthusiasm only to be disillusioned when you find that fans are not embarked on any great crusade to make stf "respectable" and generally seem to be interested in everything but science fiction or fantasy. They talk their own language, have their own esoteric references and jokes that you don't understand and you begin to wonder just what it is all about and why we're letting our great opportunity to "do something" get away from us.

Chum, I came down that road 25 years ago. It was the same then as it is now. Which isn't much comfort to you, is it? So I've lost all my enthusiasm.....?

Not necessarily. I'm still enthusiastic about stf -- even today's rather pallid output. But as for any projects to bring the enlightening light of stf to the dark and ignorant world -- include me out. Simply because it can't be done. 99.99% of the population think that science-fiction and fantasy are junk, that those who read it are nuts (or that the reading of stf will soon drive them nuts) and that none of that crazy junk will ever come about anyway. Let's face it, despite the fact that our "world of tomorrow" is here now most of the people still refuse to believe in the things that science can do; are, in actuality, afraid of science and more than a little anti-science.

There is only one way to promote stf as something more than junk and that is for the people who write it to write something other than junk.

Concerning fandom, simmer down and take another look. Sure, you'll find all sorts of non-stf items under discussion. You'll also find plenty of discussion of science fiction.

You complain that it isn't possible to just step into fandom and see the light; can you think of any group or organization in which this is possible? Any group, any organization, any occupation, involves things which are at first incomprehensible to someone who just steps into it. In fandom, as in anything else, you've got to observe and learn. Ask questions — you'll get a straight answer. Plunge in, chum, read the fanzines for a year, write letters — don't worry about being taken for an ignorant lout, my first letters were masterpieces of ignorance (somebody is bound to say they still are) — get yourself some correspondents. Let me know in a year if you think fandom is still incomprehensible. You'll find that people are doing things; there are indices, bibliographies, critiques, reviews and some are even writing that junk. All of which benefit not only the individual or the small group but the entire field. You'll find that fandom is fun and games, is an excellent and enlightening hobby, is interesting people and, though most might deny it if you asked them straight out, is a way of life.

A couple of issues ago I mentioned the idea that stateside fans might be willing to act as "agents" for overseas fans. As we know, sending money from one country to another is exceedingly difficult for an individual to do. (It isn't at all difficult for governments and corporations but that is another story.) The idea was that a fan in the states and a fan in one of the other countries could establish a connection, so to speak, for the mutual benefit of both. For instance, if one of our German members seeks to renew his U.S. agent would pay the dues for him and in return the German fan would send along a book—or whatever—to repay the agent; it isn't difficult to send merchandise from one country to another. Both would benefit various ways — including the building up of correspondents, of course.

If you are willing to act as an agent for an overseas fan in this regard, then list your name with me. I'm wearing my Overseas Bureau hat right now and this seems to be something that could well be handled by the Overseas Bureau. You might also take a gander at the roster and list a choice of countries, although no guarantees are made that you'll get the country of your choice. (Gad, the Overseas Bureau is giving away countries now.) Overseas members interested in the arrangement can also contact me about it and I'll try to put them in touch with a congenial US fan to act as their agent.

/s/ ROY (TACKETT)  
915 Green Valley Road NW  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

..... c00 .....

(James MacLean)  
Dear Gem,

Aug. 2, 1963

AL ANDRIUSKEVICIUS:

Interesting name, that; mind my asking what nationality it is?... First off, your reasons for disagreeing with Dave's comments re Dr. Ledonko are awfully, just awfully bad reasons; make Dave's position on the subject seem positively attractive. Briefly, I think one should have a bit more, say, esthetic involvement with the interior decoration of his mind than to clutter it up with beliefs in anything and everything that happen to be easier to manage than belief in an "invisible, omniscient, superior being", as a more or less randomly chosen standard. If you're interested enuff to crack a book or two on the subject, just to see what it's all about, Carnap's Logical Foundations of Probability (by Rudolf Carnap, U. of Chicago Press, Chicago 1950) is a fine place to start -- in fact, the best I know of... You'll need to know something about standard deductive mathematical logic to follow him in any detail thru the bulk of the book, but a good idea of the drift of his arguments and the content of inductive logic can be got by just reading the English and skipping the symbology...

Best, /s/ James F. MacLean (P.O. Box 401, Anacortes, Wash.)

.....oOo.....  
WHY DON'T YOU VOLUNTEER TO BE A TIGHTBEAM EDITOR NEXT YEAR?  
.....oOo.....

(George Fergus)  
Dear Tightbeam,

July 29, 1963

Since GMC is editor for this, I might as well say that she has a point in regard to the proposed amendment about married couples. It would do more harm than good, if any good at all. I'm also in favor of sticking to 1-year terms for officers.

Al Andriuskevicius draws a parallel between belief in God and belief in psi, but simplifies it too much. In each case there is no concrete evidence for or against its existence. However, one cannot be impartial. Even in an impartial court of law, a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty. This is because he must be presumed either innocent or guilty (there's no third choice) and the majority of citizens are innocent of such a crime. It is more generally accepted that there is a God than there is not, so one is perfectly justified in first assuming the belief that there is one and asking others to disprove it. More people hold the belief that the moon is not made of green cheese than that it is, so the unproven initial assumption is that it is not.

(ED, NOTE: LET'S SEE IF I GET THIS STRAIGHT -- IF MOST PEOPLE THINK THE MOON IS MADE OF GREEN CHEESE, THEN THE MOON REALLY IS MADE OF GREEN CHEESE UNTIL SOMEBODY COMES ALONG AND PROVES IT ISN'T?)

And since the people who believe in psi are in the minority, one's first assumption should be that psi does not work until some definite proof comes along.

(ED NOTE: IN OTHER WORDS, WHETHER PSI WORKS OR NOT DEPENDS ON WHICH GROUP IS IN THE MINORITY -- THOSE WHO THINK IT DOES, OR THOSE WHO THINK IT DOESN'T?)

And Dave has no more obligation to try to prove that psi exists than he has to prove that the moon is made of green cheese. That's the astronomer's job.

I THOUGHT YOU JUST SAID IT WAS DETERMINED BY MAJORITY OPINION... } BUT And in a court it's the prosecutor's job. And in the case of psi it's the job of those who, like you, are interested - not the job of those who are skeptical - to prove that parapsychological powers are fact rather than fantasy. Publish a genzine with the results of controlled Rhine Institute tests. Give fans statistical data and some more may become interested.

(YOU MEAN TRY AND GET MAJORITY OPINION ON YOUR SIDE?...)

But very few will be drawn by a TRUE PSI CONFESSION report, or by constant pleading in TB.

(...I'M SORRY,

GEORGE, BUT YOU LOST ME SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE. GUESS I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND LOGIC.)

RICK Norwood. I couldn't agree with you more about the probable number of stf fans who also read comics and don't even know that stf fandom exists. Comic book lettercols are probably the only way any of them could be introduced to other stf fans. Surely a great number of today's teenage fans started off with comics now that the pulps are gone and were able to read only the stf from libraries. Hardly anyone starts off with the prozines nowadays; potential fans probably don't even notice them until years and years have passed. Fandom could be missing out on a lot of recruits... And I would like to know how getting recruits can be interpreted as connecting the N3F with comics.

Good job, Lee, on TB #2. Looks simply marvelous, but I wish you would have put in some editorial comment. Dave Hulan made #19 much more enjoyable to me by putting in comments wherever appropriate than it would have been had it contained only bits of one-sided conversation. Hope many editors follow Dave's golden example, but got to flit now.

Yours truly,

/s/ George Fergus  
3825 West 160th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio, 44111

(ED. NOTE: I HATED TO CUT YOUR LETTER, GEORGE, BUT THESE LONG LOCS TAKE AN AWFUL LOT OF PAGES... INCIDENTALLY, WHICH DO YOU READERS PREFER - ONE 6-PAGE LETTER, OR SIX 1-PAGERS? WE WANT TO BE FAIR TO EVERYBODY, BUT SOMETIMES IT IS HARD TO GUESS WHICH SHOULD HAVE PRIORITY.)

oOo

(Tom Jensen)  
Dear TIGHTBEAM,

July 28, 1963

When I got TB 20 I noted, with some pleasure, that with the deadline for the next issue better than a month in the future, I had plenty of time to write a letter. I found many subjects brought up that I wanted to comment on.

But first of all, I've lost a neffer: only I don't know if he's lost or not. Dave Vanderwerf was my roommate at MIT last year, and I rode home with him in June. He was planning to go back to Cambridge in a week. Since then I haven't been able to get any news of him. I'm not sure what his address is; I don't even know if he's gotten my letters. Anybody that has heard from Dave since June 1st, please let me know his address.

I sure liked TIGHTBEAM #20. I think all issues of TB should have covers. Would be nice if it could be arranged to have a neffer artist working with each editor to produce an illustrated TB. Seems like it was illustrated when I first joined the NBF last summer. I always thought it was a nice touch to the zine.

(ED. NOTE: I LIKE ILLOS MYSELF, AND THE COVER ON THIS IS BY NEFFER PAT (MRS. JAMES) MACLEAN, ENTITLED "BIRD PEOPLE". HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM OF SPACE VS MONEY IS INVOLVED. WITH A BUDGET LIMITED TO A 20-PAGE TB, AND OVER-LONG LETTERS SUBJECT TO CHOPPING EVEN AS IT IS IN ORDER TO CROWD IN AS MANY AS POSSIBLE (SOMETIMES VERY INTERESTING COMMENTS MUST BE LEFT OUT BECAUSE THEY TAKE UP TOO MUCH ROOM), THE PROBLEM OF FINDING ROOM FOR ARTWORK BECOMES A TICKLISH SUBJECT. THE READERS WOULD HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN LESS LETTERS OR A BIGGER BUDGET...)

The letters in TB #19 from Dave Katz and Dave Patrick have started a snowball discussion that seems to be getting no place, but covering a lot of ground on the way. You know, it's kind of funny; all the questionnaires in the world won't bring in as much information as the response to one angry letter.

Personally, I don't think it is necessary for a neo to "jump in and find himself". Fandom is most easily entered gradually. A neo should, for a little while, be seen and not heard; or maybe neither seen nor heard, but just listening. If a new fan simply kept his ear to the ground for a couple of months before trying to become a BNF, he'd find it a lot easier job. Of course, it all depends on how much time you have to spend on fanao, but it isn't clever to rush into anything. I find this sounding a bit more harsh than I meant, but I still think too many people are out to live their lives too quickly. If you take life slowly and easily (despite modern society) and still work hard, you can't have so many problems as you think.

A  
note to Dave Katz: Have you contacted Dave Vanderwerf? As I said, he was my roommate at MIT last spring and I'm very anxious to find him.

/s/ TOM JENSEN  
Box 24, Dassel, Minnesota

oOo  
17,

(Mike Randall)

July 25, 1963

Dear G.M.,

"I can't help it if you have poor taste in literature."

And with that simple statement, a friend of mine summed up her own feelings toward science fiction and fantasy. I was downtown and happened to be buying the August issue of AMAZING when that statement passed. She stated it in good humor and I let it pass outwardly in good humor, but inside I was a little disgusted. The fact that bothers me is that she probably has never taken the time to look at this "low-grade literature." To her it's a waste of time.

(Ed. NOTE: ABOUT THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN HANDLE GLODS LIKE THAT IS TO SMILE CONDESCENDINGLY AND ASK, "AND WHAT DO YOU READ — TRUE CONFESSIONS?" OR WHATEVER MAG YOU SUSPECT THEY DO READ. YOU CAN BE DOGGONE SURE THAT ANYBODY WITH A TASTE FOR REALLY GOOD LITERATURE ISN'T GOING TO BE HANGING AROUND A MAGAZINE COUNTER WHERE THEY'D BE LIKELY TO SPOT SOMEONE BUYING PULPS OF ANY KIND — SO IT'S A SAFE BET THAT WHATEVER THEY CAME TO THE RACK FOR, WASN'T ANY MORE "RESPECTABLE" AS LITERATURE THAN STF... (IN FACT, IF IT'S A MOVIE MAG THEY'RE AFTER, YOU CAN REALLY PUT A SNEER IN IT!)

And that is what bothers me most. It appears to me that science fiction has always seemed this way to many people: a waste of time. My question is why? What is it that makes science fiction to "low-grade" in quality?

I can't even begin to guess the answer. "It's too fantastic", perhaps. Those who say that, have never realized just how possible many of the stories really are — exaggerated and unlikely, perhaps, but still within the realm of possibility.

It seems to me that we sci-fi fans should do something. Now, I'm not saying we should storm the Whitehouse in a daytime torchlight parade and demand a law making stf totally acceptable. I simply think that a lot of people dislike science fiction because it seems a waste of time to them. To many people it would be. But I would just like to set people straighter than they are now: science fiction is not the lowest possible form of literature there is. Rather, I feel that it is a rather high form of literature, using entertainment and satire in very skillful methods.

Yours truly, /s/ Mike (Randall)  
929 Riley, Atchison, Kansas

(Tim Eklund)

August 15, 1963

Hi There Fellow Fan! (?)

Well, now I just joined the N3F, and upon receiving my welcome-in package, I ineaditly saw TIGHTBEAM #20. Upon reading it, I saw a few letters on A CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ and now I think I'll stick my 2¢ in.

As far as I personally am concerned, A CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ is one of the biggest nothings I have ever seen, even if it did win a Hugo.

I, personally, think that the best SF novel ever written was Robert A. Heinlein's STARSHIP TROOPERS, and the second best was R.A.H.'s STARMAN JONES. The best SF novel to come out this year is (yus, again) R.A.H.'s GLORY ROAD. Which appeared (for those who don't know) in THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, July '63-Sept. '63, and will come out this fall in book form by G.P. Putman & Sons, at \$3.95. (Expanded). Incidentally Donald A. Wollheim writes the best sort stories.

Incidentally, I will soon come out with a fanzine, entitled STARLING. This may feture a story by D.A. Wollheim, and then again maybe not. It will also include a fanzine review column by Kent McDaniel. And much more. Many thing of Intrest (?) to fans. Don't know the price as yet. ALSO NEED SOME STORIES & ARTICLES!

Science Fictionally and never in harm, /s/ Tim Eklund,

P.O. Box 316, Harlem, Ga.

Aug. 15, 1963

Dear GEM,

If any readers desire information on my Directorate platform, consult the July and earlier TIGHTBEAMS, and the August TNFF. I will devote this letter to something far more important.

The most valuable asset of a science fiction club is the professional member. I count few on the N3F roster. There's TUCKER, KELLER, SMITH, and.... oh, yes.... some guy named WALLACE WEST. I was astounded that this name had escaped me, since right there in my ancient copies of the old ASTOUNDING, etc. was that very name. So I wrote to Mr. West. And this is a selected part of the reply:

"I have stuck with N3F through thick and thin for more years than I care to think about, but, except for dear old Ralph Holland, nobody in it has ever said a kind word -- or even an unkind word -- about my stuff. No comments on my books. No nothin'! Yours is the first letter in ages. Maybe I'm asking too much, but I do think that fandom should be a two-way street, particularly because of the chuckholes. Sour grapes or no, I'm not renewing my membership next year..." and so on.

Irate, underprivileged pro? I think so. What gratitude has this member of FIRST PRODOM received from those to whom he has granted so much entertainment... "50 SF short stories, novelettes and novels published in magazines, plus a motion picture, several broadcasts, a number of textbooks and five SF books published by Gnome, Ace, Airmont and Avalon." His latest book, "THE RIVER OF TIME" has a rave review in the current Analog.

Where are the "fans", those who should have enough gut to write to someone in appreciation. What does fandom mean to you when you ignore the very purpose of your existence? If one of the few remaining pros in N3F will not renew because nobody cares enough about his work to write a comment on it, what does N3F even mean? Play your faanish game of politics and feuding, but do not forsake a reason for living that life.

(Ed. NOTE: SOUNDS LIKE A BREAKDOWN IN PUBLIC RELATIONS. I NEVER EVEN KNEW THE WALLACE WEST ON OUR ROSTER WAS A WRITER --- MUCH LESS, THAT ONE..!)

What can you do? Write to a man who deserves a letter of thanks, not only for support of your club, but for the literary enjoyment he has given us. Write now, and write something that will mean something. As for me, I say life membership of some sort, if I have to take a collection to keep WALLACE WEST amongst us. Get on the bandwagon, and come herald a writer.

/s/ David M. Ettlin,

3424 Royce Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21215

DEAR GEM:

000

August 13, 1963

I can't help having been deadwood (except for correspondence) most of the time, it's the Address. However, I'm slowly turning RELUCTANT deadwood, so I want to ask you people outright if I have anything to look for in this club. I read ANALOG - even ASTOUNDING in the glorious forties - mostly for the fact, editorials and letters, tolerating the fiction, particularly now that it is all space opera on a higher literary plane. STF to me is a department of science, namely, the extrapolation of the least secure but most exciting scientific hypotheses. To most of you it seems to be a form of entertainment which you like for it being less responsible than good, life-like fiction. I, too, oppose most of JWCs lately exposed Ideas - but you seem to attack him for being involved with ideas at all, instead of getting on with the job of grinding out fairy stories "about love and death".. James Maclean excepted, you seem to be interested either in fiction as entertainment, or just in togetherness, or in senseless fanac - such as Seth Johnson's onetime proposal to me to take part in a "round-the-world-robin" - never mind whether we have anything to say to each other. I seem to be unable to get any response to my ideas or proposals... Do any of you have opinions? Care about things, and THINK about them? Doesn't any one else like arguments?

/s/ P. Kohn (PHIL KOHN, BETH KRINSKI, YOKNEAM, ISRAEL)

(Clayton Hamlin)

July 29, 1963

Hi:

This letter is, quite frankly, political. I'd like the new members of the club, the ones who know little or nothing personally about the candidates, to understand me a little better. And I'd like very much to try impressing on the older members -- of that fifty percent group that just never seems to vote in the election -- the necessity for doing so this year, even if never again.

I've been around the club going on six years, now. A rather active member, too. Never did hesitate to express my ideas in print, whether the ideas were worthwhile or downright ridiculous. I've been in close contact with the directors all these years and with the appointed officials as well. Often, perhaps, I helped them and worked well with them (though now and then it seemed I did little more than irritate them).

Always and forever I have tried to act as spokesman for more and better activity for the benefit of the neo -- the ones who don't really know what fandom is all about. These, I think, are the real promise of NFFF and fandom. Not big activities and expensive projects, but just simply people. Unfortunately, few directors in the years I have known, seem to agree. They try to improve the image of the N3F to the rest of fandom. They go in strongly for numbers (but fail personally to give much help to the younger members when they get them). They generally seem to figure that club projects should be set up working smoothly, and then passed on to someone else without further effort on their part.

This isn't to suggest that N3F should be a club completely for the neo at all. Merely that these are the members who need the help to learn their way around, and encouragement (with a bit of extra effort to make sure they do) to make contact with the people and activities that can make best use of the talents they have to offer. The older, more established fans, have plenty of things for them if they wish activity. It is right out in the open so they don't run into any frustrations in getting to it. And the rest can easily be left in their own capable hands. But it just doesn't work that way with neos. I think I understand the needs of the newcomer -- and their special potential -- as well as anyone else in this club. Certainly, I have had plenty of chance to do so. It has, quite honestly, made me something of a nuisance to the other directors, my continual insistence that this group is deserving of more effort by the club than any of the others.

The reasons for this seeming fanaticism on the subject is quite simple. It was three incidents that happened to me. The first happened when I just joined the club, right in the middle of one of its completely fannish spells. Stf was completely ignored in those days. But Seth Johnson came up, whether accidentally or otherwise, with the idea of sending a copy of my letter to him on to Joan Emerson, and her letter to me. So when I answered, I wrote to the two of them and added Mike Deckinger to the list... making a "quad letter". It kept on going for a long time.

When you add up the list of what the N3F owes to Seth, this will go right up near the top, that he created the "quad" type of letter writing (in several copies) that has long since established itself as one of the most efficient ways of running a correspondence club such as this. It also, quite incidentally, kept me from dropping out of the club after a couple of months.

The next incident is credited to another of our unsung heroes of the club, our good editor of this TIGHTBEAM, Gem Carr. Some day I may tell you how she was the one that kept N'APA from practically collapsing by itself in its first couple of mailings, and did likewise with the Manuscript Bureau, too, when that was running.

(HUH? ME? .. I DID ALL THAT???... WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?)

But for now, I will relate only a comment she made in POSTWARP in reply to a letter of mine. A simple little thing, probably everyone else has long forgotten it. I'd been griping about how no one seemed to care about whether these newcomers were interested in things (after they had got their required welcome letter out of the way) and didn't even try to suggest where to find someone else who had as strong an interest in stf as myself. And Gem came back with a letter suggesting that if I wanted that kind of thing, why didn't I start it myself rather than just gripe that it wasn't immediately handed to me. Sound advice, that -- and worthy of being passed on to all neos. That personal effort, rather than gripes, will be the only way of accomplishing things: both for the club, and for its individual members.

(ED. NOTE: THAT SOUNDS MORE LIKE THE OLD GMC TOUCH -- I'M STILL HANDING OUT THAT KIND OF ADVICE. AS EVIDENCED BY MY COMMENT TO PHIL ROBERTS:)

The third - and most important - incident, was another letter in POSTWARP (which is just another earlier name for TIGHTBEAM, you know). This was a letter by Joni Cornell, complaining that she had been a member for a year; she had offered to contribute both art and writing when she sent in her application; and not one person had taken her up on it!

This was altogether too much, of course, and I still haven't got over it -- or over trying to prevent such a thing from ever happening again. In doing so, I have by necessity been forced to become well acquainted with the newcomers to the club. Had to get to know them as people, not just as names. Small wonder that my whole fanac has been built around the needs and the desires of these youngsters, even to the extent of excluding other equally important parts of the club at times. There are rewards, though -- Joni, Tim Dumont, Phil Harrell, and to lesser extents ('cause I didn't need much personal effort) Eddie Bryant and Ben Mallard. And the new ones, Mike Shupp, and next in line Frank Stodolka, and maybe David Patrick.

So my effort (one might call it my philosophy) for N3F has now settled down to the following: 1. At least one fanzine at all times which not only encourages the neos to contribute, but actually prefers them. (The current group of neos hardly need be told what this is now -- they have already found it. LUNATIC Bi-Nightly, Frank Stodolka editing, with myself as newly appointed co-editor.) After this, 2. for the more proficient who can use personal and individual attention, the Story-Writing Contest. (The artists, you know, are already taken care of with the fan art exhibits.) And there is a final step, 3. for those writers who are really getting good. It is run as a personal fanac by a Neffer, but it takes them outside the club in many ways and puts them on the road to that long step of breaking into the prozines. This is the Semi-Pro activity being run by Alma Hill. If they have talent, and the deep-down desire to something better, this will help them break through the dead end of fandom. This particular method of pushing them ahead as fast as possible, may well eliminate one common trouble for these younger writers: That unexplainable fascination with how easily they can be applauded for minor efforts when they are capable of doing better. This has probably hindered a good many talented writers from exerting the effort of really trying hard for the prozines. They linger so long in fandom they lose their exciting and different viewpoint and enthusiasm for stf. Lots of writers turn into hack writers, they no longer have that special quality all their own, once they turn into formula writers for the fanzines. I will mention only Bob Silverburg, who was in his way a rather unique fan, as uniqueness goes in fandom of course. The small chance that even one of the youngsters coming up might pass through all this and still retain the personal touch of a Bradbury in his later writings, would more than repay any small encouragement I might make to help them take the first faltering steps toward it.

Because I love stf very much, and wish to try making the NFFF a part of helping it in whatever way possible, I ask for your vote in this election. The N3F is the only organization in fandom that has the ability to actively promote the talents of those who join us, and wish to put out the effort to help themselves.

And since we CAN do this -- with the least effort to all concerned -- we SHOULD. Isn't this the original purpose of the club, right at the beginning of the constitution? Nowadays, it seems to have drifted into something else, as though the main purpose of the club is to perpetuate itself, and its fannish image -- as if that could help stf in the slightest.

If stf means more to you than fandom, may I ask your vote?

Thank you.

/s/ Clayton (Hamlin)  
Southwest Harbor, Maine.

.....oOo.....  
THE DEADLINE IS OCT. 15; SEE PAGE 23 FOR THE ADDRESS. THIS IS YOUR TB.

(Arnold Katz)

oOo

7/29/63

Dear Gem,

David Patrick: I will hold my temper. I will hold... Look, David, I don't know if you're trying to be insulting or just don't know any better. You bet the NSF offers other services. N'APA, The Information Bureau, and the Tape Bureau are three that come to mind immediately.

The first thing any fact writer learns, is that he must consider his audience when he writes. An article written for a fanzine should appeal to fans, and not to the world at large.

Jim Harkness is right, a pubber can get material from fans if he writes and asks as an amateur editor. I can truthfully say that every good story sent to me has been accepted, regardless who sent it, neo or BNF. As an amateur writer, I've had quite a few stories accepted by faneds despite the fact that I am relatively unknown. The only faned who rejected a contrib, returned it. I have found fans to be nothing but kind, helpful and generous. Maybe we're not talking about the same fandom.. I'm talking about SF fandom -- which fandom are you referring to?

The Correspondence Bureau will begin to compile that list of active correspondents shortly. See the Oct. TNFF for details. What else would you members like to see the C.B. do? Write and tell me, and if your idea sounds good, I'll get right on it. In areas related to the C.B., I might mention that Seth Johnson needs fanzines for the Clearing House. Even a couple of 'zines would be better than sending nothing. The Welcommittee could use more members. The W.C. is both a place where the "old timers" can do a lot of good, and a place where new fans can start NSF fanac.

Fannishly,

/s/ ARNOLD KATZ  
98 Patton Blvd., New Hyde Park, NY11043

.....oOo.....  
A LETTER THAT'S TOO LONG GETS CUT -- SO, EVERY FAN HIS OWN EDITOR, HUH? KEEP TO ESSENTIALS AND IT'LL TAKE UP LESS ROOM. BE EARLY, AND BE BRIEF. ....oOo.....

(Lou Pochet)

Aug. 2, 1963

Dear Mrs. Carr-the-next-editor-of-TB,

Mr. Bucklin's suggestion on an increase in dues struck me as one that should be looked into. Everything NSF does depends on the amount of money it has available. Certainly a great deal is done already with what it has in the treasury, but with higher dues it could do even more. I am sure a slight increase in dues wouldn't cause anyone to go broke.

The proposal that married couples pay only one set of dues strikes me as somewhat ridiculous. The club wouldn't gain anything by such. It would permit married members to gain an unlawful power. I believe the constitution should remain unchanged.

If an amendment is passed making a married couple an individual paying one set of dues but having two votes, the next thing they will do when an organization becomes a member of NSF by paying one set of dues is to allow each member of that organization a separate vote. (I will admit this second statement of mine is a little far-fetched, but if you give an inch a mile will be taken.)

Scott Kutina: Aw, come now! You shouldn't call Andre Norton a writer of juvenile stf. Granted her books generally start out as juvenile stories, but I bet as juvenile stories they are one of the most widely read set of stories by adults. I have read books by the majority of writers and she ranks near the top. Anyone out there tell me her real name? Andre Norton must be her pen name?

I say TB #20 was excellent (as TB #21 will probably be also) - the good point about TB is the idea of rotating editors.

LOU POCHET

124 Loyalhanna Ave., Latrobe, Penna.

cc

(Donald Franson)

August 30, 1963

Dear Gem,

I'm sorry but I don't have the name of the next TB editor. Every time this is a cliff-hanger right up to the time to list the name in the previous TB. Some have said I should have two editors named in advance, I agree. I'd like to have two editors named in advance on the contents page of TNFF. But I can't get them. One of the reasons is that I have to go so far afield for editors; I can't very well get LA fandom to do TB as long as they are doing TNFF. It would be nice if I could get volunteers, but I do not. Out of the 57 questionnaires returned, there were no bona fide volunteers; some said they would do it if they had a mimeo (or knew what a mimeo was) -- however, the day is past when TB can be a vehicle for learning how to do a fanzine. One said he had volunteered to someone else and been turned down -- this must have been years ago! Meskys said he would do an issue next year; a few others made vaguer promises. Yet, if I say, "If I got no volunteers, TIGHTBEAM will have to be suspended" they'll blame me, not the 300-plus members who won't volunteer... Thanks a lot for doing TIGHTBEAM and I am happy that you got it stencilled and mimeo'd all right -- you did say you might have trouble. Might as well go ahead and print the announcement that there is no November TIGHTBEAM editor as yet and to send letters to Riddle. I will continue to search for an editor. In the meantime Riddle can hold the letters.

/s/ Don (Franson)

6543 Babcock Av. N.Hollywood, Cal.

(WELL, THERE YOU HAVE IT, FOLKS! IF WE DON'T GET VOLUNTEER EDITORS LINED UP IN ADVANCE, MAYBE THERE WON'T BE ANY TIGHTBEAM. IF YOU PUBLISH A FANZINE, WHY DON'T YOU OFFER TO HELP? LET'S KEEP TIGHTBEAM -- IT'S TOO GOOD A MAG TO BE LOST BY DEFAULT. THIS HAS BEEN TIGHTBEAM #21, EDITED BY G. M. CARR, 5319 BALLARD NW, SEATTLE, WASH, 98107. LETTERS FROM BILL BERGER, DAVID KIRK PATRICK, STEPHEN ROBERTSON, MATHEW DRAHAN, HANK LUTTRELL & IRVIN KOCH ALSO RECEIVED. SORRY, THERE JUST ISN'T SPACE ENOUGH TO PRINT THEM ALL.)

The Editor of TB #22 has not been appointed as this printed. Send your letters for publication to be held by the Stand-by Editor. Lee has indicated he will NOT be able to publish TB (I agree that 2 a year is plenty) but he will receive letters and forward to the November editor. Address letters to the:

TIGHTBEAM EDITOR

% Charles Lee Riddle

P.O. Box 681, Newark, Delaware

TIGHTBEAM #21

Project Psi is under way, which allows me to assume that my letter has been published in TB #19, though I did not receive it. What happened?

Since nobody expressed the desire to coordinate Project Psi, I had to do it in my own sloppy way. If anybody does not like the way I do it, he may take over immediately, if he knows what a mess he is getting into. The first experiment is one that will continue permanently, serving at the same time as a classification method for new participants and as an excellent practice for everybody interested in the project.

Each Sunday, I write a series of ten digits (numbers from 0 through 9), repetition of the same digit being allowed. Each series lasts for a whole week, to enable the participants to perform the experiment any day they like, once weekly. To participate, think hard about DIGIT and write down the FIRST digit that comes to your mind as a fleeting thought, a visual image, or however it decides to come. It is better to close your eyes while concentrating, in order not to lose the digit if it comes as a visual image. Repeat this procedure 10 times to get 10 digits. Through chance, according to probability, 10% of your digits should coincide with mine, that is one in each series. Anything above this is not due to pure chance. Send me your reports, indicating the date when you wrote your series. This experiment allows me to evaluate PRE-SCIENCE, RETRO-SCIENCE and CLAIRVOYANCE. Anybody can join the experiment anytime, it is permanent!

The following table shows the results achieved by those who are participating so far. The strange letters I am using should be explained first:

- N<sup>o</sup>: Number of experiments performed by the participant.
- PS: Pre-science, the ability to know things before they happen.
- RS: Retro-science, the ability to know things after they happened.
- CV: Clairvoyance, the ability to know things while they happen.
- f: Direct: I am comparing your series with mine as they come.
- : Inverse: I am comparing the series, reversing the order of one.
- Av: Average % of correct responses in all experiments.
- Mx: Maximum % of correct responses in one experiment.
- %: Try to guess what this means!

| PARTICIPANT:             | N <sup>o</sup> | fPS-                       | fRS-               | fCV-               |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| John Kusske Jr. ....     | 5              | Av. 28% 20%<br>Mx. 40% 40% | 12% 06%<br>30% 20% | 14% 08%<br>20% 20% |
| Elaine Wojciechowski ... | 8              | Av. 20% 12%<br>Mx. 40% 20% | 27% 18%<br>40% 40% | 13% 10%<br>30% 20% |
| Jim Harkness .....       | 4              | Av. 20% 10%<br>Mx. 30% 20% | 15% 00%<br>50% 00% | 17% 05%<br>30% 10% |
| Sharon Towle .....       | 1              |                            | 30% 10%<br>40% 20% | 30% 10%            |
| C.W. Brooks Jr. ....     | 2              | Av. 10% 15%<br>Mx. 20% 20% | 25% 15%<br>40% 20% | 00% 10%<br>00% 10% |
| Virginia Marshall. ....  | 1              |                            | 20% 20%            |                    |

There is a marked tendency towards improvement as the experiment advances. John Kusske started BAD, but continuing the experiments became EXCELLENT. Virginia Marshall, what happened? You started better than most others and then dropped out! Jim Harkness, smart chap, didn't believe all the trash I said about 10% being achieved through chance, so he checked it experimentally with his friends, confirming what I calculated. Thanks, Jim! Ned Brooks disagrees with my calculations, trying to prove that it is much easier to get a relatively high score than I say. He has sent me LOTS (with capitals) of calculations, involving numbers with as many zeroes as he managed to write before he got tired, to prove his point. The problem is that I prefer never to use any numbers that are too large to be counted on my fingers (of which I have only ten), and Ned wants me to incorporate also my toes, which I am definitely NOT going to do! Well, Ned, I guess that YOUR experimental results have a marked tendency to prove MY calculations right and not yours. Serves you damn right, wise guy! If you persist on making me use fingers and toes, answer the following question first: Why are we writing our numbers in a decimal system instead of a vigesimal one?

Here is the first PRACTICAL EXPERIMENT in pre-science! Fortell the results of the Presidential elections in Venezuela! Venezuela has seven candidates, which I have numbered from 1 through 7. Using the same method described above, make a series of 7 numbers, each of which has to correspond to a candidate in my list. Your series should indicate the order of the candidates when placed according to the number of votes each of them gets. The first number in your series should indicate the future President of Venezuela. Send your series in as soon as possible, preferably before November! EXPERIMENT OPEN FOR EVERYBODY!

Skeptics: A fine way of finding out by seeing is to perform a lot of experiments yourselves. It's better than to sit waiting for somebody else to show you what others can do! This is not intended exclusively for Dave Hulan and Franklin Hiller.

Al Andriuskevicius: Thanks for defending ESP against those who are looking for practical applications. You seem to be convinced it has none. The experiment above is one, others are to be found in any of mine.

Nathan A. Bucklin: Why have I not heard from you so far? Bring in any telepaths and other people with psi abilities you wish, no matter whether they are fen or no not. My idea is to unit all espers throughout the world in an organized group aiming at the development and practical applications of their abilities, as well as to make them aware of the fact that each of them is not the only person in the world with such abilities, so as to help them feel as what they really are, the next step of evolution instead of feeling like freaks, as they most often do! I don't care whether they are fen or not. I am sorry to say, most fen seem to prefer daydreaming about psi rather than doing something to develop their own psi abilities!

Franklin Hiller and Jim MacLean: Keep the third place in the spitting line for me! Everybody should have and use firearms as much as he likes! But I'll be the first to spit in the eye, or in both eyes, of anybody who tries to hypnotize without previous special scientific training! Do you know exactly what happens with the whole physical functioning of the body during hypnosis? And how about the mind? Do you know what you can do, mentally and physically, through hypnosis? Well, I do, and I'll spit!! A bullet can be removed by a surgeon in a few minutes and the scar heals within a month! The smallest mistake with hypnosis may take at least a year for a good psychologist to iron out, if the victim survives your mistake in the first place, which is doubtful, and the scar will not heal during all the rest of the victim's life! Also, firearms shoot from the front end of the barrel. Hypnosis very often shoots from the rear end at those who use it without knowing what they are doing! BEWARE!

/s/ A.Ladonko  
Apartado 911, Caracas, VENEZUELA

(I ADDED THIS LETTER BECAUSE IT COULDN'T WAIT TILL THE NEXT TB, BUT SORRY, FOLKS, THIS IS ABSOLUTELY ALL I CAN GRAM INTO THISH TB. SEE P. 23 FOR #22.)