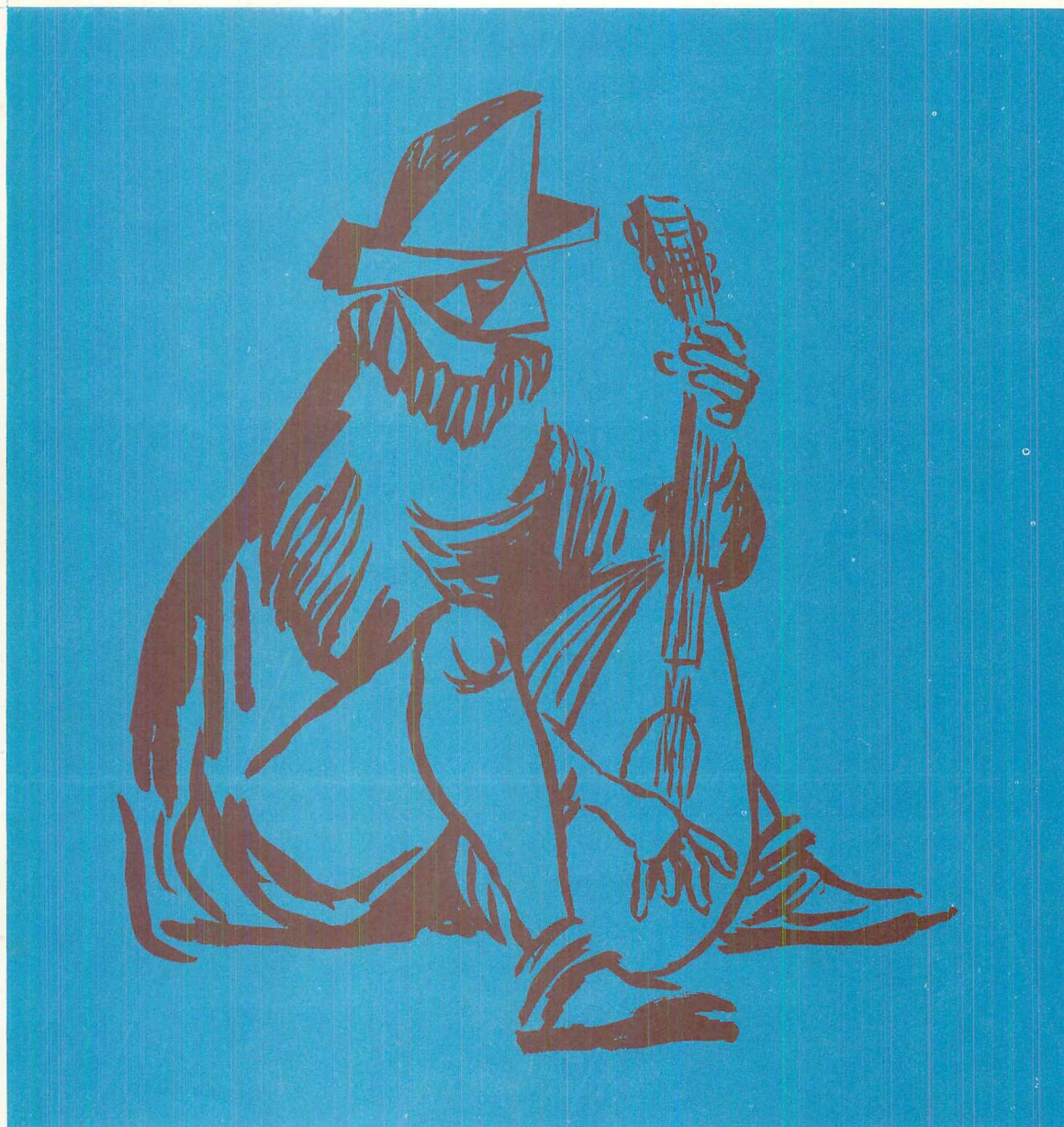
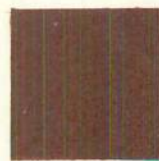


# *Tightbeam*







This issue of TIGHTBEAM (#23) is published by the National Fantasy Fan Federation; it was edited mildly by Felice Rolfe, 1360 Emerson, Palo Alto, California, and published by Ed Meskys and the Livermore Recreation Department. Deadline for the next issue is Feb. 14.

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#### A FEW WORDS FROM THE PUBLISHER

You are holding the 23rd issue of TIGHTBEAM, the official letterzine of the NFFF. Next issue to be published on March 1st by Ken Krueger, whose Deadline is Feb. 14th. Before mailing him your letter be sure to read his special instructions on page 3. His should be a most unusual issue and I, for one, am really looking forward to seeing it.

As of now the position of TB editor for May is still vacant. Wouldn't one of you please volunteer now to publish that or a later issue, to save Don Franson the perpetual last minute job of finding an editor? Or perhaps, as in our case, a syndicate of several members could publish an issue thus cutting the work load down. Also, in our case we were able to make the issue as long as the letters received warranted, for the cost of going over the minimum paid by the N3F was split. And just think of all the fun you can have cutting the letters and inserting your comments!

Don't forget to renew your N3F dues, for if you don't this is probably the last publication of the club that you will receive. (And to speed up the delivery of club publications, be sure to include your zip code.) While you think of it, send \$1.75 now to Janie Lamb, Box 364, Route 1, Heiskell, Tenn. 37754...or even better, send \$3.50 so that you won't have to worry about renewing next year.

Be sure to write Ken immediately after finishing this issue. Don't put it off for you might forget. And please remember to follow his special instructions.

As I write this I have yet to see more than two of the letters submitted to us, simply because I never had the time to visit Felice to pick them up, so there was no opportunity to add my own comments. The first I will see of the letters will be when I pick up the stencils from Felice. If I have any comments to make they will either be at the end of the magazine or as a letter to Ken's issue.

#### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Apologies if I missed any typos...I'm doing this on Ed's ancient IBM typer; it is a moot point whether I've mastered it or it's mastered me.

Frank Wilimczyk drew us an excellent cover. More than that, he had it printed for us, bless his ever-lovin' blue-eyed heart. Such help was badly needed and deeply appreciated.

We originally intended to have a cover and interior art by Anne Chatland, but her Christmas plans did not permit, and so she's not listed as a co-producer although that's what was announced.

There are once again some harsh words printed herein. It puts me in a double bind, because I felt it would be a form of censorship to edit them out: but I know that public quarrels are the ones that can't be mended. You can forgive a guy for almost anything he says as long as no one else heard it. Now look: all of these letters have their writer's address printed right above them. If you feel compelled to call some Neffer (however delicately) an unmitigated idiot, will you kindly write him personally and save wear and tear on the rest of us?

Happy reading.



\*\*\*\*\*  
 ATTENTION NEXT EDITOR OF TIGHTBEAM! ATTENTION  
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KEN KRUEGER, 43 N. Buffalo St., Orchard Park, N.Y.

Dear Don,

Received your letter pertaining to the off-beat chance of our putting out the March issue of TIGHTBEAM.

So, I'll do it, but I'll have to do it differently than the usual method.

Paul Stewart will off-set the entire thing, so here's the bit --

Anyone writing letters, use one side of the paper only -- write or type heavily as we will photograph the exact letters and will do our editing with scissors.

If they wanna draw pictures, or doodles, use black or red ink, not blue.

I do not have time to cut all those stencils, and retype all those letters, so this is the easiest way, and everyone is sure that their own words will appear.

Naturally, for the ones without a typewriter or something, I'll type up their letters, but I know of only one fan right now without a typewriter.

So -- ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY, and I'll do it. Don't worry about the cost, because with our own equipment, it will probably run you less than the mimeo'd jobs you've been getting, and just think what you'll save on postage when we run it digest size rather than letter.

In order that I can work on this rapidly, please have them send all letters with the store address rather than my home address that you have on record. That address is still good, but here I sometimes have slack time and can work on this. That address is

43 N. Buffalo Street, Orchard Park, N.Y.

Sincerely

Ken

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RON ELLIK, 1825 Greenfield Ave., Los Angeles 25, California

It's TAFF time again, and this time fandom has to pick a TAFFman to represent England at the PACIFICON II in Oakland.

There isn't much to say about this TAFF race -- both candidates are widely known in British fandom, and are recommended by nominators known throughout the fan world; but the N3F may be wondering about the little details of the Fund.

First, most of your questions are answered in Fandbook #4, "The Transatlantic Fan Fund", written by Moffatt and Ellik. If you need a copy, I can provide them free to Neffers, 20¢ to others; it's a short pamphlet, outlining all the important facets of TAFF.

Second, the contribution: N3F members have always been a big support to TAFF, and this year the club even gave an extra donation (\$20) to the Fund at Washington, DC. Each ballot must be accompanied by a one dollar voting fee, which money is entirely used in paying for TAFF winners' trips to the host country. TAFF is a non-profit, unincorporated organization with no expenses except its immediate object: the exchange of representatives.

Third, the cut-off date: Your TAFF Administrators have to be sure that the winners are selected by stf fans who know enough to make a rational choice between candidates. If you just found out about science fiction fandom, we invite you to contribute to the Fund but must ask you to sit this one out and vote next time. If you are unsure what constitutes fan activity, see if you: Attended any stf conventions before 1962? Belonged to any fan clubs before 1962? Subscribed to fanzines? Published fanzines? Any activity of this sort will qualify you to vote, and if you think the Administrators won't know your name, please use the space provided for references. If you belonged to the N3F before the cut-off date, just write "N3F" in that space.



ELLIK p. 2

And lastly, if you have any other questions, be sure to write to us. We try to run TAFF to please everybody, you know -- and even though that's impossible, we'll do it better if you send us your comments, questions and criticisms.

Yours

Ron

FRANKLIN M. DIETZ, JR., 1750 Walton Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10453

Through our activities in planning conferences in the New York area, we have obtained a special offer for admission tickets to the New York World's Fair. Supposing that some members of the NFFF may be planning to attend the event, and be interested in saving money, I offer you the opportunity to obtain these discount tickets also. Tickets will be good anytime both seasons (April 22 to October 18, 1964, and April 21 to October 17, 1965).

Discount tickets cost \$1.35 for adults, 67 1/2¢ for children thru 12. Regular prices are \$2.00 and \$1.00 respectively. I'm making no other charge, but insist that you must include a stamped addressed return envelope with order. Deadline for receiving orders is February 1, 1964. Checks or money orders should be payable to me only. Tickets will be mailed when received, most likely before the end of February. (Members mailing cash do so at their own risk.)

Frank

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DONALD FRANSON, 6543 Babcock Ave., N. Hollywood, Calif.

I'm not sending letters to TIGHTBEAM as a rule, as I am already monopolizing TNFF with my chatter, but here is something that might be of interest.

I was looking through old TIGHTBEAMS of which I have a nearly complete collection, and I thought it might be interesting to print the names of the rotating editors who put out each issue. This does not include the permanent editors of the previous letterzines, POSTWARP and POSTIE. Called HYPERSPACE TIGHTBEAM by Coswal, the name was simplified to TIGHTBEAM by Marion Bradley, and this has been retained. I think it's a very descriptive name myself, and a good one.

#1, May 1960, Walter Coslet	2, July 1960, Bob Lambeck
3, Sept. 1960, Marion Z. Bradley	4, Nov. 1960, Art Hayes
5, Jan. 1961, Bruce Henstell	6, Mar. 1961, Stan Woolston
7, May 1961, Albert Lewis	8, July 1961, Ed Meskys
9, Sept. 1961, Bob Lambeck	10, Nov. 1961, Art Hayes
11, Jan. 1962, Albert Lewis	12, Mar. 1962, Ray C. Higgs
13, May 1962, Art Rapp	14, July 1962, Roy Tackett
15, Sept. 1962, Wally Weber	16, Nov. 1962, Don W. Anderson
17, Jan. 1963, Chas. Lee Riddle	18, Mar. 1963, Mallardi & Bowers
19, May 1963, Dave Hulan	20, July 1963, Charles Lee Riddle
21, Sept. 1963, G.M. Carr	22, Nov. 1963, Gary Labowitz

A total of 18 editors (Hayes, Lewis, Lambeck and Riddle put out two issues apiece) who have kept up the bi-monthly schedule in the last 3 1/2 years. A pretty good record, hey?

Yours

Donald Franson

Hope I got those all right, Don -- I'm not much of a list typer.

FR



STAN WOOLSTON, 12832 Westlake St., Garden Grove, Calif.

Felicitations, Felice -- 'Ouch! What a pun -- FR'

TIGHTBEAM editors will have to expect both sober thoughts and drunken writings, and so I thought I'd write. What is on my mind in particular is the 1964 Directorate, because I've been elected to that body. I wrote two stencils of thoughts for N'APA, and want to go on saying more as my brain still has a few extra ideas to get off my system. 'So why didn't you stay on stencil, you harasser of editors? --FR'

As a fanclub grows from that of a few members to a larger organization it is bound to change in personality. The amateur press groups that started with a few handfuls of people will inevitably change in emphasis as it becomes larger -- with 40 or 65 members, for example. The more carefree activity of the younger group tends to shift; members are more apt to be more selective in what they write, and quite often by cutting quantity of pages they can really say things that are more meaningful and mature...but they can also lose the spontaneity and outspokenness of their "youth". In a similar way a local club with a half dozen members can meet informally, everyone can have his say, and all of them would be true participants. As this group grows to a dozen or more there are more chances of subinterests developing; subgroups form, not only with committees of specialization (in producing the clubzine, in planning meeting subjects, and so forth) but there are chances a few will find it easy to go off on club-nights to an SF movie together in competition with the clubnight. Of course they may make a report next week and so not use this as an excuse to separate entirely from the club, but this tendency of activity interfering with activity is present.

In N3F the organization is set up as a place where various organized interests are represented. Some members would rather correspond than write to the Manuscript Bureau (although Owen Hannifen needs all sorts of contributions there); a few might find their way into the Tape Bureau, and the Neffer Amateur Press Alliance will accomodate both those who like other aspects of club activities and ONLY N'APAns, too. Same could be said of all those activities mentioned on page 2 of any ish of TNFF.

When it gets down to those members who are active in official affairs, in the Directorate and the Presidency, we can see these are a minority. For some this may seem a tragedy, suggesting that only a few really care for fanac. I see it differently. While I would like to encourage fan activity on the Directorate and Presidential level -- and in other ways to advance club projects -- I don't see this lack of activity as as serious as some might. It is because of interest in other activities that only a minority of members are willing to give their ideas about ways to improve the club, and the fact that there are only 24 hours in a day. Just as less people stand up at a local club meeting as the number of members grows larger, it seems that fewer members will give their views to the officers. Sometimes the officers find it a happy chance that there are not so many comments: they assume that, being elected, they are delegated the duty of making the policy decisions of the organization. Perhaps only a fool would agree with both views.

When a member has an area of enthusiasm he can bring it to the attention of the President or a Director. Writing a letter that gives the idea simply and directly, any member can present an idea for improving whatever area of club activities he wants. There won't be time for extensive correspondence among members and directors or President, of course, but a member can mentally outline his idea and write it in a few paragraphs. In this way the officers can get the thoughts of all those willing to help with their thoughts and then the officers can see how they fit together. I would be happy to receive any such letters, and in fact have several right now. Ira Lee Riddle has suggested a possible remedy for activity among members entering College or University. Bill Warren and Fred Tilton have written with ideas that may be very useful guides, or a new project for the benefit of fans respectively. Mentioning their names are my way to suggest others write me. I'll pass ideas on to the Directors and the President, for the Directors are in charge of new projects and the President in seeing the club policies are applied.

In this way the representatives of all the members will be more able to use accumulated wisdom and ideas. Not being a local organization we must use the mail for our decision-making, and this alone would make activity by large groups impractical. However, individuals may aid in presenting their ideas, and in this way the six elected officers can take on work that will let individual members attend to areas of fanac of their choice.



In effect each letter of advice is serving as information from an authority, and the Directors and President can apply it.

The Directors will be scheduling things in 1964 so that such things as planning for the Worldcon club room and display table can be decided on well in advance, and in the same way other directorate matters can be fitted in their logical times. First item is for the Directors to decide who will be Chairman for the year; this vote is going on now. Old rules will be subject to amendment or approval as they stand -- and these rules are merely guides to make it easy for officers to act knowledgably, not Constitutional amendments. I mention this due to a few letters I've seen which suggest there is some confusion on this: only members can amend the Constitution so By-Laws are outlines used to clarify or indicate actions of officers. The By-Laws don't extend power but limit, I'd say.

These are some thoughts I've had on the matter of the Directorate. My address is a good place to remember if you want to ask questions or give views in matters related to N3F affairs.

Sincerely,  
Stan Woolston

ROY TACKETT, 915 Green Valley Road NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

And howdy to you, fellow Neffers,

Here it is a new year and we have a new Directorate -- our President got a fine vote of confidence -- and I'm sure that they will do their best for the club. It should be an interesting year for the ancient and honorable NFFF.

If you will all stretch your memories a bit you'll remember that a couple of TIGHT-BEAMS ago I suggested that one of the things that the individual members of the club could do to help overseas fans would be to volunteer to act as their "agents" here in the U.S. supplying them with magazines and books, etc., on a mutually agreeable basis. The response to this suggestion was deafening -- it must have been as I didn't hear a word. However, the opportunity still exists. I have at hand a recent communication from the Birmingham SF Group -- that's Birmingham, England, not Birmingham, Alabama, folks -- wanting to know if an arrangement of this sort could be worked out. The Birmingham fans are interested in obtaining U.S. prozines and hardcovers, particularly the output of the SF Book Club to which they cannot subscribe directly because of copyright restrictions. So now here is your chance to do something for stf, for fandom, for N3F, and for yourself, too. Contact this outfit and see what kind of arrangements you can work out. Write to Peter R. Weston, 9 Porlock Crescent, Birmingham 31, Great Britain. (Porlock Crescent -- another stf-type address.) Just to keep the record straight you might let the Chairman of the Overseas Bureau know what you're doing and, if you have a postcard to spare, I'd like to know how it works out, too.

Now that the election is over and the new Directorate seated and I can't be accused of playing politics to defeat any of the candidates I want to clear up a point in Clayton Hamlin's platform. In regard to all the fooferaw concerning petitions that was floating about last year Clay Hamlin said in his platform: "Even supposed petitions to remove directors, which I have a private admission from the directors that they had never actually seen."

The point in question is the phrase "the directors" which implies that the entire 1963 Directorate was confessing to Clay that they hadn't seen any petitions. I don't know what the other Directors did but I was one who bloody well didn't admit anything to Clayton Hamlin and I object to his putting words in my mouth. I had one communication with him during the year and that was to call him on this statement. His reply was: "But the simple way Roy, is for you merely to admit to me, in the strictest of confidence, that you have never seen such petition, and had not at the time that letter was sent out. I won't tell anyone, honest I won't I still hold the opinion that neither you nor any other director was even aware that your name would be signed to that statement..."

I should admit to dear old Father Clay that it was perfectly all right for him to imply that I and the other Directors were keeping him posted on official Directorate business. Hoohaw!



TACKETT, P. 2

I admit not one damned thing in public or in private concerning Directorate business to Clay Hamlin or anyone else not directly concerned with Directorate discussion other than to say this: when the letter concerning petitions was circulated over my signature, I was fully aware of what I was signing and have a signed original of the letter in my files.

To give credit, however, Clay does come up with an idea now and then that has merit to it: his suggestion for a page in TNFF devoted to news of those professional authors who are members of the N3F is quite good. I happily second the motion. Do you want to needle the editor about it, Clay, or shall we jointly circulate a petition?

Our President is a badly overworked man. He has numerous bureaus and miscellaneous N3F branches to look after and has one devil of a job trying to keep them all going. I think that some of the departments under the executive wing could well be abolished. The Manuscript Bureau is one that could be done without. The idea is that Neffers who are budding writers will send their material to the Mss Bureau and the Mss Bureau will place it in various fanzines. But it doesn't work. Few, if any fan editors, petition the MssBu for material and the Bureau itself does not actively try to place material sent to it. It's just another worry for the President and one he can do without. There is no reason why the writers cannot contact faneds directly.

The Correspondence Bureau. Will someone explain to me just what the Correspondence Bureau does? Even after a year on the Directorate I'm not able to fathom any purpose at all in that one. To encourage correspondence? Neffers write letters at the drop of a postage stamp. The Correspondence Bureau is superfluous and another headache the President could do without.

The Story Contest as it is now constituted is worthless. It need a prozine sponsorship to make it mean anything at all.

N3F services which we should support, for they are indeed worthwhile, are the Tape Bureau, the Collector's Bureau and the Information Bureau.

Of course our President will now write me a letter telling me to mind my own damned business and let him run the N3F but now that I'm free of official restraint I feel in a heckling mood.

And while I think about it -- all of you garrulous letterhacks: why aren't you in N'APA where you can expound on your pet theories for pages and pages? And you N'APAns: don't just sit there re-reading your own glorious words -- get a letter off to Franson volunteering to do an issue of TIGHTBEAM! There are 40+ faneds in and around N'APA and yet Franson has to beg to find editors for TB. Sheesh!

Dave K. Patrick: No, I don't feel a little egocentric when I assume that the majority of the population isn't with it...I feel a great deal egocentric. I always do. Can you think of anyone that doesn't?

Happy Fanning Anybody  
Roy

JOE STATON, 469 Ennis St., Milan, Tenn. 38358

This I suppose is sort of a notification of why I'll not be renewing my membership this next year. There are many reasons why I choose to do this but the biggest seems to be that a number of kids have joined the club who seem to regard science fiction as some sort of high and noble crusade and the N3F seems to be taking them seriously. I wish to have no part of such things. Many thanx for a nice two years but that's it for now.

Luck,  
Joe Staton

[Sorry you feel that way, Joe...kids do grow up, you know.]



ALBERT LEWIS, 1825 Greenfield Ave., Los Angeles 25, California 90025

Dear Felice and Ed,

A public display of bad temper is usually unworthy of the maker thereof, and most charitably ignored. Art Hayes, however, in his October TTH, has displayed so much vicious spleen toward a most warm and generous person that I would like to set the record straight before the members of the N3F.

In the fall of 1962, just over one year ago, Bjo received a letter from Seth Johnson asking her to take over a project which had been generated by Elinor Poland, a teacher at the Iowa School for the Deaf; in general terms it was to broaden the horizons of the school children by writing letters. The immediate result was the series of MOTLEY newsletters, the first two of which were distributed as flyers with TNFF a year ago, and subsequent issues of which have been disseminated to those persons who expressed a continuing interest.

At the time she took over the project, Seth reported that he had sent information to Art Hayes for publication. Bjo wrote to Art asking that he publish nothing until hearing from her: the reasons were two. Firstly, that with the publication of MOTLEY and the expansion of the project, all information that Art had received heretofore would be obsolete by the time he published. Secondly, while no one objects to sending information to Art, he has a most frustrating tendency to get it all balled up. The result is confusion and misinformation, and then other people have to spend a great deal of time trying to straighten out the mess. Ralph Holland once mentioned that he had had to write over seventy-five letters as a result of the actions of one very well-intentioned but inept member (not Art) who took it upon himself to speak in the name of the N3F. Another example of this sort of thing is this TTH and this letter. I don't have this sort of time.

Neither does Bjo, and sure enough, Art got on his dudgeon, claimed "freedom of speech" and published the information that the MOTLEY project was oversubscribed and in need of no more assistance at precisely the time that MOTLEY went out asking for aid. Other bits of Art's helpfulness such as use of the word "retarded" in connection with the school (retarded is educationese for "feeble-minded"; correct jargon term is "handicapped") could have caused much ill-feeling and possible cancellation of the project had it gotten back to an ill-tempered parent. So Bjo stomped all over him because Art had ignored her injunction and caused her (and me, and Seth, and Elinor) to have to write all sorts of those letters that could have been avoided by cooperating in the first place.

Elinor Poland is teaching elsewhere this year, but Mr. Giangreco, who is in charge of the Iowa School for the Deaf, has requested that the project be continued, has send Bjo information on those children for whom correspondents would be most welcome, and thought so much of the writing in MOTLEY that he took issues of it to exhibit at a meeting of teachers of the deaf as some of the finest writing that he had seen on the problem of deaf children by a non-deaf person. The project is still continuing, and any who are interested in more information can write Bjo at 5571 Belgrave Ave., Garden Grove, Calif.

Art Hayes was dropped as a trophy sponsor for Project Art Show when it was decided to eliminate two of the photo trophies, and several of the fan-photographers (to set the record straight, I was not among them) objected that Art's name on the trophy would not add lustre to the award. This was done quietly and without publicity, because nobody really wished to advertise a poor opinion of him on the part of a substantial part of fandom (until Art made an issue of the subject).

As to the rest of it, I have written too damn many letters on the subject, and talked about it in print twice (THRU THE HAZE, Nov. 1962 and AMAZING, SEXY, etc. No. 2 if anybody cares) to hash this idiocy over again. The 1962 Directorate was fully informed on what was going on; both new members of the 1963 Directorate, Dave Hulan and Roy Tackett, read through my entire N3F correspondence file to inform themselves upon the matter, and the Directorate Chairman of the 1964 Directorate may have the same loathsome task. From now on, you can write him about the matter. I've had it.

Best,

Al



EDWARD E. SMITH, Skylark Mobile Home Park, Rte. 2, Box 708, Clearwater, Florida 33515

Dear Tightbeam 23:

As I understand it, the function of an ancient, white-bearded life member is to view with alarm, not point with pride. To point out that, ever since our first teleost ancestor climbed out of the ocean on his fins instead of staying in the water and behaving himself as a young teleost should, the younger generation has been going to the dogs. Since I don't believe that, and since the officers and members of the NFFF have been doing such a good job, and since the Club itself is in so much better shape than it ever was in the "good" old days -- I hadn't supposed that I had much to say.

But my friend Clayton Hamlin's letter in Tightbeam #22 gave me some twinges. I could have, and probably should have, written letters to Tightbeam myself once in awhile, instead of just sitting back and enjoying it in freeloader fashion.

SO -- Yup, I'm working on Skylark-Duquesne. I hope to finish it to my own satisfaction and to Fred Pohl's, in that order, this winter. I have the first quarter and the last eighth done (an astrogator has to know where he's going, doesn't he?) and some in the middle; and, so far, I like it. I've also started a new series of novellas, not connected with anything I ever wrote before, about the Empire of Earth; the first one of which will appear in the May 1964 (I think) issue of IF. I'll be glad to get comments; either pro or con. But don't tell me only that it stinks. Tell me why it stinks.

I have also signed a contract with CANAVERAL PRESS for the first of a series of three full-length novels -- a series that was introduced by the novelet Subspace Survivors in Analog (July 1960) and on which I've been working practically ever since. The whole business was intended originally for Analog, but John and I couldn't agree on how it should be written. It's John's mag, of course; but it's my story.

One sentence about psionics. It's the best springboard (launching pad?) I know of for an extrapolation into the advancement of man; and the study of man (never mind the space-opera sugar coating of the pill!) is almost every author's prime task.

Oh, yes, there are a couple of minor matters I can gripe about to keep myself in good standing as sage and mentor. Too many of you contributors to Tightbeam misuse horrendously the words "infer" and "imply", a misuse that grates on my precisionist's nerve-endings something fierce. Before any of you uses either or them again, please -- pretty please, with sugar on it -- please find out what they mean.

Also that obnoxious tautology, mental telepathy. What other kind of telepathy is there?

Sincerely yours,

Doc

[Welcome aboard, Doc! Receiving your letter was easily the highpoint of my swing at this job. ...But while we're at it, what about "horrendously"?]

JIM HARKNESS, 112 West Harding, Greenwood, Miss.

Dear Mr.--or-Mrs.--or-Miss Rolfe, whichever the case may be, [It's Mrs.]

David Patrick: Granted, your experiences in fan writing are not happy ones. But you see, David, fandom is neither an organization or a club. It is a group, more or less comprised of smaller groups, which are in turn comprised of still smaller groups. You can't expect to write to a person and say "Here I am. Publish my stories." On the other hand, as a publisher you can do this -- rather, you can ask to publish a work -- because this benefits both parties. A publisher can fit in most anywhere if he is willing to put out a decent magazine; he won't break into a group, he'll build his own, which may or may not include the groups of the writers on his staff. You won't find any organization here for the "care and feeding of neophytes"; but if you need "care and feeding", all that is necessary is to ask an individual. Certainly a lot of fans try to break into the prozines. And a lot are content with "easy plaudits" -- whatever a "plaudit" is. If a person has no interest in writing professionally, why should he? Like, David, fandom is fun and games



HARKNESS p.2

(Thanks for the phrase, Roy Tackett), not life or death. If you want to starve trying to write great prose, be my guest. But don't ask me to starve along with you.

This brings up -- don't ask me how -- the popularity question. Contrary to the opinion of some older fans, science fiction is better now than it's ever been. No, the "sense of wonder" is missing -- but who ever wanted it to begin with? That is something I can get any time I watch my date at a dance -- but I'm getting off track. [Gee, I never knew that was called a sense of wonder. --FR] I read -- not only sf, but any type of literature -- for entertainment and intellectual stimulation. If you'll look at some pre-'30 prozines, you'll find a "sense of wonder" all right, but not much else. Critics were entirely justified in damning sf categorically at that time. Now, however, sf is as literate and high quality as any fiction -- and critics have been among the first to admit it. You find sf almost everywhere. Why my book club, the Library of Science, has included 3 sf books this year, in addition to the regular technical material, and this is as incredulous a bunch as you'll find. There is only one science fiction magazine that refuses to recognize that sf has metamorphosed -- ANALOG -- and it is the journal with the least literacy of all. GALAXY, for instance, has changed with the field -- and is the best on the stands.

AuH<sub>2</sub>O in '64!

Jim Harkness

[You mean ol' H<sub>2</sub>S himself?]

ANDREW SILVERBERG, 24 E. 82nd St., New York, N.Y. 10028

Stan Woolston: Seems to me as a new member of the N3F that the only way to keep members in the fold is to do like the publishers do, send out notices that their memberships are expiring; and that's being done. I know that I won't drop membership when I enter college; in fact, I'll probably intensify my fanac. Here's something -- why can't, say, one fan in a city or area call the fans that have dropped -- it would press in the advantages of N3F membership in a personal way.

Dave K. Patrick: I have loads of drawings; what are you pubbing?

Irvin Koch: You are a neo, and so am I. Don't make decrees; learn instead.

Nathan Bucklin: How right you are! It's amazing that teachers think you're a nut for reading sf, and go on to denounce you as an "immature idiot". I suggest, for certain people, a reading program: Heinlein, Clarke, Bradbury, and a few others. It's amazing how few can grasp the concepts! I do suppose I kind of limit myself; but actually, do you really care what people say? I don't.

To you out there: Does anyone remember a book called WAR: 1972, using concepts hypothesized around 1950, with photos of models and prototypes in the back and illustrated with drawings?

The thing with letters is that you've got to have 2 or 3 TB's before you get in the swing of things.

Andrew Silverberg

FRANK HILLER, 99 Sellinger St., Rochester, N.Y. 14605

Dear Ed,

Re: telepathy discussed at IAC.

"...Soviets had given top priority to..." biological radio communication...OSW".

Yes, and the Russians have Lysenkoism, too.

best,  
Frank

DON'T FORGET to send your letters to Ken Krueger, and read his instructions on p. 3.



ARNOLD KATZ, 98 Patton Blvd., New Hyde Park, N.Y. 11043

First, I'd like to thank the people who voted for me for Director, few though they were. I fully intend to be as active as possible in the coming year, and wish to express my complete satisfaction at the way the election was run.

David Kirk Patrick: You know, David, those obnoxious letters of yours are getting to be a habit. Have you ever thought about thinking before you write? The two letters you had in TB 22 will serve to endear you to no one. I think the other people you argued with are able to reply for themselves, so I'll concentrate on what you said about me.

Obviously, you either didn't or can't understand my letter in TB 21, as your reply has little if anything to do with my letter. For those who haven't been paying attention, David said that my letter is "an awful example" and then goes on to say that I have taken to fandom, where I operate a "Senior Pen Pals Bureau" in utter contentment, as a refuge from reality. If I had said anything of the kind I would be entitled to claim the honor of "fugghead of the year", an honor Patrick seems to be going all out to win.

What I said (in TB 21) was:

1. I have had no trouble getting contribs for my fanzine.
2. I have had no trouble in placing my work in other fanzines.
3. An article should be written with its audience in mind.
4. Sf fen have been kind, helpful and generous to me.
5. I asked, facetiously, "I'm talking about sf fandom -- which fandom are you referring to?"
6. That ending my comments to Patrick, I plugged the CorBu, FCH, and Welcommittee.

Now, I ask you fannes and fans, am I an awful example? Am I retreating from reality? Is Patrick getting the same edition of TB as the rest of us?

The biz about quality and quantity is completely exyraneous to my letter, Dave. Of course quality is more important than mere quantity, but I never even talked on that subject.

Now then, let's get on to the subject of who the fanzines should be written for. You say that they should be comprehensible to "neos and the half-interested". That is like saying the American Medical Journal should be comprehensible to non-doctors. The half-interested and neos should not be catered to, or else fandom would not be able to acquire any degree of sophisitaction. If one is continually obliged to explain everything he says in order that no poor neophyte get confused, you're not going to get good writing.

To put things in their proper perspective, I have been in fandom since March 1963. Until that time I had never seen a fanzine or heard a word of fanspeak. I had no trouble finding my way in fandom. When I didn't understand something, I politely (note that word, Patrick) inquired about it. I got polite answers. I did not barge in and damn everything in sight. Unless I am mistaken, Dave, I entered fandom after you, yet you still don't know what's going on, while I've settled into a very enjoyable hobby (note that word, Patrick) which is more engrossing, more stimulating, more varied, and more fun than any of the many other interests and hobbies I follow and have followed in the past.

If the letters that you write to solicit contribs are anything like those you write to TB, I can see why you've had trouble getting material.

Fannishly,

Arnie the Katz

Well, Arnie, I've honored your request and printed this letter uncut and unedited, even though I'd much rather have seen it sent directly to the object of its wrath. I foresee a heated reply by Patrick, followed by an angry re-rebuttal by you, and so on ad something-or-other. This kind of thing is self-perpetuating unless one of the participants proves himself bigger than the other by dropping it. There is far too much of it in the N3F in general, and in Tightbeam in particular. We have other, more interesting topics for discussion, considering TB's limited budget.

I do want to make it clear that I'm not picking on you alone, Arnie; there are a number of other people in this issue, whose letters would have benefitted by second thoughts or more magnanimity, just as there are in all Tightbeams, more's the pity.



S.W. PAUL WYSZKOWSKI, Box 3372, Ottawa 3, Ontario, Canada

Dear Tightbeam,

Stan Woolston asks how to make the club more interesting to MYSELF. Damfino. On the second thought, yes, I do know. I think the club would be a hell of a lot more interesting to me personally if I were on the Directorate, and/or actively doing something for the club.

At the moment, I'm too busy to partake more actively in the club's life [plunking, pootling, painting, pounding and polishing? --FR] but if anyone here thinks the Club isn't doing anything for him/her -- the old cliché is still absolutely true; you only get out of the club what you put in.

In general, on the question a) how do you tell a fan from a non-fan, and b) what do you do about the latter, my answers are to a) you can't, and to b) nothing. If this seems unduly negative, let me state that I am not in favour of proselytizing or recruiting members for fandom or any organization within it. Publicity -- yes. Inform the people of our existence. But let them make up their own minds, without any special effort on anyone's part to influence them one way or another. The physical size of the membership, either of N3F, or fandom in general, is to me a matter of supreme indifference.

Which brings me to Si Stricklen's epoch-making contribution to the world'd literature. The indifference point "!" is surely the greatest advance in the written language since the question mark. If it is original with Si, in my estimate he rates automatically as a genius. I shall hereafter make full use of this wonderful device.

Incidentally, I agree with Si's views on psi, which confirms my suspicion that he is an intelligent man. Psi is very likely a blind alley in the maze of possibilities we are now trying to explore and getting lost in; I think there are more immediately rewarding lines of experimentation to pursue than verification of the existence of psi. If it exists, sooner or later we will accumulate enough data to be able to set up some unquestionably meaningful experiments. At the moment, investigating psi is like trying to reconstruct a Greek vase from a single shard the size of a pebble, which for all we know just might be only a pebble, and nothing more.

David Ettlin: In answer to your questions: 1. no comment; 2. I don't consider myself a fan, though I refer to myself as a "fan" occasionally for sake of identification with fandom, my most appreciative audience. I read prozines occasionally. What's that got to do with anything? 3. I don't understand fandom any more than I understand mundanedom; the former seems to be a conglomeration of some of the more imaginative and articulate individuals, the latter comprises everybody else. Not that all the more imaginative and articulate individuals belong to fandom, by any means. Another thing I know about fandom is that the majority of fans have strong escapist tendencies, and the majority are quite immature.

Yes, I have a purpose in referring to myself as a "fan". "Fan" is a magic word which signifies to other fans that this individual will talk about anything and listen to anything, no holds barred. As a fan, I enjoy freer discussion and freer self-expression than I could in the mundane world where the percentage of unimaginative and prejudiced clods is sufficiently great to make it unwise to say what you really think.

Paul

G.M. CARR, 5319 Ballard Ave. NW, Seattle, Washington 98107

Dear TB,

Got a chortle out of Irvin Koch's comment to J. Renner, i.e., "If you don't like a book, why read it?" Now I'd like to ask Irvin, "How are you going to know whether or not you like a book, unless you read it to find out? And if it turns out that you did NOT like the book, how are you going to cancel out that unpleasantness?"

To Ed Meskys' query if I read TNFF -- sure I read it, but that doesn't mean I can remember everything it says after I close it and file it away...sigh. I wish I could... Maybe then I'd have dropped WW a line of egoboo the next time I ran across something he'd written. But what's your excuse?

GM Carr



JOHN BOSTON, 816 South First, Mayfield, Kentucky

Dear TB-editor(s):

To Nathan Bucklin, sympathy. Also advice, to wit: next time you get in a pointless argument with your English teacher about science fiction, you might insert a suitably barbed question: ask how much science fiction your English teacher has read in her life. When she answers, "Well...nothing that I recall" or some other evasion, ask her how she can criticize what she is ignorant of. If you are reasonably sober about it, you might get out of it alive; if you did, I doubt if you would ever be bothered by that teacher again. Of course, if you're not careful you'll wind up in a peck of trouble. (I'm perfectly safe from all such badinage; all I have to do is point out that there is an sf story in our literature book.)

To George Proctor: what is your definition of sf? A friend of mine (non-fan) and I went around and around on that and never did come to a conclusion.

David Kirk Patrick: The difference between a "fan" and general reader is that the fan cares enough about science fiction to want to discuss it with others. Science fiction is as much a way of thinking as a form of literature.

Clay Hamlin: When I see the words "we" and "they" I always flinch. But let me ask you a question: is there any distinguishing mark or characteristic that sets off a Neffer from any other fan? Does the possession of a little card with the words "Science and Fantasy" (it'd look better if someone would translate it into Latin or Greek) set apart the possessors thereof from the rest of our microcosm? For that matter, do the members of AAA pass resolutions to ignore all other drivers and try to restore the glories of the past? (What an analogy!)

David Ettlin: to answer your last two questions: I consider myself to be a fan because I fit my own definition, to wit: one who is interested enough in science fiction to look for people with similar interests. I read all the prozines; I haven't passed up an issue in ages, although I missed a few this year because of increasingly erratic distribution.

I doubt if there is a true "entity" fandom. I certainly don't understand it, as it is composed of individuals instead of being a sort of hive-mind. I only know my own purpose in engaging in activities such as writing this letter: I want to be able to discuss things and ideas with people of similar leanings. "These are my people", so to speak.

On psi: I am an agnostic (more or less). I feel the same way about psi that I do about religion. That has not kept me from enjoying psi stories, though, any more than my agnosticism kept me from enjoying Lester del Rey's "For I Am a Jealous People". Albert Einstein's comment on flying saucers might here be appropriate: "Those people saw something."

On our professional members (?): Why not make them responsible for notifying the membership when they sell something? A postcard would suffice, and in the next TNFF there could be a little notice to the effect that Mr. X has sold a story to Bombastic Tales which will appear in the July issue under the title "(pick one yourself)". However, I had always thought that there are lots of things a writer would rather do than read fan letters.

To Gil Lamont: Foo on everybody who proclaims that such and such a magazine is best and then fails to defend his claim.

On long letters: when I have something to say, I say it; when I run out, I quit. (I can't be the only one who does!) It seems to me that this policy would cut down the length of most of the letters and also eliminate the need for so much of the cutting that takes place during the construction of a TB. It is a credit to the editors when people are able to write long letters of comment, it seems to me.

Sincerely,

John Boston

[Well, John, take a look at this TB and see if you still feel no need for cutting. I've made almost no changes anywhere, since Ed and I decided to print everything we got and split the cost. Perhaps the reaction to this issue will help future editors decide whether or not to cut. --FR]



ERIC BLAKE, P.O. Box 26, Jamaica 31, N.Y.

Dear Miss Rolfe

I would like to second George Proctor's motion that Analog is the best science-fiction magazine. But I find most of the editorials as intriguing as the stories. In challenging the pallid egalitarianism which pervades so much contemporary thought, John Campbell is doing a great service. Most of the strains in American society today arise from the fact that men are by nature unequal, that they differ in natural capacities, and that many people are trying to ignore this fact.

I must reserve judgment on the subject of extra-sensory perception, though some of the experimental evicence indicates that it can't be dismissed forthwith. Science must deal with the plain facts as they appear to the experimenter, not with notions of his own that a man tries to impose upon the facts and propagandize to the whole world. Let us call the first attitude "pragmatic science", and the second "dogmatic science". That, my good sir, is a contradiction in terms in the worst way. --FR] A pragmatic scientist carries no preconceived notions into the laboratory, but accepts the plain facts as he discovers them. A dogmatic scientist is more a politician than a scientist. I have the impression that there is more of the pragmatic than the dogmatic about the proponents of "psi", and more of the dogmatic than the pragmatic about its opponents.

(I wish another term than "psi" could be found. I find myself trying to read it as "per square inch".)

But I hesitate to predict who will be elected president of Venezuela. There is a good chance that he will be shot within a month, anyway. And there is very little chance that he will be any better than the Moscow-trained Communist who now holds that position.

Ronald Wilson's categorical opposition to censorship is rather unrealistic. In Mexico and in France I've seen some pornographic trash which no healthy person could judge as being fit to enter this country. If this means censorship, then by all means let us have it!

And Wilson's anti-religious views are the sort of thing which he may be expected to outgrow. (I feel safe in assuming that he is relatively young.) What he calls "blind faith" is the conviction that there is a greater Power in the universe than ours, one which may perform actions which seem at first to contradict the laws of nature as we know them. If Our Savior had been born of a mortal man and a woman, how would his life have differed from the lives of thousands of good men? It was His birth of a virgin, in contradiction to the laws of nature, that made His life on earth the focal point of all history. In overruling the laws of nature, God made this fact clear for the dimmest eye to see.

Sincerely yours,

Eric Blake

[I don't seem to be outgrowing my anti-religious views, and I'm no callow maid by any means. And with all due deference to those of different convictions, such as my esteemed co-editor who is an ardent Catholic, that was Mary's story and I don't think I'm stuck with it. In those days a woman could get away with claiming such a thing, and it sure beat being stoned to death for fornication. As an example of a man who was born of mortal man and woman, and yet was a focal point of history, consider Mohammed. Consider also the wise men of Israel, by whom Jesus' philosophy was shaped; including the gentle Rabbi Hillel, two centuries before Christ and very much parallel to him in thinking. Good grief, how did I get started arguing religion?! Excuse it, please. --FR]

LES SAMPLE, 4213 Willingham Dr., Columbia, S. Carolina 29206

Hello, and all like that --

I don't really know the reason why a lot more people are beginning to read science fiction, but it seems that a great deal more sf is being published now than there has been in the past few years, particularly in paperback. One of the newsstands in Columbia puts all new books on a special rack for the first week after they're released, and the sf has been as high as 50% of the releases in more weeks than one.



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PLAYBOY a "girly" magazine? There seems to be a question of semantics involved. Just what is meant by the term, anyway? PLAYBOY publishes a certain amount of sex-oriented material, certainly; and I have no doubt that they gain a good number of readers by doing so. However, by my definition, a "girly" magazine is one that is devoted primarily to sex, which PLAYBOY is not. PLAYBOY publishes some of the best material of any magazine in the US today, both fiction and non-fiction.

As George Proctor says, PLAYBOY publishes good sf and sf oriented articles upon occasion. Publishing sf certainly doesn't make it a science fiction mag, so why does devoting a few pages to nude photos make it a "girly" mag? Any comments, Labowitz and Staton?

Dave Kirk Patrick: It is not egocentric to assume that the majority of the population "is just not with it". If you will review history, I think you'll find that the majority has always been composed of superstitious, ignorant clods. Despite the technological advances of the past century or so, I submit that this is still true. However, please don't misinterpret me -- I don't mean that there are no superstitious, ignorant clods in fandom, or that we're the Saviours of the Wrold, or anything like that. There are ignorant people in every group of any size, be it fandom, the Democratic party, or the Baptist Church. There are just more ignorant people, percentage-wise, in some groups than there are in others.

It is, as you say, quite true that faans exclude people in general from some of the things they do. And why not? People in general are not the least damned bit interested in fandom.

Ronald Wilson: I agree with everything you said in TB #22, particularly about censorship. The next time a bunch of howling, slobbering, middle-aged matrons (zombies would be a better word) descends upon your neighborhood book store, torches in hands, try to find out how many of them have even read the books they're so eager to burn. If you're lucky enough to find one who has read any of the books in question, try to figure out why the books that will supposedly destroy your morals have no effect upon the vigilantes who perform the executions. It's probably because they're already so degenerate that nothing could possibly have a further harmful effect upon what passes for their minds.

Personally, I think that censorship is a big step on the road to fascism, or, if you wish, totalitarianism.

Best,  
Les Sample

[Although I'm just as opposed to censorship as you are, Les, I must take issue with your damning and over-hasty generalization about those middle-aged matrons, since I'm probably one of them by your standards, being the mother of two and almost thirty. Perhaps these women are moved primarily by the already insurmountable difficulty of raising a kid thru adolescence in such a way that he won't cut himself on the double-edged sword of sex. As to why the books in question might hurt a teenager's morals but won't harm the "vigilantes", the key word is one which kids have always hated: maturity. Most books about sex, whether fact or fiction, must be taken with a grain of the salt of experience. Book-burning doesn't solve the problem, of course, and you're definitely right in condemning it. But please don't indulge in argumentum ad hominem until you have been one of the hominem in question. --FR]

IRVIN KOCH, 835 Chattanooga Bank Bldg., Chattanooga, Tenn. 37402

First of all, congratulations to Gary Labowitz for the way he edited my letters; he made them sound sensible. Also, hurray for the art in TB 22.

And about my letter to TB 21 which was put in TB 22, it may interest some to know that at the time I wrote it I thought neofan meant a new imaginative fiction fan, not a newcomer to organized fandom, which is the way it seems to be used.

It also may interest anyone who took note of my attempt to start a discussion on



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military science in SciFi that copies of the Lens series aren't easy to get, I've tried. Anyway, just battles don't make military science, it's the strategy behind them mostly. I should have remembered Asimov; he and Heinlein are the two top theorists on just about everything.

Charge a nickle per half page for people who like to see their letters printed.

Irvin Koch

[Where's your nickle?]

STEPHEN R. COMPTON, 6532 Estates Dr., Oakland, Calif. 94611

Dear Tightbeam Readers:

I, for one, like F&SF a lot more than ANALOG and perhaps just a little more than GALAXY. I like the great variety of stories in F&SF, and this includes some very good science fiction. I suppose, though, it could improve some of its short fiction, but it's still tops with me.

ANALOG has the most well-written stories, but they don't show much difference in style, and it seems they almost always have to illustrate some philosophical, sociological, economical, or political point.

Schelling, Schoenherr, and Summers may be good artists, but Campbell uses them too much. In fact I don't think he uses any others! So -- not much variety in artwork either.

Some of GALAXY's are average and some are very good. You can get some excellent long fiction, and the mag certainly produces the most sf stories per issue, but I still don't think it's the best prozine around. Perhaps the quality of many of the stories isn't quite high enough.

And don't forget WORLDS OF TOMORROW. Its first issues showed very high quality, and the magazine shows great promise.

David Kirk Patrick: I'm afraid I agree with most of what you say. One thing that has struck me about N3F (and most fanac) is how it seems to be so divorced from the rest of the world.

Irvin Koch: Haven't you heard about Gordon R. Dickson's "Naked to the Stars" (Pyramid, 1962)? Many consider it to be the answer to "Starship Trooper".

Ronald Wilson: I don't think you could come to any final conclusions when applying logic to religion because there simply isn't enough scientific evidence to support either the belief that there is a God or that there isn't one (or, if there is, why should we assume that we know what He's like and what our attitude and treatment toward Him should be?) But, anyway, I certainly agree with you on censorship and sacrilege, and a logical, objective examination of a religion could certainly clear up muddled thinking in it.

Gil Lamont: Good idea, charging a small fee to the letterhacks, but how are you going to get them to pay? By threatening not to publish their letters? I don't think that would work, at least not all the time. And, it seems to me, letters running 3 pages or more get boring. Maybe cutting the letters (but not too much!) is better than longer TB's filled with rambling letterhacks.

In closing, I have a suggestion for the Publicity and Recruitment Bureaus: namely, how about putting ads for N3F in the Classified Ads of F&SF, AMAZING, and FANTASTIC. In one of them, anyway. I suppose, though, that it's too expensive. Well, Out There, what do you think?

Sincerely yours,  
Stephen R. Compton

[I'd like to suggest that a fruitful place for debating the relative merits of the various prozines is on the Hugo ballot.

Sorry about the misplaced lines on this stencil, Stephen. I think this machine is getting just as tired as I am -- which is, much too tired to retype it. So please forgive. --FR]



JOHN KUSSKE, JR., 522 9th Ave., W., Alexandria, Minnesota 56308

Salutations,

I see that you new editors like discussions. I'm your man. I hope you also like Viscious-Personal-Attacks-On-The-Previous-Editor-of-Tightbeam. [I don't. It's got too many hyphens in it. --FR]

Gary Labowitz: Just because the year is 1964, not 18- or 17-64, and that sex "is a part of the American scene today", is no reason to be immoral or obscene. Showing nude pictures of a famous movie star is obscene, and no amount of comments about my behing-the-timesness can change that. Your statements are inconsistent anyhow. Golly, it's almost 1964, get with it. Rock and Roll is part of the American scene today. I want to thank you, though, for editing out the parts of my letter that you did lastish. If one really wants to be heard he says something stupid and loud. A TB editor can do a neo a big favor if he just doesn't print what he considers to be foolish statements.

Clay Hamlin: When I started out on your letter I had the impression that you were out to totally reform the club or something. Geez, all that stuff about the faanish fans being infuriated made me think you had a new-and-different program. However, what you suggest has been said by loads of neofans zillions of times. Haven't you ever read in a first-fanzine that there is not enough sf in sf fandom? Didn't David Kirk Patrick say the same thing a few issues back? A noble idea it is, but a practical one it isn't.

Just think. In my issue of TB two pages were blank! I wonder what great thoughts I missed. Those deathless prose died because of one man not seeing it? What rare gems of sarcasm that flowed from the typer of some BNF did I fail to see? I can't sleep nights because of it.

Fannishly

John Kusske Jr.

EDWARD WOOD, 160 2nd St., Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

I have been brooding a long time about this communication failure between the older experienced fans and the young fans. Such terms as "neofan" and "Big Name Fan" are just part of the silly jargon that has always infested fandom. Young fans rightly resent the condescension implied by the term "neofan". Some young fans know much more about science fiction and fantasy than many so-called BNFs. I smiled when I read Mr. Bucklin in TB 22 brag about his aSF back to 1948. I look upon 2 complete sets of ASTOUNDING-ANALOG, AMAZING back to April 1926, WEIRD TALES back to 1926, the complete WONDER and many others. I'm sure some who read this will smile and think of their complete WEIRD TALES and other sets as they in turn are smiled at by those who possess copies of THE THRILL BOOK and other rarities. Now I said I smiled, I didn't laugh. One has to start somewhere.

Too many fans receive a few fan magazines and feel this is the free and easy road to BNFdom. It is too bad that they do not wait and think more before rushing to the tripewriter. I had read science fiction for 7 years before writing my first letter to a professional magazine, 12 before buying the first fan magazine. I learned from the mistakes of others which is what the young fans should do. In the anarchy which masquerades as freedom in fandom, everything goes. Many of the older fans have produced efforts and material of superlative quality and they do not always appreciate fan magazines which are produced sloppily with only enthusiasm. Let me quote from one of the great fans of the past:

"As it must to all fans, the Urge came to Joel Hensley and accomplices. The result: Vulcan Publications, and "The Apollo Fanzine", a hodge-podge of deplorable childish scrawlings, hideously duplicated, replete with ink smudges, typographical and [other] errors. Other science fiction fan publications of a similar caliber have been foisted upon the fan world of late, and if the present state of enthusiasm among the many younger cliques is any indication, there will be an early appearance of many more such atrocities.

"Must the intelligent, long-suffering, older fans be forced to endure this foolery to remain in fandom, or is there some way in which the immature elements



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might be segregated, thus guaranteeing the old-time fans who have given years of valuable service to fandom a bit of peace and quiet, and above all, pride in their hobby?

"Fandom has achieved national attention on two distinct occasions in the past and the recognition accorded it was most unfavorable. By the time that conditions permit another convention to be held fandom will certainly have reached a point where it will be of national interest once more. If the distressing prominence of the juveniles is still so apparent when such a time arrives, many a veteran fan will greatly rue the day that he entered the field."

Philip R. Bronson  
THE KNANVE #1  
January 1943

So there!

I cannot agree with Irvin Koch's supposition that R.A. Heinlein brought military science into science fiction. Future wars of every type have been part of science fiction since before the founding of AMAZING STORIES. If Mr. Koch had read the recent reprints of Buck Rogers stories in AMAZING STORIES he could have realized it.

No one had to remind me of Wallace West's contributions to science fiction. I thought of "The Last Man" in AMAZING STORIES February 1929 and his "En Route to Pluto" in ASTOUNDING August 1936. I go on the assumption that writers are busy people and why should I intrude on their time with meaningless correspondence. I have the greatest admiration for Dr. David H. Keller and consider him the Bradbury of the late 20's and early 30's. A very good article could be written comparing the themes in Bradbury's work and that of the good doctor. Again I have never written him just as I have never written multitudes of other people.

The role of the NFFF in fandom can never be really explained until one has developed a coherent philosophy of what fandom is, was and should be. In spite of the many silly power fights which is enough to make the hardened fan shudder to his toenails, there have been some positive accomplishments; the publication of THE SIGN OF THE BURNING HART by the good Dr. Keller, the publication of the RICHARDSON INDEXES by Darrel C. Richardson back in the late 40's. If anyone has a complete list of them, I would appreciate getting it. Although I was a member of NFFF at the time, the typical helter-skelter powers that be made sure my set would be incomplete. There are other good things that have come out of the NFFF but people tend to remember only the bad.

Since any vacuum of leadership is filled all too quickly by fools, it is indeed mandatory that the leading fans set good examples for younger fans to follow. The enjoyment of science fiction and fantasy will always be the bedrock that attracts new fans and keeps the old fans interested. There should be less of this "fandom for fandom's sake" attitude. Since I have been accused all too often in the past of trying to reform fandom into my own image I shall not offer solutions, but surely these are topics of some interest to the bulk of science fiction/fantasy fandom?

Edward Wood

"Your quote brings to mind the old joke about the proper way to raise children; put them in a barrel and feed them through the bunghole until they're 18; then drive in the bung. It does appeal to the harassed parent, but it's no more practical for neos than it is for kids."

STEVEN DAVID KASLE, 18290 Fairway Dr., Detroit 21, Mich.

I think the opinions of others should be respected. I also think (at least I do think!) that ANALOG is a fine prozine. But I think that FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION is the best mag out. I say this because almost the whole mag is filled with stories by the best authors in sf and fantasy.

Sincerely yours

Steve Kasle



MIKE RANDALL, 929 Riley, Atchison, Kansas

Dear Felice,

Clayton Hamlin and David Ettlin: Okay, Dave, do I understand fandom? Okay, Clayton, what is fandom accomplishing today? A couple of interesting questions, and for once my thinker is stimulated.

To begin with, just what is fandom? This is a relative question in itself, since it will depend on the individual. From this individual, fandom is a way thru which fans of science fiction and fantasy can get to know people of their kind and can develop their fannish tendencies. Science fiction and fantasy at best is a limited medium, reaching only the "oddballs" of the world, the "people not able to face reality." So we form fandom to produce fanzines -- amateurish attempts at the professional science fiction magazines -- we write letters to one another, avoiding mundane work for more introverted pastimes and hobbies.

And we all complain long and loud how we are in the sane position to judge that the rest of the world is insane. We are in fandom, which I have found to be a huge group, a group unknown to all but this group. Consider: if you weren't somehow involved in fandom, you wouldn't know about it.

So now we are asking, "How can we get fandom and science fiction spread thruout all mundane areas?" And I ask, "Why the devil should we?"

When you look at it, we are in effect happy. We get a few hundred people, all interested in thinking themselves superior mentally and philosophically to the rest of the world, and then they start screaming, "This exclusive group should be available to everyone -- but keep it exclusive!"

Fandom, therefore, is an enigma in itself. We consider the rest of the world insane and then we turn around and try to spread ourselves to these insane peoples.

If this, then, is my understanding of fandom, Dave, then why, you ask, am I in it? So help me, I'll bet that most people will say, "To see science fiction spread thru other areas, to people who don't know what they're missing." They know what they're missing! Why should we spread sci-fi when we pass judgment on all those people who don't find themselves in this spread of fandom?

Just because we satirize everything from God to sex, does that mean that we know we are sane and that the rest of the world is insane, even tho the rest of the world is convinced that it's sane and that we are insane?

So why am I in fandom? Because I enjoy it and because it gives me the greatest hobby I've ever had. In my introverted little shell, I speak out from my 1920 typewriter and find a place! I am in essence a nonconformist, and most people don't see eye to eye with me (perhaps because they're all taller than me, but that's beside the point.) Here, in fandom, we are all nonconformists in one regard -- we accept sci-fi as the most intelligent form of fiction.

Well, what do we mean by intelligent? Never mind.

We should go on now to the question raised by Clayton Hamlin? What, in our positions in fandom, are we supposed to do to advance the position of fandom? But I thought we decided earlier that we were the most sane bunch, that since we read the fiction that condemns everything as senseless (except itself, for some unexplained reason), we are an exclusive bunch, superior to most other persons.

Let's get back on the track. Let's take a hypothetical case, in which all of the United States learned and understood fandom for what it is. What would happen? Perhaps many people would leap at the prospect. Perhaps we should never again have to sneak home with the prozines and the comix to avoid being laughed at by ignorant (hooha, here we go again, passing judgment) people who don't understand sci-fi. Then what?

So my big question is, WHY advance the cause of fandom, when it already seems to be a happy group for the people who like its idea? We're happy, aren't we? Who gives a damn if the whole U.S. doesn't know about it? Why go to the trouble?

Longwindedly --

MR

WRITE TO KEN KRUEGER, 43 N. Buffalo St., Orchard Park, N.Y. -- BUT READ HIS INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE THREE FIRST!



GEORGE NIMS RAYBIN, 1367 Sheridan Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10456

So George Proctor thinks that Analog is the best prozine out. He can keep it. I find its size awkward to handle, its fact portion too obtuse for casual perusal, and a very unsatisfactory substitute for aSF. I like an sf mag to be easily carried, easily read and enjoyed in its entirety, not just for the middle "pulp" section.

All of these arguments over the use of neofan and the objections of fans who will say "I am not a neo -- I have been around since --" remind me of non-fannish discussions as to how old is old. To a new fan, one day and he ceases to be a neo; to a real old timer, the new fan may be a neo even after 10 years. When you get right down to it, we're all neos -- old neo or young neo.

I agree with Gary H. Labowitz's comment to David Kirk Patrick's letter. The non-fans who are reading science fiction, by sheer numbers, will be in a position to control the content of the science fiction magazines. If we want these prozines to remain in the classical pattern, we had better start getting these non-fans into fandom and on our side.

While I am writing, I would like to proclaim to all our members the wonderful job that Janie Lamb did handling our hospitality room at the Worldcon in Washington, D.C. This is a very important activity and we could use more helpers.

Sincerely yours,

George

LEN BAILES, 27 Split Rail Place, Commack, N.Y. 11725

David KirkPatrick: Funny you should like fan fiction and not articles. It is the fiction which is usually very poor. Most of the articles written in fanzines are (to me at least) very enjoyable.

Re ANALOG, here are some observations. I don't like the magazine because of the oft-recurring political themes. Virtually no attempt at good writing is made. The typical ANALOG author merely wants to give you his gimmick and as little else as possible. Sf built around a scientific discovery or invention can be interesting, but only when the literary aspects of the story are not overlooked. ANALOG does not have better stories than any of the other mags. One may still find some excellent sf in GALAXY, and if it's fantasy you want, the English SCIENCE FANTASY and FANTASTIC are quite good. Now, I'm not advocating ultra stylistic writing. F&SF shows the danger of going overboard with its "mood pieces". But a good stf story should be a balance of stimulating ideas and competent literary technique.

When was the last time anyone got excited over an ANALOG story, or identified with the hero? While the yarns that Campbell publish contain excellent treatises on various "catchy ideas", they are dull, dry and lacking any feeling whatsoever.

As far as the argument over PLAYBOY goes, I would like to know what some fans consider the definition of a girly magazine. If this definition is "a sophisticated magazine dedicated to entertaining those who are mature enough to appreciate it, by various methods including philosophizing about life, debating, good mainstream fiction, and risqué humor," then yes, PLAYBOY is a girly magazine. However my own definition of a girly magazine would be one composed almost solely of "pictures" with the remaining text, cheap slush. PLAYBOY has maybe 15-or-so pictures out of some 200-plus pages per issue, plus one or two risqué cartoons. Its fiction is of the highest caliber (the rates for a short story are \$1500). It merely takes the realistic picture that sex is a part of life.

Ron Wilson: I agree with you on everything but your view of censorship. I feel that I am entitled to know whatever I may comprehend also, but you've got to remember that censorship is necessary. What would Joe Doakes think if he knew what really went on behind the scenes at Washington? Is Joe Doakes capable of understanding the intricate mechanisms of diplomacy? Wouldn't he be likely to misinterpret what was presented to him? I dislike having my newspapers censored, yet at the same time, I acknowledge the need for a SLIGHT degree of shading, lest the public should panic. I do agree with you that the degree of censorship in the US is far too great though. There are many things John Public could be told without harming him that are uselessly concealed.

Fannishly

Len Bailes



GEORGE FERGUS, 3825 W. 160th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44111

Dear TIGHTBEAM,

Dave Ettlin: I approve of all your MS Bureau suggestions from TB 20, and have no objection to your being one of the three judges. (Feel free, anyone, to volunteer as a judge for the MS Bureau. Don't be bashful.) I consider myself to be a fan, because a fan is someone who likes sf (or fantasy) better than any other type of literature, and I do. Truthfully, I hardly ever read the prozines. I prefer paperback editions in which a novel is a complete whole, not scattered around in three separate parts, and in which connected short stories are together in sequence (as in the recent ENVOY TO NEW WORLDS Relief collection). Fandom in general is incomprehensible and has varied purposes. However, my purpose in being a fan is (1) to discuss sf with other enthusiasts, (2) to learn things I didn't know before about science fiction and the writing of it, and (3) to meet independent thinkers like myself whom I may enlighten or who may enlighten me in various areas of thought. This is why I feel that the opportunity for discussion in TIGHTBEAM is one of the most valuable aspects of the N3F.

The sure way to keep the N3F interesting is, of course, making TIGHTBEAM longer. But seriously, I think we should talk more about books. For instance, "Sometimes I wonder about such books as STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND, GLORY ROAD, and THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE, which should have been written as speculative research papers, not as science fiction novels." [Ah, but then you'd never have read them. --FR]

Clayton Hamlin: I agree with just about everything you said in TB 22, but tell me what to do.

Si Stricklen: If a person follows the majority opinion on something, no matter if this opinion is right or wrong, he has no obligation to try to disprove it in favor of some minority opinion. Of course, using the scientific method of experiment to discover truths is the best way, but our whole existence is based on relatively blind acceptance of the facts we learn in school and from people of greater experience. It would not be reasonable for the average person to build a space ship and go to the moon to discover by experiment once and for all whether or not it is made of green cheese; therefore, it is not reasonable to expect the average person to go out and spend years digging up concrete evidence for or against the existence of psi powers, even if it were possible to find concrete evidence. I am glad you and Gary Labowitz brought out the fact that probability is a two-way street, supporting the occurrence of "coincidences" as well as deeming them unlikely. Quite well put too, Gary.

I was so glad to hear that our pre-science psimen were busy predicting the results of a Venezuelan election while President Kennedy's death was imminent. (Note to Ronald Wilson: Remember the old brush-off, "It is God's will, my son"? I wonder what kind of God would want our nation's president to be vilely murdered.)

Al Andriuskevicius: I am sure that when Dave Hulan said he was a skeptic, he was speaking only in reference to psi and nothing else. Hulan couldn't have meant that he was a skeptic, period, or else he wouldn't even believe that the world was real until shown absolute proof, which obviously was not the case. The word "skeptic" must of necessity be a qualified term, and Hulan was speaking only of psi. Q.E.D. Your logic is faulty.

Is Peter Hurkos, perhaps, Mr. Stricklen's "one person who will correctly predict the Rhine cards all his life" due to nothing other than coincidence?

My idea of a hero (in the sense that Al Lewis meant it when he wanted to make a list of the greatest ones) is someone who is heroic. The little man who blunders into saving the universe does not fit this definition.

Gil Lamont: Alice Mary Norton goes by the name of Andre Norton even in the Cleveland telephone directory. Poor health keeps her more or less confined, and she has not worked in a library since 1950. She spends most of her time on writing (alternating between science fiction and historical novels), and writes the first draft for a chapter each day.

Fan-truly yours,  
George Fergus

[Your logic is faulty, sir. In order to write Q.E.D. you must prove, rather than just stating, that "skeptic" is of necessity a qualified word. After all, the world is just a figment of my (overworked) imagination. --FR]



NATE BUCKLIN, P.O. Box 4, Dockton, Wash. 98018

Dear Felice, assistants, and readers:

Sack the rest of this letter (if necessary) [Don't think I'm not tempted -- but no, I can probably last through another few stencils --FR]...but I missed Kaymar's deadline, so please mention: STOPTHINK, new fmz, good repro, 22-24 pp., 20¢ high standards, everybody please buy a copy. Trades accepted, or 4¢ stamps.

Franson and Riddle, now that I actually have something published, maybe you'll take notice of my volunteering for a TIGHTBEAM. Thanks for advice and assistance to everybody alphabetically from Breen to ZZZZZZ and everybody in between including possibly a few A's and early B's. Stan Woolston: the only thing I can think of to encourage renewals is this: "if you don't, you'll be sorry...later." It's true. It isn't the end of the year that causes lack of interest in new members; it's that now they have been in the club for one year they are bored and think maybe they've got everything they need from it. Maybe you have, but what have you returned? (Besides money.) Even if you just want to deadwood on in or out of N3F, you'll miss the club. I don't know whether you'll be missed or not. At the end of the second year, I don't think boredom is as likely; but you may be thoroly sick of the club...so what? You'll still miss it.

DKPatrick: I haven't actually asked for material, except from correspondents; but I have submitted to two fanzines, LUNATIC Bi-Nightly and So What, and only the latter returned rejects...and Rick Norwood, editor of the latter, still has one of my favorite stories someplace in his files or the garbage. Amateur articles are usually absolutely terrible (including yours) but the better fan articles, in WARHOON and such mags, are as good as the pros, and as a result most of the top fmz pub little fiction. Neofen, however, can often write decent stories. For these reasons a first fanzine will publish mostly fiction, an established one very little. Faneds sticking with their own "staph"; well, anyone besides the staff will look like the wrong type for the mag, unless he looks like an imitation, which is worse. Read a mag for years, write a LoC on every issue, and maybe, at the end, you'll write a decent story for them because the style of their magazine has brainwashed you. But try doing two at one time and you'll be brainwashed by two mags simultaneously and both will reject stories which read like the other in places. And I mean "brainwashed". Choosing your market is not, at least before the composition of a piece, a conscious matter.

Bill Berger: Agreed. RENAISSANCE MAN OF TWO WORLDS by RF Jones is the sort of story I'd like to see more of if I have to write the type myself. No mag has printed good old sf since 1961 or so, and I'm getting sick of the new tastes of the editors of some mags. GAMMA, tho poor, looks like a step in the right direction, but I've only seen one copy.

Nathan A. Bucklin: You said it just as I would have. Thanks. Incidentally, I'd like to say something here: my comment re Kaymar Award was not serious; I also favor Seth Johnson until someone better comes up. Unfortunately, Frank, among others, took my statement seriously. Frank is NOT being backed for the award by anybody; thanks for writing, Frank. GHL: I have read Lord of the Flies and am forbidden Catcher in the Rye.

Clayton Hamlin: Now cut that out! We aren't trying to live on our past glories, but the present is every bit as much a part of our daily lives as sf. The only things really worth working at are (a) the discussion; (b) the fiction fanzines; (c) Project Semi-Pro. Not necessarily in that order. And a club devoted to all three only would get mighty boring, or else unwieldy, with 300 + members; a lot would drop out and reassociate someplace where they could be fans instead of just the opinionated readers as which we started out. Remember, we're the National Fantasy FAN Federation. Also remember, you do not grow all of a sudden by reverting to infancy. Maybe fandom is the mature sf readerdom. (Actually, I don't think age has anything to do with it.) MORE sf, certainly. We are agreed that there is too little. Don't knock fandom, too many of us are members of it. There is one other club that seems to be down to a few members, that you could rebuild from scratch; I refer to the International SF Correspondence Club. If you're still connected with it you could drag sfminded members into it. We are not what we are not.

Mike Irwin: Good idea, but who would be decent enough to show up in the same place someone else is. There's only about one Neffer per half-million.

Si Stricklen: Good idea. Try the semi-indifference point, 1/2 or hyphenated exclamation. Or the general confusion point, ? Or my word, long used on Vashon Island:



"Gubrich" used as an expletive meaning something like "impossible, ridiculous, and must be a hoax"; also implying more than a little disgust. Rhymes partly with "Rubbish".

David M. Ettlin: (1) Partly, but I don't think anyone should be set up as a judge. Leave that up to the faned. If he wants to reject with the recommendation, "try pros" or "wrong type" leave it to him. Something might be pre-rejected that is just what the faned needs. Judging of type is a much easier matter. If the fanzine publishes a story, and the repro is illegible, hand the story over to another zine that should be able to print it. The best thing about the mss bureau is that it gets stories from a contributor to someone who thinks he wants the material; anything more might prove to be a handicap. (2) I consider myself to be a fan because I enjoy sf in quantity, want to discuss it or anything with other readers of sf. Anyone who fits those specifications is a fan; anyone who doesn't, isn't. (3) Heck, no! Do you understand life? I am not considering them to be equal, just equivalent. [There's a difference? --FR] What's its purpose? What's yours? What is your purpose in having friends? What's your purpose in finding out things (learning)? Understanding is not necessary.

Dr. Ladonko: I am bored with psi. The reason is that I can see no conceivable practical result and feel no different from knowing myself a possible telepath.

N3F should have a fanzine circulation department, besides N'APA. Would print fmz reviews, fanzine listings, supervise trades between interested zines, etc. I have the time for this, and if the N3F will pay for publications, I'll take it, as I am a fanzine fan and thought up this idea in the first place.

NATE BUCKLIN

LOU POCHET, 124 Loyalhanna Ave., Latrobe, Pa. 15650

I agree entirely with Dave Kirk Patrick. As time goes on more and more people will be introduced to sf...through the regular news media and fandom is going to have to basically change...today there is a limited number that are interested in sf enough to join fandom but many would join it if they ever knew about it (I joined by accident myself). There is nothing wrong with it as we see it acting to let other fans know that others who are interested in sf exist. BUT the most important thing is that it gives amateur writers an outlet. The most important thing that fandom should concentrate on, not just the N3F but all groups, is that sf is not JUNK literature as many believe ..it has as much if not more literary content as most forms of literature and should be contended with.

To answer Dave Ettlin's questions truthfully I have to say that I don't fully comprehend. I noted above what I thought fandom should do but to what extent it accomplishes that, I have no idea.

Clayton Hamlin: I suppose you advocate a merging of the different sf organizations into one group. An excellent idea except that most of the other fan clubs would like to stay independent...but fandom if it is ever to come of age will have to work together. If fandom wants to keep on existing it will have to take liberal views and not be static. Like it or not, N3F is going to have to have an appeal to the younger fans who be the deciding factor. No, I don't mean for it to go juvenile but I feel that things will have to be moderated.

Sincerely,

Lou Pochet.

MIKE IRWIN, 1712 Tulip, Arlington, Texas 76010

Gary Labowitz: I was/am not kidding. Re postmark: tsk, tsk.

Si Stricklen: Why don't you adopt the name "Psi" Stricklen?

Ed Meskys: According to an article in This Week (a Sunday supplement) several weeks back, the US did not conduct psi tests with a subject aboard a sub.

Clay Hamlin felt we should promote N3F; ya Clay. According to Seth Johnson and others, there have been many futile attempts to get N3F plugged in prozines. OK, so ignore prozines and try pocketbooks. How about it, TNFF pubbers? Why don't you mimeo letters to each of the prominent sf pocketbook pubbers and send these along with the next TNFF?



Walter Breen, 2402 Grove St, Berkeley 94704

David Kirk Patrick: What is so great about most fan fiction? Why is it, in your eyes, more meritorious for a fan to try to write pro-quality fiction than for him to try to write pro-quality nonfiction? And whose mother would you about a tragic accident to a fan correspondent? If there has been a death or serious injury in fandom, this fan's friends are surely entitled to know about it.

Irvin Koch: Not in everyone's hands and mouth does the term "neofan" have a derogatory connotation. Some of the greatest names in fandom are well known to have been exceptionally courteous, even kind, to neos. Walt Willis, for instance. Ted White was of much help to me when I was a neo. We've all been neos, and not all of us have suffered from sneers because of it; if nobody has sneered at you, don't expect them to do it. The term remains useful because it has a fairly clear meaning not covered by any other single word: a person who has not been around active fandom for any length of time, and who is therefore still to a certain extent unfamiliar with the fannish traditions and parlance. That is a description, not an automatic putdown.

As for debating psi, it's much harder to disprove something like that than you might think; you would have to search out every alleged episode (including messages from the dying which induced relatives to make journeys to the actual scenes, etc) and prove fraud or self-deception or misinterpretation or something explainable by natural and known processes. Merely reading the Rawcliffe Illusions book you suggest (or, for that matter, Gardner's Fads and Fallacies or any number of attacks on J.B.Rhine) will prove nothing save that some people's critical faculties get dulled when they have an emotional investment or will to believe in a particular area. On the other hand, Nate Bucklin's descriptions of his own telepathy experiments (in an earlier TB) are convincing enough. I could supplement them, if I had time, with descriptions of my own experiments in that line, some of them called "impeccable" by officers of the American Society for Psychical Research. (It's at 880 Fifth Ave NYC. Incidentally, they tested me, and I predicted the amount and direction of my own deviation from chance in several successive tests. I was also slated to appear on the ESP TV program, but it folded first; I was one of very few contestants who knew when he was scoring above or below chance and which.)

The easiest type of message to send or receive telepathically is an emotional state, particularly a strong one actually being felt rather than merely simulated for the occasion. Visual or auditory images are much harder; words and sentences harder still, abstract ideas probably the hardest of all. As for random numbers, as in Dr.Landonko's timewaster, all one can ever hope to show thereby is that some people occasionally get partial and unrecognized results in emotionless transmission. What I mean by transmitting a strong emotion is like this: A and B are in different cities. A is in serious trouble or even pain. B, miles away, perceives this by other than the normal mechanical means. Verification comes if B writes or phones A at the time of perceiving it. As for other forms of ESP or psi, I can only say that information seems to be transmissible under some conditions across time; I have often had precognitive dreams (I managed to verify the J.W.Dunne "Experiment with Time" hypothesis by recording my dreams as soon as I woke up over a period of some five years), and I know three people who can report reliable and verifiable data about the owner or maker of an object just by handling it. (I can sometimes pick up emotional states that seem to have become attached to objects, so I know a little about it.) Robert Graves, in Oxford Addresses on Poetry, has a chapter--"The Word BARAKA"--which deals with this precise problem.

Clay Hamlin: I wonder if Ray Nelson, Terry Carr, Steve Stiles, Bob Silverberg, Bob Tucker, Ted White or Marion Z.Bradley would agree with your dogmatic assertion that pros' professional development came "in spite of their experience in fandom, not because of it"? I also wonder if you would consider the Hugos, the International Fantasy Awards, or TAFF, or Project Art Show worthwhile projects? If not, why not? "And as for that monstrous goof in trying to get all of fandom on their side, whatever happened to Fantastic Universe?" It wasn't fanzine reviews or fan lettercols that killed FU, Mr. Hamlin; it was publisher Henry Scharf (who'd bought FU in a package with other mags in a tie-in sale and who didn't really care) and, most of all, art director J.William Luszcz, who made the cover logos too similar in two successive months (Oct & Nov) so buyers in November couldn't be sure if the new issue had come out yet. VOID 21 gave these two men the BOOT, an award akin to Fugghed of the Year, started by Harlan Ellison and briefly continued by Ted White, spelling out their contributions to the murder.



BREEN pg 2

Dave Ettlin: Hi, and do you remember that you still owe me a letter, or is the USPOD at fault? In answer to your questions: 1. No comment: I haven't enough experience with the NSF ms. bureau to make the comparison. 2. I consider myself to be a fan, because I have been active in most corners of American fandom during my four years in it. From the other angle, as most of my fanzines and fanzine contributions prove, I am a SF devotee. A fan is generically a devotee of something or other, whether beginner or expert; I am at least the former. I read some prozines--mostly F&SF, and assorted recommended stories in others--but none regularly, though I did read ASF regularly in the late 1940's and early 50's together with the first few years of GALAXY; and I refuse to feel like a renegade in not reading them now. 3. I'm still studying gandom; and as nearly as I can understand what is going on, if fandom has any purpose at all, that purpose is fun, pure and simple. There is no good reason, so far as I know, for seeking any Higher Purpose. We aren't the dedicated adherents of a Religion, after all. "The devotion to something afar/from the sphere of our sorrow (Shelley: One Word is Too Often Profained) can be one way of having fun, even without any Great Cause. My own purposes in being a fan include, among other things, enjoyment of various kinds of activities not readily available elsewhere; developing new friendships; finding a series of interrelated forums for ideas in the development of which I can take part.

As for Canticle, it's not a novel at all but a set of three novellas conceived as parallels in theme, action and structure; and these three embody an excellent set of story ideas ruined--especially in the third--by too much propaganda content, viz., Up the Church & Ban the Bomb.

Hoping you are not the same, Walter Breen

ENS. RONALD E HICKS, USS Seminole (AKA-104), ZFPO, San Francisco 96601

Dear Editors Three: David Kirk Patrick: I've been wondering about the large number of fans who seem content with being published in fanzines only, too. It's not much fun getting rejection slips, I'll admit, but you can always paper a room with them--very impressionistic. Those mimeed slips with a box checked showing the reason for rejection always seem like a kick in the stomach, but I've at least progressed to receiving personal letters of rejection on some of my non-fiction article ideas. Even that small change makes me feel better. I doubt if there is a professional writer in the country who hasn't received basketsful of rejection slips, so the slips shouldn't keep would-be pros from continuing to submit manuscripts. The more you write, the better you should get.

Analog, etc.: I'll concur that Analog has far and away the best format, but I'm primarily a fantasy fan and the story content doesn't particularly appeal to me. My choice for second place in format goes to F&SF and Gamma.

Ron Ronald Wilson: I agree with your letter almost entirely down to item 5. I've about given up discussing religion too, but not because I can't get any answers. I can't even seem to get any reasonable questions. Most of the ones I hear repeated over and over are totally meaningless. My personal opinion is that the whole mess should be dumped. I did enjoy Canticle though.

Dave Ettlin: I consider myself a fan because I like science fantasy, fannish type people, and fannish type activities. Yes, I read the prozines--but not all of them every month by any means.

Al Andriuskevicius: I agree that one should look for evidence before he accepts either psi or god. From my point of view there is much, much more evidence in support of psi. Consequently that is the one I believe in, & not the other.

Gil Lamont: Hurrah for TB as a discussionzine!!! I hope we can continue to get editors who agree.

Ed Meskys: What's this about NAPA members not needing publishing equipment? How about filling me in on the details. I see another chance to get on my soapbox and expound.

1/16/ Ron Hicks

DICK FINCH (no ret. address on letter)

A short while back I suggested a fanzine idea to Roy Tackett to be based on news of world fandom. He immediately stated that I should air my views in TIGHTBEAM. After Christmas I volunteer to be the news-gathering reporter & liaison man for Europe.

Dick Finch.

ED MESKYS HERE: Sorry about these last two pages--Felice couldn't finish typing them so blame all the typos on me. App was done at home on my antique, the rest on this odd-ball "Facit" belonging to the LIVERMORE RECREATION DEPT, while TB is being run off in back of me. (I resorted to this 'cause Karen Anderson's Gestetner got sick, & the ink gun on this one just went. Hope we can finish it.) And sorry, despite our promises, the last 5 or so letters did get cut, but only because we ran out of time. Don't forget to write Ken Krueger NOW!!!

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Third Class

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