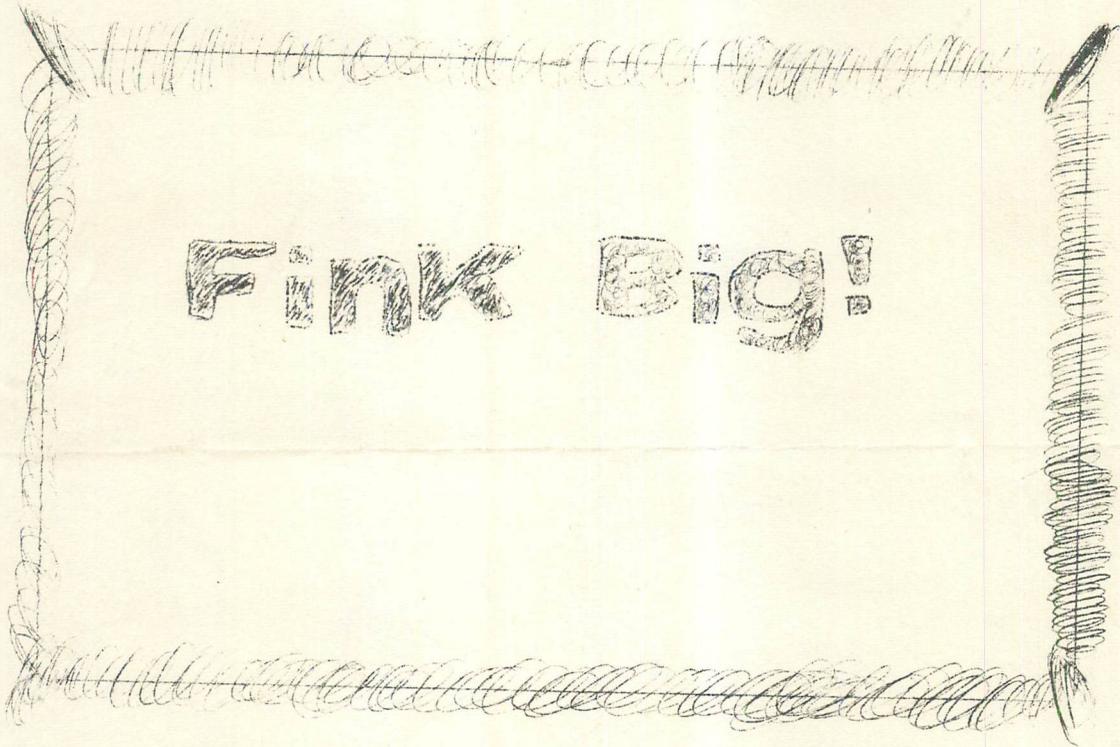
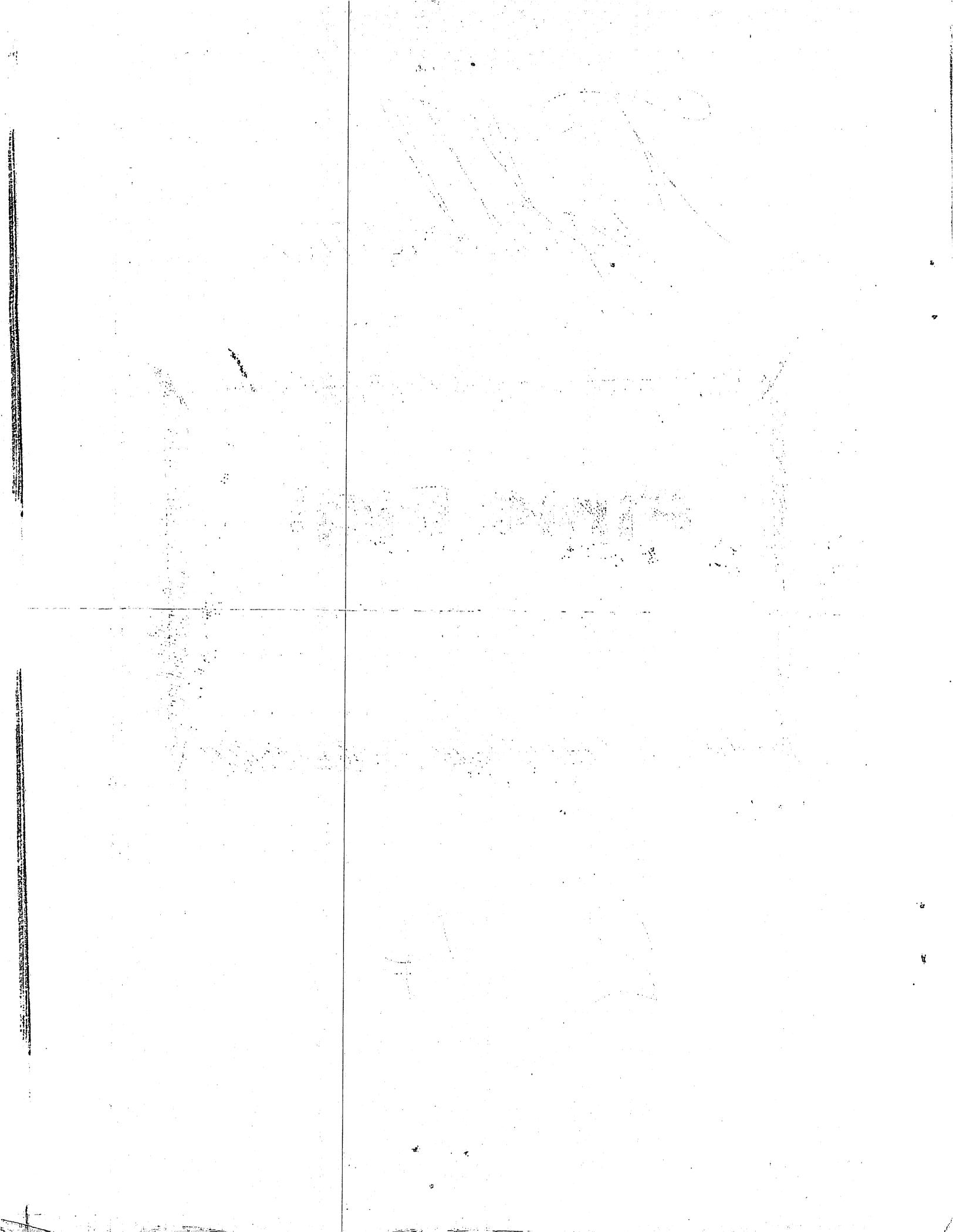


Tightbeam



2 4



NORM METCALF P O Box 336 Berkeley 1, California 94701 - - - - -

I'd like to second Ed Wood's remarks in the 23rd TB. When we science-fiction fans today look at fandom (both in and out of NFFF) what do we see? The most obvious irritation is the vast amount of yakking at great length on some subject about which the yakker knows little and thinks he knows a great deal. And to further disgust sf fans these people are so seldom talking about sf about which they theoretically should know something. Some fans are worried about where we will recruit new fans. Did they ever stop to think about why we're not retaining a good many that we've managed to briefly come in contact with. Fandom has little to offer the sf reader because it has little to do with sf. And it's rather obvious that few sf readers are interested in fandom as it is presently constituted. If they were they would be active in fandom. Instead they vanish from sight. I don't blame them. In fact, I'm tempted to go the same way. Wading through fanzines to find some discussion of sf is becoming increasingly distasteful to me. And when I look at my shelves sagging with unread books and magazines (plus several thousand more unread books and mags in storage) and consider that I could be reading them instead of fanzines, it's very tempting. The only tie that restrains me in fandom is that fandom is the only source of information about sf, and thus is a means of guiding my reading, informing me of missed titles that are worthwhile to read and giving information about stories which enables me to appreciate them more fully. (Oh, by the way, I'm considering fandom to be those who are interested in sf for its own sake. This excludes many, if not most, of those who are considered to be fans in the broadest sense.)

And this brings up another point. Why is fandom so attractive to non-fans? The NFFF and the apas in particular are full of non-fans. Some of them have read sf in the past but no longer have any interest in it. Others haven't read any sf at all to judge from their writings. Yet they stay in "fandom". It seems rather obvious that they remain because there is a sufficient number of their own kind in fandom that they feel at home. Sometimes I wonder why they don't leave fandom en masse for the NAPA. They would certainly feel more at home there. And there would be the additional thrill of being some of the biggest frogs in a microscopic puddle.

I don't expect a mass exodus from fandom following this letter. It would be nice if a sf reader could enter fandom and find his fellows were sf fans instead of mundane people with no real interest in sf. But it's too much to expect from present day fandom, that some honest soul searching could take place.

So until that takes place I can publish Collector's' Bureaus for Ed Wood, John Roles, Dick Lupoff, Richard Armstrong and my own amusement. If anyone else has a real interest in the Collectors' Bureau, my name is in TNFF (unfortunately for my equanimity those who have no real interest in the CB also write in).

Norm's letter fills me with misgivings. Why am I in fandom? I honestly couldn't tell you. I don't think it's the ego-boo because I seldom write for fanzines any more, I don't publish fanzines any more (this doesn't count) and about all I actually do is go to conventions. I huckster at cons, sure, but primarily I go because I enjoy FANS. This may be one of the reasons why so many of us stay in fandom long after we have ceased to be of any use as far as furthering the cause goes. Personally, I enjoy fanzines because I used to publish them, I enjoy fan feuds because I was in so damn many of them, but mostly, I enjoy FANS.

But the day of the collecting fan seems to have passed, and the fanzines of today have very little to do with the serious side of collecting. Now, I won't read a book because some oddball in Nebraska says it's choice, but if enough of them recommend it, I'll give it a try. How about sending me a copy of CB.

. . .
WRITE WRITE WRITE - ART HAYES and ROY TACKETT

IDA IPE - 1625 E. Indianola Avenue - Youngstown, Ohio - 44502

This whole letter might sound like a lot of Greek so I'd better explain it a little. Alma Hill carboned a letter concerning the Story Quads sometime ago and because of exams and mundane activities have kept me from carboning up ten or so copies and I figured this was the best way to get the whole thing off my mind. A few toes may be stepped on as a result of what I'm going to say, but I feel it is necessary to get my views across.

Harvey Forman has said that he would be glad to head the group (Here comes the confusion). Don't write off the Story Quads before they are given a chance to prove themselves. There seems to be an urge to do this when new competition makes the scene. There would be very little of the modern world as we know it if inventors had listened to the skeptics and never finished their work. People's criticism should be toward the constructive and not the destructive; always encourage, never discourage. You may find yourself wanting a part of the finished product and out in the cold instead because of a derogatory attitude. Since writing is a common interest it should be worked for side by side and not on opposite sides. And just because Art Hayes wants nothing to do with the Story Quads is no reason to fall in line behind him.

There seems to be some question in Alma Hill's mind that Seth Johnson could not handle the Quads because of his Round Robins and Fanzine Clearing House. To be head of these operations takes responsibility that could easily be carried over to the Quads. Of course there will be some deadwood, as Seth Johnson so ably puts it, but it is easily rectified by dropping them at the end of a round.

I penned a letter to Harvey Forman some time ago, outlining my own views concerning the Quads and would like to share them with you.

1 - The foundation of a Sub-Directorate (not connected in anyway with the Directorate) which would be non-elective. The members would be the first who volunteered, namely Harvey Forman as Chairman and the committee composed of Luis Ruybel, Paul Gilster, Jane Ellern, Seth Johnson, J. M. Bogrt, Mark Irwin, and Ida Ipe,

2 - The printing of a fanzine containing only those Quads which are fit to be published. The printing of others could be accomplished if the number of members could be kept at 30 with a waiting list similar to that of NAPA.

3 - The fanzine would be free to members of the Quads and purchased for a small fee by anyone wishing a copy. This would help defray the cost for the person who has the honor of publishing them.

4 - Anyone wishing to submit criticism would do so directly to the Quad members without revealing his name if that were possible.

5 - Refraining from publishing individual contributions.

Ida concludes with a pep talk on how she realizes that the stories will not be professional to start with, but she hopes that everyone will be able to improve their own writing ability. She further states that any ideas for limiting the size of the Quads will be unworkable.

This may be a very good thing for younger fans to be in, but I certainly wouldn't recommend it for anyone who is working on a way to develop his own style of writing. However, I've an open mind about these things and would like to see something come of it. I'm sure Ida will be happy to hear from all of you who are interested. But -- write to her personally, you needn't use TB answering her -- she wants to hear from you.

DAVID M. ETLIN - 3424 Royce Avenue - Baltimore, Maryland 21215

N3F seems to be doing fine, regardless of those who try to destroy it

still DAVE ETTLIN

(Feuders take note). I hope to give up the Tape Bureau when I finish mailing the tapes ordered, and when I find a new bureau head. I hope to eventually talk Don Fransom into letting me have the ms. bureau. This however, will be awhile from now.

After dropping the bomb about the Tape Bureau, Dave then gives personal answers to Bill Bowers regarding a Kennedy editorial in NAPA, David Partick who is advised that fandom can be fun, Mike Randall to whom he disparages the SF Bookclub, and George Fergus with whom he agrees regarding the ms bureau. But because the rest of us aren't up on the Kennedy editorial, etc, I've butchered the letter, but the main thing seemed to be:

*****BALTIMORE IS HEAVEN IN '67*****

-z-

R. MONROE SNEARY - 2962 Santa Ane Street - South Gate, California

I am writing mainly to speak out about the covers on TB #23. It, and the covers on the Oct and Dec TNEF. Why in blazes if such covers as the one by Wilimczyk are available to the NFFF, can't they be had for TNFF? The two issues that I have show that cover art on TNFF hasn't improved any in 15 years, and apparently has never regained the simple elegance of the old Bonfire. The first impression of anything is often a telling one, and a cover is the first thing one sees about a fanzine --- and TNFF is generally the first thing a fan sees of the NFFF.

It does no good to lament the lack of something, or complain of poor quality, when everyone is doing the best they can. Nor can editors be blamed for using what is available, when they are footing a large part of the bill. But it is frustrating to see the TB cover that is of a quality that could easily fit a professional literary magazine, and then compare it to the covers on TNFF. If the NFFF could buy and pay for a simple standardized cover to last the whole year, with only the dates added to show the different issues, a great step forward would be taken to improve the appearance and image of the NFFF and TNFF.

It is sort of like old times, writing you again, Ken -- though I'm not very interested in going back . . . I'm sort of sorry but not surprized to see how few of the names in TB are from the old days . . . only a couple old (and dear) war horses remain . . . But the song is still the same. One could hardly tell the arguements apart from those that raged in Postwarp. Only the cast is changed. Neofans who don't want to be called Neofans. Would be writers who want everyone to get interested in fan writing. The sercon fans who want us all to devote our time to serious interest in science fiction. The frustrated organizers who want to put fandom and themselves on the map. And, of course, the nutty-idea boys, with the latest ideas, which is always something to do with esp, or mind-reading. All these balanced by a few sane heads who are trying to get something done in a reasonable way, and those who are in fandom just because they think it is fun. Foo bless them all -- every pointed little head.

((The R. Monroe bit is not an attempt to hoax anyone, but a visual reminder to old friends that for all intent and purposes I am a different person, and should not be expected to act as "Rick" did, years ago))

R. Monroe Sneary you may be to others, but damnit, it was good to hear from Rick Sneary again after a good many years. I invite you all to re-read Rick's letter. It seems as if R. Monroe Sneary has a few good ideas therein, and, boy-oh-boy, did his one paragraph hit the mark.

WRITE FOR THE NEXT TIGHTBEAM, and the next, and the next, and the next.

Divide that into 2 points and I'll agree with 1, the first. We do have strong escapist tendencies. Most fans seem to be as interested in history --- way back --- as history --- way up. Some have made it pay off, de Camp, Lieber, van Vogt, for instance. It has been my observation, over the years, that fans seem to have a higher intelligence level & intellectual curiosity (without which an IQ isn't worth 4 cents). I disagree with the immaturity charge from the vantage point of 29 years, 4 (almost) kids, and 9 years in business. I was immature when I wrote letters, at 12 & 13, to the immature columns in the prozines. Yet, looking back, my relative maturity seems higher at that time than that of my age peers; and the same holds for the others who are writing now, at 12-13 etc.

((at this point Mr. offutt answers Eric Blake's letter, and because I do want to get this issue out sometime, even this late, I will only say that he tears the living hell out of Eric Blake -- and here are a few excerpts, the whole thing is classic, but would cause bloodshed)) "Mary and Joseph are dead, correct? Unprovable, but after a little over 19 centuries, probable." "Sorry, I don't believe in the existence of Athiests; Agnostics are hard enough to accept. Nor do I believe in the old fellow with the flowing white beard, a man-thing called God. God is a word, a name, for a force. We white folks are out-populated; it would be a pretty nasty break for the majority of the world's population if God were a white man."

((next Mr. offutt gets into the censorship problem, and if I knew the age level of the entire NFFF was at the mature level Mr. offutt thinks it is, I would print it complete. But I am going to give you the part that means the most, ignoring the Jayne Mansfield question, because I didn't see her name on the roster, so figured it was fruitless to get involved with her, though not necessarily the way that sounds : "Two of our brood look at each issue of PLAYBOY. We watch with interest as they leaf slowly past illustrations, ads, and cartoons, & flip disinterestedly past the teenage semi-nudes. They will be just as disinterested in raping them --or raiding newsstands--when they're of an age to do so. Why? Because we place no smache on girls or penises or breasts or fannies at our house, because we don't find theseitems....disgusting, filthy or repluusive, to quote Webster's definition of obscenity. You can't legislate sex. Nor can you pretend sex doesn't exist."

((There is a bit more from Mr. offutt, but I've given you the extent of his letter, without going into the quotations from the Bible, etc., that most of us have gone through before. I sincerely hope that Mr. offutt will write to Roy Tackett for the next issue, and I most certainly hope that he will write again for me when I do another issue, when I won't be as hurried, and can give him more space. He's a gem.))

-z-

JACK L. CHALKER - 5111 Liberty Heights Avenue - Baltimore 7, Maryland.

It's been almost two years since I've written to TB. I write now for several reasons, particularly since I have been told by some of the newer members that they do not plan to renew.

One of the greatest banes of TB have been the irresponsible comments of David Kirk Patrick, whose very actions illustrate why he is consistantly termed "neo". His series of blasts at fandom remind me of the character described in the following lines from THE ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR by Walt Willis and Bob Shaw:

"Pardon me" said Jophan, "but you really should be more careful. You might injure some of the other pilgrims...."

"Serve them right," snarled the little man, without dismounting from his

myself any longer) and Walter Breen (Add Kaymar& Seth Johnson to "Be Kind to Meos List").

((I would like to answer the answer to Gert Carr with my own method for determining if a book is goor or not. First, ignore the blurbs because the chances are that the guy who wrote the blurbs didn't read the book. The ad on the first page ((we must be reading only paperbacks)) is generally pretty sketchy and only has either the sexiest or the goriest part on it, very unreliable, I usually know who the author is when I buy the book, . Now, here's the most important step, start on page one and read to where it says "The End". At that time, and only at that time, will you be absolutely sure if you like the book or not.

-z-

GEORGE FERGUS - 3825 West 160th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44111

The editor of TB #23 made the statement that there is far too much heated argueing in the pages of TB. I disagree. The reasons are as follows:

- 1 - It seems reasonable to assume that every human being wants what knowledge he has to be correct -- at least I know of no man who consciously desires to be wrong.
- 2 - I should think, therefore, that any mature person wants to make sure his beliefs are as correct as possible, and wants to help other people to gain the correct beliefs.
- 3 - He can do this only by what is called arguement or debate. This consists of introducing data and making logical conclusions. It is hoped that when enough proof is introduced the person holding a contrary opinion will be corrected.
- 4 - Some persons often remain doggedly unconvinced in the face of reasonable clear evidence against them. This is especially true when indoctrination to an idea has ocured throughout one's life, as in the case of the various religious beliefs.
- 5 - When an arguement is carried on in issues of TB, many more people will have their thoughts enlightened or their opinions corrected than if the arguement had been carried on privately.
- 6 - Arguements conducted in TB also have a greater chance of coming to the most correct conclusion since there are many more people available to bring up evidence and to apply their own logic to the problems that arise.
- 7 - Arguements in TB should be encouraged, not deplored, for they bring vital facts to light, and facts in the light to clearer light.

((Now, George goes on for five more pages, but again, I must abridge, but still try to bring you the crux of the matter, but the above was particluarily intriguing to me, even though I can't say that I agree with it in toto.))

John Boston asks if there is any distinguishing characteristic that sets of a Neffer from any other fan. Yes there is, a Neffer cares. He cares enough about sf to join a permanent organization in support of it. He cares enough about other people to be anxious to meet, listen to, and talk with fans outside his own small circle of friends. The fans who give up their memberships in the NFFF after a year or two because they believe that the NFFF offers them nothing they couldn't obtain by themselves are those who don't really care about anything that doesn't directly concern themselves and their narrow beliefs. You will notice that such people seldom have anything constructive to contribute. (((HEAR, HEAR -- have that written into the Constitution)))

((George next spends a few pages throughly debunking psi powers, and the various experiments now going on the TB and TNFF. His reasons are logical, and I'm going to hold his letter and try to get him to rework this portion of it into an article rather than a letter. He then suggests that the NFFF approach Don Wollheim with the idea of getting the club plugged in ACE Books.))

JIM HARKNESS - 112 West Harding, Greenwood, Miss.

On this psi bit, I've not said anything until now as my information wasn't complete, but now I feel that I can add something to the discussion. Recently I've been working up some experiments and a paper on the subject for the annual meeting of the Miss. Academy of Science's contest. Actually, they weren't true experiments, bust an experimental and mathematical check of the results of another worker in the field. My own results were slightly above the calculable norm; this could probably be attributed to an unusually long run of chance. The results that I'm checking however, are in all cases 50 to 100% higher than they could be expected to be. If the experiments were conducted honestly, and there's no reason to believe they were not -- it would appear that there is bound to be something there. Also, I contacted Dr. J. B. Rhine, who was kind enough to do an original article for ~~STRANGE~~ STRANGER on this. ((There should be a few copies left, if any of you are interested)

It's my own opinion that psi does exist, but it's also my opinion that it is too deeply buried in the subconscious to be of any value in the foreseeable future.

Finally, a comment on the editing vs censorship department. The obvious solution is for the writer to indicate which portions, if any, he feels indis- pensible to the well-being of the membership. And if anybody thinks their whole damn letter is, let 'em print it themselves.

((I have cut a few quotes from the Rhine article, because I feel that Jim has something here that those of you who are sincerely interested in should want to read complete, so bug him for a copy, it'll probably only cost you a few cents, and will be well worth it.))

-Z-

RICK NORWOOD - Steward Hall, Southwestern, Memphis, Tenn.

SOR The box of letters at the left is a salutation, since, "Dear Reader and
TEA Editor" can be traced through it, going from box to box .. and a ridiculous
IDN number of other words and phrases can be found in it, too; for those of
1/2 you who like fun and games. The rules are simple, start with any letter
and then either repeat that letter, or go to an adjacent box (as if you were moving
a chess king over the letters). Letters can be used as often as they are needed.
With two people it can be played like the game of "Ghost". The number of words
that can be boxed, providing you can start over in any square at the end of a word
or complete phrase, is surprizing.

.....It is very easy to talk about the common man but it is much harder to find
him. As best as I can tell there isn't a single "common man" in captivity, at
least not one who will own up to the title. This is one of the reasons it is easy
to say things like "The majority of the population isn't with it". Everybody who
reads such a statement sagely nods his head and says to himself "They sure aren't".

.....The story contest may be useless to Roy Tackett, but for me it is one of
the best NSF projects. I haven't any use for any of the three projects Roy con-
siders vital, but that doesn't mean I think they should be abolished. The NFFF
needs more activity, not less.

.....One of the things that separate the "neo" from the "truefan" is the fact that
the neo is vitally interested in some subjects, while the truefan has heard these
same things so often that they have been run into the ground. The truefan isn't
any smarter or better, just more knowledgeable.

.....Walter Breen says that "neofan" means simply "new fan" , but that is not
how he used to word. To quote from Fanac 96, "Some neo raised his hand and asked ,

"Do you realize that this is the nonfan attitude toward SF fans?" Obvoiusly he didn't recognize me when I made the comment, since I am not a new fan though I may be a neo. I've been in fandom five years, or about as long as he has. "Neo" in the above quote was apparently used instead of saying simply "fan" to indicate his opinion of the statement, not the person who made it. Like it or not, the term "neo" has come to have a derogatory donnotation, and I doubt if it would be missed if fans generally tried to avoid using it.

Incidently, what I meant by the above quote, which has arrapently been widely misunderstood, was that an adult devoted to any single topic, be that topic science-fiction, comic books, or what have you, is sick and immature.

((I agree that "neo" is used maily in a derogatory sense. However, I don't see what can be done about it. Some people can be in fandom for years and still be "neo" to me. I think it is all in the approach to fandom. The starry-eyed kid who loves stf will always be welcome, whereas the "I've been in fandom three weeks so ask me anything you want to know." type will be a neo all his life. A lot of people consider me obnoxious and I've been in fandom since I was eleven years old, in 1936. But I've still got a lot to learn and I'll admit it. That takes me out of the neo class. I met an awful lot of kids at the Discon who knew far more about what was going on in fandom than I did. Maybe I didn't jump up and down and shake their hand and ply them with booze, but I did take time to talk with them, and more than one kid was welcome in my room for a coke, a beer, or, if old enough, a little of the other stuff.

Why, I even let Howard DeVore up there.

--z--

HOWARD DEVORE - 4705 Weddel Street, Dearborn Heights, Michigan

I would like to advise the membership to avoid a book-magazine dealer located in Pennsylvania. This man has had a poor repititation for fifteen years to my knowledge, last Summer I learned of cases of apparant fraud and started checking. He has been advertising in various magazines for several years, I understand that these magazines are now refusing his advertising because of his business methods.

Libel law makes it preferable that I not name him, however, people who have been victimized by this man whill know who is indicated and I'd appreciate it if they would contact me. It seems probable that a mail fraud case can be arranged, or rather that he can be prosecuted on mail fraud charges.

As a book dealer myself it's poor business for me to advise anyone that a particular dealer is honest and a good place to do business with but if you can't afford my prices you might try our humble editor; Ken Krueger.

((Howard is a man with a conscience, and I'm quite sure that he is doing what he feels is right with the Shakespearian gentleman. However, I feel that in cutting off the source of advertising that most generally drew the suckers, enough has been done -- unless there was large scale fraud. I know only the general outlines of this whole matter, but like most people in fandom for a matter of years, I've done some business with the person in question. I will say that while condition wasn't always as stated, and while service was slow ((and I'm not one to squack about that)) I always did get what I ordered. The best thing to do, of course, is simply not buy anything else from that source. At this time science-fiction, even the scarce titles, seems to be in plentiful supply, and almost any dealer can get you what you want -- and every dealer ((including Mr. DeVore)) goofs now and then and lets a real bargain go out cheap.))

CLAYTON HAMLIN - Southwest Harbor, Maine

FINAL RESULTS OF THE STORY CONTEST, judge - Fred Pohl

1st Prize	\$10.00	Frances Hall	THE TICKET
2nd Prize	6.00	Robert Margroff	MONSTER TRACKS
3rd prize	4.00	William Warren	SATURDAY'S CHILD

My own award, for most promising author not a prize winner, to Robert Weinberg, for LOGIC.

BUT THE BIG NEWS IS THIS - and hold onto your hats. The first prize winner, THE TICKET by Mrs. Hall, has been sold to Fred Pohl for publication in IF. It is tentatively scheduled for the July issue. More, from detailed comments Mr. Pohl has made, it is quite possible that the second and third place stories may also sell. Plans are now going forward to attempt marketing of the others to other magazines, depending on the request of the authors involved. Don't hold your breath until they do sell, but don't be surprized if they do either.

((at this point Slay talks about what the Manuscript Bureau has been doing, and should be doing, and then, out of nowhere, he drops this bomb, and keep in mind that Clayton is a Director, and knows whereof he speaks))

Because I have a willing staff of workers, and numerous offers of help, I am asking the directors to eliminate the Manuscript Bureau, The Fanzine Advisor, and the Story Contest Bureau all at once. In their place, I am asking the organization of a Writer's Bureau to take on the duties of all of them, plusx anything else we can think of that is useful in this line. I am asking Don Franson to appoint me to head this Bureau, as the best qualified person in the club to handle it. You can't argue with success, now can you? This needed to be done badly, so I went right ahead and did it first, and asked permission afterwards. A complete staff is available and just waiting to be told what to do. The newest member who writes, right up to Semi-Pro, has already done much to improve the state of fan fiction. The story contest proves that rather decisively.

((Clay develops this idea a little further, but I think he is putting himself on a spot, so I'm not going to print his working ideas just yet, I think that he will have many afterthoughts and will be a bit more coherent by the time Roy Tackett gets the next TIGHTBEAM out. However, I would suggest that Clayton and Dave Ettlin get together on this Manuscript Bureau thing. I know from past experience that the mnboo is a pain in the butt, and anything that really works is worth considering. But because I do feel that Clayton left too many loose ends in the letter he sent me, I think it is best left unpublished until he gets everything worked out.))((By the way, my congratulations to the story winners, and to Clayton for a well-done job))

-z-

JOHN BOSTON - 816 South First Street - Mayfield, Kentucky 42066

((John contents himself this trip out with just answering letters in #23, without advancing anything new. So once again, we cut and hack, and hack, and cut, and come out with just the guts, no trimmings: Joe Stanton: "Through the public library I have sonvinced at least 3 people that sf can be more than crazy Buck Rogers stuff; ~~ix~~ I considered it more of a public relations job than a High and Noble Crusade" Eric Blake: "if you want to read stuff that's been sifted through beforehand by a censor, that's alright with me, but I refuse to admit that anyone has the right to tell me what I can or can't read." Les Sample: "I think mothers are justified in trying to keep their progeny from cutting themselves on knives, but does that give them the right to keep knives away from everybody ((these are figurative knives)). Nate Bucklin: "Catcher In the Rye is really rather innoculous in this day and age. I read Catcher about a year and a half ago, just before my 14th birthday. I readx it at home and even took it to school and nobody commented. ((In Orchard Park School System, Salinger's THE CATCHER IN THE RYE is required reading. Why should anyone comment? I feel pretty sure it'll be written on my grave marker too.

C. W. BROOKS - 911 Briarfield Road - Newport News, Virginia

As for Tackett's statement that the Tape Bureau is "worthwhile" all I can say is IT COULD BE. I am supposed to be on their mailing list and have had nothing from them in months. I have tried to get a tape from them that was made in my room at the DISCON and they do not even answer my cards. I am so fed up with it I can't even remember the name of the guy who's supposed to be running it.

I completely agree with Mike Randall's letter in TB 23. When someone says "WE MUST ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF FANDOM!!!", I say "111".

((Mr. Brooks also worked out a graph on Dr. Ladonko's ESP experiments, which I don't have room for and I've sent it on to Roy Tackett, who might have room for it. it's a lovely graph.))

-z-

DONALD FRANSON - 6543 Babcock Avenue - North Hollywood, California 91606

I deplore the so-called "feuding" in TIGHTBEAM. It will never appear in TNFF as long as I am editor (get me out if you want it) but I have no control over TIGHTBEAM editors and desire none. They have a free hand to "conson" or not as they like, over an above an official warning not to allow obvious obscenity or libel. Responsibility for this goes with the editorship.

I see where some are spreading the word that the NFFF is feuding. Yet when two members of another organization had-at-it to the extent of suing each other over material that appeared in club publications, did anyone say "FAPA is feuding"?

The N3F is not feuding. A few individuals are feuding. Their arguments may or may not have any connection with the NFFF.

As President, I feel it is not my duty to take sides, or defend people, but to try to keep feuding out of the NFFF, or at least out of print, in deference to the wishes of the majority of the members, who have told me they don't want it. They want a discussion club, not a battleground. So do I.

((That letter was complete, because I feel it is a very telling one. This issue of TB has no feuding as far as I can see, it's been kinda squeezed out to make room for other points. I've included a few differences of opinion, but no name-calling. It can be done.))

-z-

PAUL GILSTER - 42 GODWIN LANE - ST LOUIS, MO.

((Paul writes a rebuttal to Eric Blake in which he states in no uncertain terms that Romulo Betancourt is most certainly not a communist. I think that just about everyone in the world knew that Romulo Betancourt was (I should say "is") a friend of the US, and not a communist. Mr. Blake was caught in a boo-boo))

-z-

STAN WOOLSTON - 12832 WESTLAKE STREET - GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA 92640

The Best censorship is self-censorship and if contributors would select what they write with care there would be less headaches for the editors.

I've been thinking of editorial problems in relation with SCIENCE FICTION PARADE. Near the end of last year I located an offset press and want to see if it can publish better than the mimio I used in 1962 to produce a couple issues of

this reviewzine. I need material -- meaty informative reviews that don't give the plot away but which gives an idea who would like to read a certain current item (book, magazine, etc) or see a film or TV production. Even if a reviewer didn't fully appreciate an item it is possible to point out the story vales that might appeal to someone. I'm not trying primarily to reform the readers, or to grade them. So if you like to tell what you like in a story or fanzine, why not write it up in a few paragraphs, or a few pages, and send it to me? I have some material and can use more.

((there you go, all you people who haven't anyplace to place your material. An offer from a top-flight fan publisher.))

--z--

EDWARD WOOD - 160 SECOND STREET IDAHO FALLS IDAHO 83401

The problem of what to do with the new fan is an old problem in fandom. Again I quote an exerpt from one of the great fans of the past:

"One of fandom's prime needs at the moment is some sort of a program which will seize the neophyte and guide his faltering footsteps along the proper channels without at the same time forcing the older fans to devote much of their time to this end. As things now stand, little is done to orient the newcomer. He receives some of the fanzines -- seldom enough to give him a good cross-section of the field -- and very likely gets a welcome letter of booklet from the NFFF. If he happens to live near one of the local fan clubs, he may perhaps affiliate with it. But as a general rule, he is largely dependent on letters for becoming acquainted with fandom, and thereby developing into an active member of the microcosm.

Right there is where he hits a snag. Few of the better-established fans have time to take on any appreciable amount of added correspondence . . .

It would be difficult to estimate the number of individuals who have been turned away from fandom almost as soon as they heard of it...

While obviously quality does not always go hand in hand with quantity, it seems reasonably evident that fandom would be bigger, more active, and more stimulating if a larger percentage of the new prospects were developed into active participants, and if the various cliques and sub-fandoms were more thoroughly assimilated.

Since letters are the prime medium through which the activation of neophytes can be accomplished, it is obviously up to the oldsters to conquer their distastex for bright-eyed 13 year-olds, and raise them up to the kind of fans we want.

Couldn't each of us adopt one neophyte per year?...

The new fan we adopted would be given the same preferential treatment accorded to our half-dozen or so favorite correspondents....Without being nasty about it, we should be able to steer him away from most of his gaucheries in a year's time, and partly through precept and partly through suggestion, should also manage to have him pretty well established in fandom by the time his first year is up.

Nor would the benefits be confined to the newcomer. Most of the older fans tend to be pretty much set in their ways with a certain cycle of interests and a certain group of pet dislikes, and quite often with a faint touch of ennui to the whole thing. It is more than possible that the inclinations of our pet protege would cause many of us to dig into things we have so far neglected, and re-investigate matters we have dropped....."

FRANCES T. LANEY
"Do Fans Need Monitors"
THE THING #2 - Summer 1946

More Ed Wood next page.

more tolerant of the beliefs of others, is more idealistic, and has a feeling of awe and wonder towards the universe, and not just the feeling or indifference or horror that the rest of humanity seems to feel.

"If you don't like a book, write a thoroughly nasty Book Review. Or write a glowing review if you liked the book. Nothing makes you appreciate a book like putting down on paper just why you did or didn't like the book; and having it pubbed, so others can share your opinions, or disagree with you. That happens also.....

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This is the 24th issue of TIGHTBEAM, the official letterzine of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. You will receive this issue approxiamtely five days after you receive the 25th issue. This is weird, but because of a very serious attack of GAFIA on the part of Paul Steward the promised off-set issue just never came about.

However, here it was, and while I have mercilessly cut some letters, everyone who wrote was represented.

PLEASE, WRITE IMMEDIATELY TO ROY TACKETT, 915 GREEN VALLEY ROAD, W. ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO.

Roy is the editor of issue #26, and you can take it all out on him.

From:

Janie Lamb
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Heiskell, Tennessee
37754



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to

Rosemary Hickey
2020 N. Mohawk St.,
Chicago, Illinois. 60614.

who never really expected to see this issue!