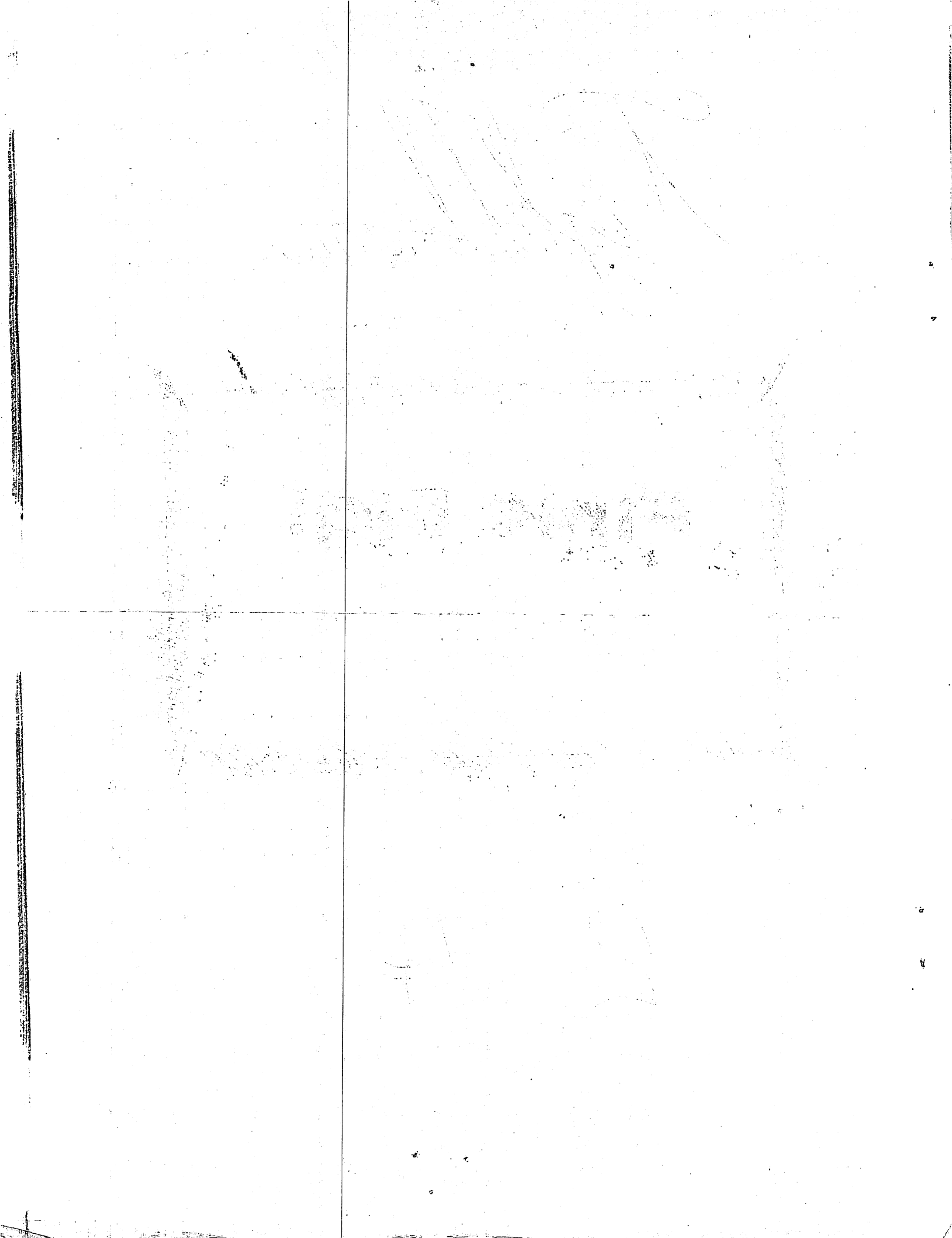


Lightbeam

Fink Big!

2 4



DON'T GIVE UP GANG, HERE IT IS

TABLE OF CONTENTS or Listing of Culprits 22 pages of mind-churning missils

COVER - a statement of editorial policy	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS - Hey, that's this	2
KEN KRUEGER - an editorial and apology, of sorts	2
NORM METCALF - a collector in search of collectors	3
IDA IPE - a formulator of writers	4
DAVID M. ETTLIN - who is looking in the wrong direction for Heaven	4
R. MONROE SNEARY - under all them whiskers is Rick	5
ROY TACKETT - with his hat in the ring, and his hand on the mimio	6
ROBERT P. BROWN - right on the button	6
andrew j. offutt - Who has no capitals in his name	6
JACK L. CHALKER - a plug man, plugging, whilst seeking Heaven	7
IRWIN KOCH - expert advice on how to love your library	8
GEORGE FERGUS - who loves a damn good argument, providing someone argues	9
JIM HARKNESS - a psi expert, with a castle on the Rhine	10
RICK NORWOOD - the neo's friend	10
HOWARD DEVORE - who was up there	11
ROBERT COULSON - who is the only one who didn't like it	12
TIM EKLUND - minding someone else's business	12
DAVE HULAN - Back from beyond and getting organized	13
DAVID PATRICK - a surprizing credo on cliques	13
MIKE DECKINGER - who inadvertantly defends the cliques in fanzines.	14
CLAYTON HAMLIN - with the big news on the story contest, and a bomb	15
JOHN BOSTON - who we cut and hacked, hacked and cut, poor kid	15
MARC CHRISTOPHER - a raw naked beam of energy	16
RICHIE BENYO - looking for a broad, 17, single, & purdy	16
DAVE LOCKE - Let's all Go With Joe	17
NATE BUCKLIN - Well, maybe Eric Blake doesn't believe in you.	17
RICHARD C. FINCH - with information, damnit, pay attention	17
C. W. BROOKS - to whom I say fff	18
DONALD FRANSON - a word from our sponsor	18
PAUL GILSTER - world affairsdepartment	18
STAN WOOLSTON - in search of employees	18
EDWARD WOOD - with an assist from Fran Laney	19
DUNCAN McFARLAND - who wants book discussion	20
ERIC BLAKE - who discusses books	20
ALMA HILL - who didn't make it, by request	21
JANEY - who didn't sign it	21
PHIL CASTORA - who knows his beans	22
MIKE SHUPP - with a lot of paper	22

-z-

a short, bitter editorial

You were promised an offset issue this time - you are not getting it. This entire issue was set up over two months ago, ready for the camera, and ran to 58 legal size pages. It would have been a dilly. The boy who was going to do the printing was suddenly seized with second thoughts or something. Anyway, after I finally got it through my thick skull that he just simply wasn't going to do it, never, I took it back - and here is the result. However, this is a good issue of TIGHTBEAM, fast moving and entertaining. My comments are set off in double (()). A full statement of fact has been made to the President and to the Directorate -- if they choose to publish it, they have my permission.

-----Ken J. Krueger, editor

ably assisted by Fran Krueger, hounder.

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. ETTLIN - 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 arguments 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 smae on girls or penises or breasts or fannies at our house, because we don't find theseitems....disgusting, filthy or replusive, 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

high horse. "My name is Disillusion . . . the Disillusion, y'know....."

"My name is Jophan...and I am on my way to Fandom to produce the Perfect Fanzine, for that is what I want to do more than anything else in the world."

"More fool you," sneered the others. "Only a fool would want to enter that place..... What's wrong with it? Why everything's wrong with it! They're either stupid or mad, every one of them. Why, they didn't even come out to greet me when I arrived, -- me, mind you! At first they even pretended not to see me until I got down off my horse, and when they did speak to me I couldn't understand a word they were saying. And their customs! I've never seen anything like them."

"Well, after all," said Jophan, "it's a different country. Maybe if you'd tried to learn their language...."

"Nonsense!" snapped Disillusion. "They were trying to keep things from me and laughing behind my back. Well, they can have their secrets. I don't want to have anything to do with them. They were all against me, I tell you. Imagin, not even thanking me for entering fandom after all I tried to teach them..."

It would seem to me that Mr. Patrick has much the same opinion of both fandom and himself. He seems to have entered fandom, only to find that no one would come to him and beg him to write something for their fanzines. Now he is indignant. Fandom, like life itself, is not by any means a self-glorification society. You have to earn recognition, you have to earn respect, before people will begin to stop and take notice -- and once this is accomplished you have to keep working to remain in your good position. All things don't come to him who sits and waits, but they do come to he who works at them. Personally, I haven't seen David Kirk Patrick being more than an idiot blowhard in these pages.

((Jack at this point tells of his own start, and how he built MIRAGE up to the exceptionally fine magazine it is today, and gives a few plugs to MIRAGE, which really aren't necessary, because I'll give him one -- JACK CHALKER PUBLISHERS publishes MIRAGE, one of the finest fanzines around today, and I urge you all to subscribe. Now ~~over~~ back to Jack, and more about Baltimore))

I would like to announce at this time that the Baltimore Science Fiction Society will be bidding for the 1967 World Science Fiction Convention. The Advance Committee has already picked a site, been gathering support, and have even received a tentative acceptance from a guest of honor. We are also receiving help and encouragement from the Washington Science Fiction Association, who put on last year's DISCON. Thus, we have experience on our side, plus youth and energy. Rember, it's London in '65, Detroit in '66, but BALTIMORE'S HEAVEN IN '67.

[illegible]

IRVIN KOCH - 835 Chattanooga Bank Bldg., Chattanooga, Tenn. 57402

((Mr. Koch's letter consists of only answers to 7 people who wrote to TB #23. Because most of us don't exactly remember TB #23 any longer, I'll excerpt once again by giving you only a bit of this letter:

To Roy Tackett: A complaint about TNFF not being on time; "a way must be devised to make sure everyone gets their TNFF on time." To my way of thinking, this is primarily the fault of the post office department, and the only sure cure would be to raise the dues of those who want their club publications sent first class mail.

To G.M.Carr goes Mr. Koch's advice: "By the simple process of reading the blurb, the ad on the first page, the part where it says who the author is, and a few random paragraphs, I am able to determine if I can at least be able to read the book without undue unpleasantness."

Also short answers to Jim Harkness (don't like Goldwater); Felice Rolf (don't get a nickle); S. Compton (haven't read Naked To The Stars) Ed Wood (can't agree with

myself any longer) and Walter Breen (Add Kaymar& Seth Johnson to "Be Kind to Neos 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 occured 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 particuluarly 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, but 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 indispensable 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 surprising.

.....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 N3F 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 connotation, 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.))

ROBERT COULSON - Route 3 - Wabash, Indiana, 46992

While I am a new member of the organization, I feel that I would not be doing my duty if I did not protest against the use of cover illustrations such as the one on TB #23. Admittedly, it was far more artistic than most fanzine covers, but what did it have to do with science fiction? As a club devoted to the furtherance of science fiction, I feel that we should do everything in our power to halt this creeping fannishness. To find, such elements here, in the heart of the NFFF, is appalling -- where, I say, will it all end? Only God and Ed Wood know.

Speaking of Ed, I feel that he should have explained for our newer members that "Joel Hensley" survived the harsh treatment that Ed describes and somehow managed to become a professional writer in his spare time from making a living as a lawyer and state politician. He didn't do this, I might add, by screaming that fandom was against him, kicking his heels on the floor, or other such juvenile tantrums.

I'm sure Eric Blake will outgrow his religious views (I feel safe in assuming that he is relatively young). I'd outgrown most of mine by the time I was 30, but I've lost more of them since then. (Okay, Gem Carr, you're next. After you've put me down I'll see if I can dig up an atheist who is older than you are.)

Several people seem to be mentioning the "regular staff" of fanzines. This can be refuted by anyone who takes a doog close look at a large number of fanzines. For example, YANDRO ((unpaid plug)) used contributions from 64 different people, not counting letters, pseudonyms, reprinted quotes and the like. Fans who can't get their material published are fans who don't write anything worth publishing.

Unfortunately, discussions of the best professional magazines tend to ignore the two selections most worthy of a Hugo. The magazines, NEW WORLDS and SCIENCE FANTASY will be ignored because they are British and few American fans have ever read them, or even seen copies. But the Hugo is, remember, the award of the World Science Fiction Convention. I know a score or more fans who have read these magazines, and all but two or three agree that they are the world's best. Unfortunately, both ~~magazines are~~ folding in March. There aren't enough British readers to keep ~~them~~ going, and they have never received the support from this ~~country~~ that they should have.

((NEW WORLDS is distributed (or I should say, was distributed) in Buffalo. The sales are almost non-existent, and for good reason. The publishers have never tried to make the US package attractive. The covers were almost all a ghastly yellow, with the table of contents printed on it either in blue or black. How could they expect anyone to fork over their half-a-buck for something that just plain looked bad? ALL publishers know that a magazine or paperback sells on appearance, not on content, unless it has had a hell of a lot of publicity, but even knowing this they shoved this crappy looking package at us. I wouldn't buy anything that looked like that, and I evidently wasn't alone. I thought the cover on TB #23 was a beautiful job.

-Z-

TIM EKLUND - P O Box 316, Harlem, Georgia 30814

I have some gripes to make on behalf of a fellow Neffer. Irvin Koch did not receive his Dec '63 TNFF. I sent him mine so he wouldn't write some insulting letters and make enemies which he can ill-afford. Now, I realize that with some 360 odd members ((who, me?)) you're bound to run into a few slips, but let's watch it. I'll probably get a letter from him tomorrow telling me to mind my own damn business but . . .

((and on, and on, but you get the idea. Anyway, Ida Ipe, he wants in the round-robin story thing, but you should ask him, and wants to hear from Ghifans)))

DAVE HULAN - 17417 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406

This is the first opportunity I've had to communicate with the NSF in general since a succession of unforeseen happenings forced me to resign as a member of the Directorate last year, and give up plans to run for re-election this year. I hated to give up the responsibilities of a Director; especially when things seemed to be getting rough, but I was faced with a situation which I did not in good conscience feel that I could do the job in the way I thought it should be done, and rather than sit back and do nothing and hold down the job, I felt that it would be better to step down and let someone who could really work at it, take over. Now that I'm settled in California I'll try to take a bit more active hand in club affairs again; I can't devote as much time to it as I once did, but I'm willing to help out now and then on special projects of one kind or another. Maybe by election time I'll be sufficiently organized to feel able to run for the Directorate again. Then again, maybe I won't. But I do intend to be at least mildly active again.

((Dave then states that he won't do another Tightbeam, mentions a few fans who could, but won't, and stoutly defends ANALOG against Jim Harkness. --- It's good to see you back, Dave, I hope everything straightens out soon.))

--Z--

NEXT ISSUE ---- WRITE TO ROY TACKETT ---- TELL HIM WHY YOU HATE PEOPLE WHO ARE LATE

--Z--

DAVID PATRICK - Box 136 - Wesleyan University - Middletown, Conn.

((David starts out by answering letters in past issues to Roy Tackett, Jim Harkness, Andrew Silverberg, John Boston, Les Sample, Steve Compton, Len Eales, Nate Bucklin, Walter Breen, and Arnold Katz. Because these are all rather personal answers, and do not pertain to the general issue at hand today, I am glossing over them so that I can devote more length to what I consider a very valid statement of fact, and one that you David Patrick haters might pay a little attention to. I personally consider his last paragraph, and especially his last sentence, to be absurd, but there is a good deal of truth in the rest of it. I doubt if this will cause any soul-searching, but it may cause a bit more understanding of Mr. Patrick's rather strange philosophy.))

For those who wonder why I am the subject of so much wrath and some approval, perhaps a statement of credo is in order.

I believe

That fandom is too parochia in its outlook --- it seeks to maintain the status quo rather than expending to meet the new interest in science fiction and thus recruiting new members.

Except for a small minority, few fans, and precious few of the major (or super-) fans make any effort to orient and welcome new members of potential interest to the ranks.

Those who are not discouraged by the initial cold shoulder are faced with the virtually insurmountable problem of insinuating yourself in the existing cliques .. and are therefore forced to create their own cliques and the whole thing goes merrily on as nauseum.

In order to make a meaningful contribution to the field, fandom must try to surmount this cliquishness.

No effort is being made to surmount this cliquishness because the heads

of the cliques are to happy being clique-masters.

This cliquishness is perpetuated (a) by a reluctance to let new members break into the inner circle (b) by a deliberate treatment on the part of these so-called leaders of fandom of novices as inferior beings who should be put in their place (c) by a constant policy on the part of most editors, especially those who publish more articles and comment than fiction, to make constant references and innuendos to the other members of the clique without ever giving an illuminating commentary for those who are not in the know. This seems to be based largely on the if-you-don't-know-than-TS principal.

The continuation of these policies (though, granted, never official policies) can do nothing but engender a feeling of repulsion on the part of many potentially worthwhile contributors to fandom.

If fandom has any value to science-fiction, it is not as a vehicle for teenagers to write to "real adults" and for "real adults" to play big-frog-in-little-pond for teenagers.

And finally, I believe that the only way I, as an individual, can work to correct these faults and implement reforms is by constant and unceasing war against the purveyors of this clique. Make no mistake, not all the leaders are members of the clique clique and neither are members of their clique clique members of the leadership of fandom -- even cliques have to have some followers.

Therefore, if I offend you because of my vitriol, is it because you, too, have found a niche in which to hide in fandom and are afraid that someone will crowd you out? There are two contestants in this field -- the establishment and the rest of us. Our victory will breathe new life into fandom -- our defeat will allow the icy hand of death to close around the throat of fandom as the cliques slam the door in the face of the novice.

((Now then, I think that many of you will agree that Mr. Patrick has a few well made points. Now, before you all get the idea that he has softened, let me assure you that there was a bit of editorial tampering to remove references to actual persons. I think that what Mr. Patrick needs most of all, is not a censor, but an editor to take the sting out, and leave the sense in. After all, what was it Father Flanagan said?))))

--Z--

MIKE DECKINGER - 14 Salem Court - Metuchen, New Jersey

((Mike makes a few introductory remarks about how long he's been out of the NFFF (3 years), makes fun of John Kusske for his Jayne Mansfield stand (WHOOOPS), says that he doesn't dig rock and roll, casts a slur upon the Goldeater, then manages to answer Dave Patrick's complaint about fanzines as follows:)))

....no one really expects a neo to comprehend all he reads when he picks up his first copy of YANDRO or CRY. There is plenty in these, and other fanzines that would be meaningless to the uneducated neo whose stay in fandom has been a short one. The N3F is a breeding ground (or as Ted Pauls once described it "an obstacle course") for such an individual. I much prefer fanzines the way they are today, with their in-group references and esoteric significance to those who are in the fold. The editor of a well established fanzine would only serve to alienate his readership if he deliberately clarified each reference and strove to drive out all faanish items which might prove distressing to the uninformed. He is not, and should not be expected to cater to the whims of a superfluous minority.

--Z--

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 surprised 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, plusxx 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 convinced 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 innocuous 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.

((I got carried away and missed my lower margin on page 15, so if you are missing a few lines, don't worry about it. Nothing important was going on, just me.

MARC CHRISTOPHER - Box 132, Beverly Shores, Indiana 46301

((Marc has brought out a new fanzine, title BURI - why not write him for a copy.))

In the last ten years or so fans have been saying that with Atom Bombs there would be a great rush to sf. There wasn't. Unless you count the Brass Age of the early 50's. But most of the sf readers of then are still with us. Then came the Space Age in 1957 and there should have been a rush then also. There wasn't. But now we enter the age of the LASER. Now comes the stampede on sf for prophecies and such. The "raw naked beam of energy" cutting down things is with us today. It has always been connected with sf. Gradually in certain literary circles sf is getting an air of respect. Just as the mystery story did not too long ago. No sense of wonder KK left, Har! I say it again, HAR! The sense of wonder is and always will be in sf as long as it remains sf and not ordinary fiction. Don't fans realize that sf is breaking into its Golden Age. Not the Brass Age of the early fifties and the pulps, but starting NOW. Here it is, enjoy it!

((You must be aware that this is excerpted, but I feel that Marc is enthusiastic, if not realistic. Science is catching up to science-fiction, like it or not. What was science-fiction a few short years ago is merely the contemporary fiction of today. Maybe that's why the pulps hold no thrill for Marc, or maybe he just hasn't read them. I think a dose of Planet Stories would change his viewpoint. There were all sorts of "raw, naked" things in that, with illustrations to match.

--Z--

RICHIE BENYO - 118 South Street - Jim Thorpe, Penna. 18229

For the past year and a half I've been trying to find a femme penpal, but through all my efforts -- and those of Bill Osten -- we have only been able to draw a blank. He (Bill) sponsored me for NSF, and after having joined a month ago, I got in touch with G. M. Carr, but seeing as the records have not as yet fallen into her hands she suggested that I write to you for help. So -- HELP.

I'm 17, and a senior in high-school, and trying to get into college where I hope to major in English, as I would like to teach it and be a writer in my spare time. My s-f interest goes back to 7th Grade when I read a copy of SPACE TUGS, and goes up to now, when I've begun to publish my own fanzine. I've had a few appearances in fanzines, but not very much yet, and I've collected 7 rejection slips from prozines. But, as I've mentioned, the main reason for this letter is to try to get a few femme penpals of my own age. Can you help?

((In the interests of the NFFF, and realizing that no-one can do more, I've turned this letter over to my sixteen year old daughter, Kathy, and she is writing to Richie. Is he satisfied? Is she satisfied? Will Jim Thorpe move to Orchard Park. Turn in next month when Roy Tackett brings you the next installment of Richie & Kathy, pencil pals. ((Kathy is the Charlie Brown of the female world))

--Z--

WRITE TO ROY TACKETT TODAY --

while your fury is still white-hot.

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 "f---".

((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.))

-2-

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.))

-2-

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))

-2-

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.

It is regrettable that many fans today know of Laney only through his recently reprinted AH SWEET IDIOCY! He was an astute thinker about fandom and his many articles in fan magazines testify to a brilliant and thorough mind.

It is possible to lead a new fan into constructive paths with a little time and patience. I might cite the case of Dale Broadhurst, a local member of the Burroughs Bibliophiles and as such much more interested in Edgar Rice Burroughs than in the broader aspects of science-fiction and fantasy. He showed me his copy of John Harwood's excellent THE LITERATURE OF BURROUGHSIANA. I told him that there were many articles about Burroughs in fan magazines which Harwood had either skipped or didn't know about. Since that time, I've allowed Dale to go through some of my fan magazines and in 30 to 40 hours he has unearthed more Burroughs items in fan magazines than had Harwood in his "24 years of research". This is more a reflection upon the Burroughs fans in fandom than on Harwood. This search has given Dale something of a reputation among the Burroughs fans and also encourages him to contribute something useful to fandom. I realize that this is an isolated example and will not apply to all fans.

There are always things a fan can do, if he is not afraid to work. My own interests are bibliographic but of course such would not be everyone's cup of tea. I have a list of projects that fandom could and should do that would take several lifetimes to finish. I keep reminding myself that it is "just a hobby" with many facets and while in the main, a small pool, it is a small pool that runs deep.

-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-what can I say to that-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z-z

DUNCAN McFARLAND - 1242 GRACE AVENUE CINCINNATI 8, OHIO 45208

"There should be more book discussion, It's not hard to find good book reviews directed to a fan before he has read the particular book, but I wish I wish there would be more discussion of a book between fans, after they have read that particular book.

"If sf is ever going to be accepted as mainstream literature it will be on the merits of its quality, and not because of the activities of a group of fans."

"Analog has to rate as the most interesting magazine around. In all the controversy over JWC's editorial policy, the fact that his features are by far the best are often overlooked. It's true that his science articles aren't as entertaining as Isaac Asimov's."

((These are astute observations from a new member, 14 years old - Hey Ed, I'll adopt this guy unless Don Ford gets to him first.))

[illegible]

Before I forget - Duncan, address above, would like to correspond so start the letters flowing.

you, Ned Brooks, ol' Buddy

ERIC BLAKE - P O Box 26 - Jamaica, 31, New York

I wonder how many people who vote for the Hugo awards are capable of realizing how deeply we Christians feel about this. I refer to the Hugo awards of 1962, when Robert A. Heinlein's blasphemous STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND was voted to be the best novel of the year. This book is nothing more than a parody of the Passion of Our Lord. The gospel of love that Christ preached has been perverted by Heinlein into a "religion" of sexual promiscuity. Valentine Smith's peculiar

parentage is clearly meant to poke fun at the Virgin Birth. The Mystery of the Transsubstantiation is perverted into cannibalism. It is bad enough that a man could write and publish such a book - it is worse that it was voted an award.

This year it is within the power of science-fiction fans to give the Hugo to a far more deserving author - the late, great Edgar Rice Burroughs. I understand that his SAVAGE PELLUCIDAR is eligible for an award, and I would like to canvass the members of the NFFF on its behalf. As a boy I graduated from the Oz books to those of Burroughs, and enjoyed all of them. Few science-fiction novels of the present time carry Burroughs' sense of high adventure, and almost no contemporary fiction has the straight-forward story line and high moral standards of his works. I am glad to see them becoming again so popular.

I feel that one of the reasons for the popularity of his books, particularly the Tarzan and John Carter series, is that they have Heros. It has become "old hat" to have heros in much modern fiction, we are supposed to all be reduced to a common level. The heros of Burroughs' novels are exceptional men who are not ashamed of being exceptional. They are conscious of their superiority in every fiber of their being. If these books are regaining their popularity, it is because the healthy imaginations of most readers reject the sick purposelessness of modern fiction.

((I will definately NOT use the rest of Mr. Blake's letter, because it serves to purpose to this club, and religious arguements will never convince anyone of anything. I have used his book discussion, although I must say that I've never thought of STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND in that respect, and as a semi-Catholic, with a solid Catholic family, I still don't. Nor do I agree that ERB deserves the Hugo. SAVAGE PELLUCIDAR was a dud story, with nothing to bring about that honor. If they want to vote a special Hugo to Burroughs for past works and for being the best-selling author, sure, I'll go along with that. Buy I can't see taking an award away from someone who deserves it for a dead man who has no use for it. That may sound callous as all hell, but right is right, and the Hugo should be earned. ERB did not think enough of SAVAGE PELLUCIDAR to sell it during his lifetime, why make a gesture with something as solid as the Hugo. By the way, I thought Valentine Smith was the HERO in STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND.

-Z-

ALSO RECEIVED AND BRIEFLY NOTED:

ALMA HILL, 463 Park Drive, Boston 15, Mass.

((Alma didn't want to write for this issue, but I talked her into it, and without Alma's sympathy and many offers to help, I might have said to hell with it and dropped. But because Alma has such strong feelings about the NFFF, she is a large portion of the backbone. I will not print her letter, because she asked me not to. I will only say that she is Art Hayes' staunchest friend, and God and Eric Blake help anyone she doesn't like. I think she's great))

JANEY - ??????

No address on the letter, no full name, no other identification. She's feeling better since a fall on Thanksgiving that cracked four ribs and fractured some vertebrae. She says that she won't be able to continue club work for awhile, but would like to hear from all of you. With something like that, I'm wondering how she managed to get even this letter off. Tough luck, Janey, and my best wished for a full and speedy recovery. It sounds painful as all hell, and I'm sure your correspondents will know who you are. Most likely I should, but now it's past midnight, and the end draws neigh.

PHIL CASTORA - Room 210 - Burbank Hotel - Burbank, California 91502

((Phil's letter is a spirited defence of the Bill of Rights, and a discussion of censorship and obscenity. Phil's against both, but like most people, believes that obscenity is in the eyes of the beholder, and that legislature is not the answer. He believes that each man must be his own censor, and simply not read or look at what he doesn't want to. That seems reasonable to me. His one paragraph comes back to the fantasy field -

"And if you doubt the censorship, even voluntary censorship, has a stultifying effect, just ask any serious comics fan. I mean people who have as much of an interest in comic books as we have in science-fiction -- people like Ted White, Dick Luposs, or even myself. Ask someone about EC's late WEIRD SCIENCE and WEIRD FANTASY. Then ask yourself if denying artists and writers freedom of expression is worth it.

[illegible]

MIKE SHUPP - 2331 Mayfair Road - Dayton, Ohio 45405

((Mike had four days with nothing to do, so he wrote what could have been an issue by itself. However, I've saved him for last because I knew that he had quite a bit to offer, so for the next page and a half - quotations from that Great American Novel - A LETTER TO TIGHTBEAM by Mike Shupp.))

"Just how far are we going to go in helping the neo? The basic idea in back of the Lms Bureau, as far as I can see, is to help the neo get published. And all the ideas I've seen advanced on improving the Bureau have all seemed to be motivated with the idea, to help the neo. For that matter the pages of this zine have seen more than its share of irate letters urging recognition of the neo as a fan, perpetuation of neo ideas and ideals, and even the abolition of the foul and inhamane and degrading and humiliating term "neo". Now, time will heal all scars, eventually, even including being called "neo", and maybe someday all those irate neos will be BNF's, but I'm beginning to wonder.

"Stephen Kasle thinks the opinions of others should be respected. I don't, not if those opinions are favorable to rape, murder, and bigotry, or anything else I firmly disagree with. Any person who respects any opinion that he most firmly and categorically disbelieves is a hyposit and/or fool.

"Nate Bucklin plugs MAN OF TWO WORLDS, can I mention Norton's WITCH WORLD, and yes, Wallace West's THE BIRD OF TIME, which I have just finished re-reading for the fourth time. Not to mention books by Clarke, Asimov, and a score of others. We're pretty close to the sf of today, and we can't look back ten years yet and say that a book is good, or classic, or something praiseworthy yet. Yet over the past few years there have been some books that are of comparative quality to much of the best of the boom of the early 50's. Andre Norton is still maintaining her quality, we have two books of extreme literary value in A CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ and THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE,. All in all, the science fiction of the sixties is just as good as most of that of the fifties, and the cream of that period is readily available in paperbacks.

"I thought the Story Contest was a good idea and should be continued. What is wrong with it? The Collector's Bureau and the Information Bureau are also good things, or have the potential to be. But I'd like some more information on the Collector's Bureau.

I'm inclined to think that there are some traits that are more common among fans than in the outside world, and that if we wish we can use these traits to separate the potential real fans from the chaff. The average fan seems to be

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.....

-2-

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
Route 1 - Box 364
Heiskell, Tennessee
37754



PRINTED MATTER ONLY

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

to

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

who never really expected to see this issue!