

TIGHTBEAM

JANUARY 1968

47



N3F OFFICERS AND BUREAU HEADS -- 1968

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Editor, Tightbeam #48 for March: Gary Labowitz (address above). (Deadline for letters: Feb. 15th)

Stand-By Editor of TNFF and Tightbeam: Wally Weber (address above).

Official Historian: K. Martin Carlson, 1028 3rd Ave. South, Moorhead, Minn. 56560

Fanzine Advisor: Gary Labowitz (address above).

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Complaints Bureau: Bob Vardeman, P.O. Box 11352, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112

Correspondence Bureau: Michael Dobson, 214 Lafayette St., Decatur, Alabama 35601

Games Bureau: Donald L. Miller (address above).

Information Bureau: Donald Franson (address above).

Manuscript Bureau: Stan Woolston (address above).

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New Fanzine Appreciation Society: Paul Crawford, 505 N. West St., Visalia, Calif. 93277

Story Contest: Stan Woolston & Michael Viggiano (addresses above).

SF Lending Library: Elinor Poland, 1876 S. 74th St., Omaha, Nebraska 68124

Renewals Committee: Elaine Wojciechowski (address above).

New Member Packets: Janie Lamb (address above).

NFFF Trader & Kaymar Awards: K. Martin Carlson (address above)

Birthday Cards: Elaine Wojciechowski (address above).

Fanzine Clearing House: Seth Johnson, 345 Yale Ave., Hillside, New Jersey 07205

(1968 Election Teller; May Tightbeam Editor; Baycon Hospitality Room Hostess; & Overseas Bureau: not yet confirmed, to be announced.)

Neff Amateur Press Alliance, Official Editor: To be elected by the N'APA membership. Contact Don Miller (address above), who was December Editor, for information on joining, until March editor is announced.

T I G H T B E A M

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PUBLISHER'S REPORT by Wally Weber

Welcome to another issue of TIGHTBEAM. TIGHTBEAM is published in odd-numbered months by The National Fantasy Fan Federation, and contains the letters written by anyone interested enough to write to it. You (yes, YOU) are invited to participate in the next issue, which will be published by:

Gary Labowitz
362 Prince Frederick St.
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

If nothing else, you'll be able to croggle your friends by mentioning, "I wrote to King of Prussia..."

While I'm doing commercials, it might be a good place to remind those of you who have not renewed for 1968 (I'm talking about your membership in N3F now) to send \$1.75 to our favorite Secretary-Treasurer -- Janie Lamb, Route 1, Box 364, Heiskell, Tennessee 37754. The consequences of not renewing are almost too dire to describe. For example, you will miss out on future thrilling issues of TIGHTBEAM and TNFF. By the way, when you do send checks or money orders to Janie, she begs that you make them out to her rather than the club. If she has to explain about N3F to another bank or postal clerk, her mind may be permanently damaged.

The commercial is over. Now turn the page and see the big show.



LETTERS

SHIRLEY MEECH Apt. B-8, West Knoll Apts., 260 Elkton Road,
Newark, Delaware 19711

Earth Date Nov. 22

Wally Weber (Editor, Tightbeam)

Bobbie Breeden's letter moves me to write up an unsolicited, unpaid advertisement for a few fannish records, if I may.

First (of course!), Leonard Nimoy. In addition to his first album, Music From Outer Space, he has recorded two singles -- The Ballad of Bilbo Baggins, and Visit To a Sad Planet. His second album, to be released around the end of December, is called The Two Sides of Leonard Nimoy. I don't know what songs are included in this new album except for "The Love of the Common People" which he has used as a closing number in his personal appearances. (I've seen him do six of these shows on an outdoor stage -- one in extreme cold and one in the rain. He gives an excellent performance and is extremely considerate of fans.) If your unfriendly local record store (well, mine is) won't order the above records for you, they can be ordered directly from Dot Records, 1507 North Vine Street, Hollywood, California 90028; price 94 cents for singles and \$4.79 for albums, either mono or stereo.

Nichelle Nichols has recorded a single for Epic. It isn't fannish, and I haven't been able to get hold of it. Epic didn't answer when I wrote them the first time, but I may try again. Address is 51 West 52nd Street, New York, New York. She may be doing an album some of these days (including her Uhura songs, I hope).

William Shatner has signed a recording contract, but I don't know yet what he plans to record or for what label.

There is, Out There somewhere, a recording group called H. P. Lovecraft, whose material is based on Lovecraft writings. Haven't heard it yet.

I believe there's going to be a record of Tolkien songs by Swann, of Flanders and Swann.

And remember Chuck Rein, the fannish minstrel! His single of "In Western Lands" (by Tolkien) and "Oh, the Planets We've Seen!" (by Chuck Rein) is available from Fantasy Record Co., 1011 Ingleside Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland, price \$1.10.

As I said, I haven't heard the others mentioned above, but I own and highly recommend the Nimoy and Rein records.

There's also a record of the Star Trek Theme on the Dot label by the Charles Randolph Grean Sounde. I'm afraid I can't recommend that one, although I'm rather fond of my copy because it's autographed by Nimoy.

OK. What did I miss? Are there other fannish records?

And getting back to Leonard Nimoy, star of stage, screen, records and tape recorders, I'll have you know his singing style is "pleasantly rugged" (sez Variety's record review column) and his voice is velvety, warm, tender and gentle (sez Dorothy Jones in SPOCKANALIA record review) and delicious (sez me).

And a couple of other ~~advertisements~~ items which might be of interest to fans of Leonard Nimoy, Spock and Star Trek.

There is a national fan club for Leonard Nimoy, the LNNAF (Leonard Nimoy National Association of Fans), membership over 1200, which sends out interesting bimonthly newsletters and publishes a fanzine-size "journal" twice a year. Their summer journal included photographs and factual material (such as an account of his trip to the Goddard Space Center in Washington) which have appeared nowhere else to my knowledge. The bulletins sometimes give advance notice of his appearances in person or on other TV shows. Anyone interested in LNNAF, write for information and application blank, 122 West Carolyne Drive, Garland, Texas 75040 (enclose a stamp for a quick answer).

Another Leonard Nimoy fan club is Vulcanian Enterprises, address 360 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11226 (enclose stamp for quick answer). Its membership is about 130, and it sends out monthly newsletters. Some of its members attended Nycon, and persuaded Isaac Asimov and Hal Clement to join. I believe both have promised to contribute articles to a forthcoming winter journal.

And if anyone's interested in a Star Trek newszine (to carry lists of magazines printing ST articles, lists of ST photographs available, and other news items), drop me a line. If things go well I plan to have one underway soon, price probably 10/\$1. End of advertisement. Live long and prosper.

Shirley Meech

/-/ You couldn't recommend a good TV program I might enjoy, could you? --www/-/

SHERRY D. HALE 6109 Sandy Lane, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204
November 23, 1967

Dear Tightbeam,

I'm all for new members being sent info sheets on N3F activities (TB #46), especially since I am one myself. /-/ Congratulations, Sherry, you are the first info sheet ever to write to Tightbeam. --www /-/ (By the way, Don, I didn't receive a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws either. I've got to locate one somewhere.)

One of the best ideas I've read so far is increasing the publication of TNFF to monthly. In fact, I was thinking of it myself when I came across it in TB. Even though I recently joined I can see the advantage of such. And more club-zines are surely needed. I'll be quite happy to pay a higher membership fee if someone will get these started. I know 400 members can come up with something or other to fill them.

At this time I have no ideas of my own to contribute. But I can tell that people who are willing to and able to work for the club are in shortage. Well, here I am. I can type, and eventually I may have access to some kind of copying machine. So if the club needs help somewhere, please feel free to holler. I'm waiting impatiently to know how I can be of service.

Sincerely,

Sherry D. Hale

/-/ The typing in your letter was excellent. Hmm. Say, how would you like a job typing TIGHTBEAM stencils? --www/-/

ARTHUR HAYES Box 1030, South Porcupine, Ontario, Canada
Phone 705-235-3879 15684-112367

Hallucinations:-

Don Miller's issue of Tightbeam had a lot on which I want to comment, but whether I can comment on all matters in that issue in a reasonably short letter remains to be seen.

I fear that the new type TNFF, what with club news and activities, plus reviews of books, magazines and fanzines, movies, etc., will have to sacrifice something. It will fail to provide the communication media on the club news by being too brief, and will still fail to bring about adequate reviews of all that has been mentioned, and it probably will become more of a WSFA Journal than an N3F OO. In other words, it will try to cover too much in the budget that is allowed to it. And if the budget is expanded, there will be but one alternative to keep the club solvent, and that is to increase dues, without actually increasing benefits, unless the activities are subsidized heavily by those who are interested, for the N3F certainly won't be able to help out in even the occasional benefit.

It used to be the policy of the Welcommittee to provide the new members with the very information Garry Pullins mentions that the new members require. I have been requested to assume Welcommittee Chairmanship for 1968. The Activity Brochure will therefore be resumed for 1968. What does the 1968 Welcommittee want? It wants a one or two sheet description of its activity sent to me. I shall see to it that it is duplicated and available to the New Member Packet. I want each Committee, Bureau or Activity, to appoint one or more persons, to represent it on the Welcommittee. That person will, in addition to explaining in greater detail, the information on that activity to the new member, he will also be required to revise, periodically, the information sheets that the Welcommittee provides the New Member packet.

The Welcommittee will see to it that SOME information is provided on the activities in (and if possible, out of) N3F. If the Committees do not cooperate, I still will try to make up a sheet on their activity, but to assure accuracy, they should tell me what they want disseminated about them. The N3F Constitution and By-Laws will be made available to the N.M. Packet. Miller is correct in his assumption that not all activities responded to the Activity Brochure, but more important, they who did respond did not make any effort to keep the information up to date.

Naturally, to make the Welcommittee work as I want it to work, I need a much larger membership in it than is currently the case. With such a small number as is now the case, it does not take much time to overwork each and every one of them. At one time, the Wc had over 40 members; it had its own publication (BULLZINE) which at times even took the place of TNFF when it failed to come out. In this make-up of the Welcommittee, there are several different types of work that can be assigned. There is the letter writing. There is the information gathering group. I'll take care of the mimeography at no charge to the N3F. The Bullzine will be available to each member of the Wc and to all Bureau heads, and officers, at no cost to the N3F.

Ross Peterson complains about TB being mainly containing a discussion of N3F and its administrative difficulties. TB is available to all members for this purpose, of course, but when the members of N3F are complaining, they crowd out the thoughts they might otherwise send in for TB publication. TB is intended to be a forum, not on only N3F matters, but on the very types of subjects he (Peterson) says he wants. Generally styled letters of a mildly controversial nature are never very plentiful, and when there is a surplus of complaints on the N3F, they become nonexistent. Maybe Ross and others could maintain a steady diet for TB of sufficient variety and size to assure that a portion of TB would be of the type he wants in TB. The main reason why there hasn't been more of such letters in TB is that they weren't written. I've edited several issues of TB, and I had to use every letter I received, with a minimum of editing, to achieve a reasonable size.

George Wells. Yep, I remember ya, but don't worry, I won't tell on you. Without a Welcommittee zine, it is difficult to maintain internal communications within the Wc, even if less than a dozen. When more than a dozen, it gets even harder. The Bullzine will be back in January, 1968, unless there is an upset by having Don Franson's intentions of appointing me Welcommittee Chairman for 1968 changed. I might mention that this change of chairmanship has the blessing of Ann Chamberlain, the current Wc Chairman. Incidentally, the Bullzine will lessen Janie's load, since she won't have to make as many copies of that new member list as she is currently doing.

Richard Blackburn: Elinor Poland is a member of the Wc and though she didn't mention Wc, she did her duty as a Wc member by providing you with what the Wc is supposed to provide, help and information.

Ann Chamberlain's letter. There is a slight change in policy for the Wc for 1968. For one, it will not be as difficult to get into the Wc. The first requirement is that you be interested in corresponding. You will be provided with information you now don't have. You will be expected to pass along this information. You should already be involved in some other activity, then you can 'push' that activity and be responsible for keeping information on that activity up-to-date. You should advise how many you are willing to welcome each month. You will be requested to report who you chose to write to. If something happens that will make it difficult for you to write letters for a few weeks or months, you will be expected to advise me of this. In other words, you can take a holiday from the Wc only if you first let me know of it, then, when you are ready to resume your Wc activity, there will be no black mark against your name. If you claim that you've written to some certain new members, and that new member does

not, in the normal course of correspondence with me, confirm your letter, you are OUT. Believe it or not, when I was WcChairman before, I had a few such cases who claimed to have written, but who did not. No, Don, you could still be valuable to the Wc in that information provided to the new member is very important.

When the Wc was working a few years ago, it was a standing joke that joining the N3F meant a DELUGE of Welcommittee letters, not all well written. Amongst these letters, though, the new members did get the information he required, he did get the realization that a large number of people knew he had joined. He sometimes felt that he couldn't answer say 20 Wc letters. Under the current system, you might get ONE letter. It will be well written, but one letter cannot provide you with the information you need. You shouldn't get a letter that lacks anything in being well written. Under the new system, you will get the occasional letter that is not so well written, but remember, it will be sincere. You will get letters that show that a large organization has found out that you have joined. You will find, amongst those letters, some from members who obviously know what they are writing about. You'll ask them questions and if they don't have the answers, they'll get the answers.

Don Franson's letter: I did not make my presentation of a Directorate zine clear enough. No, Directorate votes cannot be held up to wait for the voice of the members. To do so would hold up Directorate business so much as to make the Directorate useless. But, the Directorate can make a mistake. The Directorate can correct a mistake. The Directorate should provide much more 'inside' information than it has been doing. The Directorate zine, that very title is a misnomer really, it would be a Director zine and the difference is that I would present MY views on what we are discussing, but NOT the views of the other Directors (that would be THEIR responsibility to advise the members). True, you might get a one-sided view this way, but your questions would reveal what the other views were, and you would end up with much more information than is currently the case. If some of the other Directors requested that certain portions of their letters be used in MY zine (TTH to the uninitiate) I'd include it too, but wouldn't hold up my publishing of it to wait on the other Directors to send in something for MY zine. Of course, this zine is theoretical, or hypothetical, since it depends on my getting into the Directorate, and at this moment, I don't have that information. /-/ As a matter of fact you did not get into the Directorate. But I did (which surprised Elaine Wojciechowski seeing as how I lied in my platform -- my "free booklet" did not exist), so I am very much interested in your plans and the membership reaction to them. I may be able to use this information to further my own evil ends. --www/-/

Don Miller: TNEF monthly, and large size, TB every two months (and of a large size preferably), a genzine for N3F (to take the load off TNEF & TB), subsidization of practically all activities in the N3F, I'm afraid that a \$5 a year membership fee wouldn't be sufficient. The Welcommittee, with its publications will not be asking for one cent from the treasury. I've not asked for more than a few zines I've published for the N3F (a few TBs, most TBs I published I did not charge). At one time, my publications for and in N3F came to well over \$100 a year, not counting postage on over 500 letters a year to N3F members. I did not ask that the Treasury subsidize me for being active in the activity I wanted to be active in. If I want to be active in some special activity, then the fact that the N3F has that activity within its make-up is all I ask of the N3F. I'll

pay extra for the costs of that activity, even if it is IN the N3F, since I'll also be getting a lot of material for that \$1.75 or \$2 that provided me with additional interests, if and when I wanted to participate.

Saturnalians, Inc.

Art Hayes

JOSEPH DRAPKIN 577 E. 91 St., Brooklyn, New York 11236

11/25/67

Dear PEBELS,

I am a neo, and have just joined the N3F. I've read S.F. for 6 years. Since I'm 14, that's a pretty long time. When I entered the N3F I expected a flood of friendly letters. I got one. (It was nice, though.) I expected to find out all about the club and its activities. I got this mimeoed sheet with a list of all the departments and the names and addresses of the heads of them, with no explanation of what they are or what they do. Had it not been for the Kind Offices of one Alma Hill, I would not know where to I am at. I am not really complaining, however, since I seem to like the club. This lack of organization however can be quite disconcerting to a neo who hasn't quite learned all the language (the fanbook Janie sent me was very good but I wish there were more of them) yet. I realize that we're a bunch of free soles (very little joke), and I myself would be an anacharcast (can you beat that spelling) if I thought it would work, but don't you think the way we handle new members such as myself is ludicrous? I will not make any suggestions since the penalty for that seems to be getting appointed head of some committee or some such. I will let some other poor schnuk make that mistake. I am far too busy with H.S. work to do anything more than write an occasional letter or story. Most of my stories will be crud since my literary style leaves much to be desired; my apologies to anyone who has the misfortune to read them. I guess it's time to go listen to Bary Gray.

Your'S

Joe the B.Drapkin

P.S. Though Alma Hill would disagree, anyone who is interested in joining the lonely heads club forget it. The people are O.K. but the "society" itself is a complete drag. By the way anyone who is or is not in the club and wishes to attend a meeting or become a member of the N.Y. Mensa S.F. club should contact me.

ROBERT W. GERSMAN 3135 Pennsylvania, St. Louis, Missouri 63118

November 15th, 67

Dear Walter

In my New Member Packet, I received from Miss Lamb, there were the following:

- 1 issue of Fantasy and Science Fiction
- 1 Copy of Constitution and By Laws
- 1 Neo-Fan Dictionary
- 1 copy of National Fantasy Fan zine which included a list of the Bureaus
- 1 copy of Tightbeam
- Short form to answer and give a resume on the individual

I agree with Vince Rowe, that each dept. should have a small info sheet, giving the necessary info to be involved in their doings. If you send me necessary information from each

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bureau, cut down to the minimum, I could stencil the same, about 5 to each sheet of mimeo and run them off, to be included in each packet.

When I wrote to Writers Exchange, I received a card to fill out which I did and returned, a copy of Wizard, which listed names of new members of Writers Exchange. I sent a copy of my fanzine, which had a story to one of those names, received a good review back, but none have sent me any. Recently I filled out a form from someone on the Welcommitty, and mailed that out. Some of these members need more initiative.

I disagree with George Wells on Merritt. Maybe Metal Monster was not so good, but he should read DWELLERS IN THE MIRAGE, FACE IN THE ABYSS, SHIP OF ISHTAR, THE MOON POOL. After all, the best of writers come out with a mediocre one, once in a great while. These are all in paper back, and until you have read these, you haven't read the best of Merritt. If you can't find them, I'll be glad to lend you mine, if you loan me CREEP, SHADOW CREEP.

Also George, don't let your thinking be subconsciously corrupted by all that pro-Commie literature, and newspapers you read.

As for Bob Hillis, you're mistaken. It will be St. Louis in "69".

As for what is done, what oughta be done, quit flapping and volunteer as I did.

\$3.00 is not too much. Let's make it now.

Don't ask what N3F CAN DO FOR YOU, BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR N3F, SO IT CAN DO MORE FOR YOU.

Let me know if you need inked sketches to be photo-copied, or on tracing paper so they can be stencilled. (transferred)

Sincerely

Robert W. Gersman

LINDA EYSTER Rm 5B7, 1060 Morewood Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213

Dear N3F:

I was very glad to get Tightbeam #46 and find that everyone else is just as confused as I am about the goals, functions, and methods of the N3F. I wholeheartedly agree with Gary Pullins, Bob Vardeman, etc., about having nice, logical membership packets to give out. I think this is the logical first step to eliminating the general confusion which a neo, like myself, feels when joining N3F. For instance, why send out a June, 1956 National Fantasy Fan? This is one of the many pieces of interesting, and for the most part outdated, junk I received. The most useful thing (and thank heavens for it!) was a KEY TO THE TERMINOLOGY OF S-F FANDOM which defines most everything from Apa to TAPS. I had been hungup on some of the slang before I got this little book. I suppose that the best thing for a membership packet would be 1) an introductory letter containing a list of bureaus, descriptions of them, and addresses; 2) a fan dictionary; 3) the latest Tightbeam; 4) the latest TNFF; and 5) the follow-up sheet.

Like Vincent Rowe (TB #46) I wonder what the problem is. It would seem to me to be a very simple job to write an information sheet on the Bureaus or correlate a group of sheets as Rowe suggests. If the problem is only lack of initiative and coordination as Don Miller suggested, why aren't a few people replaced, or given more help, or something? It seems like the N3F which is supposed to be coordinating many aspects in fandom can't efficiently coordinate itself. Maybe the new Directorate can get the organization more organized. Though I don't have access to any reproduction machines, I can type (though at times somewhat crummily) and would be happy to do some of the necessary typing, correlating, or mailing of membership packets if necessary.

One other thing which bothers me about N3F, from what I've seen so far, is DOES ANY-ONE EVER DISCUSS SCIENCE FICTION? Perhaps personal correspondence, local clubs, fan-zines, or conventions take care of this. But it would seem to me that one function of the lettercol should be arguments about SF, people's reactions to new books, movies, etc., and general chitchat on fandom, and cons. While some space in TNFF and Tightbeam was devoted to this, the majority of the space went to organizational reports and criticisms. Let's discuss some SF!!!!

Sincerely,

Linda Eyster

ROBERT ROEHM 316 E. Maple St., Jeffersonville, Indiana 47130
November 16, 1967

Dear Wally & TB #47:

As many of the new members of the N3F, I was introduced to it through the Lin Carter article in If. I believe he said that after joining one would "be on the receiving end of a swarm of friendly letters." Now even allowing for the usual Carter overstatement, I would hardly call the one letter I got a "swarm." However, I'll be quick to point out that my name has not yet been published in TNFF, so perhaps I'm a bit premature.

The introduction to the NFFF is undoubtedly responsible for bringing in the loyalty (for lack of a better word) of a new member. If it seems that the club cares little whether you belong or not, there is little harmony generated. The new-member packet is extremely important here. I think that some money from the club treasury should be specifically allotted for this purpose. (Or is it already?) /-/ Well, I think the club allows Janie to use club funds for the postage on new member packets. It's up to her to find something to put into the packets, though. We don't want to be too easy on her or she'll feel her job lacks challenge. We don't want her to quit and go to work for some rival club. --www/-/

I agree with Don Miller that an essential for any new member is a copy of the N3F Constitution and By-Laws. I fared better than Vincent Rowe in this respect. I received a copy of the April, 1961, TNFF with the Constitution bound in, although there's surely been some changes made since then.

And now to change the subject somewhat: Are there any real Zenna Henderson fans out there in fan land? I'm belatedly reading her "Pilgrimage: the Book of the People" now, and I am thoroughly enjoying it -- unlike a great deal of other sf I've read recently. She even sometimes reaches the level of Heinlein; and from me that's high praise indeed!

Sincerely,

Bob Roehm

JANIE LAMB Route 1, Box 364, Heiskell, Tennessee 37754

Dear Wally..TB:

There's a couple things I'd like to call to the attention of the members....ok?
 /-/ Okay. --www/-/ Thanks, I'll go ahead.

First: Renewal time is here, yes, that's what I said, Renewal time is with us. And the price is \$1.75 per year. And please when making out a check or MO make it payable to...Janie Lamb. Have you ever tried convincing a postmaster that there is a National Fantasy Fan Federation, and you have the authority to cash MO so made out? If not then try it some time. And some of the small check forms look like something the cat dropped in the box when I get them signed.. National Fantasy Fan Federation, by Janie Lamb, Treasurer. So please keep this in mind when sending renewal dues.

Second: Lately I've missed some phone calls I really hated to miss. So if you call me it's a good idea to make it around 10:00 P.M. or later; most Sundays I'm home. The number is .. area code 615..947-7635. I'm sure it's not so hunky dory to call for me and have to talk to another member of the family who has only a faint idea of what you are talking about. Of course one must consider the time differential when calling. Like, say, if I call Stan Woolston I know I'm 3 hours ahead of him, so if I should call him around 9:00 AM he is still in bed. Messages left for me with any member of the family are written down and given me when I return home.

Now, may I urge each of you to file the new roster away where you can find it, keep adding to it as the new members are listed in TNFF; this way you won't be expecting me to take time to type up a roster just for you. It takes quite a bit of time to do a roster of 400 plus.

The Lamb

PS: Let's see if Eric Blake renews...Maybe Boardman used positive thinking when he said "let there be an Eric Blake" and now there is. Anyway it's fun seeing how it all comes out.

Janie

GARRY PULLINS 500 Hillcliff, Pontiac, Michigan 48054

I agree with who ever it was that TB should have more discussions on SF and less on the troubles and problems of the club. But certainly these things cannot be ignored so they must be brought up and discussed.

I was very surprised when I read Harriett Holchak's letter. It seems there are many fen who make fools of themselves, and in some cases fandom, when they are in public. But what really got me was when I read about those who booted Bob Greenberg's film. Something should be done about it.

G. H. Wells' letter was the kind of a letter that we need more of in TB. He goes off on tangents from White Power to Metal Monsters and U.S. Nazis to Mormons. Nice.

Ann Chamberlain asks for no muddlers to join W.C. Well I don't consider myself a muddler but I guess she does. I tried to join this bureau in hopes of helping the club out and so forth.

Anyway, she sent back a reply telling me in so many words that I wasn't mature enough to join. Then she fed me some line about how I would endanger the club with the stupid letters I would write and that I should try and join a Round Robin to gain some "experience." This all wouldn't be so bad but the W.C. needs more writers. Ann says, "If all you can think of to say is: 'Hello, glad you joined us, write to me anytime,' then W.C. is not meant for you." Well, I didn't even get a note like this when I joined! All I got was a thank-you card from Ann saying THANK YOU FOR JOINING. I didn't even get a "write to me anytime." Oh well, guess I'll just have to be content in being a muddler.

I'd like to put in a good word for Paul Crawford and the NFAS. I joined just a short while ago and I've already received four fmzs through this bureau so far. That's about three more than I expected by this time. Good Show!

Garry Pullins

ANN CHAMBERLAIN 4442 Florizel St., #99, Los Angeles, California 90032

Dear Wally...

Just a word or two for TB if you can still squeeze it in, - I've got some (ten) rubber stamp emblems for \$1.00 each, - first come first served. And I have more copies of my "ARGUMENTATION" if you'll let it ride with TB, - or hope everyone will send me a SASE (Self Addressed Stamped Envelope) for it. Happy New Year to you!

Ann

/-/ To save the reader's money in this new year of high postage rates, Ann, your article is reprinted below. Then, if you would have preferred to mail out the articles individually, we can argue about it. --www/-/

ABOUT ARGUMENTATION by Ann Chamberlain

I do not approve of taking SF club business to COURTS.

Obviously, - there are two sides to every argument, - each subject or issue will have a "FOR" speaker and an "AGAINST" speaker. It may well be that the subject matter is many-sided and each speaker believes the other does not have access to the same information, or that his particular experiences will bear out the truth of the matter as he has come to know it. In any case, when both speakers are more interested in learning the causative truths regardless of who has been the one to bring it out, - it becomes a sensible and understandable and informative discussion.

Under such conditions I will argue anything with anybody if I feel I am well enough informed, or can be, to contribute something worthwhile to the matter in which we are both interested, - whatever the field. If I am not qualified, I will say so. I will not 'put up a front' and pretend to know what I do not know.

When the interest lies more in controversy, to get an emotionally high-g geared argument going, in order to 'show someone up' or to make someone feel hurt, or to merely 'show off' extensive knowledge and make everyone concerned feel stupid . . . this I will not do.

I will not avoid an argument as a face-saving device, or deal in half-truths and not tell the part in which I have made errors; I am not afraid to make a mistake to the point that my investigation of a subject is curtailed.

The point at which I look for an exit, is this: When I see that there is a personality clash and it is not therefore possible to have a reasonable discussion. When my adversary seeks to destroy me in order to destroy my ability to express myself, or to make me shut up, or to turn everything I say into something which makes me a target for ridicule, - that person is not interested in learning the truth about anything, he simply wants to hurt someone because they do not agree with him.

When a speaker is thinking only on a personal level, he should do a monologue; and if he has a problem he should seek and find the solution for himself...either from someone who has made a lifetime study of the subject matter, or from a good book recommended to him, or he should see a good psychiatrist.

There are contentious people who are always looking for a hot argument with somebody. If it is a magazine they are selling, such an argument will boost sales because so many people are morbid about fighting and want to see the blood run.

If you argue to show how cleverly perverse you can be, how cynical you can get, how discourteous you dare to be, - then you are not, in my opinion, capable of taking part in an intelligent discussion.

Of course it hurts feelings when you run down a whole club because you have a dislike for one or two of the members, or because you see how things might be done with greater dispatch but you don't know the real way it should be suggested. Let's stay ladies and gentlemen in our discussions, and when you can't make a suggestion without a snide remark ...know that it is time to wait and learn.

If all parliamentary law were discussed as some of YOU discuss it the country would never be able to legislate anything. Learn when to keep still and just listen and watch.

In the N3F constitution, we have made it a policy not to discuss those things which bring about very hot and wordy arguments between personalities, or any "my religion is better than your religion" or "SF clubs in my state are better run than SF clubs in your state" because they only damage N3F as a whole membership. However, there is no way to prevent such discussions when they are between any two persons and this should never be considered printable material. Respect is due to even the antagonists, - regard for confidence should still be worth something. The N3F Directors know when it is reasonable to publish a letter seriously concerned with club business. Direct complaints to them. That is what they are there for.

Finis.

/-/ Aw, Ann, here I am stencilling this on the first day of my Directorate career (Jan. 1) and find you encouraging the members to complain to the Directors. Already I want to resign. Anyway I hope you don't mind my taking a paragraph out of a letter you wrote to a well-known N3F official and reprinting it below, because that is just what I'm doing. --www/-/

.....For the life of me, I don't see why we would need to defend the N3F to a person like John Kusske. His statement "WHEN the N3F BEGINS to involve itself in 'private' fan

matters like manuscript bureaus and games bureaus ...etc"for heaven's sake, doesn't he know that there were no manuscript bureaus anywhere until the N3F thought of it? And that there is no way to copyright anything like this, and anyone can have whatever they like in this line, - and whoever wants to, joins it. And we get rid of meddlers too. No, - there were manuscript bureaus with high prices on the attention they gave a manuscript...of course, prozines have advertised such places (agencies) for many years. But the charge for reading is so much per thousand words. If John wants to pay, that's his business. We run ours without any help from snipers like him, and his points are as cheap as his advice. He seems to think he was born efficiently, lives efficiently and everything else in like manner, but there is somebody somewhere who could point out his weaknesses, stupidities, and general fumbling just as he has so elibly made it sound like the N3F is for imbeciles. If he thinks this is a good way to get a lot of new members in APA 45, with their \$1.00 dues besides...he should learn to hatch a few.

Fannishly,

Ann

ERIC BLAKE /-/ Address withheld to protect the innocent. Namely, me. --www/-/

Dear TB:

So John Boardman admits my existence is no hoax. I've been ridiculed, lambasted, and criticized since joining NFFF. But to have someone declare that I'm a figment of their imagination is the straw that broke the camel's back.

My critics have been sore heads, and the ridicule heaped upon my head has been because I'm a professed Christian. Some deny that religion has any place in fandom. My forefathers had the courage to stand up against terrible odds and say they believed in the Divine Creator, and why then should I shirk my part in God's great plan when I have less to face? But, I have come to the conclusion that I've done all that is required of me as a Christian, and therefore, will bow out of fandom. Bidding John Boardman along with the rest a happy future, and may they read the Bible and take its advice. Someday my critics will learn they have been wrong. Their open criticism of Christianity has not hurt me, but rather hurt themselves.

My greatest appreciation and thanks to the few members of NFFF and fandom who have been friends to me when friendship was urgently needed, I'll never forget them. My dues expire in a month, and I'll quietly leave this world of fandom and look elsewhere for enjoyment.

Eric Blake

SHIRLEY MEECH (see page 4 for address)

Earth Date Dec. 9

Editor, Tightbeam:

As a postscript to my earlier letter, here's some more information on fannish records. The Nov. 22 VARIETY lists new albums by H. P. Lovecraft (that's the name of the group and the title of the album), on the Philips label, and The Hobbits, whose Decca album is titled "Down to Middle Earth." Both get good reviews.

Shirley Meech

January 1968

MRS. W. A. BEETEM 4161 W. Eastman Ave., Denver, Colorado 80236
December 3, 1967

Dear N3F,

As a very new member (but a fellow traveller since my kid joined several months ago) I have one thing to say about N3F - it suits me. To the officers, editors, and other volunteers who keep the outfit going (and whose willingness to work amazes me no end) - thanks a bunch and go, you rigers!

The only lack I've seen in publications is discussion of science fiction. /-/ We science fiction fans are too active to have time for reading and discussing that silly stuff. --www/-/ Since it's my complaint, it's up to me to do something about it. My only activity besides reading (is that considered activity?) is "touting" (soliciting readers, that is) so here goes:

1. The New Yorker (Sept. 16) - coverage of Nycon 3 by an "outsider". I had expected to read some comments on this article - so far, none. Was Harlan Ellison quoted correctly??? Wow!!
2. Life (Nov. 24) - "Impact of the Supershot" by Bradbury. If your sense of wonder is sagging, this is for you.
3. The Revolving Boy - Gertrude Friedberg (Doubleday) This gal also had a story in "Tomorrow's Children" ed. by Asimov. Anybody know of anything else she wrote?
4. The Squares of the City - John Brunner (Ballantine Original) A "must" for fans who play chess.
5. The Fools of Time - Wm. E. Barrett (better known for "Lilies of the Field") This is SF on the banks of mainstream. Wanna argue?
6. Science essays by Asimov (several books in 800 section of library) - Sugar coated science education in Dr. A's inimitable style. Some appeared in SF mags.
7. Dangerous Visions - ed. by Harlan Ellison (Doubleday). 33 new stories. Denver Post review says "Buy of the year" - see clipping.

There you are, fans. If anyone wants to drop me a card (nice or nasty), I'll put it on my "tout" board.

Good reading,

Doris M. Beetem

P.S. Which is Boardman's most confusin' creation - "Eric Blake" or Diplomacy? Latter gets my vote.

/-/ The clipping included with Mrs. Beetem's letter prices "Dangerous Visions" at \$6.95. It also listed four other books: 1) "Famous Monster Tales" ed. by Basil Davenport. Van Nostrand. \$4.75. Reviewer calls it a nice collection but complains that some have already been reprinted too much. 2) "Great Science-Fiction Stories About the Moon" ed. by T. E. Dikty. Frederick Fell. \$4.50. Seven stories "...apparently intended for juvenile readers." 3) "Stories That Scared Even Me" ed. by Alfred Hitchcock. Random. \$6.95. 23 stories including a John

Wyndham novel, "Out of the Deeps," and a Theodore Sturgeon novelette, "It." 4) "A Torrent of Faces" by James Blish and Norman L. Knight. Doubleday. \$4.95. Reviewer called this one confused and fragmented. The reviewer for all of these was by-lined Olga Curtis. --www//

JOHN J. PIERCE 87 E. Blackwell Street, Dover, New Jersey 07801
Wednesday, Nov. 15, 1967

Dear Mr. Weber:

My principal reason for joining the N3F was that it is the only fan organization with a nationwide membership -- one that if properly utilized can be of immense value in promoting activities of general interest to science fiction fans everywhere.

I have the additional motivation of being interested in a number of philosophic and esthetic issues that I believe are of vital interest to science fiction fans, but which have not been given due attention -- not to the best of my knowledge, in any case. I may delve into these in some detail in future letters; for the present, let me say that I support the esthetic philosophy of Lester del Rey and Robert Heinlein as opposed to that of the so-called "New Thing," which seems bent on turning the field into anti-science fiction based on the dogma of nihilism that permeates nearly all of the mainstream.

As a reader who loves science fiction, and believes it should be taken seriously, I have a natural urge to seek out others of my kind. Wherever they may be, I shall be glad to hear from them to exchange views.

On a purely fanac level, there is an area I have recently found to be almost entirely neglected by fans: letters to paperback publishers. As many of you are well aware, the shrinkage of the magazine market has left the paperback houses dominating the SF publishing field almost by default. Yet, as I learned recently upon corresponding with Donald A. Wolheim at Ace Books, these publishers almost never hear from fans commenting on their work -- they publish in a vacuum. Prozines receive letters from the fans saying what they liked or disliked and why. Paperback publishers don't. This is a problem that members of N3F can remedy -- the address of any paperback house on whose latest novel or collection you want to comment is conveniently given right on the title page. Go to it!

Here's one issue you can write Avon on right now: As was advertised in the Nycon 3 brochure, this publisher is bringing out two classics by Stanley G. Weinbaum -- "The Black Flame" and "The New Adam." Many fans may not know that 15,000 words were cut from the original manuscript of the former in both the magazine and hard cover editions. Fan letters to Avon could persuade the publisher to restore these in the paperback. And since, in the plethora of classic paperback reprints nowadays, Weinbaum's name is perhaps the most deserving -- and so far most neglected -- I would also urge all N3F members to work to increase the sales of these Avon editions when they hit the stands. (Distinguished British writer Colin Wilson, now teaching at the University of Washington, is a Weinbaum fan.)

Progressively yours,

John J. Pierce.

MIKE ZAHARAKIS 802 11th Ave. NW, Minot, North Dakota 58701

I think I've been in N3F long enough now to be able to offer several suggestions without being laughed out of the organization.

In my recent one shot (Now pubbed regularly for Valapa) INSOMNIAC, I suggested several things that might help N3F. INSOMNIAC reached few members of N3F in comparison to the new membership figures. (By the way, how many do we have now?) /-/ Something like 414, although we usually drop a hundred or so at the beginning of the year when members fail to renew. --www/-/ In any case here they are in brief for the general membership to think over.

(1) N3F should approach Life, Time, Post, or Look around Con time and get fandom some publicity. I feel for every actifan there are at least ten other potential fans in the US. A few addresses in the right place would do a world of good.

(2) The postal rates are up, and as much as I hate to say it, we should raise the dues to \$2.00 for the second year and \$2.50 for the first. N3F runs as the mails do and postage is not cheap.

(3) The stuff you get in the new member's packet when you join is next to nil. I feel that general revision of the same is necessary. Also, N3F could sponsor a fanzine clearing house for new fans in the club. Faneds would get their zines distributed easily this way. I would be glad to contribute as many of my own zines as needed for the same. This part of the packet should be FREE. The extra money you pay for your first year is not worth what you get now.

(4) N3F can sell advertising in Tightbeam and TNFF without much trouble. This advertising might make for better zines and Doubleday Book Club, If, Ace, and several other companies and zines would probably guarantee advertising every month if we can convince them that it's worth it. (And I believe it is.) I believe in this proposal so much that I am willing to work on ad selling and layout and get electrostencils and printing done here if need be if this proposal is adopted.

OK, these things will take a lot of work. I'm willing to work. And so are a few other North Dakota fans. Have you noticed where there were none or a few in this area there are now several? We use the Vector system originated in Oregon and we're spreading like the early Moslems. (It is not true we use the swords to spread Vector). /-/ I understand the pen is mightier. --www/-/

I think that the time is here when N3F starts asking more of all its members and not just a chosen few. Janie Lamb & Wally Weber have done outstanding jobs as have all the officers. It's time for Joe Blow fan to do the job. I shudder to think of the hours Janie puts in for N3F. What would it cost us for a full time commercial secretary????

Mike Zaharakis

///Note The New Address/////

/-/ And that, as we publishers say, is that for this issue of TIGHTBEAM. Now that you have read this, rush immediately to your typewriters and send a letter to GARY LABOWITZ, 362 Prince Frederick Street, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406. Gary will probably publish on time instead of three weeks late as I have done, so be quick if you want to appear in the next TIGHTBEAM. As for you who haven't renewed your N3F dues for 1968, this should be the last TIGHTBEAM to be shot your way. And thanks, gang, for the letters. They made the issue. --www/-/