

TIGHTBEAM
68



THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION
1971

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TIGHTBEAM 68

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Tightbeam #68, July-August issue of the letter column of the National Fantasy Fan Federation

Tightbeam is published for the N3F January, March, May, July, September, November and is distributed free to members of the N3F and for trade of other science fiction fanzines. Persons mentioned in passing are invited to comment, regardless of membership status. Contributions to Tightbeam should be sent no later than the 15 of the month prior to publication to either Frank Denton or Charles Ruthford.

Next deadline: August 15, 1971

Hello out there in Neffer Neffer Land (a little play on words)

Chuck and Frank here to put out yet another issue on time. How about that? Summer school is in full swing and we don't seem to have encountered any problems that might delay the issue. We hope we can continue to do as well. September's issue may pose a bit of a problem, although I should have returned by that time and don't envision any.

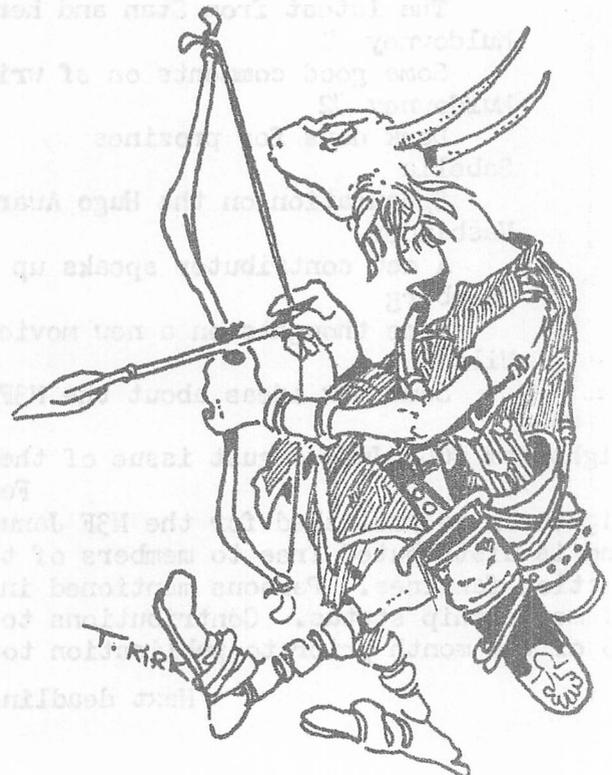
I hopefully will leave for Westercon this Thursday, and soon after returning from there, will leave for five weeks in England and Ireland. Wish me a happy vacation, and eat your hearts out.

A couple of letters this time indicate that Tight Beam is an open forum for the exchange of ideas, rather than just a zine full of letters. Of course, that's up to you. The manner and matter of letters which you submit will make this zine a live, viable forum, or just another letterzine. Since I belong to a number of monthly apas which discuss a number of things besides sf, I am not opposed to this zine tackling some other subjects. Of course, it will stir up the ire of some of our members, but at the same time might really engender better discussions. Well, that's up to you. We'll see what the response is.

Others have asked for more art. Chuck and I will try to rectify that a bit more next time. We will need to sit down and coordinate a bit more than we do now in order to accomplish this. Currently I do all of the envelopes, addressing, postage, etc., write this little thing (I don't want to honor it with the designation of editorial) and type whatever news comes in. Chuck does the typing of the letters and any commentary that he might throw in. Together we mimeo, collate and staple, as well as stuff the envelopes. I happen to be the one with the knowledge of electrostencilling and cementing in, so that's why more coordination would be necessary. I don't want to promise more art, as it might mess up the schedule. We will do it if we can.

This month we have a very fine front cover by Dany Frolich and a good likeness of one of the editors (I won't say which) gracing the back cover. Mike Scott did the back cover for us. The only interior illo is by the inimitable Tim Kirk, right next here.

You'll note somewhere within these pages a rather fiery letter from Irvin Koch. I won't fire back, but you'll notice that only the officers are listed. Mike Ramage wrote me personally to say that he was not a bureau head. I have seen no official word that Elinor Poland's lending library is open yet. I must say, in all fairness, that Irvin is a fine organizer and should, perhaps, consider running for NFFF President next election.



Well, enuff. Have a pleasant summer.
Frank

BEAHM

George Beahm
1867-D, Jefferson Ct.
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I am overwhelmed with the friendliness of fellow Neffers. Originally, I had planned to limit fanac to reading zines, books, etc. and just be a (choke!) inactive member. After receiving letters from Stan Woolston, Joanne Burger, Janie Lamb, Irving Koch, Art Hayes, James Corrick, Rose Hogue, Alma Hill, Gary Mattingly, Gary Labowitz, Elinor Poland and others, encouraging and helping me in every way possible, I feel fanac must be expanded. So, I'm in N'APA, Tape Bureau, a Round Robin and hope to be more involved with N3F. I am totally overwhelmed with all the assistance Neffers have done. Thanks to all!

I will be attending Noreascon and hope to meet some fellow Neffers there.

KOCH

Irvin Koch
835 Chattanooga Bank Building
Chattanooga, Tn 37402
No Date

Anyone who thinks sf fandom is on the way out should move South. Frierson is getting scads of response on his Southern Fandom Confederation. He and I actually got the addresses of 90% of the Southern fen and sent pubs to all. In addition to SFC, there is a large FEDERATION in Carolinas with 3+ local clubs and monthly mini-cons running to 29 people each. If the least active part of the country is that active . . . Also organization in Fla & Len Collins is making progress in Upper East Tenn chapter of Gnomes, Elves, etc. I have info on Minniapolis and others, too. Sf fandom on the way out - ha ha ha aha ha ha . . . Not to mention all the courses in SF taught in over 48 different colleges (according to Jack Williamson). I could go on all day. One last thing - how come when the Univ shows SF movies free without us even asking, they draw more than non-sf? Sure, damn few join the clubs as a % or do anything else fannish, but a small % of a large number which is growing . . .

BROOKS

Rick Brooks
R. R. #1, Box 167
Fremont, Ind., 46737
April 5, 1971

At first I planned a hellish blast at Janie Lamb and the N3F in general as I moved from the Huntington address Jan. 30, 1970. Now I'd appreciate it if you'd just print my address (see above) someplace in the next Tightbeam. I had the same problem after moving from Milwaukee in June of '69. (Sorry about that, Rick.ccr)

I have informed both Stan and Janie of my COA (I think that means change of address, ccr), the later 10 or a dozen times when I was racketing over her not crediting my dues payment. Stan asks for volunteers, yet with the exception of a few bureaus with live-wire heads, the N3F is absolutely chaotic and not at all the sort of thing one would care to volunteer for. (Perhaps, if you would volunteer to work on something like this, you would be able to change things? ccr)

I got my ballot in the zine forwarded about twice and two or three days after deadline, so I was gypped out of my vote. It there is such a foul-up in simple /things like COA's, is it any wonder that the rest of fandom regards the N3F as nothing but a big joke? (Let's have a little chatter about this comment.ccr)

Shouldn't run on here, but it bugs me. We could have a viable organization instead of this. (True, true. Especially if everyone didn't sit around and criticize instead of trying to do something about it.ccr)

MULDOWNEY

Phil Muldowney
7, The Elms,
Stoke, Plymouth,
Devon, England
6 May 1971

Many thanks for TB 65 & 66 which arrived today despite post strikes and everything else under the sun. It was nice to see the old letterzine again, and thanks for a very good job.

As for editing TB, I agree with you, if at all possible, run letters uncut. I feel that any letter for TB is designed for publication in entirety, or should be assumed to be. Of course, if a letter is of very minor interest, or bumbles on for endless pages, then that is a different matter . . .

It's fascinating to have an occasional glimpse into an alternate universe such as that of Harry Weatherby's in TB 65. I thought that fandom was cooked enough, but this was another experience altogether.

I see that the great new/old wave debate has at last finally died the final death. While it lasted, it did serve to liven up several issues of TB. But it does make one realize just how very old hat the whole controversy is. To realize that it is 7 years since Michael Moorcock started editing New Worlds, is a startling thing . . .

To get some order into this letter, and not start on my usual TB tack of lifting points hither and thither.

TO TB 66:

J. A. CORRICK: Tactics of Mistake seemed to fall apart about half way through. Up 'til then it had been another very good Dickson novel, very much like Dorsai. In fact the opening was very similar to Dorsai, when Cletus introduced himself into the party, it was almost exactly like when the hero of Dorsai, introduced himself at a party. The parallels between the two books are many. But whereas in Dorsai, Dickson did not make the mistake of trying to portray the theory of military philosophy too clearly, in Tactics of Mistake he does. From whence he tries to show concrete examples, so it falls apart.

An historical approach to sf? If anybody tried to read the early sf writers, in college, they would be turned off sf for life!

On the general subject of original collections versus the magazines: Well, New Writings In SF was started in 1964, has reached No. 18, and over here Corgi have even reissued Nos. 1 & 2. It is about the steadiest selling paperback sf in Britain. Which is somewhat surprising, as generally each issue is way below most of the anthologies over here - in quality, that is. The stories tend to be of a somewhat pedestrian nature, by little known writers - yet it sells. Why? Because of distribution. You can find New Writings wherever paperbacks are sold, but try finding an Analog, and that is like hunting for gold dust.

A lot has been talked of distribution, display, etc. I am a newsagent, and although I would like to give all the prozines a show, it is just not economically viable. What with short sale time, difficulty of display, and little profit, the sf mags are in for a bad time. Was for going full size, 8 x 10, - that would maybe make it even worse. Vision of Tomorrow was completely lost on any display rack, amidst myriad other publications.

The future for the prozines looks very bleak, and I feel very sad over this. The thing that the prozines have, that paperback collections never will have, is atmosphere. Pick up a copy of Amazing, and one is transported to that sf world

one has known all one's life. Of old long-read magazines, thundering editorials and drumming letter columns. It is a matter of style and personal prejudice. My own whole outlook on sf was partly formed by old Science Fantasy, digest Ray Worlds, and If and Galaxy under the burgeoning Pohl editorship. Ye gods, nostalgia, at my age!

The original paperback is the coming thing. But what price those cool soulless anthologies, to the richness and character of the sf magazines? Also, perhaps, that in itself is a market that might be upset by a glut. If there are 10 or so quarterly anthologies, what price high sales then?

A letter that grows too long.

I think part of the trouble with finding an editor for TNFF is that it must be a rather boring job. While editing TB, could be quite interesting. I mean, if you can read some of the scrawls that the letters are written in, then you may be well able to read Egyptian Hyrogllyphics! (sic)

WILSON

Ann S. Wilson
106 Wilburn Road
Statesboro, Georgia 30458
May 17, 1971

I have been writing to MEADE FRIERSON, III, about ideas in organizing the Southern Fandom Confederation. That got me to thinking about what I had written ART HAYES about what to do on the W. C. with individual clubs that joined N3F.

First of all, how many regional groups are there? If there are more or those in the planning stage, could not something be done to connect these with N3F?

My idea goes something like this: N3F would be the national organization with the regional groups as sub-divisions. Some of the bureaus could be moved down to the regional level, if people could be found to run them. For instance, the Correspondence Bureau, the Birthday Card Committee and W. C. could be regional with, of course, close communication between regions. Others, such as the Tape Bureau and lending library, would stay on the national level.

Individual clubs could join on the regional level (applicable now on the present situation with a special group rate, entitling each individual member to full privileges of bureaus, receiving The Neffer and Tightbeam, etc. Then, isolated fans, like myself, would just join at the regional level. All joining the regional and national (of course) would have individual privileges, as it now stands, whether an isolated fan or through a club joint membership?

This plan would in some ways decentralize N3F, but the main effect would be to more closely bring into contact more of fandom, mainly through the regional groups.

Please, anyone, write Stan, me, or someone on the directorite about this. Any suggestions or ideas are fine to come to me.

Perhaps, this sort of idea at least the one for clubs joining N3F could be put in the blue constitution.

GERSMAN

Robert "Argee" Gersman
3135 Pennsylvania
St. Louis, Mo. 63118
May 19, 1971

Would a flashlight powered by an alcohol driven motor have a Tightbeam? //What a terrible way to start a letter. ccr//

SCHER: That's a good outlet but let's not spook Lovecraft.

WEINBERG: What of the Black Hole of Calcutta, man's inhumanity to man. Of course, one could excuse it for the idea of the Hindu's being benighted heathen as the Britishers put it. But, when one does not check on the religions in one's neck of the woods and the Crown as in all their doings being stiffnecked, would not back down even when their own intelligence force who was in the know tried to explain that the skin and meat on more properly grease of the pig is unclean and some stupid arse in blighty ships them ammo greased with pork fat, which the native troops would have to bite off to use, thus making them unclean, which was then noised about by those who loved not the British, causing the Sepoy Rebellion and ended up in the Black Hole of Calcutta. That's all I can think of about Black holes.

SCHER/SNEARY: Bad prozine like bad stories are judged to be bad or good by the people who read them. Some people are just as intelligent, yet not as hard to please as some of these self taught experts who figure if they don't like it, it's drivell.

What's wrong with pulpish covers, and maybe someone does like stories like the Space Marine vs. the Purple Jellyfish from Galaxy Q that Ate Jupiter, instead of stupid inane stuff like Bug Jack Baron?

LABOWITZ: If it Canticle, then you won't need to scratch. There, I made a discussion on a plug for Canticle.

Noted your Hugo nominees announced. Maybe Ellison should write a sequel to Brillo. Call it Spic and Span or the Gold Dust Twins and the Further Adventures of Camay, Palmolive. Ah, a new name on the horizon for Fan Art Alicia Austin but the same old others. Same old prozines. Why no Sword and Sorcery?

HILL " " "

Alma Hill
463 Park Drive
Boston, Massachusetts 03215
May 21, 1971

To begin with, please feel free to cut or omit anything I say, and by all means work out the ty poss. I am typo-prone even on a good day, Ghu wotteth. But the main reason I always extend such permission to letterzine editors, if the question should arise, is that I might as well. Sooner or later, they realize their powers and start wielding them. The tings a person can get away with in any club, as long as there is nobody else who wants the job, would pass the belief of anyone who hasn't seen it happen. Sooner or later you'll see it also. //Exactly why I hate to cut anything from anyone's letter. I feel that my job is to see that the publication is done on time and that everyone gets a chance to voice his or her opinion. I do, though, feel that I should restrict any comments that are either downright slanderous or out-and-out lewd. ccr//

On the other hand, you are just as free to include anything. Caveat scriptor. If anything is not for publication, lettum say so; better yet, lettum not say anything. What are we? Thought Police? (Don't answer that question - it's loaded.) (You might get the job.)

How true that nobody ever knows what's going on. This is done to keep the Neffer Secret Police off balance, isn't it?

Meanwhile, to help the confusion along, here's a retor or two:

GEORGE WILLICK, SR: If you wish to refute somebody else's critical opinion you must improve your mastery of logic by several notches. For one thing, you need

to show what is a matter of fact (susceptible to the test of truth or error) and which is de gustibus (not subject to verbal tests of any kind) just Spratt-family fodder. Then, you should stick to terms which have only one significance, or show how you diverge from the usual meaning of the words.

It's apparent that "experimental" means one thing to you, another to me, and perhaps other things to other people. Certainly to me when I refer to an experiment, I mean that someone is trying out something new in order to find out what happens. I don't mean that an experiment loses touch with all that was previously known or assumed. Remember the wise words of Willy Ley, who pointed out that an experiment can only be meaningful if it is controlled by non-experiment; supposing one is testing the effect of temperature change in an aquarium; one does not at the same time change the salinity.

Again, what you mean by "best sf" is a matter of your taste, and of mine, and of every reader's. Therefore, when I say that all sf is experimental and the best is most experimental, I am necessarily making a statement of opinion. Let who will agree or disagree, believe or disbelieve; the matter is not open to proof or disproof. Logic, lad, logic!

Remember, also, the saying that every science fiction story essays to make one impossibility plausible - but only one. The better the storyteller can stay in the groove; the wider he can take that curve when he comes to it. There are many tried and true storytelling devices, which are abrogated at the peril of the writer who wants a readership. That is not just one person's opinion but a well known fact. "Experimenta;" storytelling formulae which get funny with bot temperature and salinity first confuse, then bore, and then lose the readers. We hear from lots of such writers who blame the readers for their lack of perspicacity. Fyoosh! 'Twas the writer who lacked craftsmanship; a good writer in this genre can slip over impossibilities until he has you believing ten before breakfast, and twiddle with form and style as well. The rank-and-file had better stick to the good old time-sequence narrative, meanwhile. I've seen too many writers cop out with excuses for poor work by claiming it's a new style. So was the Emperor's new suit.

Just to confuse the matter still further; I happen to have very literary tastes and background, but I read Zane Grey, Max Brand, Sax Rohmer, and a number of others who'd never get past the critics today - though I do think that Max Brand - Frederick Faust - may come to a belated second critical recognition as has happened to other writers, for instance, Shakespeare. But, the narrative impetus, of which some writers seem to be capable, is worth study, I feel. It seems to be something separate from command of style. LOTR has it too, and the wordwork is as beautiful as the narrative is fascinating. I've read that one three times and probably will read it again one of these days. Lovely thing. What has this in common with Burroughs? I might hypothesize but each reader is better off to look for oneself perhaps.

Onething sure, a difference in technique does not necessarily mean that a writer is being new and delightful. He may only be falling into wellworn old pitfalls. Those seem to have even smoother grooves than the fairways of fictioneers.

After saying all this, maybe I've given you the impression that I have no taste at all and don't know good from bad. That may be; but I thought TB #66 is excellent work and very interesting. So - I must have something, hey?

BRYANT

Ed Bryant
300 Park Avenue
Wheatland Wyo 82201
May 27, 1971

I've got a favor to ask my fellow Neffers who are also fanzine editors. A

continuing frustration of sf pros is the lack of literary and critical feedback on published work. One of the few substantial pools of sf criticism exists in the fanzines. But there is, of course, a communications gap between fan and pro - at least on the logistics level.

Perhaps some enterprising fan (or even a club) may eventually implement the concept of a fanzine literary clipping service. But until that happens, each of us has to struggle on his own to obtain copies of reviews of his books or stories.

The favor I'm asking, then, is that faneds publishing zines in which appear reviews of anthologies containing my stories (i.e., Quark, Infinity, Clarion, Universe, et al.) send me tearsheets or whatever of those pertinent reviews. //Bad ones as well as the good ones, Ed?ccr// I'd be grateful in the extreme. Maybe even to the point of reimbursing for postage.

VASBINDER

Sam H. Vasbinder
7452 Brushmore
N. Canton, Ohio 44720
May 17, 1971

KRIEG: O. K! I agree that the Andromeda Strain was not exactly new and exciting to a connoisseur of S. F.; a really trite idea well camouflaged with thriller stuffing; an ending that was a real deflation filler with a simple-minded solving of the problem and last-ditch heroics of the worst type . . . But. I did think it had several virtues: (1) the public (a big chunk) was given an S. F. book it could handle in a form that was fast-paced and well done in the best manner of the thriller. (2) It utilized expertise and pseudo-expertise, mixed so well only a real expert could sort them out. (3) An explication of a logical invasion of aliens coupled with a logical working out of the problem. (4) The writer, especially in the beginning, presented tension, terror, and a quality of strangeness in a manner any writer would be proud of.

If at the most, Crichton does not please the S. F. addict, at the very least he is a good craftsman. Sure, I know any old hand in S. F. would have discounted it as a failure of imagination, but the public in general can't handle the really heady stuff. I like the idea of more people getting involved with S. F. It may result in a better Star Trek or the like. Besides, how many of us got started in space opera? Think what a change in attitude could be worked if more books like Crichton's get the public eye . . . even if they must be severely dressed in thriller-adventure disguises.

Also, is there anyplace I can purchase a Neffer ink-stamp or will I need to get it manufactured locally?

I guess I haven't been introduced. I'm 33, teach English at McKinley High full time and at Akron University part time, am working on a Ph. D. in 18th Century literature, and love S. F. and Fantasy, period. Ron Wilson told me about this organization and I sent my 2 clams to Janie because I didn't know better. But, I'm glad to be aboard. Thanks for all the cards saying Hi and Welcome.

WEINBERG

Robert Weinberg
127 Clark Street
Hillside, New Jersey 07205
May 29, 1971

One thing I do want to mention is that I am home in New Jersey for the summer but I'll be back in Chicago in late August for another year.

Anyone notice how hard science fiction is making a comeback. Just look at the nominees for the novels for the Hugo. Three out of the five are straight hard line stuff based on physics. Of course, since the Hugos represent such a small segment of the science fiction reading public, I guess this doesn't really mean much. Tho, Analog is doing better than ever, while Galaxy, which has somewhat abandoned the hard science approach, is not doing so well.

To my great surprise, I though The Andromeda Strain was an excellent film, and it should win the next Hugo for Dramatic Presentation with no trouble. Tho, there were parts of the movie that were somewhat silly, by and large it was exceptionally well done. The drama and action was tense and exciting. I read those reviews that said they thought it was boring, and I would have to guess that these were those people who find anything scientific boring. Just because the tension was developed slowly and through scientific investigation, a small part of the reviewing world is going to be bored. On the whole, most of the reviews I read thought the film was good. Anyone in the sciences should definitely not miss it.

As to myself, life rolls on. I had a Morgan Smith story accepted by Witchcraft and Sorcery, and Page indicated interest in seeing more. He's had four more for nearly two months now, and no word. I am just hoping that the magazine lasts long enough to publish one or two of my stories. I am hard at work studying for my Ph.D. comps in mathematics.

Just to add my woes with the mails. It takes 4-7 days for a letter from New Jersey to reach Chicago first class. The record, tho, was a letter from St. Louis that took 27 days last year to make it here. I think it was sen by snail!

//The following letter is printed without editorial comment. The following comment was included at the end of the letter "parts underlined may be deleted only at risk of personal armed visits to you. . ." ccr//

KOCH "2"

Irvin Koch
835 Chattanooga Bank Building
Chattanooga, Tn 37402
May 28, 1971

What the hell do you all think you are doing with TB by confusing the already totally disorganized and confused membership of N3F by messing up the officers page of TB? (Not to be read as an angry tirade but as a hurt whimper.) You know you don't even have to run that page. Only TNFF has to run such a page, and inaccurate as Hayes has been, much of it has not been his fault, and he has had a TNFF out recently with enough accuracy for you to copy. Gripe number one is you have Mike Ramage as having resigned as NFAS head in TB67 by leaving his job open - are you sure of this or did you get it from Woolston or - more likely, did you copy a 6-8 month old TB? Huh?! Likewise you have the library as closed - not quite - check on it. You have the story contest head empty and this damn well isn't so unless Devore resigned - look at recent TNFF's and check with Woolston before you go taking 6-8 month old info and printing it!!! We also have/had a fanclubs bu; but since there was no listing in TNFF and it's head was only recently listed as having renewed the thing may not have enough interest to justify it - I'll let that go. Also - you'd better check with Labowitz on what jobs he holds now and what are open. And lastly, for years I've been asking people not to print any address for me except my permanent one - well, Hayes is fixing his error and I can't blame you because Frank has been sending directorate mail to my last temporary address (by the way, if anyone sent anything to me at Knoxville address after June 5 - the chances it got to me are damn slim

because 3d class, 4th class, etc., mail is not forwarded and apt houses are not automatically given forwarding service by the Knoxville P. O. - their rule says the people living in the house must readdress the mail.

Now, as to activities just plain not listed, well, I'll let the people who want those activities to gripe - if there isn't enough interest to protest an activity (unofficial or official) not being listed, then the thing is better off not listed. So much for our errant TB staff.

Now for FRANK HILLER: There is no custom of sending unofficial riders with TB or TNFF mailings. On the other hand, if you send 3¢ per item with the stuff you want sent out that isn't a N3F pub, there is no reason the guy doing the mailing can't include it in the envelope or staple it with the rest. The problem is no one has done this, not that it can't be done. The biggest problem in N3F isn't fouled up officers as I once thought - it is that no one does anything. One part of this is people thinking they don't know enough when in fact they (a 3 month old neo) know just as much as the 10 years in fandom BNF as far as getting what they want done goes. (oh, yes, that item above should be 3¢ per 5 sheets or fraction thereof of 20 lb. mimeo paper - that's how the weight rate works out.

And lastly: STAN WOOLSTON: you've been begging for at least 2 years for someone to run against you for president. All right: OFFICIAL NOTICE: IRVIN KOCH IS ELLIGABLE (sic) TO :RUN FOR PRESSIDENT OF NFFF FOR 1972 AND IS HEARBY (sic) RUNNING!!!! I wouldn't have put it past you to have not pushed getting that MemAc project I sent you 3 months ago published just to goad someone into taking the job from you.

Now as for people running for director. I had some ideas on this earlier and was going to write 5 or 6 people but instead I'm going to fix 5 birds with one shot and ask in print for 5 people to run for director and say why: Frank Denton should run again - to represent N'APA and because it is convenient to have the pubber of TB on the directorate. Art Hayes should run because I suspect he is not as pressured by mundane activities as he was last year, has vast fannish experience, and it is convenient to have the pubber of TNFF on the directorate. Joanne Burger should run to provide continuity, fast start up of of the 1972 directorate (as continuing, I hope, chairwoman) and to provide a levelheaded and cool balancing element on the directorate. Stan Woolston should run for directorate so we won't always be having to write him about what he did or did not do last year. If he runs for both pres. and directorate, he can always choose which he wants if he wins both and the directors fill the other. The fifth spot should be the real horserace because there are many people who I could make strong cases for: Phyrne Bacon, Stven Carlberg, Ann Chamberlain, Jim Corrick, Sandy Deckinger, Dorothy Jones, Gary Labowitz, Jackie Lichtenberg, Gary Mattingly, Ken Scher, Elaine Wojciechowski, and about 20 others I could equally tout. Well, by the time this is published, it will be getting time to file so. . .

SABELLA

Robert Sabella
32 Cortright Road
Whippany, N. J. 07981
June 1, 1971

TB 67 was a very small issue, containing only 11 pages of actual letters. I think it indicates the major problem in publishing a fanzine devoted solely to letters: apathy. Or more precisely, if the reader's interest can't be maintained by each issue, how can they find the ambition to write a letter? Two years ago, when the New Wave/Old Wave controversy was running through these pages (as well as all of fandom), letters were plentiful because there was something to write about. But,

now, all your letters seem to drag and nothing in the issue really seems of interest.
//Hear, hear!!ccr//

How can you sustain interest? One method would be for you, the editors, to write inflammatory editorials that would enrage people enough for them to write. This isn't recommended, however. A better suggestion would be to garner three or four members to write short columns each issue. Or possibly introduce book reviews. But you definitely need something with which the readers could center their interest enough to cause them to write a letter. //Good ideas. These should, however, come from ybu letter writers. This, after all, is you publication - not Frank's and mine. ccr//

One comment in your editorial that struck me: Frank remarked that Chuck had "headed off what might have turned into a raunchy discussion". This gives the impression that he censored the magazine with the intention of diminishing interest. I hope that impression is a wrong one. //You're right. It is a wrong one. I cut out some discussion that was downright gross and reflected on the moral character of one of the younger letter writers. I felt that it had no business in this type of publication. If that be censorship, so get another editor. ccr//

Since it;s becoming very close to Worlcon time, permit me to discuss this year's Hugo awards. I could talk about my personal choices for the award, but person opinion might not interest anybody. So, instead, I will give my predictions for the awards and why I choose the winners that I do.

Best Novel: Fandom is experiencing quite an Old Wave backlash the last two years. Witness such events as The Left Hand of Darkness winning both Hugo and Neb ula last year and the fact that every Nebula winner this year was Old Wave. This, plus the publicity that Ringworld has been receiving for its "sense of Wonder" should result in a fairly easy victory for it. Runnerup will probably be The Tower of Glass, even though it is a somewhat flawed novel. Silverberg's reputation has been increasing by leaps and bounds in recent years and he should win that Best Novel award soon. Possibly next year with Son of Man. But not this year.

Best Novella: Fritz Leiber might just be the most popular science fiction writer today. He won this award last year with "Ship of Shadows", as well as this year's Nebula for Ill Met in Lankmar". He should win the Hugo as well, although it will be close. "Beastchild" should provide the closest competition, although Clifford Simak has to be considered a definite possibility since he is Guest of Honor at the Con.

Best Short: R. A. Lafferty - fervor is running high in fandom and "Cont'd on Next Rock" will probably win this award just bec ause everybody likes Lafferty and everybody thinks that he should win a Hugo. Whether it is the Best Short Fiction of 1970 is another matter indeed. Gordon Dickson's "Jean Dupres" should be runnerup.

Best Drama: If enough pelple saw "No Blade of Grass", it will win the award. I really can't see any of the other nominees getting enough votes though. There's a real possibility of NO AWARD here.

Best Prozine: F&SF is the favorite here, with Analog second. However, if enough people decide to vote for Amazing instead of F&SF, they could split the vote and Analog mjight win.

Best Pro Artist: The Dillons have been receiving quite a bit of publicity for their Ace Special covers and should win easy here. If Analog wins Best Prozine, however, it just might carry Kelly Freas to Best Pro Artist with it.

Best Fanzine: A tough one to pick. SFR's two previous Hugos might cost it the

victory; by the same token, Geis' decision to fold the fanzine might provide it with enough sentimental votes to win. In either case, it will be either SFR or LOCUS. I'll gamble on LOCUS.

Best Fan Writer: Another tossup, this time between Liz Fishman and Dick Geis. There are a lot of people who don't read YANDRO which could hurt Liz's chances. The same two factors as I mentioned above could decide this one. I'll pick Geis. A possible dark horse might be Ted Pauls, especially if Liz and Dick (heh! heh!) split the vote between them.

Best Fan Artist: Why are the fan categories always so much tougher to pick than the pro categories? Here it will be either Alicia Austin or Bill Rotsler. I think Alicia will win because Rotsler's style will turn many voters off as being purely frivolous, while Austin's work seems to ooze importance.

Any comments?

FISHER

BM 3 Ron Fisher
1st Div. USS Guam LPH 9
FPO New York 09501
June 7, 1971

Well, TB 67 arrived about 2 days ago and I've finally gotten some free time to write and comment. "Course I don't know if this will reach Frank by the 15th. (Our mail is taking 7 days to get to the East coast, heaven knows how long it will take for the west one) In case you're interested I'm on a summer tour of the Mediteranean. Right now we're in Athens, Greece, and I've been having a ball - in port, at sea, well . . .

Oh, yea, back to TB - Though it seemed a bit thin, I'm glad to say that I feel Frank and Chuck are doing a terrific job and are very able editors to take over the fantastic job Gary was doing. And Chuck's comments are very good.//Thanking you. ccr//

As far as the editing question, I think Stan spelled it out pretty well. Like I tend to go off on tangents and just ramble on and letters like that should be edited('sides my spelling is terrible and my grammer not so hot, too).

And for all you budding writers whom I shook with the threat that I was going to write - feel rel relieved. I intend to restrict my writings to screen-plays. I am going to try and make movies in the near future.

I need some help - due to my being some 6,000 miles from home and my Dallas Con bullitens at afore mentioned home, I don't have an address to apply to the Boston Con on Labor Day. I recently (2 weeks ago) found out for sure Ill be returned to the state the last day of August and will be able to attend. So, - can somebody send me info or an address where I can get info on the Con, hotel, etc.//See Alma Hill's June 12 letter. ccr//

Also, how about the address for Locus so I can pick up the strings of Javelom before I get out.

Question: who did the record album "Don't Crush That Dwarf, Hand Me the Pliers"?
Guess that's it.

MULDOWNEY

Phil Muldowney
7, The Elms,
Stoke, Plymouth,
Devon, England
June 9, 1971

Thanks very much for TB 67, and a very well produced zine, it really looks quite professional. Unfortunately, I wish I could say the same for the letters. It is some time since I found a TB so unutterably dull as the letters in this one.

Maybe it is just me in a cantankerous mood, but so many of the letters in TB never go into any subject in any deep or more interesting way. Too often, most of the letters are sort of a continual one sentence rejoinder to the letters of the past issue. While it may make for brevity of letters, it does not lead to many interesting letters.

On the subject of editing, I myself look on TB as an open forum, and not a letter column. My personal viewpoint being that when you send a LOC into an ordinary fanzine, then, you expect it to be hacked about, as it is the editor's own magazine. But TB is the club debating chamber, and therefore, as such, I think letters should be very little edited. //I'll drink to that, Phil. ccr// Of course, obvious extraneous material, such as was in TB 66 should be edited out. The sort of "Hiya folks, its a glorious day heree. . ." opening.

The rumours that the prozines are all about to fall apart, are particularly rife this year. The various editors would have us cry corcodile tears if they all fold, and I myself would regret it if they did. Yet on examining my own attitude, I find it is mostly nostalgia, rather than an avid interest in the 1971 prozines. In an editorial a couple of issues back, Ted White was crying on his readers shoulders about the state of the sf magazines. Yet he failed to realise, that after all, the magazines are in fact a business. If they fail to make a profit, i.e., if they fail to make their product attractive enough to get a profitable circulation, then do they deserve to survive? There is the argument that the sf prozines are literate gems that should be subsidised, because they provide a worthwhile service in literature. Yet would anybody accuse IF under ELKAR JAKOBSSON of being literate????

Again, the sf magazines blame their falling sales on poor distribution. Well, surely it is their own fault. After all, they are running a business, and if they fail to distribut their product properly, then they can only suffer the consequences. Okay, Neffers, let's have some concrete reasons, apart from emotional regret, why the sf magazines should survive!

I see from the latest LOCUS, that there are already a 1,000+ fans registered for the NorEasCon. The mind boggles. Personally, I would not really like to attend a con with so many people. For me, at least, part of the fascination of conventions, is meeting and talking with old friends, and perhaps asking your favourite author a few questions. Yet with 1,500 or so people at a con, how ever can you even find anybody, let alone strike up a conversation with a pro author. Of course, there are about 350 SFIA members, if they all attend, you could get a third each! Maybe there is a case against conventions getting too big.

HILL "2"

Alma Hill
463 Park Drive
Boston, Massachusetts 02215
June 12, 1971

This is from your representative to this year's World sf convention. Now it is already late for advance information, since people go away for the summer, the college addresses blank out, and the mail is about as reliable as usual these days.

(Not long ago one of the Exchangers was reported "Moved, no address" by the letter carrier, and he was right there as we soon found out; we always check back.

So, for those who get to read this, here is a summary of basic data plus whatever else is new. Carbon copies meanwhile are going to the President, Secretary, The TNFF editor and the convention chairman. They will have no time to retort, probably, but at least they won't have to be worrying about what I'll say next; they'll already know.

The Noreascon committee has been especially kind to us this year. We used to have to rent our own clubroom, but for the past dozen years it has become customary for concons to give us free space out of whatever the convention hotel gives them. But, the location has been last minute catch-as-catch-can. This year they planned early enough to let us know. We can find one another in Room Exeter-A, right on the main convention floor. The dimensions of this room are 20' X 14' which is just about a good roomy size for a club lounge, without getting so large as to seem too institutional. Depending on what the hotel help can and will do for us (an it is advisable to tip; all hotel help consider tips part of their fair wages, porters no exception) we will have this set up as a conversation lounge. We may get stuck with folding chairs but will try to do better and can be reasonably sure of a bulletin board for maps of the convention floor and city, any messages, and program pages for people who lose theirs.

Additional information such as reference books for writers and bibliographical aids for collectors would fit in, and what can be done, shall be. We should make extra efforts along these lines, for we always want to be an asset to the convention, and our customary coffee pot is not allowed by the convention hotel. A room on the convention floor usually does rule out refreshments unless the hotel thakes charge, and they all charge unbelievable prices nowadays. Also, conventions, even regionals, are getting big. Noreascon reports near a thousand already-signed members. Meanwhile our numbers don't grow. Books we can supply - refreshments of other kinds may never become practical again. This year coffee is out of the question. The best advice I can offer to people on a short budget is to pack plenty of space rations in their luggage.

The Boston Public Library has a fan - actually a number of them, but one in particular especially able to help - Miss Manthorne in charge of Readers' Services for young people. I have petitioned her for some reading lists to add to our Message and Information Center, to make this a special feature (as it often has been, just stressed more this year). She says they are already in preparation. She has gone off to the librarians' convention which is in Dallas this year, so naturally I sent her the last Dallas publication in hopes they will fill her in on data. Those librarians only read books; magazines and fanzines seem to go over their heads. Miss Manthorne is thinking seriously of some book displays in glass cabinets if the hotel can lend those, and they probably can. We may not have room for those ourselves, so just expect whatever you see. However, this is a good strong idea. Rare books and ancient fantasy, with handsom format and illos would be very interesting, and so would be a display of collectors' references.

Personally, I'm just making up whatever I can in the way of paperback references for writers. These can be used right there and if any are lost, small harm done and no complaints called for. As for valuable items in display cases, the hotel has security men for the Art Show already, and the convention is spending some of its funds for extra guards - previous conventions have been bitten too hard and too often to be very lightminded about valuables. So, we will NOT add this to our OWN responsibilities, but rather risk whatever we can easily afford.

I've held off direct questions to the hotel, not wishing to get underfoot, as it is always our policy to be friendly but independent, a sort of cousin and guest

organization. They have problems enough without confusions from us. So, whether we'll be open around the clock is something we won't know in advance. In any case I myself will absolutely not be available in evening hours. My health will not allow this. Advance preparations so far okay. Also, reports from my doctor's checkups are more and more encouraging. But, I fade easily. Stan knows this; he just couldn't get anybody else for this job this year, which is somebody's loss; the convention representative has more fun than a human being, I mean this in all good earnest. I hope that all Neffers will consider themselves my deputy in making all visitors welcome and providing plenty of conversation. We always do that anyway so if we need an extra spurt this year, it will surely be forthcoming; you're just being alerted as much as possible beforehand.

To make sure the club lounge is set up as well as possible, I have looked for a chief deputy, with no luck so far. I can't ask just anyone, of course. But my son, Mike Hill, who just-reads-the-stuff and knows too much about fandom to take much responsibility except with what he owns (such as me) came suddenly to life when he heard about the program item, a discussion of robots between The Asimov and Cliff Simak, two writers he respects as much as any fan alive. Now Mike knows the hotel and neighborhood, as he runs computers in the Prudential Tower, know people thereabouts, and will be around at convention time. So, whether or not I can be on hand at all, all plans are in safe hands. He has also given me some information about restaurants, which I pass on as follows:

The Sheraton-Boston coffee shop is open around the clock and around the week, never closes. Coffee and one doughnut will cost you fifty cents and other prices are in proportion - but everything is reliably good. The menu at late hours is better than they promise. It is easy to find either inside the hotel or from the Prudential Plaza, which it looks out on through window-walls. Escalators either way. (The downscalators are so fast I consider them an adventure; there are also stairs. No elevator problem whatsoever.)

The very best nearby place for breakfast, lunch and supper is Ken's, but a good deal of a walk, all the way to Copley Square. Prices are fair though no good place is really cheap. For a sandwich between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m., there is a cocktail lounge called The Office, quite handy to the hotel, right across on the Boylston Street side, which is well lighted and considered reasonably safe at all hours, as much as any place in any large moder city. (There is a police station just a few buildings up on the same side. Local people don't explore the Huntington Avenue side except in groups. No offense to civic pride intended. Just mentioning facts. It is far from the worst part of the city for crime rates, at that; and statistically the sightseers do best to work to the north of the hotel, rather than the south. St ill and all, both the YMCA and the YWCA are located nearby in that direction, not to mention Symphony Hall and the famous buildings of the Christian Science Mother Church.) At any rate, The Office serves huge sandwiches and delicious food at the best prices you can find for good quantity and quality. However, the seating space is small and Saturday evenings overcrowded. Of course, any place in town is overcrowded at a weekday noon hour, but the holiday weekend should leave lots of room most places. Mike also mentions favorably a restaurant calle The Marquee, which is open later at night. He says that some of the others are best not mentioned at all. As for the hotel's restaurants, they are all excellent but you should bring money; all but the coffee shop cost an arm and a leg. These views of prices may be purely Yankee cautions, of course. Hmm, I almost forgot a nice little coffee shop, called the Pewter Pot, specializing in muffins. There are many competent ones, of course - but not as handy as the hotel coffee shop and hardly less expensive.

Boston is a great sightseeing city, and, of course, we'll have plenty of maps and suggestions for those who plan an extended stay. For those who can't, the one best bargain for your time is to cross the Plaza and go up to the Skywalk atop the big tower. Make sure there are no clouds up there before you go; it collects clouds

like a mountain. The view is spectacular, both out to sea beyond the harbor islands and all around inland to lue hills, miles and miles and miles. For those who can explore farther, this is also a good way to orient one's map tracks. This old city is full of unexpected turns. Hikers who like the outdoors can cross Commonwealth Avenue (it's like going through a time tunnel between that the the Prudential architecture which looks like a sf magazine cover from the thirties) to the Charles River Explanade; or you can follow Boylston Street across Massachusetts Avenue to the Fenway and so to the famous Gardner Art Museum, perhaps this country's most fabulous for concentrated Renaissance art, which no artist should miss - oh, well. And it's an easy walk, less than ten minutes, to the Boston Public Library in Copley Square.

About our customary annual meeting, an informal discusssion where no final decisions are possible, but much can be mooted by those able to attend; our best hour will be on noon on Sunday. The program of events is not yet clear but they rarely start anything official before 1 or 2 p.m. We might have to back down to 11 a.m. and can post a sign in our Communication Center if that should happen, but the chance is remote. I'll plan to be in the coffee shop; for a late breakfast at 11 a.m. and suggest that for early gatherers. Then please bring ideas about how to run this club if you have any, and who doesn't, to our club room, Exeter-A, on the same floor level, 12 moon, Sunday, September 5.

Just one thing more, in case you can't go, and for that matter in case I can't. It has always been, to me, an honor and privilege as well as a pleasure to serve the NFFF, as best I can; this time the same.

CCR'S SPACE FILLER //ccr's space filler//

Since January I have been sitting at my typewriter - madly trying to get the letters that I received from you nice people on to a stencil and then on to a piece of paper.

I feel that I have a couple of things that I would like to say without having to but into anyone's letters.

I really have enjoyed hearing from people from all over the world. It has been interesting to try to imagine what they look like and what their lives are like. I have often wondered if a person's real personality comes out in his letter writing. I know, for myself, that I "sound" much different when I'm writing a paper for graduate school than I do when I sit down to write a letter to someone.

I do, however, have a few gripes that I would like to get off of my chest this one time. You can't imagine how difficult it is to read some of the letters that I get. The typed ones are almost as bad as the handwritten ones. It would sure help my old 47 year old eyes if you could be a little more careful with the preparation of the letters. Of course, I don't expect manuscripts but something I can interpret - please?

Secondly - some of you have complained because the letters are so dull. Agreed. But, who's to blame? Even though I did get a little upset with one of the letters in this issue, I must admit it is direct, controversial, stimulating. Why don't we have some more along that line (Just don't hit the poor ed and pub too hard)

Thirdly, - I think that we have the editing problem solved.

Lastly, what is this fetish that everyone has about the P. O? I get the feeling that everyone is hung up on this one subject. There must be something more interesting to write about than bad-mouthing the P. O.!!! Thanks for listening.
ccr//

LATENEFFERNEWS

SCIENCE FICTION BOOK REVIEW INDEX

One of our Neffers, Hal Hall, has just completed SFBRI, the Science Fiction Book Review Index, 1970. In it are listed the information on 1484 reviews of 961 books from the prozines, Library Journal, Publishers Weekly and three or four fanzines. The index has been printed by multilith, has card stock covers, is stapled and taped. Cover art is by Moffitt. This could be an extremely valuable tool for librarians, collectors, and fans in general. It is available for \$1, postpaid, from Hal Hall, 3608 Meadow Oaks Lane, Bryan, TX 77801.

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY BUREAU REPORTS

Irvin Koch, head of the Membership Activity Bureau, writes with the following information. MemAc questionnaires will NOT be paid for return postage after June 1. Irvin's address after June 8, 1971 is 835 Chattanooga Bank Bldg., Chattanooga, TN 37402. Irvin would like anyone, ANYONE, with suggestions toward a Standard Operating Procedure for the Bureau to please write him. And finally he is seeking volunteers, two steps forward, please. He'd like you to refer to the March issue of TNFF for further information.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Gary Mattingly, 7529 Grandview Ave., Overland Park, KS 66204
Roger Vanous, 4051 - 5th St. N.E., Minneapolis, MN 55421
Irvin Koch, 835 Chattanooga Bank Bldg., Chattanooga, TN 37402
Rick Brooks, RR #1, Box 167, Fremont, IN 46737

COLLECTOR'S BUREAU CHANGES HANDS

Stan Woolston reports that he had written to Ned Brooks to find out the status of the Collector's Bureau. Ned replied, "I am forced to admit that I will probably never get another CB out; I have lost the zeal to publish." He has recommended very highly Mike Scott, who has plans to publish the Bulletin bi-monthly and wants to have feature articles as well as a buy-sell-trade column "much like Caz's ad section in ERB-dom." Presumably Mike is lining up the first issue now. Write to Mike Scott, Box 2043, Alhambra, CA 91803.

WELCOMITTEE TO REMAIN IN HOGUE'S HANDS

Originally Rose Hogue took on the task of Bureau Head for the Welcomittee with the understanding that it would be for half the year, and that Jim Corrick would take over at that point. Jim writes that he has corresponded with Rose and she is willing to continue. Jim keeps busy: "A number of things are in the works at the moment that are taking up more time than I anticipated and I just do not feel that I can do the post justice and therefore think it best if Rose, who has done a good job, continue on. Myself, I've started writing again, working on my bibliographical zine, studying for M.A. orals, getting ready for teaching this fall, and of course, working on my coursework."

GNOMOCLAVE A SUCCESS

The Gnomoclave was declared a smashing success. This was the convention held at the Andrew Johnson Hotel in Knoxville on the weekend of June 11-13. Kelly Freas was GØH and Andy Offut was MC. Irvin Koch and Jim Corrick III were the two co-chairmen, although Jim says that Irvin was the chief organizer and worker.

The total attendance at the con was 58 people, of which all had a good time. Friday, June 11, was registration and a party that evening in which Andy Offut and Kelly Freas graciously allowed themselves to be on public display.

The program the next day began at 10:00 with a panel on Fantastic Inventions. Panel members were Andy Offut (moderator), Kelly Freas, Dr. J.C. Pigg (from Oak Ridge and whose official title is inventor), and Dr. J. Tillman. There were

interesting comments made by the panel members, particularly offut's recital on the necessity for scientific double-talk when writing for some publishers. Many interesting comments from the audience as well. After lunch Kelly Freas gave a talk on how he went about preparing a cover illustration. This was followed by offut's talk on writing, during which he read one of his short stories, "Symbiote" from the December, 1970 issue of Dapper.

After this there was trivia contest whose questions seemed to be too obscure to judge by audience non-reaction. After dinner, there was short Hobbit costume party with only a few in costume, during which a tape of two Bradbury stories' was played. They were from the X Minus One broadcasts. The evening ended in a series of parties, the one in Kelly Freas' room consisting mostly of people waiting for Kelly to draw caricatures of them. These were most enthusiastically received.

Only Irvin Koch had much in the way of books to sell. However, Kelly brought a whole horde of original cover art, which sold quite well. Also Morris Scott Dollens had sent four of his beautiful astronomical landscapes, all of which were there for bidding and all of which sold.

There is some hope that there will be a second Gnomoclave next year, put on by a group from the Tri-Cities area led by Len Collins.

DEEP SOUTH CON NINE

The Deep South Con Nine committee (chairmen: John Guidry and Rick Norwood; Secretary-Treasurer, Lynne Norwood - 6002 Chef Menteur Hwy., Apt. 219, New Orleans, LA 70120) has finally gotten out flyers and southern members no longer have to depend upon rumors. It is to be held at the Monteleone Hotel, 214 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70140, whose rates are very reasonable; \$14 for a single; \$22 for a double. GOH is Poul Anderson and Fan GOH is Fred Patten. Dates are August 26-30; the weekend before Noreascon.

SOUTHERN FANDOM CONFEDERATION ON THE MOVE

The Southern Fandom Confederation under Meade Frierson is trying to provide some base for increasing fannish activity in the south. Meade has already published one list of Southern fans and addresses by states, as well as fan clubs and con information. Now he is working on a revised list and is always interested in any information on southern fans. Please write to Meade Frierson III, 3705 Woodvale Rd., Birmingham, Alabama 35223.

JIM CORRICK III TO PUBLISH A BIBLIOGRAPHIC FANZINE

Jim Corrick III is publishing a fanzine, CORRELATION, that is a specialty zine aimed at people interested in bibliography. The first issue was an index by title of the serials to have appeared in ASTOUNDING/ANALOG with additional information on cover and interior artists, pseudonyms used by the authors, publication date, first hardback and first paperback publication with appropriate title changes. In either the second or third issue will appear an index of covers, both magazine and book, done by Kelly Freas.

TAFF BALLOTS ARRIVE LATE

TAFF ballots finally arrived with the latest Locus of June 18. By the time you receive this, it will be too late to vote, but not too late to contribute. Running for TAFF are Peter Weston, Terry Jeeves, Per Insulander, and Mario Bosnyak.

UNIVERSE 1 HITS STANDS

What may be another paperback magazine (see Phil Muldowney's letter) has hit the stands. Edited by Terry Carr, UNIVERSE 1 has some mighty fine stories, all originals. Our own Neffer, Ed Bryant, has two stories. Others included are Silverberg, Russ, Goulart, Pangborn, Benford, Eklund, Tucker, Effinger, Malzberg, Lafferty and Conway. Look for it. And especially, read Ed's two stories.