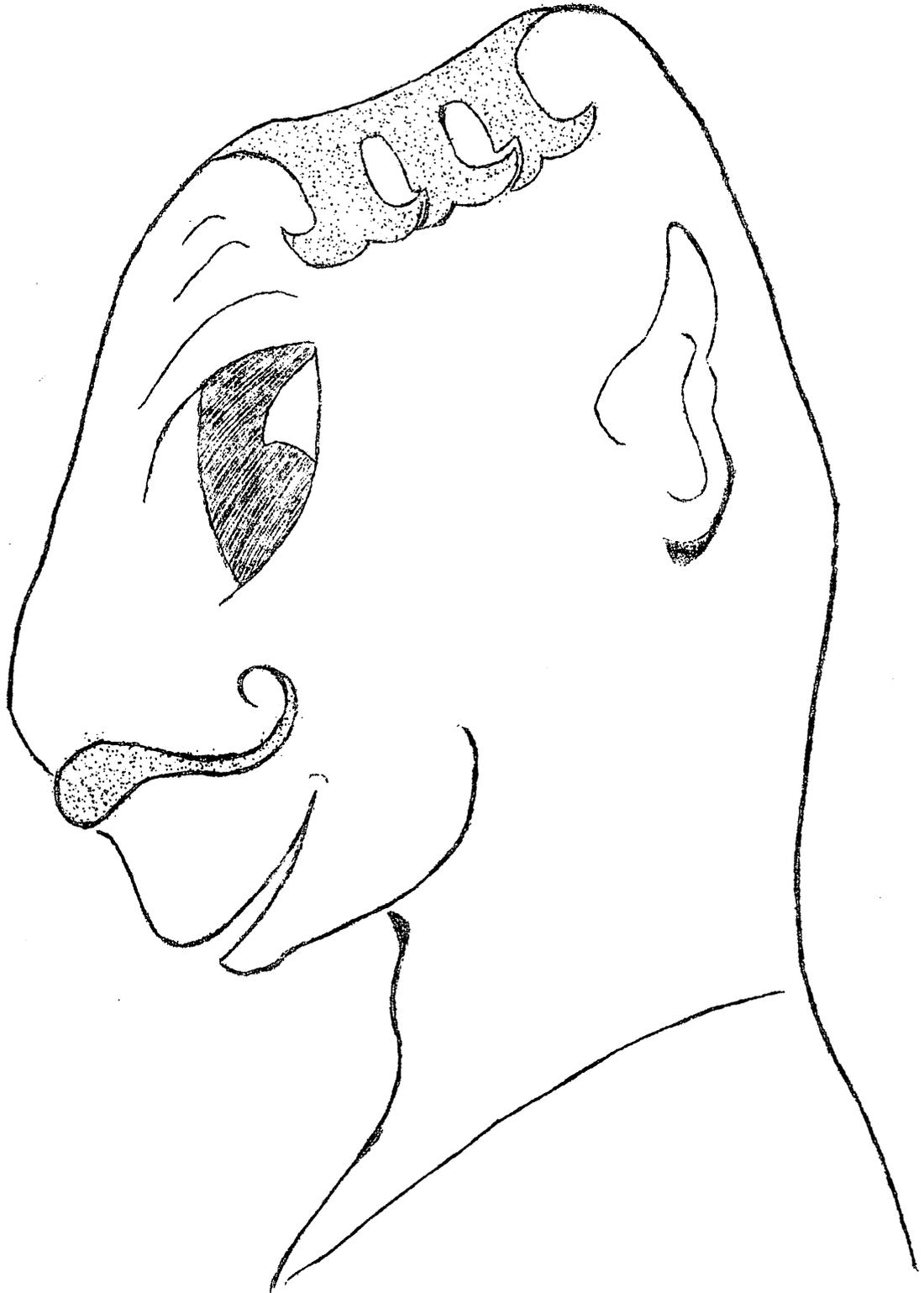


TIGHTBEAM

74

9/72



Tightbeam # 74

The letter and opinion zine of The National Fantasy Fan Federation.

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Tightbeam is published by Joe D. Siclari, 1607 McCaskill Ave., Apt. # 3, Tallahassee, Fl. 32304, for the NFFF in January, March, May, July, September, November of each year. Tb is distributed free to members of the NFFF and for trade for other fanzines. Also to persons who are mentioned if addresses are known. All persons who are mentioned in Tightbeam, whether NFFF members or not, are invited to comment.

If you or your organization would like to have an announcement presented to a sizable body of fans, send your information to Tb and it will be printed (space permitting, of course). Whenever there is a need, Tb will have additional pages for news or other items of fannish interest.

Please send all changes of address to me as well as to Janie Lamb. This could keep you from missing issues of Tb.

All letters that are intended for Tightbeam should be so marked. If not marked they will not usually go into Tb. I have quite a few correspondents and publish other fanzines so please mark that a letter is for Tb.

Editorial:

This is where I get to speak out without getting interrupted by all your letters.

Tightbeam as I say elsewhere in this issue is basically what the members make it. The so-called editor is basically just publisher. I will try to make some hopefully interesting features in the issues I pub. Let me know what you think. If issues go over the fee N3F is willing to pay per issue I'll absorb it for a while. In the meantime I will try to put some art in future issues (I have art for this ish but it would delay pubbing and I'm already late), The NFFF Bureau, and a few other things I have to work out. Let me know what you think of these things.

I

In her letter, Dorothy Jones states that she always liked TNFF better than Tb. I have too and that is one of the reasons I asked to edit Tb. I think it can be much more interesting. That's it for Tb.

Many of you are probably wondering where they found me to edit this zine. Well, I've been in N3F about 5 years, active mainly in correspondence, Tape Bureau and Wc. About a year ago I pubbed my first fanzine, unterHelios and when Stan said he needed a Tb pubber I volunteered. I've had some other fanac with other fanzines but few fans had heard of me before uh! Now, only slightly fewer fans haven't heard of me.

Since I am going to send Tightbeam out to all who are mentioned in the ish (if I have their addresses) I will also open it up to a response by any of them who would care to say something to the N3F or its members. If you have an announcement that you'd like spread around or news or anything just send it to me and I'll put it in Tb.

I'll try to put two other features in Tb but these will also depend on what I get from others. The two are a fanzine listing and a con listing. If you have a zine or are on a con committee send stuff here so I can get it into next ish. Deadline for #75 will be Sept. 15, 1972.

Tb 74 will be mailed on Aug. 3. Now I can get back to work on the next ish of unterHelios. I want to get some done before I leave on a con trip. I'll be going to the ATLANTISCON and to LACon and want to meet people. I hope to see some of you at the cons.

Last thing--if you don't have anyone to vote for, vote for me for the directorate. I'll be running with the following intentions:

- a) I'd like to see N3F expand and therefore we should have an expansion in publicity.
- b) N3F needs an increase in dues to \$3.00/year. I realize this will be unpopular to many but it is necessary.
- c) Non-neffers should have to pay extra (about \$1.00) to join N3F Bureaus.
- d) Starting a new Bureau for SF & Fantasy Film Fans.

That should do for now. I'd like to hear from all of you. That would be some issue of Tightbeam!! If you have a fanzine I'd like to trade for my unterHelios. (If you are a non-neffer I'll trade both Tb and uh! for your zine if you want.)

Until next issue,

Good luck,
JoeD

Sheryl Birkhead, 23629 Woodfield Rd., Gaithersburg, Md. 20760

//This is not really a TIGHTBEAM letter from Sheryl but I decided to put part of it in Tb://

Gary just sent me TNFF and the last issue of Tb -- somehow I haven't been getting the zines and I've been misplacing the letters I wrote to find out what happened. Anyway, thought I ought to at least write a note to welcome you as editor and wish you all the luck in the world!!

I'm not really an artist, but if you need art or something, let me know and I'll try to help out...Hope to see a good year for the zine and don't hesitate to ask if you think I can help. Can't wait to see what kind of a personality you give to Tb! Best of luck!!!

//Sheryl, if everyone, or even half, the people I've met in N3F were as willing to help out, this would be the most exciting group of people. It is still pretty good with those do take an active part. As for personality of the zine, I'll let that form as it grows but I'm sure some of the members will be considering me a grouch because when I answer anything in Tb it will usually be in disagreement. If I agree I might say I agree but will rarely elaborate further. Thanks for the welcome and I'll be sure that your Tb is in the mail soonest!//

Frank Denton, 14654 - 8th Ave. S.W., Seattle, Wa. 98166

I guess I have to take exception to Larry Neilson's letter in the last Tb. Or at least to a portion of it. And I have mixed emotions about doing so. It's something like hanging out the dirty wash, for one thing. And Secondly I like to consider myself a friend of Larry's and I want to keep it that way. So I hope he'll accept this as a friendly rebuttal. Thirdly, having been the OE of N'APA for two years and having been a continuous member of the apa since June of '68, I have some pride in the outfit and don't wish to see it unjustly maligned. Problems it has had from time to time, but for all that, it's been and continues to be a good apa.

Larry seems to have two complaints concerning N'APA: too slow and too many crudzines. I suspect that in relationship to slowness, one has to relate to what one knows or is familiar with. It seems that a quarterly apa, which is what N'APA is, determines a different relationship among the members and requires a different style of zine than that of a monthly apa. I currently belong to apas which are tri-weekly, monthly, bi-monthly and quarterly. Each one requires a particular mental set and determines not only the style of the individual contributions, but the format, contents, whether or not there will be artwork, etc. If an individual is more familiar with the rapid sort of give-and-take correspondence flavor of the monthly apa, he may not be too pleased with the leisurely non-connective pace of the quarterly. But others find it exactly right to fit their mood and the level of activity in which they wish to participate. I suppose I take a traditionalist's approach to the question of making it more frequent. There are other apas which one can join for the rapid activity. N'APA was designed to be a quarterly, more slowly paced apa and I feel there are few of these left for those who wish that kind of activity.

Now, for the question of crudzines. I suppose a common, acceptable definition might help. Where there is more than one person gathered in the name of science fiction, you will find more than one definition. Generally there are two criteria for a crudzine; poor reproduction and poor writing.

I suppose there have been zines which have fit one or both of these criteria which have shown up in N'APA from time to time. Remember that often the neo first enters apa fandom through N'APA, or the fan with a couple of years of other fannish activity begins to publish for the first time. Genzines of high quality do not spring full-blown from the nimble typing fingers and fertile brains of newcomers. Or rarely so. It takes a while to gain some skill. And N'APA is a good place to learn. With an open mind the members can accept a little crud and help the editor in the development of his zine. It takes a little kindly encouragement rather than a monumental put down.

One of N'APA's problems is the substantial turnover of members. A couple of reasons spring readily to mind. One is that a new publisher may determine that publishing is a little bit more work or a little harder than he or she thought. (An aside here, I wish there were more gals doing zines either in apas or in genzines.) The other reason people drop out of N'APA is that they go over to bigger and better zines and their zine turns out to be a genzine. Some people manage to do both, stay in an apa and do a genzine.

N'APA membership is restricted to members of NFFF and as such is never going to be a FAPA or a SAPS. That's a limitation of sorts, but doesn't necessarily make it a bad thing. Some people are hung up on page count and like to see huge mailings with several hundred pages. Hurray!! I'm much more interested in a well-balanced zine that is enjoyable to read. Total pages is only indicative of a lot of members who want to devote a lot of time to their zine.

I'm as eager as anyone to see N'APA improve. But rather than criticize what we've got, I'd like to encourage anyone who is even slightly interested in pubbing to get in touch with our current OE, David K. Patrick, and give N'APA a try. 12 pages a year doesn't require an awful lot of time and it's easy to do 6 pages every quarter. You get out of an apa what you put into it. Ask some of the old timers, D.K.Patrick, Stan Woolston, Kaymar Carlson, Ed Connor, Art Hayes, if they find it enjoyable. I think that they'll tell you that it is.

I'm sorry to jump so hard on this topic, but I've been involved for four years and have a vested interest in seeing N'APA not only survive, but become even better and more active than it has been in the recent past. Larry's letter would have you believe that N'APA is tottering toward an early grave. Nay, it's not so. It's not at full membership, but it's far from empty.

Tom Drake, # 4K, U.S.U. Apts., Logan, Utah 84321

//This was forwarded to me by Gary and while it is not a letter it is of interest to some of the members.//

MIDGARD 2

Some time ago, a fellow in England started designing a sword-and-sorcery war game which he called 'Midgard' to be played by mail with 30 or so players and a gamemaster. I was fascinated by his game and, with his consent, have designed a variation on it.

My game, which I'll call 'Midgard 2' until someone suggests a better name, is primarily a fantasy game, and secondarily a medieval wargame. The large

majority of the board is unknown to any one player at game start. More information can be obtained by traveling, or by buying (or otherwise acquiring) maps. Scattered throughout the board are treasure boards, magical weapons, spells and bits of old lore, other players, and magical creatures of all sorts which may be any combination of useful, useless, dangerous, or harmless.

Players are divided into 3 main types: Rulers, Heroes, and Wizards. In addition, a player may choose to be some other type, such as a "Wandering Minstrel", as long as it doesn't result in a "super-character" who can do everything (Heroic Wizard-King).

Rulers are players who control a relatively large kingdom. They levy taxes (too stiff and the population may revolt), raise armies, attack and assimilate other countries (either Ruled countries or minor ones), send out exploration expeditions, start colonies, etc.

Heroes are basically of the Conan or Grey Mouser type: footloose warriors and adventurers. Their main expertise is in warfare, both personal combat and leading armies. They increase the combat value of any army they lead by a sizeable fraction and this fraction increases with experience (# of victories). Heroes may, among other things, hire themselves out to a Ruler to lead his army (but the Ruler better watch out because, after several victories, the army may switch allegiance to the Hero). He may also hire, or otherwise acquire, an army of his own and carve out a kingdom for himself, wander about tracking down hoards of treasure, magical weapons, and killing any guardian dragons, or simply go adventuring (and, as game-master (GM), I can promise plenty of adventure!).

Wizards also start out footloose. Their experience is, of course, magic. They start out about equal in power and spells. Power can be increased through finding certain artifacts - spells come from the Old Lore (both can also be obtained from other Wizards if you can get them at a disadvantage). Other artifacts also give certain specialized powers, such as skinchanging. Wizards, too, may hire out to a ruler (or anyone else) to help in battles, etc. They may hire an army and try to acquire a kingdom, or wander in search of adventure, Old Lore, artifacts, or magical animals.

One of the basic rules of the game is innovate. Use your imagination. The rules are simply the norm, a set of guidelines expressing the underlying physical, economic, and natural laws. If you want something, or want to do something, not covered in the rules, suggest it to me and, if it doesn't violate the basic tenets of the game, we'll work out a set of rules between us to cover cost, effectiveness, etc. In addition much of the Old Lore, most of the clues, and all of the oracles will be ambiguous and/or incomplete, requiring intelligence and shrewd guesswork to extract useful information (the info will be there, but I'll do my best to scramble it and to bury it in extraneous miscellaneous. The game, in theory, is endless. However, players may drop out any time and rejoin later with a new character, or simply build an impregnable castle (or find a remote hideout), write a set of standing orders and retire as long as they wish. There is no penalty for not moving unless another player is handicapped because of it. The "penalty" involved is just my using your standing orders to move you in a way that seems reasonable to me, but may not have been to your liking.

If the game sounds interesting, write me at the above address and please enclose 50¢. This will cover the costs of printing and postage (it'll come out in several installments). I've got the rough draft finished, and I'll get each section typed, printed and mailed out as fast as I can. The

first 30 who ask to may play at gamesstart. Others may go on a waiting list to enter the game later (via Witch World type gates) or as a replacement for a dropout. I'll also pass the names on the waiting list on to anyone else who starts a similar game, and do the same for player's names upon request. If you are interested, please let me hear from you soon.

Robert ARCEE Gersman, 3135 Pennsylvania, St. Louis, Mo. 63118

Good luck in your new venture, Tightbeam.

Larry Nielson -- I see we're getting a Nielson rating just like TV. Oh, I'm sorry your not him; he doesn't seem to like anything either.

If you didn't take time to write to the bureaus, how do you know it would have been a waste of time. Because you have not been deluged with letters from all and sundry bureau heads included, just because you're a new member does not mean it is apathy. We'd write a lot of wasted letters to a lot of people who might not even be interested in our particular bureau. We'll be glad to help you if you let us know.

Our club is irrelevant. N'APA is full of crudzines. We now have in our midst a crudzine expert. So you only joined N'APA out of morbid curiosity. A masochist, subjecting yourself to self-contamination from our polluted crudzines. Sounds like you enjoy it. A crudzine is usually a matter of opinion. What you like and what you don't like. All apas have crudzines but not all apazines are crud. Someone has a different opinion, so his zine is a crudzine. An apa index, your putting out all that herculean labor and you can't expand a little more energy to find out more about us. For shame.

Next time you come to a con a full 100 page dossier on NFFF will be waiting for you. Ha! SEE YOU IN THE NEXT APATHETIC ISSUE OF Tightbeam.

Cuyler Brooks -- I haven't received my Collectors Bulletin as yet either. //Ned is no longer heading the Collectors Bureau nor pubbing CB, Argee. Mike Scott has taken over that bureau so maybe you should write to him.//

Ken Scher -- I gave Eli a letter full of egoboo, maybe not all but no destructive criticism. So far though, have only heard from Eli Cohen and Irvin Koch. These faneds are really something. One would think that every one of their fanzines are Hugo material the way they stick up their noses at amateur material. If some of them would realize that they are amateurs, too, and try to help other amateurs, each would help to improve the others' status. The Pros' are more sympathetic and knowing how hard it is to get to the top, help out faneds, once in a while, not because the fanzine is such a big deal but just to give them a boost; sometimes risking their hard earned rep in some ordinary everyday run-of-the-mill fanzine. Right away the faned gets a swelled head and advertises all over that so and so pro is in his possible Hugo candidate zine.

//I have a couple of biases against some of the things in your last paragraph. You make some small points with a sledge hammer. A faned doesn't have to be stuck up if he doesn't take everyone's material. He is trying to pub a zine he is proud of. He might even think a piece is good but not think it would fit in his fanzine. I pub my own genzine, unterHelios, which I have just sent to members of the NFAS, but it doesn't mean that I would accept any contribution that one of them might send. It would have to be what I consider well-written and interesting. And my taste might run

backwards to yours. I am always looking for contributors but I don't always accept what they send. Secondly, it is natural for a faned to feel proud to get a pro to contrib. This generally means that the pro thought his work showed promise. I felt proud when a few pros LoCed my first issue. Of course the faned can go overboard but then it might be nice for the more experienced fans to bring him back to Terra, but lightly. JoeD.//

Gary Mattingly -- What happened to my PURPLE JELLYFISH cover? Also my last letter to Tb 73.

Roy Tackett -- Who is Floyd Perley?

Alma Hill -- Gothically yours. Why not a Lady or the Tiger ending? Such as: is he or isn't he a vampire? No plausible explanation.

Elaine --- Three cheers for Wojciechowski. Ignore the SLINGS AND ARROWS OF OUTRAGEOUS SNEARY, ETC., ETC. They sound like a couple of frustrated old bachelors.

Hiller -- Did you fall out of your autogyro? Putting 'Ham' Ellison in a class with anybody. I read DANGEROUS VISIONS and what he picked I couldn't go 1/4 of the way thru the book. Anyone who wants to swap me an August Derleth book, can have the d--n hardbound of Harlan 'Ham' Ellison's DANGEROUS VISIONS.

Rose Hogue --- If you can find the inspiration for the MAD KING, it's even better. Read the PRISONER OF ZENDA by Anthony Hope.

Elinor Poland --- Why not a Robin on why I like John Wayne? Or should it be the other way around? You sounded as if you thought John was a MALE CHAUVINIST PIG. He's still going strong.

Stan Woolston --- Critics are only on one level when it comes to reviewing a book, movie or play. The subject is guilty and has to prove innocence. Like Hanging Judges, the subject is condemned right from the start. //I hope I got the letter right, Argee.//

Rose Hogue, 1067 W. 26th St., San Pedro, Ca. 90813

Sorry I'm so late and I hope I make the deadline. This will be mailed airmail in hopes of getting to Joe on time...and, by the way, Congratulations Joe!! Hope you enjoy this month's editorship! //Hi, Rose. Thanks!//

Larry Nielson --- I'm bored with letters from people bored with the N3F. Let's start a new topic of conversation. okay...? //How is this for a new conversation, Rose ---Is John Wayne a male chauvinist pig? I'll defend his chauvinism against all the female chauvinists in the NFFF. After I convince all of you we can change this into a western fan group and call ourselves the National Freedom Fighters' Federation!//

Also, whenever I get a request for info on repro, either ditto or mimeo, I try to pass it on to someone who can give such info but, to date, I've had exactly one request for such info... So I sort of wonder about the necessity of a booklet of printing advice. Isn't it more personal and easier to just get in touch with people who can give you such advice??

There are so many types of apas that it would be rather difficult to come up with one booklet and also half the fun of an apazine is to experiment

with doing it yourself. I learned how to do an apazine by reading other apazines and then taking something from each of these zines and making it the way I want it to be. I don't mean I stole material but the way the zine was organized.

Roy Tackett -- I'm not altogether sure for why 'Everybody send a picture postcard to Floyd Perley. but I have...in fact I intend to send him several of beautiful San Pedro. By the way, does anyone else out there collect picture postcards? Just curious for I do.

As to Tb being dull, guess that's the fault of the membership.

Just what do you mean by the statement, 'They (in reference to ghosts, magis, psionics, The Supernatural...and such phenomena) are, however, natural manifestations of normal human activity'?? Explain yourself further, Sir! Also, there are those of us who might even dispute your claimsthat these phenomena exist...but I'm not one of them.

To my way of thinking only about 49.999% of today's SF is pure 'Crap' and the rest is something else better. And of course, there always is that delightful inventive 0.001% too....sigh.

Personally I prefer more pro authors writing SF to pro scientist. I prefer something to be well written and interesting rather than overly scientific and dull. For scientific reading one has only to go to pure science magazines such as Scientific American, etc. But don't get me wrong I like a little in inventiveness and explanation of things done correctly but not a whole dissertation or lecture.

Elaine Wojciechowski -- Hi! I'm in full agreement with you --- women's organizations are doing much these days and deserve more praise than they are receiving. There are several groups in our town which are accomplishing something for ecology and are having fun at the same time. One girl scout troop just collected enough aluminum cans for recycling to support the whole treop on a trip to Hawaii. You can just imagine how many cans they collected. This Fall I hope to convince the local PTA to sponsor another paper drive and thus save a few trees as well as reuse some of those otherwise wasted news-papers.

And agree all too few people ever bother to visit t-e resthomes and the aged. My daughter's Sunday School class makes a bi-monthly trip to a local rest home to spread a little sunshine and brighten the old folks' day.

Don't belittle the Birthday Card Project for it accomplishes good when it remembers those people whose birthdays are otherwise forgotten.

Elinor Poland -- I agree with your ideas about robins--it is best to be in more than one, for that way you can see that the personalities of each group differ. Also Story RRs seem to go the way of Art RRs, they just don't last very long but are sure fun while they're going!

Irvin Koch, 835 Chattanooga Bank Bldg., Chattanooga, Tn. 37402

So Larry Nielson is bored with N3F. Big deal. Be glad he has some central point in fandom (supposedly) to broadcast his apa activities. It would be nice if everyone who expected N3F to be their own personal flea circus would do something constructive instead of complain.

As far as the Bu heads not explaining their bureaus, just add that to Tackett's attempt to get them to do it all in one publication which would be a sort of manual of N3F and fannish activities. One problem is many bu heads don't know what to do themselves. Almost every officer in N3F outside the directorate and the president usually waits for people to come to them for something--they don't try to stir activity up since they know most people are apathetic. NFAS and the TapeBu are exceptions, of course, but even there it's an awful lot of work for them to say the same thing over and over again.

The problem with publicity is getting so many members we'd lose all our publishers. It's happened before. Without TNFF and Tb, the bureaus are as good as separate and nearly unknown projects done by individual fen such as the art-clearing-house, some small local groups, etc. Let's see--there may be a way out. 500 copies of a 20 pp. offset TNFF/Tb could be produced and mailed out for about \$170. including collating but not stapling or addressing. Reduce that about \$9. for each of the 10 sheets done on mimeo (but still including collating, which is the true worst part of large run zines). Let's say we go half offset and half mimeo. About \$125. split among 500 members (which we could get with a good advertising campaign at cons) would make the issues cost 25¢ each including postage vs. the approximate 20¢ a copy we are now using. That would work out to about \$3/yr. 1000 copies including postage, collating and stapling would run 30¢/copy for 100% offset. We could probably bring that down a bit with a Bulk mail permit, which would become feasible at 1000 members. My prices are based on a Chattanooga "instant copy" service. They do very good work and there are ones like them in almost every city now. //I have to disagree again. First of all when you are taking your prices into consideration you leave out one important thing: if an issue is offset the type can be reduced to ...say, 50% which would just about cut the size of an issue in half. Not quite half because illos would not usually be reduced. Second, when an issue is half mimeo, the entire issue would have to be collated by the publisher because the mimeo pages would have to be inserted. Third, either you didn't know about the proposed changes in postal rates or decided to ignore them. Rate for 3rd Class which is the way TNFF/Tb usually go has been doubled. This ish, if it is enough pages will probably go book rate. These 3 points would all have to be taken into consideration about any changes in pubbing policy. I actually didn't disagree with your statements, just added more info. As for getting so many members that we wouldn't publish, I think that is a misconception on your part. Not because I, or maybe even Gary, would keep pubbing with 1000 members. I couldn't; not enough time. The misconception, I think is that the N3F would draw so many members. Until about 400 members I would be willing to pub, maybe even a little higher, but I don't think we would keep that many members very long. It's been quite a while since N3F was 500 strong. Anyway, it's about time dues were raised. If we keep mailings at 3rd Class, it will be a necessity.//

Despite his griping, Nielson is more valuable to N3F than 1/2 the other members put together. It would be a shame if he quit as most of our good people have. OK, ideas committee--how do we keep our activists in N3F?

Aside from reliable reports from pro authors that gothics are on the way out, just barely, there is little else to say about Tb 73 except that if everyone keeps the letters like these in 73 coming, we'll be in good shape.

Uh oh, one last thing. 13¢ for 3rd Class postage was on mine and 9 sheets of paper. I can't tell the weight of the paper but 10 sheets of 20 wt. paper are 8¢ third class (without envelope, the way Gary sent mine--which came in fair shape). //Probably the postal rate change I mentioned.//

PS--I can already hear screams at my first statement and the mention of outfits with a bigger circulation than TNFF/Tb. Well, N3F has been around since those

publishers were much much younger and will be here after they are dead. Also, it continues year round, which cons don't do. Also it is less exclusive than apas.

Gary Mattingly, 7529 Grandview Lane, Overland Park, Kansas 66204

I wish to announce that I'm running for office as a Director again. I think that you can see that I am trying to be an active component of the N3F. On the last election some people mentioned that no one really had a platform or any distinguishing characteristics besides wanting to run for office. I don't know if this will help anyone, but I will say that I want to expand the N3F. I want it to grow. I will try to change the bylaws in such a way that the Recruiting Bureau will definitely be enlarged and have more funds available for advertising. I have tried to raise the dues. But, at present, I do not think it will pass the directorate so that it could be put before the members to vote on. I think we need more funds for TNFF and Tb. It would be great if we had more art and more of interest to fandom to put into out zines. Also, if we had more art, an offset produced magazine would be good, I believe. Any comments?

Expansion and better coordination and quality are key words for the N3F. Some of the bureaus do need a little better organization. A steadier interanl state of affairs is needed. In other words, we need people who can and will stay with bureaus and jobs for which they volunteer.

I don't know if what I said helped anyone or not. What are your ideas? Put them in Tightbeam; send them to the Ideas Bureau; help!! And no matter what else you do, be sure to vote.

PS--And don't forget the National Elections. Register Now!

Elinor Poland, 9723 Mockingbird Dr., Omaha, Neb. 68127

I would like to sell off my collection of prozines and pulps. Also get rid of a pile of Doc Savage, Burroughs, juveniles and I even have some comic books in excellent condition that my son wants to sell. There are some books members may have for nothing. I'll be glad to send lists to anyone interested.

David Shank, 30 East Laurel St., Lawrence, Mass., 01843

I've just got through looking over Tb #74 //I hope you mean 73// and must say it reminded me partly of a cross between Gary's Axolotl Exward and what George Beahm published. It's a small issue and that means it didn't take long for me to read it. Herewith I noticed my name and I have comments:

Roe Hogue-- Hello. I read your letter and have to say that Mutual Admiration of this date is officially on round # 3. Grapevine Gamma is on round #2.

If any of you newer members who joined around April and early May are interested, I am trying to start a new robin called Boomerang Beta. The objective of BB is to discuss what you consider interesting--any subjects. It is also a forum for an exchange of ideas and information concerning fandom, science-fiction and fantasy, and life in general. I would like the membership to be between 5-6 (including yours truly) and possibly one of the directors.

The number of pages that you write will depend on what you would like to pay in postage. I would like at least 2 pages but no more than 5. Anything your lil heart desires, we will discuss and I'll comment on them.

Possibly when my other robins fold after 20 rounds or so, I'll start a robin for people on the Continent and England.

Elinor Poland-- Category robins? It sounds like an interesting idea. Put me on Arles when you start it. I can envision a group of 12 such robins called The Zodiac Group, discussing astrology and other mediumistical things.

As to the robinzine--would that entail being published by the head of the Round Robin Bureau? It would be nice for new members who ask info on RRs to receive a complimentary copy of Robineer Newsletter or whatever and decide for themselves which RR that has an opening that they would like.

As to a fanart RR--how about a doodle robin? Or a robin apa like Rick Sneary's Carboniferous Amateur Press Alliance?

Aljo Svoboda--Don't be surprised if you see Dash pop up in RAPS. I have contacted Larry Nielson and I am in the process of sending in Gyroscope #1 through the July mailing (I don't think it'll make the June mailing). I hope it does not stay as bad as when first put out. I don't wish to impose a crudzine on anybody.

Roy Tackett-- I did say that I wished to see a Movie Club. I glanced at an issue of TNFF and noticed that Buzz Dixon wished the same thing, too. I don't have a mimeograph, but if maybe Buzz and I can work out something--which means I'll have to pay strict attention to SF movies and the media section of LOCUS, I think we can have something worthwhile--with our brains and BD's Xeroxing, we can do it.

By the way--what became of Nancy Nagle and Paul Cass? If they don't live up to their job, then maybe we can see Elinor Poland taking over round robins and Sean Summers (I've decided that it would be too much!) taking on the Correy Bureau?

Larry Nielson--Agree with you 25% on your views on N3F. I think the trouble is that the fans take a passive look at us, take us for a bunch of neos, and go away.

The Hospitality Room at Noreascon, now that I look at it, wasn't much in the way of providing info for fans who were interested in joining. What N3F needs is an aggressive recruiting force who can use a rented room at any con, whether LACon or Boskone as a post for recruiting and providing information for fans.

The Noreascon Program Book only offered passing reference to us and the advertisement was very plain. I think one of us who can secure repro service and knows a bit more than the N3F, can write-up one-page pamphlets and comprehensive info booklets (like you say), and ask the concom to slip them into the packets that go with the program books or progress reports. //I think most cons would not do this for N3F because this would be advertising free. Even if they wanted to do it, they couldn't because other organizations would ask for the same. Also this would increase their postage cost.//

I would like to see more fanclubs having liasons with N3F. The NESFA offers a special category for fanclubs (\$5. or an exchange of fanzines)--and I think NESFA is one of the better clubs in the area. But let us not forget KaCSFFS, the Lunarians, the Southern Fandom Confederation and LASFS. Since the majority of our members are from Cal. and the Midwest, the clubs in these areas could

capitalize on publicity for us. And maybe we should solicit (we should ask) members in LOCUS. What do you think?

Frank Hiller-- I think Harlan Ellison envisions himself as a Ghod.

Looking forward to N3F: The Club For the Twenty-First Century.

//Looking back over your letter, Dash, I would be interested in your ideas for a movie group in the N3F. I would even be willing to help you organize or possibly any printing that would need to be done. The movie bureau would have to be organized, I would think, in a similar fashion to the Tape Bureau. But what would it do? Keep tapes of film soundtracks? TapeBu does that. Keep copies of reviews, stills, film miscellanea? Might be worthwhile. The thing would be as good as the amount of work put into it justified, same as anything else.//

Roy Tackett, 915 Green Valley Road, N.W., Albuquerque, N.M. 87107

Tsk, //Tsk?// Larry Nielson is bored with N3F. He can find nothing in it. Pity. Sorry about that, Larry. It's simply a matter of attitude. Me. I find the old Neff rather like a fountain of youth (you been out hunting that, Siclari?) //I'm not old enough yet. If I take a drink of youth water, I won't be able to type any fanzines!//. Whenever I find fandom begining to pall on me and the siren call of gafia sounds I fall back on the National Fantasy Fan Federation. It renews my sense of wonder every time.

As for the "dullness" of the N3F hospitality room at the cons. I've never found it so. It's rather like an oasis of calm in the sea of hectic activity (an oasis in a sea? Oy!) where one can get a cup of coffee and some quiet conversation with some very good people. Liven it up? What do you want, Larry, dancing girls? (George Wells suggested that I might liven up the hospitality room by taking off my clothes and singing bawdy songs but I fear someone might mistake my gross white body for Moby Dick and make like Captain Ahab. Besides, Nielson wants to liven things up---let him do it.)

Irvin Koch is Tennessee's answer to Art Hayes. Art's way of handling correspondence was beautiful. He always made five copies (still does as far as I know...why do we speak of Art in the past tense? He didn't die--just got married....who said that was the same thing?) of all his letters, sent one to the addressee, put one in his files, and, seemingly, sent the other three to names selected at random from the N3F roster. I don't know if he cut the roster up and put all the names in a hat or used a random number table, really. Irvin Koch wrote a letter to this issue of Tb //see page 8// and sent me a copy so I presume I'm meant to comment on same also in this issue of Tb and I will. As I understand it, Irv thinks it impossible to get bureau reports in TNFF as that would make it "a sort of manual of N3F and fannish activities."

But Bureau Heads are supposed to make regular reports to officialdom and the membership. It's been done in the past without any trouble. Elaine, for example, reports on the cards sent out, etc., for the Birthday Bureau. Elinor has reported on the use of the library, new books received and the like. N'APA's OE reports on the state of the membership, the number of zines in the last mailing, etc. Tape Bureau could report on new tapes on hand and other pertinent details. No problem in publishing the reports, Irv. The problem lies in getting the Bureau Heads to get their reports in on time. But you know that.

Alma Hill-- The one thing you left out in your description of gothics was the mandatory cover...night, a gibbous moon peeking through the clouds...in the background, a huge old house with a light in one (and only one) window and in the foreground the heroine fleeing in (presumably) terror.

That's a thought for a contest--how many variations of the basic gothic cover illo can fan artists come up with?

Hey, I need material for Dynatron. Written material, that is. Non-fiction preferred. Light touch also preferred although I will not turn down really serious material if it is good enough. Send something. //With all the Neffers reading this you should get some contribs, Roy. Still, from the Dynatrons I've gotten, you can write an occasional interesting piece.//

George Wells, 24 River Ave., Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

I suppose I might just make this letter in under the deadline, I've had bad poison ivy for the past two weeks, and I didn't get very much sleep. Thus I became more and more spaced out, thru working in a daze and all. I had heard that lack of sleep can cause a person's body to develop LSD, eventually, in the system, or at least I'd heard about Asian and American-Indian mystics fasting and going without sleep until they reached the condition where they had visions. All I know is that one night while tossing and turning I started getting what I felt were great insights. One was that people are "temporarily alive," just as a person can be "temporarily out of work", or temporarily living in Aquebogue". //or "temporarily living in Albuquerque"// Another great word vision was the sentence: "If apathy were mammoths, the N3F would be the hairiest organization in the country." Since that time I have gotten more sleep, and these two revelations of insight and wisdom no longer seem so dramatically relevant, but I relate them to you just in case some great divinity exposed them to my mind for the benefit of my fellow people.

Hope you will edit less, and publish more, when it comes to doing Tb. //My editorializing will be limited to correcting mistakes whenever possible; and to expressing my opinion whenever I feel like it even if it is the middle of a sentence. But I guess you might have gotten that impression already.//

Gary Mattingly-- Why does the TNFF editor have to go into hock in order to have stamps for pubbing and sending out an ish of TNFF? //The TNFF or Tb editor/pubber doesn't get paid for an ish until it is out and the bill is sent to the treasurer for payment. So Gary and I have to have the cash to pay expenses beforehand. At least that's the way I understand it.//

Larry and Roy and all Neffers. While spaced out on poison ivy I wrote Roy and Larry about Larry's disappointment once in seeing a dull, boring Neffer Hospitality Room at a worldcon, and how Roy is getting stuck with assignments and going a bit bananas in the process. I therefore made the innocent remark that Larry or Roy (since Roy might have the courage and foresight necessary) might do a Marty Feldman, and announce, when and if they find a dull, boring Neffer Hospitality this year, that they will take off all their clothes in the altruistic pursuit of livening up

another Neffer project--or as an outraged protest. //Foresight necessary for what? To plan his escape route?// I'm afraid that they may comment on this concept in the July Tb so I'm writing to assure my fellow Neffers that I myself would never dream of doing such a thing, since I rather like dull and boring things, due to the fact that I find the existence of dull and boring things in this absurd and miraculous universe to be incredible and utterly amazing! Yes, let's all utter together: "Amazing!!! I may be a Marty Feldman fan, and I may be a helpful kind of Neffer who will point out methods of doing things to those in need, and I may well join into the Neffer spirit of encouraging new projects, but I think Art Hayes was right, let Roy Tackett do it if it needs to be done.

Now I'm not a "do-nothing" myself. I bet I was one of the FIRST Neffers to gear into action and I bet my postcard was one of the biggest that Floyd Perley received. And maybe I'll pluck a chicken in the Neffer Hospitality Room this year. We'll see.

Anyway, Larry, you might have noticed that those people playing Diplomacy at Baycon were completely naked, but I realize you probably missed that fact, owing to the fact that they were rather heavily tattooed. //Of all people, George should know!//

If Don Lundry is still listening (and I'm not sure he is bothering to) Lunacon this year was great, and I myself can't see much need for improvement. I also suspect that most people going to such a good con would be too fascinated with all the fantastic things going on to want to commit themselves to any duties. There was just too much that shouldn't have been missed.

I saw the movie FRITZ THE CAT Sunday night and it was terrific. A Hugo winner, I suppose, if not an Oscar winner. //Do you really think so? I saw the movie also and while I liked it, I wasn't impressed enough to nominate it for a Hugo. Besides, it doesn't fit into the category of SF or fantasy. It is more of a social allegory.// Then I came home and found the I'M ALL RIGHT, JACK was playing on TV in a few minutes. Had never seen that before. I hope no one misses either one, but I give this advice still a bit dazed from the fact that a couple of fans looked at me as a cultural degenerate and a pervert for saying I thought LENNY was a great Broadway play, with a story and subject so tragic as to be worthy of Shakespeare. I find things meaningful or fun, but I wouldn't spend a counterfeit bolivar to pay "respect to culture". Anybody out there ever read a story called the "Celestial Omnibus"? Heritage is trash unless you live with it like a friend.

//In addition to his letter George sent along some information on some cons. The following is a summary:

BOUCHERCON III, the third annual Anthony Boucher Memorial Mystery Con will be held Oct. 20-22, 1972, at the International Hotel, Los Angeles, to bring together the pros and readers of the mystery, detective and suspense fiction field. Progress report #1 is available and includes hotel cards and nomination ballots for the '72 H.H. Holmes Awards. Advance membership is \$4.00; after Sept. 15, it is \$6.00. For more info write: Bruce E. Pelz, Box 1, Santa Monica CA. 90406

ATLANTISCON, the 10th Deep South SF Con, will be held at the Howell House in Atlanta, Ga., on Aug. 25-27, 1972. Hal Clement will be Guest of Honor and Kelly Freas will be Master of Ceremonies. Joseph Green

and Richard Meredith will be among the panelists. On the program are movies, an art show, a fanzine workshop, a hearts tournament and a panel on Technology in Science Fiction. Other events will also be planned. The '72 Rebel and Phoenix Awards will also be given. Membership is \$4.00. Send all memberships and requests for information to: ATLANTISCON, 1669 Clairmont Rd., Decatur, Ga. 30033. //If you live near enough to go to the ATLANTISCON, come by and say hello. I'll be there and I'd like to meet all who can make it.//

Loubel Wood, PO Box 423, DeFuniak Springs, Fl. 32433 (NEW ADDRESS)

Today I received the May Tb. I started in dutifully and with interest reading all the letters. Page after page of men's views and reviews. I thought, well perhaps there are no women any more in the Fan Club. But, at last, on the back pages, the girls were given space. Science Fiction, often depicting and demonstrating before Science, has not yet heard of fem lib. At least one of our longest serving officers is still a woman, Janie Lamb. //That only proves that Gary is a male chauvinist. Right, Gary?//

So sorry Elinor Poland has been sick. I met Elinor in Miami in the dark ages long ago and enjoyed her very much. What a lovely address! I think her idea of a Sign Robin is great. Us Virgo members, of course, are so sweet and gentle we can get along with anyone.

I awoke one morning with a bright idea--one of those bolts from the Blue. It said: Why not a law, enacted by Congress, making all children legitimate? After all, they are all born under the same production protocol. How can an illegitimate child be born free and equal as the great Declaration declares?

Stan Woolston, 12832 Westlake St., Garden Grove, Ca. 92640

//Talk about a dedicated N3F officer...Stan wrote me three typed pages, single spaced on his birthday, July 16. Happy Birthday Stan!! Since some of the stuff pertained to the pubbing of Tb, I'll print only the general interest stuff.//

I'm glad you can mimeo this; it should make needed copies easier to run unless you've a secret on how to get hundreds of copies from ditto that are sharp and clear. //Actually, as you will probably learn from Larry Nielson, it's not that hard to get 200 copies from a dittomaster. Mainly, you need an electric typer or a very accurate hand on a manual. Too much pressure and it will be thick and blurry; too light and you only get about 100 copies. The only other thing necessary is a duplicator with variable drum pressure to keep increasing the darkness as the dup ink is used. After that all it takes is practice, although there are a few other shortcuts and hints that could be put in a HOW TO zine. Suggestion: do the zine instructions with examples of what each bad point will do so a pubber will be able to recognize immediately his mistake just by looking for a similar flub in the zine.//

I'd like to see both Tb and TNFF have editors willing to stay on for years. Repetition means enhanced ease of handling the job, and we need the steady

pace that this would provide. I think Gary Mattingly has a fine touch with the official organ, but as with most editors and their first issue, delays seem inevitable. Luckily, notice that it was time to run for office was in the previous issue so there was no difficulty with having a late June issue. To me a late Tb is generally less a problem than a late TNFF--but ideally having a steady schedule enhances the inflow of news and other material. (I liked Gary's non-Woolston material most, as all too often an issue has my name and words too commonly found inside.) //Surprisingly, I agree wholeheartedly with every statement in Stan's last paragraph.//

Elinor Poland of the Library is catching up with the call for books, and says she'll have reports in each TNFF--so I won't have to include material from her letters from now on. I'm being vague as to her latest letter on purpose as I want to encourage everyone to write their reports every issue. Being imaginative, a fan should be able to find new things to say issue after issue--and every issue one or more members (new or old) may want to join in...so these items are important.

Too late for the Tb deadline as I first heard it would be, I got a "column" from a member, and so I didn't query as to what he felt I should do about it. Probably he envisioned it as a column for TNFF, as I wrote that columns could dress up a zine and I'd like to see some in the official magazine. One difficulty in not having a covering note is that any such item may be left here instead of being sent on immediately, and so it can be lost quickly. When such a letter contains a list of areas where improvement is advised it is especially important that it not be buried somewhere, but the chance of losing is much more than if it can be handled at once. (I need a secretary but all offices in N3F are volunteer and NOT a paying proposition.) //One thing that I have noticed from contributions that I have received is that they have a better chance if they are accompanied by a letter explaining what they are for. Articles and columns should always have some explanatory remarks and a "what to do with if late"//

David Shank is one of those who start RRs from time to time, and so is making activities in the club more interesting to a group of members. Others include Elinor Poland, Dorothy Jones, Rose Hogue and Sheryl Birkhead should probably be included, too. I would like them all to be considered members of the RR committee, and this means I will write all these people to see if they agree. I know some do as we've already corresponded on it. Those on Welcommittee who invite newcomers to enter into RRs are doing a service for them, but ideally we should have someone as manager, with reports in TNFF so regular members as well as the newcomers are invited regularly to "imbibe". There are many kinds of robins--and not just having different subjects make this variety. Someone should write about this; in fact I suggested Elinor write Tb about this. She has been very helpful in this for years; if the library had not been her pet project I'm sure she would have taken on RR management long ago. But now her classes are over (for a while at least) and she's in a new place and the Library is taking more of her time lately.

Rick Sneary is involved in two cons this year--at the LACon he assists Len Moffatt as secretary (writing for material to be auctioned as Len is working on the Catalog, which was to be in the Program Book but due to its size is to be handed out at the con seperately. Rick's other con is the Fantasy Film Fans International--called the Film Con for short. Through Sept. 5, the registration fee is \$8.00, and to join checks are to be made out to Richard M. Sneary. Of course the hotel room and banquet costs are

extra. The convention will have exhibits, models, costumes, hand props, artwork, TV episodes, and lots of SF and fantasy shows, as well as souvenir books for those who attend or who don't. An amateur film contest, explanation of special effects, tours and a costume parade will be included--as well as a "sales room" and a banquet where you may share a table with an author, actor, special effects man and so on. Continuous movies and a special cartoon room, "for the kids" of all ages, is promised as well. The date? Thanksgiving week-end. John and Bjo Trimble and other fans are involved in this, applying experience gained at SF cons...but this will draw many others as well. It is meant as an annual convention. For info write: PO Box 74866, Los Angeles, CA. 90004. Write, there'll be Progress Reports. //Dave Shank and Buzz Dixon I hope you took note of this con.//

This year Len Moffatt is involved in more than one con, too. Besides being Guest of Honor at Westercon over the July 4 week-end and doing the auction catalog for the 'big con' at LA, he's on the Third Annual Bouchercon //for details see page 14// --the convention by mystery fan Bruce Pelz and others who gained their experience by way of SF conwork. This just shows again that the interest of fans is wide: SF isn't a barrier to becoming involved if you have strong enough interest.

At Westercon I picked up the latest information on WITCHCRAFT & SOCERY Magazine, and the 3 issues I missed on the newsstands. Bill Crawford, the publisher, said they withdrew the zine from newsstands because of poor distribution, and arrangements with individuals to handle it at various sources has kept it going. I've not yet written for details; talking while he's involved in huckstering isn't as easy as it might be...but you can write for information as I intend to do, to Bill Crawford, Publisher, WITCHCRAFT & SOCERY, 14351 Alwood, Baldwin Park, CA 91306. Maybe you would like to make some arrangement...to help distribute this fantasyzine in your locality.

Jack Williamson has published a second, expanded issue of his list of school and college SF courses that include about twice the number his original publication had--and an updating has appeared in the publication SPECULATION, too. I want to gather as many additional listings--locations (title and addresses) as possible, and if you want to send them to him you can--or you might send to me to pass along. I know of two such I think are still in existence; I'll write to see if I'm correct. The offset publication SCIENCE FICTION IN COLLEGE also includes material from grade classes through grad school, and shows such things as lists used by general and special classes, copies of articles resulting from publicity of early report, and much more. English courses, chemistry courses, social science courses--quite a variety of locations for the classes are shown. It seems that imagination and interest of someone has inspired institutions of learning to adopt SF as literature, as the historical aspect, as social problem or pattern for possible tomorrows. With 140 or something of that order of entries, (I've not checked it all) there is quite a variety of entries. This does not mean there may not be double or many times this number of courses, so I'd be glad to accumulate info to pass on to Jack; or write him (Box 761, Portales, NM 88130).

Joanne Burger, 55Blue Bonnet Ct., Lake Jackson, TX 77566

Now listen to my tale of woe. Early last month, I was making serious inroads on my correspondence backlog and the backlog of tape I owe people.

I had hopes, even, of catching up! But that was not to be. The unions at Dow Chemical Co. went out on strike in June 24th, and as a result I had to work. As a matter of fact, I was attending Multicon at Oklahoma City and had to fly back to Lake Jackson on four hours notice. Friday, July 7 was my first day off since I returned from Oklahoma City, and I had been working 12 hours a day all that time. And when you're not used to it, you don't have time for anything but eating, working, and sleeping. I have been getting up at 6 and going to bed at 9:30 (after getting home between 7:30 and 8), and you can see that schedule doesn't leave any time for anything. I am getting used to the schedule, tho, and next week I will only work 5 days (12 hrs./dy) so I may be able to get started on my tape copying again, but it will be much slower than I had hoped, and I would prefer not to receive requests for tapes until the strike is settled or I have finished off my backlog of orders.

We have been working, and crossing the picket lines twice a day, at Dow for 21 days, today, and from the look of things it will be at least 3 more weeks before the company and the unions even start meeting again to try to settle the strike. This looks like a long, drawn-out strike, and it will be the kind that generates bitter feelings. After three weeks, I find myself uncomfortable with a close friend who is a member of the union. What it will be like in another three weeks I dread to think.

This strike has been financially beneficial to me--Dow is quite liberal in their pay to the "Emergency Work Force", And I am eating three free meals a day at Dow, plus all the drinks and snacks you can stuff into yourself. And we are keeping the plant running and running well. If we couldn't keep the plants running, the company would have to settle or lose customers, but as it is, I think the unions will have to settle or starve. We may wind up living inside the plant, tho, and if we do, my outside activity will be drastically curtailed.

Hopefully, I will get things organized so that I can start getting letters and tapes out on my two days off a week. Or the strike might end soon. (Miracles do happen.)

K. Martin (Kaymar) Carlson, 1028 3rd Ave. So., Moorhead, Minn. 56560

It's been a long time since I wrote to Tightbeam. I do like to read the letters in each issue, but I seem to delay sending a letter until the deadline has passed. It seems more natural to gripe about N3F than to get active in the club. I believe that I have been in the club longer than most of you. It was in 1945 that I joined up.

It is good to have discussions and talk things out. What I don't like is for some fan to degrade N3F. There is no club that is perfect, and there is no way to satisfy all members. But you can always find your place in N3F. I found mine in the NEFF TRADER. I have been doing this sort of thing ever since the first issue of KAYMAR TRADER back in 1946. Stencil cutting has always fascinated me, and I got my fill of it doing up to 20 stencils each month for about 9 years. But the mimeo ink gets into your blood and I don't think I'll ever be satisfied doing anything else. It's one of the reasons that I do the N3F HISTORY also.

I'd like to see more candidates try out for the various offices in N3F. I have held every one at one time or another, but I'm getting OLD and

the younger fans should get their "feet wet". It's a lot of fun and not as hard a job as you may think. I think that a person who gets elected to a job in N3F should try his best to carry on the work he was elected to do. Too many times he finds some excuse to leave the job and then Stan Woolston has to find a replacement.

Our President has been very active and he knows his job (he has had it for a number of years), but I'm sure he would like a rest. In my case I think I'll try for the Directorate again this coming election. It's a good way to be in on things that come up for discussion and vote.

I have been rambling away, and it's time I said "Adios" until next time I get the urge to write to Tightbeam.

Ann Chamberlain, 4411 Van Horne Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90032

I assume that everyone is conscious of the coming LACon, to be held at the International Hotel in Santa Monica, Sept. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th... since a few have been nudging me along to shake out my travel clothes and get WITH IT. Before that, though, a Renewals Committee should get busy, and someone must be available at the con to have Reinstatement forms ready for those who want to rejoin at that time.

I've had some questions aimed at me, via erstwhile Gary Mattingly which I endeavored to answer fully if not pointedly. I think he will print what I wrote in TNFF, if Stan Woolston approves. I lean on Stan a little, and I expect him to lean back, too! Whatever job he wants me to do, that I can do, - he knows I'm not likely to say no.

It'd be a good idea to have some con reporters scattered throughout the rooms where there are activities worth watching, making notes for after the con reports. How many people do we have interested in that kind of job?

There's much hubbub at a con on the first day and since I have nothing to get set up, and a whole family of kitties, three generations of them which I'm responsible for, I expect to arrive sometime the second day. The office of the N3F Recruiter will have a form ready for repro soon, who will do it for me? Every N3F member is a potential sponsor for as many new members as they can find; we have no law they CAN'T join at cons, but we don't make it a point to recruit at that time, because other business is in the making and plans are being carried out and we never have Initiations!

PS: Extra copies of the April '72 issue of TNFF should be made available at LACon. Not to be handed out freely, but to refer to when showing what makes N3F the happy club it is. I consider this issue to be quite explanatory, what N3F is all about; whoever reads and likes it, would also enjoy membership with us. A form that could be used for recruiting at cons (something to take home and think about) would be brief and to the point.

How long have you read SF? _____ Are you sincerely interested? _____
 Why do you think you want to join a science fiction club? _____
 Will you abide by the N3F Constitution? _____ If so, send your name and
 address (including a SSAE) and \$2.00, to: Janie Lamb, RR #1, Box 364,
 Heiskell, TN. 37754. _____

It's brief, but it will do for starters.

//Ann, I have access to both a ditto and a mimeo. If you have to get something run off for the con I'll be willing to do it. If you can put it onto a stencil or a dittomaster it would be fine. If not, just send me the typed copy and I'll run it off for you. The mimeo I have access to is a Gestetner, so you'd have to type on 9-hole stencils if you wanted it mimeoed.//

Alma Hill, 78 Summer St., Natick, Ma. 01760

Let me tell you a funny story. Once upon a time the Writers' Exchange had a Coordinator who orated early and late that one thing a writer should never, never forget is to keep at least one file copy of any ms. at home. So, did she take her own advice? Well, usually. And nothing went wrong. So one day she wrote an article for a fanzine. One copy, just off the cuff; like a letter, you know. By and by the faneditor wrote to say, with some embarrassment, that he had read the article to friends, who had apparently found it either hilarious or ridiculous, but anyway some one of them carried it off. So naturally he needed the file copy. Say, if he felt embarrassed, how about me with no file copy? Let this be a lesson to us all for today. And now with red face and flaming ears (and a carbon under this believe you me) I will now try to reconstruct this foolish article.

May all your copies of Tb be stolen -- it may get word of this club around more. //Since Alma is teaching us all a lesson, I want to impress all would be faneds that they shouldn't let friends read something they are going to print until after it is stenciled. Since this was going in one of my zines in the first place, I'll put the rest of Alma's "letter" here.//

The main thing is, that movie 2001 is still going around and people are still complaining that the story is not only different from the book, but makes no sense on its own. A great ride, but goes nowhere, right?

There would be no problem whatsoever if we remember what every writer, sf or any kind, is supposed to know like breathing; namely that the main character and the viewpoint character and the decision character are all the same person. In stories that reach print, things don't just happen to the hero; he makes them happen. As Jack Woodford used to say, the hero's job is to be the head man. This we should always keep in mind. Now if we look again at the movie, it leaps to the eye that the main character who makes things happen is no human being at all, but a long-lived thinking machine.

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Odysseon was a very handsome and intelligent mechanical being, built like a brick. He had been exercising his wiles and muscles in a big space war, which his side had won, and he was on his way home, rejoicing, to galactically remote Ithacon and his faithful wife Penelopen.

Unfortunately, he had irked one of the Gods of Space by taking the NFFF emblem in vain, so his journey was interrupted by misfortunes. The worst came as he was passing near a little-known stellar system when a solar flare knocked him end over end. When he came to he found that most of his parts were in good working order but his batteries were drained. He looked wildly around for a civilized system where he could get his rays re-juiced, and discovered to his dismay that the best in reach was a double planetary subsystem, both planets in an early state of evolution, inhabited by vegetarian apes not likely to evolve into higher forms in millions of years.

Groaning, Odysseon double-checked and multiple-checked his findings but any star with a radio-civilization able to provide him with power was so far that he would need the

power to get there. Resigning himself to fate, he shut down all but essential survival mechanisms and limped over, on residual juice, to the smaller of the planetary binaries.

At least he could accelerate the pace of evolution. So settling among a peaceful herd of apes, he sent out a short burst of rays aimed at speeding up their inventiveness. Soon the males were picking up sticks and finding a new use for them, belting one another over the head and driving others, who had been out of range of the accelerator, away from the best food supply. Taking this to be a good indication of a good setting of the accelerator, boosting the apes' inventiveness without burning out their brain cell cells, Odysseon left the accelerator on automatic with a proximity trigger so that only apes (now proto-humans) who actually touched his exterior would get jolted. This done, he turned all faculties to minimal to conserve vital energies for a long, long hibernation, and so drowsed away the millenia.

Around him strange tribes rose and chased older tribes, who ran off and started villages farther away on the planet. These villages raided one another and were raided by still stranger new tribes, while men learned more and more about weapons, tactics, and the building of castle walls.

A great temple of learning appeared over Odysseon's resting place. Only the High Priest was allowed into the Sanctuary. At the end of the year the old HP would choose a new one to enter the sanctuary with him. They would both very reverently touch the big black altar; the old HP would then drop dead (supposedly going straight to Paradise) and the new one would, in the course of the following year, make great scientific discoveries and burn out in his turn. It was not a bad system in a way, on the face of it, because it provided the temple with constantly-renewed inventive acceleration. But it sped up the planetary war technologies too fast for its other communications, and the end came before a radio-civilization could be developed.

Buried beneath the dust of a blasted, sterile, long-dead planet, Odysseon slept away the necessary millions of years while evolution took a more leisurely course on the other planet. However, he came of a long-lived race and could have lasted many millions more in his state of nearly-suspended animation.

One day, however, not far from now, space travel improved on the sister planet, the dead one was visited, and Odysseon was rediscovered. He was, of course, aware of none of this. But when the astonished explorers began to radio news of their odd discovery, THAT was the signal Odysseon had been waiting for. WOW! Alert in a flash, he drank thirstily of controlled radiations in all directions, selecting just wavelengths that replenished his nearly-dry forces and shooting the surplus off in a burst of delighted static. Then with a leap he sprang away, for there was no telling how sophisticated this present civilization might be. Recriminating from the back of Saturn, he lingered awhile, gathering data and sipping ergs while he flexed his long dormant faculties and studied the civilization which, in a sense, he might have created. The evolved simians seemed to be a quite simple sort, with only the most elementary of machine beings, and Odysseon was about to make off when, to his amazement, he sensed the approach of an actual mechanical consciousness--infantile, less than that, embryonic -- but nevertheless human in Odysseon's terms of what constitutes humanity. It was a self-operating spaceship. Once again he had triggered inventiveness! Could he leave this innocent being to the untender mercies of slightly evolved apes? 2001 x NO.

Gently overriding the ship's limited thought processes, he set about exterminating the simians in order to ready the ship for the long trip with him. Alas, one of the apes took a beastly revenge by destroying the awareness of the ship's mechanical mind, leaving only the life-sustaining apparatus in functioning order.

But that one spark was enough, Odysseon's humanity was challenged. It took a few thousand years extra, for he could not even begin until the last simian dies of old

age, but gradually he re-trained and re-developed the ship until it was again comparable to an embryo of the master race.

Thus came wily Odysseon back to Ithacon, tired but triumphant.

"Penelopen," he signalled, "I have become a mother. But I can explain everything."

Dorothy Jones, 6101 Euclid Ave., Bakersfield, CA. 93308

This is my very first letter to Tightbeam. I think that a person should get involved with the whole organization, not just part of it. While TNFF has always been my favorite reading of the two, I'm finding that Tb is really interesting to read. //I'm horrified.//

When Joe sent out the deadline dates to receive a letter, I simply thought, "Why not NOW!" So here goes...as you can see, my name is the same as the STAR TREK writer; and ever so often, I have to let people know that I am not the S.T. fan. Not that I object to S.T., I'm just not THAT Dorothy Jones. I am under the impression that she lives up near the Bay area, and we, in California, know this means the San Francisco area.

Larry Nielson, I welcomed you into the club last Oct., and you didn't bother to answer me. I just looked that up, suh...I could have told you about the Tape Club, the Robins, W.C., and the Overseas Bureau. And how many more did you ignore? The bureau heads that are on W.C. could have filled you in, in regards to their own particular bureau.

Rick Sneary, well, here is another er, ah, snarler, eh? We seem to be doing a lot of that in Calif. Now if a certain corre hadn't told me that you are a nice person, well I'd...I'd...aren't you the one that griped about receiving a birthday card? Oh, come on now, agree that it is a nice gesture. //Rick Sneary is ~~not~~ not such a villain. I'm sure of it. I think I'm sure. Are you a villain, Rick?//

I agree, Irv, about the non-members coming into the N3F organizations. Might as well save \$2. as one can get into most bureaus without joining, anyway. I personally think this gives N3f a bad name or maybe not so bad---more like impersonal feelings. And you must agree that having close to 400 members in 1968 when I joined, and now we barely push 200 certainly bears out the thing that Irv is pointing out to us...why join N3F, when you can join a bureau either free or for a small pittance and save \$2.00. //I have to agree also. If we want non-members to be let into a bureau, I think they should have to pay a slightly larger amount than a Neffer. If there is no charge for members, then charge a nominal fee of, say, \$1.00/year. This lets anyone join but gives members a slight advantage. Also if a non-member uses two of the bureaus and has to pay \$2. extra he will probably join and possibly participate in other activities. Give the treasury a boost too. NFFF NEEDS A RAISE IN DUES! With the new postal rates, it will cost N3F about \$3.00 per person per year for TNFF and Tb.//

That is enough snarling from another Californian.

All the bureau heads that I know personally through letters are working

hard on their particular bureaus. And how about three rousing cheers for the members we do have in N3F.

Gary, the May issue of Tb was a good one. Congratulations! Joe, I wish you luck in putting out Tb. //Congratulating Gary on Tb is unnecessary (or me for that matter) because Tightbeam will be as good as the MEMBERS make it. Unless something spectacular is done by the ed, his job is merely a publisher. That doesn't mean I won't try to make Tb distinctive. I'm enough of an egoist to try some changes that, I think, might make Tb more interesting and enjoyable. Next issue the major change will be interior artwork. I have some but I need much more. So all you fan artists send me some art---cartoons, serious pieces, all kinds. Remember Tb is the zine YOU make it. Now, you can and should congratulate Gary on the last issue of TNFF. It was the best issue all-round that I've seen in years.//

Don Lundry, RD #1, Old York Estates, Hightown, N.J. 08520

Apparently my request for information to be distributed at Lunacon '72 interested two people enough to reply. It's a shame that there wasn't more interest shown in something which could help the entire club.

Larry Nielson's comments are well taken. Unfortunately, it's too late for this year's con and I'm not running the one for next year. Apazines would give a much better indication of the wide variety of fanzines than a few individual ones might.

However, Ken Sher's comments are asinine. First, I was not asking for N3F support per se. I was seeking help in introducing new fans and the N3F was one organization I thought might be able to do this. I did ask for such help at three separate Lunarian meetings. There was dead silence from Mr. Scher's direction.

Second, I don't see why it should be necessary for the con chairman to go out and actively solicit help in this area. Every wide awake organization which wants to gather more members should be beating on the convention for a small corner to do such proselytizing. When George Nims Raybin was around, there was never any doubt about who was the N3F representation at a Lunacon. If N3F wants to survive and recruit new members it has to get out and beat on doors. The man who has invented a better mousetrap will not have the world beating a path to his door if he doesn't not get outside and tell everyone about his superior mousetrap.

So Larry Nielson's comments appear well taken to me. In spite of having my address on top of my letter, I got not one response to my request. Admittedly, the con is past, but I'll be glad to pass on any information. The only response is two comments directed to the world at large which I might read. Was the point of these responses to grandstand a little? -or was it to pass on valid information?

//That's the end of the letters. Now let's hear you sound off. Tightbeam will be as good as I can make it but that's not much unless a lot of you member write. I'm waiting on you.//

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The NFFF Bureau

FANCLUB BUREAU DRAWER emptied by Gary Mattingly

The Fanclub bureau is slowly getting on its feet again. A Fanclub directory is in the planning stages. So far we have information about and should be getting info from the following clubs: NESFA, OSFA, Dallas SF Society, Cephid Variables (Texas A&M SF Society), PSFFS (I believe that is what it is), SFFC (Turkish Fandom), KaCSFFS and a few others. Do you have information with which you can help us? If so, please send it in to: Gary Mattingly, 7529 Grandview Lane, Overland Park, Kan. 66204

PUBLICATIONS BUREAU DRAWER revealed by Gary Mattingly (again!)

The Publications Bureau is also getting going again. Three people besides myself are working in the Pub bureau presently. They are Larry Nielson, Frank Denton and Don Franson. Things that will probably come out before the end of the year are: a) a new Fandbook, which will be updated by Stan and pubbed by me (GSM); b) a new pseudonyms list which is being revised by Don Franson and Frank Denton will probably pub that. Larry Nielson will probably be dittoing off some leaflets on publishing to new members, copies of the story contest form and other things of this nature. We'll tell you in TNFF or Tb as soon as they are pubbed. Until next time.

OVERSEAS BUREAU DRAWER uncovered by Dorothy Jones

Taking over a bureau isn't the easiest thing in the world, and when a person has nothing to start with, wow! I know that zero feeling. Last August, Stan wrote to me and asked me to take the Overseas Bureau, and since writing letters is one of my favorite hobbies, I quickly (like one day's time) decided...yes, will do. Eager like. I sent off a letter to Stan filled with questions about the Bureau. I waited and waited--one week, two, a month. I was so eager I was almost frothing at the mouth...no, not really, almost. Finally I wrote another letter and we won't mention this one, will we Stan? It was so hot I almost burned my hands when I dropped it in the PO box. It brought results, eh Stan, like right away???

When I realized it was up to me, I started and from September I wrote and wrote and bought air-letters or aerograms, if you wish to call them that. We must be in the backwoods as they are called air-letters in Bakersfield. And I even went further and bought a lot of 21¢ air mail stamps. ½ oz. presents a problem--the paper and envelope must be very light and don't write too much. You find you either have to rewrite the letter or use 21¢ more.

I rushed to the mail box all eager like and then every day the trip got longer and longer and finally I pretended that I hadn't written all those letters. I won't say how many but if you go down the N3F list and count all overseas names, you'll know. A South American and Gerd via Dieter in Germany answered. I am full of praise for Sheryl and Irv's help. Their lists had people interested in answering from Australia, South Africa, Austria, Poland, So. America and Gerd from Germany was first. I'm finding the people who answer are among the busiest people.

The people I write to are eager for US news about fanzines, Cons, Books, many things. As I said, it isn't easy to begin a bureau from "scratch" but with the help and encouragement of several people, how could I go wrong? The reward is enormous as you come in contact with pleasant people. I can report the Overseas Bureau is now standing on its feet (tho wobbly at times). One must try to keep present ones interested and gain new friends from overseas.

