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TIGHT BEAM

Tightbeam # 76

The letter and opinion zine of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. This is the January, 1973, issue of Tb. To join or to inquire about NFFF, write Janie Lamb, Route 1, Box 364, H eiskell, TN.37754. Membership dues are only \$2.00 per year.

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All interior art by Sheryl Birkhead

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

If you or your organization would like to have an announcement presented to a large body of fans (now over 250), send your info to Tb and it will be printed (space permitting, of course) free of charge. 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. I will not send out returned copies of Tb a second time unless you include 16¢ in stamps for the additional postage.

All letters that are intended for Tightbeam should be so marked. If not marked, the letters will not ordinarily go into Tb. Thank you.

Editorial by JoeD.

It seems that I am constantly typing stencils for Tightbeam and, strangely, I like it. I enjoy getting the letters and reading them and putting them on stencils. It gets addicting, almost.

This issue is short, probably because most of you haven't had time to write yet. So I'm hoping for a great deluge of letters for the next issue. Anyway, the femme fans should like this - not a single male letter in the bunch.

This issue is going out to all members of record of 1972, so if you haven't renewed your membership in NFFF yet why not stop now and send your two dollars off to Janie Lamb. I think this year NFFF will be one of the better ones. Both Joanne Burger and I will be handling the pubs, TNFF and Tb respectively, for the year and as we are both directors, you can be sure any suggestions you make in letters or articles to either of us will be noted and looked into. So write to us immediately after you renew your membership with Janie. Deadline for the next Tightbeam, # 77, is March 15, 1973. Last issue, I had a great deal of help in pubbing Tb from Rich Small, a local fan and good friend of mine. He stayed up most of an entire night as we cranked out the pages on his mimeo. He was the master slip-sheeter. Thanks, Rich!

* * * * *

I went down to the Kennedy Space Center for the Apollo 17 night launch and a more spectacular sight I have never seen!

I have seen other launches before, from Polaris missiles to Titan to Saturns, including two Saturn V's, but no other launch ever gave the impression of power, no that's not right--the impression of WONDER that 17 exuded. It was like I was reading my first SF novel, living it and feeling it!

Trying to describe the launch is almost impossible. After a two hour delay, the crowd at the press area was almost ready to give up. It was damp and windy and beginning to get cold when the loud-speaker announced that countdown had been recycled to T minus 20 minutes. The crowd stirred and roused itself as a few people gave some feeble cheers. Everyone was tired and all knew this was a bad way to start the end of man's first exploration of Luna. But we all got ready.

Countdown started and continued past 10 min., past the 1 min. mark, past the 20 second mark (there were a few cheers as the trouble spot was passed). At T-5sec. ignition started and at T-6sec. the rocket started to move. It was no different than any other launch so far. Then it started to get brighter. The higher the rocket went the brighter it got. Sixty seconds after the launch, in the middle of the night, it WAS DAYLIGHT! And thunder was all around us! Those jaded by previous launches stood with mouths open. No one talked except to make incoherent sounds but in five minutes it was gone.

(continued on page 12)

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

Hmmmmmm, Tightbeam set some kind of postal record - at least to me. I got #75 yesterday!!! Wow!! The first copy even!! //Sheryl's consternation comes from the fact that I had to send her four copies of Tb 74 before she got it in December sometime.// I really liked Jackie's cover and wrote to tell her so.

One point about the film bureau (if that's what it would be called)-- I'll bet that about all the club would support such a group, albeit I don't know how actively. I know I enjoy reading the media notes in LOCUS. I even tried to get a "pipeline" to the inside for the News Bureau, but got the polite and nice reply of a negative. So, unless someone else has a contact, any movie'news' (in the form in which news appears in the Neffer publications) would have to be from say, LOCUS and, therefore, probably later than might otherwise be possible.

From the roster I have, it looks as if the membership (if everyone remembers to pay up for '73) will be over 300 - if my memory is correct from what Stan said and what I read off the list. At any rate, it's over 200. I saw in one of the letters in Tb (Joe Rizzo, I believe) that he is trying to form a con to introduce people to fandom. I guess the best way would be either a flyer in the paperbacks or one in the prozines - that would hit most of the SF buying public and probably most of the would be fans. Not very likely nor practical though. Notices through fanzines merely get to the already-a-fan public.

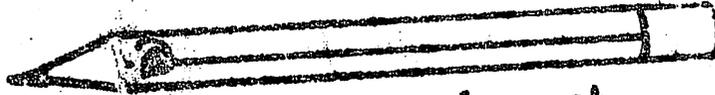
I enjoyed the column by Harry Warner. That's a good idea and gives the newer fan an idea of why the BNFs or just plain well known fans are so well known. Everyone else assumes the fan knows all about these people and therefore never bothers to print the material.

Say, is anyone in the group a lawyer? I'd like to find out the mechanics of incorporating the group and what assets/drawbacks would happen if it were to happen. If no one is a lawyer, does anyone know where to write to get the information?

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

Tb and MAYBE (Irvin Koch's zine) came in the mail today, most unusual. I did send copies of "Yes You Can Join NFFF" all over. Wanted to be certain it was read. Walt Stumper printed it in SOG. I was remembering LACon and doing something I thought would help to circumvent a recurrence of the frustration I felt in knowing that NFFF had no real representation at that con. Except for the green sheet Stan Woolston passed out while he was there...surely people knew him as our President.

Tb #75 is a highly enjoyable, neat issue. I liked the way you printed the Trial Membership form on one side and the "Speak Up" letter on the other.



Do a good deed - put
an unemployed pencil
to work!

I don't think I can produce 15 lines or chatter about the Recruiting Office. I don't advertise. There is a general recognition of certain elements in our lives, that brings fans together. People who do not have the ability to recognize that something are simply not attracted to us. It's just as well.

Under the title of "Trial Memberships, it's a new idea. Actually, it is an old idea, as Seth Johnson (one fan we have all missed because of the good work he did with the Fanzine Clearing House and the ads he ran for us in the SF prozines) used to answer letters in the prozine lettercols, recommending membership in NFFF, and even snuck in a few without their initial payment of dues on time. George Nims Raybin was a knowledgeable person and a lawyer and knew what he was about - and he wasn't about getting in more members than our club could support.

Time changes things. There can even be too many people for one planet. But when there are that many you can figure that the taxes everyone is paying still isn't too much for the work that has to be accomplished with it. Organizational meetings also cost something. The taxes paid by charitable organizations is much less than others. Do we need to be virtually tax exempt? I don't really know; those who know, please tell me. What did NFFF pay in taxes last year? Would it have been less if we were incorporated?

Beautiful cover by Jackie Franke. She IS an artist; she can draw hands. Hope she will offer you many more. //I hope so, too. Jackie??//

I am corresponding with Bob Barthell. Let me quote this paragraph: "Your mention of flying saucers reminds me that we have a badland area just south of town over which there have been many sightings of saucers. Tried going out several times myself during the summer to look for them but haven't been lucky. Still look over that way every time I go home from school at night. Many of my students have had the experience and it seems that someone might take a serious look at it someday. Just saw Rod Serling's 'In Search of Ancient Astronauts' last night and was quite impressed. I had read Danikhan's book last year and had no idea they were planning to do a TV special on it. It was rather interesting and thought provoking." (I saw that too.)

Must mention Larry Carmody's "Crudzine" (first attempt) titled ARMAGEDDON. Uses ditto. I think he can make it. //I object to your using "crudzine" to describe a first attempt at a fanzine.

Whether it is crud or not should be made as a quality statement and not as a generalization for first issues. JoeD.//

 Rose Hogue, 1067 W. 26th St., San Pedro, Ca. 90731

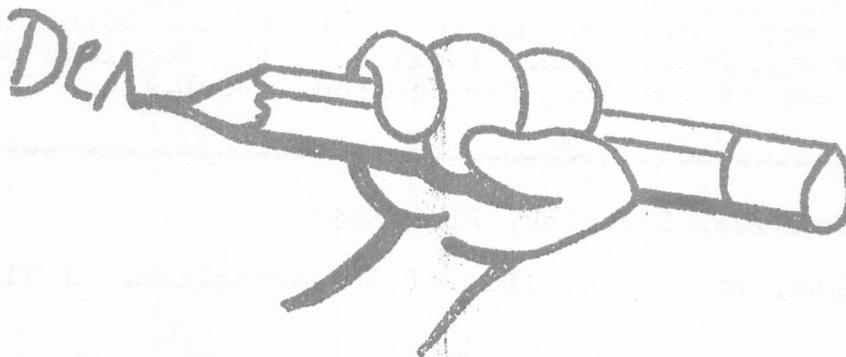
En chanting!! Jackie Franke's Faun Family portrait is most beautifully done. It really conveys the family emotions most vividly and excellently. I sit and gaze at it and suddenly I'm reliving Swann's beautiful novels of the Forest Peoples...oh, to have existed in those days!

You've done an admirable job on this Tb and I, for one, appreciate it. Also enjoy the innovation of The NefFan--Harry did a most interesting job of filling us in on his early fannish beginnings... and do hope that he soon finds time for another book of fan history. //There is no The NefFan for two reasons: 1) The promised columns have not yet arrived, and 2) There is a special column of Don Franson's Information Bureau. For the few of you who don't know about Harry Warner's book of fan history, All Our Yesterdays, is \$2.95 (paperbound), \$7.50 (hard) and available from many dealers or direct from ADVENT:PUBLISHERS, Inc., P.O. Box 9228, Chicago, Ill. 60690. The book is highly recommended and I don't know any fan who wasn't fascinated all the way through. Get it if you have any real interest in fandom. JoeD.//

Buzz is right, of course. I seldom hear of the Kaymar Award winners other than in TNFF or Tb. Why doesn't LOCUS list them or LUNA even? Then there is the Short Story Contest winner--I do recall reading that info in DASFAX but then two DASFANS were in placement in it. From here on I'll sign N3F along with my name. Look forward to your presidential campaign platform for 1976!

SF indeed!! James A. Hall...I've been on a Fantasy reading kick and am infatuated with it. Well, I guess I should admit to reading some of last year's backlog of ANALOG and to buying a copy of RING-WORLD at long last. Loosely using the dictionary I have decided a male chauvinist pig is a homosexual policeman.

Gads--hope that Verne has electricity by now. Always enjoy reading



Verne's letters for he writes so darn readably. I hereby dedicate the right-hand wall of my kitchen behind the refrigerator as the NFFF Fingerpainting Wall!! Seriously though, the genzine does sound like a good idea but who would be the pubber, editor, and wifence wo uld cometh the \$\$\$? Hope the position of goalie is less painful-- why not use a piece of foam rubber for a puck and balsa wood sricks?

David's Lexicon report was fun and I hope to see others use Tb for their reports of cons or interesting meetings. DASFans- why don't you report your meetings here? I do see SF films occasionally and think a Film Bureau is a good idea. I'd be willing to help out if you let me know what to do and when. Have you seen the MAD thing on the PLANET OF THE APES series? Noticed it on the newstands but haven't bought a copy yet...

Wish Elinor well with the selling of her hardbacks. Her work with the library is most commendable. She does a great job. Alma's words of wisdom are always most enlightening to read--glad she stressed the fantasy part of the name of our club.

I gather there is a typo in Joe Rizzo's letter--"Anyway, what my fiends"--now I thought only Roytac was allowed to keep fiends about (if I mention his name enough, he's bound to write another letter to Tb, right?). Wish Joe and his fiends much fun at Infinity con and much success too. Who knows, the next W.C. list might net more new members than the one after LACon, and I wouldn't mind that at all.

Better add hastily here that I have never joined a nudist camp or even harbored thoughts in that direction. Most people look far more sensual fully dressed anyway. Also better clear up that mis- or rather premature beratedmentedness //??// of Roytac. He did write me a letter-nice long one too- but he again did not mention the W.C...sigh.

Tim, you really sound ambitious and that all that proposed activity doesn't burn you out of fandom! Wonder when and who will organize a gothic fan federation? How about calling it GAFF? That has a nice ring to it. (Gothic Appreciation Fan Federation being the full title)

Just out of curiosity, Joe, how do you determine the order of letters in Tb? Can't help but note the fact that 7 males other than your editorial self have their say before us femme fans! //No order actually. Whatever I pick out of the letter folder first. They are approximately in chronological order. Does this issue suit you better? Unless more letters come in tomorrow, the 26th, this will be an all femme fan letter ish. I extended the deadline one day because of the day of mourning for Johnson. JoeD.//

Loubel Wood , Box 423, DeFuniak, Fl. 32433

Tb is my favorite, tops on my list of SF journalism. I like the

I like the people's views. New ideas, good or bad, are stimulating. Sometimes there is a HiNote. For instance,

Robert Barthell has hit a HiNote. Old Fanzines, for Young Fans. How I wish I hadn't burned mine when I sold my farm. However I am working on (when I can) a SF number in which I predict the solution of Pollution is a new Ice Age. And you know, we had sleet and snow here in N. Fl. Yesterday!

TIM C. Very, very clever. You saw right through my little scheme. I am not a professional on Women's Lib. I am just riding drag. I honestly thought the whole format was resulted from putting the longe r letters first. And, right at that time, against all tradition, the femme fans had less to say. However, I couldn't resist. So, go ahead, Tim C., and edit TB sometime, and see what issues.

ROSE HAGUE: I am not an expert on Virgo, but I know some of her finer points. She is never excessive, either high nor low. She will generally know what course to take and will not be overcome by someone else's opinion of her. At one time there were only ten sidereal powers. Virgo and Scorpio were one. They split. They each have some of the magic of the other. Virgo is not overly feminine, nor Scorpio overly masculine. Now, if we drink on all those points ---? AND FURTHER, I am not a mart, but tricky. I thought if I introduced the illegitimate question at this point in time and in this place, a great deal of interest might build up from this remarkable, ultra-imaginative organization. My trick didn't work. What would the UN do to me? But, being a Virgo, I still believe it would be a fine principle to adopt. Thanks, Rose, for mentioning it. Who was that Guy who brought up this Free and Equal business? Sounds great---on paper.

CURE FOR POISEN IVY. Chew up the leave and swallow juice.

James A. Don't be timid, J.A., I've been an off and on member a long time and I don't know what a male (or female) chauvinist pig is. Let's say it is an idea---instigated by the individual opinion of what this pallid pig is. Anyway, it is an insult to the Pig.

HARRY WARNER: Your traumatic experience over finishing fifty, was the most. From there on you drag. Or was that bragging? You are older now than you have ever been before. So am I.

Dorothy Jones, 6101 Euclid Ave., Bakersfield, Ca.

Jackie Franke, your cover is darling. More, more, please! Rose Hague agrees with me that non-members should pay for the privileges, and Tim Marion disagrees. One for it and one against. I can see where Tim has a good point, however. I had the general idea that if N3F thinks of bureaus and activities of interest, why should we pay \$2 and others don't, that's all. But interest has to begin someplace, so Tim, I agree with you regarding that idea.

Thank you, Harry Warner, Jr., for The NefFan article. I enjoyed reading about you and your various interests in SF, not only SF interests but others and a bit of your personal life. After a years

absence from Wc, I must confess that it was but a breather on my part, and I rejoined this past week with the Dec. new members. It is good to be back. Missed contacting new members.

The NFFF Bureau

Round Robin Bureau Drawer emptied by Rose Hogue

If you like to write letters and communicate with more than one person at a time, why not try a Round Robin? Round Robins are essentially a group letter (make that a group of group letters) which are passed between three to six persons. In them there can be discussions of books, prozines, art, films, tv, fanzines, cons, ideas or whatever the group decides upon. Some RRs are devoted to writing a story. All RRs are informative and a great way to pass on news to more than one person. The personality of the RR differs with the personalities of its members. If you think you'd like to try a RR, why not contact me...Rose Hogue, 1067 W. 26th St. San Pedro, CA. 90731.

Overseas Bureau Drawer emptied by Dorothy Jones

Sent Christmas cards to my friends Gerd Hallenberger, Eric Lindsay, and Edward Kuffel. And, in return, received letters from Gerd and Eric and also an attractive card from Edward in Poland. Gerd has a new address: 355 Marburg, Sudetenstr. 18. Just finished a report to Tex Cooper of So. Africa that he will receive air-mail. Also mailing him a packet of LACon material but sending it surface mail and it will probably take two months to reach him. Maybe by next time I'll have something to report about goings on in Australia, Germany, South Africa, and Poland.

Welcommittee Drawer emptied by Rose Hogue

If you like to meet and write to people on a one-to-one basis, perhaps you'd like to join the Welcommittee. Basically the Wc welcomes new members to NFFF. All you need do is write a cordial letter to the new member. This lets the new member know he is a part of NFFF and also helps him to feel that he belongs. It helps to orient him, too, for many on the Wc are also Bureau heads (although this is not necessary to be on the Wc) and they usually mention their Bureau in their welcome. Joining the Wc is also one way to increase your fan contacts and to increase your correspondence. If you would like to be a part of the Welcommittee, just write me, Rose Hogue, 1067 W. 26th St., San Pedro, CA. 90731

Information Bureau Drawer emptied by Donald Franson

At the LACon, ROSE HOGUE said she had mailed me a question but I had not received it. This occasionally happens, but you can rest assured that if I do receive a question, I will not misfile it or lose it. Whether I have ~~any~~ time to answer it at once or not, I put it into a typewriter-paper box marked "Information Bureau." It may be neglected for a while, but it will never be lost (unless the box is lost).

I met quite a few Neffers at the convention, and probably saw a lot more that I should know but didn't recognize. It would be a good thing if Neffers knew what the other Neffers (and other fans) looked like. At one time Marijane Johnson had a photo-stamp business. Anyone could send in a small snapshot and get a sheet of stamps made, hundreds of them for a low price, that could be sent out in letters and attached to fanzines. I wonder if this practice could be revived as an official N3F thing?

Even though there was no Neffer room at the convention, there was a sort of N3F meeting held in Stan's room on Sunday morning. Attendees included ("included" is a safety word in case I left anybody out): JOHN ANDREWS, SHERYL BIRKHEAD, WALLY GONSER, IRVIN KOCH, DAVID SHANK (I think it was, I could be wrong about the name), JOE SICLARI, RICK SNEARY, GEORGE HORACE WELLS, ELAINE & LENAARD WOJCIECHOWSKI, STAN WOOLSTON, and myself. The meeting, while small, was enjoyable, and the convention itself, while large, was also enjoyable. But this is not a con report.

Later, DAVID SHANK (if it was he) asked: "What can you tell me about Richard Matheson?" (Besides all the novels and movie writing). Well, he was Guest of Honor at the 1958 Solacon, and there won the Hugo for the movie "Incredible Shrinking Man". But he won his fame for a 1950 story in ESSE, "Born of Man and Woman." This makes him one of the few writers to gain instant fame by a short-short.

By now everyone knows that STAN WOOLSTON was presented the Big Heart Award at the convention banquet. The award is sponsored by Walt Daugherty, presented by Forry Ackerman and is more formally called the E. Everett Evans Memorial Award. It commemorates a long-time friend of fandom who among other things was a former President of N3F. Like Stan, E. Everett Evans worked hard for the N3F, as well as many other worthy fannish causes. The award is given annually at the Worldcon to someone who deserves recognition for just that -- a big heart. As a special service to Information Bureau ~~members~~ readers, I now present a complete list of Big Heart Awards:

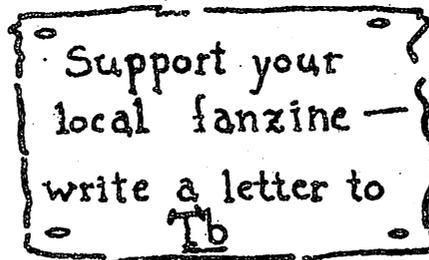
1959 - Robert Bloch.	1964 - Bjo Trimble.	1969 - Harry Warner, Jr.
1960 - Sam Moskowitz.	1965 - Walter Ernsting.	1970 - Herbert Haüssler.
1961 - Rick Sneary.	1966 - David H. Keller.	1971 - C.L. Barrett.
1962 - Bob Tucker.	1967 - Janie Lamb.	1972 - Stan Woolston.
1963 - James V. Taurasi.	1968 - Walter J. Daugherty.	

If you don't know all these people/fans, I'll be glad to explain who they are. I don't know who picks out the recipients (and wouldn't tell if I did know). Since Walt Daugherty is on the list, it obviously isn't him. Herbert Haüssler is an East German fan; the rest should be familiar to most.

Speaking of complete lists, there will eventually be a republication of Some Historical Facts About SF Fandom. RICK SNEARY and I will update it through 1972. This was originally published in 1962 as Fandbook #3, and the size would be doubled in ten years of activities, except that we will condense some and eliminate some things like the Hugo awards which are available elsewhere. It will include the history of various awards, TAFF information, smaller conventions, N3F officers, and so on. Real Seen Now!

Is this all that the space program is going to do in our lifetime? Except for the launching of the manned laboratory in May, there are no definite plans for manned exploration. The Mars trip is being held in abeyance, indefinitely. This year, for the first time in ~~quite a few years~~, NASA was given a halfway decent budget, and then they had to trim it and eliminate three launches this year.

Is this how to forge a future in space? NASA has been asking all those who support their program to write to their congressmen to show their feelings. NASA doesn't have the strong lobbying power that many of the other national groups has because it is a government agency and because it couldn't afford one anyway. So they depend on the public. If you have any interest at all, write to your congressman. If you don't know who or where to write, call your telephone information, they can give you the names and addresses.



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