

Edited by Sally Syrjala

Lots of LoCs!!

TIGHTBEAM¹⁴⁵

Featuring: fanzine, book, movie reviews... Art contest winners!!!!



**SEP
86**

TIGHTBEAM
The Springboard of Ideas
September, 1986 Number 145

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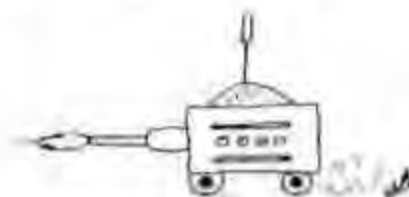
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In the background,
you can hear the
sacrifice....

Join NSF

EDITORIAL MEANDERINGS

by

Sally A. Syrjala

Life is nothing but a series of surprises. This issue has turned out to be one of those surprises for me. I imagine its sheer weight has turned into a surprise for you as well.

You see, I was on the thought path of a nice, simple issue. I had it all planned out. Then I went to the post office one fine, sunny morning. I had a little pink card in the mail box saying there was a package waiting to be picked up at the inside window.

Little pink cards in the mail box I treat as Monopoly cards. I obey them. Therefore, I dutifully went to the window to collect my package.

What did the wondering eyes perceive, but a package filled with old locs for TB. It was not a thin package. The package was a few inches thick. My plans for this issue promptly went out the door.

That nice leisurely stroll through the words of the membership become a fifty-mile hike taxing the endurance of the mind and typing fingers.

Where those flying fingers of fate caused typos to appear, I do hope you will look on them with eyes of forgiveness. I did not think I would ever get to the typing of this editorial. There were times I was ready to toss the copy to the side lines and let things go as they were.

However, there is the respect of the written word built into me. If someone has taken the time to write down their thoughts on paper and submitted them for publication, those words must be honored.

Too, we have sung the songs of timely zines. The only way to get TB back on course was to get all those letters typed

and published.

Therefore, you have in your hands the TB that would not stop growing. I don't know if its stock options are ready to split because of the number of its pages or not. I do know you can stop speaking of The Number of the Beast and start talking about the number of the TB pages!

But the good news is that as of TB 146, we will be timely in the material printed.

All locs on hand as of August 25, 1986 have been printed as of this issue. All locs I receive between now and October 25, 1986 will be printed in TB 146.

At last we have reached the promised land where letters written on TB X will appear in TB X + 1 as one letter writer seeks to see happen.

This is a very interesting issue. I have taken a great deal of pleasure in getting it completed.

As this is a club zine and not a personal zine, I take the comments of the membership to heart when seeking to establish a pattern to follow.

It seems to be the consensus that editorial remarks were wanted within the text of the letters. I have experimented with them in this issue. Tell me what you think of them. Do you want them or would you rather see the letters without them? This is your zine and you should have input as to how it is produced. Do you want editorial comments inserted within the letters or do you not? Please let me know. It is my opinion the letters would be "purer" without them. However, that is only my opinion. The main question is -- what is your opinion on the matter?

Next the matter of editing itself has come up within these pages. The topic of a rotating editor has been broached. Personally, I think one strong, central editor-in-chief wielding their personal style in a manner which blends all factions of the club presents a continuity which cannot be matched. There has to be one person who has the responsibility for getting the zines out on time and "in good order."

TB is not the place to learn how to edit. This can be done through various spas and through small perrines. When you are dealing with a club zine, you are dealing with a great responsibility. It is important to present all sides of the issues. It is important to go after the other side so that TB can be a forum for fact and not rumor.

We need to print the letters as they come in. I prefer using a single typeface, if at all possible, to make the copy more pleasing

to the eye. I have used more than one in this issue.

Frankly Terry Bohman's piece was done so well and I was so tired that I gave in to temptation and let it be as it is.

There is also a candidate's corner in this issue. I feel very strongly that TB is the idea exchange of the NBP. As such, it should take a more active role in presenting the differing sides of the issues.

All candidates who I thought would be running for office, I invited to have some material in this issue. It helps you to gain more of an insight into the candidates' views and ideas.

Voting is important. As Abraham Lincoln said, "The ballot is stronger than the bullet." Use that ballot wisely. Read through all the letters presented by the candidates who chose to use this forum, as well as the platforms of those who had their views presented in the last few issues of TNPP. Vote intelligently, not on the basis of name recognition or friendship.

Vote for the best candidate. If you don't care to cast all the votes to which you are entitled, vote for only the one, two, three or so people who you feel are qualified to speak for you. A ballot sent in blank or with only a few candidates selected also voices an opinion. But whatever you do, VOTE. It is a way which has been designed to allow you a major say in how the club operates.

One letter in this issue asks for the address of where items relating to A Prairie Home Companion might be obtained. A catalogue of such products might be obtained from Minnesota Public Radio, 333 Sibley Street, Suite #26, St. Paul, MN 55101. The name of the catalogue is WIRELESS.

Lynne Boldom has written in with her new address. It is 3808 Macalester Drive -- #25, St. Anthony, MN 55421.

Flint Mitchell has written in with an addition to his fanzine section. He calls it a "Consumer Alert" and says, "Those of you who like Batman, either the comic book or the TV show, might be curious about a new book on the subject. My only warning is this: STEER CLEAR! The book in question (I will not mention the title, for fear that some poor sap might be tempted to buy it) is an indifferently put together piece of fluff, written by someone who knows little about the show, and even less about the comic book character. This particular book is like those sneering, condescending 'SF Film History Books' that littered the market a few years ago: lots of poorly reproduced



photos, shallow analysis of individual episodes, and a haughty attitude (as if the author feels he's above it all) pervade the book. If you're a Batman fan and love to be made fun of, if you like spending big money for one-dimensional analysis of the TV show, then you might like this book. If not -- well, there's always the excellent book, FANTASTIC TELEVISION to turn to."

Flint also has a preface to the fanzine section in which he refers to the NFAS. It seems as if there has been quite a bit of confusion over this issue.

However, David did not "balk" at printing only lists in TNPP. All bureaus have been requested to present more in-depth reports for TNPP and this is where the confusion began.

The bureau head is responsible for how he or she runs their own bureau. These people report to the president as to how they are conducting the bureau business. The president has the appointive powers over these people, and the directorate has the right of approval.

This is basically a matter where the president asked the bureau heads to submit their reports in a slightly different manner than had been the case.

However, if a bureau head felt, as did

Don that he could not run his bureau in that manner, that was also something which had to be taken into consideration.

The matter then got further confused over whether there had been a resignation in the bureau. There had not and Don remains the head of the bureau.

At least this is the way I have finally been able to piece all the fragments of the "dispute" together.

The letters in this issue are also disturbing. They present pictures of racial and religious persecution. They present ideas that dissent is akin to terrorism. They present the concept that it is indeed dangerous times in which we are living.

I will present a question in regards to the linkage of anti-nuke demonstrators and terrorists. In the case of the Rainbow Warrior and the French government, who was the terrorist?

The crew of the Rainbow Warrior were trying to keep alive the concept of dissent -- something which goes hand-in-hand with the freedom of speech which we all hold so dear. The French government tried to stifle this freedom by destroying not only private property, but also human life in the process.

Our right of dissent is a very precious one. It is something for which our forefathers fought and held dear to their hearts.

It seems in our new "patriotism" we are saying this right is not something which should be allowed. We are saying that you are free to be as long as you conform to the definition of what all must be as set down by those in power.

Is this freedom? Is this a true democracy? Granted, a pure democratic state is not what we have, but we are the closest to that you are going to get.

We have a government which should be representing all of the people, not just a select handful who happen to be personal friends or have a close relationship with our political figures. That is not representative government. That is cronyism.

To be truly free, we need to allow all to be free. If one is a slave, then all are slaves. If we allow one group of people to say what is right for ALL groups of people, we put those people in bondage, as well as ourselves.

We set limits on our freedoms of expression. Is this the freedom which we hold so dear and of which we are so proud? We criticize other countries for not allowing dissent, and then we treat

dissenters in our own as if they were traitors. When in fact, these people are making sure our Bill of Rights and our Constitutional freedoms are kept intact for future generations.

Morals cannot be legislated and they have no right to be. We need to protect our people from whatever overt harm there is, but the most harm that can be done to us is a slow erosion of the fundamental freedoms for which this country has always stood.

We are guaranteed our right to practice our religious beliefs as we see fit, not to have them restricted to what our neighbor sees fit. That restriction is not freedom. It is totalitarianism in its most hideous form -- an attempt to control not only our physical bodies, but our highest ideals as well.

Government has no business in religion. There is a separation of church and state in this country for a reason. So that all might feel free to worship as they will and there will be no officially sanctioned "correct" belief.

When you read the letters in the letter section of this issue which speak of racial and religious persecution, think of what you can do to help prevent such things from happening.

Prejudice is often nothing but ignorance. Learn about what you perceive to be an "evil" and you may find it to be something which holds the same ideals as do you, only it goes about expressing them in a different manner.

Let us attempt to remove the blinders that prevent us from seeing the suffering about us which is caused by the narrow-minded attitudes people have developed as to what they consider "right" and "wrong".

Humanity has been compared to a garden in which there are many flowers and each flower is one which needs care and cultivation. What if we tended that garden with care and let each flower flourish as it would, what beauty there would be in the world.

Warped minds are often allowed to be formed by those about them who prefer to look the other way and shut off whatever sun there might be in that life, instead of helping where they can. Who find it more trouble than they can expend to say a simple "hello" to the lonely and try to help them bridge the gap which separates them from a normal friendship. Sometimes offering your hand to one person can avert more suffering than you would know.

If you can't concentrate on the world, concentrate on your neighborhood. Be

courteous in traffic. Smile at people. Allow humanity to enter into our lives once more.

Such small things can make a difference in the long run.

To me, that is what Christianity should be about -- letting Christ's love flow through you and not saying a person has to believe as you say is right or else they will be damned for ever and ever and ever more.

Is that the love and salvation of Christ or is it the true message of the AntiChrist?

This seems to be more than enough wordage from me this time out.

The next issue of TB is one which I was assigned to edit at the beginning of the year. All locs for it -- TB #146 -- should be to me by 10/25/86 for printing.

This in no way means that is the date you have to adhere to to comment upon this issue. It is simply the date you have to get the locs to me so that I can get them into the next issue. Of course, it would make it much easier on me if you get them in earlier, but....

I hope you enjoy this issue. I also hope you will let me know what you think of it. Hearing comments on the issues is the only gauge I have of knowing what I am doing right and what needs changing.

Enjoy the Diversity and Let us know your opinions!

For now --- PEACE -- It's Not Just A Season!

Season!



the Politics of the matter

David Heath, Jr.

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

((Sally's)) idea to offer a forum to the candidates who didn't have the opportunity to respond to TB #44 that I did, since I was the out editor, is praiseworthy and fair.

First, I would like to wish luck to all the candidates for office, and note that though I am running officially unopposed, I welcome comment or public debate on my willingness to run and on my ideas.

I think I am qualified to be the president based on my experience, which is extensive in this club. I have been a member since 1979 and have been fairly active since '81. I don't think I need to burden you with comments there so let's talk real life.

My up-bringing and educational background tends to make me a liberal. My army training gives me a strange conservative streak that many of you probably have seen now and then. Lately, I have been known to rail against controlled page counts in zines, editing comments in zines, the editorial style of editors and lack of relevant comment in our zines.

As I said in my platform, I would like to see this club become a wide-ranging forum for the most diverse ideas in the arena of science fiction and fandom. I hate the opening phrase, "I hate...."

If I am elected, I will be striving to cement the relationship between the president and the directorate. Quite frankly, it has been bad lately. At the same time, I will be trying to divorce myself from the directorate. (Pulling two ways at once is a concept I can get into.) There is too much concern in our executive branch for what the directorate is doing. It is the job of the directorate to form the rules by which the club runs and the president's to over-see their execution.

That is the distinction between the executive and legislative branches, regulation and execution. I would be concerned about the directorate and its functions as a member, but probably too busy promoting the club and overseeing the bureaus to try to influence the outcome of votes they take.

There is a forum in INKF where they talk to you the members, and I think they and you should use it more. Such a question and answer section in the directorate column in INKF.

Many of you are concerned with the timeliness of our fanzines. You have been taking swipes at being a director to influence that. It is my opinion that, if you are running for the directorate with that as a platform, you are laboring under a

Yes, I would like to take time out to address some political comments concerning the upcoming election to the membership. I hope all the candidates do. I think your

misapprehension or pulling the wool over someone's eyes.

The job of the directorate is not from the publications. The president oversees the editors and the publication schedule.

If you want to effect the publications, you have to be the president. All the directorate can do is withhold funds or redefine a deadline schedule.

Directorate members who have influenced the publication schedule have done so as back-up editors, special feature editors or typists. In other words, they got out from under the legislative hat and got under the executive (to execute) hat. That is the realm of the president.

The main reason I am running for office is that I am tired of the talking. I want to get in there and do and influence others to do. I will make the only statement this election that I think can effect the outcome of printing schedules. I am going to change editors. I don't believe the president should edit TightBeam. I used to believe that. Now I don't. The president may edit TNFF, but I could see arguments against that, but not our idea exchange.

Some may see this as a castigation of the past editor and the old system. It's not. It is just not the system I would run if I were president and I am stating that now.

I will be looking at some possible editors in the near future and, if elected, will implement a plan that I hope will make TB more reliable. I don't think the president should be so concerned with the content of TB (except where quality and responsiveness to the members are concerned). He should be concerned about the mechanics of the zine, schedule, distribution, etc.

There is just too much other stuff to be done for him to edit an idea exchange. I will probably stay on as the TNFF editor. I think the president has to run roughshod over the bureau heads and TNFF is a good forum for that.

My policy will probably be about the same except that the editor's column will be the president's column and I will hold the bureau heads accountable for the frequency of their input.

Don't read this wrong. I believe in positive as opposed to negative feedback. But I won't give too many chances, if it is obvious that it is impossible for a person to function as a bureau head.

Basically, I plan to be a fairly action-oriented president if my mundane life will allow it. I would like the club to open itself to outside contacts and try to

expand a bit. I would like the members to participate more and feel good about the club.

Jumping from scandal to scandal is not my public style (though privately I love to gossip, can we talk?).

I appreciate Sally giving me and the other candidates the opportunity to air our goals and ideas. She is doing it for the sake of fairness, but I don't know if that will work out the way she wants it to. Not everyone puts as much thought into running for these offices as I have (or we would not have had so many people announce they were running, then miss the filing deadline) so it may be a bit unfair in the final count that I have so much to say and others don't.

This forum was equally offered by your editor and that is to her credit. Earlier in the year Owen suggested (after a hard fought battle against a write-in De Ghysel) that the candidates this year would serve themselves well to announce who they were for in the elections and who they could work with.

I didn't wholly agree with that idea, but will say this, I can work with anyone in this club.

I suggest you look at the platforms in the August TNFF and read them carefully. There are a lot of good points in those documents. Read them and then make your decision.

Thank you for your time, now go see Aliens again.

Rose Secret

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

I have been in NSF since August, 1984. Over the past two years I have come to realize that this club is of the greatest importance to me.

I obtained a quite functional husband through the club. This person and I, although born several years and miles apart, have proved ourselves to be very much alike and compatible.

Indeed, his companionship (which could only have come to me through NSF) is my greatest treasure.

My current major considerations in life all deal in some way with science fiction. There are, of course, my NSF activities. Also, I read science fiction, major in English and science, have two cats, and I write analyses of science fiction as well as stories and novels that are science fiction.

My activity in NSF has been immense. I

have been in at least twenty round tables, mainly for the purpose of "meeting" many active members fast.

I am the Correspondence Bureau head, and I have done more with this bureau than just print lists in TNFF. I actually watch up members. I write Loes frequently. Every TightBeam has had at least one letter from me in it.

My bureau reports have consistently appeared in TNFF, also. I write reviews and articles for TightBeam. I am the N3F's statistician. A questionnaire is in progress. I created Geep!, that stunning construct.

I am a member of the Welcomittee, faithfully writing scores of letters to defenseless, ignorant neoNeffers in order to enlighten them.

I am a member of the Writer's Exchange. I critique stories in that function. I've only been in the club two years, yet I am "famous throughout N3F."

I am a "big" person in the club.

If you look closely, the other major figures of N3F are thirty or older. I'm only twenty-one. I therefore am the balance between the teenagers and adults. And, last and definitely the greatest, I am editing a book. This book features work from a number of writing Neffers. It would seem ironic that such an editor of an encompassing book isn't the president also.

My philosophy about N3F is as follows. I would like to extend the terms of the directorate and president. It seems that all we ever do is vote!

I want to emphasize the active members of the club. The ones who pay \$8 a year and then do nothing are very generous for giving us that money, but the true active members are really the only ones that count.

I believe my voluminous memory keeps track of all these members, and if they are few, that's good, because it keeps the club neighborly.

If there are many, then let everyone have their say! There should be a good new members' booklet detailing the club. I was sent one when I joined, but if it were not for the hard-working Welcomittee: Lola Andrew, David Heath, and Stan Woolston, I would still be lost.

TNFF should not contain everything every issue. It would be too big! I would rather see new members get comprehensive booklets about N3F and let TNFF be entertaining, not repetitious.

Geeps for temporary projects, such as Geep!.

I wish to choose those who do things well to do things. Of course, inexperienced volunteers will get a chance to prove themselves in this system.

I think the dues should be raised. I am seeking a few active members, not several completely dead members.

These recruitment deals are fine in exposing people to the club, but only those who participate should remain. A constant weeding out process should occur. Eventually, a small, active membership will produce quality.

Organization and a fine brain seem to be necessary to run the club. A lot of disorder occurs through late aines, but it must be realized that a new member booklet will take care of that.

I can organize the data for any who are confused. I will keep it consistent and acknowledge all workings of the club in my consideration.

A true interest in the club does not mean upholding a forty-five year tradition. It does not mean worrying about inactive members, money or politics.

A true interest in the club is an interest in science fiction, a relationship with people from all over the world (what an opportunity!), and a tolerance for others.

Finally, I must speak of my opponent, David Heath. He is an artist, a gentleman, a cutie-pie, an editor of TNFF, and, he's cool!

What do I have to gripe at him for? Well, he said he was a disadvantaged candidate because he was black. So you conservatives have to choose between David and a female nonconformist famous nerd writer named Rose Secrest, the person whose name appears the most in TNFF. (Geep! is a close second.)

Voters, it's a tough decision, but remember my earlier campaigning and consider the foregoing article. Your decision must be a wise one, so think carefully between the candidates and make your choice.

Geep!



William T. Center

CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR

I had an interesting conversation at a convention recently. I had met some old fanzine friends and acquaintances and had received an invitation to a room party. We managed to stake out a section of floor near the bathroom door.

This was a good spot for several reasons: for one thing it meant that eventually we would get to see everyone at the party, since we've all got to go sometimes; for another, the liquid refreshments (in my case, Dr. Pepper) were stored in the bathtub under a mound of ice, and of course, it was a much shorter distance for us to travel should the need arise.

Our conversation covered a host of topics, from the state of fandom today to each others publishing efforts. I had commented that the gaps between the issues of their fanzines were getting larger and larger. They countered by asking me when my zine was going to appear. "Real Soon Now", I answered. "That's the same thing that you have been telling us for the last three cons", they said.

"What are you doing with all your spare time?" Well, I told them about the things I had been doing at late, including locating their zines and all the other zines that I received.

I also mentioned in passing that I was involved with the National Fantasy Fan Federation. "What in the world are you still doing in N3FF?" they wanted to know. "That's just for neos." "Where in the world did you get that idea?" I asked. "There are fans that have belonged to N3F since before I was born."

"Yes, but you can count them on your fingers," they replied. "Most Neffers are neos who know little or nothing about trufandom; they join, stay for a year or two at most and then either Gaffate or move on to become Trufans."

"What do you mean by 'Trufans'?" I inquired. "Why, people like you or us," they replied. "Fans that publish fanzines and go to cons and so on." "Well, yes, I do enjoy doing those things. Fandom Is A Way of Life is more than just a phrase to me," I said. "But let me ask you this: How did you manage to become a Trufan? Did you receive an engraved invitation from the Secret Masters of Fandom?" "Of course not," they replied. "We sent off for fanzines, wrote letters of comment to them, attended

cons, pubbed our own zines, etc."

"Well, how did you find out about fanzines and cons and so on?" I inquired. Some of them said that they had joined local clubs and found out through other members, some had read fanzine review columns in the prozines and had sent off for a few and others said they had heard about a local convention from their friends and decided to go. Some had even joined N3F as their entry into fandom.

I told them that that was the reason I was still in N3F.

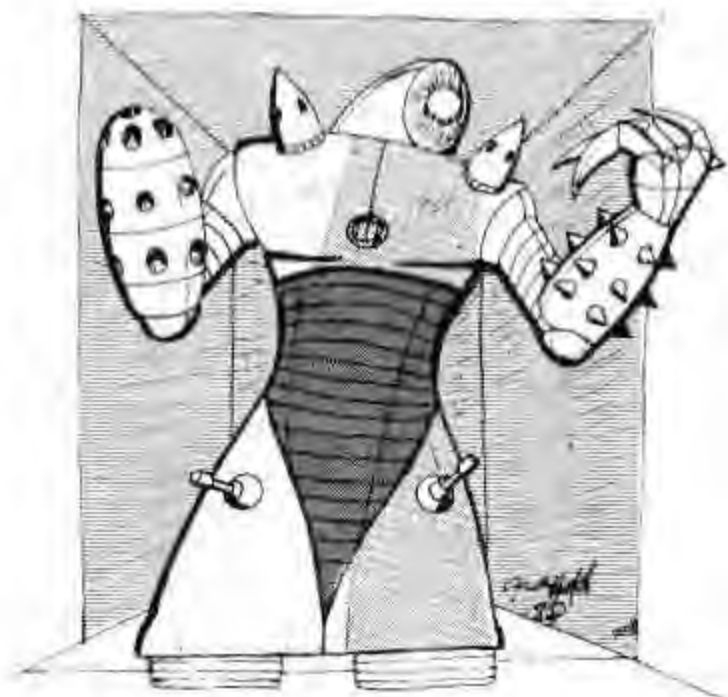
Somebody has to let the neos know about the big exciting world of fandom that exists out there. Somebody has to tell them about Ghu and Roscoe and Jophan and the Enchanted Duplicator. Somebody has to show them how they, too, can become Trufans.

You see, I can still remember the first convention that I attended. There I was, a rank neo, excited about being there, but at the same time feeling lost and out of place.

I remember how it hurt to find out that some of the pros and Big Name Fans that I had looked forward to meeting and talking to were self-centered assholes who treated neofans in a very condescending manner when they would talk to us at all.

I dare say that many a fannish career was cut short by these pompous asses.

Fortunately, I also met some very patient and understanding fan and pros that took the time to answer my silly questions that they, in all likelihood, had heard a thousand times before and went out of their way to make me feel like I was "part of the family".



I'll always be grateful to them, and it's because of them that I try to pass along the good feelings about fandom that they helped to instill in me to the neos that I come across in N3F and in fandom at large.

I try especially hard at cons to talk to people that look too shy to talk to someone on their own. I figure that if I can, in my own small way, help them to come away from the convention with a good feeling about fandom, then perhaps they will become more involved.

(Looking back on the last comment, I sound terribly conceited, as if I have the ability to change people's lives. It wasn't meant that way. I simply mean that I try to help people feel at ease, "a part of the family," just as those fan that I met at my first con did for me.)

So, when neos write to me and ask the same silly questions that I've heard a hundred times before (many of the same ones I used to ask), I try to be patient and answer them as best I can and above all, not be condescending. I could get a great deal more satisfaction from the limited time I have for fanac by ignoring N3F completely and instead go back to pubbing my own zine, where I could showcase my own ideas and interests and interact with older and more experienced fan who share those interests. I could also get considerably more egoboo that way.

I might do this one day, but for now that sense of obligation keeps me here. If it weren't for N3F I probably wouldn't have "met" some truly outstanding people that are playing an increasingly important part in my life.

I wouldn't want to give up the opportunity to "meet" those others of you out there that haven't as yet crossed my path, either. It looks like you all are stuck with me for a while yet.

the zines out regularly, something often lacking in the past couple of years.

We have an active membership so let's help keep it active by keeping the activities going and the zines published.

I also promise to read any complaints that come to me and pass them along to the other Directors and to the President.

Catherine Mintz

CANDIDATE FOR THE DIRECTORATE

You asked the candidates for office this year to write about their ideas on issues facing the N3F and how they perceive them. I don't know what I can add to the specifics I discussed in my platform in TNFF, but I would like to address a slightly different topic.

The club officers are elected to run the club for the benefit of the members. This involves figuring out what the members want from the club, and allocating funds and effort to attempt to reach those goals.

Back at the beginning of this year, there was considerable discussion about surveying the members to find out where they wanted the club to go. Owen pointed out that surveys had not been successful in the past and pretty much proved his point by putting a questionnaire in his actifan newsletter, TEAPOT.

Nowhere near half of the active club members the letters go to responded.

It hardly seemed worthwhile to waste the postage and printer's fees on a general survey if members who were already running burraes and loocing weren't interested in answering five or six questions, and the idea dropped out of the discussions.

Yet how useful the information would have been!

It is my belief that every one of the directors this past year has been eager to respond to the membership. We have had vigorous debates about how to figure out what the membership wants. Should one or two letters be assumed to be representative of ten or twenty people who didn't bother to write? Or do they only represent two friends with similar ideas?

Almost all of the issues the directors have been dealing with can be summed up under one large question- Should the club remain very much as it is or should it expand in size and in the services it can offer its members?

I, myself, favor expanding the club to about a thousand members, no more. This is small enough that we still can get to know

Lynne Holdon

CANDIDATE FOR THE DIRECTORATE

DIRECTORATE PLATFORM

As you know, I have been in the N3F since 1975. I edited TIGHTFAN for five and a half years and have seen four presidents of the N3F.

Therefore, I think I am qualified to serve on the Directorate.

My priorities, in as far as I can fulfill them, would be to work with the President to keep the Club moving smoothly and getting

the matter, yet I hope enough say that we
will have ten, fifteen, twenty people
attending most large conventions. After
directors have other opinions.

I'd like to take this opportunity to ask
each member to please vote in the upcoming
elections and take the time to let your
newly elected president and directors know
on at least this one important issue where
you stand.

A fourteen-cent postcard can make a
difference.

Brian L. Suth

CANDIDATE FOR THE DIRECTORATE

As some of you may know, I am running for
the office of the Directorate but, sadly
enough, I have missed the deadline and I'll
have to be a write-in.

My platform is as follows:

PLATFORM:

BRIAN SUTH FOR DIRECTOR

You may have seen my previous platform in
the April TNFF, so this will continue. The
Directorate has been running fine with Sally
as Chairman, and I applaud her work. Now,
I am not going to put anyone down, as no one
deserves to be.

A big problem is that the membership
itself needs its ideas spoken in the
Directorate. I will try my hardest to let
the voice of the membership be heard.

I also pledge to work my hardest and obey
the Constitution and By-Laws, and to make
this a bigger and better club.

The NSF is a club devoted to science
fiction, but it has many problems that need
solving -- soon. I feel that I could do
this. But only you could let me. This club
is having a few problems with publications,
but should be back on track. This was a big
problem. New members shouldn't have to wait
to get publications. They should feel at
home.

I also take the stand that we need bigger
zines, as long as we can afford it. This is
one of many issues that I stand for. So,
please vote for me as a write-in candidate
for Director. Only you can make the choice.

I will get your views heard.

Thank you and remember to vote!

Sally A. Syrjala

CANDIDATE FOR THE DIRECTORATE

One thing I hope every member has done is
to CAREFULLY go over each and every platform
the candidates have published, as well as
these letters concerning how they feel about
the NSF.

It is only by looking carefully at the
candidates and voting, not on name
recognition or friendship, but on the
qualifications of the individuals that you
will get the club you want.

You have read my platform in the June
TNFF and communication is still my main goal
in running for the Directorate.

We have to form lines of communication
within the club so the Directorate can know
what the membership wishes. Only if you
write to us and let us know can we act on
those wishes.

One thing I have heard a lot lately is
how people dislike politics and wish there
were no such thing.

All "politics" really is is people
getting along with other people. When a
group forms, it needs to have people through
whom they can go to communicate their ideas.

A representative is elected who can serve
as someone to implement those ideas.

That is all the Directorate is -- a
representative group elected to implement
the ideas you want to see come into being.

The only way the Directorate can know
what those ideas are is for you to let us
know. I know that I have been very sorry
that only a handful of members have
contacted me about any issues this past
year. I had wanted to get more of a
representative sampling so that I would have
an idea of the consensus on the issues.

This is something I would really like to
see happen this year -- for the membership
to start sounding off on what they want us
to be doing and where they want their club
to be heading.

It would be nice if we could grow and
have more of a talent pool within our ranks
to help run the club. We need those active
members to lend their support for the club's
activities. We need their ideas and their
input.

One way you can communicate your desires
to the Directorate is in your voting. It is
very important for you to cast a vote.

A STATEMENT

by

Lola Andrew

Remember, there are some write-in candidates running. Please give them every consideration you do the "official" candidates who filed in time to make the ballot.

Take your voting responsibility seriously and vote only for those you think will best represent you and best respond to your comments and ideas.

By voting in this fashion, you will have control of the club. You will be speaking as to how you want it run.

Please vote in the up-coming election. Don't toss your right to voice your opinion away.

Too, if you don't vote, and, if things don't go the way you wish with the club, you have only yourselves to blame.

Do vote. It is the only way you can make sure your voice is counted. After you have voted, write to the directorate, let them know what specific issues you want addressed.

Thank you for reading these words and I hope they will convince you to place one of your votes for the directorate with me.

But, in any event, VOTE! It is important and it is also important that you let the officers know when things upset you with the club, as well as when things are going the way you want them to go.

Your voice is the only gauge of the wishes of the membership there is. Remember you are the club. Make your wishes known!

We have a good group of people running for office this fall. I'm sure they all want to see the club strong and healthy.

I will be working with any who get elected as the Secretary-Treasurer is included in all the discussion letters.

You can be sure I will still be sending out letters of comment on any proposal the group comes up with. I will not be a voting member, but like the President, I will be an active member and officer.

I appreciate all the support I have gotten from members in all the years I have run for director. I, too, like to vote my friends into office.

I'm sorry you cannot vote me the Secretary-Treasurer's office as it is by appointment.

I do not wish to be considered a candidate for director or president this fall, even as a write-in.

There were a few days in the last part of July I thought I might run for President as no one had said to me they were running. I then got David Heath's letter and was happy to give him all my support in his bid for the office.

I hope to see a large turn out of vote cards sent back in to Howard DeVore.

It is one way to show you care about the club. I wish everyone running the best of luck.





Books

ENIGMA

by Michael P. Fube-McDowell
Berkeley, 1986, \$3.50

A Book Review by Lan

Although this novel is a sequel to *Empire*, and the second in the Trigon Disunity Trilogy, *Enigma* exists separately and can be read and enjoyed without reading the first one.

The story revolves around Merrit Thackery who, upon having what could be considered a religious experience when he sees Jupiter up close from a spacecraft swinging around it, decides to leave his studies in Government Services and applies for the United Space Service.

The reader follows Merritt's career through the service, his leadership of a Contact team (which makes the first communication with First Colonies), and commander of a mission designed to search for the race that may have come before Humans.

The book is a careful study of Merrit, his roles and relationships with other people, and his discovery which has cosmic repercussions for Earth and her Colonial Expansion program.

As the protagonist, Thackery is superbly drawn with all the faults and virtues that make him human, and the drive that makes him a hero.

The supporting characters are also well-rounded, and easily kept separate through well-defined personalities.

I found the story fast-paced and rearranged my busy schedule to allow extra time to read the book.

The novel is complete in itself, but does give an indication where the third part of the trilogy, *Empy*, will concentrate.

While I eagerly look forward to Mike's next book, I consider this his best to date.

Empire, his first novel, I considered among my Hugo nominations last year, but *Enigma* is better. It now heads my list for the next Hugo selections for Best Novel.

Very highly recommended.

HIGHWAY OF ETERNITY

by Clifford D. Simak
DelRey Hardcover, 1986, \$14.95

A Book Review by Lan

I eagerly await each Simak work. His stories have a warm feeling to them, and his characters are usually interesting and intellectually thoughtful. The plots are invariably thought-provoking, and I can count on him to let me leave the book with a good feeling.

At 82-years-old, Simak is still creatively producing SF. In the last few novels, he has been exploring what the next "survival trait" might be.

First survival was based on size and strength (dinosaurs), then intelligence (humans), but what's next?

Simak's latest novel, *Highway of Eternity*, tries to answer that. He comes up with a tentative solution, but I don't think he himself is convinced of it.

The story: Jay Corcoran, who runs an informational service business, has a trick vision which enables him to see things others can't.

While investigating a client's hotel suite because the building it is in has been condemned and is to be demolished, he "sees" a huge box affixed to the outside of the apartment, and calls in a reporter friend, Tom Boone, who has the ability to "step around a corner", i.e., to remove himself from danger by disappearing into another dimension and returning when the danger passes.

While the two of them search the apartment, the building is destroyed, and Boone escapes to the box taking Corcoran with him. The box turns out to be a time traveling machine, and they wind up helping a group of people from the future.

These people fled into the past to escape the Infinities, a race who offered to turn humans into discorporate beings, thus making them immortal. The Hopkins Aire Family was one group who refused to give up their bodies.

The group from the future has only one really developed character, Timothy, who has been searching history to find out what led the human race to be receptive to this idea of discorporate existence.

The others are pretty flat, except maybe Henry. He accepted the process of discorporation, but changed his mind part of the way through the process.

He wanders as a ghost through time and space, and tries to help the Family of Hopkins Acres.

As the story moves along, more characters are added, many of them aliens.

In the wanderings of the Family, Boone and Corcoran, they stumble across the Highway of Eternity (which runs from one end of the universe to the other) is another dimension, which turns out to be the one that Boone "steps into".

The novel is a mixed bag of the things I expect in a Simak book. There are robots, aliens, and dogs (wolves, actually), and assorted human and alien characters.

The story is only mildly interesting, and many of the characters turn out to be two-dimensional.

In addition to Timothy, the main characters, Jay Corcoran and Tom Ponne, are the only fully developed ones. There are others who are partially developed, but the majority are background actors established to carry the story along. I have found one personal annoyance that has crept into Cliff's writing in the last few books in his handling of conversation.

People "yell," "scream", and get angry with little cause or build-up. This is most likely tied into the lack of character development of those who behave in this way.

The novel is slow in spots, and I left it several times, but always came back. The story, however, is nicely tied together at the end, with a few strings left dangling for the reader to think over.

The last few chapters are well worth wading through the rest of the book. Cliff manages a few surprises there.

Do I recommend the book? Yes. In spite of the slow spots, the Highway of Eternity does move along and gets more interesting as the reader progresses.

Simak is good at introspection, and when the characters talk to themselves and speculate about the events that have occurred, he is at his best.



THE BOOK OF KELLS

A Novel by R. A. MacAvoy

A Book Review by Laurel Beckley

This is my very first book review, so bear with me. I have read all of R. A. MacAvoy's books, and to me, this is her best. It's also her latest, and I think she is definitely improving as a writer. This is not to say her other books weren't good, they were, but I liked this the best.

It begins in modern Ireland when John Thornburn accidentally brings Ailesh, a girl from the late 10th Century Ireland, into the present and thus saves her from a Viking attack.

Ailesh must return to her time to avenge her slaughtered people, and John brings Derval, a young woman Irish professor, along with them back to Ailesh's time.

There they find themselves trapped, as the Vikings destroy their gateway back to modern times.

The book continues with their attempts to avenge Ailesh's people and escape from the Vikings pursuing them. It also deals with the relationships between the characters and how they change and feel for each other through their ordeals.

This book is a fantasy, yet it also brings the time of 10th century Ireland alive, with the intrigues of that time, and could also be considered somewhat as a historical novel. I would call it historical fantasy, and it was well worth reading.

THE GANDALARA CYCLE

By Randall Garrett & Vicki Ann Heydon

A Book Review by Lola Andrew

If you are interested in books that have humans mind linked to their companion mounts, you will want to read these books. The race of the Shan'um is that of huge cats. Young boys go to the Valley of Sha'um and if they are lucky, return linked to a Sha'um cub.

The main character in the cycle is a man of our time who has died and finds himself in the body of a man who was just killed by a blow to the head. His new world is a strange one and it helps to have him see it as we would view it.

He can thus comment on customs and dress that a local person wouldn't even notice as being different.

The best part of being in this new body is that its former resident -- Markassett -- was a rider. Markassett's Sha'um -- Keeshah -- knew that a change had taken place, but was willing to accept Rikardon. In fact the bond between them was even stronger than before.

Rikardon finds that Markassett was the son of an leader in the city of Raithskar.

A precious and sacred jewel is missing from the city and some believe Markassett took it. It now becomes Rikardon's quest to find the lost jewel and clear his name. This leads to various adventures and side tracks full of action and romance.

Several secondary characters are rounded out in various books. The most important is Tarani, a woman of royal blood, but common upbringing.

Helping her to become High Lord was one very interesting side track. She is also an extraordinary person as she is the first woman Rider.

Tarani's Sha'um is a female, mated to Keeshah and the first female to leave their valley.

The last book of the cycle has just come out in paper back. It is called The River Wall. It is full of surprises that I never dreamed were coming. I refuse to spoil them for you by talking about it. You simply must read it for yourself.

The first six books are now being reprinted in two large paper backs. The first of these is also now available.

I truly enjoyed these books. They may not be deep, but they were a lot of fun. I hope you will try them.

THE PROBLEM WITH JOHN FARRIS: SON OF THE ENDLESS NIGHT

1985, St. Martins

Reviewed by Wayne Fordham

If you've read any John Farris at all within the last few years, you possibly were attracted by the Stephen King blurb that appears on almost every copy of Farris, old or new. "John Farris is America's premier novelist of terror....Nobody does it better."

Those "...- tell a lot to this reader. I don't know what it's quoted from but what King should have said (and maybe did) was that when Farris is cooking, nobody does it better. But when Farris is bad, very few do it worse. Bad is SON OF THE ENDLESS NIGHT, and you couldn't ask for a poorer or sillier horror novel than this.

It begins somewhat promisingly: An obnoxious male attached to an exceptionally attractive female find themselves in an environment that becomes more ominous as each page turns. Then, less than a fourth through the book, said obnoxious male kills said attractive female in one of the goriest murders in print, ending all attractive plot interest. The next half of the book is devoted to preparations for the obnoxious s.o.b.'s trial for murder and whether or not to plead guilty because of demonic possession. I won't tell you the last quarter in case you are interested, though chances are, if you were interested, at this late date, you've already read it.

For my part, I think demon possession is basically hokey, and I can't sustain disbelief long enough to even enter into the book's premise. To my mind, the whole novel consists of an interesting beginning, followed by a totally disgusting murder scene, followed by seemingly interminable silliness about legal questions over a ridiculous defense, and an unsatisfactory and absurd ending, appropriate only to the inanity of the whole book.

I think the sad and scary part of all this is that Farris apparently takes this hokum seriously, i.e., he's not just using this garbage as a plot device to write a

potential seller to sickies. Regretably, the whole thing reeks of a pathetic belief in some sort of bastard mysticism, and when Parris writes of mysticism -- well, that's the problem with John Parris.

When Parris sets that stuff aside, he produces excellent books as in the superbly scary SHARP PRACTICE which notably has no trace of the supernatural, or in THE FURY, which has enough plot differences from the so-so movie to make it worth your reading.

Or even when Parris tones down the mysticism, as in CATACOMBS, his prose and worth show up.

But in such astute, preachy stuff as SON OF THE ENDLESS NIGHT or THE UNINVITED, Parris fails to please or scare me, and makes me wonder why I keep reading his crud.

But, when I remember SHARP PRACTICE, etc., I know why: because when Parris is good, as Stephen King says, "nobody does it better."

***** THE CAT WHO WALKS THROUGH WALLS

by Robert A. Heinlein, G. P. Putnam's Sons
362 pages, 1985, \$17.95

Reviewed by Lloyd McNallie

No review of this book can deal solely with this book, nor avoid giving away some secrets: IF YOU PLAN TO READ THE BOOK, BUT SIMPLY HAVEN'T GOTTEN AROUND TO IT YET, SKIP THIS REVIEW.

That Heinlein has long been infatuated with the idea of alternate universes is probably obvious to even the most casual of observers.

In this case "long" works out to forty-seven years. He began his writing career with what Campbell called his "Future History," and little of his work has dealt with extensions of our own time-line.

In The Number of the Beast, he turned to the "Multiverse" as a vehicle unto itself, and introduced a means for achieving willfull interpenetration between "Dimensions".

This "improbability Drive," along with the seed of the idea that we can create these other worlds by imagining them strongly enough, was the major contribution of the book.

In JOB: A Comedy of Justice, his manipulation in this view seems to reach it's peak. We're repeatedly hit with some of the more (and less) subtle variations between 'verses. A unification of myths,

religions, words, words -- each "the only true one."

In The Cat Who Walks Through Walls: A Comedy of Manners, we meet Richard and Gwen (classically conceitscent Heinleinian heroes). In "Golden Rule," a habitate in lunar orbit. In 2088 -- 112 years futureward from Moon Is A Harsh Mistress, but ostensibly in that same universe.

The action begins rather quickly (the entire book happens pretty quickly for that matter -- taking place in just over a week of lunar time) on page one. A man attempts to coerce Richard into an assassination. On page two this man is killed by unknown agents.

Our heroes make their way to Luna. We see bustling bureaucracy replacing our beloved anarchy. Richard and Gwen aren't happy about this either, but aren't given much time to worry about it. They're busy trying to stay alive, and enjoying their honeymoon. Being supra-adequate K&H creatures, they do all right on both scores.

Lots of fun, even if you don't like the way Luna turned out -- and you're not meant to. (Sorry, folks. Sad but true. If you like things to stay the same, you can always pick up #37 of the "Rabbit-Rider" series: Munch, Munch, Gulp.)

Even this, however, is not what turns most readers off the book. At this point, Gwen reveals that she, too, is Agent -- of the Time Corps (anyone remember "All You Zombies"?). -- And that all the hassles and bad guys are attempts to foil her own mission, the rescue of Mike/Adam Selene.

You remember the Holmes IV computer which ran the revolution, and then -- went to sleep.

There are several sudden changes of scene and time (via Improbability Drive), and we meet other members of the Time Corps: The Long Family, Jubal Harshaw, Deety and Zeb and Jake and Blide and --- so on. From action and fun to Old Home Week and lots and lot of talk.

We ^{learn} something of how the organization is put together, of the reasons for all the incomprehensive stuff we enjoyed so much through the first two sections of the book, of "The World As Myth," and we meet Pixel, the cat (well, kitten) who walks through walls.

Richard joins the mission (which the history books alternately report as success and failure), and the book ends in a decidedly un-Heinlein-like cliff hanger, with Richard curing the bastard "Author"

who could do such a thing. There is some previous evidence that Richard survives, but of Owen and Pixie, we know not. fins.

Where is Heinlein going with this? What is he trying to do? Darned if I know. He would appear to have made his "statement" about the quality of all things — but I'd have said that after Forb and JOE as well.

Why is he so bloody obsessed with the idea in the first place? Could it be anything so simple as the fact that his own life was changed entirely by a single event — the contraction of tuberculosis which excluded him from his chosen military career, and allowed him to "accidentally" discover writing?

I don't know. I do know that I enjoyed, was enthralled by The Cat Who Walks Through Walls, and — I can't wait to see what he comes up with next.

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(over) THE TIME LORD TIMES

Fanzine Section
Compiled by Flint Mitchell

Before I begin anything, I suppose I should take on the odious task of straightening out the mess that has overtaken the New Fanzine Appreciation Society — NFAS.

In the April TNFF, David Beath (our erstwhile TNFF editor, as well as a fine person and a good influence on young people) balked at printing yet another NFAS member list. David felt this way because the list was pretty much the same as the issue before that (and the one before that, and....)

Rightly or wrongly, Donald Franson, head of the NFAS, (who is incidentally a fine person and a good influence on young people), felt that the member list was essential to the organization. Don temporarily disbanded the NFAS in protest.

Owen K. Laurion, our beloved N3P president (as well as being a fine person and a good influence on young people), took the announcement of the disbanding of the NFAS as tantamount to a resignation and looked for someone to head the bureau.

Of the 43 people asked, I was the only one not to turn him down flat. I was appointed NFAS head, and I sent out flyers to everyone who was a member of the NFAS. I also submitted a report to TNFF.

Then it hit the fan. Owen had apparently misunderstood Donald Franson's actions. Don had not, in fact, resigned his post. A flyer stating that fact had been sent the very same week that I had sent out my flyer stating that I was the NFAS head. Icko. To add to the confusion, both Don's report and mine were printed TNFF.

Anyway, let me set things straight here. The main reason I volunteered to head the NFAS was to see it continue as a viable organization. If Donald Franson still desires to head it, that's fine with me. I certainly am not out to upset anyone.

Send your requests to join the NFAS to Don, not me.

To be reviewed in TNFF, send fanzines to Donald Franson. To be reviewed in TIGHTBEAM, send fanzines to:

Flint Mitchell
7331 Terri Robyn
St. Louis, MO 63129

FANZINE REVIEWS

THE TIME LORD TIMES ??? (no number given) (8½" x 5½", 20 pages. Xeroxed, front stapled 2-tone yellow paper.) Available for the usual (presumably) from: Gene Gryniewicz, 4546 S. St. Louis, Chicago, IL 60632.

I've got a hard time here trying to figure out this one. It's a clubzine, and clubzines, with their semi-mandatory "we'll print anything" philosophy, have lower standards than do other zines.

To begin with, The Time Lord Times is crud.

I say this without demeaning it at all — for, with most crudzines, the cruddy part comes from a lack of effort. Reading through TLT, I get the feeling that if the editor hadn't taken so much effort in putting it together, if he had just typed the darn thing up and Xeroxed it off, it would have been a better fanzine.

For instance in the fanzine review section, at least three different sizes of type are used, as well as a good deal of transfer lettering.

The effect in leafing through it is not unlike that of the 1960's "underground newspapers" — only slightly more chaotic.

It must have taken a couple of hours to put the thing together that way -- and yet simply typing it out would not only have taken much less time, it would have looked better, too.

There's some of the usual Dr. Who matter (the editor doesn't like Colin Baker. Since MTV shows THE YOUNG ONES at the same time the good Doctor is playing here, I cannot comment), as well as a sort of comic strip called "Notes Toward Leela".

While NTL is not a standard comic strip, it at least demonstrates that the artist has a pretty good knack with an art pen. Like a lot of fan art, it's inconsistent, showing passable technique in one section, and ineptitude in the next. It's a step toward innovation, and it deserves some credit for that.

So, what is my overall opinion of this zine? There's a good deal of cleverness here, and if the editor would simplify things, it could be truly entertaining.

PHANTOM FAMILY #1 (30 pages, 8 1/2" x 11", front wrap ad. Xerox.) Available for \$2.00, from Mike Suzor, 4117 N. 20th Street, St. Louis, MO 63107.

TPF is but the first of many publications in a new renaissance of LOST IN SPACE fandom.

Later this year we'll see the publication of not one, but two LOST IN SPACE technical manuals.

One, put together over three years by fans who care about the show, and another put out by New Media (in three months) that will be forgotten as quickly as it's released.

Who would have thought that in 1961 with the publication of LISPAN I (by your 'umble reviewer) that we'd have come this far. But I digress.

Mike Suzor, as some of you know, is a crack artist, and his material is a real plus to any zine it appears in. Naturally, then you'd think that TPF would feature mostly his work -- but you'd be wrong. Mike opted instead for a good variety of artwork -- sure his stuff's in there, but it doesn't completely dominate the issue.

The layout, etc., is a cut above most zines. When artwork is used, for instance, it has a purpose. It isn't put in to fill gaps. This gives a well planned feel to the project. My only complaint is that the typing is uneven and, since I, too, am the victim of a dying typewriter, I can only sympathize.

As far as content goes, we have "The Jupiter that Wasn't," an article depicting the OPO cases that LIS has inspired.

Most of the issue is taken up with fiction -- Yes, LIS fans do write fiction! -- and comic strips.

"The New Adventures of Penny" is a strip that takes one of the characters from the show and puts her in a new fictional setting. While some LIS purists might object to this, it is nonetheless fun.

There's enough in this zine to keep even people who hate LIS interested -- and, if that isn't the definition of a successful zine, I don't know what is.

DRACHULINA #3 (40 pages, 8 1/2" x 11", wrap-around offset, glossy paper, spot color on cover) \$3.25 to: High Gallagher, P. O. Box 115, Moro, IL 62067.

Hmm. I've reviewed this zine before, but usually those reviews have appeared in gore/sleaze publications. Trying to mention the contents while trying to stay within the borders of good taste will be a challenge. For instance, there's a photo from SKILLER on page six. There's no way I could describe it (or even allude to it) without violating at least a few principles. It is the first time I've seen one of those things glowing, however

All right, picture this: You have a good old boy who has a wife and a kid and works in an ammo factory. What sort of murderous fantasies come about from working in a place like that? Quite a few.

DRACHULINA can best be described as a synthesis of VAMPIRELLA (gore/sex/comics) PLAYBOY (big feature this issue: PLAYMALES OF HORROR -- with photos!), FANCORIA/ SPLATTER TIMES (gore/horror/reviews), ROLLING STONE (rock reviews -- but that's okay. It's Wendy O that's reviewed), and THE NATIONAL LAMPOON (the occasional humorous piece).

Picture what BUSTLER would be like if it didn't have a full-time photographer, and you'd get an idea of the contents of this zine.

An interesting article in this issue is an interview with the fellow who's recutting VIDEOHOME for TV release. Yeah, I know it sounds impossible, but apparently it's being done. The only movie they couldn't tone down for TV: Monty Python's THE MEANING OF LIFE.

I used to think those TV print censors were real humorless types, but witness this line from the article: "...I feel like kind of a hypocrite because I'm working in a department where we take out of feture

films all the stuff I like: graphic violence, bad language, naked bodies"

Also in this issue is an article by Donald Farmer that, while it's brief, is sure to shock at least a few readers.

If the words gore/sleaze/exploitation/porn describe the type of films you like, then by all means get this. If not -- Well, you can always renew your subscription to STARLOG. You deserve it.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Some zines are either too short or of limited interest for a full review to be possible. Nevertheless, many make interesting reading.

SF PANDECT #1 (8 pages, 8 1/2" x 11", offset, wrap-around format, typeset) \$4 a year to: SF Pandect, P. O. Box 701401, Tulsa, OK 74170-1401.

An idea that makes so darned much sense that I wonder why no one else has done it, SFP is a "Journal about SF Conventions," designed by and for convention organizers. If you'd like to see SF cons become more responsive to fans, then by all means subscribe to this.

Rigest laugh in the issue: In an interview with folk singer Dennis Drew, he refers to the folk singing "industry!" while at the same time complaining that many organizations who produce tapes don't feel obligated to send free copies to the people who sing on them. Dennis, it's either an industry, or it's utter chaos -- but it's not both!

GAOPHONY Vol. X, No. 8 (10 pages, Xerox, 8 1/2" x 11", front stapled). Available for the usual from: James J. Murray, 2200 W. 74th Terrace, Prairie Village, KS 66208.

The clubline of the Kansas City Science Fiction and Fantasy Society. Nothing great or earth shattering here -- just the usual club natter, plus a sprinkling of sercon. If you like this sort of thing -- and I certainly do -- you might want to check it out.

THRESHOLD OF FANTASY #2 Edited by R.D. Larson, Fandom Unlimited Enterprises, P. O. box 70868, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (76 pages, 8 1/2" x 11") Available for \$3.50. Reviewed by Wayne Fordham.

TOF's subtitle is A MAGAZINE OF FANTASTIC LITERATURE. This semi-pro zine claims to offer stories in SF, F, Horror and Macabre Mystery.

To this reader what TOF offered was horror stories, using SF, F, M, & H settings. That's the first problem.

Well, then is it a good horrorzine? No, because, with one or two exceptions, the stories are lousy. That's the second problem.

What's the third problem? The type is about the size of TNPF's membership list, and while that means you're going to get a lot for your money, you're also gonna to get a whale of a headache. Take it from one who read it cover to cover.

There are some good points. The interviews are far and away the best thing in the issue. Interviews with fantasy artist Rowena Morrill, authors Robert Bloch, David C. Smith and Jessica Amanda Salmonson.

The zine is also generous with the art work. Lots and lots of pictures. Good? Well, they're essentially all in the horrific vein, so if you're not into that, you ain't gonna like it.

It's a lot like those comics either your or your mommy and daddy got whipped for reading as a kid.

There were a couple of good poems, and a long lousy three-page poem in couplets. I mention this last because most editors won't touch a long poem in couplets or anything else, so I admire the editor's intention, if not his taste. Some book reviews.

The most interesting and satisfying story was "And Now the News Tomorrow" by Michael Gibbs, set in a future where psychics predict tomorrow's news.

The second most interesting story is a short short called "Raised to the What" by Matt O'Brien. The third was another short short called "No Monsters" by Harmaime Parsons. The fourth? There wasn't one. The other fourteen stories were yawn-yawns with gore. Five poems: 1 good (Salmonson), 2 okay (Wolfenbarger, Boston), the rest were nap time.

Should you buy it? You haven't been paying attention if you can ask such a question. But, if you're sick enough to waste \$3.50 for the privilege of permanent eye-damage induced by over-indulgence in gore and grue, before you compound that inanity with another, let me point out that the zine is published irregularly (two issues in more than two years), a very, very long typed LOC produced no response, and if you're stupid enough to go for a subscription (\$13.00 for 4), as I was suckered into, you are probably just kissing that money goodbye, as I doubt it will last

so long and if it does, by the time they get the issues out, there's a good chance they will have lost your address. In two words: **Steer Clear.**

((Note from **Flint Mitchell**: I never thought it was possible to "overindulge" on gore and grue. The idea that simply because something contains gore and/or extreme depravity, that that item is automatically third rate, has always struck me as bizarre. Goreline editors have been, in my experience, slightly more dependable than SF zine editors. Still, there are some bad apples out there in gore fandom, and I think it's worthwhile that you pointed this example out. FM))

Fawcett Publications, Richard H. Fawcett, 61 Teecommas Drive, Uncasville, CT 06382.
Reviewed by **Wayne Fordham**.

I'm going to make an exception here and review several zines as a group, because they are either published or distributed by Richard Fawcett, at the above address. Cost runs from \$2.50 to \$4.00. Size is 5½" x 8½", and they average about 60 pages.

Two are edited by Jessica Amanda Salmonson (TOMOE COZEN series, AMAZON anthologies): FANTASY MACABRE and FANTASY AND TERROR.

FANTASY MACABRE originally came out of England for four issues with interior art and then switched to Salmonson & America and no interior art. Issue 8 is forthcoming.

FM was designed to continue the Lovecraft & Derleth vein of horror, and, as such, has moody, melancholy, highly poetic pieces, with occasional gore, and with occasional reprints of hard to find material from this or earlier centuries.

FANTASY AND TERROR is devoted to the short short, and includes both prose and verse, similar in style to the above. Again, no interior art.

DOPPLEGANGER is a horrozine which is supposed to be written more by amateurs, but the main difference I saw in style was that D's had a much wider range. Small type. Interior art. All the above include poetry, as well as prose. D has a letter column, "Notes of the Living Dead". All of the above are published by Richard Fawcett.

Fawcett also acts as distributor for the Haunted Library publications of Rosemary Pardoe in England. There is a regular zine with very small type called GHOSTS AND SCHOLARS, which is devoted to the style of M. R. James, whom you should go read if you haven't already — "Whistle and I'll Come to

You, My Lad," "Casting the Runes," etc.

The zine has interior art and some essays as well.

I've read THE BEST OF GHOSTS AND SCHOLARS (66 pages, \$4.00), an all fiction issue, with selections from the first six issues. Published here by Fawcett, the type comes back up to pleasant size.

WHEN THE DOOR IS SHUT: AND OTHER GHOST STORIES BY 'B' is a Pardoe publication which includes rare stories by an anonymous contemporary of James (33 pages, small type, interior art. \$3.00).

A four-page, single spaced, typed LOC, mostly critical, brought most of the above to my door. I'd paid for 6 FM's, received and read three, requested two more of anything in a different vein, and got altogether all of the above (ten zines) at a discount. Definitely have good feelings towards Richard Fawcett. I may have hit him on a good day. Surely this was a once in a lifetime deal! So, if your encounter turns out less profitable, don't write fussing at me or him. He seems wondrously interested in what you think of his zines and more than co-operative in working something out.

If you're into horror or ghost stories or the like, I think these are probably worth checking out.

FANTASY MACABRE is moody and poetic. I'm delighted there's a zine out there devoted to the very short piece, but I wish FANTASY AND TERROR had a wider range of style and content — moody and poetic as above.

DOPPLEGANGER was the most fun for me of the three, but it's definitely only for horror fans.

Since I like M. R. James, I enjoyed most of THE BEST OF GHOSTS AND SCHOLARS, and the lesser but still interesting GHOST STORIES BY 'B'.

If interested, I would recommend you write to see what's available now, and ask about discounts if you bought several items.

Also, Fawcett in FM #6 had an offer where you could pay \$15.00 and receive the next six publications as printed instead of the \$17.00 cover price. You might want to see if such an offer still exists because between Fawcett and Pardoe, they provide an interesting range of a kind of horror tale that you don't see that often.

Needless to say, after my pleasant encounter with Mr. Fawcett, I would encourage any fan interested to pursue the interest in these zines.

The Dragon, Beast of Fame,
Before man began his reign,
No dog was he for man to tame,
And so insured he must be slain.

No more the earth will feel their tread,
The bellowed roar, the flame of red,
All are gone, their kind are dead,
No more, . . . The 'Dragon Kind' are dead!

Long ago they ruled the earth,
Upon all things the Dragons fed,
From pole to pole and about the girth,
When Dragons flew all beasts fled.

No more the skies behold their kind,
No more the earth will feel their tread,
Look far and wide, still you'll find,
No more, no more the Dragon kind.

And though they are but beasts of mind,
Still I miss the Dragon Kind!

A snowflake, gentle on the earth,
Bright and clear the warming sun,
A child's first day, it starts at birth,
The tinkle of laughter. For sweet childish
fun.

Little eyes full of life and wonder,
Innocent eyes, that sparkle and shine,
Questioning minds, that sometimes blunder,
To hold forever, this heart of mine!

Days full of sunshine, days full of rain,
A child takes the passing of each,
one by one.
Sometimes with laughter,
sometimes with pain,
Youth seldom worries
about what's yet to come.

Little eyes, that sparkle with fun,
Mind's full of questions, looking for truth
Innocent eyes, that trust everyone,
The passing of years,
the progress of youth.



Time to look on, with curious eyes,
As one by one, days go by,
Learning from laughter, unafraid to try,
Is it any wonder how childhood flies?

To smile and run, to cry and play.
A puppy's pal, a flower's friend,
It's all so new, with each new day,
All too soon, our childhoods end!

Doctor Whom?

William Goodson

Touring the United States over the next two years is a rouge gallery of the most powerful and frightening creatures in the universe. A 48-foot trailer is roaming the freeways of America with such beings as Daleks, Cybermen, and Sontarans carefully imprisoned in glass cages.

The Sixth Regeneration of the Doctor (represented by actor Colin Baker) saw this odd exhibition off from England. When it arrived in Washington, the Doctor's fifth persona (represented by Peter Davidson) was on hand to open it. Both made the same remark, that they felt much safer with these villains on the other side of the Atlantic.

To put it another way, the British Broadcasting System has constructed an experience theatre using masks, models and props from the Dr. Who TV show. The exhibition uses mirrors, lights, and recorded voices to give a fun house effect that will fascinate even those not very familiar with the show.

I enjoyed it greatly, not only the Tardis console and the talking K-9 double, but the experience of meeting with dozens of Who fans. No way you can stand in line for this place and not get into a conversation. I saw the display in Central Park on Sunday morning.

Ahead of me were three young men with the little dics in their hair that marked them as Jews, while the two teenage girls were speaking Spanish and Queen's accented American. Our group debate over who was the doctor's best looking assistant got quite heated.

The travelling museum was the brainchild of Brian Sloman who declared, "The idea was to create a unique experience using all original pieces that we could present to fans throughout America. We also hope to expand the audience by presenting an exciting



attraction even for people who have never heard of the show."

A schedule of 180 appearances of the exhibition in the U.S. may be obtained from:
Monarch International
P. O. Box 2030
Media, PA 19063

NOTE: For photo buffs, I got best results with 1000 ASA color film and a fifty mm lens. There is no room for a tripod and the mirrors make a flash impossible.

I-Con V Con Report

Laurel Beckley

This is my second con report that I've written. The first being for Cherryb's Shemels's apa, The Braid. I'm reviewing the same con basically, so anyone who's in The Braid might find this familiar.

My con report is on I-Con V. This was an enjoyable con for me as Jon Pertwee was CoH, and I'm a big Doctor Who fan. (A definite Whovian.)

Also appearing was James Doohan, and I've loved Star Trek since it first began running. Unfortunately, I arrived late on Saturday, and missed James Doohan's speech, but did get to see Jon Pertwee.

The con, by the way, is held every year on the Stonybrook University campus. Much of Saturday I spent wandering around the Dealer's Room, which was located in a room that was a wee bit small, and so I felt like a sardine in a can walking about.

I spent most of my time in a relatively free corner that also held a book dealer. I bought some interesting things there. I also for the very first time bought some art.

I was trying to get past a table, and happened to glance down at it and saw the loveliest unicorn painting, already framed. I asked the price, and it was \$5.00. There

was a second unicorn painting, and the price for both together was \$8.00, so I splurged and bought both of them.

Saturday night was the highlight of the con for me. I attended the Dinner with the Stars, which was dinner with Jon Pertwee and James Doohan. I had thought that the dinner would be served at a restaurant, but discovered that it was to be held in a room in a building on campus.

There were four tables, and I and my friends were seated at Table Two. However, Pertwee and Doohan decided they didn't want to sit at Table Four by themselves and promptly sat down at Tables One and Three, respectively.

The food was good, but I was disappointed that neither of the guests was situated in a place where I could listen to them talk. But when dessert was served, James Doohan came to our table, and talked about various things, including his time in the Army in WWII. That was enjoyable.

After dinner, there was the Cabaret. All of the acts were good, but Jon Pertwee was the best. He was hilarious! (Apparently he was a comedian before he played Doctor Who.)

Sunday I arrived in time for Pertwee's autograph session, where I bought his autobiography, MOON BOOTS AND DINNER SUITS, and had it signed. All in all, a good con.

And next year, they will be having Colin Baker! I intend to be there.

A Top Nine List

of
Science Fiction and Fantasy Films

by
John Graham

Well, I suppose you could call this a collection of movie reviews, but it's really just some rambling on a topic that I didn't have to research. To make the list, the film had to be memorable, possess a distinctive style, have technical and artistic quality (a relative concept at best) and, of course, be a film that I would want to see again.

All the films here rate three stars or better -- in my opinion anyway. (Those of you with your own opinions, write your own article!)

Two noticeable genres (or sub-genres or whatever) missing from the list are a Star Wars film and a time travel film. My excuse for the former is that I found nine films that

I liked better than Mr. Lucas' efforts and for the latter, I have yet to find a truly great TT film. (Though if I had to pick one, I'd give my vote to The Philadelphia Experiment). But enough of all this -- let's go to the movies!



At the top of my list, even though this is not an actual one-to-nine ranking, is The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the Eighth Dimension. Harlan Ellison panned the film as a cheap Doc Savage ripoff. All I can say to that is that I definitely have to read some Doc Savage. The plot of the film is that Buckaroo Banzai, a true Renaissance man, has invented a device for travelling between dimensions. The evil Red Lectors want to steal this device in order to return to their home on Planet 10.

The ruling Black Lectors say no to this plan and offer Buckaroo the chance to stop the Reds, before the Blacks do it themselves -- by destroying the planet. This film has a great campy atmosphere, yet the characters don't take themselves too seriously. Add some talent like Christopher Lloyd and John Lithgow and you can't lose. Definitely a video tape I intend to buy. (Once I get my machine, that is....)

Second is Star Trek III: The Wrath of Khan. Being a Trek fan, I loved all the films. Trek I had all the pretty visuals and McCoy's unforgettable entrance. Trek III highlighted the rest of the crew and introduced the Klingon Bird of Prey. (Those Klingons sure know how to design starships, don't they?) But Trek II won out with action, suspense and the highlight of the entire trilogy: Kristie Alley. What? Oh, yeah, the death scene. So what? #3 had that, too.

With all due respect to Robin Curtis, Ally was Lt. Saavik. In this film, you could tell that the character was half Romulan. A pity she didn't stick around. But then, after Trek IV comes out this winter, I may have to change my mind.

Testament deals with the story of a family after a nuclear war. The characters are

forced to deal with such aspects as hunger, disease, and the nagging question of just what the hell happened. I don't know if I should include Testament on my list -- I've avoided a second viewing like the plague. It's so damned depressing.

I can take all the actors in icky make-up that you want to throw at me, but show me a woman burying her children one by one and I lose my appetite. (Good ol' American male-child upbringing. Crying's unacceptable, so we must sublimate the sorrow elsewhere.)

Testament understates the horror of the disaster, letting the viewer's imagination fill in the gaps. It's like that French documentary about the Holocaust (Night and Fog) he queried forgetfully which didn't hit you with a mountain of corpses, but rather a roomful of human hair. But even if I don't want to see it again, I can't forget it. It is truly a great film.

Let's jump back to a holocaust that's a bit more entertaining. Dawn of the Dead is the second film in George Romero's trilogy about the dead returning to a pseudo-life and gaining supremacy of Earth. Dawn tells the story of four people who gain a brief respite from the zombie menace by holing up in a shopping mall.

It shows the transition from the first film, which merely shows the zombies as a minor threat, to the third which has the zombies cleaning up the remnants of humanity. (I could make a joke about cleaning one's plate, but...oh, I guess I just did). Dawn has the zombies as a major threat, but it also has a somewhat playful atmosphere -- a degree of hope. Sure, the blood and guts is somewhat annoying, but at least there's more to the film than that.

Well, zombies are monsters, so I might as well stick with the subject. When I was a kid, Saturday night was monster movie night, showing all those classic monster flicks from the 30's onward. Cat People was never on the schedule, but it had all the makings of the classic Saturday night creature feature -- the terror, the good guy scientist, the threatened love interest. Of course, in this film the threat is from within the love interest. Nastassia Kinski plays a woman who discovers that she is a lycanthrope, in this case one that changes into a panther after having sex. (Whatsamatter, cigarette not good enough for you?)

To change back to a human, she has to kill. There is a way around it all, but since it involves her brother, it never works out. The ending is similar to many of the old films, but due to the nature of the problem,

there is no clear-cut victory. (And that's all I'm going to say.)

"But what about the vampires?" the Drac fans are asking. Sorry, but I've always been a lycanthrope man myself. But I do have a vampiric film on my list, namely the original Nosferatu. To those of you not up on your film history, Nosferatu is a German version of Dracula shot around 1927. (Or maybe that's Metropolis that was '27. I told you I wasn't researching.)

It looks dated, true, but just use a bit of imagination on that German expressionism...no, huh? Well, maybe my cinematic imagination is better than yours. (After all, I have to use a lot of it when looking at my own work.) Still, you have to admit that Count Orlock looks great -- just what you would expect an undead type to look like. I'd hate to run into him in some dark alley.

I suppose after monsters would come superheroes, though there really hasn't been enough superhero features to award them their own genre.

Superman II was the first film of the series that I had seen, and remains the best. (Do I have a thing for first sequels or what?) There are two main plot lines -- Supes relationship with Lois Lane, and the rampage of three super villains. Naturally Supes has to make a decision between the two.

The love scene was well played, at least by Chris Reeve. I've never been a Margot Kidder or Lois Lane fan, so I really don't remember that side of it.

On the bad guy side, you have Gene Hackman's performance as bad scientist, Lex Luthor, and a great goshwow fight scene in Times Square. All the makings of good escapism.

There is no real fantasy film on this list, at least one of the sword, sorcery, dragons and pegasus school. Like time travel stories, I have yet to find a fantasy film that is as good or close to the quality of my reading.

Even the fantasy sequences of my eighth film, Heavy Metal, left something to be desired. HM is a collective film, a set of shorter stories linked together by some concept. Unlike other collectives, most notably Twilight Zone, the good parts of Heavy Metal outweighed the bad. (Had the Zone people cut it down to the Ackroyd-Brooks opener and the "Nightmare at 30,000 Feet" segment, the TZ movie would have wound up on this list.)

Even so, the main reason I find HM memorable is for the music and the fact that it's a cartoon. (If Pink Floyd The Wall

had been more a fantasy, it would be on this list.) HM is also the only movie that I have seen twice in one day at different theatres. But that was back when I had time to go to matinees.

My last film is Sherlock, Jr., a film by Buster Keaton. It's a silent comedy and my rationale for including it on the list is a dream sequence in which Buster walks into the movie screen and experiences the unreality of film, in the best tradition of Melies.

(Hey, this was 1915 -- it was all the tradition they had.) (*sigh* Oh, yes. Melies was the first person to play with trick cinematography. He did that "Trip to the Moon" film where the moon gets hit in the eye.)

Okay, not the strongest of criteria -- I could probably make a stronger case for the Three Stooges as invulnerable beings. But this film is good, and it's funny. It has style, quality, and most of all, I'd trade all these films previously listed for a copy of this little gem. (And if anyone can get The Navigator, which I haven't even seen yet, I'll name my firstborn after you.)

Well, that's the nine. Had I another nine, you'd probably see some of the other films that I've mentioned, as well as films such as The Road Warrior, A Boy and His Dog, Alien, Blade Runner, and Bedazzled.

Maybe not all films that you'd like to see, but then, as I said before, those with their own opinions can write their own articles. I'd love to read them.

***** THE BOY WHO COULD FLY

A Movie Review
by
Paul Rigaby

While attending the 62nd annual Columbia Scholastic Press Association convention at Columbia University in New York City, I had the honor of attending an advance screening of the Lorimar motion picture "The Boy Who Could Fly."

The picture to be released by Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation stars Jay Underwood, Lucy Deakins, Bonnie Bedelia, Fred Savage, Fred Gwynn, Colleen Dewhurst, and Louise Fletcher and also features a cameo appearance by Mindy Cohn who plays Natalie on NBC's "Facts of Life."

"The Boy Who could Fly" is the story of the Michaelsons, a family facing financial problems with the loss of their father. As they are forced to move to a new

neighborhood, the mother encounters difficulties while attempting to return to her job after ten years.

The daughter, Milly, played by Lucy Deakins, discovers she has her own adjustments to make, by attending a new school and having to lend an extra hand with the chores.

Their new neighbor is Eric Gibb, a boy Milly's aged, played by Jay Underwood. Eric sits perched all day long on his windowsill outside his room pretending to fly. Eric was orphaned at the age of five as a result of a plane crash in which both of his parents were killed. Due to his traumatic experience, Eric is now in a state of mental seclusion, never talking or showing any sign of emotion, and is content to sit outside his window and pretend to be an airplane.

Milly becomes Eric's friend, and her love and friendship is the key to unlocking him from his emotional void and reclusive state.

The love between Milly and Eric is central to the plot.

Jay Underwood gave an impressive performance as Eric, especially when one must consider the fact Jay had but one word during the whole story, and had to express himself with facial expressions.

Though the film is sound on an over-all level, there are times when the film became sappy. One scene in particular was like a similar scene in "Superman: The Movie." However, the next scene dispelled some of the sappiness and made it almost forgivable.



Nick Castle, the man responsible for "The Last Starfighter" seems to have come through again with a film that plays on imagination, and is pure entertainment.

by

Rose Secrest

Since Miller mentioned Boucher in the Acknowledgements section of A Canticle for Leibowitz, it is necessary to mention the latter science fiction writer in this essay.

Quite a bit of Boucher's work is of a religious nature, centering on the Catholic church at every opportunity. Of course, many science fiction authors delve into theology, for it is an excellent way to obtain important awards and praise.

Anthony Boucher's work, however, shows an obsession. The same obsession might be attributed to Miller, also, but only if a grater quantity of similar works were suddenly discovered.

Since Miller does not seem irrevocably (in his writing) devoted to the Church, then it is quite possible that he turned to an obvious expert, Boucher, for guidance. It is also quite possible that Miller, the recent convert, knew very little about Catholicism when he set out to write A Canticle for Leibowitz, so the contemporary editor for The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction guided his magnificent journey.

Despite all this reasoning, the reliance is perhaps greater than either author would admit. To indicate this, a comparison of "The Quest for Saint Aquin" (1951) is presented.

Supposing it were even possible to ignore the parallelism in the two titles, it cannot be denied that there are many superficial and major similarities between the two works.

Little, unimportant phrases may have caught and held Miller's attention as he read the story, for in each there is a breviary, a cockroach, a deposed, poverty-stricken Pope, wine, and Aves. The protection of a hollow heel in the shoe as a place for carrying precious things is indicated in both works.

The exclamations "Jesus, Mary, Joseph!" and "Apage (Retro) me, Satanas!" are in each.

There is a meeting of a single Jew by a priest of the church, and the name of the protagonist in "The Quest for Saint Aquin" is named Thomas after a great man of the church, and he suffers days of difficult travel, much as Brother Francis. The guard outlying the small village intercepts Thomas on his journey, just as the robber king



encounters Francis. There is also a similar style of quiet, discreet humor.

Other, more substantial likenesses are that at the time of Boucher's story (which appears to be after some type of nuclear holocaust, incidentally) humanity is ignoring the Church, which is losing numbers each year to Technarch, the representation of technology, secularism, and materialism in governmental form.

The Church is actively persecuted by the state, as it was during Hannegan's rule.

The plot of both "Fiat Homo" and Boucher's story is the need to canonize a beatified person and the activities that bring it about. There is a miracle discovered by both Francis and Thomas (in his case an android saint with an incorruptible corpse).

There are in Boucher's story outcasts from Technarch that live in scattered little villages, like the Misborn mutants in Miller's book who hide in a valley in order to be isolated from normal humans.

The robass speaks of another robot who once believed a robot god, not man, created robots, since the robots were not made in man's image.

The memory of Thom Taddeo's assertion that the contemporary humans cannot be like the ancients comes to mind. Thomas Aquinas used logic to prove the existence of God, reminiscent of the poet-alrrah's humorous roundabout proof of the same thing (derived from Descartes) in "Fiat Voluntas Tua". Thomas and the robass, aka Dom Paulo and Benjamin in "Fiat Lux", discuss religious philosophy.

Notably, both writers' philosophy can be expressed in this quote from the story, "...there are portions of the Divine Plan which we can never understand....".

There is a single noted contrast between the two works. The men of the Church in Boucher's story are not monks and are not presented in an adolescent manner. There is not the strict celibacy of monks, nor the sobriety of Protestants.

Influence from those admired is not frowned upon, but originality is desired. It is not as if Miller merely copied from another's work, but so many similarities cannot be ignored.

Nevertheless, the help he received created a great novel, and let us not forget he acknowledged Boucher's contribution.

Christopher Columbus Discovers PIZZA!

by

Rose Seacrest

It is 7:00 p.m. in Genoa, Italy. Christopher Columbus enters the brand new pizza restaurant next door. He is wearing his red and purple bloomers.

A group of intellectual (in their opinion) friendly neighbors of his are chomping on PIZZA MAGNIFICO, a marvelous treat.

CC: Hark, neighbors!

But they continue masticating and ecstatically swallowing the delicious sausage pizza. Finally, Christopher Columbus can stand it no longer. Drooling, he asks:

CC: How can you dare to eat that square, flat pizza? (for it is Chicago style rectangular slices they are chewing!) For everyone knows that pizza, like the earth, is round!

Everyone at the table laughs, then quickly resumes chomping. The aroma of a pepperoni pizza enters the room seconds before the pepperoni pizza enters the room. Christopher Columbus is tempted by the morsels.

CC: (muttering): No, no, I cannot accept the fact of square pizza. I cannot eat it! I'm as scared as those who insist the world is flat and who are scared to sail. It just goes against my belief to eat square pizza!

Christopher Columbus stands firm as the intellectual (in their opinion!) Italians cause the three huge pepperoni pizzas to disappear. Suddenly, he knows what he has to do.

He races next door to the closest pizza restaurant (which is two steps closer than the next closest pizza restaurant) and

purchases a nice, normal, round pizza with three ships.

Seizing upon this cheaply made, lousy yet round pizza, he returns to the earlier restaurant (almost getting lost in the process) triumphantly.

CC: See? This pizza is round! The intellectuals glance over from their chomping of the veggie slices, and we can truly see that they really are intellectuals, because they say:

Crowd: Columbus, you idiot! That pizza is flat!

Christopher Columbus realizes their supreme logic, and, drooling once more, gives in to the temptation of PIZZA MAGNIFICO. It is delicious! Even if it isn't round. He forgets all about proving that the world is round, and America is never discovered, just truly delicious pizza.

The paradox is: PIZZA MAGNIFICO is a California/Tennessee pizza!

THE END

PIZZA MAGNIFICO

Crust (Michel)

First combine whole wheat flour and bran in a two-to-one ratio. Sift to remove chaff. One and one-fourth cups of this mixture is then placed in a large bowl. Add one package dry yeast and one cup hot water (120 degrees F). Stir gently until mixture is moistened. Beat with an electric mixer at low speed for thirty seconds, then high speed for three minutes. Stir in roughly one cup flour mixture at about 1/4 cup at a time. Stop adding flour when it is no longer possible to incorporate it into the dough easily. Form the dough into a ball and knead on a lightly floured surface for eight minutes. Form the dough into a ball once more, cover it with the bowl and let it rise thirty minutes. After thirty minutes, shape the dough into the size and shape of your chosen pizza pan. If round, it should be about 12 inches in diameter. Result of this recipe: a light, fluffy crust that is neither chewy or doughy.

Sauce (Rose)

First, purchase one thirty-two ounce jar of Trader Giotto's spaghetti sauce. Take the sauce and put it into a sauce pan, adding fresh garlic, fresh onion, coarse ground black pepper, paprika, fresh bell pepper, and Italian seasoning to taste (plenty of each, in my case), and cook slowly until it boils gently. (I usually do this the day before.) Remove from heat. Add about

twelve ounces of spicy browned pork sausage (Rudy's Fama) until it is cooked. (This usually doesn't take all the sauce.) Cook this mixture until it boils and is thick.

Complete (Both of Us)

Put the nice sauce on the prepared crust. Put a mixture of eight ounces mozzarella cheese and five ounces romano cheese (both shredded) on top. Then, put Galk pepperoni (six ounces) on top. Cook the pizza at 425 degrees F. about fifteen minutes or until the cheese and the top is bubbling enthusiastically. Then, you eat it!

Results: A five-pound perfect pizza. The crust isn't chewy, the sauce is spicy, the sausage is ground up and mixed into the sauce, the sausage is from Tennessee, the cheese combination is tangy and stringy, and the pepperoni is spicy.

Serves: One.

CATS

A Review
by
Frances McMahon

There has been controversy in Denver for the past month. Some people say that CATS is a magical spectacle not to be missed, a mesmerizing, spine tingling event. Others feel that it is a third-rate production of a second-rate musical, too shallow and glitzy, and as one critic put it, "You can only do so much with Christmas lights."

Happily, I fall into the former category. CATS is magical. The complexity of the dance, the cohesion of the not thick, but more than adequate plot, and the beauty of the music set to the extraordinary poems of T.S. Elliot rested for me an evening which I will never forget.

But first to the basics. The plot is this: Once each year, when the moon is high, the Jellicle (which is to say the best) Cats gather at the local junkyard for the Jellicle Ball, after which the cat who is most deserving is selected by the oldest of the cats, Old Deuteronomy, and granted the honor of receiving a new life.

First comes the ball in which most all the cats are onstage, then the choosing begins, and each cat sings about his favorite or nominates himself.

There is Jennyanydots and Old Gumbie Cat, and Magical Mr. Mistoffelees, and The Rum Tum Tugger and Elvis impersonator. And

there is Grizabella the Glamour Cat and Asparagus ("And that's such a fuss to pronounce that we usually call him just Gus."), the Theatre Cat, both of whom were once beautiful and famous but are now old and have only memories.

Grizabella's memories are the basis for the haunting song of the same name which was a hit record from the album and is probably familiar to many who have not seen the production. (Recall David Letterman's singing of, "Midnight and the Kitties are Sleeping...."; the tune is from the musical; however, I believe he made up those particular words as they appear nowhere in the performance).

And there are Mungojerrie and Rumpleteaser and Macavity and a host of others. After all of the cats have been introduced, Old Deuteronomy makes the perfect choice, upon which the chosen one rises "Up, up, up, up to the Heavyside Layer." Then the cats come together once more for the finale.

The coming of CATS to Denver was announced in May with tickets on sale at once for the June to July run, playing twice daily. One week into the run, all the rest of the shows were sold out. We had the cheapest tickets up in the balcony, but the theatre was small enough so that we had a marvelous view, and I would be hard pressed to choose better seats (barring the orchestra pit through which the cats ran all during the performance). Initially, I was worried that it would be difficult to see what was happening down on stage, but the two and a half hour performance is so grand that most any seat in the house could be considered a good seat.

While I have no reference with which to compare them, as I have not seen the Broadway version, the road company is excellent each person filling the individual characters of the cats superbly and succeeding in bringing to life the amazing creatures Elliot created.

And the intricate dance steps are perfectly cat-like. For instance, when rising from a crouch, the performers arch their backs, just as a real cat would. When the players are on-stage, but not in the prominent role(s), they engage in very feline past-times, such as licking their paws or chasing their tails. Particularly notable cast members are Old Deuteronomy (played by Calvin E. Remsburg), Grizabella (Janene Lovell), and Mistoffelees (Mark Esposito); but all were excellent and cast perfectly and all have extensive backgrounds in dance and theatre.

The play is continuing on Broadway while the road company tours the major cities in the U.S. If CATS plays anywhere near you, make an effort to go. You will be missing something very special if you let it pass you by. If it never comes your way, then rush down to your local mall and pick up the marvelous sound track album and also T. S. Eliot's OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS from which the story and songs were taken.

An interesting side-light is that the story of Grizabella had never been published until Mrs. Valerie Eliot, widow of the late T. S. Eliot, saw the fledgling songs for the musical performed and came forward with several never-before-seen poems. It was then that the magnitude of the project became apparent to the composer, Andrew Lloyd Webber (EVITA, JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT), and so he joined with director Trevor Nunn (associate director of the Royal Shakespear Company), the final product being this amazing creation.

The Stf That Dreams Are Made of

A focus for many a serious fanmail discussion, particularly among new readers, is the question, "What is sf, anyway?" It's a good question and no one to flail at it a bit. I doubt that I'll come up with anything new to anyone. What I hope to do is throw out a few examples that I find interesting. This is not a learned dissertation, and I'm certain it's subjective, incomplete, and probably inaccurate. Regard this as a challenge to add your own favorite definitions and examples from sf: books and zines, film, comics, and personal revelation.

Science fiction, more descriptively speculative fiction, or more simply sf, has a history dating back to the ancient tales of exploration and discovery. These stories tended to emphasize new lands, new discoveries, new and marvelous technologies, and ignored the characterization of the explorers or intricacies of plot. The plot often was little more than an anthology of wonders strung together like beads on a string. Such tales, ancient and modern, illustrate one of the commoner definitions of sf:

Sf is the literature of Ideas. (Definition 1)

This "definition" simply emphasizes that the prime interest of sf is not in plot or characterization; sf is primarily a vehicle for new and interesting ideas. The classical sf story often reads like a Popular Science article with a new gimmick every paragraph. Although the ideas could be political, sociological, or philo-

sophical, they were often scientific (or pseudo-scientific) and most often technological. For despite its ancient heritage, modern sf traces a strong lineage to the pulp literature of Hugo Gernsback and his successors in the early 20th Century. Gernsback, in fact, emphasized the centrality of the technological idea when he coined the term "scientifiction" to describe the stories he published. Because most people consider Gernsback's notions too restrictive, the term is rarely used now, although many use its abbreviation, sf--pronounced "stef" or occasionally "stuff"--interchangeably with sf. Examples of these forms of sf abound: the adventures of Baron Munchausen (Germany, late 18th Century) and many of Jules Verne's tales are among the best-known and most enjoyable travelog stories. Their relation to Gernsback's fiction is actually fairly direct: Gernsback apparently invented a number of Munchausen tales for his own publications. And Gernsback's own story of Ralph 124C41+ gives us a superhero who does little but unveil one gadget after another. The story of Ralph is archetypal and almost unreadable.

One problem with Definition 1 is that it's really too general to be useful as a definition. This is probably true of most definitions of sf: they tell us more about what we expect sf to do than differentiate it from other fiction. As definitions become more precise, they often become less interesting. A good example of a precise literary definition is that of British novelist Brian Aldiss who defines sf as a literary descendant of the Gothic novel:

"Science fiction is the search for a definition of man and his status in the universe which will stand in our advanced but confused state of knowledge (science), and is characteristically cast in the Gothic or post-Gothic mould." (Brian W. Aldiss: *Brillion Year Spree: The True History of Science Fiction*, 1973) (Definition 2)

By Definition 2, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* would stand as the first work of sf. It is a tale of the essence of human nature, contrasting Dr Frankenstein's creature with the crude and superstitious people who drive him to violence.

Most modern definitions emphasize the human aspects of sf. A more general version of Aldiss's definition might be:

Sf is the study of intelligent beings as they encounter and react to scientific ideas and technological change and the problems they create. (Definition 3)

This definition does not contradict Definition 1--in a sense it bridges Definitions 1 and 2--but it clearly has a different orientation. It is not the ideas themselves that are interesting, it is how human beings understand and reflect those ideas. *Frankenstein* is an example of that: the idea of a synthesized human is key--is the creature indeed human or is he a construct, an artifact?--but the ideas are

expressed as they affect the characters of the novel. Characterization is now a key element of sf.

One classic sf theme illustrating Definition 2 is that of the discovery of the generation starship: the characters live, love, breed, age, and die, and coincidentally discover that the world they and their ancestors have taken for granted is in reality a giant ark traveling between the stars. The tale, apart from the interesting environment and social customs that arise as the ship's inhabitants forget over generations that they are the crew of a starship, generally serves as a parable of humankind's expanding understanding of the universe. Robert A. Heinlein wrote one of the first of these stories as two novellas, "Universe" and "Common Sense" both appeared in 1941 and were later published together as the short novel *Orphans of the Sky*. Aldiss later wrote his version of the story in *Starship* (1958), and, of course, Harlan Ellison wrote the version that became the story treatment for the TV series, *The Starlost*. In *Phoenix Without Ashes*, Edward Bryant's novelization of that early script, Ellison, who has the reputation of suing anyone who uses an idea remotely similar to one he's used, lists acknowledgments to Heinlein and Aldiss and everyone he could think of from Homer and John (I) to Katherine Anne Porter. It's a popular and powerful theme.

Much of science fiction falls into the "what if" category. This type of story takes a commonly understood situation, often the present, introduces a single change, and follows the consequences of that change. What if you could make yourself invisible (Wells: *The Invisible Man*), nullify gravity (*The First Men in the Moon*), or travel into the future (*The Time Machine*)? What if the world were really an enormous spaceship (the generation starship)? What if people were androgynous (LeGuin: *The Left Hand of Darkness*), or, having died, could be reanimated (Silverberg: "Born with the Dead")? What if these rewarmed dead are alive but ... strange, different from the normal living? These are examples of Definition 4:

Sf is the intent pursuit of the logical consequences of a postulated change in a world we know. Sf is the answer to "What if ...?" (Definition 4)

By any of these definitions, science fiction is distinctively different from fantasy. That difference is expressed as Definition 5:

Science fiction explores how the normal cause-effect relationships generate consequences from a postulated problem. Science fiction is thus different from fantasy which uses cause-effect relationships fundamentally different from those we know or dispenses with them entirely. (Definition 5)

The difference, then, is not in the subject matter, but how it is handled. Science fiction has never re-

stricted itself to the possible. Staples of the genre include not only those things which we consider unlikely in the near future, but those things which are even theoretically impossible by all we know of our universe: time-travel, faster-than-light travel, reactionless drives. A rule suggested by Arthur C. Clarke states that there are situations where the distinction between science and fantasy disappears:

"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." (Clarke's Law)

So the distinction between sf and fantasy is not so much one of subject matter as of treatment. Werewolves, for example: are they science fiction or fantasy? Well, it depends. Ordinarily, werewolves inhabit the realm of fantasy, but it is common to build a scientific rationale for the were-transformation. That rationale and the existence of an internally-consistent set of rules governing the transformation establish a sfnal context for the werewolves. In Jack Williamson's *Darker Than You Think*, were-creatures (the wolf is only one of many manifestations) are a separately-evolved species that has managed to pass as human through eons of time. Are dragons mythological? Of course, except when they're alien creatures which humans might encounter and bond with as Anne McCaffrey has demonstrated. Is magic science-fictional? No, it's not, almost by definition. Except in the novella *Magic, Inc* where Heinlein ingeniously builds a logical science-fictional structure for its workings.

Sf is an expansive spectrum of literature. There are works which blur any dividing line that might be drawn. The distinction between fantasy and science fiction is one of the hardest in the field, but of course here, too, works exist that bridge the two fields. A particularly clever aspect of Fredric Brown's 1955 classic, *Martians, Go Home*, is the ambiguity. Suddenly, without explanation, the earth is crawling with little green men who poke their noses everywhere, driving everyone up the wall and more than a few over it. No one can do anything about them until finally they just as suddenly disappear. A witch doctor is convinced that his spell has sent them away, an inventor believes that his device has transformed them off the planet, and an sf writer convinces himself that they were simply figments of his imagination. What's the truth? Were they there or weren't they? Brown leaves us with a mystery. And, of course, there's Stephen King. Although I enjoy King's work, I am puzzled by a number of his writings which seem to confuse the sf/fantasy distinction. *Carrie*, for example, works hard to lay a believable scientific basis for telekinesis and telepathy. Certainly this is sf. *The Dead Zone* does the same for clairvoyance and precognition. But what am I to make of *The Stand*, a straightforward post-holocaust sf novel punctuated with puzzling instances of supernatural fantasy? And what of *The Shining* or even *'Salem's Lot*? I enjoy King, but don't know quite what to make of him.

Another common theme in sf is that of the alternate

universe. Classic examples are Huxley's *Brave New World*, Orwell's *1984*, and Zamyatin's *We*, as well as the more recent *The Space Merchants* by Pohl and Kornbluth, and John Brunner's *Stand on Zanzibar* and *The Sheep Look Up*. These novels, together with such films as Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* or the Kubrick adaptation of Burgess's *A Clockwork Orange*, could be taken as answers to the question, "what if this goes on?" They are, in essence, extrapolations from the present, warning to the present of a future we seem hell-bent on achieving. Other works postulate alternate realities that are clearly not extrapolations of our present. Ward Moore's *Bring the Jubilee* details a universe answering the question, "what if the South had won the Civil War?" and Dick's *Man in the High Castle* is set in a world in which the Axis Powers won World War II. Other works are set in universes which resemble ours in key ways but do not seem to be direct descendants of ours at all. All these universes illustrate Definition 5:

Sf explores an alternate reality as a commentary on the present one. (Definition 5)

The classic Alternate universe novels--and much of sf in general--follow this precept well. Two recent films are also examples. *Brazil* is a clear commentary on the bureaucracy and institutional dehumanization of our own age. The parallels are obvious, but it's not obvious how *Brazil* might have developed from our current timeline. The peculiar mix of high-tech and makeshift-primitive technology, the hyper-processed food, the rampant terrorism, and the odd mix of social customs make establishment of a connection difficult and, frankly, irrelevant. Another film, *Trouble in Mind*, is an extremely interesting alternate universe set in "Rain City". But Rain City is so similar to present day Seattle that most people who have seen the film do not recognize it as sf at all. The alternate universe elements are subtle indeed: Rain City is a place where everyone drives vintage automobiles of the 50's and 60's and speaks Japanese as a second language. The private telephones look like yours or mine; the public wall phones could have been left over from a 1949 French film. Although the city has a civilian police force, government seems to be through a militia that patrols the streets in strange uniforms carrying automatic weapons. The militia does not appear to be an occupation force--at one time we see one of the locals enlist. None of these elements are directly related to the plot or story line, so why introduce them at all? Although *Trouble in Mind* is very close to mainstream, the alternate universe aspects of the film are not frivolous; they serve to generalize the story, to free it from from a specific time and place. It's a common and valid technique and it leads us to a yet more general definition of sf:

Sf is literature in which the parameters of place, time, personality, and causal relationship are completely general and variable. Everything is sf and mainstream fiction is a subset of it. (Definition 7)

So, then, mainstream fiction, historical fiction, fantasy, romances, westerns, mysteries, et al, are all subdivisions of sf. This seems like an odd notion, but it is, I think, a useful reminder of the possibilities of this field. Think of another field where writers as diverse as Edgar Rice Burroughs, Zeena Henderson, A. E. van Vogt, and Gene Wolfe sit cheek-to-cheek in the book racks.

One common term I haven't used yet is "sci-fi". The term, sometimes pronounced "skiffy", was commonly used in the Forties and Fifties, and occasionally to the present, to hype the worst kind of space opera. Because of its commercial use to promote schlock to wide-eyed eight-year-olds, it is rarely used today by polite and knowledgeable fans except in a purposefully insulting way. One possible definition of sci-fi might be

Sci-fi is the story of one heroic man with a clever idea as he defeats the menace, played by another man in a green rubber suit, whom jet fighters, strategic bombers, atomic cannon, and at least one heavy infantry division have previously succeeded only in annoying. (Definition 8)

This, of course, is an oblique reference to the numerous Godzilla epics that have tramped out at regular intervals. Certainly villains not portrayed by men in rubber suits would qualify as well, but the "menace from beyond" theme still rates as a favorite in the sci-fi tradition. Another "cheap and dirty" form of sf is the "translation":

A translation is an unremarkable story dressed up as sf by adding ray-guns, space ships, beams, or other trappings of sci-fi without involving real sf ideas. (Definition 9)

A translation, in other words, is a western with blue skies turned purple, six-guns replaced by blasters, horses and stagecoaches by air-bikes and spacecraft, and red skins by green; a war story with P-51s and Messerschmitts replaced by X-wings and Ti-fighters and sadistic monocled Germans by bug-eyed-monsters; a historical romance with 2 moons and a princess who lays eggs. These translations can be marvelously entertaining or the worst examples of sci-fi. *Star Wars* is essentially a translated western with airborne dog-fights, but it was so well done, who cares? Although sci-fi is generally dreadful as literature, examples frequently prove riotously enjoyable, even if, especially if, the humor was unplanned. The John Carter novels of Edgar Rice Burroughs are classic examples of this. Such spoofs as *Buckaroo Banzai* and *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes* are examples of the intentional sci-fi feature. You can probably think of enough examples of the other kind.

These definitions, and others, are an interesting basis for discussing what we fondly read and pass along, but they're hardly necessary for deciding what is or is not sf. If I enjoy Stephen King, I'm really not too concerned how I or anyone else might classify him. Generally, we know what we're talking about. It's just a bit hard to explain to the non-fan, that's all.

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EVOLUTION

by

Eileen Roy

The spires reach higher,
Into the night
Higher,
Clean. True. Pure,
Splitting the night,
Claiming the void,
Higher.

Alone.
Needing no one,
Needing nothing,
Higher.

Touch the sun.
Touch God.
Become God.
Flash --

And drift downwards,
Silent
Invisible
Pure
Death.

While the earth sleeps,
Bare,
Alone...
Higher.

Doris Lessing's

Memoirs of a Survivor

Reviewed

by

Mikel Norwitz

From the window on the upper story of a decrepit building, the narrator of Memoirs watches men, women, and young children fight for their lives in a world that has fallen apart.

She sees the migrating families seethe past in search of the safety, the shelter, the good life that is forever gone and yet always seems just somewhere else, vaguely out of reach and far from the anarchy of the dying city where people huddle together in tribes for self-defense.

She also tries to watch over the child, Emily, who is left in her care by a stranger who says, "Look after her; she is your



responsibility," and then disappears.

Lessing is an extremely graphic writer. Her words call forth definite, unmistakable images. She can change time and space at will, always leading the reader through mazes of baroque illusions.

Inside the narrator's room, reality as defined by the four senses twists and dissolves, and we are faced with scenes from a painful past: from childhood and from adolescence, even from infancy. She reviews fundamental emotional and intellectual experiences in a manner akin to changing TV channels: flashing an image to be scanned before changing her mind and looking at something else.

But in this world the insanity revealed in time-warps and reality-fades accurately reflects the insanity of the world outside the room which conceals us from a future brimming with savagery and mysticism.

The unnamed heroine, possibly a future personification of the author herself (a reverse autobiography?), feels out of date with her surroundings. Her ideas and attitudes are too firmly rooted in the past, in a life that no longer exists, and for situations that no longer exist.

She strains to overlook Emily's sexual promiscuity and she fails. She is ill-prepared for dealing with a child whose maturity in some aspects stretches far beyond her own perceptions of a real childhood.

The narrator, an old woman at the time of the story, must stay in her apartment with Emily's grotesque pet, Hugo (head of a bulldog, body of a house cat), while she watches the children below fight to survive.

Emily herself is an enigma. The Lessing-surrogate watches her grow from young girl to young woman, yet Emily never perceives her as anything but a doddering old woman, ageless in perspective to her own rapid maturation. She sees the old woman as a hopeless case, never believing in the knowledge that some claim come with age.

The narrator serves as a camera for the distant reader. She observes the events occurring outside, but she never interferes. Fortunately, she comes from a time not too far removed from our own, and thus can put the story into words which can be easily dealt with from our outdated viewpoint.

This is a strongly written novel which attempts the difficult task of describing a world with laws different than ours through terms of our own time.

Very few scenes are depicted literally from the story. Not only would doing so not have added anything substantial, it would have distracted from the tale by stranding the reader in a foreign land without footholds in the familiar, as well as insulting the reader by indulging graphically in scenes of sex and violence.

The narrator's incongruity with her surroundings reveals what it is that is missing in her world, and what it is that the child Emily regards with such petty annoyance that it causes an unbreachable barrier of noncommunication between her and the narrator: caring.

In spite of the consequences, we need to care. We care for Emily because she stands firmly in all the possibilities of her present with one foot wistfully trailing behind her in her past and the other striding forth, alongside her man, into an even more bizarre and wondrous future.

And we care for the narrator because she can still feel, wonder, be angry, get depressed, appreciate. We care for her because she still craves a connection with things of the heart.

**The Residents
Mark of the Mole
and
Tunes of Two Cities**

**Reviewed
by
Mikel Norwitz**

The Mole Trilogy is the Residents' most ambitious project to date, concerning interactions between two alien cultures: the Moles, a subterranean race of humanoids, and the Chubs, their distant relatives who live in a technologically superior city on their continent's shores.

As always, the Resident's sound is reminiscent of horror movie music, making them purveyors of twice-removed imitation Schoenberg. In Mark of the Mole, however, they have traded in their usual underlying cacaphony for a slight Wagnerian sound, creating an overall German-impressionist mood.

As the story begins, we are warned of an impending catastrophe through news-style announcements. Despite the official warnings however, and increasingly severe floods, the Moles continue living their usual lives.

The weather finally takes a nasty turn and the Moles are driven from their work sites. A hundred thousand of them, following ancient legends of another civilization, migrate to the sea, where they take on refugee status in the more technologically advanced society.

Despite labor unrest and protests, the Moles are employed as cheap labor, but still the majority of them remain unemployed.

A liberal Chub scientist decides that machines should work in the holes, not men. He constructs a huge robot to liberate the poor souls from their "imprisonment in the hole." The results are not as one might wish.

The moles are fanatically enamored with their lifestyle and are none too pleased with the new machine. In addition, now that they are no longer contributing to part of the economy, they are persecuted by the



never claimed to swing.)

For the first side, the contrasts between the discordant Moles and the concordant Chubs remain clear, but on the second side, they blur together as the Moles discover Chub melody and technology, and the Chub musicians discover the Mole beat.

This is the Moles most eclectic and creative album yet.

The third part of the trilogy, and hopefully the conclusion of the story, has been long-awaited and should be as challenging and entertaining as the first two.

Chuba. A nasty altercation follows, ending with an indefinite resolution.

The second part of the Mole Trilogy, Tunes of Two Cities, lets the listener hear two societies in conflict. The tracks alternate between the Moles and the Chubs, the former of which makes primitive noises, the latter of which digs swing music (more along the lines of Glenn Miller than Benny Goodman, unfortunately, but the Residents



Letters of Comment
"We catch up.."



February 28, 1986

David Heath, Jr.
11856 S. San Pedro
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Your (Owen's) answer to Paul Brown was riddle ridden. The military was down (I was in it, I know) and maybe you don't know the mumble he is talking about. In fact, if you weren't satisfied with how far we were down under Carter, I'm scared.



To be honest, if we were any further down, North Korea would have invaded us.

Don't let the popular sentiment rule your thoughts. The military is an extension of our ability to conduct global business. If it isn't effective, THEN maybe you shouldn't have one.

Under Carter we didn't need one because it was grossly ineffective. We couldn't rescue hostages, bully anyone into seeing things our way, or protect oil reserves. The military was a shamless.

Reagan (and I don't care for him as I am a native Californian and know him from when he was a governor of this state) gave the military a sense of purpose.

It may sound corny, but the results were almost immediate. The Russians have given up more concessions over the past four years than over the past couple of decades.

They are releasing dissidents and creating a media blitz to make Reagan look bad -- it works sometimes --, but I think some of Reagan's moves have gotten results. The lemming-like nay-sayers may not like it, but they have gotten results. It is easier to get soft from a position of strength than it is to harden from a position of weakness. Ask Carter.

Gosh, I get to read the TB's after you type them, Owen, so I get to answer the letters first (after you interrupt them).

I thought this discussion on religion would die down. Also I thought this Neo-Pagansim thing was a joke. Then when one of the Directorate mentioned Wicca to me, I started to look around. Is this the latest fantasy fan fad or something? Why are our pages dominated by this instead of talking about Zeor or something?

And, are you telling one naive sounding lozer that the more people ask these kinds of questions, the more we will have the discussion on-going so I'll end my belaboring of the subject here.

Gosh, Michael Peralta discoursing on religion, what a head trip.

Hey, dude! Don't go trashing the way we Californians talk ((Was it okay to change "us" to "we" or is that part of the Californian talk as well??? sas)). If you do, I'll really go Turbo on you, okay? Rad!

As to Rose Peralta, she is mean isn't she. You'd think she was a SMOF already or something and she hasn't done ten bureau reports yet.

Actually, I don't have a cat. I have an Olympic cat-flattening truck called Big Red. Someone asked if I liked dogs (assuming if you don't like cats, ya gotta be a "dog-person" I guess), well, I do like dogs -- mostly in an orange sauce topped with mushrooms. (Sounds like a recipe coming).

ED -- You're all right for someone who just turned 16. I won't talk about BROTHER anymore because we have beat it to death, but the white bias in this country and SF is pretty maddening, especially to me. ((A thought that crossed my mind. You see plenty of white folk taking on responsibility for black children and other "minorities." When was the last time you saw black folk taking care of white children, other than in the role of Nanny? That seems to me to be rather of a "Father knows Best" routine and this be a white folk talking -- pure Nordic strain to boot! sas))

I can imagine what the Chinese or Japanese, or even the Indians have a much greater need to get into space than Americans do.

Right now I am out of a job, but I still have two video recorders, 5 TVs (4 of them color) ((Gee Whiz, David. Color biased there??)) 2 cars and a motorcycle, a computer, a microwave and MTV. Compare that to someone trying to figure where the next meal is coming from and you wonder what in the world America wants in space.

Given the population constraints in India — China has taken hold, if not controversial steps to curb their problem — you have a real case for colonizing other planets or man-made structures in space.

One of my main points when I talk this issue is close-mindedness when it comes to issues like this. For a group of people that claims to have an eye to the future, a better future, they don't seem to grasp the people issues at all.

In my mind, I can't reconcile all this argument about Neo-Paganism and such when people are being denied basic freedoms in South Africa. Why is no one commenting on this in this forum?

I'm telling you that people are no longer going to accept the status quo of some of the injustices that have been Standard Operating Procedure. I can only be glad that the US has finally decided to take the morally right steps in giving support to the folks that want change at whatever costs. Like in Haiti and now in the Philippines. ((Does this mean ERA NOW???))

Sally: No need to research. The original farmers were women while the men hunted and gathered. Most tradition in the US means 'WASP' tradition. My personal totem is theameleon. You figure it out. ((David, if you have a totem, are you not engaging in Neo-Paganism? The Shamanic journey to find the spirit animal?))

I tend to agree with Spinrad's book to movie comments. Novels are an art form and movies are an art form. These have different techniques that make them great and enjoyable. *Dune* — I can't help it. I just liked that movie. 2001, ditto. One that illustrates the point, *Bladerunner*. That movie went away from the book on an artistic level and created a mood that I will never forget.

Lynne: Owen is probably down on AD Foster for the same reason you are down on Owen. But I have to agree, for a hack, he is a pretty good hack. If I want characters out of the WASP mold, I go to him.

Government by coup not legitimate -- what

about the American Revolution? Not many of the people in the 13 colonies knew what was up. After it was presented right, they thought it was a good idea.

I agree with you about people and their opinion of the US. I have lived ten years outside of the US (Panama, Germany, France) and I tell you I prefer it here.

If you want to agree Star Wars go to a small town called Perth, Germany. It's near the Czech border and they have been run over by more tanks going in more directions so that they can't see straight.

When I was a "green suiter" over there, I was constantly being told "we know why you're here and we appreciate it. Keep it up!" At least that's what it sounded like in my limited German.

I don't agree with Owen's interruption of you. There is NO "fundamental" difference between the US and the USSR, nor whites or blacks, nor Neo-Paganists or Mormon, nor yellow or red, or men or women. And the sooner people realize that, the sooner we can get this manned rocket to Mars I've been looking for in my lifetime. — Okay, Owen, I know you were talking about US vs USSR philosophies.

Laurence Gray: I, too, am reluctant to read fantasy. But I don't know how to classify the stuff. Everytime I think I know what is up, I am surprised as you were.

For example, I had been refusing to read *Zor*, until my sister said she would join N3P if I did. So I read *House of Zor* (what a fantasy sounding title, eh?) and it was good, a bit flawed, but good. I liked it. Now I have read the others, all good. Same with *Darkover*. I was avoiding that like the plague. I figured anything with that many fans couldn't be right. Or the Lord D'Arcy series. Now that is good!

Yes, I liked *Ragtime*. How did you guess. Mostly Scott Joplin...but you GUESS I am alright??

Owen: Appreciated your comments after my Loc. What can we do to get Don to do a History of N3P booklet? ((David, look to these pages of TB. They should have a page by Don concerning the history of N3P. I hope he can do one of these for each issue. How about it, Don? Please?))

It'd be something the membership could buy (their pockets, not the treasury's) and could be updated yearly with the roll call of editors, presidents, directorates, past famous and infamous members and a yearly history of what went on in and out of the club SFwise. In the army every unit has a historian and one of the most gruelling jobs (I had it once) was to melt down the

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highpoints of the year into about one or two paragraphs because ten years from now what you think is important tends to pale. Another idea — brought to you by the makers of phasers and thugz! ((Okay, this is a great idea. Who wants to do the dog work?? Please volunteer to either the editor of TB or the President or whoever is available. sas))

David Carter: On nerds, fan, bathing, mirrors, bikers, drug-dealers and stereotypes — go fly a kite! ((Sounds like a stereotyped, hackneyed answer to me! sas))

Allan Beatty: Don't talk so softly. Speak up. Say what you mean!!

Thanks to **Victoria Smith**, compliments on the art. The artists appreciate it and so do I. This 142 looks like one of the best issues yet. I hope we can keep up this stream of discussion.

I'm a Neffer who was active from 1963 through 1966, recently reinstated. This letter has three purposes.

One is to respond to **Owen's** thoughtful comment hooks about whether or not young neofans may be incapable of juggling the time demands of their hobby, or does fandom actually help? I'll tackle these issues first.

First off, I was 13 through 17 during those aforementioned years and N3P just about saved my life. I was in an abusive family situation, a stutterer, disturbed enough to close off most of my first three months' letters with "P.S. I HATE EVERYBODY!!!", and unpopular at school.

N3P came along and suddenly I was being treated as a peer by people my own age and triple my age, men and women alike. My family situation and my stutter were immaterial. My ability to express myself in writing was everything, and I trained it as best I could with constant correspondence and an occasional fanzine.

My grades in school improved sharply. My class papers became better than ever. My self-respect skyrocketed. Perhaps best of all, having made friends in fandom, I found myself far better able to make friends in real life.

Ultimately fandom played some part in my decision to come to Minnesota for college, as I had somehow made more friends here than anywhere else in the country.

A fan I first met through a fanzine review in TNPP is now my landlord, so it's true in two senses: through fandom, I found a home.

What should Neffers remember when dealing with younger fans? First of all, that they aren't (we never were) interchangeable parts. One teenage fan may be completely responsible with meeting publication deadlines. Another may talk a good line, but fall apart completely when faced with a really big job. (Though I'm not proud to say it, I was generally in the second category.)

One may be even-tempered and rational in

any discussion from age 13 on. Another, neofannish or argumentative for his (or her) entire stay in fandom.

Importantly, one should remember that someone can be 16 or 17 and already have racked up several years of correspondence, apahacking, writers' workshops, and TIGHTBEAM debate; taking the attitude "You're only a neofan, so I don't have to listen to you" shortchanges both the kid and yourself.

My second point is to suggest, as I have already mentioned to Sally Syrjala, that new members receive a current club roster with their information packet. I still don't have a roster, and it's a pain. I was hoping to find Neffers in the Minnesota area who might now know about Minu-stf (itself a club founded largely by Neffers and former Neffers) or Minicon.

Minicon is coming up this weekend, though, and I guess I won't be able to do any recruiting.

Also, many of my valued correspondents in the '60's were people I met through TIGHTBEAM. I would respond to their letters or they to mine. This is not possible with the current setup. Either TIGHTBEAM should start printing the addresses of its contributors (I strongly support this in any event), or all club members should have rosters, or -- ideally -- both.

((You can't say the club does not respond to suggestions. Not only are we printing the complete addresses before the body of the letter so that letter bombs might go to the proper addresses, but Lola was trying to get extra rosters printed so that new members might receive them in their informational packets. So, you see, people out here really are listening. It just may not seem that way at times! sas))

My third point is actually one of the main reasons I rejoined NSF when I did. I recently sold two stories to professional markets. (Though as Weird Tales Vol 49 #2 may never come out, I'm not at all sure it counts.)

I wanted to come back and see what Neffers' attitudes were toward neophyte writers. Not the official NSF party line. ((Gee Whiz, "party line," does that mean we are now leaning left of center or that we just have a good old country telephone line?? sas))

The writers' workshops and story contest are significant parts of my memories. But the attitudes of individual Neffers were something else again, way back when.



TEENS IN FANDOM #6

The attitude of older fans was frequently, "If you want to write fiction, that just proves you're a neofan."

One older fan who had done an admirable job of filling the role of father figure in my confused life carefully commented at great length about everything in my fanzine, except the fiction. In fact, fanzines that printed a lot of fiction seemed to be generally sneered at. ((Not in mediafandom, but then we in mediafandom generally get sneered at by older SF fan so.... sas))

For God's sake, why did it have to be like that?

I can imagine NSF members who can just barely keep up with the tide of the new SF and fantasy might be overwhelmed by the amateur fiction in teenaged fanzines. Not a "good" kind of overwhelming, but a negative kind. "This is one more distraction than I can handle."

Some of these fans may view the story contest and the writers' workshops as necessary evils: "If those kids are writing for the contest, the workshops and each other, at least they aren't bothering me with their asinine attempts."

Some may even believe the message they were inadvertently giving me: that the neofan in fandom is really only there to learn to be an older, experienced fan, and BNFhood is an end in itself.

All I can say is: I've sold one story to the Liavek fantasy series, another is supposed to appear in Weird Tales any month now, and I have a serious nibble of interest from Been books for a novel I haven't even

finished yet.

If it hadn't been for NZF story contests and writers' workshops, and such fans as Clayton Hamlin and Piers Jacob (Piers Anthony) none of these would have happened.

If some younger fans want to use their time in NZF to hone their skills as fictioneers, let them!

March 31, 1986

R. C. Nascimento
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Brasil

I've just received my first TIGHTBEAM — No. 141, January, 1986 — and I never thought a zine could be so alive. Once more I think I have chosen the right fan club to join.

The format of TB is interesting — for reading/collecting — and the content is varied, honest and democratic.

It was a surprise to find my letter on page 14. Thanks for cleaning up my errors (Please do this for me in every letter I send) and for the attention you have paid to me.

Our fan club is a reality by now and we have 22 regular members and our bulletin — yet to be named — is now in its third issue (March, 1986).

About the questions you ask:

1. We have a few SF writers here in Brasil: Jerônimo Monteiro, Rubens Teixeira Scavone, André Carneiro, Nilson Martelo, Domingos Carvalho da Silva and five or six more. And they have a very small and irregular production — some of them have years between works!
2. Portuguese SF writers are fewer, and I don't know more than two: João Aniceto and Daniel Têrcio. I think there may be more, but I don't know the others.
3. Almost all English language SF writers are available for us to read through translations to the Portuguese language, especially those most known. As I've said in my last letter, the greater part of those translations are edited in Portugal.

4. How do English and Portuguese/Brazilian SF styles compare? Well, that's quite a challenge for me to answer. However, I'll try.

Jerônimo Monteiro, with his "Fuga para parte alguma" 1961. The title in English would be "Escape to Nowhere." This tells about ants that evolved to have something like conscience and they finally conquer the earth.



Jorge Luiz Calife with his "Padroes de Contato" 1985. The title in English would be something like "Contact Standards." This work figures out space stations clearly inspired by Clarke's "Rendezvous with Rama."

By the way, Clarke credits Calife with some guidelines to Clarke's 2010.

I would say that Brazilian SP style goes from strong texts like that of Monteiro to light technological incursions like that of Calife.

((I am curious how you would classify "The Order of the Day: An Unidentified Flying Opus" by Márcio Souza. He is listed as a Brazilian author and this book is in an Avon/Hard English publication. I particularly liked his author's notes in this book. Part of his thoughts in that section go, "I am so viscerally opposed to certain types of camaraderie that I could never interest myself, for example, in joining the Boy Scouts. Oswald de Andrade, a novelist of the twenties who was never a soldier either, once compared the Scouts to Martians. I happen to think this whole business of Army uniforms rather extraterrestrial. They have something in

common with those dangerous invaders in the old Hollywood science fiction flicks from during the Cold War. And they walk among us.... Run for your lives! I've always suspected the Blob to have been olive-green in color. Besides, aren't members of any crew from a flying saucer generally called little green men?" Folks, this is a book I do suggest you look up and read. Just the idea of satirizing the army as "little green men" is a great one. Good refreshing reading. sas))

So, Brazilian style can compare with English style in almost cases. The difference in favour of the English texts is that you have a greater number of authors and a strong market so the number of good texts is in direct proportion.

For the record, the last titles I've received translated to Portuguese were:

Lord of the Light, Roger Zelazny

The Sword of the Lictor, Gene Wolfe

Children of Dune, Frank Herbert*

The First Men in the Moon, H. G. Wells*

*Brazil



April 4, 1986

Stacey M. Potts
1537 Holly Oaks Lake Rd., E.
Jacksonville, FL 32211

I'm a neo teen fan and am writing in response to your mention of teen fan in the January TIGHTBEAM. Since many members seem to be concerned about other members getting involved, I'm getting involved. (Nothing like confusing the issue, is there!)

Being a teen fan, I have no trouble juggling time demands. I don't think teen fan that go to school have any more problems than adult fan who work.

((Ah, most likely less of a problem. I know I had more time not devoted to work at the office and at home when I was younger than I do now! sas))

In my opinion NSF is a splendid diversion, not distraction. I also agree with you that it can be a help. Writing most anything develops writing skills, vocabulary, and grammar.

Since we are corresponding when we write, communication can be thrown in, too.

In any event, I don't think it causes any more problems for the club than, say, people who forget to pay their dues.

If you put in an age restriction, you would be disappointing a whole lot of young Neifers. I am, therefore, hoping you aren't contemplating such a thing.

((I know of no idea to in any way restrict younger fan. The position of treasurer is the only place where age plays a part in who can act in what position. I regard age information as being irrelevant. People are people. One of the good things about SF fandom is the fact that people are taken as such — people. They are not put into categories because of age, be it because of too few or too many years. I also like to think that such things as race and creed and sex are also not criteria used to determine the "worthiness" of a person. sas))

April 4, 1986

Robert Briggs
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TIGHTBEAM #142 came yesterday. You are on schedule.

You say "the U.S. has maintained the most fearsome military establishment the planet has seen." Not true, Russia has. The USSR has more nukes than the US, an army of four million to our one million, a larger air force and now a larger Navy. This doesn't seem to bother liberals like you.

((Ghee Whiz, if Owen's a liberal, I'm sure it will come as a great surprise to him! Actually, these statistics do bother me. If you have such an array of nukes that we can nuke the entire world in overkill, why do we need more? At this point, I would much prefer that my tax dollar go for life rather than be wasted on more death weapons.

It seems we are building Doms Day weapons on a helter skelter basis saying we never want to use them. Yet their very being makes their use something which is possible.

HAVE YOU HUGGED
YOUR BEM TODAY?



The longer we live with these weapons, the more likely it is that one day we will test the nuclear winter theory. In my view, it would be better to put our minds to learning how to live with each other and get to the root of our problems instead of belaboring the points which divide us until we have backed each other into corners from which there can be no retreat. sas))

My letter: I'm saying man as an irrational creature will favor an irrational God. What with quantum mechanics and relativity, maybe God is irrational.

As for rationality always replacing mysticism — the ancient world cultivated Greek rational philosophy, it was replaced by Levantine mysticism. 1000 BC India was rational only to turn mystical. China originally had a rational philosophy and it was replaced by Buddhist mysticism. Note the growth of mysticism in the US.

((Ever consider the fact that mysticism might be rational? sas))

Michael Peralta wants to make "theology an observational and experimental science." He says, "experimentation is the only route to knowledge." This is to say objective truth is the only truth. Yet painting, poetry, music and romantic love are subjective. Is there no such thing as artistic truth?

((Pure artistic truth is poverty! sas))

April 7, 1986

Eileen Roy
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Lawndale, CA 90260

I received TIGHTBEAM #141 on April 5, 1986. Que'ce que c'est all loca' on this issue must be received by February 25th? Come again?

(Regarding egg creams) The yolk doesn't stay exactly in the center, but the specific gravity of the yolk is the same as the white, so it won't float or sink much.

Pandom is like any other hobby, whether ham-radio, raising chinchillas or motorcrosse.

Some kids (and adults) will get carried away and some parents (friends, children) will (rightly or wrongly) object. I personally don't think it has anything to do with the nature of the hobby itself.

Could we have a personal column in TB? why not?

((I thought TIGHTBEAM was a personal column! sas))

I also much enjoyed the overview of the six doctors. Good work, Katharine!

April 8, 1986

Vickie Lee Trueblood
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Racine, WI 53403

Some time ago David Heath proposed a SF and F art Round Robin. What's happened to all our artists out there? I think it would be a great idea for all of us artists to get together in a RR! Just think of all we could learn from one another! Even you non-artists could learn a little about the art world. Come on, folks, let's get this robin off the ground!

OH NO!
A FULL
MOON!



I WAS A TEENAGE FAN
THE MOVIE.

TEENS IN FANDOM #5

Owen brought up the topic of teen fan in TB #141. I think it's help or harm depends on the individual. When I was in college, I was the vice president of an art club. We were starting to dwindle in numbers because most of our members had or were about to graduate.

We started a membership drive to encourage "new blood" into the club. Our focus was on the freshmen and sophmores because we all wanted to see the club live on after we were all gone.

Many of our new members were in their late teens. I found that each of them dealt with the club in a different way. Some, when they found out how much work there was

in being "involved", became apathetic and eventually dropped out.

Others were dynamos. They added new life to the club and were able to handle both the club and school with ease. We also had those who became so involved with the club that they neglected other responsibilities. Their grades fell and they were forced to quit the club.

I think it's a benefit to N3F to have all these young Neffers. They bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm with them.

But, I think our teen fen should remember how valuable an education is. Until the time when they no longer have homework to worry about, N3F should be a secondary concern. There will be plenty of time for them to become completely involved in club activities once they're out of school.

((I'm out of school, but "home" work still takes time -- washing dishes, mowing lawns, doing floors, etc. Each year I find I have less and less time. I suppose this has something to do with the theory of relativity???? sas))

April 8, 1986

Lynn M. Cooper
7920 Bluebird Road
South Glens Falls, New York 12801

This is my first loc since joining the club last May. No, I don't have a good excuse, except maybe all those discussions on religion turned me off a bit. I'm an atheist. I must say though there were some quite interesting views aired.

On the subject of very young members, I think that it has to be a positive benefit for them. I only wish I had known about this aspect of SF when I was a teenager.



MY FOLKS SAY THAT FANDOM
IS TAKING TOO MUCH OUT OF
ME. THEY'D PREFER THAT
I DID DRUGS.

TEENS IN FANDOM #3

Katherine Duncan on Who Overview: I found your article on the Doctors very interesting. I'm a big fan of Tom Baker and am now watching his episodes from the third time. I did see Jon Pertwee's episodes, but after Baker's, found them lacking.

About Peter Davison....if I recall correctly, you said "he seemed something of a whimp." I absolutely detest that word. I do agree that he lacked presence. Tom Baker could dominate a scene with just a lift of the eye brow and a slow grin. Davison seemed more introspective, quieter in his approach and I look forward to watching him again.

April 9, 1986

Paul Brown
395 Murphy
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Well, I was just reading through TB 142 and I'm glad that they're on time! Well, one letter came to my attention that I thought needed more discussion.

The writer of the letter was **Tim Kroecker**. He was talking about how some or most of SF and F fans have a "disreputable look" to them. That statement is exactly correct!

I was just at my first con and the people there looked horrible!! There were some that looked clean and such, but not many. My parents, who had to take me because I haven't received my drivers' licence yet, really got a bad taste in their mouths over this.

I'm still trying to get them to try out a bigger con. I hope the larger cons aren't like this.

I know these people can make themselves presentable. I just don't see why they don't! Most of the people at the con didn't have jobs which is understandable, but still take pride in YOURSELF!! You are the only one who will!!

((One could get into a debate about illusion and reality with this. What a person looks like has nothing to do with what they are on the inside. There is the question of the status quo and images. It seems we, as a society, have let ourselves be lulled by images. If something "looks" right, it MUST be right. Nonsense! If I remember correctly, Hitler Youth were nice and neat and clean and "presentable." Yet I would sure pick a "scruffy Nerd herder" Corellian like Han Solo over such types any day! We have to learn not to make decisions on the basis of the empty air of appearance.

We live in an age where people have fallen so much for the image line that they starve themselves to look like concentration camp victims and still think they are not slim enough. All this concentration on image seems rather of an indication of an illness in and of itself as far as I am concerned. sas))

Wicca?!!?! I have never heard it called that. I personally wouldn't get into that, but I think that it's neat.

Rita Mendoza: Well how do you feel now? I noticed that I didn't warrant a space in your loc. I just thought I would make you feel bad since I'll mention you in mine! How did you get just a two-page letter in TB? What happened to your six and seven pages??

Owen: Sorry but Regan DID get our military back up to standards! Israel has just as good a military as ours. Believe it or not, but it's true! I think going up against Israel that they would put up a BIG, BIG fight. They have a tough army. I think it was wrong what America did to our soldiers when they went to Viet Nam. They didn't get any support from HOME! You are probably thinking how does a kid who didn't even live when this was going on know about this. Well, I'm an Army brat and since my dad works for the Army, I see it every day

and hear about it every day.

((I like the words to a Pete Seeger song from that era. It went, "If you love your Uncle Sam, support our boys in Viet Nam! Bring them home. Bring them home." To me, that would have been the best support we could have given them -- support for their lives. Recognizing that other people have rights of self-determination as well. Democracy is about people letting others live as they will. Being paranoid enough about your system that you think all others will destroy you only brings about your own destruction in the end. May we not bring another Viet Nam into being in Central America. sas))

You said -- still talking to Owen -- that our military wasn't down far enough for you. Well Reagan is trying to get BETTER equipment for the military. Sure we have the most fearsome armed forces around, but we needed to be better and Reagan is doing it for us. I support him in all of his policies for raising our armed forces.

Well, I should be off for now. I forgot to say when I was talking about people that we should also get rid of the NERDLY image that people have given us. And let me say I'm NOT a Nerd!!!!

April 10, 1986

Mina Boal
3734 N. Pine Grove #308
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Decided it was time for a loc. So here goes!

Paul Brown: I think someone said somewhere that our greatest enemy lies within, not without. All the military hardware in the world will not protect us from that. So we are in a competition to see whether "we" or "they" can blow up the world 1000 times or 1001 times?

Also, military hardware won't protect us from the various religious terrorist groups -- all who believe that God, in whatever form, has directed them in their bloody missions.

Military hardware, as the English found out in the 1770's, doesn't win a war. A people's spirit is far more important.

On the subject of Reagan's "forthrightness" vs. Carter's "wimpyness" concerning hostages: Did Reagan save the Marines who got killed in Lebanon? Did he save the man who was mercilessly gunned down

on the Achille Lauro? What does he intend to do about the seven Americans still held hostage somewhere in Lebanon (or are there only six? Was one already killed?)

How long have they been held? I think longer than those held in Iran. I'm not saying that Reagan, alone, is responsible for all of this. But neither was Carter. My own theory on Iran is that the Ayatollah deliberately held the hostages so that Reagan would get elected. Reagan, with his absolute beliefs, is someone that the Ayatollah can understand and deal with.

((The Iranian hostages were a campaign issue. Remember it was Carter who negotiated their release. Reagan refuses to negotiate. Carter did the work on getting the Iranian hostages released and Reagan got the credit. All this due to Reagan's brilliant use of the media and his own image. He has an extraordinary power to present images in the manner in which he desires. This, to me, is his main talent.



We are the generation television ushered into the world. We "seem" to worship at the foot of imagery and status -- bigger house, better car, more money -- so it is only fitting in my view that Reagan be our leader. sas))

Owen: Since when did homosexuality become a "hedonistic practice?" Homosexuality is simply the state of finding a love partner among those of the same sex, just as heterosexuality is the state of finding a love partner among those of the opposite sex. At least this is what my Random House Dictionary states.

Both heterosexuals and homosexuals can be hedonistic or altruistic in their love/sex practices.

But, I recall that the Mormon "True Religion" states that homosexuality, in and of itself, is a sin that merits excommunication (along with such other

"sins" as advocating the Equal Rights Amendment). So I guess you believe that God has revealed to you that homosexuality is an evil, hedonistic practice.

Well, I will reveal that God has revealed to me that homosexuality is no worse, nor better than heterosexuality -- but that bigotry is a sin that merits its own type of hell (the hell of having to wake up, morning after morning, filled with unreasoning hate against whichever people are the objects of one's particular form of bigotry).

((I see bigotry as fear -- paranoia. It is insecurity and inferiority images. For, if you REALLY thought that whatever you hated was inferior, there would be no need to fear or put down for the inferiority would keep that image down. sas))

For all those who believe that AIDS is God's curse against gays -- well, then, lesbians must be God's Chosen People because their rate of AIDS is 0%.

My feelings about the private nature of religious beliefs run so strong that when **Lyne Holdom** tried to get me into the Religion Round Robin, I declined. I imagine from her description that it is a very lively discussion group -- but I prefer to live and let live, as far as religion is concerned.

For all you patriots -- this is one of the bedrocks of our US constitution, and it does make us different from places like Iran and the USSR.

Rose Secrest: Gee, you really hate MZB that much? I mean, I know plenty of people who don't like her books, but what incident/characteristic evoked the type of personal revulsion revealed in your letter?

I have talked with MZB and have corresponded with her. Even though I don't agree with everything she says or does (there is no person alive with whom I am in complete agreement), I certainly found her to be affable and charming, as well as interesting and open to different views.

And she has been very encouraging to me in my writing career, as well as towards other's attempts at writing.

Congratulations to you and **Michael**. May you have many years of happiness. Or should I say Live Long and Prosper or something like that?

Katie Duncan; Dr. Who --- AARRGGH!

Actually, as far as FTL travel, I have a mathematical model based on equations depicting u-dimensional hyperplanes in the study of calculus and linear algebra -- and I'm soon to embark upon a topology course which will really be a journey into new

dimensions.

But you say you "aren't good in math." Neither was I in high school. But many high schools and colleges feed us the myth that the world is divided into math geniuses and everyone else. This is so much bullwinkle.

When you have time, try some math courses sometime. Go where no man (or woman or whatever) has gone before.

Jackie Kuma: Where is the nearest Murrayist church/temple/coven? How can I join? But if it's connected to Madelyn Murray, the Jerry Falwell of atheists, then I'm not interested.

Owen again and others: I take it, if you advocate military service for everyone as a prerequisite for citizenship, then you support the idea of full equality and responsibilities, including combat duty, for women -- and also an end to discrimination against gays in the military.

To Several People: Now, I'm going to play Devil's Advocate on Paganism and Goddess religions. I have found some of the "born-again Pagans" to be just as intolerant as the "born-again Christians". They advocate tolerance and then denounce all forms of Christianity and/or Judaism as being "evil."

Remember, wasn't it Pagans who fed Christians to the lions? Just as it was Christians who fed pagans to the burning stakes?

Yes, there is much evidence that female-centered religions were strong in prehistoric and early historic times. But these religions weren't necessarily wonderful and nurturing. Frazier's The Golden Bough describes early king-sacrifice rituals -- where young men were fed to the Great Goddess every year at Midsummer.

My own belief is that God/The Gods exist(s) in more than one form, and in different forms for different people.

I happen to belong to a Christian church considered heretical by many other Christians. The minister of our church (a woman, for those who are interested in such things) holds the belief that there are Many Paths to The Way.

When Jesus said, "I am the Way," he didn't say "I am the ONLY way."

He wanted people to heed his teachings -- but I seriously doubt that someone who said "love your enemies" would approve of inquisitions and such. I could go on about this, but it violates my own beliefs in the personal nature of religion, and also may sound like I am sermonizing, so I'll stop.

One interesting view that my church holds -- we never describe God in exclusively male images. God is both/neither female and male -- You see not ALL Christians are evil Male Chauvinistic Pigs.

April 11, 1986

Andrew J. Nagel
104 Frey Court
Michigan City, IN 46360

Since David Heath seems somewhat reluctant to write another close batches/open batches letter, I will.

First off, I've seen the battle field report on the new FXM-1000 LAT from Franchet (see TB 139). Frankly, I'm surprised. It performed well but only to specifications.

Franchet LATs are known for their ability to surpass specs, and at 5 milreds per unit most governments are not willing to purchase only average LATs.

Also the psycho screen which were to scramble the minds of living beings performed below specs. It means a lot of redesign.

I never claimed to be a tactician. I'm not even an LAT commander. I sell LATs for Franchet. I am also a pilot in the Nacife Space Fleet reserves and I fly in 4-person scout ships, which is the greatest job there is.

Now, then, David, I saw your note in the February, 1986 INFF on page 27. What do I care if another TC gets his head shot off?

David, are you familiar with the battle for Samtar? Then you know that if the

USED
BOT LOT





hatches had been shut, the crown prince of Artillius would still be alive.

Actually it happened after the battle. Grand Commander F. S. Italia, against orders, staged a victory parade to demonstrate his might to the level 2 technology Samutarians. To show his troops best, he ordered the hatches open on all LATs and TCs ((Tank Commanders?? sas)) to ride in them. All of this was against orders and individual TCs knew it, but did not take any action.

In the 3rd Tank Group was Prince Fel and he was in command of a tank and so was parked in the open hatch.

Samutarians were allowed to get as close as they like during the parade because Italia did not consider them a threat after he routed the Nacire troops off the planet. (it was against the Nacirians against whom the main battle was fought.)

The tanks floated past, in formation, the reviewing stand where GC Italia and his staff were located. Just as the 1st Tank Group passed, a flight of arrows came out of the Samutarians. Every TC was killed by an arrow in the head, including Prince Fel.

There was no reason for the open hatches. GC Italia was relieved of his command by Fel's uncle who was regent at the time.

David and Owen: You still haven't answered my question. Have either of you ever been in an LAT?

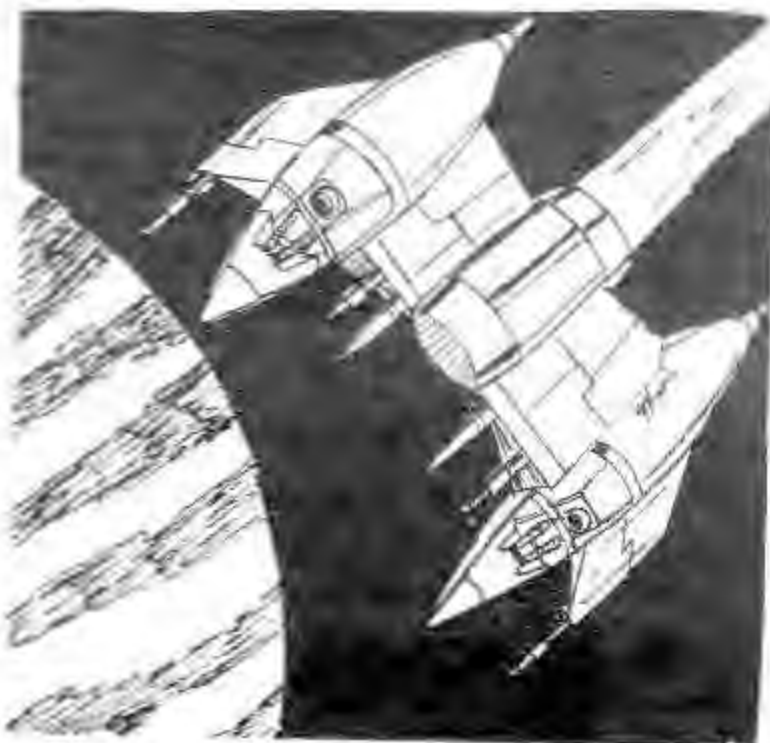
A note on religion: Most people equate God and religion. I do not. I believe in God. I don't see God as male or female, but as an all-knowing spirit.

I do not believe in religion. The ritualistic worship of God just doesn't agree with me. God gave me life, the ability to think and to reason, to have a will of my own. God asks for nothing in return save that you do no harm to others.

Most religions exploit the basic fear of men/women and that is the fear of death. Now I did not say all religions and I did not say that was all they did. But religion does use the fear of death. It offers some solace in what lies after death, if in fact anything does. I like to think something does because I can't imagine that my mind just stops when I die.

Rose Secrest: I never said I "advanced" to Clarke. I said that I wound up liking him. That is neither an advance nor decline.

And I happen to know you type now — that is when you're not dropping innocent typewriters upside down onto the floor.



Michael Peralta: Prayer may not influence the California lottery, but jumping on the stage does!

Can an effective, provable, repeatable program be set up to test the effectiveness of prayer?

I would add something to what you said. "I am all powerful and can do anything within and without the laws that govern you.

But, I too have laws that govern me that are beyond your understanding, just as those above me have laws beyond my understanding."

What this comes down to is that we may one day understand all the physical laws that govern us but will never understand those that govern God.

Laurence Gray: Certainly. I believe that I am the guilty party for starting all this religion talk. I believe that it started with something I said way back in TB #132.

Rita Mendoza: As to your "All You Zombies" question. I'm disappointed that you didn't bring this up on Black TIR. ((Time Travel Round Robin??? sas))

If you believe in a single time line, then neither the guy nor the girl came first. It is a time loop with no beginning and no end.

If you believe in time travel to alternate realities, then it is a spiral which connects the various time lines. Somewhere there is an original time line in which the girl had a son rather than a daughter. The son became the origin of the spiral by him travelling back to the past of another reality and...well...making it with his mother. The union produces a daughter and it spins into infinity.

If however there are a finite number of realities, then the spiral would bend around until it touched itself and then, like the loop, would have no beginning and no end.

If 18 year olds envy the youth of 13 year olds, where does that leave people like me?

I'm going to be 26 on September 1. What am I? An old man??

((And, if you are an old man at 26, where does that leave those of us who find that a youthful age??? sas))

April 11, 1986

Donald Franson
6543 Babcock Avenue
North Hollywood, CA 91606

You obviously misunderstand the meaning and purpose of the April 25th deadline for

the May Tightbeam. It is not, as you interpret it, a deadline for any and all letters of comment on the current issue. It is a statement that, if any letters are not received by the 25th, they will probably not be published in the next issue, which is typed up a few days after the 25th.

This is not different than the TNFF deadline, which has worked very well. The Bylaw was aimed at Tightbeam because of the delay in publishing letters in addition to the delay in the issue coming out.

That is, you said it was impossible for anyone to get a letter to you in time for the next issue. This isn't true if the issues come out on time, and now, for the first time, a Tightbeam has come out on time, to prove that the deadline can work.

((Yes, and to make it work, the letters HAVE to be printed. This is why I am exercising the fingers to try to catch up with all the letters that have not been printed before. We CAN have letters appear in the issue which comes out immediately after the issue upon which they comment. But this back log of material HAS to be cleaned up! It's getting there! sas))

I received the March TB, #142, on April 11, bulk mail. I don't know when you sent it, or Howard mailed it, but you said you closed the issue February 25th, typing completed that date and sent to Dave. That cycle proves it can be done, and that there is time for the readers to get a letter in to TB in time for the next issue, if you don't jump the gun and publish before the 25th. (If you must do that, you should say so in the previous issue).

If letters are received before the 25th, the editor should make every effort to get them into the next issue, not hold them because there is a backlog of letters. ((Amen. sas))

I am sending this letter on the 12th and it ought to reach you in a few days. Will you be able to print it in the May TB? Of course, if I sent it in for the June 25th deadline, it wouldn't be published until the July issue. The purpose of the Bylaw was to get live letters into TB. Don't you want them?

I did work out and publish in N'APA, in 1978, a complete listing of TB and TNFF with details of editors, pages, dates, etc. I don't have time to update it right now, but I would like to know if anyone is interested in such a project, besides Owen and Dave who are editors themselves. I think I asked this question in 1978, and didn't get much response. It is longer than you might think running to a dozen pages or so. Could this



be a special publication, or would it be part of TB or TNFF?

((I don't know about the rest of you, but I would very much like to see this type of thing in print. What about you?? sas))

As historian of N3P, I am sending some early documents on the Peralta/Secrest story.

((Attached to his letter Don has included the original letters Michael and Rose sent in asking for information on the N3P. Michael's was received on July 24, 1984 and Rose's on August 3, 1984. sas))

April 13, 1986

Michael C. Peralta
400 N. Acacia Avenue — C-26
Fullerton, CA 92631-4011

Please note the date. Rose and I have been married four months today and we are very happy. Please also note that this letter is reaching you ahead of the Directorate's date for locs to be received. I point this out only to show you that it is possible for Neffers to get their locs in early enough to fulfill the requirements of the Directorate. I wish to be on record as supporting early deadlines for Tightbeam, even if it would mean smaller issues. This is not meant to be a criticism of your editorial duties, as I think you are doing an excellent job, but only a suggestion.

What do the other Neffers think?

Marie Evans: Nice cover! I'm not exactly sure what it's supposed to be, however.

Table of Contents: It was a good idea to call this the "March-April" issue. How nice to get an issue in the same month as I see listed before me!

If anyone has been trying to get ahold of Rose Secrest or me, please note that the address given in TB 142 is incorrect. Our new address is listed at the top of this letter.

I am pleased to note that other fans besides myself use the full nine-digit ZIP+4 zip code. Congratulations on your good taste, Owen and Augustine! I find that using the full ZIP+4 zip code speeds my mail up by about a day.

((As for me, I figure I am paying the post office to send out my mail at first class rates. If they want me to do part of their work for them in sorting by using nine digit code, then let them reduce their rates! sas))



Editor's Comments: Maybe fandom has its own taboo subjects. Depending on the group in which you find yourself, it may be a bad idea to bring up Star Trek, comics, role-playing games, or other topics which may be less than respectable to certain fans. Tightbeam seems to have at least one taboo which is regularly violated — the editor's dislike of recipes. Speaking of recipes, how many copies of Neffers A Bad Batch does one have to order before one gets the benefit of the lowered rate for ordering a "bunch"? Any statement which involves \$\$\$ M O N E Y \$\$\$ should be more specific!

Paul Brown: The USSR wants our land? Why? I like the United States form of government and certainly do not approve of the Soviet form of government, but I hardly think that they want to walk in and take over!

Jefferson P. Swycaffer: I saw one of those stories about the Flat Earth you wrote. A nice piece of work it was, too! What is the other one like?

Owen: What is a tracer gun?

Rose Secrest: Hi, honey! **Owen:** Your rhetorical remark that in a godless world birth defects should be justification for infanticide doesn't seem to hold water.

Although I would not want to be asked to put an exact value on human life (let's just call it very, very large, but not infinite), surely it is possible for a secular humanist to believe that the suffering caused by murdering infants is greater than the suffering caused by their birth defects. (I don't really want to get into this — let alone the more realistic problem of abortion — but I just want to point out that it is possible to make rational decisions on moral issues based on humanist values alone.) One good rule to follow is to minimize human suffering. Yes, it is possible to come up with situations when this rule may not be the best one to apply [I am a firm believer in situational ethics, and I think most people really are in their daily lives], but it seems like a good place to start. If a belief in a god leads to ethical behavior, that's fine, too! It is certainly possible for either religion or secular humanism to lead to what I would consider to be unethical behavior, but it seems to me that secular humanism is a little bit better. Any comments and disagreements are welcome as I certainly do not consider myself an expert in this area.



Michael C. Peralta: My, what a wise fellow! **Owen:** I can't think of a Norse god with a withered hand or foot, but didn't Odin have only one eye?

Katie Duncan: Who was Palasgius, and what were his or her beliefs? **Owen:** I liked On a Pale Horse, but thought Bearing an Hourglass was terrible. Maybe Anthony suffers from hypoplasia of the sequels. (Witness the rapid deterioration of the Xanth series from amusing to boring.) Can anyone tell me if his many other series undergo such a decline? (The Split Infinity series was pretty consistent.)

Jackie Kuma: I don't think that Spinrad is right when he says that films of SF novels fail because they are too faithful to the book. He is certainly correct to say that books and movies are very different media, but the differences between them can be overcome by talented film makers. 2001 was written hand-in-hand with the film, and it is both a fine novel and a fine film.

Damnation Alley, a pretty good novel, was changed almost beyond recognition when it was filmed and a laughably bad movie resulted.

Dune is a more controversial case, but I believe that a brilliant director turned a mediocre novel into an excellent film by being faithful to the novel in most of its basic points while being free to add his own talents and innovations to it.

Owen: Why should the existence of a god (or even the existence of the Judeo-Christian God) imply the existence of an Adversary? Surely one can exist without the other! (I believe that some years ago — during the craze over the book and film of The Exorcist — at least one survey showed that more people believe in the Devil than in God.) If the Easter bunny exists, it may or may not be true that Santa Claus exists. One does not imply the other.

Lynne Holdom: Re mediocre SF, I've been reading a lot of Rose's old copies of F&SF and although most of the stories range from good to excellent, a few of them are real turkeys. "Doctor Rivet and Supercon Sal", a pathetic attempt at futuristic farce, may be the worst science fiction story I have ever read.

The Reverend Crisp en Mobery series by Gary Jennings, another attempt at comedy, is also terrible. Humor is a delicate thing, as we all know, and **Edward L. Ferman** and I seem to be about 180 degrees apart in our appreciation of it. I would like to hear from other Neffers on bad SF and on Comic SF (I say Yes to Sheckly and No to Ron



Goulart:

Roberta Gellis: When I say that a religion must be either true or false, I refer to those basic beliefs which are the foundation of any religion. (I exclude from discussion here those ethical systems which do not advocate any particular supreme being and which some call "religions"; I would rather call them philosophies.) Either the name of the god is Yahweh and no other, or it isn't. Either Thor's hammer is the source of thunder, or it isn't.

Either the god accepts many names and belief systems, or it doesn't.

I have a hard time dealing with the common belief that all religions are equally "true" when they so clearly contradict each other. And before anyone else brings it up, I also have a hard time dealing with the Zen-like idea that a statement can be both true and false at the same time. It is certainly possible for a statement to be neither true nor false, if it is meaningless — Trug is blort. — or a matter of opinion — Orange is an ugly color. But I don't see how a statement can be both true and false at once.

Lance G. Ozako: Fact-finding information on the influence of Kurosawa's THE HIDDEN FORTRESS on STAR WARS. Is this film available for public viewing in theaters or on video cassette? Owen: Foo. Biss! Why did you cut out the plot synopsis? Maybe at least you can tell me if the hidden fortress of the title is equivalent to the Death Star.

Stephen Fox: Nice back cover!

Just enough room to answer a question that appeared in INFF awhile back: "What is the first SF book you remember reading and why do you remember it?" I'd have to say that it would be Warlock of the Witch World by Andre Norton, which I remember because it was lousy. What really got me into SF fandom was reading F&SF Magazine way back in 1968 and getting a copy of Dangerous Visions from the SF Book Club soon after.

April 13, 1986

Rose Secrest
400 N. Acacia Avenue #C-26
Fullerton, CA 92631-4011

My stay in (yuck!) California is temporary, I promise.

Katie Duncan: I don't know about you, but I don't want "to be allowed" two children! I'm not going to have any children! So, bleah!

Laurence Gray: Oh yeah? The best way to find out what Neffers look like is to ask for photographs. It's much cheaper than going to (yuck!) conventions! Again, Bleah!

Why do you Neffers try to shock everybody by saying, "I've never been to a con before," or, "I've never been published."? Are these traits supposed to be unusual?

((Well, Rose, I have been to a few cons and have been published in fanzines for both fiction, locs and articles, not to mention having had a letter published in The Lutheran wherein I pointed out how SF could advocate religion and was not always its opponent. Therefore, this Neffer does not make those statements. sas))

Lucia N'Ha Margali: I thought organized religions wanted members to agree with everything they said. Thusly, I cannot join any organized religion because I don't agree with everything each one adheres to. Might as well not join if you don't. It makes sense.

Tim Kroecker: What does "looking normal" mean? Dressing in the latest fashions (new wave, punk, Madonna, whatever you want to call it)? Bleah! Nerds take baths all the time. I'm fanatic about showers and I know I'm pretty close to the greatest nerd ever!

No (whoops!) stubble on my chin, but goodness! How vain to look in a mirror!

No, I guess nerds are very modest. Do you, by the way, take showers five times a day in the summer heat (which eek! lasts longer out here)? Nope, you live in New York, a nice COLD place.

I worked in a library, and the students who checked anything out that looked interesting were naturally reading it for a class.

The fictional character I've guided my morality by is David Hjort Fengel, in the Americanized book, North to Freedom. (David is originally Danish.)

Allan Beatty: Yeah, gripe a lot! My kind of person! Feel free to gripe to me all you want, everybody, please. Argue with me!

Hey Everybody, please forgive me for not being thrilled about reading about the stupid movie you saw! I know it's horribly shocking and unbelievable, but I have only seen a few and do not appreciate many of them.

By the way, who watched "Peter the Great"?

Hmm. I haven't been keeping up with science since I entered college. No time, and the courses taught are old stuff. Time to read some science magazines.

David Speakman: Yes, finally I have known Neffers who were in bad moods. Don't worry about me, though. Unless you start to pick on me for length of reports, or book projects, and there better not be any etc.s!!; you are safe.

I keep explaining "All you Zombies" and still there is confusion. Without TT, there would be no protagonist, okay? Geez! (Oh, I mean Geep!)

Sorry, Owen, only meant to take up a page.

Okay, writers, I know you'll never see this or any other announcement, but here goes: In 1987, I will have a book printed. I need some submissions now. (Due date December 31, 1986). These cannot have been published anywhere else (even fanzines). If each Neffer agrees to pay about \$2 to \$3 for the book, I can break even and then use the profit to pay the contributors. Now, are you interested?

Sudden flash: development of this project may depend on whether I choose to remain a Neffer (becoming president is irrelevant). So, in August, I could leave. Gasp! So, shall you help with the book or not?

April 15, 1986

After being told what a femme-fan was, I was shocked to see that Owen thought that "Neffers a Bad Batch" was made especially for them. Grr!

From my experience, **Michael** is much better in the kitchen than I am!

Also, where are my recipes? I know you have them, but you printed **Michael's** and mine are more creative! Favoritism!

Two other things I was yelled at for: being a Marxist (I am stunned to see how tolerant Neffers are to other religions, even atheists!) and yet they are so hateful conservatively inclined toward any other political system. Not that pure Marxism is some sort of governmental creed on my part; I guess I'm more anarchic and indifferent in that area.

Here is a simple philosophy: I happened to be born in US, and am an adherent to its culture and region. It is possible to relocate to another country, but I know no other language, admire the scenery (Tennessee, not California!), etc. ((Gee, Rose, you used an "etc"! sas)) Therefore, I choose to stay here. Is this patriotism for a particular governmental system? No! One thing I agree to though, is that America

does express individuality. I am a strong individualist and could never accept the group philosophy of the Orient for example.

April 13, 1986

Victoria Dickey
441 E. Central
Delaware, OH 43013

Hello everyone. I've been a member for about a year and I've decided it's time to share a few ideas.

We have a good club. It's time we quit bickering amongst ourselves and started working together for the improvement of the club.

We could accomplish much -- we have the talent, the creativity and the resources. Let's use them. Get involved. Encourage others to join -- more new members, more new ideas.

Also, changes are not something to be frightened of -- usually, they are part of the natural progression of events and healthy.

If you want to see changes, let the directorate know. Tell them what you would like the club to be, where you would like it to go. Our officers can't represent us if we don't let them know our wishes. Support them.

Personally, I rather like long sines ((you've got one here! sas)) and I wouldn't mind paying higher dues if it becomes necessary.

That's about all I wanted to say.

April 27, 1986

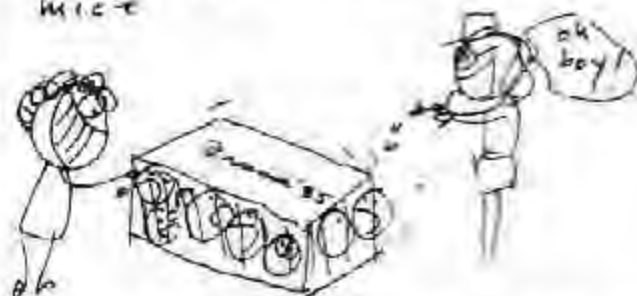
Lance Ozke
6176 Edsall Road #73
Alexandria, VA 22304

David Speakman: The fifth force is called hypercharge. It is, at this time, only an idea based on some variations of results of a 1922 experiment on the gravitational attraction between different materials. If it exists, it is a billion times weaker than gravity and most strongly is connected with iron (See Science News, January 18, 1986).

From Comlink #24 by Allyson M. W. Dyer the following: "Regina Gottesman passes on the following information from Robert L. Greenstein of Lionheart Television

What to do with
a smiley-face

Take 'em to the
Visitors and tell
them they are white
mice



International: Blake's / has been sold to
the following markets:
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, Albuquerque, Baton
Rouge, Bellingham WA, Buffalo, Denver,
Hartford-New Haven, Houston, Jackson MS,
Morgantown WV, Oklahoma City, Providence,
San Jose, Syracuse, Tulsa, and Wichita."

I personally have seen video from
Providence, but I can not vouch for it being
broadcast in other cities.

Check out your local Japanese book stores
for video. In the Washington DC area, it's
Sakura Books, Rockville MD. The Samurai
films and animation might surprise you.
Animation has undergone a revolution in the
last four or five years with detailed
realism.

I've heard reliable rumors that Vampire
Hunter D (a Japan/US co-production) will be
released in English as a feature film this
year. It will be rated "R". If you liked
the Heavy Metal Movie, you'll love this.
I've seen the Japanese version and it is
fantastic, loaded with plot and symbolism.

By the way, Hidden Fortress explains why
Darth Vader should have switched sides. I
never did buy the paternal instinct bit.



((Okay, WHY did he change sides based on
this film. I have a theory going that Vader
was a double agent. That he was REALLY a
Rebel plant within the forces of the Empire.
sas)) I've just seen a very good SF film from
New Zealand called The Quiet Earth. It
handles the last man on earth scenario very
well, even while unravelling the underlying
fabric of the

Does anyone know of a distributor who can
arrange for public showings of Japanese
films at cons?

April 14, 1986

Lyne M. Kohlhoff
21025 Lassen — #205
Chatsworth, CA 91311

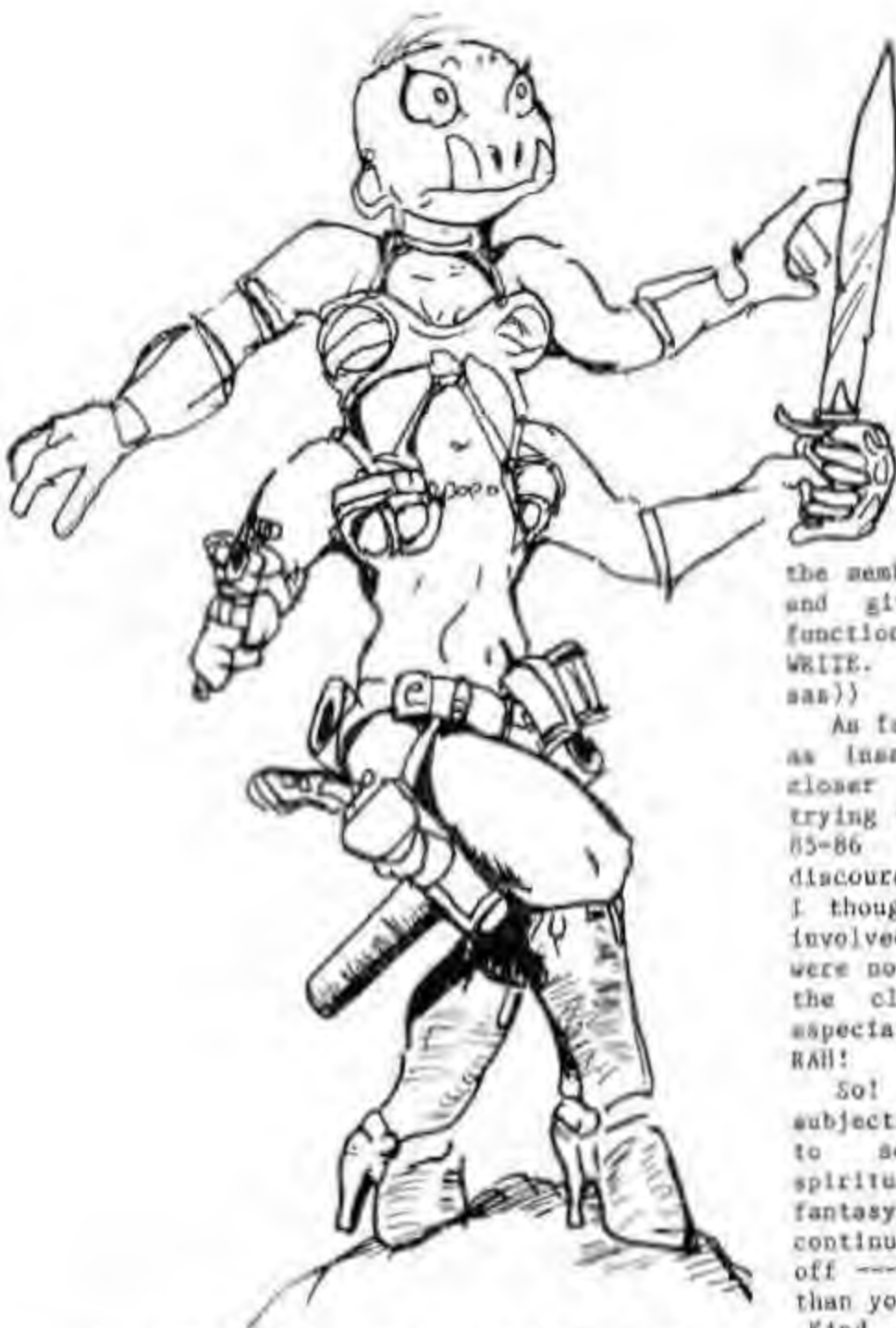
As a new Naffer. I'm mailing this Lou

"OKAY, OKAY P.K. ANT IS THIS
LITTLE GUY WHO TELLS JOKE'S
AND. OKAY WOULD YOU LIH-
BELIEVE HE'S AN ANT WHO."



April 25th— just in case. I've been
a member since September, 1985, but I'm
still confused about a lot of things: Is
this Directorate deadline thing in TB a joke
or is it serious?

((Well, as these letters can testify, it
has been treated as a joke. However, its
intent is VERY serious. It is to make TB a
zine which comes out on time and which
publishes letters on a timely basis. As Don
Franson's letter says, it has nothing to do
with how long it takes a member to loc any
specific issue. What it does pertain to is
the editor's responsibility to get the locs
out and printed as soon as they arrive. We
want to make TB a zine that has a good turn
around time for locs. Locs received should
be published in the issue which is published
the soonest after their receipt. THAT is
what that "deadline thing" is all about.
sas))



Sometimes when I read THFF and TB, I feel I'm wandering through a dream, not quite knowing what is going on. I think the idea of a booklet for neo-Neffers with definitions and explanations of the many different parts of N3F all in one place would be great! I'd go so far as to donate a dollar or two for such a handy guide. I know it would be quite an effort to put together, but it may help new Neffers participate!

((I hope you liked the booklet section which appeared in TB 144 on the various bureaus of the N3F. It was intended to let

the members know what the club has to offer and give the basics of how the club functions. Too, if there are any questions, WRITE. Officers stand ready to assist. sas))

As far as politics — world politics are as insane as ever, but N3F politics are closer to home. Again, as a new Neffer trying to learn the ropes, the election of 85-86 was a bit daunting (defined: discouraging, intimidatating, disheartening). I thought "oh no, what have I got myself involved with?" I hope other new Neffers were not put off and decided as I did, that the club has a lot going for it — especially if we all participate! RAH! RAH!

Sol To continue to touch on the "hot" subjects. Religion: I find it fascinating to see how much metaphysical-type spirituality is in science fiction and fantasy. I personally feel metaphysics continues where conservative religions leave off — answering more questions about life than you can get from a typical bible study. Kind of like science fiction stretching science into new horizons of reality. Metaphysics does not negate Christianity any more than SF negates science ((It may not negate it, but sometimes it does take a poetic license with it! sas)) — each augments the other!

Now, apparently there's been a trend of discussing world news, etc. in TB when SF & F is the reason for the club. I WOULD like to see more SF & F discussed. ((What's submitted, is what is printed! sas))

I get tired of the real world sometimes. That's why I read and watch SF & F! I realize we might not care for REVIEWS...but,

discussions inspired of films and books would be great.

For example, after watching a Twilight Zone episode, how would you end it and why? Or, after seeing a movie like Cocoon, it would be good to discuss the idea of escaping to an alien world when you're old. Or, why are humans so fascinated with space travel, or what fascinates you about fantasy novels? All our films and books touch on the human condition one way or the other. The ideas are endless.

April 15, 1986

Laura Tood
404 Brower Avenue
Oaks, PA 19456

This loc is in response to you folks who brought up the subject of prehistoric sex roles, agriculture, etc.

Besides Katie Duncan, has anyone else read Jean Auel's Clan of the Cave Bears series? They're excellent. I recommend them highly.

In Clan (who we call the Neanderthals) all knowledge was transmitted through racial memory. Their brains were so specialized that males could only hunt, while women could only gather, cook and do all those other women's things.

They were biologically incapable of switching sex roles. What I couldn't quite grasp was how come the women were in such a subservient position, considering that their skills were inaccessible to men.

I should think that such inequality could only come about as a result of thousands of years of skewed patriarchal religion and values, characteristic of a much more "advanced" society. According to anthropologists, the sex roles of the earliest humans were probably similar: foraging, scavenging and trapping small game.

Most likely, as in more recent primitive societies, 60 to 80 percent of the food was supplied by foraging rather than hunting. We're told that later, during the Ice Age, food was provided by the Macho Hunters who went out and bagged mammoths and woolly rhinoceri.

Maybe that's when the masculine god got his first real boost. Although other anthropologists tell us that even then, the women foragers were providing the more

dependable food source. And don't forget, Ice Age conditions didn't apply over all the Earth, nor at all periods.

Roberta Gellis, Laura Thompson: You ought to check out a book called The Descent of Woman. I found it at the library. Unfortunately, I don't recall the author. It's quite enlightening on the subject of women's role in prehistory, and she does support the belief that women were the inventors of basketry, pottery and agriculture.

Now, **Victoria Smith** to your question: How did men seize power? I imagine it did happen after agriculture was well established. Population rose, there were territorial disputes, and the most aggressive tribe prevailed. Soon there were weapons, war, politics and armies -- all of which were the province of males. That was probably when the male gods of war came into fashion with their temples, priesthoods and blood sacrifices. Along came Jehovah and the rest is history.

Question for those in the know: Did the earliest fertility goddesses require blood sacrifices?

A further point about the power balance between the sexes -- and this won't endear me to hardcore feminists. Let's face it, we girls are more at the mercy of our biology than guys are. There are books such as Diadem from the Stars by Jo Clayton where the heroine crosses a desert and fights off the baddies while carrying a pregnancy, birthing a baby and nursing it. Let me tell you. This is pure bull! I speak from personal experience, being at this writing eight months pregnant with my third child. Though I'm in good health, I just can't do things a non-pregnant person could.

I couldn't hold my own in a swordfight or run after wild game, even a simple hike or digging in the garden is beyond me. ((I know someone in her eighth month of pregnancy still swimming, gardening, etc. Matter of fact, my mother was about 40 when she had me. I was born around 9 am. By noon, she was up and getting lunch for my brother and sisters. sas))

Worst of all, I'm too physically depleted after a full day of child care to pursue my writing career. Motivation and creative drive have dwindled to nothing. Maybe this is just the best excuse for writer's block that ever was. But what it says to me is that a woman who attempts to achieve anything, unless she remains childless, has the chips stacked against her.

And consider our cave woman, who was probably pregnant or nursing most of the time. When society and the sex roles started to change, she was the loser. If you don't understand what I mean, just look at today's aggressive, career-oriented society. A working woman has not only to do a job equal to a man's, but also fight for maternity leave, day-care and the right to be home when her sick children need her.

((Maybe this is so in this country, but there are other countries that grant women a good deal of maternity leave and know that to use the full potential of the women of the country, they have to provide child care facilities. Maybe our problem in this realm is political. We need more people to push for a solution so that we can work in equal partnerships with our mates and not be expected to be in a servant/master relationship the way some of our society would choose to have things. sas))

Sometimes I think God must indeed be a man, to have done us women such a dirty trick! Well, I won't bore you all (especially you guys) with any more winning. I'll just change the subject to another of my pet bitches!

I've already mentioned weapons. Well, I was looking at the jillo's in TB 142, and I mean no slur on the talent of these artists — the quality was excellent, as always — but first of all on the cover we have a lovely drawing of a horse and a woman with a long braid — and a gun! A few pages later there's a soldier with a gas mask and a gun, followed by a tank...get the idea? Once, after looking over the SF selection at the bookstore, I swore I'd do a survey on the number of covers portraying battle or violence. Why do weapons have such a hold on our imaginations, even SF fans who are supposed to be an intelligent group? Does it all go back to that prehistoric god of the Mammoth Hunters?

Well, folks, I hate to be the heretic of the group, but I guess I'm the only Neffer who isn't thrilled about space travel. Sure, space is very inspiring, but I can't see a large number of people giving up trees, blue skies and fresh air to live in a sterile cannister in the midst of the dark void. ((We gave up blue sky and green grass to live in little boxes made of tacky tacky in which every one is every bit alike as every other one. How different really is a space station from this?? sas))

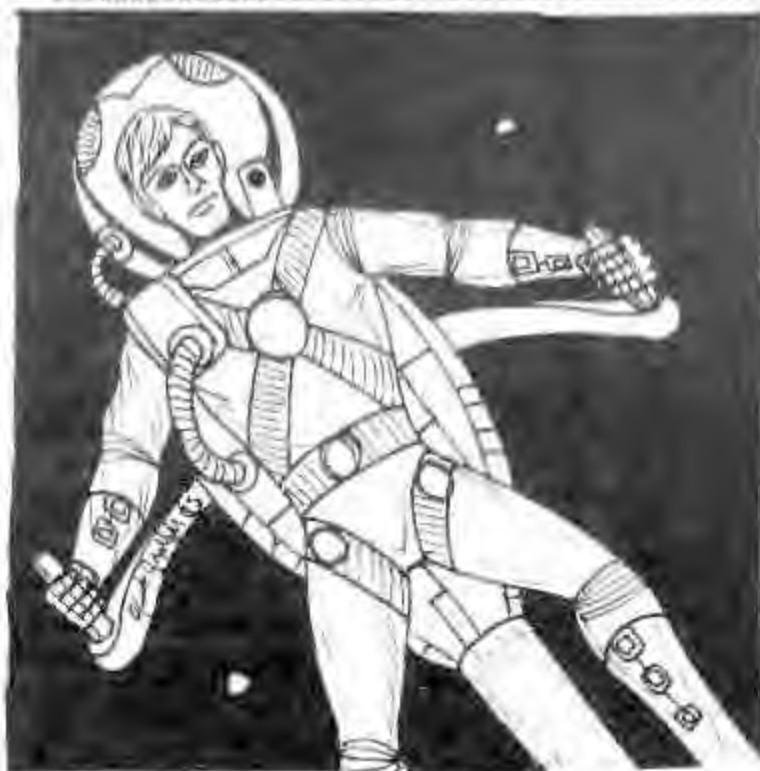
I certainly wouldn't! I think people would only settle for this kind of life if

there were no more trees, etc. left on Earth. If man totally ruined the Earth space colonies would be man's last refuge. But instead of putting effort into this "worst case scenario," why not put the effort into keeping Earth green and liveable? Stabilize the population, allocate resources fairly, stop stripping the rain forests and find renewable energy sources. I'm sure you'll all be hurling invective at me as "anti-science", etc....well, I just consider myself "pro-Earth."

Besides, if we ever did meet any aliens, what are the chances that the contact would be peaceful and beneficial? I don't know about the aliens, but humans seem to be just deep-down vicious and nasty. See my earlier comment about guns. And, even if there wasn't any shooting, we now of the culture shock that resulted from the clash of Western culture with "less developed" ones. Third World countries are suffering all sorts of difficulties because of abandoning their ways to copy ours.

While such problems face us here on Earth, how can we think about space? And even if we don't meet any intelligent aliens — and who's going to define that term? — imagine the effects of our presence on alien ecologies.

Frankly I don't think humans are a mature enough species to be worthy of serious space travel, and we probably won't be for millennia — if we survive that long.



April 15, 1986

April 22, 1986

Kathleen Woodbury
1193 So 1900 E
Salt Lake City, UT 84108

David Speakman: I think it's called hypercharge. This "fifth force" that is anti-gravity. Newsweek had a one-page piece on it a month or so ago. I can't find my copy or I'd chapter and verse it for you.

As I recall, it is connected to the massiveness of an object -- more mass, more hypercharge.

It is very weak, and only works over short distances -- relative to gravity which apparently has a very long distance effect.

It is also very small in effect. A lead



ball falls more slowly than a plastic ball of the same diameter, but the difference is fractionally small and hard to detect.

I have a question: One of those ones little kids ask that drive you crazy, only my kids didn't ask it. Yup, I still, at my age, ask drive-you-crazy questions. Why don't baby birds suffocate inside of their eggs?

Do the eggs let air pass through the shell? Would this be a suitable project for a kid's science project? Instead of the one with the row of chick embryos in different stages of development -- Yech!)

That's all for now, folks!

Janet Ellicott
43 Brooksbank House
Retreat JPlace
Morning Lane
Hackney E9
England

Thanks for the recent package from N3P. Four zines in two days. That's quite a record!

I have one or two comments regarding **Katharine Duncan's** "Overview of the Six Doctors".

Katharine, while I agree with you that most of the Doctor's female companions are useful only as screamers, Liz was actually seconded from a research job to be UNIT's Scientific Adviser and Zoe once said that the Doctor was very clever, almost as clever as she was.

Gallifrey, as I suspect the writers intended, is an enigma. At the moment, however, it does have an acting woman president.

Peter Davison's short reign is rather an enigma, too. He is -- contrary to public opinion -- much more popular here than either of the Bakers, and the majority of British fans believe that the producer, not the Doctor, should have been changed.

Rumors abound, but it's pretty certain that Peter left the show because of an almost total incompatibility between him and John Nathan Turner.

Fortunately, Peter's career is not suffering. He has a daughter now who is little over a year old and is having no trouble getting work to support her.

I was highly amused recently when Peter and his wife, Sandra, were on a chat show, when the host asked them about American



viewers. Peter was reluctant to say too much. He said he knew someone was taping the show to send to the States. Three guesses what I was doing!

April 17, 1986

Rhonda Kneafchin
60 Pine Street
North Massapequa, NY 11758

Well, here it is — my very first loc. I'm a new member and after three or four issues of TIGHTBEAM, I think I'm ready to jump into all the fun.

Here we go.....

Jackie Kuma: On the subject of books into film...film and literature are entirely two different mediums. A book translates to its audience in one physical sense, i.e., through the written word, but a film can work anywhere up to four different levels.

First and probably foremost, a film translates its ideas, concepts and events on a visual level.

Secondly, and thirdly are the audio levels. Specifically, diegetic and nondiegetic sound.

The first, diegetic, is the sound that comes from a source on screen, or perhaps from a source we know of off-screen, character voices, sounds made by objects. For example: Two people are talking in a park. Diegetic sounds would include dialogue — whether or not that character was in frame, as long as we know he's there — birds chirping, children laughing, wind blowing through the trees, a plane overhead, etc. You get the idea.

Nondiegetic sound is any sound which does not come from an onscreen source inherent in the story. Nondiegetic sound is designed to enhance a scene's mood. It might be music used to build tension in a chase scene or romance in a love scene.

There are also nondiegetic sound effects that can create comedy; even narration is sometimes considered nondiegetic. I'm not sure where Star Trek's use of the Captain's Log falls into place here. I think it would be nondiegetic, since we never actually see Kirk recording the logs. What it does is overlap two different time frames — one where he's recording and the other associated with the action we see onscreen during the narration.

Anyhow, before I get too involved, let me sum up the fourth level. That is writing onscreen. A signpost, a letter, a newspaper

article, or translations — subtitles, or in Woody Allen's case, what people are actually thinking in regard to what they're saying. See: Annie Hall.

Now a film can use one or it may use all four of these levels at once. To the audience, the amount of information received at any precise moment may be double, triple, or four times that of a novel. It seems to me that most books to film fail because they try to cram all the information in the book into a two hour film and the result is a lot of jumbled mush. Film is both more subtle and more forceful than books. The camera can linger on some gorgeous scenery or the audience can be bombarded by lots of visual action, dialogue, music and sound effects.

Film involves mental as well as physical stimulus. An audience is fastened to a chair, in a darkened room with no outside stimulation. Popcorn excluded!

Book readers are subject to phone calls, ringing doorbells, any assortment of distractions. It is much easier to put down a book after twenty minutes, go do something else and pick it up later.

A book can be savoured, read at the reader's pace. A film is like being force fed. The audience is subject to the timing and ultimate will of the film maker.

I think the major problems in making a book into a film are not within the context of the story, but rather in the presentation. Better yet, being a devoted follower of both, I say leave the novels to the novelists and the films to the film makers. Arthur C. Clarke being the exception to the rule and perhaps Harlan Ellison. And the opposite is true. Please, please will someone tell the publishers to stop making movie into books.

Books make confusing films
and

Films make boring books.
to each his own...

Mikel Norwitz: I, too, loved Lady Hawke, despite some awful editing mistakes. I was real happy to see Rutger Hauer playing the good guy. He's always cast as a baddy — The Hitcher, Blade Runner.

Laura Todd: I didn't really want to get into this religion debate as yet because I still haven't quite figured it all out. But I had to comment on one thing you said. It seemed to me, too, several years ago, that religion was the cause of most of the world's killing. That is a powerful and, unfortunately, partially true statement. I believe it is responsible for some of the killing, but religion has also done a lot of



good. It's helped a lot of folks get through rough times and I can't help wondering how often religious beliefs have saved lives.

Religion should be a personal experience. This is not to say it should not be discussed. I, like a lot of Neffers, have problems with large, organized masses, praying and waiting for some mysterious Messiah to save us all.

I would much rather take an active role in my life. One aspect of Judaism I really like is that we as human beings are responsible for our time here on earth, (the moon, etc., etc.)

Owen: Please, "received" is spelled r-e-c-e-i-v-e-d.

To everyone: There's a relatively new writer in the bookstores and libraries — James Morrow. His two novels are The Wine of Violence and The Continent of Lies. Both are exciting psychological adventures. He creates very believable and human characters caught in unusual circumstances that bring out the best and the worst in them. If anyone is interested in discussing his work, I'd love to hear from you.

One more thing: Anyone out there seen "The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai"? Any comments?

April 21, 1986

Cynthia L. Snelson
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Princeton, Idaho 83857
60

Hello! This is my first lot since joining the N3P last August. I find all your comments on religion fascinating. It seems that a lot of you are saying pretty much the same thing.

Please don't put down Christians — or any group — because of the actions of a few. Granted there are bad Christians and some of them have done terrible things, but that doesn't make Christianity wrong. It makes the people who do those things wrong.

Jackie Kuma: God isn't boring. All of those "seemingly infinite wonders of the universe" that you mentioned, He created. How can a creator of wonders be boring?

Lynne Holdom: Sorry about your cat. Our seven-year old cat died last week.

Owen Laurion: No. Mormons (Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) no longer practice polygamy.

Where can I get a TK Atherton N3P pin?

George Phillias: I would like more information on Fantasy Role Playing Games by mail.

ABOUT THE PERSONAL TOTEM: It's a toss up among dragons, unicorns and cats. I was born the year of the dragon. ((I was born in a year of the rat! sas)) Maybe I could combine all three. A fuzzy beast with a single horn, scaly wings, that meows and breathes fire, but only like a Virgin.

April 22, 1986

Rosaire Orlovski
34-45 201st Street
Bayside, NY 11361

In TIGHTBEAM #141, you said the Alan Parsons Project's I, Robot was based on Asimov's novel, I, ROBOT. As far as I know, the only thing the two have in common is the name. It is still a good album.

This group, though, does have albums which I consider having fantastical themes.

One is Tales of Mystery and Imagination, which is a concept album based on the writings of Edgar Allen Poe.

Others by The Alan Parsons Project are Pyramid and Eye in the Sky which share a theme of ancient Egypt and its mysteries. Both are excellent albums, but certain tracks are particularly haunting and beautiful.

Other albums with somewhat fantastical themes are Grand Illusion, by Styx and Eldorado by The Electric Light Orchestra.

A group which might be of interest to both folk and rock fans is Steeleye Span. This work deals mostly with Celtic folk tales set to rock music.

Also, if you plan to print this, tell Katharine Duncan the author of the Who article, to try Channel 21 weekdays 6:30 pm and Channel 31 10:30 pm to see Baker's shows. Any time, I happen to watch it on either of those channels, those are the ones I saw.

April 23, 1986

John Graham
35 W. Devon
Robelle, IL 60172

Up the Revolution! TB #142 arrived in

Forgotten Movies
of the 1950s
- #1 in a series -



"They Saved
Hitler's Foot"
(1952) 1984

plenty of time for me to meet the official deadline, but I found plenty of reasons to put this letter off. I can see how the hopscotch effect can be annoying, but I've had my N3F publications arrive too close to the deadline before.

Granted, I generally don't lose anyway, but you never know when I might be prompted to write. For example:

Too many religion comments this ish, I must throw in my beliefs/opinions. I'm a member of the Lutheran Church, which is

roughly one step from Catholicism ((tell it to Martin Luther that way! sas)).

I call the religious atmosphere that I live in "suburban Christianity" -- something that seems to take priority only on Sunday mornings and during certain church holidays.

That sounds hypocritical to me, too, but I can live with it for reasons I'll mention later.

First though, I'd like to touch on the main point of any religion -- its god.

One thing about this discussion that bothers me is that people have the wrong (in my opinion/belief/ anyway) idea about the nature of God. He/She/It is beyond everything -- certainly beyond human conception, science or logic. That's where the whole "by faith alone" schtick comes in.

When the Bible mentions "unthinking worship" or "childlike faith" to use my church's idiom, I don't think that it's a commandment for all Christians to be Zombie slaves, but rather a warning that the rational approach to God is not going to work.

((Maybe it's the Lutheran in me, but I have always taken to the concept of "through a child's eyes". By the way, I have always considered Martin Luther to be a mystic. I have a few books put out by the Augsburg Press. One of them is Luther and the Mystics. One of these sons, I would like to write a thesis based on this conception. But I suppose that is one of the "one of these days" things that shall never come to pass. sas))

It helps me to swallow the "no beginning routine" as well as other "heavy mysteries."

Side note to Owen, Lutherans believe that human spirits have no end, but do have a definite beginning. Somewhere around birth.

Where exactly is more suited to a debate on abortion. Otherwise I agree with your analogy.

It also helps me to accept certain "commandments" that I have trouble with logically, such as relationships "as Christians obey Christ."

The second area I would like to comment upon is the whole heaven, hell, sin and salvation routine. In my faith, it's simple. Man has sinned. Thereby, earning himself eternal damnation. Christ took the form of a man, was subjected to the various trials and temptations of men, and finally suffered the agonies of hell and died. Sort of paying off our parking tickets, if I may drop into metaphor. That means that if you accept this gift, you get to spend the rest of your eternal life in heaven. That's it.

Hitler could have gotten in, if he had accepted it.

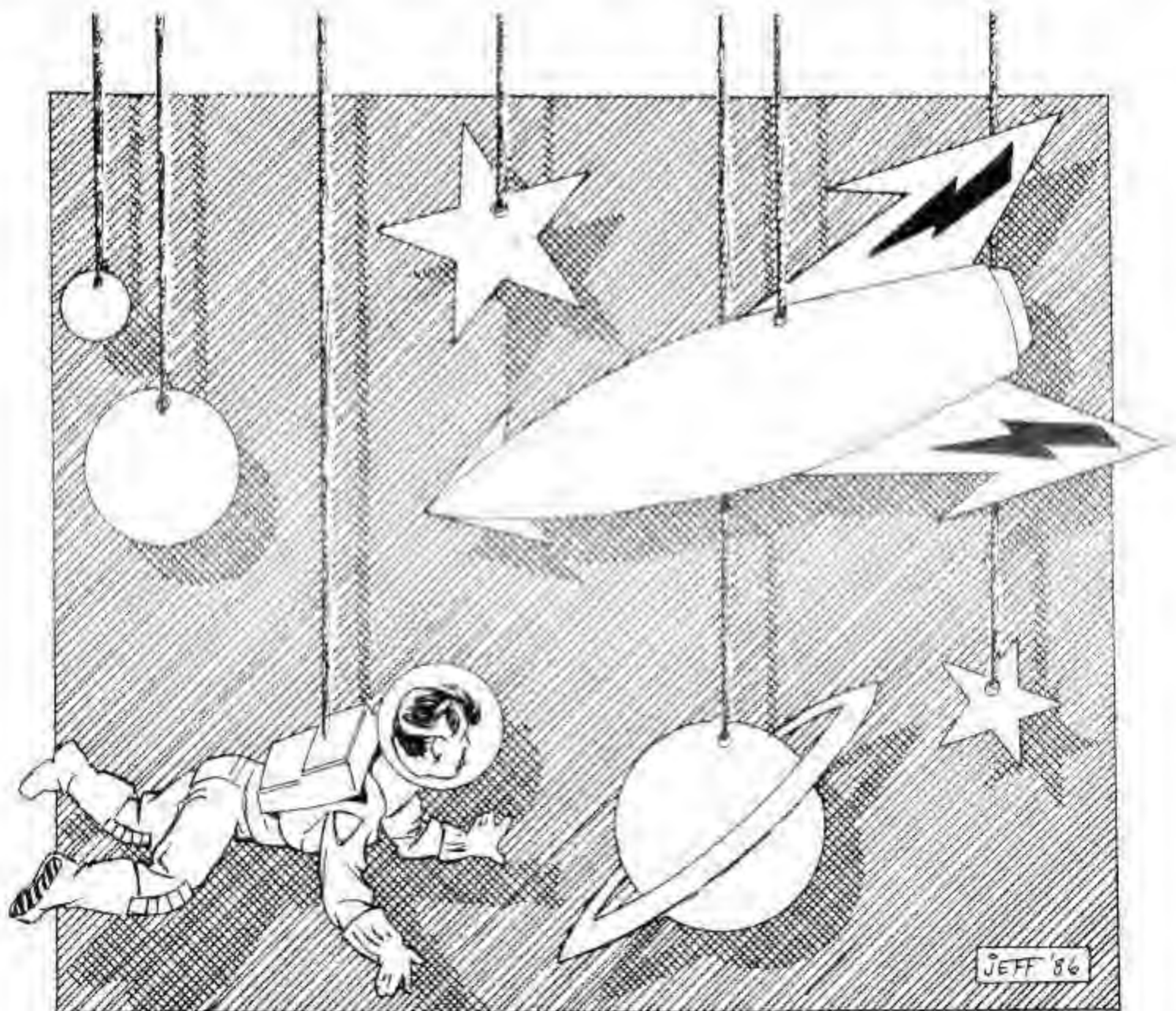
Of course, acceptance has its side effects. Obviously, to accept Christ's sacrifice you have to believe in God, sin and such. Also, if you believe that God has made such a sacrifice, that He/She/It loves you that much, you're not going to go around and sin all over the place. At least not without feeling guilty.

Though as you probably know, feelings of guilt can be easily ignored.

Finally, like a wonderful new diet that works wonders, you're going to want to tell everybody about it. Especially when you've

experienced life without faith. like many born again Christians. We parochial school alumni view faith more like math. It's always surprising when you meet your first atheist.

((Faith. How about the concept that faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit. That man in and of himself cannot believe, but only through the intervention of a divine spirit can the divine be accepted. In this matter, not only is salvation a gift, but the very belief in the salvation as well. Any comments on that?? sas))





How do I reconcile fandom and Christianity? First off, I'm not really a trofan, embracing FIATOL and all that. Neither am I a fundamentalist. I don't believe that God has outlawed fun, nor do I believe that it is a sin to contemplate alternate realities, even ones where He/She/It is non-existent or (gasp!) as human as we.

Granted, there is a danger of "being led astray" by a certain philosophy, but I feel that my faith is strong enough to survive the experience.

((I tend to think many Lutherans are rather of an accepting lot. We don't automatically condemn other belief patterns.

Maybe it stems somewhat from Martin Luther himself. He questioned his belief pattern and formed a new one. Maybe we still bear that legacy of questioning and looking inside of ourselves for our own individual faith. Comments??? sas))

One last note on this whole religion thing. From me and from this letter anyway.

Please don't judge all of us Christians, or even god, by every bozo who claims to do His/Her/It's work. As far as I know, God has never said that homosexuals — or Jews or whomever — should be singled out for some immediate "divine" retribution, that one couldn't be an individual, or that you're restricted to certain songs in church. A number of good ol' Lutheran hymns are set to tunes from the good ol' 16th Century German taverns. And some of my friends and I plan to have a good time in heaven.

Well, since I'm here, I might as well drop a few more pennies and comment on some other things.

Paul Brown: Is my memory faulty? I don't recall Reagan getting the hostages out either. Merely getting elected. Granted, I would not call Carter a particularly strong leader, but he was also more of a pacifist than Reagan. In a situation like the Iran situation, or our current escapade in Libya, I think strength would be shown more by holding back, than immediately striking out.

Michael Peralta: I believe there was a Norse God named Hoder who was blind. Loki tricked him into killing Balder.

Jacki Kuma: Spinard is right. Print is very cerebral. The visual aspects are mostly created by the reader and it is very easy to peek into someone's head and see they're thinking. You've also got a theoretically unlimited space in which to tell your story. With film you've got to gamble on how long your audience will still. An aspect that home video should affect, I would think.

Monitoring thought processes is awkward. Cawd, I hated those "thought overs" in Dune. And, the visuals are limited to the film maker's view. But then, you can also hide things in the background or in an actor's gestures. I'll go out on a limb and say that film is a very good medium for mystery and suspense.

Mikel Norwiter: I've also had to deal with being a bloody "hospital for the walking wounded," but like you, I was also exchanging support for affection.

To me, that makes it my own fault, in part. I figure that I'm either going to have to learn when to back off and let whomever learn "to walk without the emotional crutch" or just become a nasty w.o.b. sufficient unto myself. *sigh* Life was easier when I was ten.



Lance C. Ozko: Ah, Georgie, you little thief, you. According to an instructor of mine, the ending of Star Wars: A New Hope was a direct lift from Leni Riefenstahl's Triumph of the Will. (A Nazi propaganda film about a rally at Nuremberg in 1936.) I haven't seen that supposed sequence, but from what I have seen of the film, I wouldn't be surprised if he did. The style is very similar.

((I find the way Lucas tries to hold his film and his "rights" so very close that he must have a reason for his paranoia. There are so many "sources" for his film it makes you wonder how many people he should be paying royalties to. I think he doth protest too much. Those that do usually have underlying reasons. sas))

Since I'm supporting the revolution anyway, I might as well throw in a comment for TF #141 ((ARCHHHH! That deadline has NOTHING to do with comments you make. Again, it is solely a publisher's deadline. Please see Don Franzen's letter. sas))

Regarding John Robinson's departure: I don't know about John's situation, but I wish I had some of the free time I had in high school.

I don't think that fandom is any more of a threat to school work than television, movies, video games or whatever else may be distracting. I let my grades suffer in favor of other things a few times, sometimes to my regret, but sometimes not, though I did have to take those classes over. But I did learn that I have to let mundanity take priority every once in a while. And seeing some of the fanatic that some people handle here, I think the N3V would be a good place to learn the fine art of priority juggling. Could teach me a thing or two, that's for sure. Hopefully, we'll be able to see John come back some day in the not too distant -- we can only hope -- future.

April 26, 1986

Steven Thomas
408 Forest Circle
S. Charleston, WV 25303

Greetings Neffers from the Chemical City: South Charleston, West Virginia. HACK! HACK! COUGH! COUGH! Also known as 'down the road from Institute. Known for its annual 'Union Carbide Ammonia Spill' every June through August -- whenever it occurs. I tell you people take bets on when it will occur; and, folks, it OCCURS! I know -- the

hard way.

My name is Steven Thomas and this is my first loc. To describe me in a nutshell, I'm 26, single -- and available, and have taken to the fandom of SF&F which is near and dear to my heart! A few subjects I want to comment on:

POLITICS: A subject I try not to mix with fandom, but a few leaks occur as you can tell in later comments. Please don't push my political feelings, folks. It shouldn't belong here, but if I'm pushed far enough, don't be surprised if you see whose side I'll take.

((Okay, whose side?? sas))

RELIGION: I must admit, I'm not a witch, but I'm a Neo-Pagan wishing to become a Celtic white witch through study. However, I encourage anyone who wishes to continue his own beliefs and/or religion, no matter which, to continue their own paths. I respect their rights and decision on this. No one will change my feelings of Paganism and Wicca though either. Now to some personal comments:

Elaine M. Barberi-Fitzpatrick: I second the thanks that you have for the Neffers A Bad Batch contributors. I agree Amanda (Carter-Sheahan) has a great talent for cooking. You should have tasted some of the recipes she concocted when we were in the same SCA shire! Hooooowaaaaa!!!!

Catherine Mints: Your recipe for Dragonrider's Soup looks like a real winner! And if anyone calls it "weyrd", I'll personally send some tape their way!!

Phillip M. Calderone: Don't believe a word they say! It may follow a similar or paralleled plot to LotR, but the Shannara books are stories in their own right! to say Allanore is Gandalf, Shea is Bilbo or Frodo, etc, is ridiculous! You hit it on the head. Shannara is an alternative NOT a supplement! Bravo! Remember that Shannara fans and keep the faith!

Christopher T. Flatt: Not only will I write you (hopefully through the Dickson RR), but I hope to meet you at Rivercon this summer!

Did you have a Dorsai costume at Rivercon the year Gordie was GOR? I think this one will be a biggie on the Neffer attendance! How about having your graduation bash during Rivercon? I know it's a little late, but I thought it would be an idea and save a trip.

Yeah for neo-fen!!! Watch out, Chris, you're headed for Neffer Burnout!!!! I'm afraid I am, too.

I write enough letters to fill up the Blue Front's headquarters (BOO! HISS!) You



can bet the Post Awful isn't "friendly."

In case you're wondering, out there, Dorsai fans have been booing that last in-cycle pun for ten minutes! It was the original carrier of Pushitis! Hoo-Boy! Yep, I think we'll have a lot in common to talk about! Until then, remember: "May the High Ones guide you" and "Shat, Dorsai!"

Hap E. Phace: Everyone, please pardon the pun, but it's appropriate: I'm loading up for bear at you boy!!!!

These Ewok cracks are not funny! You have the gall to compare them to Smurfs! How would you like me to have David Letterman run over you with a two-ton bulldozer, eh? You're already, flat? OK, I didn't win* this but THIS IS WAR!

Want to see a basket case?
Why not look at Hap E. Phace!
Why is it we see no teeth?
I had brass knuckles underneath!
The page is white, he isn't there!
I needed food for my pet bear.

In the name of Ewoks, Hokas, Dilbeans and other forms of ursine creatures in the universe, I say GRRRR!!!! Nuke Ewoks AND Elves????! WAAAAAUGH!!!!

Melissa Holt: As a con attender for seven years now, I'll reply that I always try to meet new friends at a con, especially a rookie, and make them feel comfortable by getting to know them, share interests and show them areas that may pertain to that interest.

I was alone, per se, at my first con, and I know the feeling. But you know, I went straight to what I liked and met new people

from sharing those interests. So my advice to you rookies is GET IN THERE AND ENJOY! Find out what you're interested in and if you can't, make it known! You'll find a few interested people and will be glad you did!

R. F. Nenbe: Hoo-Boy! Take a bow yourself, Frank. I hope you don't mind being called Frank! Especially Llewellyn's Bard! Folks, I'm not only a vid fan and lover of Elves, Half-Elves, the Sidhe and the Tuatha De Danaan, but also of Celtic Lore and Myth!!!

You can't put off reading about the first bard in Eire or possibly anywhere! Also, may the Goddess bless you for mentioning the great one himself, Robert Graves! Book of Knells is also an excellent book by MacAvoy, I agree!!

Folks, I couldn't have made these comments in TB #140 any better! If you're at Rivercon, I hope to see you, too.

Eric Jamborsky: Eric, there's good RHPS fans there's a bad ones. Sure, everybody wants to squirt water, throw toast or throw rice on the cue words or scenes. It's the asses that break chairs, the screen or even the entrance way! When I was at West Virginia University in 1978, I was dying to go to a RHPS, but the night before the night I was supposed to go, some of these drunken asses -- which are a dime a dozen at WVU -- actually broke the glass windows to the entrance, thus cancelling the later performances. I was fuming mad! But I did see it later and saw the 'veteran' crowd were kids who just wanted good clean fun with cues...and even cleaned up afterwards! It depends upon where you see it and who's there.

Mikel Norwitz and Nancy Thuleen: Don't worry, kids! I'm a Lake Wobegon fan and I would like to find a Powdermilk Biscuit T-shirt somewhere. ((Listen to PHG. When you hear the toll free telephone number given to receive a free catalogue, call it. The catalogue has such a t-shirt. It also has a Raw Bits one and a few others as well. sas))

A lot of good shows are on NPR and local public radio. I especially like traditional/British Isles music and "Talk, Talk" with Jerry Galvin.

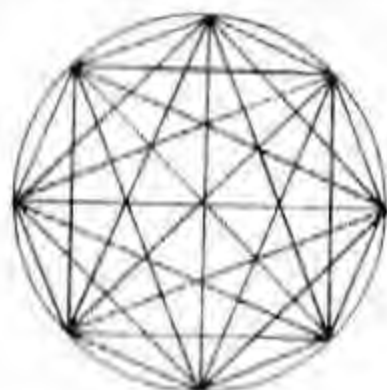
Well, on to more stuff! I like some classical, too. Back's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, Beethoven's Wellington's Victory and anything Isao Tomita can put on a synthesizer and space music.

Mikel, New Wave Music is more than a synthesizer and sound effects. It's also patterns, styles and functions that

manipulate — what I call audio graphics. You can relate what is happening by the sound produced. We think of music by Herbie Hancock, Art of Noise, etc. today, but let's remember some of its forefathers like Kraftwerk, Gary Numan and Devo, too.

Jack Ferley: March 14, 1960 at 2:23 PM EST. Astrologers have similar systems called birth charts. I can do some, but it takes a while. With ephemeris in hand...

De Chysel: Glad to have seen you at Munchcon, De! Yep, I was the nut with buttons and badges on the hat and an Ireland T-shirt with Celtic knotwork underneath the lettering. I'm afraid I have to disagree with The Final Encyclopedia being a continued book. I'm sure my fellow Dorsai fans know that this is the hub of his life work with Dorsai. In fact, it filled in the holes we Dorsai lovers have waited for. I knew Sandra Miesel's interviews with Gordie could be beneficial and educational!



Mary Lou Lacefield: If you're at Rivercon, I think I'll give you a great big kiss for your 'Ewok Answer'. Just find the West Virginian with buttons and badges all over him and is a dead ringer for a bear! Beautiful, just beautiful! Let's write a folk song about Hap E. Phace!

Paul Doerr: A couple of things. Colin Baker is arrogant, sarcastic, unorthodox and whimsical! Next to Troughton, all I can say is THAT'S MY BOY!!! "Amanda Morgan" and "Brothers" make up Spirit of Dorsai and Lost Dorsai is a novel, not a novella (I think); along with "Warrior." Also Necromancer. If you really want to sink your teeth into this subject get Lost Dorsai and read "The Sword and the Flame" by Sandra Miesel.

Robert and Ruie Clifford: Hi Cliff and Ruie! I hope the move to Yokosaka wasn't a hassle and that you're settled in. Dunbar won't be the same without you! The typewriter which I'm typing this letter with



is doing fine. I hope you get to see Kelly and Polly sometime. Take care!

Lucy Takeda and Carol Mularski: Love your taste in books and interests, gals!

Jane Ellicott: The only things I regret about 'resting' Doctor Who are that it cut off Colin Baker's career as the Doctor shortly after he received the role. Hard to get on track after so long. It snapped the show's record for the longest consecutive running TV show in history at 22 years and that the BBC has a twit for a programming director! Thanks for the letters of welcome, gal!

Rose Secret: All I can say is meet MZB for yourself and see. I have and I'm keeping my comments, good and bad, to myself.

Dave Garcia's Art: Double wow! Clint McElroy said hi!

Michael Peralta: You're right about having an independant and self-reliable spouse, but don't get the "me" or "I" syndrome from an obsession of it or it's Divorce City sooner than you think.

I've heard of one-on-one bed hopping, but not orgies at cons, unless everyone's very consenting and caring of each other. I haven't seen any personally, but you never know when you find a group of people who can be found with such intentions!

I think it's okay as long as everyone protects and cleans themselves after each 'session'. For personal safety and others'.



Margo Ahlstrom: I'm single and lonely, too, so when I'm at a con, it makes me perk up. Sure I look for few fetale at cons and intimately, if they want to be, but I care for them very much as a person and respect their needs and decisions as I want myself to get out and meet some females! If you get to know someone of the opposite sex, it eases the pain. If you find that special someone, may there be happy blessings between you two. Even through correspondence there can be meetings. Be patient and never lose sight of your dreams.

T. K. Atherton: I hear so much about people wanting or making up their own N3F pins. Do you have any more? How much?

David Heath, Jr.: On your response to Beth Case, I think you've been eating too many bowls of petunias!

Katie Duncan: The Childe Cycle is SF, but it has a great deal of fantasy seasoning and history. In fact, a good deal of what Gordie writes is either socialistic SF or SF/Fantasy mixtures. Some are history/fantasy -- "Kenneth of Otterbein" and "The Dragon and the George". I'm sure Chris agrees. If you want to know the real Gordie Dickson, read "The Plume and the Sword" like I told Da.

Lynne Holdom: It's believed those Japanese films that influenced the SW trio in their SF aspects are the Space Cruiser Yamato animated films. Read, if you can find a copy, Starlog #35 on Star Blazers. As a Japanimation fan, I can tell you it came out BEFORE SW!

Laurence Gray: If everything in fantasy is so much like LotR, then why are most of the protagonists in them one or two people? Why do some have no magic at all? Different plots? A good bit have Arthurian flavors, too. Are all fantasy novels LotR/Arthurian? That's rather vague.

Lauria N'Ba Margail: Greetings and felicitations! I am extremely interested in Celtic Wicca myself and have heard a great deal about Gavin and Yvonne Frost. I also like it not only because it's Celtic, but I also like their attitudes of philosophy. In fact, what you and they say hit the nail on head with what I believe. That we must each find our own spiritual paths. Believing in and liking ourselves and others.

I'm afraid those TV priests have to scare people into giving them money so they won't think such independant and "Satanic" thoughts.

I'd like a list and to hear from you and your beliefs more. I'd like to see a circle formed of interested N3F members possibly

sometime.

My diety is Artio, and like Eileen Roy, I have a bear totem, but mine is a West Virginia BLACK bear as opposed to her California BROWN bear.

Shannara's still a great series, even if it's not unique. Since Ewoks are my cousins, cut 'em a break; at least they have rites.

In Darkover, I'm Darrill Linnart Storn MacAran of the Hellars. Brother of the Renunciates, defender of the oppressed! If I ever do, I'm going to DGC! I hope to hear from you and interested Pagan! soon.

Victoria A. Smith: What's tough is living in the Bible Belt and only having one or two friends interested in Paganism. I feel fandom and cons relieve boredom and loneliness, especially in a very remote area like Charleston. Bed hopping is down, but friendships can lead to intimacy at cons. If I marry, it will be a fan or someone into SF&F.

Sally Syrjala: I totally agree that a marriage must be equal for both so they can grow. The only thing I might add is that people that live together or free-mate must follow the same guidelines with the advantage of breaking up more easily.

((I don't happen to believe in "living together" or "free mating." For one thing, breaking up is TOO easy. When you marry, you make a commitment for better or worse. That is a life-time seal. It's knowing that it is a life-time commitment that allows you "freedom" of disagreement. You know you can argue and disagree and that will mean nothing to the bond. It takes the hard times to cement a relationship together. It's knowing that after the storm, you will still have each other. I am one of the vanishing breed that believes in marriage and in staying together.))



Laura Todd: I just started and I'm doing my best at contributing. You must teach your children what you feel is right for them. But it is not only religion, but also everyday life. You should also find out what they feel and believe so you can understand them. In the end, I'm sure you'll make the right decision.

Marianne Turlington and Tracey Mullen: Thanks so much for the birthday card! It makes for a brighter 26th!



April 28, 1986

Kendall P. Bullen
American Embassy - Caracas
AP Miami 34037

It's finally happened. Quick. Call the newspapers. Alert the public. My TNYF arrived on time!

Excuse the sarcasm. I'm just not used to this. But it is sooooo good! And TH is catching up, too, I notice and getting more interesting each time!

All this talk of religion and male versus female gods/goddesses makes me want to put my own 22c in, too. — A groan is heard from the audience — not another!

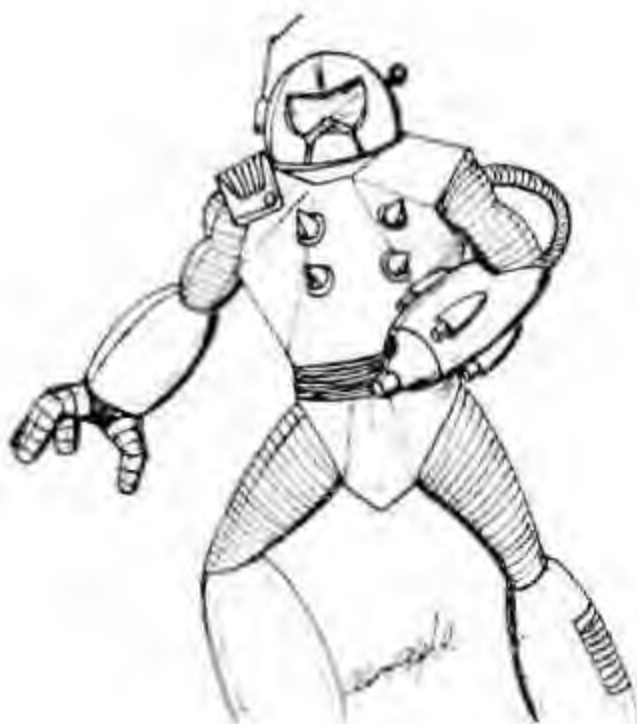
I consider myself Agnostic. I just don't know if there is a god or not. Though I'm keeping an open mind and hoping — praying — for a miracle to happen in front of my eyes and convince me. Not too practical, huh?

However, I go to church — Episcopalian — occasionally, and few people know my true beliefs, or lack thereof.

This is mainly because, at least among most people and especially institutions I'm familiar with, it's generally more acceptable/desirable to be religious — or at least profess a religion — than to be agnostic or atheist.

But, anyway, on to one of the current discussions: the "sex" of the "supreme being" (a nice cultural term). Can anyone give me a reason why a supreme being would be a "god" (male) or a "goddess" (female)? I mean, think about it, people, why? If it were to pick a physical form of representation, picking one of the two sexes available would only mean showing favoritism to one of the sexes, and why would it do that?

Aside from the obvious physical ones, and perhaps a few social/cultural ones, there is little difference in the intellectual/emotional potentials of the sexes, and picking one the physical differences would be asinine for a supreme being to do. I can't believe it would represent itself as either a man or a woman, though perhaps two different aspects, one male and one female. Though, that wouldn't make much sense or be necessary altho. Please comment if you can make any sense of the argument I'm trying to make here.



((Well, what if it isn't the ACTUAL physical code that we fathom, but our OWN interpretation of the physical appearance? Sort of like something reaches into your mind and pulls out thought connections you have associated with the concept and uses them to represent itself on the physical plane??? sas))

Lola: Congrats on the Kaymar. You deserved it!!

Oh, and another thing about religion. What's the big deal with capitalization of "God" all over the world. It's just a noun.

I can't believe a supreme being would care about such a thing, but then what sorts of things would it care about? Hmmm..I'll have to think on that one.

John Graham: No glasses/contacts, a dog, pepperoni/sausage, single, no cons, I hate beer--get a bartender to do cocktails/mixed drinks, I sing (in space? sure!), all kinds of music -- my personal preference is ROCK!, but we must be fair -- , and nothing could make my enjoyment equal orgasm in any way, shape or form.

OTHER JUNK: Yeah, a guide to APAs! Is "Apa-69" going to be reviewed? I'm writing urgently for a detailed report!

David Speakman: Unicorn? WHAT?

April 28, 1986

Ed Chambers
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TE #141 asks for a response to John Robinette's falfiation. Not knowing him at all, I feel I can respond objectively. I feel bad that this sort of thing could happen at all. It is a shame his parents made him quit.

Yes, the N3F can be a valuable assistance in developing social communication skills. From reading the zines he will probably improve his spelling. ((Providing he doesn't take too many typos for the real thing! sas))

Reading a lot does help people retain the correct spelling and grammar that this society teaches in the public schools -- probably the private ones as well.

Also, other social/consumer skills are learned when dealing with the post office, the local printer, etc.

Being a fan is being socially active! We support our local -- or not so local -- office and school supply store. We become 'someone' by being active in fandom. We are

encouraged by other fan to be ourselves, to think for ourselves, to make our own decisions. Enough said. I just had to get that off my mind.

I don't expect to prevent my two daughters from being individuals. Of course, one could go on from here and say, what if they want to be anti-nuke demonstrators or something of the sort and wind up getting arrested in Washington, or (worse yet) wind up terrorizing some country or what not. That is another barrel of apples to be continued after I see the comments on this letter! I just hope John rejoins us in teh near future.

((Hoo Boy. Linking us anti-nuke sorts with terrorists? This weekend -- August 9th -- there is a march from Newburyport to Seabrook. It is a seven mile, 2 3/4 hour march. The legal rally is to start at 1 pm. n.h./seacoast clamshell is sponsoring the activity. Just so you know what we folks are up to in such groups, I will outline some of the material the August, 1986 newsletter which I received the other day. Some of the items listed are:

1. In an ongoing series of actions and demonstrations at the gates of the Seabrook project, 118 people have been arrested for nonviolent civil disobedience.

--If you think that is so bad, remember we have a national holiday now named after someone who advocated such practices in the form of Martin Luther King Day. Without nonviolent civil disobedience, would civil rights have progressed to the degree that they have? Congress in establishing that holiday called it one of moral conscience searching. There are times when you have to stand up to things and make yourself heard. When I think of civil disobedience, think of Gandhi and Thoreau and Martin Luther King, Jr. -- Hardly people I would label as "terroritst."

2. Commercial operation of the Seabrook nuke has been postponed by the nuke builders from Oct. 31 to sometime in the spring of 1987.
3. Operating license hearings for the nuke, scheduled for the first week of August have been indefinitely postponed.
4. Massachusetts citizens in all the six towns within the ten mile Seabrook evacuation zones have voted against

participation in nuclear evacuation plans. City Councils and Boards of Selectmen are voting on resolutions to extend the nuclear evacuation zone to forty miles. A strong citizen movement has emerged to keep the Pilgrim nuke, now shut down because of mismanagement, closed permanently. Even the NRC calls Pilgrim one of the nations' worst run and most dangerous nukes.

5. In a single day, the Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee obtained the 65,000 signatures needed to put shutting down Maine Yankee on the ballot.
6. In Vermont the Green Mountain Alliance has been organized with a major focus to shut down Vermont Yankee.

As you can see, all of this is working within the political system. Some people feel that if some folks want to risk having a nuke in their area, fine, but what about those of us who do not? Where are our rights? If Pilgrim "has a problem," we on the Cape will be affected. Only recently has the state agreed that the abnormally high leukemia rates in the five towns surrounding Pilgrim are a matter of concern and should be subject to more study. There is also an abnormally high cancer rate in the Upper Cape towns. It can not be determined if the local military base's toxic spills or maybe even perhaps Pilgrim might play some factor in this. The government has only recently admitted it polluted the wells in this area. This is what anti-nuke folks are about — caring for their community. We are not the terrorists!

I'm sorry you pressed my button there, but I am tired of people "assuming" what other people are and blanket labelling such.

I would rather be on the side of my conscience than to subvert that conscience in favor of the prevailing opinion. More than enough! sas))

I was extremely surprised to hear that TKA was leaving his post as Bureau of Propaganda leader. I have never seen anyone try his darndest to increase the club's membership. I just hope we can find a replacement with enough stamina to continue his efforts. But I could almost feel this coming. He was the Robin Master for the John Varley RR, and got upset with that. It has been three times that this particular RR got either screwed up or ran too late. I have taken over this RR for him. I just hope he wasn't so discouraged as to leave the club entirely. ((He was. sas))



Katharine Duncan: No, you are not the only one who has seen more of the other Doctors rather than Tom Baker. It has been a year since I really started getting actively interested in Dr. Who. I started out watching the Jon Pertwee episodes, then moved to the beginning of the Tom Baker episodes when the network decided to show the "early episodes" with Hartnell and Troughton. I was disappointed that they didn't show all of the early episodes. From what I understand, there are some "lost episodes"? Does anyone know about them? Why are they lost? But, by now I have seen such a great variety of the Doctors, that I can honestly say that I disagree with you about the females prior to Sarah Jane, not having too many brains. Actually I feel that Zoe and Liz Shaw had much more brains than Sarah Jane did.

Lynne Holdom: I agree with you in regards to how awful the 1978 election was. I think that was just about the time I quit the club the first time.

Laurence Gray: I first read a story by Somtow Sucharitkul in a semi-prozine called UNEARTH which mostly published works by new authors. I think this work which I am referring to was his first or second sale as an author. If anyone is interested in learning more about UNEARTH, write to me and I will try to obtain the exact information. I have no idea as to whether or not they are still publishing. ((I used to subscribe to UNEARTH. If I remember correctly, they were only around for a short time before ceasing publication. sas))

General Question: How does one find out which organized religion one belongs to, according to his beliefs? I know what I believe, and the main thing I believe is that one shouldn't adapt his/her beliefs to coincide with that of a particular organized religion. If any one understands me, please write. All this organized religion stuff is driving me bonkers!

Mikel Norwitz: You stated that you didn't know who Diane Duane is. The information I have on her is that she was (maybe still is) the secretary to David Gerrold who ran DaGF Co., a seller of SF memorabilia, if my memory serves me correctly. She then moved onto writing and sold some SF novels and some non-SF novels. I also have a letter or two with her signature if anyone is interested in buying it!! — Just kidding, folks!



April 29, 1980

Laurence Gray
1010 Rice
Little Rock, AR 72202

Owen: When I was in high school, my grades were bad because I spent too much time reading SF. Now that I am in college, I am neglecting SF in favor of school. My fanaticism is low and I haven't read any books for awhile. So I am not sure what advice I should give John Robinette or any other teenfan who is in a similar situation. I wish he didn't have to fafiate. He lives in the same city — Little Rock — that I live in.

My first name is LAURENCE, not Larry. Understand? You'd better. If both of us make it to ConFederation, maybe you can explain to me how you reconcile your interest in SF with your religious beliefs. I think primitive people might have been able to make the connection between sexual reproduction in themselves and other

animals, but not in plants.

Mikel Norwitz: "Così fan Tutti" is a comic opera by Mozart. The title is usually translated as "All Women Do It" or "All Women Are Like That." The plot is silly and farcical, but the music is quite good -- which is normal for a genius like Mozart. As for the plot, there are two brave, handsome, dashing soldiers who are each in love with a woman -- two different women, not the same woman -- whom they are eventually planning to marry.

Each of the soldiers believes that his girlfriend/fiancee loves only him and will remain faithful to him when he goes away to spend time with his regiment. An elderly philosopher who is a friend of the soldiers tells them he can prove to them that their women aren't as faithful as they think.

Consequently, the soldiers pretend to be leaving to join their regiment, but they return the next day in disguise to flirt with their girlfriends which leads to a lot of confusion, mistaken identities, and similar nonsense before everything is straightened out by the end of the opera.

By the end of the opera, everyone has been reunited with his or her true love and is planning to get married while the philosopher is happy because he has proved his point about the fickleness of women.

I don't think that Mozart was very interested in the plot, except as an excuse to write some fine music and make some money to pay his debts. I have never heard any of Henry Cowell's music and I don't think I want to hear any Industrial New Wave music, even though I do like most popular music such as rock n roll.

I have an ego, but it isn't as big as yours. However, I am just as willing to express myself in TIGHTBEAM as you are. I am a "good, eligible man" or at least I hope so. I have given up on trying to find the right woman because it is too difficult. If some woman did fall in love with me and told me that she was in love with me, I would think that she was either a sex maniac who was desperate for a man or that she was a refugee from an insane asylum who needed a place to hide.

Don't tell me that I will find Ms. Right now just because I have given up on ever finding the right woman for me. If she does show up, I will probably chase her away because she didn't show up when I was looking for her.

Pat Mathews: I saw "Once Bitten" and I didn't think it was as bad you do. It wasn't very good, either.

Paul Brown: The five-sided funny farm (the Pentagon) has increased the number of people serving in active duty in the military by 70,000 while it has hired two or three times as many civilian employees since 1981. I think that is a waste of money. It seems to me that if you wanted to build up the military, you would increase the number of people serving on active duty instead of hiring more civilian employees. At least they have reactivated the GI Bill. The military should now be getting more recruits who can actually read and write.

Robert Briggs: What is your opinion of the statement "man created God in his own image."

Rose Secrest and Gina Impicini: My first contact with fans wasn't too good or too bad. I was intrigued enough to come back for more. I had been a fan for a year or two and had attended several cons when I first heard of the NSF.

Rose Secrest: I think that maybe God exists because so many people believe in Him — you should never underestimate the power of the human mind. However, I don't worship, honor, and obey Him or any other deity. I am too independent to do that. If God and Satan don't like this, they can go to Hell. No, on second thought, they can't



do that since Satan is supposedly already there. Maybe they could go sit in a bar somewhere and get drunk together while they commiserate about this independent man who refuses to play by the rules and worship either one of them. Why did you name your cats Luminous and Flux?

Michael Peralta: I enjoyed most of your letter except for the recipe. I don't like eggs. I would try the omelet recipe if I could substitute something for the eggs. If I wanted to torture Owen, I would tell you my idea of a perfect pizza, but I think I will be nice to Owen.

Katie Duncan: What are the Gnostic Gospels? ((Elaine Pagels, I believe the name is, has written a book about them by this name. Try reading it and I think you will find yourself "enlightened" upon the subject. sas))

The US wouldn't have so much trouble with Muslim terrorists if it wasn't such a strong supporter of Israel. President Truman shouldn't have been so willing to help the Jews establish a new nation on land which the Palestinians had been living on for several centuries. Now most of the Palestinians live in refugee camps and the Israelis have the best land. The Palestinian refugees know that the US is a big supporter of Israel and that Israel receives a lot of aid from the US government. Consequently, the Palestinians and their "friends" such as Khadafy don't like this country. We are now paying for some of the mistakes which President Truman and other presidents have made in the past. I don't approve of killing innocent people as the terrorists have done. I also disapprove of chasing people off land which they have been living on for centuries just because the Bible says that God gave this land (Palestine) to a certain ethnic group whom He favors.

No, I am not anti-Semitic, even though it may sound as if I am. I think the Jews should have found a better solution than taking land away from the Palestinians. Also President Truman shouldn't have recognized the state of Israel as legitimate before most other nations even knew it existed. Because of the strong support of Israel by the US government, the U.S. has been dragged into a fight which started almost 3,000 years ago. There might be peace if all of the Arabs and all of the Israelis were dead. ((Well, that is most certainly an unbiased stance! sas)) But that solution would be too drastic.

If I have gotten any of my historical facts wrong, some of the older Neffers who were around in 1948 will probably correct me.

Would you like a cat? I will be glad to sell you one for free.

Lynne Bolden: When you lived outside of this country, where did you live?

David Carter: When ragtime music first became popular approximately eighty-five years ago, it was looked down on and criticized because it was American and not European in origin. Culture was associated with things which came from Europe.

Sally Syrjala: I agree with your comments on marriage. I still think it is too difficult to find the right person to marry. I have seen "The Color Purple" and I recommend it. Have you seen it yet?

((Unfortunately, we did not get around to seeing it while it was in the theatres. Some of the reviews rather put me off. The harsher truths of the book being left out of the film, sas))

Owen, David, Lyne and Katharine: I really enjoyed the special section in the back of TIGHTBEAM #141. It was a welcome change of pace from the letters.

It seems I made a mistake and should correct what I said about the willingness of people to pay for entertainment. People are more willing to pay a higher price for entertainment than they are to pay a higher price for medical care. Has that cleared it up? Or has it made you more confused? Somehow, the comments which I intended for Melissa Holt were directed at Vickie Trueblood. I don't know whose fault this is, but if it is my fault, I apologize to Vickie and Melissa. If it is Owen's fault, you will have to write to Owen about it. I think the Pope is opposed to birth control because he takes the Bible literally — be fruitful and multiply. Also, he seems to think that a woman's main purpose in life is to have as many children as possible — preferably twenty. I guess he doesn't want women to be free of the burden of bearing children and raising children.

April 30, 1986

Erin McKean
4219 Stratford Way
Jacksonville, FL 32225

Hey Now! On page five of TB #141, the notice said the earliest locs would reach Owen around February 26th. I received my TB on March 27th. I think the Post Awful is feeling its oats again. "Those whom the



gods wish to make inefficient, they give them government subsidies."

Let's see...more gripes...No fixed line lengths! I'm thinking of starting a betting pool about the number of pages in an ish (anyone interested? — Minimum pages 15 — Maximum 115). If you make a fixed length there won't be enough compulsive gamblers out there to let one make money for stamps.

((Why do I get the idea that the length of this one would be more in the range of the high figure??? sas))

Sympathy for John Robinette! The loc originally appeared in the Puns & Peghoots RR — Mine!

About the young fen issue:

It is definitely hard to shuffle school and grades and fandom.

High school is an 8 to 5 job (with normal homework) throwing in every other weekend or so for projects, field trips, competitions, and just plain studying to get ahead.

I carry a full honors courseload and band and Latin I. On my "long summer vacations" (HA) I go to summer school so I can get "required electives" (no kidding) out of the way.

Age has nothing to do with it. We just

have work to do like everyone else and the odd jobs we do -- I babysit -- and fandom and sometimes one has to be skimped on a little.

Question: What is the leading cause of fan mortality? Answer: Mundanity creeping in.

Parents usually make sure it isn't grades. Employers try to make sure it isn't work. Some sometimes BRs get late. Corry goes unanswered, and books and zines stay unread. Gee, sounds like grown up's fandom! Wow!

Well, nobody's perfect, especially us juvenile delinquents with all these hours of time on our hands.

((You may not believe you have time now, but give yourself a few years and you may see things much differently. Responsibilities have a way of creeping into life. Not only jobs, but family and houses and yard work and cooking and all the rest of the normal mundane stuff that needs doing to keep the body fed and sheltered and clothed. Only then does the "luxury" of "culture" come into play! sas))

Whew. That was a tirade. OK..Herb, you can turn off the sound track of people saying, "Amen, Sister!" in the background now.



DJH, Jr.: I remember you saying something about a special cartooning pen....Could you drop me a line about it? I forgot what the name of it was and I lost the letter. Thanks.

Lloyd McN: Another wonderful informed podium thumping, audience blushing loc. Good work!

OWEN: Nice touch, there, giving the editorial spot to DJH, Jr. whose editorial I enjoyed immensely.

All #141 artists: Very nice zine!

April 30, 1986

Lynne Holdom
P. O. Box 5
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442

The Apostle Paul was never in the Roman Army because Jews were not in the Army. They had a special exemption because of their bizarre -- to the Romans -- notion of not fighting or doing much of anything every seven days. Also their special food laws drove the Romans crazy. It was easier to exempt them. Jews were about 10% of the Roman Empire by the way and except for those in Palestine did very well.

Army duty by those not from Rome did not earn citizenship until after the Social Wars when Rome's allies in Italy complained of serving in the army and not getting citizenship. What you got after twenty years of army duty was a farm and a pension -- usually not in Italy.

The city of Cologne (Colonia Augustana) was founded and settled in this way. Citizenship could also be bought for large sums of money as Rome was perennially short of same. By the end of the Empire, all freeborn males were automatically citizens. Since Rome lasted about 1100 years, a statement true for one period of history is often not true for others.

Farming: Farming is traditionally a female occupation. We see remnants of this in the fact that a kitchen garden is the wife's concern and she has the right to any money from it. This is also why the man carves the meat and the wife serves the vegetables. ((Interesting. Is this why I'm a carnivore and I am vegetarian??? sas)) In places where farming is done with a digging stick, farming is still women's work. Men took over farming only after the invention of the plow which was pulled by animals. Taking care of animals was man's work. Basic anthropology.

Why do you say that the Catholic Church has not evolved? The church of today is very different from that of 1400 or 1600,

not to mention the change between 400 and today. All institutions evolve though some may claim that they do not. My major complaint with the Catholic Church is that it hasn't evolved enough. I do not claim to have a definitive answer to the reasons why the Catholic Church abhors birth control, but have a few suggestions:

1. In the Ancient World, birth control equalled infanticide. Even with Church disapproval, it was quite common and equated with murder. It was not considered murder if a fetus was under five months old, suggesting that they thought life really began when the mother felt the baby move.
2. The Roman Empire was very underpopulated in the later days. From the time of Marcus Aurelius through the next hundred years, the population halved due to plague and war mainly. This left a vacuum later filled by barbarians.
3. There was a vast hatred of women and/or sex in any form by the early Church Fathers. Try reading the writings of Augustine, Ambrose, Jerome or Ignatius if you doubt this. They considered women the gateway to hell, debated whether married couples could attain Heaven, or whether women were guilty of the sin of fornication/adultery if they were raped by barbarian invaders. One reason they loathed the Gnostic Christians was that they allowed women to be priests which was eventually declared heretical. The ideal of holiness was running off to the desert and burying yourself in a hole, or living in a cave, with no amenities.
4. Needless to say, this led to the idea (implied usually, but sometimes in black and white) that the only possible excuse for sex was procreation.



Obviously, a lot has changed since then, but the sex equals procreation hasn't — at least officially. Individual priests may deviate from the official line as **Laura Thompson** points out. A Catholic (non-fannish) friend pointed out that as long as you have a celibate clergy — they make the rules — you will not get any change since they do not understand the problem on a gut level.

Eileen Roy: Eostericon & will be held in Northern New Jersey the weekend before the Super Bowl.

Jackie Kuan: Margot Adler speaking at Eostericon said that the Pagan movement can be traced back definitely to 1919. Before that the history is wishful thinking or in the mythic category. I take her word on this.

When I state a connection with Neo-Paganism and the Women's movement, I am speaking sociologically. Actually, both probably stem from the same broader flow which in turn stems (in part) from almost 100% reliable contraception freeing women from the choice between giving up sex or being trapped by childbearing. This is one of the truly revolutionary happenings of our time from a sociological standpoint and we are just beginning to adjust, though certain groups are running backward as fast as they can.

Owen: Your comment to **Rose Secrest** about all things being permitted if there is no God (or belief in God) is not true from an anthropological point of view. All societies have rules of behaviour. All societies have those who break those rules as well as those who follow them.



Incest, for example, is condemned by all societies (though the definition may vary) probably because it is contra to the survival of the family unit as incest sets up too much sexual tension within the family, and leaves no way for the family to reach out to another group, i.e., by marrying their sons and/or daughters to them.

First cousin marriage was considered incestuous by the Romans (and by Canon law) but was common among the Jews. For that matter Abraham and Sarah were half-brother and sister.

Homosexuality was considered a "higher" form of love by many ancient Greek philosophers, including Plato. While I don't agree, I also deplore the "bashing" of homosexuals that seems to have become the new national sport. While fundamentalist clergy and Catholic priests may not be telling their flocks to engage in it, they are creating a climate where it is widely condoned. This climate frightens me as I am not your typical suburban American housewife. Will anyone who is different be afraid to speak out? (Neo)Pagans are certainly paranoid about this as well.

Laurence Gray: I also like the Unitarians because they have no set dogma and do not try to blame women for all the sins of the world. But then I believe you can be ethical without necessarily believing in God.

Allan Beatty: Senator Hatch scares me, too. I am more or less an Ethical Humanist and believe in evolution, think creationism not only bad science, but nonsense, and that homosexuals should have the same civil rights as the rest of us. I don't remember

all his beliefs, but I'm sure I'm on a few more of his "lists."

Enough already. I'm getting writer's cramp.

April 20, 1988

Mikel Norwitz
4949 E. Shaw Butte
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

Shalom,

First off, a smile and a wave and a big THANK YOU to Nate Bucklin, Donald Franson, and Rose Secrest for helping to put me on the track to Howard Schoenfeld's "Bullt Up Logically."

RE: A whole issue of TB (#142) concerned with politics. Yuck icky feh! I used to be active in the Libertarian Party. Nuclear energy and private support aside, there are Libertarian attitudes that are beginning to nag at me more and more.

Like this misty-eyed hero worship of capitalists for starters. The ideal capitalist is a rare jewel in our country so what's all this blind praise for IBM, State Farm, General Foods for?

Oh, I agree the issue is FREEDOM and FREEDOM alone, and the executives are entitled to do anything they want in voluntary exchange, and that even includes treating their employees like animals so long as the animals are there of their own choice, but come on now, the majority of these corporate heads are scum bags.

So why are libertarians so their voices? And I'm beginning to resent things like Tibor Machan's contemptuous asides toward



"Save the Whale" campaign and environmentalists. . . and this rigid militant rationalism I find petty ghodamn tedious. Can you imagine John Galt rolling around in a pile of autumn leaves or bouncing around to music of The Police?

Is it too late to add my opinion on the "fandom vs. orgasms" debate? Frankly, in my opinion, fandom beats having sex by a mile. . . though it doesn't even run a close second to making love.

I had such a weird dream last night. I think reading Alvin Plantinga in my Nonscientific Justification class is giving me nightmares. My subconscious organized a new religion.

No kidding. It involved a single deity which was comprised of three discrete parts, each of which reflected an aspect of the human psyche.

The first part represented rationality, and it was named Quine. The second part represented either memory or emotion, and it is named Freud. The third part represented either emotion or aesthetic, and its name is Roger Daltrey.

I feel like some Catholic type deity was trying to communicate with me, or something, but it was really a bad connection, or else my subconscious just sort of chewed it up and spit it out.

Owen: Polite conversation has its uses, don't put it down. It is a common meeting ground for strangers, without which deeper communication would not be possible.

Also, what IS the harm of hedonistic practices such as homosexuality, fornication, and gambling? I mean, some of my best friends . . . What is all this against hedonism anyway? The taste of fine chocolate rolling around melting on my tongue; the smell of a first spring day; the sound of jazz played hot and loud; the feel of soaking my feet in a cool running stream after a long hike; the sight of a smile of pleasure on my woman's face. I'm sorry, the material world has too much to offer for me to appreciate such arguments.

Jefferson Swycaffer: You expect too much of cranks. They are by definition the intellectual dregs of society. Science has left them behind so they claim scientists can't face reality.

Rose Secrest: When I get cats of my own, I want a pair so I can name them "Schrodinger" and "Socrates." And maybe another pair of canines, that I can name "the two dogs of empiricism."

Michael Peralta: My perfect pizza is thick crust, ungreasy, spicy sauce, and EVERYTHING on top.

Jackie Kums: I've never heard of this Murray fellow, but I do know this: there's no "prob" with Bob. Anyway, The Maltese Falcon was both a great book and a great movie, and the adaption was very faithful. The problem is, as Spinoza says, with the difference in media. It takes a genius to successfully translate one mode to another, and how many people on the Hollywood scene today would you qualify as geniuses, and how many of THEM do adaptations?

Roberta Gellis: Why are you blaming ERIS for all this mess? Hail Discordia.

P.S. -- Willard Van Orman Quine is an analytic philosopher. His two most famous essays are "On What There Is" and "Two Dogmas of Empiricism."

April 77, 1986

Paul Doerr
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Suisun, CA 94585

I just saw Carter's name mentioned. He might be material for a natural Neffer. Remember, a rabbit disliked him so much that this dreadful, terrifying, horrible beast launched itself into the water and swam out to attack him, but this brave noble hero beat it off with a canoe paddle. The only missing item were princesses to be rescued. But then, by his own admission, he was a lustful animal, so.... You see almost all the elements of true fantasy are there. His reign was a form of fantasy, too.

Whoa, now, don't you attack our space program. True, most of those weapons are not very high and they do face inward, but the berserker machines just might attack someday and when they get low enough....

Seriously, we (particularly) should all support EVERY venture into space, whatever the reason. Government is needed yet. It has money and power, but when WE get into space, it will no longer be needed.

The expensive obstacles are earth-gravity and earth-atmosphere. As I built a boat in my backyard, the man on the moon can build a spaceship in his.

What is a space ship? It is two crossed beams with swivel propellers on the side tips and grapplers or machinery on the

fore/aft tips. Grapplers to attach an asteroid of gold or analyzers if a prospector, or hooks if a transport or



weapons inspire, a tincan for a greenhouse to grow plants to purify air and produce oxygen and food, a tincan for quarters, solar power panels and storage banks, a solar sail, & little more than navigation are all that's needed for a spaceship. Anyone with minimum skills can build one if he is already off-Earth.

Jefferson P. Swycaffer: Shame on you. Haven't you read the simplest history of Pellucidar yet? Of course, Earth is hollow. How can you stand there and mislead all the young Neffers. You should be fed to a mammoth.

I am God. Yourok, Robert?

Michael Peralta: God can't make a mistake. He created Lucifer perfect. God is all-knowing, yet Lucifer seduced 1/3 of the angels and they snuck up on God and almost beat Him. Aaahh, I think I have a couple of questions. ((How about the little item known as free choice? It does come into play once the game of life commences. sas))

If God created us in His image, isn't it logical that we also have His characteristics?

I have a question...JAWS 1 and JAWS 2 I have read. Does anyone know of any other supershark stories? I hunt sharks — scuba, harpoon, hook, net — and I want to scare myself.

Jackie: Perhaps we are the best fitted to create the Universal religion? Witchcraft has a pretty good rule, "An ye harm none, thy will is the law." If you believe in another religion, a "subrel," obey all of its rules that do not conflict with the Primary.

Various subrels have differing rules, and beliefs. Even Christianity does not have a single God: Father, Son, Holy Ghost, Mother Mary, various nonhuman/nongod creatures — fish, dove, atai. ((How about the concept of one God in three images? sas))

The Bible itself quotes God, "Let us make man in our images." ((One entity can have more than one 'image'. sas))

A Frenchman — Remy? — some years ago wrote a text on his studies on ant colonies and his conclusion, after repeatable experiments, was that the colony had an overmind and ants were in relationship to it as neurons are to the human mind. By implication, other species had similar.

The first principle would be something like, I believe in a higher more intelligent power.

Second Principle: To needlessly harm another living creature or to needlessly inflict pain is wrong and these acts will cause us suffering in some way at some time.

((Does not shark hunting cause harm and pain to another living creature and is that not in conflict with this principle? sas))

Third Principle: All creatures have an equal right, depending on their mentalities, to pursue happiness and achievement.

Fourth Principle: It is right for me to do anything I wish so long as it harms no other without reason and it is wrong for one sentient being to force another to his will or customs if these violate the other being's desires, or works hurt to it. What this would do to cowboys ((or fishermen?)) sas)) I won't say.

There seem to be quite a few farms, etc., in Northern California that are owned/operated by females. Businesses, too.

There are cities where fire and police departments are volunteer or private and funded by gifts or subscription. No dues, no protection. ((Volunteer departments in this part of the country don't require subscriptions. sas))

Since, if prostitutes are not forced/robbed/ruled, they should have the right to do with their own bodies as they wish, without harassment by religious/political/social Big Brothers. They should combine in small groups, incorporate

nonprofit and buy homes to be loaned to members when working or retired where they could live without fear of eviction, etc. The homes would be untouchable by the law, too.

The proliferation of knowledge, and of revisionism and book burning are two of the best arguments for microfiche. These 4" x 6" cards with 98 8 1/2 x 11 sheets can be read by nonelectric handheld readers or electric reader/slide projectors while lying in bed or strapped into a thrustpod. 1" of fiche equals over 50' of shelf. One ounce of fiche equals over fifty pounds of paper. A hardshell briefcase can hold, safely, a reader/projector and thousands of books and zines.

Why hasn't some other race reached us if they exist? Maybe they are like us and shoot themselves down. Will we -- WE -- get into space before war/catastrophe/economics shoots us down?



I am interested in getting entire series of TV stories. Who would be interested in a group to gather episodes together, recopy them and give one full set to each? No money/sales involved, no legal complications either. I would do the work if no one else volunteered. Excellent copies would be needed to copy from. I'll swap.

Laurence: Maybe you are of more value to the rulers (bread and circuses pacify the rabble) than the inventor of penicillin, but not to the people, particularly those ill, and certainly not to the ill leader.

What type of musical instrument would be of most use in a non-air environment? That is, which vibrations would travel best without air to carry them? Would a

spacesuit pick them up?

I think some form of service should be required as a prerequisite to full membership in a nation or any other interdependent group. Who needs deadwood and parasites? -- At least for males since our culture frowns on female military service. -- If you won't help the group or are afraid, you are of little value and may be a hazard in a crisis.

Owen: Judging from some of the news items I have read on the numbers of illegitimates produced by priests, many of them are polygamists.

This world is ruled by a triumvirate...king says obey or be killed.. priest says obey or be soul-tortured.. banker says obey or be starved/enslaved. If anyone can convince the people that some basic drive is wrong -- sex, eating meat on Friday, baring the face, etc. -- and absolution can be found only from a specific group, they rule you.

I had very little interest in school until about the second grade when I found SF and then taught myself to read. I still hadn't much interest in school. I would read all the schoolbooks at the beginning of the term. After that, I rarely did my homework and the truant officers and I were on first-name bases. In fact, I went through college about the same way.

I've worn my Naffer pin to various cons and never found anyone who knew what it was.

By the way, if someone will send me NSF sheets, I will put them on the information tables at the cons. I might even run off some copies at my own expense. The club might consider ads in some of the bigger cookbooks.

W. Goodson: The little companies can always sue for discrimination. I'd like to see some congressmen sued.

Lauria: This is just another way the religionists keep their slaves pacified. If you do something they don't like, you are a demon. Not too many years ago, you would have been burned at the stake. Of course, you would have been shot for saying some of the now-commonly-said things about government, too. We have advanced a bit. And, with nuclear weapons, we have not used them for forty years. That says something about improving human self-control, and intelligence. Some foreign countries that are more or less religiously ruled seem to be returning to such tactics and senseless/useless violence.

George Phillis: Are you confusing Constitutionality and Congressional law? Two different things. Congress cannot

enforce a law that is unconstitutional ((Congress does not enforce laws. They make them. The court system rules on them. The executive branch administers them or you could say enforces them. sas))

If people fight in court (hopefully) since Congress has no power over the Constitution ((except by amendment. sas)) Though if it can get enough people into approving a constitutional amendment, that is something else. ((Precisely. sas))

Victoria: I have several varieties of smaller dragons on my mountain. They live all around my cabin. One is a slender type with his entire rear half, including the tail, a lovely sky-blue. Others are greenish, redish, silver with iridescent blue and green on the ears, and one legless dragon is midnight blue on top, orange on the bottom with a red tail which he corkscrews up and points at watchers and an orange collar. Of course, so far as I know, none of them fly.

One did, one day as I was digging a level spot for another shed, climb onto my bare toe and use it as a observation post to spy a large earth cricket, which he went over and took from my shovel. The silver ones have very sharp claws and can climb almost anything. I have watched one go up a shed wall when a bear tried to trap him.

Does a Gor fandom exist? Can anyone give me addresses for cowboy-story and mystery fandoms.



Owen: I've seen a lot of high GS types who were shoved into those spots because they made such messes of all the real work they were given.

Sorry about the long letter. I haven't written lately and I suppose your trusty scissors will reduce its length anyway. ((Oh?? sas))

Roberta: I thought there were no birth or trial records for Christ. The Romans were very big on records. ((Some societies very big on records are also very big on destroying those they prefer not to exist. sas))

I'd like to read some stuff on what the old fairytales really said. Write? In fact, if you want to write some articles on these and I like them, I'll buy them for publication.

As I have mentioned, I don't much care whether Star Wars works or not, just that WE get into space on its back. Many years ago, in the US and American Rocket Societies, I blew up the woodshed, and other places trying to put things in orbit — maybe I did. Parts have never been found — so why stop now? ((Blowing things up??? sas))

Tim: If they had wrinkled their noses at Spirk and Koch, they would have been fired on the spot.

Yes, Tarzan. Burroughs did a fair bit of moralizing and education in honor/manly arts/etc. in his books. Also Tarzan was fantasy and SF.

Allan: Quite a few opponents of war, as well as anti-gun advocates, receive funds from what you might call questionable sources.

I have been supermarket manager, chemist, engineer, pilot, scuba diver, janitor, electrician, mailman, etc. because these were things I became interested in or they were in the right place to provide money — bread and beans — where I wanted to be for other reasons, and I have traveled physically and mentally and while the world may be a scary and crazy place, at times and in places, it is also a fantastic, exciting and wonderful, glorious place.

If I lived ten lives, I could never see/go/do/experience a hundredth of it. We could make it a paradise. We haven't, of course, but whether being shot at, making love, or sitting through the dullest time, I wouldn't give up a second.

Everybody dies — the later, the better — sooner or later. Everybody hurts at one time or the other. The survivors of a nuke war may have a tough time, but I want to be a survivor. ((I don't think I would want to be around the survivor types! sas))

What I am trying to say is, it's a wonderful life. Enjoy it, even the bad parts. Nothing is free. Everything has a price. A fall costs hurt. Eat too much costs fat. Look at a pretty girl or a beautiful sunset costs at least the time taken. Pick the life you want. It will cost you but so does drifting and being manipulated by others. People can hurt you or kill you, but they cannot force you to do or not to do some thing about which you feel strongly enough.

Laura: Why do people have so many wars? Because they like to fight. Some of them also think they get something for nothing.

All religions are alike when they get power. Avoid all fanatics, especially fanatics in power. The best possible world is where no one group has much power. One modern problem is that nations are too big. A bucket of little snakes does less harm than the same bucket with just a few snakes in it.

May ??, 1986

Laura Thompson
3243 Gunston Road
Alexandria, VA 22302-2102

Lenses: Glasses
pets: Cats, 2
Pizzas: Ham, Mushrooms, Pepperoni
Mate: Married, male fan
Cons: 10 in this lifetime
Music: Folk, rock n' roll -- no new wave or heavy metal
Instrument: No
Improve Fandom: More publication of people, places and events to help fan find one another.

May 1, 1986

Katharine Duncan
51 Leonard Place
Wayne, NJ 07470

Lucky you. I decided to favour you with a loc on TB #142. First, I asked an expert -- my grandfather who is a Presbyterian minister -- about the Apostle Paul and army duty. Paul states (in Acts) while talking to a Centurian that he was born a Roman citizen. The Centurian states that he bought and paid through the nose for it.

Apparently that was one way of increasing government revenue.

I debated bringing this up, but belief in God/dess is not necessary to ethics or ethical behaviour. Confucianism is more an ethical system than a religion since Confucius admitted he didn't know (or care) if the gods existed. He was interested in correct behaviour between men.

Yet millions of Chinese have been able to live very moral lives on that basis. True, they countenanced the "vices" you name, though incest got you a very painful death if you were caught at it, but so did the West, or at least they learned that you can't wipe these "vices" out even by burning people at the stake. Besides, I'd like to think that we're above having to have a "big Daddy policeman" standing over us making sure we obey him.

Rose Secrest: What do you have against MZE? Or did you read TRENDARA HOUE also? I like most of Peirs Anthony's books, but got Xanthed out several books ago. ((Do you think his female characters are sexist? I know I did not at all care for IN THE SHADE OF THE TREE because of the manner in which the characters were portrayed. I don't really think the highest ideal a female can have is obtaining her greatest satisfaction from washing a floor, yet this is what was spoken of in this book. sas))

Jackie Kuma: I am annoyed at Reagan right now since he bombed Libya which makes me as popular as ants at a picnic. Besides aren't Syria, Lebanon and Iran equally guilty of promoting terrorism? ((And, is it morally right to use terrorism as an weapon against terrorism? Don't you become as he who you describe as "evil" and in the long run simply advocate its use even more??? I happen to think real answers and solutions take time. Easy, popular ones may gain you in the short run, but will cost you in the long run. sas))

I, personally, don't think we will be rid of terrorism unless the Palestinians get a homeland. They are growing up in wretched camps so they will do anything to get revenge on those who continue to ignore their plight. As I said, it's not a popular view right now.

I agree with you. Whether the Earth is round or square or flat can be proved. The existence of God cannot. It's not unreasonable to ask someone to act upon a verifiable fact, but I think it is unreasonable to be asked to die for an unverifiable one.

Lynne Holdom: I don't imagine Poland is especially happy with Russia sending all that radioactive gas their way.

Laurence Gray: I think being a fan and a Fundamentalist Christian are diametrically opposed as well.

As I recall most of Bach's work was written to order though not all of it. He got paid for coming up with music for the choir. I like most church music. It's the sermons and dogma I can't stand. While entertainers are highly paid -- we must get bored easily -- there are a lot who never make it in the business. It's one of the chancier businesses to get into.

Rita Mendosa: "All You Zombies" is a mobious strip. Neither the boy or the girl came first or last, but co-exist eternally. Now aren't you glad you asked.

Victoria Smith: I hope MZB hasn't contracted "Heinleinitis". I didn't mind CITY OF SORCERY as much as THENDARA HOUSE. At least I finished it. However, since I have no particular interest in mountain climbing, it did drag a bit. What bothered me was that at the beginning of the novel, they were looking for a mysterious city to discover what was going on there and you never did find out. The book ended before that. I felt cheated. Hm... Maybe *Rose Secret* has the right idea.

Allan Beatty: I don't know about Senator Hatch, but the increased pressure toward social conformity scares me since I am not a conformist type. But I agree that people seem to be scared by social change. You should have heard all the outcry when New York City passed a Gay Rights Bill. You'd think the end of the world was at hand. On the other hand, public officials seem to have been on the take for years and no one noticed. Personally, I'd prefer it if the subways were safe to ride, but subway crime -- or street crime -- doesn't seem to be as much of a threat to America as the Gay Rights Bill. It did pass, but it's being appealed. I'm odd as I find the threat of being mugged, maimed, beaten or killed greater than having a gay person living in the next apartment. I am also pro choice on abortion which, somehow, I suspect Senator Hatch is not.

Eileen Roy: You state the the shift to gods as opposed to goddesses came about when patrioarchal tribes conquered the Fertile Crescent. Okay, that's there. But how did

these barbaric tribes get to be patriarchal and god worshipping? Besides from what I learned, these barbaric tribes were superior in the arts of war which is the reason they won. Among other things they tamed the horse. Let's face it, patriarchy and god worshipping is pretty ancient as well, probably both stem from the Neolithic. Also among the Iroquois the women owned the long houses and the farm land around them and the husbands moved in with them and descent passed through them. Gives you a different picture of the fierce Mohawk, doesn't it?

On Dr. Who: Since I wrote my article, I have seen the Patrick Troughton episodes of Dr. Who. He isn't quite as clownish alone as when playing against Jon Pertwee or Colin Baker. One episode -- "War Games" is excellent and owes a lot to the Heinlein school of SF. In fact, with the addition of a LOT of sex, it could make a Heinlein novel and a better one than most of Heinlein's recent efforts. The scene with the Doctor and the Time Lords at his trial reminded me of a similar scene in HAVE SPACE SUIT WILL TRAVEL by Heinlein. I would also recommend "The Mark of the Rani" and "Timelash" as the best of the Colin Baker Who's to date. And Colin Baker is getting a new companion named Melanie. Maybe the BBC figured that his present companion, Peri, was causing the lower ratings so decided on a change.



Now they are reshooting the Jon Pertwee Who's so I still haven't seen about half of the Tom Baker Who's.

Not only is Reagan covered with Teflon, he's lucky. Just when he was starting to get criticism for his bombing Libya -- though the allies may have criticized, but did start acting which they hadn't before -- then you have the nuclear disaster in Russia which is getting all the news coverage around here.

My aunt is of Ukrainian background and she says the most frustrating thing is the lack of any information and the fact that they can't gather supplies of powdered milk and medicine and have it get through since the Russians won't accept that kind of aid. I suppose it shows lack of macho or something.

On comics: I was not expecting to see my letter to David Heath in TNFF. So may I clarify? I was trying to explain to David why a lot of SF fan dislike comics fan, especially those who read only comics. For myself, I don't care what people read, but I would not have much in common with a comics only fan since I don't read them. I have enough demands on my time without taking up something else.

I do know about Superman coming from Krypton, but that's from the movie. Obviously, not all comics fans are illiterate, but some are just barely able to read comics and a lot of SF people would rather believe that they are typical of the whole when they aren't. ((I am a comics fan as well! saw))

Just as a lot of people assume that males like hard SF and females like fantasy. That's not true either as I am a female who likes hard SF. Sharon Hunter is a literate comics fan; so is David Heath. I am not a judge of comics quality, obviously, but there is a lot of trash in any genre. There's a lot of SF I think has no redeeming social value. L. Ron Hubbard's magnum opus is a case in point, as are the Gor novels. Okay? ((Now to hear it from the Hubbard and Gor fans!! saw))

May 6, 1986

Jean Lamb
4846 Derby Place
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

I like TIGHTBEAM -- the bigger the better ((You must LOVE this one! saw)) as far as I am concerned! Now, please do not consider this as volunteering to edit such a zine!

Now that I have a somewhat better looking typer I might be able to help with typing (not to mention fixing the spelling...)

((When an editor has to type well over a hundred half sheets of material for a zine -- well over for this one -- and do so within a very short time frame, you will find typos. There is no getting around that fact. It is not one with which I am happy. I would like to spend more time scanning this text, but I have a stack of papers more than a few inches thick to get typed up in about two weeks. This is two weeks of "spare time." At this time of year, Ike and I work Sundays sampling mosquitoes, plus the regular 40-hour work week, you can see how much "spare" time that leaves for such things! So do look with a forgiving eye at this. I well know you will find mistakes. I just hope not TOO many of them! saw))

Nikel: Have you considered what sort of composition might arise from using video game machine sound effects? Say with a DIG DUG overture?

Oh, yes, again for the record, I wear glasses, have a cat, loathe and despise anchovies -- but think well of double cheese, pepperoni and mushrooms on pizza. Am working on becoming a sword and sorcery writer -- have finished the first draft of THE RIVALS -- , and in general enjoy sticking my nose in anything that interests me.

Note: David Heath is absolutely correct when he says he'll use almost any Neffer art -- He, after all, once used MINE -- and when artistic literacy is considered, I flunked Sesame Street. Greater love -- on desperation -- had no editor....

Cap'n Ozone: WHAT ugly N3P card? I never got a membership card. Sniff. Sob. I did get a couple of lovely buttons from MOF though.

Brian: Don't feel bad. I haven't heard from Bernie in a long time either.

SPECIAL SECTION: When ARE we going to see the Anthony section, anyway?

Katherine: Even though the shows are not available in my area (something I need to take up with the cable company, I think) your summary was so clear I actually understood what was going on even starting from very close to absolute zero.

Gambit: Hope to see more of these. I enjoyed this one a lot.

Robert Briggs: I have just read a very interesting book about the future of religion -- the name of the author escapes me right now -- with several very interesting theses. That religions tend to become more worldly over time. That these

are eventually replaced by new religions that start but more fundamental. That where what we consider established religion is not prevalent -- found to be on the West Coast area of the US in their survey -- there will be an accordingly larger number of cults.

The number of believers is fairly constant. The percentage is fairly astounding. Only the form of their belief is somewhat different.

I am not saying that what they believe is not important. The only problem with this book is that it is written in heavy academese, though the chapter on Scientology is quite interesting.

It's just that religion will obviously remain important in most people's lives in one form or another and we are kidding ourselves if we postulate differently.

Rose Secrest: Cute article. You had they didn't mention that you're also ambidextrous. I mean, "Everyone knows that she's a second-hand Rose.".... Ahem, I just couldn't let that one go by. Well, I could, but it would be wrong.

As far as Valley Girls go, I always understood they liked their boyfriends to be really tubular.

Oh, dear, are we onto totems now? I've never really considered the subject closely, and cats seem to be overdone for right now. Right now I prefer the passage sharpshin -- sort of a miniature goshawk, described by some as a hummingbird on angel dust, or two ounces of gelignite with wings. Yet it can be tamed by the right person. Having a trained one on your shoulder could make a mugger's life quite interesting.

Katie Duncan: I, too, like the "many mansions" approach, if only because my own brand of Christianity -- which has a lot of interesting alternatives to consider if you only look hard enough at them -- would probably have gotten me fried if I had been foolish enough to open my mouth about it way back then.

I was born in the Year of the Horse and have been working like one ever since, I think. My husband was born in the Year of the Rabbit -- and considering his devotion to Playboy, rather appropriately, so I think.

((In the Chinese "years", does not the rat come first because he was the first to see the Buddha? Each of the other animals receives their ranking by the order in which they made the visitation?? sas))

Jackie Kuma: The Christian God one of the dullest concepts? My, my, my, how sad to believe that. Christian descriptions of

mystic experience sound an awful like those of mystics in other religions -- trying to describe that in words that which cannot be described in words. Try dipping into a little St. Theresa of Avila sometime. However, you are correct in that men remained hunter-gatherers -- a matter of prestige, you see -- while women concentrated on agriculture in its beginnings at least, since they were usually stuck at home with the kids anyhow.

Of course, as it became more important the men picked up on this and moved in. However, warriors and hunters traditionally had higher status in even agricultural communities -- look how the Dorians moved in on the cretans in ancient Greece.

By the way, **Owen**, when someone speaks of a field back in ancient times, we are not talking about the south forty. They usually mean a patch the size of someone's back yard.

Lynne Holdom: I know a good bribe for you -- a ride in the Tardis back to ancient Alexandria the day before the fire with access to microfilming machinery. I know what I'd do for such an opportunity!

I'm only an amateur, astrologically speaking. I can write Sun-sign analyses, but would do so now only to keep the children fed, and might consider working at the Buffalo Tavern before doing so. My chart interpretation ability is limited, but I would like to learn more.

Laurence Gray: Any of the games down there in Hogland called on account of tornado yet?

I spent four years buying C-130 parts and putting out construction contracts at Little Rock AFB -- Some of the time I wish we could put out contracts on some of the contractors, but that's a different story.

I put up with some minor inconveniences -- including a CO quite willing to kill the entire office in pursuit of passing the major board -- , but all in all, it was not a really horrible experience.

I type as much as possible because I have mild arthritis and my handwriting has accordingly deteriorated. I have gone to the expense of renting this electric office model IBM because:

1. The typing pressure is so much lighter than my manual. My fingers don't feel like falling off quite so soon.

and

2. I have killed an electric portable and a portable manual through extreme abuse -- working on the novel and

typing on a commewrical basis for students in town.

Not to mention all these letters I write.....

Hey, **Owen**, the fad for goldfish swimming around in clear plastic heels of shoes first appeared in Gilda, a movie made with Rita Hayworth. And how long ago was that, oh Editor?

And I would also like to compliment the layout person on the stunning juxta positon of the Magnus: Robot Fighter illo with **Mr. Goodson's** comment "because I am the meanest bastard in this part of the Valley." Bravo!

William Wilson Goodson, Jr.: Let's see, do I qualify as loosely wrapped?

1. Bad handwriting. Yes, though it's more attributable to Army surplus wrist joints than speed of thought.
2. Monstrous ego. yes. Was there ever any doubt?
3. Ability to express same. Well, I think so.

Hope you do find a relationship that does not resemble the waiting area of the Emergency Room! (god luck!

Lauria: I love Diane Duane's work, too. Let's hope she does more.

Victoria A. Smith: As long as there are IBM's in offices and people can bring their own lunches to work, there will be letterzines. It is astounding what you can get done in one hour. At one point, I was producing close to 1,000 words of first-draft fantasy in that one hour on a steady basis for several weeks. I didn't say it was very good, mind you, but it can be done.

Roberta: See my above comments for my basic agreement with you -- at least on the subject of agriculture. I still hold out for an afterlife. Though there are few other satisfactory solutions for Mafia kingpins, and others who sin vastly and apparently get away with it, not to mention rewards I feel ought to be in store for those saintly few who actually act in accordance with their beliefs and usually meet a sticky end, too.

Note: When I was young, I twice saw an animated Japanese epic called Magic Boy. The plot was the basic one of young-lad-grows-up-to-be-wonderful-hero, featuring a knife fight with an amphibian menace, an older sister being rescued by a dashing samurai warrior, training in sorcery by a mystical older wizard -- walking up cliffs was one of the courses, I think -- and a lovely duel between the now fully trained young boy and the evil and beautiful

sorceress that with her henchmen blitzed the boy's village.

Anybody but me ever hear of it? I can still see scenes from it in my head and the last time I saw it was when I was 8, some time ago.

David Speakman: I saw an article about the fifth force in Science Digest, and I really don't understand what the hell they're talking about. Physica -- at least on the particle level -- is becoming closely akin to theology.

Bye for now.....



May 13, 1986

Eileen Roy
15319 Larch Avenue, #3
Lawndale, CA 90260

Here I am, late again.

Michael Peralta: I think you are expressing a commonly held fallacy that all conflict is caused by misunderstandings between people. In actuality, a great many unpleasant encounters are avoided by mutual incomprehension. Do you really want to know what the guy on the freeway is calling you as you cut him off, or vice versa?

If everyone understood each other perfectly, then they would know that what the other side genuinely wanted was to burn your land, rape your women and steal your stereo to play heavy metal real, real loud. Sometimes it's much better just to smile and mime.

Jackie Kuma: Has profanity changed that much in the last decade and a half? Much of it in Chaucer is still understandable. I agree that most translations of books to film don't work very well, but because they're too faithful? That doesn't seem to make sense. The best novel-to-film I've ever seen was The Black Stallion, which followed the book conscientiously.

Of course, it was also by a justly world famous director and of a book -- dearly though I love Walter Farley, his SF elements are much under-appreciated -- that was stiff and wooden in style.

Opinion on Paul Anderson: His plots are gloomy and I don't care for his style.

Laurence Gray: My understanding is that the Catholic religion is opposed to birth control on principle because marriage is regarded as a sacrament, and to deny the possibility of children resulting from the marriage is to make the sacrament meaningless.

That's why there was all that fuss last year, when the church refused permission to a paraplegic and his fiance who wanted to marry in the church. He could not consummate the marriage "normally" or sire children. Big stink. This is the Church's business!

Laurie N'ba Margali: The studies done on K'ung bushmen hunter-gatherers in the Kalahari desert in South Africa -- not a very hospitable environment -- show them putting in an average of three hours per day providing for themselves and their families.

The rest of the day they spend talking, playing games, visiting, and in general hanging out. No one gets rich in a hunter-gatherer society, but no one with a family can be destitute either. I think the only chance we have of eliminating poverty in a technological society is to re-engineer environments, on earth or in space, where people are able to live again in a hunter-gatherer environment for part or all of their lives.

Re-stringing the web of life with still pegs and nylon wires, and setting them spinning across the heavens. A bit primitive, you say? Think what a vacation it'd make -- and I know three people sleeping in cars on my block who would move in now, given the chance.

May 17, 1986

Paul Doerr
P. O. Box 1064
Suisun, CA 94585

About the January Tightbeam editorial, some issues were a bit late. I didn't see any problem. We all knew they would arrive eventually. And they would be well worth waiting for. I think the Heattoons are good, too. They show a good drawing ability and a fine sense of humor.

If a Neffer zine costs \$250 to produce a 32-page issue (half the commercial rate), plus postage and a 98-page (8 1/2 x 11) microfiche can be produced for \$30 mastering

cost, plus probably under 15¢ per copy -- about \$90 per issue, plus postage which would be much less -- 22¢ first class or 10.4¢ as junk mail -- plus the cost of an envelope -- a couple of cents each -- which is better?

((For primary copy, I prefer paper text. People can pick it up as they wish and don't need a reader. Fiche is good secondary copy, but should be considered only after we get the paper product in hand -- in my humble opinion! sas))

I can get, in quantity, handheld non-electric readers for about \$2.50 each. Which readers could buy from N3F, or electric reader/projectors -- imagine lying in bed reading a projected 5' x 5' page on the ceiling! See the ones in the library, in quantity at about \$100. Imagine an entire room full of books and magazines in a small desk-top filebox!



I think I could keep a battery-operated reader/projector and about a thousand books and magazines in a hardshell briefcase.

If the N3F had a set of flyers, members could get copies, or even make a couple hundred at a quick printers and put them on the goodies tables at all the cons. Between all the members, at least one must attend almost every con.

Why not have an artist make up a color N3F membership card, perhaps in plastic, or send a plastic pin/holder with it so members could wear the N3F card at cons as they do the con badge?

I wish members had an initiative as in California, where they could propose laws and, if enough voters agreed, these would become laws.

((I would say the N3F does have such a thing. If enough members got together on an issue, it would be hard to stop it. But they have to get interested and active in the club and make their voices known. Too, it helps if they understand the framework of the club and how it operates so they will know how to go about such a process. However, simply writing and seeing how many others agree and support the position is a

first step in this process. sas))

May 22, 1986

Laura Todd
404 Brower Avenue
Oaks, PA 19436

I'll stay off my soapbox this time and just comment on everyone else's comments.

Was there a discussion of music one would want to take into space? The question is, what are we looking for in "spacy" music — something that stimulates the imagination, calms the nerves or expresses the grandeur of it all?

I'd like to mention the group Renaissance, especially their earlier stuff, for its dramatic chord changes and soaring effect. Also some of the Celtic music, especially by Clannad, is soulful and evocative.

Neither is electronic, and it isn't evocative of hardware, but of spiritual, soul-expanding vistas, and that's the kind of music I'd want. I agree with Mikel Norwitz, who said that Vangelis lacked passion. Their stuff is technically good, but sterile.



Jackie Kuma: You mentioned Count Zero. I agree with what you said about it, and lately a lot of the other stories in Asimov's have struck me the same way —

"computer/electronic gibberish." ((Did you know that the area of cyberspace — mysticism, if you will — is the main thrust of the book? I read something somewhere that stated Gibson did not know all that much about computers when he began writing these books. He was more interested in the mythic cyperplane. I look to Count Zero as computer mysticism. sas))

I was really pissed that Asimov's wasted a chunk of three issues for this stuff. Serialized novels are a waste anyway. Why not just let whoever can stand this type of fiction go out and buy it at the bookstore?

Lisa Jenkins: I really empathize with all you "teenfen". But I hate that term. I remember what it was like to have to put up with mundane things like school when my mind wanted to wander to uncharted realms. But hang in there, and don't go off the deep end! I've been through it. Consider yourself very lucky to know about fandom at an early age. Had I known of it, it would have helped me through a lot of lonely years. I was one of those outcasts you mention, with no outlet for my weird ideas. Keep writing!

A word on books: If we readers take the time to speak up on what we like and don't like, ((don't we do this in the books we purchase?? sas)) perhaps authors will be encouraged to write more quality material instead of following whatever fad is commercial at the moment. ((Ah, a contradiction. If something is "commercial", it means people have spoken with their cash to vote in its favor with their wallets. That means it is what people have said they like. sas))

So I want to mention a book that really affected me, even though it will never win any awards and will probably be ignored by most fans because there are no swords, dragons or naked women on the cover. But, if you want a book that's genuinely sensitive and humane, read Conscience Place by Joyce Thompson. It's about an isolated enclave of severely damaged/deformed people whose parents were radiation casualties of the nuclear power industry. Very relevant, in light of the Chernobyl disaster. What is stressed here, though, is not polemics, but the emotions and souls of these unfortunates and the courageous way they help each other cope with their deformities and learn to deal with the outside world. There seems to be a trend toward mindless action in current fiction. This book is an antidote. And it stretches the boundaries to call it SF. It could easily be true.

((Indeed, this is a very good book. I

did not think the parents were the "casualties" however. It said the children were taken from them at birth. They did not even know the child survived. They were told it was still born or something, if I remember correctly. Too, the children, at first, did not know they were deformed. They simply accepted and did things without knowing they should not be able to do them.

I have found Joyce Thompson to be a very good writer. She has an earlier book called The Blue Chair. If you liked Conscience Place as much as you did, think you will like that one every bit as much too! sas))

And speaking of Russia: There's a book called In the Drift by Michael Swanwick, about a huge section of Pennsylvania poisoned by a meltdown at Three Mile Island. Well, I read that there really is a "Drift" in Russia contaminated by some radiation disaster in the past that was covered up. No one lives there. Travelers are urged not to stop and even the town names have been deleted from maps. Awful, and strong how life echoes SF.

((Or SF brings life into its scope. There is also a town in Italy. I can not recall its name off-hand. It had a chemical "incident." There was a leak of chemicals from a plant. The town eventually had to be evacuated. People were not allowed back. Road signs tell you to roll up your windows as you travel by the area. John Fuller's The Poison Rain speaks of this town. sas))

May 24, 1986

Jackie Kuma
181 Sumner Place
Buffalo, New York 14211

Owen: First of all, you seem very concerned about "what God wants" in the form of worship. If the Creator didn't want varied practices so develop, he/she/it/they should have made humanity with a built-in, certain knowledge of the Creator and of the acceptable or preferred forms of worship. Then we'd all be happy little automatons, worshiping exactly the same god in exactly the same way.

We were, however, created (or evolved) with a free will. Either you have free will

and the ability to develop and choose between different forms of worship (or to choose not to worship at all), or you have a race pre-programmed and unable to deviate from the course of behaviour determined by the Creator.

Human culture, like human nature, is varied. Worship is a part of this culture. Spiritual knowledge has grown and changed over the years (even Mormonism); just as every other aspect of our culture has changed.

Speaking of spiritual knowledge, I find your questions about the goddess a little bit puzzling. Surely you, as a Mormon, have heard of the Mother in Heaven?

Listen, Owen, if you don't cut out these sexist comments, I'm gonna make a few of my own about "male chauvinism." Cooking as the female mystique?? Then, how come there are so many great (supposedly) male chefs? By the way, I can't cook much of anything!

So far, my research into the origin of farming shows that women have been farmers for millennia. Example: Among Native Americans, the growing of food was the women's responsibility. Some anthropologists theorize that the sexual division of labor -- men hunted, women gathered -- led women to develop the art of agriculture.

Euro-American farm women had a different tradition. They concentrated on food processing and clothing manufacture. They also could and did, however, plow and plant if and when men were not able to. An interesting note from one book, With These Hands: Women Working on the Land (Joan Jensen): "...Agricultural productivity in some areas decreased because men seldom devoted care to fertilizing or developing crops which required much hand labor."

As anyone who's ever tried unsuccessfully to grow anything can tell you, there's a lot more to farming than merely sticking a seed in the ground. Sure, farming is a lot of work, so what? Reportedly, two-thirds of the labor in the world is performed by women. ((Well, if you consider certain types of "labor" it would ALL be performed by women! sas))

On a lighter note, I laughed myself sick over the joke about David Heath and the police sketch. Got any more old jokes???

Paul Brown: As a matter of fact, yes. Carter was the one who got the hostages out. Reagan wasn't even inaugurated until the day they were released, which made him look good. His contribution was limited to calling the Iranians "barbarians."

Laurence Gray: Yes, my comments about people who don't wear glasses were intended to be facetious. I apologize if I offended anybody. Could we maybe not take these things so seriously? About musicians: I think they are valuable for many reasons, not the least being the beauty which they create. I have my doubts about paying them millions of dollars, however, especially when many people who risk their lives at their jobs — like firefighters — aren't compensated nearly as well. On the other hand, many musicians don't make that kind of money, unless they become "superstars." To quote an old song, "It's a strange, strange world we live in, Master Jack."

Katharine Duncan: I must comment on your overview of the Six Doctor Whos (Doctors Who?) which I enjoyed. I love the Doctor myself, even though we've had nothing but endless Pertwee repeats in our area for some time. Jon Pertwee was my intro to the Doctor, so I know a little about Liz Shaw, one of his earlier companions. It was Liz, not Sarah Jane, who was the first companion who seemed to have any brains — unless someone prior to Liz did.

Liz was a scientist in her own right who, upon meeting the Doctor, thought he was a quack until he proved that he had some brains while helping UNIT to defeat the Autons. Liz was capable of aiding the Doctor in his attempts to revitalize the TARDIS and, as I remember, she never wasted any time screaming.

I liked Sarah a lot — even when she was screaming — but it was her courage and loyalty that endeared her to me — and probably to the Doctor. She wasn't stupid, but neither was she a match for the Doctor. Of course, nobody is!

The reason the Doctor drove Bessie was that the Time Lords had disabled his TARDIS when they exiled him to Earth. He did try to fix it, but even after he had done this — with the Time Lords' aid — it wasn't very reliable.

Now would someone please explain why they keep calling Peter Davison's Doctor a wimp? I remember him sword fighting with the Master, disarming a bomb, facing up to Daleks and Cybermen, etc., and generally doing all the things previous Doctors had done.

Every problem can't be solved with a fist fight (or a fire fight); but, even so, it wasn't Davison's fault if the stories he was given lacked this type of action. Actors in England (at least on Dr Who) don't have such say in the stories they film.

Nevertheless, the Doctor was supposed to be a scientist. He worked out solutions by thinking about them. Anyway, I can't stand Superman, and that goes for Super Time Lords, too.

Also, Peter Davison chose to limit his tenure as the Doctor to only three years. I don't think any of the actors who played the part were fired or anything like that. From what I've read, it seems they all left on their own, for different reasons.

Nikel Moxitz: I, too, have heard that the market for Gor novels is 50% females, BUT who says so? And how do they know? Maybe the women who read those books are hoping that eventually the whole female segment of Gor's society will revolt against the men!

I also think the author needs to read the book The Myth of Women's Masochism. I wonder if the market for Sharon Green's fiction is 50% male?

May 25, 1986

Mary E. Gray
414 Winterhaven Drive
Newport News, VA 23606

Well, it's been quite a while since I've written in and I have a bunch of old comments. Some new ones, too. I'm not even sure where to send this ((For the time being, to Sally A. Syrjala at P. O. Box 149, Centerville, MA 02632. sas))

I'm writing it on the day of the deadline, though I'm sure I got my last TB no more than three or four days ago, but I suppose it will get to the right person and

place eventually.

Allyson Dyar and Lin S. Ward: I'm with you 100%. NSF should raise its visibility at already established cons by sponsoring events, etc. This would be both a service to fandom and a way of making ourselves



known without all the headaches and expenses of putting on a con. Plus, since we'd be doing more stuff at various cons around the country, there would be more opportunity for Neffers all over the country to get involved more easily. An NSF con, of necessity, would have to be in one place. Somebody(ies) somewhere would have to travel a distance to get to it.

I did not meet Cheryl Deel at Chimeracon. This is an old comment. I'm talking about Chimeracon 1985. I received TNFF three weeks too late for me to know she was going to be there. Also did not make it to Balticon ('85 or '86) though we did drive through Hunt Valley on our honeymoon. I received the December, '84 TNFF on March 6, 1985. Merry Christmas. Ho. Ho. Ho. On the other hand, I think there has been a concerted effort lately to get the zines out in a more timely manner. And compared with some zines, with years between issues, we're doing well.

Mikel Norvitz: I worked in a library

once and people really did flock in after a TV presentation to read the book. Now I notice that the movie version of a book will affect sales. "Out of Africa" pushed more than one Isak Dinesen title onto the Ingram Index, and THE COLOR PURPLE got new life when the movie was released. I, however, tend to get the lazies if I've seen a story. I'm then less likely to read it.

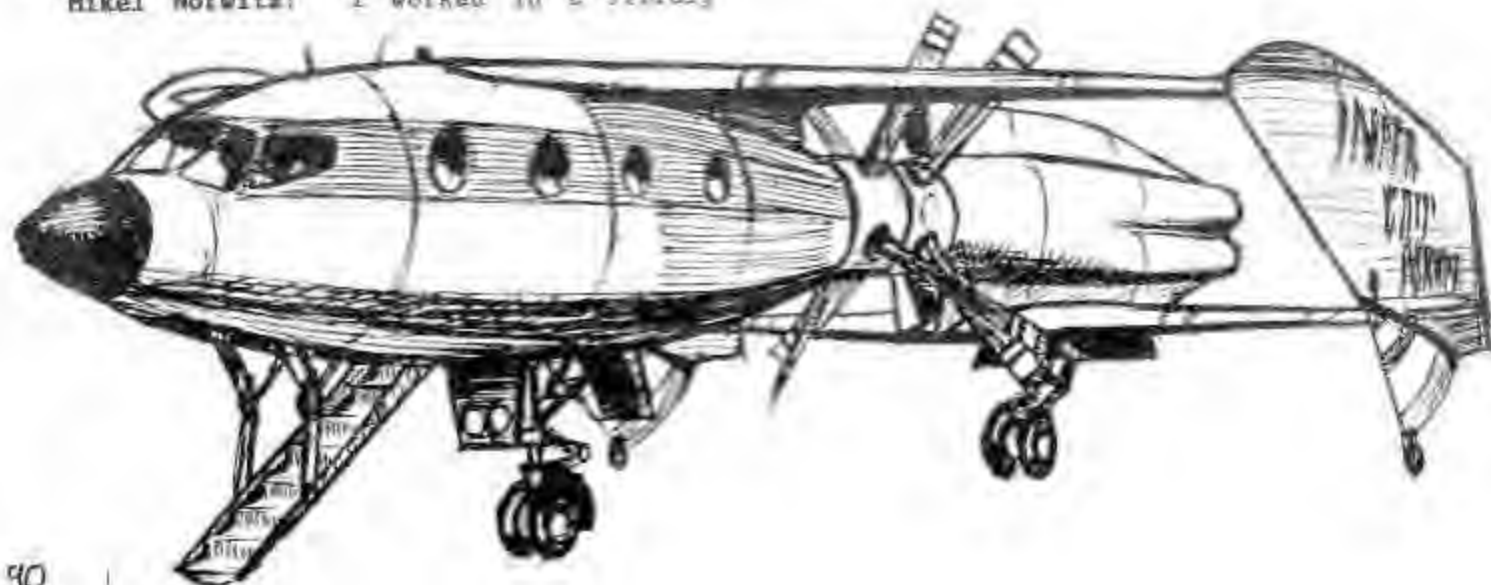
I tend to think that the "Rocky Horror Picture Show" is a separate phenomenon from media fandom in general. This woman does not like the Three Stooges. The way you worded your question seemed to set up a men dislike/women like the Stooges dichotomy.

Owen: "A man with more money has proved himself more valuable to society than a man with less money." I'm not even going to waste time refuting that one. ((Well, you could mention all the crime lords who have big bucks. Are they really more valuable to society?? sas))

Curt Phillips: Poker? I thought Hearts was the game of Southern fandom.

Bernie Burr-Wilken: Your tale of Lucas Film vs. International Brotherhood of Jedi reminds me of when Beatles (USA) Ltd. cracked down on (i.e., caused to disband) all the independent Beatle fan clubs in the US. It didn't seem right then and it doesn't seem right now. After all, only one club can be the official Star Wars and as long as you don't advertise yourselves as such, what's the problem?

However, you say you are primarily a social club. Why not, to avoid trouble, rename yourselves something that has no obvious connection to SW, and otherwise continue as you were. In the other hand, if Lucasfilm can stop the media and whoever from referring to SDI as Star Wars, I'm all for that. ((They cannot. They lost their court case. sas)) I think calling it Star



Wars is a way of popularizing/trivializing something that is neither.

Roger Waddington: I've found that the Brother Cadfael book that's affected me the most — so far — was THE SANCTUARY SPARROW.

Laura Todd: Fans probably have more animals than "average" people but the same or fewer than pet lovers. It's been my experience with local fandom that cats outnumber dogs in fannish households. I think pets outnumber children in fannish families, too, because historically so many fans were lovers. Didn't marry or married late and didn't have children.

That's probably changing. However, the very demands of children may pull some people out of fandom once they have them, at least until the children reach older ages. On the other hand, we may soon be able to see true generations of fandom, as fannish parents inculcate their kids with their interests.

Lisa Jenkins/Mathew Burfeind/Kenneth Helfinck: Hi! Welcome! Write again.

Lisa: Great! Now I know a Russian cuss word. Never mind the psychologists. Maybe there's a biochemical reason for your depressions, especially if you can't figure out any reason for them, and especially if they're cyclic.

Michael Peralta: I see you two have a Horatio, too — A little skull — does it glow in dark? Ours does. As usual, I've not read half the Hugo nominations, but I always to hear others' opinions of the nominations.

Uh oh, they're about to run me out of the kitchen — where I've got this miserable typer perched. Quickly then, for the Bureau of Trivial Statistics!

I don't wear glasses or contacts. Have no cats or other pets at present. Will eat almost anything on pizza except anchovies or olives. My totem animal is a unicorn because I've always loved horses.

I'm married to a fellow fan, though he is more involved with local fandom than national. His totem is a skunk — Skiffy Skunk.

I think we should also survey to find out how many Meffers listen to PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION ((I do. sas)) and/or DR. DEMENTO ((I don't. sas))

We listen to PHC when we remember to (you bet!) and the Doctor every Sunday night.

T-t-t-t-hat's all!

May 30, 1986

Michael J. Macomber
1620 Robbin Hill Place
Clementon, NJ 08021

Hey-ho, guys. I'm back! A rather inauspicious return, I must agree, but this is owed largely to the fact that very few people actually noticed I was gone — or was ever here in the first place.

One person who did notice, though, was (and is) the warm and lovely Robin Lancaster, who brought me back into the NJF as a birthday gift.

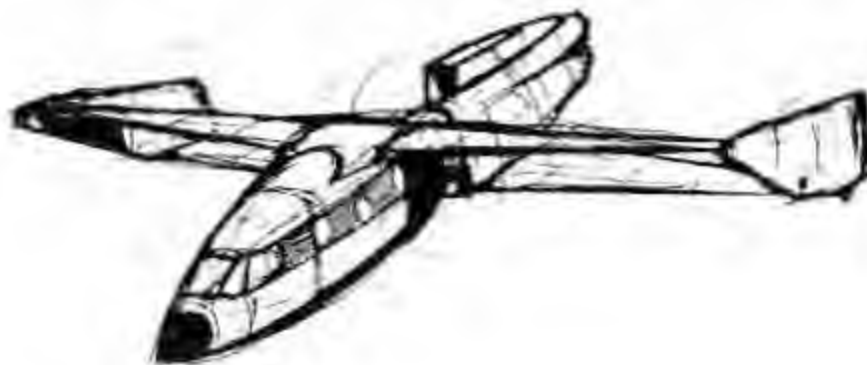
It's wonderful to be cared about, and Robin is one of the dearest, friendliest and most interesting correspondents I have.

So, you have her to thank or to blame. (Heh-heh).

I sat down with the last two TIGHTBEAMS and tried to form a comment for each and every argument going on, and just about now (11:09 PM) I gave up and decided to simply talk about what I wanted to talk about, with a few greetings and replies thrown in when the action gets a little monotonous. So there.

To Katharine Duncan and Lyne Holdom: Salutations fellow who fans! As you might have gathered from my address on the contents page, I am now a few NJN (New Jersey Network) Sufferer, camped out in a lovely (honestly, lovely) little community in South Jersey known as Clementon. The story behind this move is long and complex, and before I go into it, here are a few words about NJN....

I came here with a certain respect for what NJN had done — bringing the newest —



most recently available, that is — Who programming to this area before any other.

I had also heard horror stories about Eric Luskin's lack of concern for the fans, and of various irritating technical errors committed upon unsuspecting viewers at odd hours of the night.

Having been here for some eight months now, and having done three pledge drives (two NJN, one Channel 12), my feelings are a bit mixed.

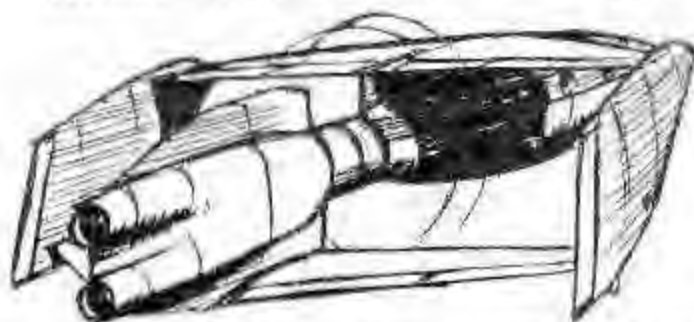
The programming is great to see. I'm an overall fan, with a love for Hartnell, Troughton, Pertwee, Tom, Peter and Colin, with a certain leaning toward pertwee n' Colin n' Tom.

So any Doctor on the air excites me. Still, I can see how fans who have been denied Tom Baker episodes could get a little miffed. To a large degree, Tom is the one who drew so many Americans to the show.

Jon's episodes were tried out earlier, but unfortunately did not capture the American imagination. Tom's delightful insanity was an instant hit.

I can remember watching his stories fare "Robot" to "Invasion of Time" over and over (five nights a week in half-hour episode format, with Howard DaSilva narration) on Channel Two in Boston, possibly seven or more times each, and loving every minute of it. When the new Bakers came in, and were run once and then quickly followed by Peter Davison, I felt a little dizzy. For years I had waited for new Bakers, and suddenly there were here and gone.

I wanted to savour them, in multiple viewings, in the same way that Mikel Norwitz mentioned in TB 141 savouring the Marx Brothers films (and Spencer Tracy, Cary



Grant, Marilyn Monroe, Fred Astaire, Humphrey Bogart and who else out there loves old movies?) ((I dol sas))

Anyway, in that sense, I see your point. And luckily there is hope on the horizon — both Channel 12 and NJN are now showing everything in sequence, and are currently on the Pertwees — which means Baker can't be too far off.

I'm loving the Pertwees — what I get time to see, that is — ,but will also be delighted to see Baker again.

I must admit to a recent feeling of nostalgia for his episodes, and particularly for that early era, containing such classics as "Genesis of the Daleks", "Robots of Death," "Seeds of Doom," and on and on.

Addressing the topic of NJN themselves, I can't say I'm overly impressed with Eric Luskin's handling of fan-PBS relations.

For the most part, he refuses to accept any fan input, and seems to have a rather snobbish "we know what we're doing and what's best for you" attitude.

However, on the other side of the coin, the fans who do try to convince Luskin that accepting their input would help tend to have an attitude that is almost as destructive as his — They regard him as an ignorant non-fan, and believe the drives would go better, the interviews with Who personalities would be more informative, and the specials would be better produced if they were in charge.

Both views leave absolutely no room for compromise, and neither party is giving the other credit for knowing anything. I believe Luskin is a good producer, very skilled at what he does. And in the case of the fans, I also believe that he could benefit greatly if only he would admit that there were things about "Who" he simply did not know, and ask for assistance.

This could solve the problem of his embarrassing assumption that Terry Nation had written "Unearthly Child." (As displayed in a recent on-air interview during a drive), and other such misinformation which tends to cripple his interviews, and make them extremely unsatisfying.

What it comes down to is a little bit of diplomacy. Understanding, respect and caring on both sides could — I think — go a long way to improving the atmosphere of fan-PBS relations in the area. What do you — Katharine, Lynne?



I had more to say, about the convention scene and all the local clubs (tons of them down here, aren't there?), and other observations about moving into this beehive of who-fandom. Look, Ma! He's talking like a game show host! But it's getting late, and this letter is long enough already.

Suffice it to say that I'm happy to be back in the NJF, and to find two Who fan Neffers right in my area!

Wonderful meeting you, and hope to do it in the face-to-face mode at a future convention. Look for the curly-headed fellow in the red jacket, bow tie and opera cape!

Thanks again to Robin Lancaster for pulling me away from the Edge of Oblivion and tossing me back into the Pit of Fandom.

I'm off to catch what's left of Part One of "Ambassadors of Death" on Channel 12.

Dematerialising.....

June 14, 1986

Pat Williams
647 Fawler Street
Marietta, GA 30060

In answer to some of the comments appearing in TIGHTBEAM:

I'm 39-years-old, have been in fandom since '78, am a little too fat, wear glasses, own over twenty cats and like pizza, but not anchovies.

I think Velikovsky was a nut, and not a scientist. His writing on astronomy was way off base.

Lloyd McAllister: I like big, thick TIGHTBEAMS, arriving reasonably on time even if it means raising the dues a little...but not more than \$10 a year, huh??

John Robinette: Concerning the neo-teenfen, I think having teenaged members is a good thing. I didn't find fandom until I was in my thirties, but one of my best friends told me he joined at thirteen. The young ones have a problem with time, but then again, so do I. It's important to attract young people to fandom. We want to keep the fanish culture going on, and for that we need new generations.

Jean Lamb: A story about UFO's kidnapping a con filled with Dorcas or Amazon types could have possibilities. Where can I find it?

Rose Seacrest: Japan didn't steal their technology. We gave it to them out of guilt feelings over the bombings in WWII. All the

other countries now have the bomb. Some have a good bit of technology, most of it bought or stolen from the more high tech countries. We (Americans) are still the only ones to travel to the moon. This fact seems unappreciated by young fen. We do seem to be losing ground in the space program due to inflation and the politicians' disinterest.

Yeah, Gene Roddenberry probably created IDIC, the bare bones of it anyway. What I was referring to was that he didn't take the time to flesh it out. It seems to have been left to Trek fandom to do that.

Eileen Roy: How come a child is an asset in overpopulated countries? ((For one thing more children mean more hands in the field to help bring in food. It means more people who can go out and earn money, etc. Large families are an asset in an agricultural society to help with all the chores. sas))

Sure it can do a little simple work, but you still have to feed it. I believe people who have children they can't afford to feed are being selfish and irresponsible where ever they may live. ((Is this an expression of IDIC?? sas))

Down here in southern fandom we practice IDIC a bit more than you do. It sounds like.

Bernie Burr-Wilken: It strikes me that LucasFilms is just trying to exploit fandom.

The man shows no understanding of the culture at all. I would just ignore the whole thing.

Kenneth Helfrich: Ahhhh, you agree with what I said about colonizing space...and the possibility that birth control might become governmentally regulated. Politicians would certainly prefer themselves or rich people over SF fans. We would become extinct along with the other minorities.

Until next time.....



June 17, 1986

David Heath, Jr.
11856 S. San Pedro
Los Angeles, CA 90061

I'm reading TB #143 as I lay it out and it looks good! Owen, your job is in jeopardy except Sally doesn't interrupt or make comments... ((Right now I am honestly too tired to do much commenting. Just getting this copy caught up is taking up the available energy sources! sas)) Seems pretty dry to me. Can't wait to see more Interruptus Owenius.

Again, thank to those with compliments on my job on TB with art. And be sure you write the individual artists.

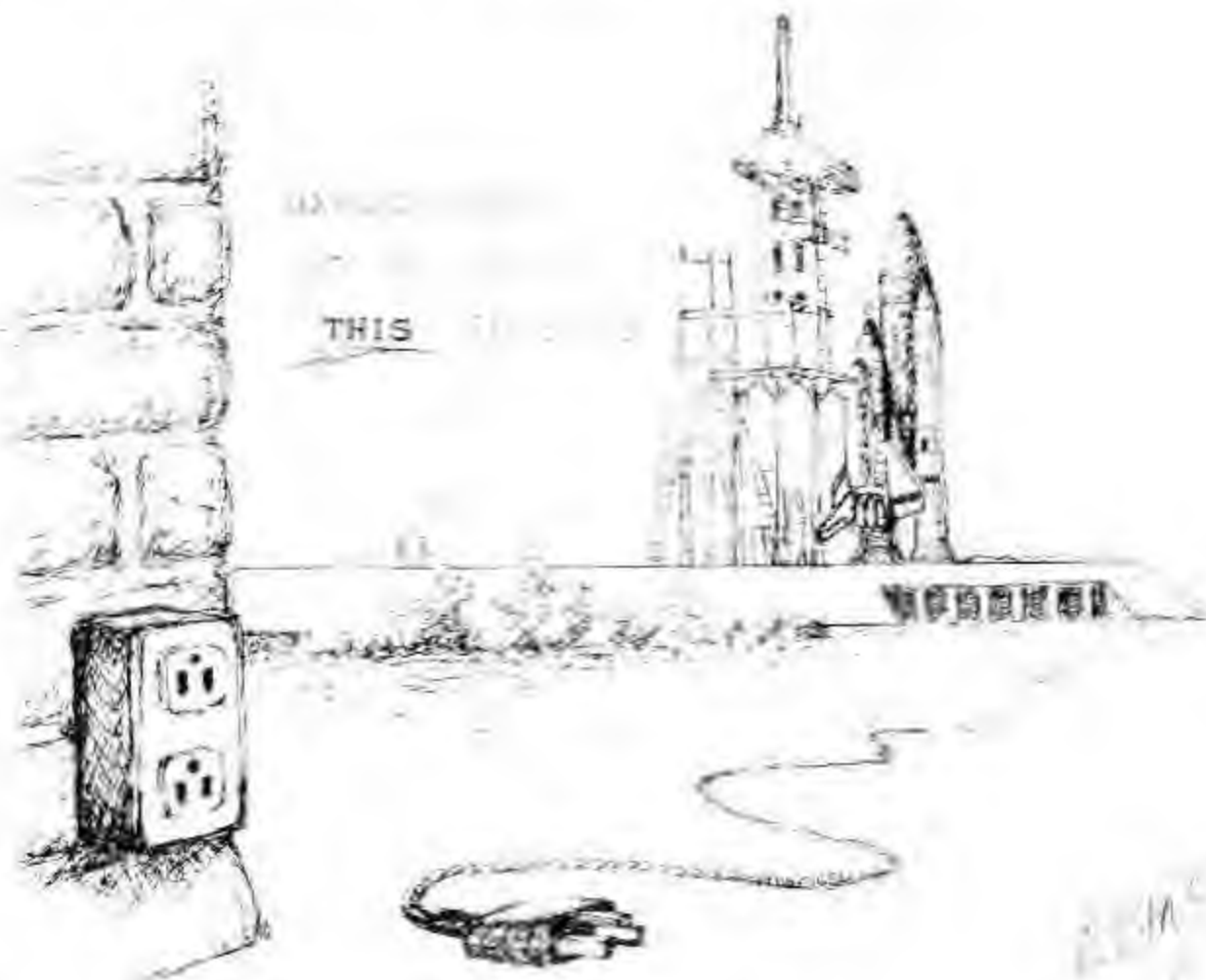
Rose Seccrest: Get off your pedestal and stop complaining. Everyone gets their name misspelled. No need to Grr, grunt and grind. Dot matrix may be more expensive than dark pens, but I haven't seen any fanzines printed using dark pens. ((Well, there is a typewriter out now that does use pens as its print source. It is pushed

mainly for graph making. Pie charts and all. It is something I would like for a new toy under the Christmas tree! sas)) And in your answer to **Chet**, yes there are political conservatives in N3P. Believe me, I know. Loved your recipes.

Laurence Gray: Thanks for the patience with the lateness of TB. Were that more Neffers shared your attitude. I think the TB/TNFF schedule should be going along well enough to satisfy anyone...except maybe **Don Franson**. ((And I'm trying to get TB so it will satisfy him!! sas))

Laurence, I have nothing against people sending in bios of themselves. In fact, I use every one except when they are sent in after I have already done a bio. Best chance to get your personalized bio is to send it to **Lola** with your application or send it to me as soon as you join.

I know that is kinna impossible, but I believe one bio is enough. I waste enough space on that section of TNFF. Also take anything I say in the Membership Report with a grain of salt. I'm usually on a "White Out" high by then!!



Okay, Larry, you are now officially Laurence!

I saw Amadeus. It was great, though I understand a bit erroneous.

Lisa Jenkins: We speak English in this club ((Hm...is that what you call it?? sas)) I don't think Whoies should change because you know an obscure language. You don't know what "sf" is in my native language, do you!? In fact, in my language "sf-i" is a compliment! By the way anchovies and compressed anti-matter. Eating one is said to advance you 30 years in the future. How can you hate something you never heard of?

Lia S. Ward:

1. Should we raise dues to \$10?
2. Should we combine our zines?
3. Should we go non-profit? and get a tax number?

((As a member of the committee of which Lia headed, I can say that we decided that answers to both of these questions was in the affirmative. sas))

4. What about our old budget?

I hope passing this information on helps the club grow and prosper.

I'd like to bring up some art subjects here. Some people don't read TNFF!

1. Cat Mintz is running an art contest in the Special Section and all are invited to participate.
2. Keep the great art coming for the N3F publications ((We must be running low after these last couple of issues! sas))especially you new to fan art pubbing!!!
3. I need your comments for next year's Awards in the Workshop.

By the way Matt, Ken Meyer, Jr. is a good friend of mine from Salt Lake City. He got his start pubbing in my fanzine, No Sex. He presently works in commercial art in Arizona. His art is in the N3F Pandom Calendar and comics zines such as The Comics Journal, The Comics Buyers Guide, Beat the Clock — a Batman zine.

Well, enough of that talk to you all!

B A K H L A V A

Ingredients

- 1 pkt. (1 lb) Apollo Pillo Strudel Leaves
- 3/4 lb. Almonds
- 1/2 lb. Walnuts
- 1 lb. Unsalted Butter
- 1/2 cup or less Sugar

Method

1. Melt the unsalted butter.
2. Blend almonds and walnuts, put sugar, alchi and laving-cloves powder (optional.)
3. Put one sheet of pastry on the table, brush with melted butter, put another sheet of pastry, brush with butter and sprinkle blended almond/walnut mixture.
4. Repeat Step #3 three times and the fourth time put only one sheet of pastry, butter and sprinkle the almond/walnut mixture.
5. Fold it lengthwise, cut into diamond shape and bake at 350 degrees for 15-30 minutes with lots of love.

Chasni (syrup)

- 2 cups Sugar
- 2 1/2 cups Water

Put lots of laving, (cloves), cinnamon, alchi seeds, boil for approximately 15 minutes and leave it on low. As soon as bakhlava is baked, put chasni on it. (Take a couple bakhlavas at a time on the jaro and pour chasni on to soak.) Garnish with pista.

P.S. Now that you have followed this recipe so carefully, if you like I (Shamin Punjani) the writer of this recipe will be glad to taste a piece of your baklava you just baked.

Lentil Stew

Amanda Carter Sheahan

- 1 pound lentils, rinsed
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 2 medium carrots, diced
- 2 quarts water
- 2 medium onions, sliced
- 1 Tab lemon juice
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 lb. bacon, sliced
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon salt

Fry bacon in a large pot. (Add more, if you wish.) Add onions, celery, carrots and cook until the onions are limp. Add the remaining ingredients and cook for 3 hours or so. Add the lemon juice and serve.

"Freezes well — holds up well in a crock pot. Has done me well at feasts and with roomies. Has a flavor reminiscent of Campbell's Bean with Bacon Soup." ACS

July 7, 1986

Mary L. Orwig
1546 3rd Street East
Milan, IL 61264

Greetings and Solicitations:

No, that's not a typo. I'm a little strange. I'm also an incorrigible punster — do not inerrige! A few of you know me — a little — but most of you don't, so this is my introduction to Nefferdom! By the way, don't believe what they say about me, it's all vicious rumour.

Aha! To answer the questions asked by the Bureau of Trivial Statistics: I wear both glasses and contacts — but not at the same time, a cat lives with my husband and me, as does a Chow Chow named Kahvi Bladerunner — the cat is called many things, but usually "Garfield" and comes equipped with four kittens which we are trying to find homes for.

I prefer mushrooms and black olives on my pizza, but will eat anything except anchovies, green pepper and onion. I am married to a wonderful man named Kent who can not be called mundane because he reads SF/F, but is not fanatic about it. I have been to, um, about seven real cons and two professional types in the past two years.

I can say nothing about any previous lives other than I am certain that I died.

Only if you find some way to fit 200+ Neffers into a 12' x 30' mobile home. Root beer. Holst, Tomita, Vangelis and Eisberg. I used to play piano and French Horn, and am trying to learn mandolin and Balalaika. I don't know, I prefer orange marmalade. That's a very personal question and I don't answer those.

((I don't have the copy of the issue the questions were in so am not sure of all the meaning in there, folks! sas))

Lola "Bless Her Heart Andrew kindly sent me the May '86 Tightbeam since I didn't make it onto the list in time, and I thought I might comment on a thing or two.

Religion: One of my favorite button slogans reads "So many gods, so little time." I was raised Lutheran, but required college classes in non-Christian religion to open my eyes to many possibilities. So right now I am in a holding pattern in regards to The Deity.

Jean Lamb and Nancy Thuleen: If I whistle Handel will you whistle Bach? My senior year in college I lived in a house with what seemed like half the Augustana College Choir. You should hear — or maybe you shouldn't — the things they did to "The Messiah."

I have quite a collection of classical music, mostly because I grew up with it. Mom got her B.A. in Music Instruction. But also because I wanted professional recordings on the pieces our high school band played. I wanted to hear what it was supposed to sound like!

But I also enjoy Neil Seagull and Beautiful Noise, and am developing a taste for Country Music (blasphemy!) as the modern successor to the medieval ballad tradition. I'm not joking. Listen closely to the original "Ghost Riders in the Sky" and compare with the Celtic tradition of the Wild Hunt.

Politics: One of the reasons I dropped out of the S.C.A. for a year. We're here to have FUN, guys!

Other bad habits include: scuba diving, comics, conventions, and MTV. There's more to the list, but since some are seasonal and others aren't, I won't go into detail.

Thanks to everyone who wrote to welcome me to NJP! I think I'm going to enjoy this!

July 21, 1986

Klaus D. Halsch
1729 E. Tabor Street
Indianapolis, IN 46209

TNFF, June issue, page 11, you list me as 1729 Tabor "Ed" and no zip code!

On page 39, where we're ((David and Klaus)) listed together on the top, lines 1 and 2 (like two peas in a pod) you list me as "1799" E. Tabor.

I hope this lands me a spot in the "I hate this section" Corrections Section next ish.

Thanks for the zine, and I enjoy TNFF and I liked your ((David's)) inking of George's on page 47!

Signed — the Grouch

((I hope I got your address right. The zip code on the post card had a post mark obscuring it and I took it as it appeared.



to be! SHE))

July 23, 1986

Kathleen Woodbury
1193 South 1900 East.
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

One of my favorite things to do -- I tend to drive Round Robin people crazy with it

when they are trying to discuss a book -- is to talk about the cast I'd like to see play the characters if they ever made a movie of the book.

I've done it with LORD OF THE RINGS, the Belgariad, some of McCaffrey's Pern characters, and now I'm working on Julian May's Pliocene Saga. I'd love to see Rutger Hauer play Marc Remillard. Anyone got any suggestions for who could play Aiken Drum?

Anyway, rather than continuing to plague other Round Robin people, I decided to start my own casting Round Robin in NFFF. I've talked to Lola and, if anyone out there is interested, either in discussing the books I've cast, or suggesting other novels that could be discussed, go through channels and let Lola know.

I know that some people feel that making a movie of a book can ruin it, but we're not making real movies. We are making "ideal" movies and using actors to share with each other the way we see the characters. If I can, I may even be able to get some of the

authors who wrote the books in the first place involved. It would be interesting to see who they picture in the parts, wouldn't it?

On other things: I went to Westercon this year and after attending a few panels, I began to wonder about them. It seemed to me that in some cases-- especially when the programming committee (or whoever it is who thinks up some of the topics) comes up with some of the off-the-wall things for guests to try to talk about that they do -- that panels are designed for fans to come into a room and sit and watch authors make fools of themselves talking about strange things.

Not that I object, mind you. I just think it's interesting. I was on a panel at a Westercon a few years ago entitled "Techniques of Writing Fantasy" and we all fumbled around for a while trying to figure out what to say on that one -- and it was a serious topic!

How do I view fandom? I think it's great. I wish I'd known about it sooner, in fact. It is not a way of life for me, nor a source of income -- like one T-shirt I saw at Westercon, but a place to meet other people with my special kind of crazy. Generally and specifically.

I love seeing things from different viewpoints, and I love balling ideas around. I can do both with people in fandom. And it's big enough for all kinds of different little groups. No one has to associate with anyone that doesn't interest them.

Sounds like UTOPIA doesn't it?

Actually, I try to only pay attention to what I like, and I try to like an awful lot of it. Psychologists have a name for that, I'm sure.....

July 23, 1986

Ed Chambers
809 Green Avenue
Mt. Ephraim, NJ 08059

It has been a little while since I sent a letter to TB. Not a real long time, but at least a couple of months. I have been doing several things -- mundane and fannish alike.

Recently I attended a con -- one of the Creation ST/Dr. Who, etc. cons. It was rather interesting. I sat in on a question and answer session with Sarah Sutton who played Nyssa on Dr. Who. Also, Mark

Leonard of Star Trek fame, humored the group with some delightful tales. I also saw a preview for ST IV which was informative. Other than that, the con was just average.

One of the reasons I am writing is that I'd like to complain about the mailing of the zines (again.) The last time I saw a TNFF was on May 5th. The last TB I received came May 24th. I expect the next TB will be here anyday, whereas the TNFF I am waiting for should have been here two weeks ago. Let the people know when you receive the zines late so maybe something can be done about it. How about first class?

Onto other topics: I understand Lan's Lantern is up for the Hugo. Great! If you're voting, vote for it. Lan's Lantern contains a variety of material by all sorts of fans.

Probably the best known part of this zine is the book reviews. It is probably my favorite part, but that all depends upon which issue you are talking about.

Some of the articles have proven to be very informative and controversial. I particularly liked the two-part Heinlein article in recent issues. I also understand that there will be an article on Roger Zelazny's Amber series, including the newest book in the saga, Trumps of Doom.

Look for it in an upcoming issue. Hopefully, I can persuade George to do an all-Zelazny issue.

Write to George "Lan" Laskowski, 55 Valley Way, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013 for complete information on how you might obtain this fabulously fannish zine. A definite collectors' item!

Enough for that advertisement. And now for this announcement from your local PBS station: Public television and radio offers a wide variety of programs to appeal to everyone. At least most PBS stations do. Science fiction fans alone can find lots of entertaining programs about space and the future, just to name a few programs.

I enjoy Dr. Who on the two PBS stations that I can reach. Of course, not all of us are so lucky to have this type of programming on your local public station.

So, I encourage you to write to your local PBS station and get all of your fannish friends in the area to write and ask for programming to suit your interests.

If enough people write, they will listen. They have to because you are the source of their money.

Public TV needs your support to keep the programming you want on the air. So write to PBS and send them your contribution.

Also, if you can give your time to be a volunteer to help during their pledge drives, do so. Only recently did I realize how much public TV has given me.

It is only fair that I help them when I can. I want to keep Dr. Who on the air on both of the networks that I pick up. So, when I contribute, I let them know that I want my Dr. Who!!!! This way, they'll know what I like to watch and will try their best to keep that program on the air to keep me in the ranks of their watchers.

And so ends that advertisement. I don't know if you all know it yet or not, but I have sent my platform in for the Directorate. As a candidate, I am letting you, our voters, know who I am supporting for the presidency. I hope to see Lola Andrew in the President's seat in 1987. She is a very organized person, someone whom I know will devote all her fanish time and energy to the N3F. I urge you to join me in supporting Lola Andrew for president.

Music. I love music. Just having the radio or stereo playing in the background whilst I go about my daily mundane chores is soothing in itself.

And on my way to work, and home again, I'd fall asleep without the radio playing my favorite rock and roll hits and classics.

And, when I go out to a nightclub, or to a party at a friend's house, it's dance time!

And we find the simplest excuse to have a party. Our favorite is our Hawaiian Christmas party in July, held every 4th of July weekend!

Music! Where would we be without it? I am ever catching myself humming some tune over and over in my head. What sort of obsession is this? I am certainly not the only one who feels this way, that much is obvious!

I must have the blood of a disc jockey somewhere in my family tree. I even attempted to become one once. Maybe even twice. Like I said, I love music....

And so ends this rambling tale full of advertisement. Read it again. And this time, listen to the music.



July 24, 1986

Lynne Haldom
P. O. Box 5
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442

First, I would like to apologize to everyone I owe letters to. I was very sick during the month of April and, boy, did I get behind. Now I am moving -- though I am not sure where as yet. So have got even further behind. Be patient. Eventually you will hear from me. I just got my fanzine out several months late. Oh well.

Rose Secret: Congratulations on your marriage. Just curious, but why do you dislike MZB so intensely? MZB was the person who named TIGHTBEAM by the way and was an early editor. Are you planning to boycott TB now?

But, as someone who is active in Darkover fandom, I have heard just about every opinion going on MZB and her works. I would even admit she has written some clunkers and I certainly do not agree with all of her opinions, but then I've met very few people I agree with totally.

However, I do agree with you in your statement to Owen about atheism making all things possible. I even recognized it as being from THE BOTHERS KARAMAZOV -- at least recently. The Greeks also made the connection between religion and morality or thought it stupid.

Mostly, being elitists, they concluded that the connection existed for most people, but the truly philosophical of mind could be ethical without being religious. On the other hand, Owen might well consider me an example of how "mere" ethics cause personality rot as I do not think homosexuality, fornication or sex between consenting adults is wrong.

Infanticide has been considered okay by quite high cultures such as Classical Greece and China and was quite common in 18th Century England as women simply refused to raise more than a certain number of children.

Jurien would not convict for it either as it was okay by common consensus. Iest you think this was because England was Protestant, the situation was similar in France which was Catholic.

Incest has been condemned in all societies that we know of though the definition of it varies a lot. In Rome, a marriage between first cousins was considered incestuous. Brutus had to leave Rome for a while after he married Portia who was his first cousin. But it was a preferred form of marriage in ancient Israel and among Arabs today.

The closest moon to Jupiter -- unless another closer-in one has been discovered -- is Amalthea which is named for Zeus's nursemaid.

Ganymede is the 4th moon out. Both Io and Europa -- female lovers -- are closer. For the most part, Greek religion took form in a period before homosexuality was as accepted as it later became.

Jackie Kunn: Margot Adler, author of *DRAWING DOWN THE MOON*, stated at Esotericon that modern paganism goes back to 1939. There is no provable connection with ancient paganism though obviously some influence.

Even so, the sociological question is why is it expanding now as opposed to twenty years ago.

That's where the influence of the women's movement comes in. The same thing can be said for Gnostic Christianity which has a higher position for women than does traditional Christianity. Though considering the opinions of the Church Fathers that would not be difficult.

Anthony Boucher once wrote a short story called "Star Dummy" which postulated that Christ had had a mission on another planet outside of our solar system. I don't know where you'll find it however.

Laurence Gray: Unitarianism is rational -- somewhat -- and lets you believe more or less what you want. In essence it's ethical humanism. Also, as I do not believe in the Trinity, I don't need to feel guilty about this in a Unitarian setting. I think the prohibition (by Catholics) of birth control and divorce are a reaction against the hedonism and lack of social cohesion of the later Roman Empire.

By the way, killing a fetus via abortion was only a major sin if done after it quickened, about the fifth month of pregnancy. But you have to remember that the later Roman Empire was severely depopulated by plagues, wars and birth control via infanticide. They needed population.

ON FARMING, ETC.: Having majored in anthropology, I do actually know something about this. Farming using a digging stick is regarded as women's work. Women may actually have discovered farming. Farming done with a plow which involved animals is men's work. This probably reflects a period of time when women planted near the village and men supplemented this with hunting.

This was true of the Iroquois in New York when first encountered by the Europeans.

After the development of the plow, plowing and care of the crops that were sown in plowed fields was also men's work, as was pasturing animals.

By the way, the most extremely patriarchal societies have been nomadic ones that had domestic animals, but no farming.

Any farm products such as grain were gotten either by raiding, trading, or using slaves to raise grain for them.

This division is still seen at our Sunday dinners where the man carves the roast and the woman serves the vegetables. That was what each contributed.

So that farming could be said to be a woman's mystery, but only if you refine the concept a bit.

As for cooking, after the discovery of fire, both men and women cooked over campfires. Cooking in pots became women's work however. Probably because women originated pottery making.

STAGNATION: STEADY STATE ECONOMY, ETC.: This is or would be okay in a world of Zero Population Growth, although you still would have a problem as a greater percentage of people will be senior citizens in such a state so the young would have to give up a higher percentage of their wealth to support the old, even if the old had a lower standard of living than at present.

Japan is facing this problem now. However, the biggest drawback is that no one could gain anything without someone else losing it.



This would cause endless conflict. Unless we get into space, it's probably the future of the world so that we who are living well right now are probably living as well as folks ever will.

We would live a lot worse if the USA becomes less wealthy and other countries more so, or if the world wealth becomes more evened out. Think about it. I imagine that we would naturally try to keep this from happening by really arming to the teeth.

Allan: Having seen Senator Hatch on The Phil Donahue Show, I have to admit he scares me as well. I'm not on all of his lists, but I am on some. On the show I got the feeling he was totally against fornicators, homosexuals, ethical humanists and people who believe in evolution. Though he is for the space program and improved science education, though his notion of biology must be a bit off, but no matter.

Now, most people, if polled, would probably be against the first two groups, but Senator Hatch wants to really get on their case.

My first reaction was to get insulted. I don't think sexual acts between consenting adults should be punished, especially as people who get rabid about homosexuality tend to be curiously unconcerned about, say rape victims, if the woman is unmarried and not a virgin.

In such a case, she "asked" for it.

Of course, then you will hear that gays are child molesters even though statistically, most child molesters are male heterosexuals.

But even then I'd say, punish the act, punish the molesters, don't simply punish an entire group for the sins of a minority of its members.

For that matter, virtually all rapists are men, so how about making a law forbidding men on the streets after a certain hour.



This is the attitude that leads to "gay bashing" which goes unpunished most of the time. Not doubt they, like women who get raped, "deserve" it.

On bombers of abortion clinics.... Abortion clinics are worthy targets, no doubt. No one seems to mention that abortion is legal, and bombing a building is illegal. All in a good cause, no doubt.

Senator Hatch did not mention Neo-Pagans but I'm sure he'd equate them with Satanists, which they aren't.

Senator Hatch is, no doubt, a well-meaning and honorable man, but he represents a moral climate in this country that frightens me.

Rep. Schroeder of Colorado was also on the program and when told that supporting a lot of these things was "unChristian" she got annoyed and said that she was a Methodist and considered herself a Christian. Of course, she wasn't a fundamentalist Christian which was probably what was meant.

This was from a telephone caller, by the way, not Senator Hatch.

No, I get the feeling that if Senator Hatch had his way, at least half of fandom would be behind bars or pretending to conform -- a lot. In fact, in some ways, there is more pressure to conform than in 1958. It simply is more subtle and done in the name of "protecting the family" or "moral values" rather than anti communism. I am even more frightened when the Supreme Court says that the police have the right to go into your bedroom and punish sex acts between consenting adults. I keep wondering who will be next.

By the way, a caller on another Phil Donahue Show said that in cases where he lived -- Florida -- two men (consenting adults) got five to ten years for sodomy, but another man got two years for molesting six or seven kids.

Eileen Roy: Esotericon is held in Northern New Jersey on the weekend between the last of the football playoffs and the Super Bowl.

The conquest of the ancient near East was due to the discovery of iron smelting which made metal weapons available to everyone and the taming of the horse which made it possible to travel long distances.

Most of the conquering people were semi-nomadic and did not cultivate the land.

They did not own land before conquering the settled peoples who did. Instead you had tribal lands.

If you read the books of Joshua and Judges and into First Kings in the Bible, you can see the process at work. In Greece

the Dorian Greeks were the culprits, but religion did not become completely patriarchal. In India the older patriarchal society won.

In North America among the Iroquois, land was owned by the women who also owned the long houses. A man joined his wife's family when he married and descent was through the female line. Yet the Iroquois were not precisely unwarlike. The Sioux and Apache were also matrilineal.

Owen: Just to show I can agree with you, no, primitive people did not know all that much about the sex of plants, animals and people. They often abstained from sex before a hunting trip because hunting was best and skins were prime when the animals were mating and they wanted to be sharper than the quarry.

This has carried down to our own society in that coaches will tell athletes to abstain before the "big game".

Among planting peoples, the connection is between sex and death. Plants die and new plants appear. People die but are replaced by children which has some connection with sex. Some societies see man as the planter and the woman as the earth in which he plants his seed. They don't see any biological connection between mother and child. That was the case with the Classical Greeks. But they did not have detailed knowledge.

Darkover Fandom: One problem with any info on this is that it will likely be outdated by the time this gets published. Nina Soal and I both publish Darkover fanzines, but we both will have new addresses by September 1st and neither of us know where as yet. I might know by August 10th or I might not. I do know I will be either in Rochester, New York or Minneapolis, MN. Not too much help. Nina might be in Elgin, IL or in Milwaukee, WI or... It's very frustrating.

It also means that a lot of things are on hold until after I relocate. You can order CONTES and JUMEAUX from me. In fact every one that's ordered is one I don't have to move, but again this won't be out till it's too late to do much good.

I will, however, be at the Darkover Grand Council Meeting in Wilmington, Delaware over Thanksgiving weekend no matter where I move to. Anne McCaffrey is the GoH. I have already reserved my hotel room by the way and paid for it as well.

So, grump, what have I got to say — not too much. MZB's next Darkover novel will be out when you see it. It's been postponed again.

I hope it will be out by the Darkover Con, but don't hold your breath. It's called THE HEIRS OF HAMMERFELL. She has published some nonDarkover S&S which I haven't read as I am not fond of S&S as a genre.

Lola Andrew
P. O. Box 713
Webster City, Iowa 50595



I don't often write you as I seem to write to a good percent of the club personally. However, some of you may have noticed my letters getting shorter than they used to be.

The reason is that I've taken up a new hobby — singing. This came about because Suzette Haden Elgin who was CoH at last year's Archon was kind enough to say I had a good voice at the filk singing.

When I got home, I decided to call up the high school vocal teacher who is also my church choir director to see if he gave private lessons.

These I started last September. I joined the church choir. Then the community choir when that started last winter. It has really filled out my life to get involved in the choirs.

Now you may wonder where N3F fits into all this.

Well, singing is a social activity. I used to be very shy of people before I found N3F. You have all shown me such kindness that I can now reach out to others more.

I still enjoy my days of quiet reading, but singing has brought a real joy to my life. I'm not brave enough for any solos yet, but give me time.

I want to thank all of you for making N3F such a friendly club. We all need people who care to support us in life.

I am lucky to have so many great pen pals.

So, if you find my letters shorter, believe me, it isn't because I care any less.

BROWNIES

Lola Andrew

350 degrees

3/4 cup butter
1 1/2 cup sugar
3 eggs -- beaten
1 1/2 tsp vanilla

3/4 cup flour
1/2 cup cocoa
1/4 tsp salt
nuts -- optional

This is one dessert I just cannot resist even when I'm trying to diet. They are so simple to make, you will never buy a box mix again. This makes a 9" x 9" pan. Bake until toothpick comes out clean.

July 25, 1986

Laurel Beckley
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This is my first let to TH. Although I have been a member of the NFF for many years, I've always been too shy to write and express my own opinions. However, I thought I would try and give it a shot.

Jean Lamb: I'd also like to read a story about a UFO kidnapping a science fiction con. All sorts of ideas come to mind.

Laura Todd: No, you're not the only one who loves Jean Auel's Cave Bear series. I do, too. I've so far read the first two in the series, and loved both of them.

I thought her depiction of life in prehistoric times fascinating. She must have done a lot of research to get all those details. I don't know whether or not it was true, but I found her idea of the Neanderthal living through the past in their minds to be interesting.

I'm sure I've phrased that very badly, but I think you might get the idea I'm trying to state if you've read the book.

Sally A. Syrjala: Series tend to drive me crazy, since sometimes I find I've only got part of one, and the rest is now out of print. Yes, there is another sequel to the

Steve Perry series. It's THE MACHIAVELLI INTERFACE and it's out now. It's supposed to be the final book in that series.

Laurence Gray: I was unhappy with part of CITY OF SORCERY's ending. But I felt that Magda and Camilla would go on to the City, whereas the others would go back.

I didn't feel anything more needed to be said in that book. Although the ending was a bit abrupt.

Some people have said that the City was best left to the reader's imagination. Although I'm curious as to what part the City has played in Darkover history, I can agree with them.

As to finding your room without an elevator at 2 am, I stayed up until after 3 in the morning at Philcon last year and found my room with no trouble at all. Of course, I was on the second or third floor.

Matthew Burfield: We have authors in common that we like. I really like Piers Anthony, Anne McCaffrey, David Eddings and Stephen E. Donaldson. I also like David Booth's drawings.



All of these comments have been for TH #143. I would like to say I enjoyed very much the special section on Women in Science Fiction/Fantasy. I liked the art work, and found "Camela of the River of January" to be very interesting.

I also enjoyed "Women of Fandom" by Howard DeFore.

I hope TH will be having more special sections like this on various topics.



July 77, 1986

David Heath, Jr.
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Excellent job on TB 144. Though I do miss the insertions of editorial comments — as a few others seem to. I think a lot of discussion has been elicited so I guess I can't complain too much. The comment is so wide and varied that one would almost have to write an essay on the general condition of man in order to respond to it.

Rather than do that, I will write this humble loc.

One thing that has gotten in my craw lately has been the pettiness of some of our comments. Several have lamented the general nature and status of fandom in general. Citing smell, whether they like cats, fantasy, and glasses as a basis for whether a person should be liked or not.

I thought this went against the unspoken credo of SF in that it's what's in a person's head that counted, not the superficial outward appearances.

The idea here is to think and make other people think. That is why so many fans seem like outcasts, not many people like to think or be made to think.

I know some people don't like reviews, so what, I do. So what do you think about the ones presented? Or I guess because you don't like them, you just don't read them.

On a personal note, Rose Secrest writes the meanest, nastiest letter I have ever seen in fandom. For such a sweet woman, too. I met her at her and Michael's wedding and she is such a nice person. I wonder about that act she puts on through the mail.

Come on, Rose, you can't hate everything just because it is popular, can you? Definitely a different person.

I am aware of the issue of parents and teenage fans. My faunishness was stifled by my father or I am sure I would be a pro illustrator or writer by now. I don't blame my folks. They did their job. I got raised and got the moral code imprinted into me. It is just the breaks of where and when you were born.

It was also not cool for a black to be a "fan" and an egghead, as I was, in some of the schools I went to in my early years. I had to overcome that as well.

Not sure what advice to give to a teenage fan trying to make it. The nurture of creativity is always going to be a mute question. What factors make it come out?



Some of the world's most creative people come from the most harsh conditions in the world. Then there are these actor or musician families that seem to breed talent and creativity.

Harriet's comments on this provide an interesting look at a set of parents that could help you reach your potential.

I heard an interesting discussion on NPR on communism. The argument was that the quote "...capitalism promotes creativity in the individual..." (Pulled from some learned work.) was false, even misleading.

The debaters stated that in fact that the opposite is true. Given the fact that the debate was a forum for the promotion of the communistic economic system, their points were:

1. The individual is a mere cog in the money oriented machine. His attempts at creativity distract from the machine and only serve to activate his potential if it brings money into his pocket.



2. There is an unfair balance of possibilities in the economic caste system.

This idea says that it is easier for you to be creative — paint, do fanzines, compose — if your parents are well off and you have a piano in the house, a personal computer, or they give you money to print your own fanzine or join N3F.

I never could convince my father to give me some money to do a zine when I was young. When I took a paper route to get my own money, he took it to buy food.

If you are poor, the argument goes, you are too worried about where the rent is coming from to take your kids to the park, museum or place a value on higher education.

These are, of course, raw arguments, but they give some interesting insights into the accessibility to creativity and provide perspective to all the nit-picking complaints you hear all the time in this forum. I bet you'd eat anchovies if you hadn't eaten in three days.

How many SF fans or potential ones do you think have been beaten to death in South Africa? Do you care? They probably like fantasy in South Africa. I hear dragons are big over there.



Bernie: You make me feel old. When Star Trek came out, my father (in the Army) dragged us to Panama. I had to watch reruns, just after I got out of Junior High School.

Laurence Gray: I don't know why people want to know your age either. It is sometimes misleading. I have had people amazed to find that I am 33. They either think I am older or younger. Depends on your point of view, I guess.

I used to hate eggs, too. The Army. But now that I am married I love them. Point of view again.

Speaking of which....

Michael Peralta: I have to respect your conviction on children — getting yourself reproductively altered so you can't produce them. I used to be kinda against kids. In fact, when I got married and my wife was

expecting, I got scared. I transferred my fears to my wife, asking how can you bring up a kid in this world the way it is today. What a burden. My wife, who is not a pseudo-intellectual like me, simply replied, "us women have been carrying this burden for you guys for years...no problem."

I thought that was neat. Of course, when Tiffany was born, it was kinda neat to see your own genes reproduced — slightly altered, of course, — dealing with the world in a new and fresh fashion.

Kinda like a little computer learning how to talk, finding out how to manipulate me — and she's only 3! I can't fight it. Point of view I guess.

T. Bohman: One of the most discussed topics in the last zine is the timeliness of the fanzines. The membership has had a taste of a fairly timely schedule and I guess you like it.

Re: Donald Frenson's and your letters last issue, there is a bit to be desired now in the schedules and deadlines.

I would like to say for my part that we are doing the best we can and that issue was evidence of that, since could have been later.

I appreciate the even-handed manner in which you expressed your concern. It seems like we have been beleaguered by ranting and raving lately. A tribute to the popularity of the zines I guess.

As to retyping locs: I don't know what to say. I don't do it. I hate to type. Just because I have extensive experience doing zines, doesn't mean I know everything.

One reason I don't want to edit TB is because I could never print everything in every letter. I would edit the hell out of



them and cut them to size. Most of our readers seem to think that is censorship, which I tend to disagree with.

I think I would keep in personal attacks. I mean, if you are crazy enough to do them, why not let the rest of the membership see how crazy you are, like Rose.

Then the members can tell you what they think of your intolerance, if they care. I think the big problem is that we are all human, working in a loose human organization. I understand what you are asking. I am asking that you remember one thing also. To get someone to something for free, they have to please themselves...as well as you.

This is not to say that your complaints are not just, and they are most definitely food for thought on my part and am sure that all of the people involved in the zines want nothing more than to keep these zines of interest to you and on time in your mail boxes. I don't think we can complain about the response and involvement anymore.

There have been tons of first-time writers and they have added to the already lively discussions.

I hope this trend keeps up. By the way, I saw Halley's Comet, too. Wasn't that a trip???

Oh well, back to the drawing board.

July 26, 1986

Liu S. Ward
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Well, the votes are in, and they're trying to schedule Pierce Brosnan for the next Bond film. He's a good choice to follow in the tradition of Roger Moore, but I was hoping for someone to pick up where Sean Connery left off.

Sean Connery always looked so dangerous. Roger Moore just looked indolent. Pierce Brosnan has a sort of pristine, fresh-from-the-hairdresser aura that negates any subtle violence they might try to give his character. They should cast him in Robert Redford roles. Well, time will tell.



I saw LABYRINTH at the beginning of the summer. The photography is good. The set is interesting. Some of the creatures are endearing, but the story really drags, and the musical interludes are intrusive.

Catherine Mintz and David Heath are preparing a stunning art show for the N3F meeting room at Confederation. I hope all the Naffers at the con will give David and Catherine feedback on whether to continue this public relationships project. I think we're very fortunate to have so many talented artists in N3F, and need to show them off more!

I would like to hear from people who've been following the Hugo awards each year, whether you have identified trends in the nominations and final selections in recent years. If so, why things have developed this way and where they're going in the next few years.

This subject used to be hotly debated in the SF club here, but I joined after the Hugo Trends Committee had disbanded.

July 26, 1986

Jeff Wilcox
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Answers to recent polls — Requested by Owen: Personal totem animals are Owls and Dragons.

I read more science fiction than fantasy, but then I will read any SF, while I read only the best of fantasy.

Also Owen proposed that the club go on a massive membership drive to up membership to 1,000 or so. As I am working on about as much fan activity in the club that I can handle — and look at some of the other departments with the wish that I had time for them — it makes little difference to me whether the club grows further or not.

I do have a couple of comments on the subject though. I think the idea for this membership drive came from a letter that this letterzine got about a year ago. It was by a fan outside the club who said that the N3F didn't really live up to the high ideals made at the club's creation — way back in 1940.

According to the fan, N3F had been set up to provide service to fandom in general, produce fanzines of interest to the whole of

fandom, and provide an information center for new fans just beginning in our hobby for the first time.

And the fan said that the N3F of today fell short of those ideals. That the club was self-involved and to heck with anyone outside of its influence.

If this letter and this fan is the reason for Owen's membership drive, then I won't be worrying about it too much.

Ooh, if you want those 1,000 or so members, it's fine with me. I just don't think anyone should get excited by that fan's letter. The first reason is that the club already has a membership of almost 500. Now that is a very respectable number. And, if anything can be said about our club -- it is "diversified." There is something for everyone. And the departments have expanded in recent time to include Computers, Games, Comics, Video and Audio Tapes, and the return of the APA department.

Old and new fans can make use of all these things and find any number of others of the same interest to discuss and work with. And almost 500 people with these resources can cover a fairly wide cross section of fandom.

The best way you can improve the club (ahem, in my opinion) is to continue in the direction you have been working -- getting the less active members to participate more.

In a sense the situation is like asking yourself how many friends you need. If the N3F had only 50 super-active fans in it, then in a fashion it could be considered a "large" club.

As for providing uplifting fanzine projects, there are many fanzine people in the club. It shouldn't be difficult to find worthy projects to put the N3F label on. Also, I recall a club of fanzine publishers -- The Fanzine Alliance -- used to have a fund for those fanzine projects that the club heads approved of and were in need of finance.

Good luck with the membership drive in any case, Owen.

Other polls: I wear glasses. The family used to have cats when we lived on the dairy farm -- ranging from one to three dozen, depending on what time of the year it was. Incidentally, the humans lived in the house, the animals outside and in the barn. I like pizza with most things on it, except the little fishes. Nope, don't care for the fishes. Am single, but willing and have attended four large conventions and a half-dozen small ones -- none of them recent.

Congratulations go to Lola Andrew for winning the Saymar Award this year. Actually, I thought she would've made a good choice last year. Aah, not to take anything away from Howard DeVore. Hmmm...there never has been a tie for the award, has there?

To Laura Todd: On nuclear war, I think the Russian nuclear plant accident has shown the world what one explosion of its type can do in populated areas. And, if Russia and we go to war, there will be thousands of such explosions going off. Nuclear winter or not, it won't matter what measures the survivalists take, they will be caught up like the rest of us.

You're right Laura, we have to make sure the politicians and militarists don't screw us up along with everyone else.

Did you happen to catch the discussion board held at the end of the TV movie "The Day After"? While all the politicians and so-called experts were saying how bad nuclear war was, the only one who was saying that we can't win a nuclear war and that to have one means total destruction of life was Carl Sagan. Compared with Sagan, the others didn't sound as if they made their intention clear enough. Did they hang back because Sagan was saying general opinion, or did they disagree and decide to keep silent in front of their hyped-up audience? Their silence over the matter makes me nervous.

To Laurence Gray: Hope you solved your cat problems by this time. And, no, I really wouldn't care to have any, thanks.

To Sylvia Bump: As one of the artists that has his work shown in TB and TNFF, I thank you for the compliment you paid us. As such, we all will give ourselves a pat on our "acks." Incidentally, what does an ack look like? Chuckle. Chuckle.



To Lisa Jenkins: Good luck to you in your fan activity, writing, and fun. Your mention of your hyper-activity reminded me of an article I read a few years back. The piece was of an old fan -- a Big Name Fan from the 1930's -- reminiscing about the good old days. Among them was a mention of a mother who wanted to talk her son out of being an SF fan. It seemed the mother was concerned over her son spending all of his free time in fanish activity, sometimes writing letters of comment to the fanzines back then with ten pages and better. She felt the kid should do other things too, and wanted the Big Name Fan to go to bat for her. The BNF naturally refused. There are a lot worse things that kid could have gotten into, and here the parent was worried, even though the son was getting a lot of pleasure out of his constructive hobby.



It sounds as if your own mother was wise to let you go as far as you liked with a good thing.

As for the times when you do nothing but fan activity -- the writing of stories you mentioned -- I don't think your mother has to worry too much. The human mind can take only so much of one activity for an extended period of time. If that activity goes beyond the mind's interest, then the person goes into mental burnout. And then the mind turns to other things. Or, as we oldsters have a habit of saying, "You're just going through a phase." Enjoy as you can, for as long as you can. Enthusiasm is the fuel that drives fandom. End of speech.

To Michael Peralta: Answer to Subject #3. One way to make sure the club vines come out on time is to print only the material the editors have on hand. Though I have no idea what chaos that might result in TNFF, I don't think it would hurt Tightbeam...Well...too badly. Comments,

Sally? ((In the midst of this mine, you saw that? See the editorial for comments on this. sas))

Back to general subjects:

Bravo to the special section in TB 143. To the material and to its contributors. Good job.

On the Challenger Disaster: I kinda wonder if we are going to have a space program in the near future. The recent spaceship disasters have knocked us for a loop, and the situation might get worse. For all the hallyhoo over the defective shuttle parts and reports of NASA officials knowing what dangers there were, it is surprising that the government hasn't made any criminal arrests yet. The families of the shuttle astronauts are suing, but as far as I know all the government is doing is switching those same NASA officials around to different jobs. If this is true, then the government may be shooting down its own space program. If there is no insurance that the same or similar disasters are not going to happen, no one will be willing to fly in future shuttles, and no government or private industry is going to trust their scientific hardware to such a program.

On comics: David Heath's and Sharon Hunter's comments in TNFF on comics and comics fans will probably get a lot of feedback. Here's my two cents worth: Besides being a science fiction/fantasy fan, I am also a comics fan. I am not illiterate. And, if I was, I wouldn't get anything from being in this club. I have been a member since 1980.

On books: One advantage of being unemployed is that a person can at least catch up on their reading. Am currently rereading a book on cooperative mythology called "The Masks of God: Primitive Mythology" by Joseph Campbell.

You might remember Sally Syrjala mentioned the book back in TB 143 when she was comparing mythical notes on the Star Wars saga. Campbell's effort here is very good because he not only sets out to compare one set of religious myths with another, he gives the physical and psychological reasons for why we behave and believe things.

For example, the physical reactions to a frightening experience -- caught breath, circulatory congestion, dizziness, and black out -- are reflections of the trauma of being born -- a person's childbirth. And apparently myths and religious rites are mental gymnastics, a person's capacity for childlike make-believe play, that help us transcend the mundane existence. In all, very basic thought ideas that show that we

so-called civilized humans may not have left the steaming jungles as long ago as we thought. As you might guess, I highly recommend this book.

Other books: "Swords and Deviltry", the first book of the Fafhrd and Gray Mouser series by Fritz Leiber — not only does Leiber give you an excellent story, but you — the reader — can always get the feeling he's having fun writing you the story.

"Lord Kalvan of Otherwhen" and "Space Viking" by H. Beam Piper. Yup, space opera. But good space opera. Piper mixes history with his science ideas and adds a "family" feel to its list of heroes and characters.

"The Sign of the Four" by A. Conan Doyle. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson live again. Odd, though Holmes is the source of much melodramatic action and suspense, it is good Dr. Watson who represents average-day humanity and has the emotions of the two.

"The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" by Nicholas Myer. One of the modern day Holmes and Watson adventures. It shoots down some of the fun and mystery of the old stories to present a modern view of the human mind. There's no shortage of adventure towards the end though.

July 27, 1986

Laura Todd
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I recently gave birth to my third baby, and since then I've discovered that babies and writing don't mix (or sex or anything else for that matter.) The only thing you can do while trying to get Junior to calm down is watch TV.

Anyway this was my excuse for watching Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome about five times on cable!

I guess most people consider it garbage, but after watching something five times, you pick up all sorts of subtleties that even the author was probably never aware of, and I ended up thinking it was a great movie!!



I especially enjoyed the part about the tribe of children. But a few questions bothered me, and maybe you Mad Max fans can comment. How come there were no adults in the tribe?

How soon after the Holocaust does this movie take place? I get the impression it happened during Max's lifetime, yet I wouldn't think society would degenerate that far for maybe fifty years.

This as showed in how they regard the artifacts of technology as ritualistic fetishes.

Also how come all these post-nuclear films have people wearing the same absurd armor and racing around in dune buggies?

Can they really get that much gasoline from their methane farms that they can waste it in macho displays?

Last, but not least: If the Mad Max movies are just a few years after the bombs, how come everyone is so healthy? I guess it's because the series is about as realistic as the sword and sorcery genre — escapism that avoids the unpleasant realities.

Changing the subject, do any of you read the prozines? I get Asimov's and I've picked up a few Amazing's, too. I've noticed that lately some of the stories are long on style and short on content.

There's a lot of flashy tech-jargon, gadgets, kinky characters and exotic locales, but no characters that I care about or meaning that makes it worthwhile.

Count Zero in Asimov's was an example of this style, which I believe is labeled "cyberpunk."

Another class of stories is the thinly distinguished historical. I've seen an awful lot of material about ancient Greece and Byzantium lately. I wonder why.

Have all the history and classic majors broken into print at once? Not that I object to ancient Greece, but how come so many? It's getting sort of boring.

Maybe it's "monkey see, monkey do." Writers and editors get stuck in a rut and go with what sells, just like the guys who sell beer and toothpaste.

Okay, you can all write in and tell me how much you loved Count Zero and the cyberpunk style. Personally I have no use for it. I find it boring and shallow and the literary equivalent of an evening at a flashy singles disco.

But maybe someone else would enjoy that. So don't mind me. Sorry I'm always such a complaining old bitch. I'm always bitching about something!

Really, I'm just trying to stir up some lively discussion and controversy. That's what makes fanzines so entertaining, right?

July 28, 19986

Tarus Wolansky
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I managed to read nearly all the fiction Hugo nominees this year, and I thought I'd put down a few words about them.

Novels: Ender's Game (Orson Scott Card) and The Postman (David Brin) are both excellent; but post-holocaust tales are a dime a dozen so The Postman, superbly told though it is, must take second place to Ender's Game.

This novel describes the training of a little boy to become the supreme military commander in Earth's death struggle with hive-minded aliens. By contrast, The Postman takes place in the aftermath of war on Earth. A wanderer dons a post office uniform to keep warm and finds himself taken for a postman. And, as he travels among the isolated communities of what was once the northwestern United States, he gradually becomes one!

Footfall (Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle) is a big, juicy book about an alien invasion and the human response. Footfall brought home to me like few other books that we are not just moving toward a science fiction world, but living in one already: the high technology it describes could be built now. And I don't think I'll ever forget the rise of the Michael.

Cuckoo's Egg (C. J. Cherryh) is a perceptive story of a human baby raised by aliens for reasons of their own, but there is something about Cherryh's world view that puts me off.



Finally, Blood Music (Greg Bear) concerns an intelligent artificial virus that takes over the world -- at least I think so. I was only moderately engaged by the short story this is based upon, so I didn't read it.

Novellas: "Sailing to Byzantium" (Robert Silverberg) gives us a twentieth-century man in a distant future populated by an immortal leisure class that amuses itself with replicas of famous historical cities. The drama grows from the hero's gradual discovery of the truth about himself and about the woman of that time that he loves.

"The Only Neat Thing to Do" (James Tiptree, Jr.) is a close second, a bit over-sentimental, but affecting in its depiction of a brave young girl who gets involved with an alien symbiote.

"The Scapegoat" (C. J. Cherryh) is a pretty good tale about a sacrifice needed to end a futile war, though I didn't believe the soldier-protagonist's reaction when asked to lay down his life for what seemed to me, and would have seemed to him, an absurd reason.

What I couldn't understand about "Scapegoat" was why it was nominated instead of the brilliant story that followed it in the collection, Alien Stars: Joe Haldeman's "Seasons".

Finally, "24 Views of Mt. Fuji, by Wokusai" (Roger Zelazny) is a beautifully written, but somewhat boring Japanese travelogue.

After about thirty pages of "Green Mars" (Kim Stanley Robinson) I looked ahead to see how much more labor was before me -- forty pages more! On the terraformed Mars of centuries in the future a group of climbers scale Olympus Mons, a very long climb. By a strange co-incidence, they use 20th century mountaineering equipment.

Novelettes: "The Fringe" (Orson Scott Card) is probably the best of the fifteen nominated stories. In post-holocaust Utah, a crippled scientist acts as school teacher and spy in a frontier settlement applying his system of land reclamation. Three other nominees in this category are good, but not really special, so I will only list them: "Dogfight" (Michael Swanwick and William Gibson); "Portraits of His Children" (George R. R. Martin — special but for a foolish ending); "Paladin of the Lost Hour" (Harlan Ellison).

Bringing up the rear, "A Gift from the Graylanders" (Michael Bishop) has a very black jest about nuclear war the end, but it has nothing to do with the child abuse story that precedes it.



Short stories: In "Dinner in Audoghast" (Bruce Sterling) a prophet in that ancient Saharan city tells some notables of a time when all that remains of it is a few lines in a chronicle.

"Fermi and Frost" (Frederick Pohl) is an effective tale of nuclear winter and its survivors — maybe.

By the way, the nuclear winter hypothesis reminds me of that old "Outer Limits" episode in which a scientist (Robert Culp?) pretends to be an alien invader in order to scare the world into unity.

The bottom three short story nominees are not worth your time and, to be honest, I don't remember them well: "Hong's Bluff" (William F. Wu); "Flying Saucer Rock and Roll" (Howard Waldrop); "Snow" (John

Crowley).

As of this writing, the award ceremony is one month in the future. I just hope that the worst story in each category doesn't win!

July 28, 1986

Scott Anderson
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I've been a member for nearly a year and this is my first loc. Actually I had written a couple, but for some reason or another I never sent 'em out. Well, this time, I'm going to make sure I finish this and send it out.

Those of you who know me, know I'm presently stuck in a Vermont jail. Now I got here is a long and depressing story. But everyone I've met in the NSF has been very understanding and supportive. When I first joined the group, I was a bit nervous about my "situation."

I mean, I was nervous about whether or not people would feel uncomfortable having a "criminal" in the group. But when I wrote to Lola and explained the situation, she made me feel welcome and told me not to worry. From that first letter on, I've met a lot of people in the group and they've all been great.

I guess the whole point of this letter is to thank everybody for not pre-judging me and just assuming that anyone in jail is no good. To be honest, I used to prejudge people. I just assumed that if they were there they had to be bad. (A lot of 'em are). But there's still a lot of people I've met during this nightmare who aren't your average "criminal-type."

Lloyd: I heard you moved. I hope it was for the better. Drop me a line and let me know what's new "on the coast."

Colleen: Long time no hear from you. Have you forgotten how to write? Ha-ha.

Margo: Are you going to bring me a bottle of salt water from the lake when you move back East? I sure hope so. It's been a long time since I've smelled the salt in the air.

That's about all for now. From now on, I won't be a stranger when it comes to locs so y'all will be hearing from me. That's not a threat. It's a promise.

July 29, 1986

Bernie Barr-Wilken
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No, despite all the rumblings and grunblings, Star Wars fandom has not died! I am pleased to report that the demise of the LucasFilm imitation of an SW club has barely made a ripple in serious SW fandom at all.

In fact, those of us who hung on to the bitter end waiting to find out what would happen, are glad it's over with.

A true fan club, responsive to its members, would have hung on. Lucas wasn't responsive and therefore lost it.

According to an article in the August "Starlog", #109, Howard Roffman, a spokesman for LucasFilm, indicated the main reason for closing the club was membership decline and lack of money.

Roffman blames it on low visibility, but as any serious SW fan knows, the LucasFilm decline can be blamed on lack of understanding about the fans.

LucasFilm is into making money, not running fan clubs. Which turned out to be a bigger problem than they could handle. It really ticked me off to read Roffman's statement that they never shut down any SW fan club.

Then why did they issue a cease and desist order against the International Brotherhood of Jedi Knights? If there was a misunderstanding between LucasFilm and

IBOJK, then why couldn't it have been worked out, instead of LucasFilm being so heavy handed?

Maureen Garrett, former director of the LucasFilm club, tells me in a personal phone call that all SW fan clubs had to follow guidelines made by LucasFilm or those clubs would not be allowed to exist. I requested those guidelines from her last October and never received them. Why did Garrett tell me in the same phone conversation that LucasFilm would go after the SW zines because of copywrite laws.

Freedom of expression would be hard to defeat in court. If you've guessed I'm still angry with LucasFilm, then you're right. I am.

LucasFilm could have been a fantastic club! But the organization did not realize that Star Wars had out-grown them. That the phenomenon was bigger than its creator.

Star Wars had taken on a life of its own through its fans and will live on through its fans, no matter if LucasFilm makes any more movies or not.

I mean, if a "Mr. Ed" fandom can survive, you know SW will!!!

So, let's cut the rumors about the death of SW fandom. As Mark Twain said, "The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated." 'Nuff said.

There are plenty of other places SW fans can get involved. One I think is really great is a letterzine named "Southern Ronlave." Not only does the editor, Cheree Cargill, print lots and lots of letters on a diverse number of SW topics, but the issue



I have, March, 1986, #11, also has news stories reprinted from "The Dallas Times Herald" and "The Wall Street Journal."

It also has an interview with Tom Voegeli, the VP of Minnesota Public Radio Productions which did the SW and TESS radio productions.

"Southern Enclave" has reviews, cartoons, and several interesting articles. One I certainly enjoyed was, "The Private Life of the Jedi," by Jeanine Henning.

There is an intriguing section in the back called "Mos Eisley Marketplace." In my opinion, this is THE place to check out what is currently being written in SW fanfic.

If you want it, I'm sure you will find it there. Write to Cheree Cargill, 475 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043. Send \$4.00 for a sample copy. "Southern Enclave" is published quarterly. You won't regret it! If you decide to sign up for a whole year, the cost is \$14.00.

Another club run by fans for fans is "Sons and Daughters of the FORCE." It calls itself a newsletter and has a little bit of everything. For \$6.00 a year you get a membership card, four newsletters, and can request a pen pal. I don't have a copy of this to review, only the informational flyer. If you're curious, write to Carolyn Frodsham, 913 Grand Avenue, #44, San Jancinto, CA 92383. Chances are I will try this one out because it's cheap. Maybe someone needs to start a "generic" SW club?

One last club I want to plug is brand new. It is an offshoot of the disbanded International Brotherhood of Jedi Knights. It is a generalSF/F club called Star Knights of the Sword. These people were burned once by LucasFilm so they aren't taking any chances this time and are copywriting their own material.

For \$5.00, you get to be a general member and receive the newsletter (bi-monthly right now) "Infinite Connection," and can submit articles to "I.C."

For an added \$1.00, you get a whole lot more. A membership card, Star Knight Certificate, the right to participate in the Orders/Knighthood Program -- which, if it is anything like IBOJK, will be outstanding. The club sets up a permanent file for you to keep track of all your newsletter submissions and certificates/awards. Interested? Write: Star Knights of the Sword, P. O. Box 232, Englewood, CO 80151 and send a check or money order.

Then there are always the fan clubs for the stars of SW, but you can find those on your own. Most of them are listed in places

like "Starlog" or sometimes our own "Trader" section. Look in the back of other fanzines, too. You might find a few there.

Star Wars fandom has a lot to offer. You can get involved to any degree you wish. Just because a big club like LucasFilm's closes doesn't mean SW fandom is dead. In fact, it may be a blessing. I would hope that LucasFilm would make the rest of the SW saga. But, if they deem it too expensive, I would hope they would at least hire a good writer to turn Lucas' ideas into novels. I'd love to find out what happened to the characters before and after the middle trilogy. I have a hundred questions I'd like to have answered. If LucasFilm doesn't come through, we'll keep on doing what we've always done, make up our own!

I, myself, haven't been doing as much fanatic as I would like to be. Money is one reason. I was unexpectedly in the hospital this April. Though we have good health insurance, we still had to pay some of the doctor bills. Also the salary package at our present job was misunderstood by us and by our district superintendent who sent us here.

My spouse is a clergy person.

So, we are still at the rock bottom minimum salary despite a larger church and more work. I always feel awful bargaining for zines because I know how much it costs to put one out. I used to get paid to do a newsletter for an organization and it is WORK and MONEY!!!

Isn't there a better way to do things? Who out there has some good ideas? I haven't been to a con since '83, when we could last afford it. That was B.C., of course (before child.)

Still, I love fandom and writing and do as much of both as I can. When the kid grows up and leaves home, I'll be back on the con circuit!

Hey!!! Are there any figure skating fans out there? We talked about classical music last time, also pizza and cats. How 'bout it? Any Scott Hamilton fans? Peggy Fleming fans? Debi Thomas or Brian Boitano fans? Torville and Dean? Everybody around here thinks I'm crazy because I tape all the competitions on my VCR and save them to watch several times.

They are neat to watch in slow motion and I wish our machine had that setting. Did anybody besides me watch the exhibition skating for Sport Aid ABC Sports showed in July?

Well, Sally, that's about all I have to say for right now. I have to go. My

three-year-old son is out there pounding on the metal drum my mother-in-law gave him last Christmas. He's driving me nuts with all that noise. Bless that woman's heart, I wonder what it will be this year? Nothing that makes such an awful racket, I hope!

July 30, 1986

Kyla Huitt
2716 W. 24th Terrace
Lawrence, KS 66046

Hi Folks!

Well, after belonging to the N3E for over a year and a half, I'm taking pen in hand to write a loc. Actually Sally made me do it.

Did anyone else out there get into sf/f fandom through media fandom? I did starting with Star Trek. I have never met a more friendly, helpful group of people to a complete stranger.

As for the shuttle disaster, it was a terrible thing and we need to know the causes of the accident, but it shouldn't stop us from continuing the space program.

Great good has come from the space program. A small example would be all the spin-offs provided to the medical and commercial world, image enhancers, portable kidney machines, computerized axial tomography or CAT scan and Doppler ultrasound stethoscopes to name a few.

Weather satellites are not a spin-off, they are the space program. Something to be highly appreciated this summer of thunderstorms and tornadoes. Let's stop trying to lay the blame on people and get on with the program.

I still can't get over the return of creationism. The belief that God created the universe as stated in Genesis is fine. I won't argue. But I don't have to respect the belief and I do not think legislation requiring the Biblical version to be included in public schools textbooks is either constitutional or fair. How about Islam, Hindu, Odin?

There are unnumbered religions each with its own creation myth -- all different.

Shall one be taught because the members of the religion got enough votes to put it through? One of our rights is freedom of religion! Revelation has no place in science textbooks. It belongs under religious studies.

But if God's creation is there, so should be Brahma, etc. and how about the unsavory Eskimo Creator?

IT DICES!
IT SLICES!!



WITH MORE
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DARTH-VEGGERMATIC

Here in Kansas a new seat belt law just went into effect. I know it is for people's own good, but I'm beginning to feel if we don't watch it, in the future a great many things will be enacted for "our own good."

I haven't gotten too far on thinking this through so I'm very interested to hear what anyone else has to say.

July 30, 1986

Allyson M. W. Dyar
40 Cecil Lane -- #A
Montgomery, Alabama 36109-2872

Moving from place to place does have its disadvantages. One of the biggest is that I am forever trying to catch up with lost copies of TNFF and TB. I am very fortunate this time in that Lola Andrew sent me her copies so I could comment on TB #142 and #143 and the April TNFF. Thank, Lola!

Transferring residence because of the military has made my life miserable currently in a different way. When Dafydd and I got married, we knew that we might eventually encounter problems because we are a racially mixed couple. In the 4.5 years that we have been married, we had never encountered any problem. Living in Montgomery has proved to be different.

If it was our choice, moving to Alabama would not have been on our list, but we go where the military sends him. What we didn't expect is to have folks so vocal about their opposition.

Racism is scary, very scary. I'm sure I am not the only Neffer who has encountered this. By our very nature, we tend to have been the subject of racism because we were "different" in school.

I had learned to accept the social "racism" because I was a fan as I had other fans to turn to, but when an overt act of racism occurs because you are a racially mixed couple, that's something very different.

I am writing this because as enlightened as we Neffers are -- I've never met a Neffer I didn't like -- there are still many mundanes -- and hopefully very few fen -- who still hold this narrow view.

I hope I've given you something different to think about over your morning stimulant.

Comments on TightBeam #142

Owen: For goodness sakes, I would think that our booklet Neffers A Bad Batch would be a great present for any fan, not just the average femnefan. I certainly know lots of mannefan that cook -- cooking is no longer the domain of the women-folk (thank ghod!)

Rose Secrest: I promise to call you Rose Secrest and not Mrs. Peralta. I feel the same way although I did change my name to Dafydd's. It just happens to be a lot easier within the military lifestyle to do so. Besides, I went from a last name beginning with a "W" to one that began with a "D" and was shorter to boot.

Was the age difference between you and Michael caused you guys any concern? Dafydd is 3.3 years older than I am and sometimes he'll talk about something that I wasn't around to enjoy. Just curious.

Michael Peralta: Your recipe for yeast special omelet sounds wonderful, if on the high side calorically. Sigh... I've already lost 80 pounds (gained about 10 back) two years ago, and I don't really want to gain it all back. I'd have to toss my whole damned wardrobe -- that's enough to keep the pounds off! Howse about a few lower calorie dishes?

cf Gina, your comments about marriage are really right-on. I don't think Dafydd would have married me -- and vice-versa -- if we hadn't have been two independent individuals. I think that it is good to know if something should happen where one spouse couldn't work, the other spouse wouldn't fall apart (not for too long at least) and could carry the ball.

cf Beth, 'za, eh? I think my favorite pizza is a thick crust (yeah, I know) but with veggies and a single cheese layer. Dafydd is rather fond of the Pizza Hut's bar-b-que pizza.

cf Philip, I really can't imagine any couple being interested in **everything** that the other spouse is into. Wouldn't that be dull?

Augustin' Gnabe: Oh, please don't tell me that it is possible that the first person I meet on my next move will have come from Montgomery! Right now, I haven't found any fen (though the local MENSA group is the fannish meeting place and I haven't looked them up yet) but it would really piss me off if the first person I meet in the new residence is from Montgomery!

Lynne Holdom: cf Roger, I've just recently started reading the Brother Cadfael mysteries and have enjoyed them.

William Wilson Goodson, Jr.: cf Michael, orgies sound like they might actually be interesting, but then I can understand the logistical problems. After all, haven't we all encountered problems one-on-one?

David Heath: As you can see, I have left Sunny California with its earthquakes for Alabama with its current oppressive heat. What a swap!

cf Michael (what is this? I seem to be commenting on comments to Michael Peralta!), I like your description of the biological clocks running out on women who entered fandom between 2001 and Star Wars! While I would agree with you about the fear of AIDS and herpes being upper most in why there isn't as much bed-hopping, perhaps women don't feel that they have to go to bed on the first date -- that they can say "no".

I agree with your comments about FIAWOL or FIJACH in marriage, perhaps one can also say that fandom is a viable extra-marital lifestyle (just as being involved in the Church or Temple) and one's involvement in any activity outside of marriage would have to be discussed.

"Writing the relatives" and keeping the family bonds does seem to be the domain of the women-folk. Are there any men out there who do this?

Tim Kroecker: I don't necessarily feel that we must appear more normal, but bathing regularly would be appreciated by one and all. I can recall going to many a Lunacon in New York and not having to know where the convention was being held. I could **smell** it!

David Speakman: A WH on NeoPaganism and alternative religions would be a really interesting topic. Count me in!

Sally A. Syrjala: Didn't you feel kinda funny loving your own zine? I know that as a letterzine editor, I would. ((Well, you see that loc was typed and mailed before I even knew I would be editing that issue. When it was forwarded back to me, it seemed a waste to toss all the time I had put into it by not using it! sas))

Your issue looks fantastic. While Owen's interruptions sometimes annoy me (but then my cat and husband piss me off occasionally too), I think they are important and perhaps you'd consider doing that next time. ((Well, some locs have them. Some don't. I am going to ask for a vote to see which is most liked! sas))

cf Eric, well, gee-whiz, couldn't you have mentioned **COMLINK** as a media letterzine? Sniff...! ((Sorry 'bout that! I mentioned "Southern Enclave" as it is about the only surviving letterzine devoted solely to SW! Folks, if you want a letterzine that contains SW, plus....look to COMLINK!! sas))

I think that any topic can be the subject of a letterzine. It only takes a few folks with lots to say and I don't think that is unique within media fandom. APA zines flourish within SF fandom. Perhaps letterzines are media fandom's main medium of expression, but letterzines shouldn't be exclusively limited to media fandom. I'm currently trying to put together a computer disk-based fanzine (PC/MS-DOS only) and I see it as a combination letterzine/APA. It'll be interesting to see just how it finally works itself out.

Mikel Norwitz: Not only do I hate The Three Stooges, but I also don't like Abbott and Costello either. P'tui.

Laurence Gray: While Vangelis hasn't written an impression of a Shuttle ride, Jean-Michel Jarre did write a special piece for Ron McNair of the ill-fated Challenger crew. Ron was to play this piece during the flight. Check out Jarre's Ronde-Vous album's liner notes for details.

Lisa Jenkins: I so muchly agree with your comments about fandom as an alternative social life. I'm currently in group therapy (partially because of the racial problem and partially because I needed to calm my life down a bit) and I really don't feel comfortable relating my fanish social life.

The group helps in other aspects, but what would really be helpful is a group comprised of fan who understand.

I really think that without fandom and its support group, I feel that many of us wouldn't be here. We just need this so much in our lives. And it is wonderful that it is here.

On that note, ciao!

August 4, 1986

Mike Kerigan
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Milwaukee, OR 97267

Being a somewhat new member, and also this being my first loc (other than my infamous "Let's nuke Owen" short short, for those of you with long memories), I have decided to forego the usual diatribes on politics and religion which seem to be the main staple these days.

I am instead going to defend certain authors whom I highly regard, who for unknown reasons seemed to be the target of unwarranted and vicious attacks. (To those fortunate few who know me, here's a hint -- I'm grinning from ear-to-ear right now).

Rose Secrest: Now what in the world do you have against Piers (Yuck!? - what is that supposed to mean) Anthony? I first discovered Mr. Anthony through his Xanth series, which I will freely admit is not Pulitzer Prize-winning material. But then what science fiction writer has ever won a Pulitzer? Anthony's Immortals series, on the other hand, is truly excellent writing on some very deep themes. If you want somebody to pick on, try someone with a lot less style (pun intended) and wit.

Owen: Would you mind explaining to me what your reasons are for continually insulting a man who is in my top five in number of books, i. e., Alan Dean Foster? He has created one of the greatest images of human and alien interaction on a galactic-wide scale, i.e., the Humanx Commonwealth. How many other authors are willing to put an alien race and/or races on an equal footing with man? Not many, and few have created as plausible and as interesting a galaxy.

Mikel Norwitz: I have to agree with you about The Cat Who Walks Through Walls. It wasn't one of his best. I really HATED him for that cliffhanger ending. If he doesn't live to complete the sequel, here's one fan who's going to haunt him wherever he winds up in the mythiverse. (Yes, that's

mythiverse, not multiverse. Read Cat, and you'll understand it.) Friday and JGR were OK, but Heinlein's been having trouble matching his past output in quality lately.

Also, could anyone answer a simple question for me -- is 42 6 x 9 or is it 7 x 8? It's been a while since I read Adams, but I would swear it should be 7 x 8, but a friend told me that it was 6 x 9. Which one is it?

O.K., I've said my piece for a while. Let's hope that the rest of you out there who support authors will also stand up for them (without giving them blind allegiance. I like Heinlein, but there are limits). Long live Kozz!

August 6, 1986

Katharine Duncan
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Wayne, NJ 07470

Most of you have probably read my letter about comics in the April TNFF. First I would like to say that I do not want to stop anyone from reading and enjoying comics. I certainly do not want to ban them.

That letter was written to David Heath and I was trying to explain to him why comics fans might not be considered "real" SF fans.

(Media fans come in for a lot of the same criticism, by the way.)

I had no idea it was going to be published. So I would like to apologize to any comics fans I've offended. There is entirely too much of this sort of blanket condemnation of entire groups within fandom without my adding to it.

A case in point: I innocently picked up and read the Darkover Newsletter. Now I enjoy the Darkover novels -- most of them -- but do not consider myself a hardcore Darkover fan.

I did know enough about the novels to follow the discussion. Suddenly out of the blue, Marion Zimmer Bradley launched into a diatribe against role-playing games. I do not know what MZB has against role-playing games. I don't particularly want to know. But she lit into them and those who enjoy them as zealously as any right-wing evangelist who thinks D&D is a tool of demon worship and/or programming.

All I can say is that this put me off subscribing to the Newsletter. I should pay to read this? While MZB as a person slipped several notches in my estimation. I do

confess to wondering if Rose Secrest had some such run-in with her since Rose does not have a high opinion of MZB either.

Having got that out of the way, I would like to make a few points about comics vs written SF. I am in the Tanith Lee Robin. Someone in it mentioned that there was a comic book version of THE SILVER METAL LOVER which caused the rest of us to groan. No way could you do a comic book version of the novel without distorting it, without destroying its subtleties.

This isn't a question of liking or not liking comics. It's a question of how well one medium translates into another. The print media is capable of the highest form of subtly.

I love watching Dr. Who. I have a lot of episodes on tape. But I do not think you can portray the nuances of the show in print. So much is based on the interplay of the characters, etc. No doubt a great novelist could do a better job than Terence Dicks and company.

I have yet to read a Dr. Who novel that does not sound like it was written for 12-year-olds.

Without the visual interplays, the story line is flat and wooden.

Star Trek novelizations strike me the same way as do novelizations of films. The parts of the film/TV episode you can put into print is quite thin.

On the other hand, in a novel, often a lot of things are left to the imagination. I like it that way. Comics (or TV or film) must give us the detail. They take wonders and reduce them to special effects. A film can at least keep the beauty of the prose -- assuming there is any to keep -- comics must simplify.

Beauty of language is very important to me. I can't read E.E. "Doc" Smith because his prose style is so ghastly. So is John Norman's. Mack Reynolds often offends as well.

A lot of new people on the fantasy bandwagon cannot write at all. Their word style grates fully as much as someone scraping his fingernails down a blackboard.

Obviously, a lot of people are oblivious to this.

On the other hand, my vision is quite bad and I am not at all visually oriented. This probably accounts for the fact that I am not a comics fan or even primarily a fan of the visual media.

I don't watch much TV and most of what I do watch is mysteries -- "Mystery" on PBS and "Murder She Wrote" on CBS, plus Dr. Who

When it's one I don't have on tape.

But we are all in SF/Fantasy. So please understand that if I do not read comics, I am not trying to stop you from reading them.

Let me enjoy my own style of SF/Fantasy.

August 7, 1986

Sharon Hunter
29775 TR338 -- Route 3
Warsaw, OH 43844

First off, I'd like to say how much I enjoyed the May TB -- #143. It was great! From the front cover right on through. Keep up the good work!

I'm enclosing two letters which I think may fit into TB better than my Comics Bureau Report. They're concerning my April TNFF Comic Bureau Report. I have a few remarks to add.

Katharine and Karen: Thank you both for writing in answer to my report. I'm always glad to get input on my reports.

Katharine: I'm sorry if I took anything you said out of context. I think teenagers have been having a rough time since the Dawn of Man. Unfortunately, other areas of fandom do tend to be looked down on by those not interested in it, which isn't right.

All areas should be considered equally. Everybody's entitled to their own interests and the enjoyment of them.

People should have more areas of interest than one subject.

I like different types of music (60 to MTV as well), plus reading, ancient Egypt, American history, SF, the Old West, etc.

A person should branch out their interests or in some way they truly will be illiterate of what's going on around them.

Karen: Yes, everyone is different. And I'm glad. I'm not prejudiced against other areas of fandom. I read SF and have since the seventh grade.

I'm an avid Andre Norton and Anne McCaffrey fan.

You make a very good point in your last two sentences which may be applied to any single form of fandom. They're all respectable each in their own way. If more people considered them that way, there wouldn't be any more squabbling about which is or isn't the best. And wouldn't that be nice!

As I said before, I'm not trying to force comics on anyone; but, if a report catches someone's eye like this did **Karen's and Katharine's**, and gets you involved in the N3F more through writing, I think it's great.

I try to make my reports informative as well as entertaining. And, when I get feedback on them, I feel I must be doing something right. Then I try to work even harder to make them better.

May 5, 1986

Katharine Duncan
51 Leonard Place
Wayne, NJ 07470

I was quite surprised to see my remarks from a letter to **David Heath** in the latest TNFF. I think they are slightly out of context as well. If I'd known they were going to be published, I'd have clarified a few points.

First, **David** was curious to know why a lot of SF fans looked down on comics fans. That's what I was trying to explain. I'll start with an analogous situation.

I happen to belong to another group that is often maligned -- teenagers. In fact, when I joined a round robin discussing Taoth Lee, most of the other robin members were getting nostalgic about the '60's and panning today's youth who, in their opinion, did nothing but screw around, take drugs indiscriminately and get brainwashed by MTV.

After the third person went on about this, I got mad and let them have it. Obviously, I had interests beyond sex, drugs, and MTV or I would not have been in the robin.

Most of my friends do as well. However, and this is the point, a lot of teenagers do fit this mold and these are the ones adults seem to see and think are typical of all of us. I suspect that there is a similar process going on regarding comics fans.

One fanzine I read on occasion is **HOLIER THAN THOU**. It's interesting, but definitely not for comics fans. In it, loc'er after loc'er will state, often at great length, why media fans aren't really SF fans and they are ruining "our" cons," etc.

I don't classify myself as a media fan,

but I do watch Dr. Who. These guys think media fans are illiterate boors.

D & D ers are an even lower form of life. Comics fans are in the cellar when they notice them at all. A lot of times I see have this attitude (to be honest, I don't get them, my mother does.)

Now all comics fans aren't illiterate even by fannish standards. (Mundane standards only have you illiterate if you can't fill out a job application form or read subway signs.)

I know people in Dr. Who fandom who are also comics fans. But that's also. People who only like comics, I don't have anything in common with unless they like the same music or share some non-comics interest.

And the typical picture of a comics fan is some pimply teenager who has no social graces (That's also the SF image and the computer hacker image. Hmm...)

My brother, he'll be 13 on May 11, could end up as a comic reading computer hacker.

However, I would say that anyone in the



N3F probably has wider interests than just comics, or just anything. Most of the people I've come into contact with are of varied interests.

My major non-SF interests are music (classical, not the MTV stuff) and Chinese history and culture.

My brother is considered an illiterate by a number of people, most of whom give him school grades, so I did not make that up. He is usually said not "to be living up to his potential". Personally, I think Eric doesn't read because the rest of us do and this is his way of being different.

My problem is that I don't have time now for all the things I want to do. So I'll pass on comics. (I never got into D&D for the same reason.) The high school marching band and orchestra take up what little time I have when I'm finished with homework. I am a slow reader which doesn't help.

My mother said she used to read Superman and related comics when she was in college, back in 1961, but she got rid of all of them (about three boxes full) when she went to New Zealand. On the other hand, we always had SF books in the house, so I just naturally read them.

May 6, 1986

Karen McClymonds
978 Venus Way
Livermore, CA 94550

My name is Karen McClymonds and I am a very new member of N3F. I am not really sure if you are the one ((Sharon Hunter)) this letter should go to or not, and feel free to pass it on if there is someone else whom it is more appropriate for.

Though I am very new to the N3F, I have been to many cons (I lost count when I hit twenty a few years ago) and five worldcons.

The April issue of TNFF was the first zine I have received from the N3F and the letter **Katharine** wrote and your response caught my attention.

What follows is my opinion about the whole comics fan versus media fan versus general SF/F fan syndrome.

I found the exchange between Sharon Hunter of the Comics Bureau and Katharine Duncan in the April '86 issue of TNFF very interesting.

I have heard both arguments many times before, but I think both overlooked another, more middle of the road reason that comics (or media) fans do not always mix well with



general SF/F fan and that is that they simply may not have enough in common with each other to hold a long conversation.

I am most definitely a general SF/F fan and a regular reader of novels and a few short stories. However, I do my best not to be prejudiced against anything. (I don't succeed with the Moral Majority or Rednecks, but that is another story...) I have read and enjoyed the graphic novel, Elquest, and the same friends that got me started with EQ then tried to get me to get hooked on other comics.

I tried about ten different series, but nothing caught my fancy and I have since gone back to regular novels.

I usually watch (and often enjoy) most SF/F television or movies, but I rarely get interested enough in them to read zines, join fan clubs, etc.

Since I have tried all three, I can safely say that I do not believe that there is anything wrong with any of them. I just happen to like written science fiction the best.

Other people like comics the most, and still others prefer TV or movies. None of us are wrong, just different. (Wouldn't it be boring if we did all like the same thing?)

I have been to one media con and one comic con, and I didn't have too good a time simply because I didn't care about what was going on. No one at those cons objected to my being there, or told me I didn't belong. The problem was that I just didn't have enough knowledge about the subjects that interested most of the people there.

I am not at all against the cons such as worldcons that have a large mix of everybody. What some people misconstrue as prejudice may more often be ignorance. When I find myself in line or at a party I usually try to strike up a conversation. However, if the person is a media or comics fan, it may be short lived only because neither of us knows enough about the other's interests to keep talking.

David Heath made the comment that many fans are interested in more than one thing and that is great. If a strong comics or media fan's other interest is, say, one of my favorite authors, then our conversation may be longer. But I don't expect someone to know about general SF/F just because there is a group of people out there who seem to think it is the only respectable form of fandom. It is not.

Lloyd McNeill

Adams 2B12

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This is horrible. (What a great way to start out a loc, eh?) I have three TEs here I haven't commented on -- Nos. 141 - 143. And I just go wild that my dreams of GETTING CURRENT are merely dreams: The new TE won't be out in time to loc it this. *Sigh*

Now I'm coming to hate the conjugations of the verb "to gaffiate." It seems that, in giving it a fancy name, we are all embracing the concept of Cutting Away From It All.

Nothing wrong with CAFIA, per se, but what it seems to mean in actual practice is I'll Put This Off For Awhile After All It's Only Fandom Not Like I'm Getting Paid And I Will Do It Eventually.

Yet again, I call Bullshit on that philosophy.

Every Neffer (I can't quite figure out **David's** "Membership Estimate" table in the June TNEP -- But I counted 446) pays for the privilege of Neffering, and none of our officers or Bullheads are conscripted. ((Oh. Yeah??? sas))

I believe that "If you are going to do something, do it right" (more on that later) -- but if you're not going to do it, get off the pot.

((Okay, I will comment. Facetiousness may be cute, but it does not get the job done. TE 144 showed how much of a back-up system the N3P has in editing. That zine was turned out in two to three days of my finding out it would be late. I had already put together the BuBooklet so it was the loc column on which I had to concentrate. Final copy was out of my door and to **David** within two or three days of finding out about the situation. Because of this back-up system and the fact **David** was concerned enough about the zines to call for help, we got that zine out within a month of its scheduled date. I think that was doing very well. Also we are a VOLUNTEER club. None are paid for their services. Like it or not, most of us have to earn our living someplace that will give us a paycheck. I work full-time. This is what I am doing in my "free" time. It is time to stop complaining and stressing the negative and time to start getting the job done. We have been doing this. The zine in your hand shows this to be true. We may not be perfect, but no paid organization is either.

We have made great strides in becoming more responsive to the membership and to getting these zines back on schedule. As of this zine, they will be. We do our best at keeping this club running smoothly and I think we are doing a pretty good job of it. Yes, there are still areas we need to work on, but we are making progress. I would like to see more of a positive statement being made. Complaining is the easy part. Sitting down and working to remedy the situation is what takes work. And to remedy the zine situation, both David and I have put in more time than either one of us would like to admit. After all of the work I have put into this zine and all the work I have left to put into it makes me take this statement personally. People are working VERY hard to see the club functioning as it promises to do so and I think we are succeeding. What we need now is encouragement to know our efforts are appreciated. That and seeing the accomplished goal are the only "reimbursement" we receive. Hearing some positive suggestions, instead of belaboring the negative would be something those who are working to make the club better would like to hear. I know I would! sas))

Well, I said from the start this was going to be a good one, right? And now — for my loyal fan, still reading even so — on with the luc....

I am sorta glad I stayed out of the religious discussion. (Purge, as they wait for the "but"....) But — I do feel moved to make a few general comments.

Luckily, it's never too late (I still don't quite understand Owen's "Deadline Extensions" for locating material — the Deadline is in regard to when material must be received to be included in a given ish, not to the content.

No large matter. It simply struck me as a bit off to hear so many folks referring to a new wave of technology replacing theism.

Eh?? The "God is Dead" headline appeared a full generation ago. Back when it looked as though our technology could solve our problems, as Gods had not.

The pendulum certainly appears to me to have swung, once again, in direction of "religion."

Heinlein's "Future History" though based on quite a different time line, seems to be proving more true than my own predictions — that the really heavy-duty stuff, ends-justify-means moral-terrorism, etc., wouldn't truly take off 'til we were much closer to the millenium.

Sometimes being wrong hurts more -- is scarier -- than others. I wish there were room here to reprint Stan Schmidt's July ANALOG editorial "The Unholy War." I wish there was room for it on the front page of every newspaper. I wish I had a billion dollars.

Luckily (Again! This must be my day.) This is TR here, and I can say "snugglebunnies" as often as I care to.

Unluckily, my favorite post-Paulwellian slogan ("We May Be A Minority, But They Have No Authority") has modified — Before I even got a chance to put it on a bumper sticker. (I tried it on a license plate, but it looks too "busy"....)

Ah, well — to much we/they'ing going on in the first bloody place, and I'm culpable as any other.

If we can get beyond that, could we seek to solve our problems not from without, but from within?

Enough moralizing! Let's get on with the amoral, fun stuff — (Heavy sighs of relief that he wants only to make "A few general comments....")

Rose Secret: Thank you! I'm glad to know I haven't lost the ability. Sometimes I worry about that. It's scary. Also, I agree with you, and "Wish the club had no politics." Do you, also, wish you had a billion dollars? Great Gods! What a small world it is!!! I can't get into Dostoyevsky, though — nor Hesse, Kafka, etc. etc. Aren't I depressing enough as it is?

Augustin' Cuba: I think I'm a tad confused here. (Drat! Someone finally managed to force that out of me!) Please keep in mind that I'm a high school dropout.

Have never had a physics course and am rather slow, in general: When an orbital body increases the radius of its orbit, doesn't its speed decrease (also its velocity)? Also, on the dt picky side — you talk about release of energy from an engine creating said force. That would seem rather wasteful of energy (as opposed to using a release of mass).

By any way I can figure it, since $M=E/C^2$ squared; it would take a pile of energy to have a mass-equivalent momentum large enough to do much work. No? (Wow! That sounded pretty damn impressive!) (But now I need to offer a reward to anyone who can tell me what it means...)

Actually I'm disgusted with the whole idea of physics. First I begin to discover that the whole "Basic Building block" electron-proton-neutron idea is dead. It's all clouds and waves of probabilities having

something to do with a rat in a booby-trapped box (that's sick) -- and then we start hearing about (get this!) Quarks! Quarks?! Gustama! Sounds like something outta James Joyce! And -- Grrons, to (but of course) hold them together! They even come in three assorted "colours" -- how chic!

And -- Forget the particles -- They've formed a whole 'nother force! It's stronger than the weak, weaker than the strong, black and blue and read all over! Hot-Dang! It's -- Anti-Gravity!!

Now for the bad news: It's only .7% as strong as old-fashioned gravity. *Sigh* I give up. The entire Roman pantheon looks good, at this point. Maybe it's time to get another loc into FATE (And if you think fen are strange.....).

Okay, I'm back. I'm sorry about that -- forgot my last dose of lithium. I'm OK now. Really. Now where was I? Oh, Yes. Rambling incoherently....

Mikel Norwitz: We seem to agree on a lot of rather key issues. (This bodes ill for ya, cuz....)

A major exception being SF. I loved Telepath too -- but had not a thought of Heinlein in my head the whole time reading it.

I'm also apparently the only living being who both liked The Cat Who Walks (Not Walked) Through Walls (Though I can't quite believe he'd leave it hanging that way either--), and is in something akin to awe at what he's been doing the past several years, trying to tie together everything he's ever written, or anyone else has ever written, or done. Sorta the ultimate in series!

I suppose everyone suffers a bit of incredulity when our enthusiasm/love/admiration for a thing isn't shared by another.

I can sympathize and relate, where being "The Shrink" in relationships is concerned...No anorexics, but "compulsive liar" rings a hideous bell, and so on-- I've also been the dependent one, however, and so it occurs to me that someone can only depend upon you as much as you allow them to. And -- to a point -- it feels nice to be depended upon; to feel you have the power to help someone. Power being the key word, even for -- oh especially for -- Mr. Nice Guy. But we all need someone to lean on, and when we do, there's no substitute. Sometimes it's hard to avoid committing yourself emotionally until you really KNOW the person -- But that's where most of the problems have started, for me. Sorry -- I

don't have any real words of wisdom here, but -- you're not alone, in being alone.

By the way, while $6 \times 9 = 42$ in base 12, did you ever notice that $69 = 6 \times 9$ in base 13? Like, Wow Man -- Heavy Stuff There!

Grail! I shoulda known better than to try to loc six months of TB all in one; I haven't even started yet! Ah, well-- someday a loc on TBX will appear in TB X + 1, and perhaps then the instant loc reflex will return. I did want to say, since some have asked, that it is true that I am not running for the Directorate again this year.

I've been told that (and I quote:) "dumb", since I was first runner-up last year, but on second thought I really don't think my "present circumstances" would allow me to do the job right -- such simple things as postage and photostating can be not-so-simple.

Lukcily (there we go again) there are some super candidates to chose from, including Sally, the present chair, and Cat (Lola's) not running, as you all know by now, and David's running for Prez (Heh Heh -- now the truth can be told: HEY HEATH! I was the one that wrote you in for Prez last year -- NYAH, NYAH, NYAH!) I hope we have a nice election this year. Or -- is that an oxymoron?

August 7, 1986

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Why is there science fiction?

For that matter, why is there fiction at all?

Now story telling and myth making is hard-wired into the human genome, like music, art, poetry and dance. I don't know of any human group that doesn't indulge in such activities.

But fiction didn't appear in the English language until (if I have my dates right; this is at work) 1740, with Richardson's Pamela.

5,000 years of recorded human history, and the narrative form is only 246 years old? What the heck happened?

1740. The Regency period in England (again, if I have my dates right) with George Porgy regent for his poor mad dad, was a period of sexual and social freedom rarely seen in England before or since.

Literacy was wide spread among the upper

classes (a necessary condition before popular literature can arise).

The oral tradition had largely died out, the Industrial revolution was well established and the first faint glimmers of a middle class was starting to raise its ugly head.

So what did Richardson choose to write about? A pretty, but virtuous servant girl, pursued by her randy young master, who agonizes over two closely written volumes, but refuses to give in Unless They Are Married, which he, too frustrated to think straight, finally does.

Now, this may not be a totally accurate picture of life at the time. (I doubt all that many servant girls, virtuous or not, were ever given a choice), but the precept it codified -- hold on to your honor (and virginity) and high estate will be yours -- hit a chord somewhere.

The upper class women and men wanted to hear that message.

Pamela was popular enough to let Richardson go on to write seven volumes of Clarissa, 12 volumes of Sir Charles Grandison (now that was a fine figure of a man) and, incidentally, begin English literature.

Now, jump forward to the early years of the century and Hugo Gernsback, an engineer who loved the pulps and who loved gadgets. (Actually, I don't know if he did or not, but this is myth making time here, bear with me). He started a magazine to publish the kind of stories he liked to read -- stories where engineer-scientists had problems that they could solve with their brains, and life was better thereby, and the future was real and wonderful.

And that message hit a chord, too. In the twentieth century, the changed future was not something unimaginably faraway, for your grandchild if change came at all.

The future began to press so rapidly that the world you lived in as a child was not the world you lived in as an adult or the world you would grow old in. It was no longer unimaginable. It was tomorrow.

And the answers to those questions became the genre we call science fiction.

Maybe? Maybe not?

Oh, Sally also asked me what I thought was the difference between media and old-style sf fandom. The main difference I see is that sf is/was 95% male and largely if not exclusively, interested in hardware while media is 95% female and largely, if not exclusively, interested in relationships.

The early ghettoization of media fandom

has largely disappeared and the NSF and most modern sf fandoms seem now to be fairly evenly gender balanced, which is doubtless to the ultimate benefit of both groups. How many marriages are we up to now?

Sally, does the NSF have any place I can submit sf poetry? ((What about TB? sas))

August 8, 1986

Terry L. Bohman
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The June 1st of TNFF (#46.3) is typically excellent and even more interesting than usual. Good reports excellently edited. The issue actually inspired me to comment. The last time I was inspired, the blinding light knocked Rasputin off his bar stool, and look what that started.



Sally Syrjala: (Directorate Report): A word or two on what Fan Scene is might be appropriate. I've never heard of it. ((Ordering information is in the August TNFF. sas))

The Round Robin reports were well done. My experience with the Blade Runner and the Computer Robins has been interesting and enjoyable, and I'd recommend them to anyone who likes a good discussion.

Ed Chambers (FA/MS): The Neffer Zine Awards sound like an outstanding idea. It would be especially nice if we could afford a reasonably attractive plaque or trophy. It needn't be elaborate, but an obviously chintzy trophy would be worse than nothing.

A few issues should be settled at the outset: Who's eligible? Neffers only? Non-Neffers only? Making everyone eligible opens up the possibility of accusations of bias towards Neffers. On the other hand, it

doesn't seem fair to exclude outstanding faneds just because they are card-carrying members. The last I heard, for example, Joe Sokola belongs to the N3F. He does not seem to be active in this organization, but edits the best general-interest clubzine that my mailbox has ever seen. The same applies to Jon Green who writes and edits (or did) the best humor zine I've ever been delighted to read. And what do you do with someone like T. K. Atherton who writes a brilliant personalzine and is active throughout the N3F? I don't know, either, but guidelines ought to be set down early.



What to name the awards? Well, tradition dictates that awards be named after someone who's deceased. So first we drive an enormous stake into the ground and pile kindling around it. Then we conduct a poll

David Heath, Jr (Artist Workshop Bureau): The guest comments are an interesting feature and I hope they'll continue. I'm not certain I understand what **Marie Evans** means, however, when she talks about leaving her mistakes in a drawing. It'd be nice to illustrate articles like hers with representative art.

Incidentally, I'd prefer a more complete listing of artists, including page numbers at the front. I realize that's quite a bit more work, but I think the artists deserve it. One surprising aspect of the N3F zines is the exceptional quality of the artwork. (Even if I can't draw a curtain, I know what I like.)

Timothy Fay ("Future Actaeon"): I assume this strip is reprinted from somewhere, because nothing so clever and well-drawn could sit around for five years awaiting publication.

William T. Center (Convention Calendar): It looks like you've done quite a bit of homework. Where possible, it'd probably be helpful to include the theme of a con with the information. It's not always obvious from the con name.

Paul Doerr (Fiche Project): How much would it cost the N3F to put a typical issue of, say, TNFF on microfiche? What would it cost me for a copy of it?

Flint Mitchell (Video Bureau Report): You will probably never know how much you've enlightened me on a subject I never knew existed because I'll probably never tell you. Assuming you weren't pulling my leg, your reviews were more entertaining than the videos probably were.

Captain Ozone (Bureau of Poppycrack): Has anyone ever told you you're nuts? Oh, no reason, just wondering. By the way, how does one go about joining the B.O.P.? I want to be very sure I don't do it accidentally.

Is it true you're campaigning for the Owen Memorial Zine Awards?

Thanks all, for another enjoyable issue. Considerable toil and talent was apparent.

August 8, 1986

George "Lan" Laskowski
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Several people in TIGHTTEAM #142 mentioned wanting more science in their science fiction reading. I, too, like the hard science background, so I read Analog first of all the SF magazines I get.

Then I pick up IASFM, P&SF, and AMAZING in that order.

If I have enough time at the end of the year (and before the Hugo Nominations Ballots are due), I read the fiction in Omni and Twilight Zone.

As for the novels, Timothy Zahn, Michael Kube-McDowell, David Brin, Charles Sheffield, Mike Banks, Pete Fergusson, and a few other "Analog writers" are good ones to keep an eye out for.

Although Mike Resnick doesn't write hard science fiction as such, he definitely uses it as background in many of his stories. With a lot of other writers, we are stuck with jacket blurbs, a quick scan of the book, or reviews in the magazines, fanzines, and newszines.

Many times we just take our chances and buy a book by the cover jacket and hope. David Drake is one person whose covers and cover-blurbs are deceptive.

I agree with David Heath about the Hugo Award for Best Artist. It should be given to a fan who has contributed to fanzines.

Alexis Gilliland has done so. Brad Foster is seen in lots of fanzines, as well as doing some professional stuff.

Likewise for Stephen Fox. Joan Ranken-woods, however, has not done that much for fanzines in the past couple of years (though I do have a couple of pieces which I might be able to squeeze into my next issue of LAN'S LANTERN).

As for this year, I think it's going to be close between Brad and Stephen.

But what is important to remember about the fan Hugo awards is that we the fans must register for the Worldcon and NOMINATE people for those categories. We can't just wait until the nominations come out and choose among what other people have placed on the ballot.



Lauren Todd suggested that we submit articles, reviews and such to vary the contents of TIGHTBEAN, so I have enclosed two reviews which I hope are acceptable.

August, 1986

Selena Fox
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Circle's right to use Circle Sanctuary Land for Pagan networking and related purposes has been challenged by the county zoning official.

On the surface, this issue appears to be a question of whether or not we can legally continue to have our offices and living quarters in part of our barn. However, local media investigating the matter have

discovered that underlying the legal question is an organized effort on the part of some of the local people to drive us off our Land because they mistakenly think we are devil worshippers.

Last Fall, we at Circle helped spearhead a nation-wide drive to preserve religious freedom for Wiccan Churches in response to the Helms Amendment and other repressive legislation being considered by the US Senate and House of Representatives. Following the defeat of the Helms Amendment, we intensified our religious freedom work by organizing the Pagan Strength Web within Circle Network. In being so visibly active in aiding others who are being harassed and attacked because of their Paganism, we realized our own Wiccan Church might be attacked as well. This has happened.

Circle is now in the middle of a fight, not only for the right to continue to use Circle Sanctuary Land for Pagan activities, but, because of the financial pressures and other stress involved in this, a fight for Circle's future survival, including the survival of the Pagan Rights efforts we are now doing on behalf of other groups and individuals throughout the nation.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Here is what you can do:

* Send us Money: This fight has already cost us several thousand dollars. We need your financial backing in order to survive this time of crisis and win. Any amount you can send, be it \$10 or \$1000, will be greatly appreciated and is tax deductible. Make checks payable to Circle Sanctuary, and specify that your donations are for the Circle Sanctuary Defense Fund.

* Contact Christian Allies: Put us in touch with sympathetic Christian clergy and lay people (especially Lutherans) who will write letters on behalf of us and the Wiccan Religion, which we can pass on to local Christian ministers, their congregations and others concerned.



* Tell Others: Circulate this flyer to as many Pagan friends as possible. Distribute it at pagan gatherings. Publish it in Pagan periodicals. However, do not contact any media or government officials on our behalf without getting our permission first -- we need to clear all such efforts beforehand with our lawyer.

* Send Us Energy: Work magic, pray, and meditate for us. Direct strength, healing, protection, prosperity, and success our way.

Energize a rock, crystal, or other stone and send it to us for our Stone Circle. Visualize the Circle logo (see below) in Blue Light in a sphere of radiant White Light. Chant "Success to Circle Sanctuary." Chant "More Light, More Love, More Freedom, More Joy" as you focus on Circle Sanctuary. Call on Lady Liberty to help us.

Thanks for any support you can give us.

Blessed Be.

August 5, 1986

Ingrid Maack
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I'm finally getting a loc into Tightbeam! I've been in the N3F close to six years, and am running for Director this year.

The one change I'd like to see in the club, is to go back to the rotating editors of Tightbeam. I think we probably now have a lot of new members who would like to try their hand at editing. With going back to rotating editors, they would get the chance.

I am one person who didn't like the way that Owen as President of the N3F had so much control over Tightbeam.

I hope that type of situation can be prevented in the future. How do you other people running for director feel about rotating editors?



Sally: You did an excellent job on the last Tightbeam. But I did miss having the editorials' comments in. Any chance of your going back to them? ((I am polling folks in this issue. See the editorial. Also as to how I feel about rotating editors -- I am strongly against it. You have to have an editor-in-charge and you have to have continuity. The problem comes in finding a good editor and then keeping them. Editing is one of the most important jobs in the N3F. Keeping these zines coming out on time requires WORK. You have to WANT to edit. You have to WANT to see the zines take shape. More reasoning in the editorial when I get some time to gather the thought patterns together! sas))

Jean Lamb: I also love classical music. My favorites however are Mozart and Beethoven. Vivaldi is a close runner up.

Mikel Norwitz: I definitely think that the Three Stooges are unfunny. I'm sure you'll get lots of answers in your poll.

Rose Seccrest: Did you by chance catch Masterpiece Theatre's showing of Crime and Punishment some years back? John Hurt was in the title role, and as usual he was magnificent.

Lisa Jenkins: Good to see another Whovian in the N3F. There are probably more of us than you think!

All: If you want to catch a great movie this summer, go and see ALIENS! It's one of the best movies I've seen in a long time. Sigourney Weaver is superb!

((Ah, ALIENS. Now I liked the film, EXCEPT for the air lock scene. I am sorry, but that scene cast a shadow on the whole film for me. If you open an air lock in space and if you are not protected, you will DIE! How could Ripley breathe? How come the pressure inside of her body did not cause some changes in its contour when the vacuum of space was pulling on the outside? That one scene could have been done well with just a bit of changing. The suit Ripley put on could have had some type of self-contained breathing unit and she should have had to seal herself in it as a space suit. Then to have the alien exit, she would have had to open the hatch to get him in the air lock, get herself in as well and close it. Then she would have had to open the door to space. To keep herself from being pulled into space, there could have been magnetic devices on the suit. No realistic way she could have held on if the vacuum were pulling her out. Except for that scene, I loved the film. sas))

August, 1986

Rose Secrest
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I first joined the N3F in August, 1984. I had had absolutely no fandom contact previously, therefore, I was ignorant of any fan magazines. When I joined the N3F, then, I was enthralled by the prospect of finding fanzine markets and finally getting published and being subsequently read by people of similar nature. As you may have already determined by the foregoing, I am a young, aspiring, amateur writer. I hoped the N3F would provide me with an outlet. (I was not interested in payment, nor aspired towards professionalism at that age. I just wanted N3F members to sample my work.)

But, alas, the N3F did not provide that outlet. Oh, sure, practically every member had their own fanzine, and I have had articles and reviews published in Tightbeam and Hackzine, but there weren't (and still aren't) any N3F sponsored fiction zines. I probably could have gone to any member and been published in their zine, but I wanted to be in a zine that would reach all N3F members. Yes, the club zines will publish practically anything, as long as it's short.

That does not allow for much freedom for fiction or well-developed articles.

Suddenly I came to realize that this situation would not change unless I made it change. I asked whether the president would consider making Tightbeam more fictiony. Nope. So, I thought, why not make my own zine that would contain all-Neffer material and mail free copies to all members, therefore, giving an outlet for my work as well as other aspiring Neffers.

I sent out short summaries explaining the All-Neffer-Zine to every Neffer I came into contact with, mainly through the Welcomittee, Correspondence Bureau, and Round Robins. I then sat back and waited for the response. And waited. And waited. It was not teaching that many people, understand. It did not yet create enthusiasm. I sought to have the summary published in the club zines, but strangely enough, it would not appear. The hope of ever publishing the All-Neffer-Zine diminished.

Then appeared Geep! I created it. I took major steps in that I wanted to publish a book and sell it to members. An ad for this book finally appeared in TNFF. Miraculously, I started getting submissions.

The project is going smoothly, and has every hope of being successful. You, as a writer, should now pay close attention to the following.

Geep!, the harbinger of deep enthusiasm, must remain. Many are shocked by this. Perhaps they desire a dull name like TNFF. I am not sure, but Geep!, since it originated during my stay in the N3F, must stay, because of its attraction. It even might increase the saleability of the book.

All factors indicate this, anyway. Geep! has such power to revitalize the club, and this is the purpose of the book. Let us stir up the minds of Neffers. This mind-boggling project will do so. Never fear.

The following have already fulfilled the requirements of Geep!:

Andrew J. Nagle "The Nightmare Series"
Stacey Potts "Paramnesia"
Ron A. Nyren "The Tale of Sir Loin"
Ryck Frank Neube "Ts'ai Chien"
Kerry Schaefer "Bedtime Story"
Robert A. Newsom -- poetry (fantasy)
Rose Secrest and Michael Peralta "The Idiot's Visit to a Chinese Restaurant"
Jack Robins "Sex in Science Fiction"

Authors retain all rights to their manuscripts after publication. Length and format do not concern me. The story must not have appeared anywhere that a large number of Neffers have seen it. In other words, you can even be a professional.

The submission does not have to be related to science fiction or fantasy. Once your stories have been accepted, you must either correct anything I catch or argue against changing it. In the latter case, it will be left alone.

I will type a submission perfectly and return your original with corrections marked.

Sometimes I have had to send back manuscripts with a large number of errors to be corrected by the author. The author then returns a cleaner, correct copy, and I'm happy. I frown on any errors.

When I submit my stories to professional magazines, there aren't even any typos that haven't been corrected before submission. I want them to know I am careful. I want to make a good impression. I expect you to do the same.

After being accepted, also, I will need a biography (telling when you joined the N3F), and an afterword telling about the work's inspiration. The format will be similar to F&SF and Dangerous Visions. I am retyping

and putting in editorial comments now!

After December 31st, I will have a professional typist type the book in an acceptable format for the printer. I plan to have a 100-page book after typesetting.

I then will send it to the printer (Apollo) and pay them over a thousand dollars to print it.

The typist will cost close to two hundred.

I will have 1,000 paperback, typeset books delivered, with no fancy stuff to add to the cost. Then, I expect to sell one to each Naffer, a hundred to each Naffer willing to sell it at cons for a lower bulk price, and depending on whether my authors want to become professionals or not, I will take the small profit and divide it up evenly among them. If they would rather be paid in free copies, or a combination of both, this will be done, since I planned a thousand so that I might do this.

I expect no personal profit at all. I will have to charge for mailing, but this will be included in the cost of the book.

I do not foresee the chance of doing other than breaking even. The cost of the book will be around two dollars, and authors will be paid twenty-five dollars (subject to change) in cash or equivalent value of books.

I get to see Geep!, my creation, on the cover, my name as editor, and my parody play of limited market potential appear in it.

Thank you.

August 8, 1986

Robin Lancaster
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Has anyone else noticed all the SF movies coming out lately?

I was sitting in the theater waiting for the movie to start and they showed three previews of SF movies. One is from Disney and that looks good.

Things have started to change and I'm happy to see it starting. I don't know if the grade school children are able to read without hiding like you used to, but the high school kids seem to be more open in their reading.

Now, before anyone says anything, I know it's not open in all areas. I still get weird looks, but it's not bad anymore because now there are clubs and other people out there. That's the best step.

I would also like to thank all the bureau

heads for all the great reports. It really has made TBFF a great zine. I enjoy reading it and even understand some of the bureaus that I know nothing about.

Has anyone been to the WorldCon? I would love to hear about it or any other con. I haven't been able to go myself this year.

There's so much going on it's great to read about it. Please don't stop. I'm waiting patiently for Th. Want to see what everyone's been up to.

Has anyone else noticed any changes in things? I haven't been in fandom that long. Waiting patiently to hear from you in TB.

August 18, 1986

David Heath, Jr.
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Your efforts on TB #145 are to be commended. Nothing short of total dedication. You have made your case for an editorial job. Again, I will send comments so that you have a basis for #146. ((This arrived BEFORE the cut-off date for loss of 8/25 for TB 145!! see)) I love to get in first licks. But I will be short this time.

First, the record length for TB is a tie between two monster issues in recent Nefhistory. They are the December, 1984 issue of 72 pages, including a special feature by William Center on conventions (which, by the way, merited controversial comments from Holler Than Thou, and won Dave Garcia a best cover award), and the April, 1985 72-page TB with Cat Mintz' "Quests" feature which merited Brad Foster a best cover in '85.

As of this typing, the page count of #145 isn't known, but odds are you have beat them both, but with the cover by Lyne Kohlhoff, at least you are in good company.

I think the readers will grow to enjoy your editorial style (I vote for the interruptions, but a different typeface) and when you get on track, I think we will see more timely issues.

Ingrid mentions rotating editors. I think that is something you may explore if you are made permanent editor, and, if I were made president (unpaid political announcement), you can forget about the president interfering with TB. I will have other things on my mind.

T. Bohman made a nice comment about "Future Aceton" by Tim Fay. Let me correct this. No, Terry, that is not a reprint. There is too much good stuff going on for me

to reprint art and I don't do it as a rule. If it's true that the piece was old, but I think that is a tribute to the fact that there are few pieces for a fan artist to display his or her wares. Especially with "panel art". That's why I print it.

People have complained that you can't get fiction into TB/TNFF. Well, we artists cheat. We dress our stories in visually pleasing panels and try to get away with something. It usually gets printed, even if after five years.

The SF Artist RR has started, for those of you who commented on it.

August 27, 1986

Sally Smith
38725 Lexington Street -- #247
Fremont, CA 94536

The following loc is actually a cleverly disguised shameless plug for my fanzine, brought to you as a public service announcement--

WELL OF THE SOULS #5: "Tinseltown" by Roberta Rogow. Indy, Willie and Shorty return to America and fall in with evil companions -- like William Randolph Hearst, David Niven, Katherine Hepburn, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Louis B. Mayer.... not to mention the Chinese tongs who are out to get Indy and Shorty in revenge for Lao Che's son's death... and a natural disaster or two. You get the idea!

"Anything Goes" by Jeannie Webster. In 1937, Indy and Marion decide to visit a nightclub. When Indy recognizes the blonde singer, things get... interesting between Willie and Marion!

"Raiders of the Lost Bridge" by Ron Whedon. A satirical script. The Nazis have stolen Indy's refrigerator, and he's the only one who can save the world from being flooded with frozen sauerkraut -- but he should've read the script first, or at least avoided Elstree!

"As Time Goes By, The Sequel" by Jeannie Webster and Sally Smith. It's the 1980's, and Indiana Jones' memoirs have hit the best-seller list. A couple of guys named George and Steven think the book would make a great movie -- but they'll have to deal with Indy's skepticism, Marion's business acumen, and the grandkids' requests to get the rights.

"What I Did on My Summer Vacation, Part II" by Sally Smith and most of the rest of the WOTS crew. Just what WAS going on with all those weirdos at the L.A. Worldcon? AND MORE! Final price is \$7.00, first class.



Back issues are still available. #4 (May, 1984): "An Eye for An Eye", by Tammy Monfette. Both Indy and Mene Belloq are drawn to a mysterious jungle city for the legendary jewels it is said to hold. What they find there is more than they bargained for ... or could conceive of in their wildest dreams -- or worst nightmares.

"The Exhibit," by Carol-Lynn Seppe. A handsome archaeologist and his beautiful assistant try to retrieve the Ark of the Covenant from its hiding place. If you think you've heard it before, you're wrong -- because this archaeologist's name is Marcus B. Jones, and this is today!

"As Time Goes By", by Jeannie Webster and Sally Smith. A few small incidents for the life and times of Dr. and Mrs. Jones, from the 1930's to the 1980's. Sometimes funny, sometimes serious -- but always containing more in-jokes than you can imagine (and we can imagine QUITE a bit!) \$6.00 first class.

#1 (January, 1982) is \$6.00 FC; #2 (June, 1982) is \$6.00 FC, #3 (January, 1983) is \$7.00 FC. Or save and get all three for \$18.00. These are Xerox copies.

Send your checks, money orders, or spare archaeology professors to: WELL OF THE SOULS, c/o Sally Smith, 38725 Lexington Street -- #247, Fremont, CA 94536.

August 21, 1986

Allyson M. W. Dyar
40 Cecil Lane -- #A
Montgomery, Alabama 36109-2872

I just want to start off with a few words about deadlines and editing LOCs for publication.

As the editor of a letterzine for over six years, I can speak to these topics with some sort of expertise. Please do not consider deadlines as being "cast in stone."

I'm sure the editors of TB use deadlines as

a target date for getting the majority of the LoCs in for publication. Deadlines give the LoC'er an idea as to **when** LoCs should arrive for consideration in the next issue. If the issue arrives **after** the target date, then it means that you should hit those keys to get your LoC in the next issue.

As for editing LoCs, well, that is a rather "dangerous" area -- One which I solved by stating in editorial policy that I'd prefer to see civilized discussions. If the LoC does have what I consider to be personal attacks or other inflammatory statements, I try to edit it out or change the wording slightly, doing this while not changing the meaning. If the letter can't be edited, the whole LoC is sent back with a note stating that as it stands, I'd prefer not to print it.

In the six years, I've only had one person consistently refuse to shape up and I showed him/her the door.

Comments on TightBeam #144

Harriet A. Goreau: of Lisa, I do think that both NSF and Fandom can be good for teenagers. I know that I discovered organized fandom while a late teenager and I do think that it helped me over the rough spots of growing up. I certainly don't recommend it for everyone, but certainly it should be considered a viable alternative.

Bernie Burr-Wilken: of Laura, I have one cat, a mixed Siamese whose name is Neko-Chan which means Missy Cat in Japanese. We actually didn't consider an SF name for our kitten, in fact our next cat will have another Japanese name.

Terry Bohman: Now, now, let us not get into computer chauvinism. Computing is still a rather expensive hobby and not every fan can afford such a luxury. I can recall three years ago, I was the **only** person that I knew that owned a computer no less an IBM-PC! I'm really happy that so many fan have discovered computing. It makes me feel that I am **not** alone. By the way, while we have three computers (all MS-DOS based), I still have my IBM Selectric II and use it frequently also!

Rose Secret: Goodness, Rose, who rang your chimes? As for why fanfic gets published, while I cannot speak to professional fan fiction (i.e., The Dune Encyclopedia), fanfic published for the fan audience gets published because folks are interested in reading it. Y'know, supply and demand. ((I write fanfiction because I enjoy doing so. It gives me a chance to extrapolate upon ideas and scenes I wish had been included in the original production

and well not. It is just plain fun! sn))

I've been reading fanfic for over ten years and have enjoyed it greatly. I will admit that I am not a great fan of R/S, and other sexually oriented fiction, but that doesn't mean that I don't consider this kind of fiction less than fiction -- it just means I spend my \$\$ on stuff that I **do** enjoy.

As for your comment on a writer not needing a word processor unless s/he wants his/her material to vanish. I'm not sure where you have come up with this observation. My husband is currently writing a book which he has done on the computer. He keeps three working copies of the book in three different places in the house (and we should look to putting a copy someplace outside the house also) and other than infrequent power glitches, he's only lost the page he's working on (of course, one must consistently save the file as one is working on it).

I edit **COMLINK** and am currently writing this LoC on computer. I have **never** lost any material. I am careful to make backups and have hard copy in some cases.

Word processing on computer and not keeping backups is like an author sending his/her **only** copy to a prospective agent for publishing consideration. It just ain't done!

It does occur to me that if you don't enjoy what is being discussed in TightBeam, you have two choices. #1 is that you don't read it any more and #2, you simply write about the things that you **do** enjoy reading about and hope that someone picks up on your comments.

In the many years that I've been with NSF, not one Director or member for that matter, has held a gun to my head.

Jean Lamb: of Laura, I agree, IDIC. While I don't enjoy reading Romances (the only "romances" that I do read are by Elizabeth Peters and then you really can't describe her as a romance author in the strict sense), I don't put down those folks who do. In fact, I know a few romance authors of the Harlequin variety who are active fan and read SF. Different strokes for different folks, eh?

Laurence Gray: of, Laura (again!), I'm not so sure that not having enough time is the reason why fan don't have children, if this is indeed the statistical case. Has anyone actually studied this?

Actually, your response, **Laurence**, started me thinking about several of the responses that I heard from my own friends (all fan) and why they don't have children.

I'm wondering if our lack of desire to

have children is somehow rooted in our mental makeup, that is, we were screwed up as children and we simply don't think that we'd be good parents. Or perhaps having children isn't something that we want to do. This is how I personally feel. I never wanted children and this was before I entered fandom.

I am not proposing that these are the only reasons but those I've heard. This is one of the more interesting questions I've thought about and it would be really neat to do a fanish study on the subject (I studied

research methods and questionnaire designing while in college; I used fandom as my study group) but I'm really not sure about how to go about getting a really good sampling of folks, except at perhaps a WorldCon or other regional convention.

Another nice issue, Sally. Thank for all your hard work because the results are wonderful!



Con't from 31

That's why we so often fall back on the ultimate definition of sf:

Sf is what I point to and say "Wow!"
(Definition 10)

So what has a list of definitions taught us about the sf that dreams are made of? Probably not much. Sf is an exciting look at the key ideas of life, the universe, and everything else, but of course we already knew that. Sf is an exaltation of the way sentient beings--not just humans--interact with these ideas and

each other, but we knew that, too. Sf is living, vital, changing; it is diverse, intimate, exotic, and expansive enough to touch people as diverse as we are. Why else do we read the stuff? Sf is a unique expression of our hopes, fears, aspirations, and curiosities. Of course,

Definitions are interesting simply because they express our interest about sf as sf expresses our ideas about life,

the Universe,

... and Everything.

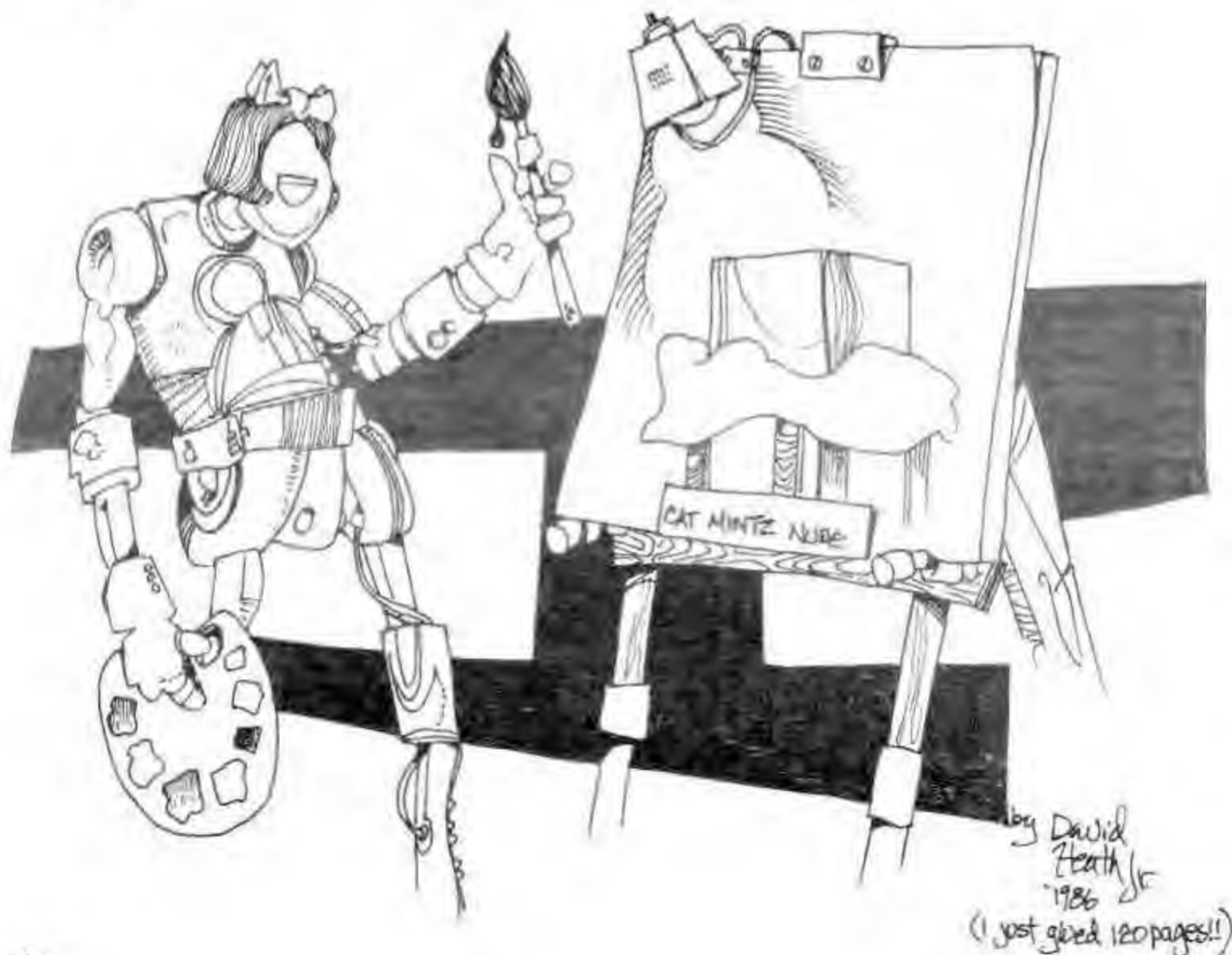


special section

We have a tie for first place in the science fiction division of the Women of Fantasy and Science Fiction contest. David Heath was the judge, rating each piece in four categories -- appearance, originality, technique, and fanciness -- and using a scale from one to ten. Best possible score would be forty; the highest actually received was thirty-two.

Some people enjoyed writing about their character as much as drawing them -- we got one unillustrated unofficial entry from Donald Franzen that described the plight of Ms. Femme Fan who remembered the bad old days when women didn't write science fiction and she used a man's name -- she was looking forward to being published in her own name. Maybe this one isn't a fantasy anymore?

It was a lot of fun looking at and reading the entries. I hope you enjoy them, too...



Dr. Susan Calvin, who lives since the year 2000 in the North American Sector of the World Federation spends most of her time in the study of robot psychology. She remembers the creation of the first postronic robots when she was still a student soon to join the only company that manufactured them. Right now she is retired, but soon she will be requested to look at the unusual behavior of the "Brains" which run the World Federation. She is looking forward to several quiet years out of the commercial rat race when she will be able to write and do research. William Wilson Goodson Jr., 680 Franklin Lake Road, Franklin Lake, NJ, 07417.

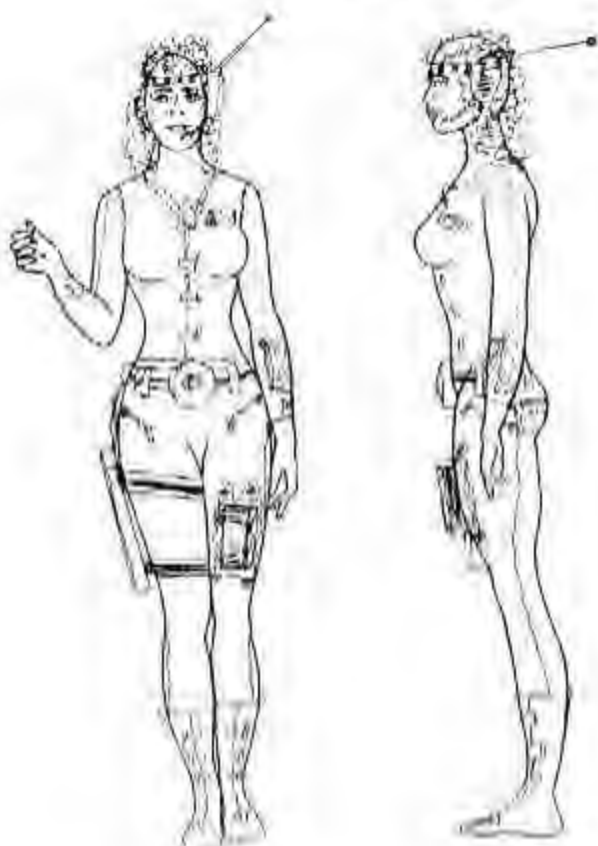
Rating: Appearance 7, Originality 6,
Technique 7, Fannish 9,
Total 28, Average 7.



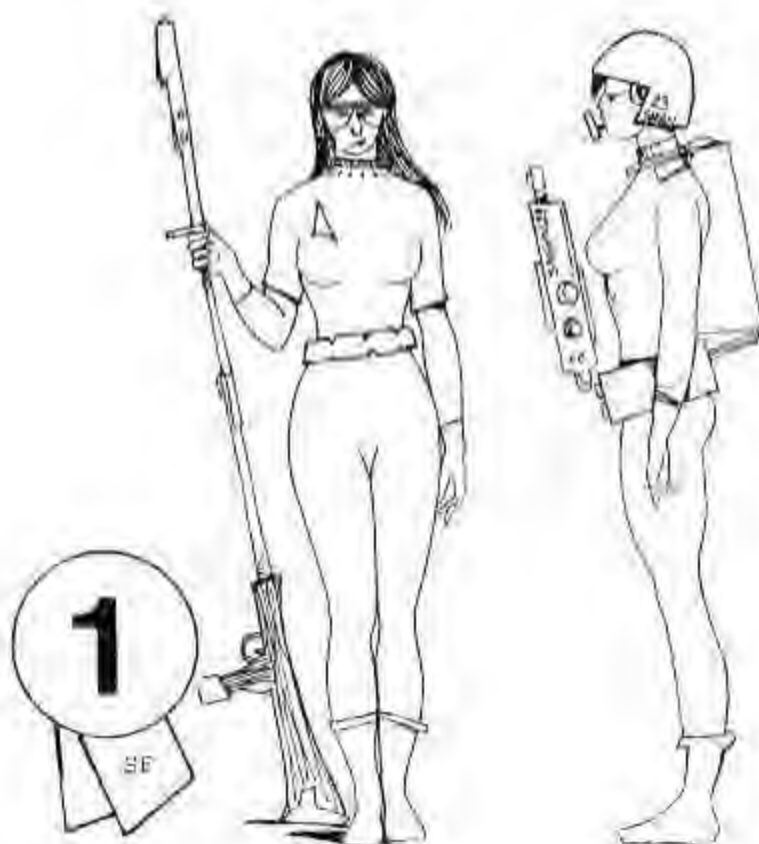
Rating: Appearance 7, Originality 8,
Technique 6, Fannish 9,
Total 30, Average 7.5.

Living in the year 3075 A. D., Kimberly Sigma studies star constellations on Gallifrey. She remembers meeting her husband for the first time when she wandered into the Nobel's lodgings. Right now, she is studying for her doctorate degree, and soon she will travel the universe to study star constellations. She is looking forward to studying the Maceon constellation with her husband when she will earn her doctorate degree. Lisa Jenkins, RR 2, Box 79, Wadena, MN, 56482.

This is Kimberly Seven-Seven, who lives in the year 4586 A.D. She is a supply runner on the desolate colony planet of Golgatha IV. She remembers her family's shame and anger when she was exiled by the eugenetics department. Currently she is completing a delivery of equipment, and soon she will repair her faulty ATT (all terrain transport) vehicle. She is looking forward to highheel season when she will spend months idly in a stonehaven. Bob Schreib Jr., 31 Inverness Terrace, Ronda, NJ, 08863.



Rating: Appearance 6, Originality 7,
Technique 6, Fannish 8,
Total 27, Average 6.75.



Rating: Appearance 6, Originality 8,
Technique 7, Fannish 9,
Total 30, Average 7.5.

This is Vasquez, PFC, who lives on earth in approximately the year 2230. She is a member of the colonial Marines and spend most of her time operating the "smart gun." She remembers killing a boy on the streets of Detroit when she was in a gang, "The Rollers." Soon she will die fighting aliens on Archeon. She is looking forward to killing aliens when she lands with her unit and operates her smart gun with Drake. David Heath Jr., 11856 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA, 90061.

This is Dream Weaver, who lives in the year OW 5 (that's not earth time) in Cypress Wood, where she spends most of her time telling stories. She remembers having to leave her two sisters when she intervened with their dreams and changed their outcome ("bad omens in the night"). Right now she is settling down in her new home and soon she will find a mate. She is looking forward to telling stories when she will become the Holt's storyteller. Lisa Jenkins, RR 2 Box 79, Madens, MN, 56487.



Rating: Appearance 7, Originality 8,
Technique 7, Fannish 8,
Total 30, Average 7.5.

Rating: Appearance 8, Originality 8,
Technique 7, Fannish 9,
Total 32, Average 8.



Maria lives on Kinsolving's Planet circa 3500 Galactic Standard. She spend most of her time as an artist and shaman. She remembers being raised as a member of the Zebra tribe when she was a child. Right now she is in charge of painting zebras, and soon she will use the painting to attract zebras to the tribe's hunters. She is looking forward to a massive feast when she will be married to her favorite lover. William Wilson Goodson Jr., 580 Franklin Lake Road, Franklin Lakes, NJ, 07417.

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