



**The
National
Fantasy
Fan**

Successor to "BONFIRE"

T H E P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

This month we have for you the culmination of a lot of hard and sincere work on the part of your Officers and Directors -- the newly proposed Permanent Constitution to replace the Emergency Constitution under which we are now operating.

This proposed Constitution has been under the careful consideration of the Officers, Directors, committee chairmen and several other influential members and its present form embodies those of their suggestions and criticisms which seem most to strengthen it.

You will find several rather startling changes in concept and methods of procedure. EACH ONE IS THERE FOR A DEFINITE PURPOSE, and we wish you to study them carefully before deciding how you will make your decision and mark your ballot.

First, is the change in name. We are no longer national, we are not, and really never have been, a Federation. We ARE attempting to Unite all Fantasy Fandom in a working, cooperative organization which will be able to do for fen what they want done when they want it done. That makes the new name obvious -- and necessary for our growth.

You will note that the officers have quite broad powers -- yet for every grant of authority there is a check and balance to keep it under control. For every act there is a set-up for veto, for every veto there is a set-up for the over-riding of the veto if it seems best to a greater number of the membership. Experience has shown that such an organization as ours can only function if the elective officers do have a great deal of authority to act on their own initiative, experience also teaches us that there must be a quick and effective check to them if they chance to get out of line. These things have been provided.

The next important change, or addition, rather, has been the Judiciary. Events in fandom have several times shown the necessity for such a deliberative body, which also has powers of accompanying their decisions with a qualifying recommendation. The personnel of the Judiciary will be the older, maturer members of fandom, who have shown both a high mental calibre and an inclination to remain in fandom. While they are elected for life, or continuance in active fandom, it is possible to remove one of them for considered cause if necessary.

We hope you will give the new constitution careful and conscientious study. Ballots will be mailed out with this issue of the Official Organ, and you will note that these ballots are in three sections. The first one will be for a vote of approval in toto; the second for a vote of DISapproval in toto; the third for a vote of approval EXCEPT for certain sections which the voter does NOT wish to ratify. Any one wishing to vote under that section should, on the lines provided for such, write in (for example) IX-A-2-C, or X-B-3-a, or whatever section he does not desire to see ratified. The tellers will then very quickly be able to determine if any one or more sections be not completely ratified.

To enable every member to vote, including those who may be serving overseas, 60 days will be allowed for the return of ballots. This

matter is so important that we **BEG AND URGE EVERY MEMBER TO VOTE**. Do not let this be a case where a minority decides for the majority. **EVERYBODY VOTE! AND DO IT JUST AS SOON AS YOU HAVE DECIDED WHAT YOU WANT DONE!** Yet we also urge against a hasty decision. **THINK FIRST!**

The pages of the Official Organ will be open for anyone who has a clear, concise and studied message for the rest of the members about his approval or disapproval of this proposed new constitution providing he confines himself to not more than 250 words. We do not want the "it's swell" or "it stinks" type of letters — but if any of you feel that you have a comment that is worthy of consideration — either in favor or against — send it in. Deadline for such letters will be a postmark of June 5th.

The Treasurer has been sending out notices about dues for 1945 now being due -- and receipts to those who have paid. It seems some members have an idea dues are not payable until the end of the year; where they got that I cannot figure for the life of me. Are we officers supposed to advance all the money for expenses during the year, and collect at the end thereof? Please send your dues in as soon as possible. The more money we have on hand the more and better projects we can work on. Besides, it costs a lot to issue a monthly magazine, you know. In fact, that almost takes up the entire yearly dues, and only the fact that we get a lot of donations enables us to do as many things as we do do. Which reminds me -- donations are always acceptable and gratefully received.

Dale Tarr has just made a splendid suggestion. The more I think of it the better I like it. That is that in making our annual awards we also make an award to the best pro author of each magazine. This would be a fine gesture of our appreciation for their efforts to entertain us with their tales. Please write in comments on this.

Your pardon for a slip made in my Book Review page last issue. The name of the third of the Viereck-Eldredge trilogy should be "The Invincible Adam", not "The Son Of The Great Ape". That was merely a sort of nickname for Kotikokura. Earl Perry is to blame -- he had my copy, reading it. Of course, as he said, I could have phoned him — but you couldn't expect me to have that much sense, could you? Any way, it is a very interesting book. Willis Boughton says he thinks "Mr. Isaacs" by F. Marion Crawford, is another Wandering Jew tale.

Once again, let me urge you all to study carefully the new proposed constitution and after you have digested it to cast your vote. We are giving until July 15th, so there will be time for correspondence between you about it; for those of you who wish to do so to be able to write short, concise statements for inclusion in the next T. N. F. F. We are not in a rush about this change, but we do want carefully considered verdicts. Again I urge, let's have a 100% balloting. It can only be done if YOU vote!

Love, as always,

E. Everett Evans

President, N. F. F. F.

REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF COPYRIGHTS.

Members who wish to may contact the Chief of this Bureau and register with him the proposed name of their fanzines, their column titles, or proposed projects. He will tell you if they are already in use by some other fan, and if they are not, will register them for your exclusive use.

- No. 8 CJFern, Jr., 400 Riverside Dr., New York, 25, NY. 31May44
Fanzine Eidolon.
- 9 CJFern, Jr. (as above) Fnz Fout.
- 10 CJFern, Jr. (as above) Fnz Fout's Fanzine.
- 11 CJFern, Jr. (as above) Fnz Fout's Magazine.
- 12 CJFern, Jr. (as above) Fnz Fout's Digest
- 13 CJFern, Jr. (as above) Fnz Tom.
- 14 Lora Crozetti, 1542 W 11th St, LA 15, Calif. 26June44
Fnz Ennui.
- 15 CJFern, Jr. (as above) 9Aug44 Fnz The Fantasy Encore.
- 16 CJFern, Jr. (as above) Column Title Of Little or No Consequence.
- 17 Walt Daugherty, 1305 W Ingraham, LA 14, Calif. 9Sep44
A volume of reprint material from Polaris Freehafer Memorial
- 18 Walt Daughtery (as above) A correspondence corner title
Some Of Our Readers Write.
- 19 Walt Daugherty (as above) Fnz Fan.
- 20 Walt Daugherty (as above) Fnz Cushlamochree.
- 21 Mel Brown & Art Saha, 628 S Bixel, LA 14, Calif. 27Dec44
Fnz Phantasque.
- 22 Mel Brown & Art Saha, as above, Fnz Camelot.
- 23 Russell Chauvenet, 510 E Union Ave., Bound Brook, NJ 16Jan45
Fnz Alaric.
- 24 Thomas R Daniel, Box 131, Hoquiam, Wash. 22Jan45
Fnz Stellarian.
- 25 Thomas R Daniel, (as above) Fnz Jet.
- 26 Thomas R Daniel (as above) Fnz Lifeboat.
- 27 Thomas R Daniel (as above), To be used in describing a form
of art by Eileen, art editor of Stella Fanudes.

- No. 28 Thomas R Daniel (as above), A form of idiotic ads in terms of the future or past Adled Ads.
- 29 Thomas R Daniel (as above), A collection of photos, autographs and thumbnail biographies of fen, authors, artists and editors Fantasy Folder.
- 30 Leslie A. Croutch, Box 121, Parry Sound, Ont., Can. 19Mar45
Fnz The Voice.

Members wishing any of their titles or projects registered are to send name and description to:

Robert D. Swisher, Ph.D.,
15 Ledyard Road,
Winchester, Mass.

For your files, we are publishing here a copy of the Official Ballot for the vote on the proposed new Constitution:

OFFICIAL BALLOT

RESOLVED: to Amend the present Emergency Constitution by substituting therefor the proposed new Constitution published in this accompanying issue of the Official Organ:

I approve the new Constitution in toto

I disapprove the new Constitution in toto

I approve the new Constitution with the exception of the following sections:

(Signed) _____

We want and need a 100% vote. Tske your time and study it very carefully -- SND THEN BE SURE AND SEND IN YOUR MARKED BALLOT! VOTE!

PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION

#5

ARTICLE I. Name.

The name of this organization shall be United Fantasy Fandom.

ARTICLE II. Purpose.

The purpose of United Fantasy Fandom shall be:

To encourage the reading and collecting of fantasy and science fiction literature; greater creative expression in amateur journalism; fuller dissemination of all phases of fantasy information; and to enlarge, co-ordinate and preserve fantasy fan culture in general.

ARTICLE III. Administration.

The Administration of United Fantasy Fandom shall consist of three (3) branches, the Executive, the Directorate, and the Judiciary.

(A) The Executive Branch shall consist of the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary-Treasurer.

(1) The President shall:

(a) Act in an executive capacity; direct the activities of the Union; act as Official Voice of the Union; appoint committee chairmen and special officers; call special elections when necessary, nominate members to fill vacated offices, and act in a co-ordinative capacity in promulgating fantasy fan activities;

(b) Have the power to veto decisions of the Directorate;

(c) Have the power to originate projects, subject to the approval of the Directorate;

(d) Have the power to act in emergencies not specifically covered by this Constitution or subsequent amendments thereto, subject to review of the Directorate.

(2) The Vice President shall:

(a) Take over the office of President, or Secretary-Treasurer, in case either shall be vacated or restrained by order of the Directorate;

(b) Advise and assist the President in the performance of his duties:

(c) Cast the deciding vote in case of a tie in the Directorate.

(3) The Secretary-Treasurer shall:

(a) Keep the permanent records of the Union;

#6

(b) Prepare ballots for annual or special elections;

(c) Maintain an up-to-date census of the names and addresses of all members, and submit a list of changes and additions to the Official Editor one week before date of publication of each issue of the Official Organ;

(d) Attend to all official correspondence except that which must be written by other officials;

(e) Collect, record and disburse all monies of the Union, upon order of the President or an order signed by at least four (4) of the members of the Directorate;

(1) Shall be bonded in the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00), fee for such bond to be paid by the Union;

(f) Submit a detailed report of accounts twice yearly for inclusion in the July and January issues of the Official Organ, and make a monthly statement of balance to the President and the Official Editor.

(B) The Directorate shall consist of five (5) duly elected members, the member receiving the most votes being declared Chairman:

(1) The Directorate shall:

(a) Grant membership upon proper application, and revoke membership for just cause;

(b) Approve or disapprove the President's recommendations for projects;

(c) Approve or disapprove the President's appointments of officers and committee chairman;

(d) Act in an advisory capacity to the Executive Branch in matters of organizational policy;

(e) Have the power to over-ride a Presidential veto of their decisions by a vote of reconsideration having not more than one (1) dissenting vote;

(f) Have the power to issue upon any member of the Executive Branch, Minor Official or Committee Chairman or Member, an Order Of Restraint And Temporary Suspension Of Power, for considered cause. Such action shall be taken when any individual shall be deemed guilty of misappropriation of funds; assumption of powers beyond those delegated; errors of judgment and performance of acts deemed deleterious to the Union and/or the best interests of Fandom as a whole. If such misappropriation, assumption of power or error is not immediately corrected to the satisfaction of the Directorate, it shall be mandatory upon the Directorate to institute Impeachment Proceedings before the Judiciary;

(g) Decisions of the Directorate shall be by majority vote, unless otherwise directed.

(C) The Judiciary shall consist of three (3) members, elected for life or until discontinuance in active Fandom;

(1) A Judge may be removed from office for considered cause, by a unanimous vote of the Directorate and the three Executive Officers;

(2) The President shall make two (2) nominations for each vacancy in the Judiciary, and the members shall vote on them at the next-held election;

(3) Members of the Judiciary shall not be eligible to hold other elective offices in the Union;

(4) The Judiciary shall:

(a) Render decisions on all appeals made to them by individual members, or by applicants for membership, on matters pertaining to refusal or revocation of membership;

(1) All requests for decisions of the Judiciary shall be made in writing in quintuplicate, one (1) copy to each member of the Judiciary, one (1) copy to the Secretary, and one (1) copy to the person about whom complaint is being made;

(b) Render decisions on all appeals made to them by the Directorate;

(c) Render decisions on all appeals made to them by members of the Executive Branch;

(d) Have the right to accompany their decisions by qualifying recommendations;

(e) Consider all evidence and render a decision in Impeachment Proceedings;

(1) A unanimous verdict of guilty shall mean instant and automatic removal from office and loss of membership of the impeached official;

(f) Have the right to reopen any case upon the presentation of new evidence deemed worthy of such consideration;

(g) Shall, upon request, interpret any questioned point in the Constitution;

(h) A majority vote of the Judiciary shall be sufficient on all interpretations and appeals, except that of Impeachment, and all decisions of the Judiciary shall be final.

ARTICLE IV. Membership.

(A) Any person interested in any of the facets of Fantasy Fandom may, upon proper application and acceptance, become a member of United Fantasy Fandom; it being understood that the term "Fantasy Fan-

#8

dom" as used here means those who are interested in Scientifiction, Weird and/or Off-Trail literature, as well;

(1) Properly signed and filled-out application shall be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer, accompanied by the first year's dues;

(a) Applicants for membership sending in their applications between the dates of July 1st and December 31st, need send only one-half year's dues with their application;

(2) Upon approval, the applicant shall be so notified by the Secretary;

(3) Any Fan, whose application for membership has been refused, has the right of appeal, in writing, to the Judiciary, and shall be so notified by the Secretary;

(4) All Members shall be entitled to run for office, vote in all elections, receive official publications, work on projects, use the name and emblem of the Union on stationery or in any other honorable way, and participate in the organization's activities;

(a) The exceptions to this right to hold office shall be that no minor may hold the post of Secretary-Treasurer, who has to be bonded; or to be elected to the Judiciary;

(5) Any member failing to pay dues and/or vote in at least one election during the year, shall automatically be dropped from the rolls by the Secretary after failure further to respond to due notice, except members in the Armed Forces who are serving outside the boundaries of their country;

(a) It shall reside within the powers of the Secretary to extend special consideration where extenuating circumstances seem to warrant such action, subject to review by the Directorate;

(6) Membership shall be subject to revocation for cause, by the Directorate;

(a) Any Member whose membership has been so revoked, has the right of appeal to the Judiciary, and shall be so notified by the Secretary.

ARTICLE V. Elections.

(A) Annual elections of the Officers of United Fantasy Fandom shall be held the first of November of each year; and all ballots, to be counted, must be in the hands of the duly appointed Tellers not later than December 10th of the same year;

(1) Names of the candidates and their platforms shall be printed in the October issue of the Official Organ, which issue must be in the mails by October 10th;

(a) Any Member desiring to qualify as a candidate for any office shall submit to the Secretary the signatures of **two** (2) other Members, endorsing his candidacy, together with a short platform

stating in general his proposed policies if elected;

(b) Nominating petitions and platforms must be in the hands of the Secretary by October 1st, with copies minus the signatures in the hands of the Official Editor by the same date;

(c) The Secretary shall notify the newly-elected officials not later than December 20th, and they shall assume office January 1st of the following year, which shall constitute the beginning of the fiscal year of the Union;

(d) No member may hold two (2) elective offices at the same time;

(e) Elective officials shall be eligible to succeed themselves once;

(f) Candidates, to be elected, must receive a plurality of the votes cast in that election for that office;

(1) In the event of a tie vote, the incumbent Directorate shall cast the deciding vote;

(g) Ballots, to be valid, must be signed by the voter.

ARTICLE VI. Finances.

(A) Dues shall be One Dollar (\$1.00) per year, due January 1st, with 60 days of grace, except that new members joining the Union after July 1st shall be required to pay but Fifty Cents (50¢) for the balance of that first year;

(B) The President shall have the power to raise additional funds at need, in any honorable manner that seems feasible, subject to the approval of the Directorate;

(1) Direct and additional assessments on the members cannot be made without approval of the membership given by ballot, but donations may be asked for and received if the Directorate so approves.

ARTICLE VII. Official Organ.

(A) There shall be issued at least six (6) times yearly, and monthly or oftener when feasible, an Official Organ to be known as "The United Fantasy Fan", for the purpose of keeping the membership completely informed of the activities of the Union;

(1) Dates of issuance shall come as close to the fifteenth day of the month as possible, except the October issue, which must be in the mails by the 10th day of that month;

(2) The Volume Number shall change with the January issue of each year;

(3) The January issue shall contain, among other things, the official results of the annual elections; the reports of the concluding fiscal year by the out-going officers and committees; a complete report of the Treasury; and a complete list of all members, together with their addresses;

#10

(4) The other regular issues shall contain, among other things, the names and addresses of all newly-admitted members; change of address as received; the names of any members whose membership may have been revoked since the last preceding issue; reports of the Officers, Directorate and Committees as received; decisions of the Judiciary, if any; statement of the Treasury balance, and such other information and relative matter as the Officers or Official Editor shall deem proper and pertinent;

(a) The pages of the Official Organ shall be open to members at all times for a brief, concise and pertinent discussion of any phase of activity interesting or beneficial to the Union and/or Fandom in general;

(5) The first issue after July 1st shall also contain a detailed financial statement by the Treasurer, and a complete list of the names and addresses of all members;

(a) It is understood that members serving their countries in foreign service shall not have their addresses printed, for security reasons, but that they shall be furnished by the Secretary upon request.

ARTICLE VIII. Amendments.

(A) Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed in writing, signed by five (5) or more Members, to the Chairman of the Directorate;

(1) Such proposed Amendment(s) shall receive the immediate attention of the Directorate, and upon their approval shall be printed in full in the next issue of the Official Organ; ballots for voting thereon to be sent out one (1) month later;

(a) If disapproved by the Directorate, the proposing Members may overrule their decision by obtaining fifteen (15) additional signatures and sending them to the Secretary, whereupon it shall be mandatory to submit the proposed Amendment(s) in the next issue of the Official Organ, with ballots for voting thereon sent out one (1) month later;

(2) To be approved, a proposed Amendment to this Constitution must receive an affirmative majority of the ballots cast by at least two-thirds of the entire Membership of the Union.

TAKE YOUR TIME

STUDY IT CAREFULLY

BUT DO VOTE! --

LET'S HAVE A 100%

VOTE FOR ONCE!

T H E B L A T A N T B E A S T

by

ART WIDNER.

ROSEBUD #3 -- 2.63 Free
Mari Beth Wheller, 620 N. Main, Bloomington, Ill. 15 pp.

This is another that asks only correspondence for remuneration. Contains several good pieces, with honors going to Watson, Ackerman, & Unknown. Sad to state, Mari Beth has enlisted in the SPARS, & we probably won't see it again for some time.

ACK ON HIS BACK! -- 2.00 One-shot. Free
LASFS (see S L'A) 5 pp.

Slapped-together melange of half-witticisms. Page(s) missing from my copy.

CANADIAN FANDOM #8 -- 2.70 5¢ 6/25¢
Beak Taylor, 9 MacLennan Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada 20 pp.

A neatly mimeoed effort with an attractive printed cover by Nils Frome. All material is by Canadian fen, but I don't think anything good from US would be refused. At least, it shouldn't, since most of the contents are rather mediocre. Contents: Two stories by Crutch, also a column by that worthy. Two articles, & two fair examples of verse. Also 3 cartoons. A good buy for the money.

FUTURIAN WAR DIGEST V5N2 -- 2.60 3d.
JMRosenblum, 4 Grange Terrace, Leeds 7, England 17 pp.

Unfortunately JMR resigns as editor this issue, & it may mean discontinuance altogether of this fine sheet, which has performed the heroic labor of maintaining some semblance of unity among British fandom during the war. Not too well reproduced, but still quite readable, it contains several off-trail articles & essays, mostly about stfantasy books & other obscure items for the collector. Also the Bulletin of the British Fantasy Fan Federation is enclosed.

I'd like to put forth a plea here for some of you younger fen to send me copies of your zines for review. I can't review 'em if I do not get 'em, can I? Being in the army, I'm not in a position to track down every new sheet that comes out, like I used to. I don't guarantee to give favorable reviews to everybody, but I'm anxious to help the newcomer, & I think my long experience in the field qualifies me for that. I also want to make this column as complete as possible for the sake of collectors, & the publicity here will no doubt benefit new editors in their beginning struggles to get a decent amount of subscribers to help defray expenses.

Yhos,
(Signed) ART.

Cpl. Art Widner,
Climatic Research Laboratories,
Lawrence, Mass.

THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN MAGAZINE

Volume IV

May, 1945

Number 5

E. Everett Evans, President, 25 Poplar Street, Battle Creek, Mich.
Bob Tucker, Vice President, Box 260, Bloomington, Illinois.
Walt Dunkelberger, Sec.-Treas., 1443 Fourth Ave., So., Fargo, N. D.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

A lot of our Servifen members are sending me poems, articles, stories, etc., that they have written, and which they are offering for fanzine or pro publication. I haven't the time to handle these properly, and very urgently need someone who has a good knowledge of the various fanzines throughout the country -- what type of material they use; and also who has some literary judgment to be able to tell if perhaps the offerings might have pro-sale possibilities. In other words, we need a good member who will take charge of these, and with them as a beginning, build up and handle a regular Manuscript Bureau. **SOMEONE PLEASE VOLUNTEER!**

* * * *

THE "MISSING LINKS" DEPARTMENT

Two of our Texas members, V. Glenn Coates and Richard Enos, from Dallas, have a lot of back number magazines for sale or trade, and also have good contacts where they can get more. They have asked us to print the following item, and agree that all excess profits will be donated to the NFFF Treasury:

NOTICE TO PROZINE COLLECTORS

Let us find your "Missing Links". We can probably fill in those holes in your collection. Send us a list of the mags you want, and set your own price, as to each of them. Hurry, the stock won't last long. Mail orders to P. O. Box 2225, Dallas, 1, Texas.

These boys are not out to "get rich quick", and seem to offer a very fair scheme to you members. Be generous when you "set your own prices" when writing them your wants.

* * * *

Jack Speer, who volunteered for the important post of Official Editor of this Official Organ, has come back to this country from his sojourn in North Africa, and will be ready to take over his new duties with the next issue. He is going to live in Seattle, Wash., but his only address at present is % General Delivery there. He'll put his permanent address there in the next issue.

* * * *

WELCOM REPORT

Henry Elsner (Startling Stories): Bob Bradford, Los Angeles, Howard Gabriel, Brooklyn; Robert Davidson, Brooklyn; Jerry Mandel, Dallas, Texas; Ed. Farnum, Chicago.

V. Glenn Coates (Fantastic Adv.): Albert Jobe, Fort Worth, Texas; L. T. Parker, Dallas, Texas; Carl Morgan, Dallas, Texas; Gladys Brenton, Three Lakes, Wisc.

* * * *

THE BLATANT BEAST (Added).

VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION #41 -- 2.37 15¢ 7/\$
FJAckerman, Box 6475 Metro Sta., Los Angeles, 55, Calif. 12 pp.

Too bad. VOM sinks to a new low with this number. We could do without the lithoed covers, particularly the ones of fifth-rate pin-up bags such as this month's. Also, if he didn't feel compelled to foist upon us every lousy pun he thinks of, 'twould help a lot. At least a 50% cut is advocated -- then we'd have only the fair to good ones. Another thing: For the quantity & quality we get, 15¢ is too much.....& the legal size (8pp) is sloppy.....

As most of you know, this consists entirely of letters, and attempts to be the Forum of Fandom. Best letters in this ish are from Willmorth & Kennedy.

ART WIDNER.

* * * *

THE FANZINE RECORD

Fan magazines published during April, 1945.

AD INFINITUM #4; Al Weinstein, 568 Audubon Ave., New York City, 33.
CANADIAN FANDOM #8; Beak Taylor, St. Andrews College, Aurora, Ontario.
CHAOS #4; Willy Watson, 1299 California St., San Francisco, 9, Calif.
FANEWSCARD (14 issues) Walt Dunkelberger, 1443 4th Ave., So., Fargo, ND
FAN WORLD #2; Dale Tarr, 703 Jackson, Anderson, Ind. (*)
MARIANAS MODICUM #4; Capt. Donn Brazier, write for address. (*)
NFFFAN, THE for April. This is the May issue, Charlie.
NUZ FROM STFANDOM #25 --?; Walt Dunkelberger, see above address.
ROSEBUD #4; Mari Beth Wheeler, Box 260, Bloomington, Ill.
SHANGRI-L'AFFAIRES #24; L.A.S.F.S., 637½ S. Bixel, Los Angeles, 14, Cal.
SUN SPOTS #25; Gerry de la Ree, 9 Bogert Place, Westwood, N. J.
VOM #40; F. J Ackerman, Box 6475, Metro Sta., Los Angeles, 55, Calif.

(The two fanzines marked by an asterisk (*) are carbon-copied only).
BOB TUCKER.

* * * *

A VOTE "NO" ON THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION

When you vote, it should be on alternatives. The alternative to the permanent constitution now proposed would seem to be continuance under the emergency wartime constitution. But since few of us are very familiar with the emergency constitution, it would be better to think of the vote as being between the constitution now proposed and a simpler, perhaps more realistic one that could be worked out in open discussion.

I speak as a native of Oklahoma, state with a constitution so long that not one in a thousand of its citizens has ever read it and even fewer comprehend it, and as a veteran of constitutional crises in New Fandom, FAPA, and NFFF.

I don't think the constitution now up for approval is a good one. It is unconscionably long and uselessly detailed--at least as long as the one that choked the NFFF three years ago. It prescribes much minute procedure which is no better and perhaps not as good as other possible ways of doing the same thing, which should be left to the choice of the officials involved and be subject to change as experience may prove advisable.

A critical reading of the proposed constitution will show up a number of weaknesses. And since practically every section depends on some other section for part of its meaning, it is foolish to think of approving parts of it while rejecting other parts and expect a workable constitution to result.

To take some specific faults: Altho the FAPA, with its more completely active membership, has trouble getting half the members to vote in elections, under this constitution two-thirds of the NFFF members would have to vote on a constitutional amendment--and it goes without saying that in such a complicated constitution amendments would be found necessary.

I believe the name "United Fantasy Fandom" is unsatisfactory. You must think of the name as appearing in the Saturday Review of Literature and on letters to men of some importance, where we want to create a favorable impression on outsiders who might be interested in joining or helping us. These are mostly men of considerable education and some sophistication. We know what the organization is, so the name doesn't matter so much for us. But I cannot see the potential members or friends being favorably impressed by the name "United Fantasy Fandom".

It is pretty generally agreed by political scientists that the jealous division of powers between executive, legislative, and judicial (as in the United States but not in Great Britain) is due primarily to a historical mistake. There is some justification for it in a government which wields so much power that it could become a tyranny. But in the case of a fantasites' organization, where members could so easily disregard the decrees of a puddle-dictator, there is as much safeguard as we need in the checks and balances between the five members of the Board. More than that would seriously hamper the work of the club.

The example which follows is presented for discussion only. Its laconic quality would probably have to be compromised somewhat, but I think it is much closer to what the NFFF needs than the monster you are now being asked to approve.

Suggested Constitution

1. This organization's name is "The Fantasy League".
2. Members join upon approval of the Board. Dues are \$1.00 per year.
3. A Board of five is elected annually. Every member has five votes. The five people receiving the greatest number of votes become the Board for the year beginning 1 January, and the one with the most votes is President.
4. The Board passes on appointments of all other officials and committees. Under its own rules, it has complete authority over acts of the League, and may delegate power to officials.
5. In the monthly or bimonthly official organ, any member may speak at reasonable length on affairs of the League, and all formal votes of Board members are given in detail.
6. Constitutional amendments, proposed by five members, must be approved by a majority of the members who vote in the annual election.

This follows pretty closely the present setup. Main difference is that the President becomes part of the Board (the present Chairman of the Board has no special duties). Under a different system, an excellent Board member might be lost because he ran for president and lost. If by any chance the man elected President by this suggested method felt himself unsuited for the job, he could resign the honor, or if necessary be removed by the rest of the Board.

Broad discretionary powers must be lodged in the Board or somewhere, because the NFFF has many members who are simply passive well-wishers and could not be counted on to act, and act with knowledge of the situation, in a type of question which in FAPA or a local club would be dealt with by the general membership. The Board is ultimately accountable at election time, especially since their official votes are on the record in the official organ.

Another difference from FAPA is that whereas the FAPA has only one particular function to perform, the NFFF has and will have an unpredictable variety of activities. Directions for handling all this cannot be given in a permanent constitution without tying the administration up in knots. Much must be left to the judgments of the elected officials. We can do that and still pin the responsibility in one place.

Provided we don't adopt the constitution now proposed.

--Jack Speer

President Evans has asked that the Treasury Balance, inadvertently omitted elsewhere in this issue, be given here. It is \$56.99.

THE NATIONAL

OF THE

OFFICIAL

OF THE

NATIONAL

THE

"THE NATIONAL
FANTASY FAN"
Official Organ
of the
NATIONAL FANTASY
FAN FEDERATION



POSTMASTER:

Return Postage Guaranteed
From:

25 Poplar Street,
Battle Creek, Michigan

To:

Art Saha

628 So. Rival St,

Los Angeles, 14,

Calif.

(Please notify us of all
changes of address)