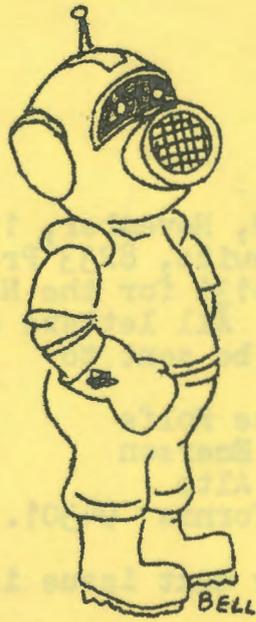


T i g h t b e a m



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Felice Rolfe
1360 Emerson
Palo Alto
California 94301.

Deadline for next issue is December 15, 1963.

Gary Labowitz; 8233 President Court; Kansas City, Mo. 64131

As editor of this issue I owe some sort of comment. I want to thank Donald Franson and Gem Carr for their comments which have helped me decide on questions of policy. The letters have been shortened considerably and some left out. I have attempted to "condense" the format and I hope it does not make for too crowded pages. With that let's tackle the letters.

Stan Woolston; 12832 Westlake St.; Garden Grove, Calif.

The question is where did the name TIGHTBEAM come from for the letter-zine. It was POSTWARP for a long time. As I remember, Art Rapp mentioned he would like to have the title back again some time, and Walter Coslet changed it to Hyperspace Tightbeam. Almost at once it was nipped, and TIGHTBEAM it has been since then. If the next question is who is Walter Coslet I'll leave that til next time -- except that he was President for a time and a long-time member.

Walter reminds me that sometimes oldtime members drop out, and then return a year or so later. And sometimes members stay in for a year or so and drop out, sometimes to return years later. Gary Labowitz, George Wells -- I'd better not try to make a list of these! But I would like to say that I've an idea quite a few of the students who have dropped might return if someone would keep in touch with them, and invite them to return after their concentration on school has eased.

I've been asking for suggestions and advice about renewals ideas. How about sending your ideas on how to make the club more interesting to YOURSELF? Sometimes a membership "falters" -- interest wanes when the end of the year is upon us, and you forget to renew. You will know what would make you more interested again -- and I'd like to know also. So if you have a spare 5¢ envelope to write me in, or a 4¢ card, I'd be happy to have your ideas. Or you can send them to the next issue of this magazine, which is something I read with great interest.

David Kirk Patrick; 160 Prospect St.; East Orange, New Jersey.

Jim Harkness: Your experience with getting material was quite different from mine. I wrote to well over twenty people and got replies from two or three at tops. One was a reply from his mother with reference to a tragic accident so actually only one panned out.

Ah, you're the one. Either you misread what I had to say or I didn't put it clearly. I dislike articles, not fiction. I think fan fiction is great but sometimes I wonder about that too. Personally I am trying to get published in a pro magazine but a large number of fans are content with fan publications. This is their own business but still, it seems deplorable that they would be content with easy plaudits.

David Ettlin: I don't know what to say about the mss bureau. I have had conflicting reports from people. Some say it is defunct already and others say it is just getting started. Regardless I sent three, no four, stories to it several months ago and so far have heard exactly nothing. Another person I know has the same problem. What is going on?

Frankling Hiller: The problem with faneds is that they like to stick with their own "staff" or group of writers, it seems. Now I have not tried getting into the "big" fanzines but it seems to me that there is a nebulous group of people drifting around who are the only and regular contributors. This is the problem. That is one reason I have more patience with the new faned than the tried and true.

Bill Berger; 6032 Ridge Rd.; Parma 29, Ohio

Reading the July issue I immediately came to the conclusion that if I were a writer reading these letters, I wouldn't know what to write that would satisfy these fans who just say Analog is good or bad. Maybe they just don't have the time to explain their reasons for approval or disapproval.

Science fiction should be more versitile than it is at the present time. There's no prozine that I'd say is great like I used to say in the '40s. One should not forget that Mr. Campbell might not be able to find the stories that show more individuality. Analog does have a better group of stories compared to the other mags that make me wonder if it is really fantasy they are featuring. Science fiction that reflects a great sense of imagination and logic is what I want.

Irvin Koch; 835 Chattanooga Bank Bldg.; Chattanooga, Tenn.

Many of you may accuse me with that most horrible of crimes; being a "neo". I say that this very term should be banned from the active vocabulary of all TB letterwriters. Not only is the term overworked, but although I have just joined N3F I've been a fan ever since I could read. I think the term has no meaning.

J. Renner and all others who debate sacreligiousness: If you don't like a book, why read it?

A. Andriuskevicius and all others who debate Psi: 1. Read Rawcliffs' Illusions and Delusions (Dover Pub., New York, \$2) and you will see why Psi is nothing. 2. Your comparison of belief in Psi to belief in God is open to one question: Do you have to believe in a thing to hope for it?

A. Katz: I, for one, avoid Analog because some of its SF stories are too much like mainstream fiction. The best real SF magazine is Galaxy because it gives the most material for the least money.

//Well, comment time: The word neo is a very descriptive one which has a place in fans hearts because each of us has been one at some time or other. Anyone who wants something banned is obviously considering himself in a position to judge. Are you in such a position? Judging solely from your letter (my first contact with you) I would say you are a neo. Sorry. GHL//

Hank Luttrell; Rt. 13-2936 Barrett Sta.Rd.; Kirkwood 22, Mo.

There has been much talk lately about the reprinting of the works of Edgar Rice Burroughs. I would like to tell you of one side effect this has had in my own community.

The book shop at which I buy at least a good portion of my books, generally, or at least up till now, carries about one revolving wire stand of science fiction, fantasy and weird books. The owner of the store tells me there has been not only interest in the ERB books (both Tarzan and Martian) but in other sf books as well. This point is driven home rather strongly by the fact that at the "main" shelf, the shelf that used to display current best sellers, OVER HALF OF THE BOOKS WERE SCIENCE FICTION. This does not include TARZAN books.

I can't help but wonder if, because of ERB's books we might have drawn a few new fans into science fiction.

//This is undoubtedly true. Yet I suspect more sf fans are being created due to advances in technology in general and the government space program.

GHL//

Mathew Drahan; 1066 Campbell #4; Toledo, Ohio 43607

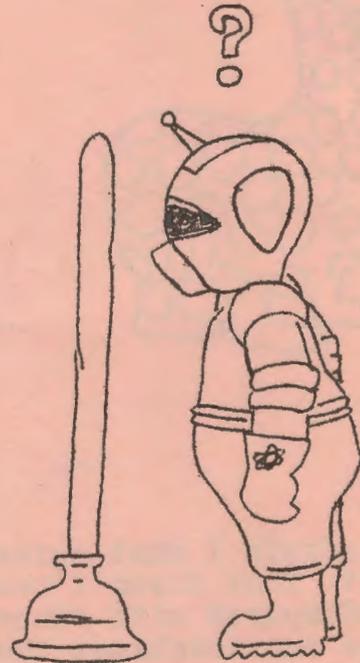
I'm in agreement with what the ed. of last issue had to say in TB #19. What Jeff Renner had to say was, to my point of view, true. I read Clarke's "The Star" but missed reading "Canticle for Leibowitz" and "Stranger in a Strange Land," but still I didn't see anything wrong with it.

//There was more here but I cut it. The first sentence I left there to illustrate a point. This letter comments on number 19, and even though I changed the text from "the ed. of this issue" to "the ed. of last issue" the sense of the line is lost. This often happens in zines such as this when letters are delayed and published out of time sequence. Solution? Send your letters right away so they will appear in the very next issue. Send before Dec. 15 to Felice Rolfe, 1360 Emerson, Palo Alto, Calif. 94301. GHL//

Nathan A. Bucklin; P. O. Box 4; Dockton, Wash. 98018

I don't think I'm the first to congratulate you upon landing the job of TBed, but allow me to do it anyhow. My sincerest sympathies to go with your aspirin and do just as little good.

Ira Lee Riddle: All right. You've made your choice of best mag for now. How far back do you have mags? I have to 1948 Asf and others to 1953 (some). My vote: 1953 Asf, followed by 1957-58 Asf, followed by 1957-58 Venture, followed by the first SF adventures and INFINITY (companion to the second SFA). The worst single copy of any magazine I have ever read was the pulp-size WONDER STORIES anthology. Today's magazines are far from the bottom of the heap quality-wise -- but, Scott Kutina at least, and Dave the Locke, STOP RANKING ANALOG! You keep asking us to make comparasons. All right; in number and type of stories, Analog still comes out ahead for 1962 and by a small margin for 1961. 1960 Galaxy was terrible. IF for 1961 was average, better than Galaxy. If this doesn't get printed, I'll write to dissenters.



Who's that again backing Frank Hiller for Kaymar Award? I back Kaymar for Kaymar Award; he deserves it.

Joe Staton: Playboy is a girly magazine. It has a high literary content but look how most of it's slanted!

A lot of people refuse to believe that sf fans read anything else at all. My eighth-grade teacher, for instance; who contradicted herself in every statement from trying not be dispute me and still get me to throw away that crud... I read the same sort of semi-juvenile adventure stories that other kids my age do; I also read Time cover to cover, the POST whenever I can find one, and everything that shows up in the house in the way of historical novels.

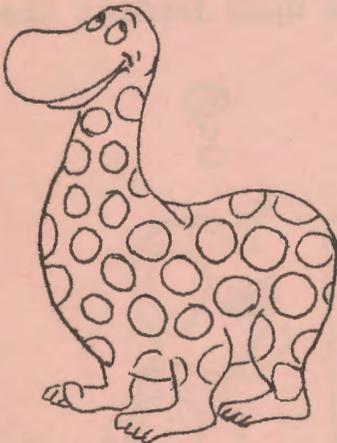
//There's was much more here, but there's still a big stack of other let-
TIGHTBEAM.....page 3

ters to go. However, I must say I regret your use of Asf instead of aSF. Am I getting old? Also, for kicks you might try reading a little ahead; say Catcher in the Rye, Shakespeare, Lord of the Flies. A combination like that should make life difficult for an unqualified eighth grade teacher. Feel free to write for my N'APA zine anytime. GHL//

George Proctor; Route 1; Gilmer, Texas

Analog & JWC: For my money Analog is the best prozine out. It offers the most attractive format (even before change in size) and the stories come closer to reaching my definition of stf. Schoenherr's covers out rank any stf artist today, his interiors aren't quite as good, but still out rank most. As far as editorials and lettercols are concerned I completely ignore them.

Mike Shupp and Mark Zibelman: Thanks from a new member of fandom, but let's get something straight. I've been writing to fans for about a year now. I've even got a fanzine going in its fifthish (FANTASMA 15¢) and now I've joined N3F. The world of the neffer seems to be completely different from other fans. It'll take me a little time to get settled and I'm not complaining because its fun meeting new people. If more people would help like you two a neo fan wouldn't feel out of place too long.



John Kuske: I agree with Joe Staton "PLAYBOY IS NOT A GIRLY MAGAZINE". Besides publishing good stf stories it also comes up with interesting articles pertaining to stf. Not too long ago an article on pulp mags was published. July and Aug. '63 issues had a discussion between 12 top stf authors. I think all fans would enjoy Playboy.

//I am afraid I must agree with Staton: Playboy is a "girly" magazine. So what? That doesn't mean it's bad (or good). The quality dictates that. Compared with other girly mags Playboy outshines them greater than the sun outshines the moon. Reflected glory can be seen in the many imitators. And as for the non-girly contents I find them sometimes good and sometimes bad. I don't think Gem would enjoy Playboy. GHL//

Dave Kird Patrick; 160 Prospect St.; East Orange, New Jersey //again//

Roy Tackett: Your comment is almost humorous in the point you have tried to take. You say that my complaint is typical among younger fans. This seems somewhat hypocritical since fandom, in effect, claims young fans as their life blood and look to them for their future. Can you hope to attract the younger set when they find the N3F not what they expect? Obviously the juvenile is important to fandom but you are repelling them by not heeding what they say. You treat them as neos and people who do not know the ropes.

Further on you infer that the world at large is nuts and that we are

the sane. The world thinks we read junk but they are simply hesitant about scientific advances. Don't you feel a little egocentric when you assume that the majority of the population is just not with it?

Arnold Katz: Your letter is the most awful example of what I am trying to say. You found a world all your own in a larger world called fandom. In this microcosm you run a Senior Pen Pals Bureau and in this you are content. Why not take the wider view of the universe and realize that in our expanding age one cannot isolate oneself in a shelter of letters and correspondence. You have to realize that fandom is rapidly becoming better known and before it really breaks open, drastic changes have to be made in its approach to the public. You exclude people in general from what you do. Can you not see that quality is more important than the quantity fans now put out? They need this quality to achieve any sort of longevity of life. They have to be comprehensible in content to the neo and the semi-interested. They are not!

//I found it hard to cut this letter, but cut I have. The stand taken is one I find myself leaning toward more and more because more and more "non fans" are reading stf and liking it. That the act of enjoying stf does not make one a "fan" in the fandom sense is clear. But what then is the approach to these people that fandom must take? Do we ignore them? What happens when they control what is published (by virtue of their number) and it differs with "classic" science fiction? Can we ignore what is happening in the world and the steady acceptance of stf by more and more people? Tough questions that will require thoughtful answers! I hope N3F can play a part in finding the answers. GHL//

Irvin Koch; 835 Chattanooga Bank Bldg; Chattanooga, Tenn.; 37402.

Military Science in Science Fiction: As far as I know this was invented by R.A. Heinlein and his novels, Glory Road and Starship Trooper, are the only works containing such stuff. Heinlein, in these novels, talks about the general theory of fighting in Science Fictional circumstances and thereby did something never before seen in Stf-write two novels not only worthy of Hugos, but possibly passible as better writing than most mundane fiction. Now, comment on the above comment.

//On the question of military science: this topic used to be stock in trade of stf writers. If new fen like yourself would dig back into some of the origins of stf I think you would enjoy what is now written much more. For a start try to get copies of the Lens series which have fantastic deep space battles, as I recall. Asimov has also done theorizing on military strategy and so has van Vogt, to name a few. Anyway, perhaps more definite information and discussion on this topic will develop from your letter. GHL//

Hank Luttrell; Route 13-2936 Barrett Station Rd.; Kirkwood, Mo; 63211.

In reply to Mr. Riddle's letter: You threw F&SF away when you found it turning toward fantasy. Hmmm. I don't suppose I should mention this but the name of the club you belong to is the National Fantasy Fan Federation. That isn't fair, is it? I think anyone would have to admit N3F is primarily devoted to science fiction, rather than pure fantasy. I like fantasy, maybe that's why I haven't thrown it away. But I would like to believe there has been an occasional science fiction story of note.

//It's not fair, Hank, and Riddle can just as easily remind you that the name of the zine is F&SF. GHL//

Boanld Wilson; N3107 Normandie St.; Spokane 18, Washington.

ALL RIGHT!! ENOUGH, ALREADY!!! I seem to have developed a problem in semantics as the controversies raging over my last letter indicate. Permit me to state a few axioms from my Dark and Sinister personal philosophy before you all stretch me on the Tree to cool.

1. I am radically opposed to all forms of censorship because there is no mortal in this country I considered qualified to tell me or 180 million others what is right for us to read. (Actually, I don't see all the fuss. I've read and looked at a number of "hard core" items; none of which did a thing for me. A state of mind? Undoubtedly.)

2. One of the main functions of science fiction is, as I see it, extrapolation on the varied components of society/culture, such as politics, technology, economics, and even religion. This has proved healthy, both in providing new roads for empiricism, and the subsequent broadening of knowledge.

3. Religion should be one of the last entities to escape the probing eye of conjecture. Organized religion today, being based largely on mysticism, superstition and blind faith, very often spews dogma in the faces of sincere truth seekers (hence, "The Lord works in strange and mysterious ways, my son."); and rather than submit their doctrines to the test of logic and reason, simply label as "sacrilege" any objective analysis of the questioned faith. (I was quoting "sacrilege" in this vein.)

4. As far as I'm concerned, any religion that shudders from a swift kick to its fundament, isn't worth the talisman on its symbol. If science fiction cannot be permitted to conjure up a few "what if's" about the Big Faiths, and can't "put it on the altar and see if anybody kneels" when new theories on religion are formulated, then we'd best stick with Buck Rogers and prayer wheels.

5. In science fiction I like extrapolation on technology, rather than on politics or religion. This doesn't mean I disapprove of the others. Religion is one subject I have almost given up discussing with anyone, because not only have I failed to locate anybody with a substantial number of answers, but anybody who'll admit that they don't. If there's any Truth to be found, it will have to come through rationalization, instead of dogmatism.

CANTICLE AND DARK UNIVERSE are not my cup of tea, but if they're yours, great.

I was surprised to note just what an enlightened bunch of free-thinkers you fen are. Most everything you said on the topic, I agreed with, because nearly all of you held to the fundamental law of the Rational Being: "That might be quite true, but suppose..."

//shocking as it may seem, I agree. GHL//

John Kusske Jr.; 522 9th Ave. West; Alexandria, Minn.

Joe Staton: I still consider PLAYBOY to be a girlie magazine. Yes, I know that they publish some of the best stuff by some of the best authors, but the whole thing is ruined by some of the rest of their not so literate atmosphere. If they want to have a good fiction magazine or whatever the stories and articles indicate, why don't they get rid of the sex angle? Maybe it's because they want to make money.

//True. Maybe it's because sex is a part of the American scene today. Get prepared man, it's almost 1964. That's 1964. Be sure and read William Tenn's new story in the November PLAYBOY. Why does Bill Tenn sell to PLAYBOY instead of Analog? Maybe he want's his work to be read. GHL//

//GHL the next letter is long, and I just couldn't find a place to cutit//

Clayton Hamlin; Southwest Harbor; Maine.

I hope to offer here the outline of a completely drastic change in the policy under which this club of ours operates. The fannish minded among you are just possibly going to be infuriated by it, and even consider it well nigh heretical. The younger members will undoubtedly agree with it, but even they will protest when they see the catch in it, that it requires effort on their part for the club, and not merely effort in their own behalf. As for the vast majority in between, the semi-active who don't take the antics of the club too seriously, I have little doubt that they will merely sit back comfortably and watch the fun, and reserve judgment until next election time. They will help a little surely, the small but worthwhile support they offer any new and possibly good idea, but won't make much of a fuss over it.

General fandom, specifically excluding the N3F, has not created and promoted one single original and worthwhile idea or project to help science fiction, in the past six years that I know of, and probably considerably more. Yes, it has produced a few writers of some merit, and an artist or two, but to my way of thinking, these people did it in spite of their experience in fandom, not because of it. The one possible exception to this might be Dan Adkins.

Yes, I know that the fan art exhibits was generally promoted by a group of people that are considered as general fandom rather than Neffers. Even so, the idea was definitely one originated by the club, and practically all the groundwork during that first difficult year was done by club members, before it was rightfully handed over to others who were much more capable of making it the success that it eventually became. It must remain, however, the idea and much of the promotion, came from N3F.

The story contest has been Neffer all the way. So has the Information Bureau, a new idea and surely a worthy one. The tape recording bureau still does not show just where it might lead us, there is almost infinite promise though since stf seems to be spreading out somewhat in a direction away from the strictly magazine and book direction that it held so long. Admittedly, it was only the third attempt to start such a thing that it really succeeded in getting off the ground, but when it did, it was definitely a Neffer project.

Another one, not a club project, but created and made workable by a club member, is the Semi Pro activity run by Alma Hill. It will be revealing no especial secrets that the results of this year's story contest will amply demonstrate that those who have had the advantage of the group criticism by others reasonably equal to them in talent, are far ahead in writing over those who have had to do it on their own. Don't be a bit surprised to find that the winners are ALL members of one of those groups, the other entries simply are not in their class. This is definitely a project that next years directors, whoever they may be, consider carefully, and adapt in whatever way seems best, to the club programs they offer. There are so MANY who can be benefitted by this sort of thing run on the large scale that the club is capable of offering it on.

As for the prozines, they simply won't take fandom seriously at all, and for good and ample reason. They know perfectly well that it has never offered them anything worthy of effort on the part of their magazines. Oh, I know, there have been complaints now and then that these

magazines should offer fanzine reviews and such, and they were rightfully turned down. Most of them dropped letter columns too, or made good and sure that it was not a completely fannish gettogether. And as for that monstrous goof in trying to get all of fandom on their side, what ever happened to Fantastic Universe? Nuff said.

The trouble, from my own viewpoint at least, is that general fandom (including all too often the NFFF as well), has been trying to live on its past glories, or at best living in the present, where they as organizations seem well established to perpetrate themselves, and so forget all about the original purposes of trying to help promote stf. For people who supposedly are able to consider things that might be, most fans seem to show a singular lack of enthusiasm when it comes to applying these lessons to their own supposed purposes, and the reasons for existence of their organizations.

Yep, there is still individual effort, unorganized though. Now and again we find ourselves delighted to read a story in some prozine or pocket book by a well known fannish name. The indexers, praise be, are still out in full force, and sometimes, though not often, some fanzine shows up devoting itself to fiction, amateur though it may be, but at least someone is trying.

Sometimes we goof too, see the last Tightbeam where we had to be reminded that Wallace West, of all people, was one of us, and not especially happy with the way that we had been ignoring our purposes. A sad state of affairs, I would say, if we could have simply shown a bit of appreciation now and then, who indeed knows what he might have contributed to the club, and perhaps still would if we gave value received for the effort.

And again, where were all the fan reporters who had to learn in If that our own Doc Smith was working on Skylark Duquesne. For one like myself who proactively got started on Skylark of Space, and followed through with Skylark Three and Skylark of Valeron, it would have been very pleasant indeed if some little notice from Doc had been able to be printed right in TNFF that he was working on this. For heavens sake folks, that is what some of us are here for, but we find little or nothing in our official fanzine except reports of club politics and such. I am sure I am not the only one around who would be very happy to have a page reserved for news and other things about our professionals.

So, I suggest to our new directors, let's make this a stf club again, and maybe see what will happen if we just forget that there is such a thing as general fandom for a while, seemingly lost in the dead end of fannishness. For a change, let's not bother quite so hard to make ourselves socially acceptable to them, let them take us as we are (whatever that may be) and join us, or stay away, on our terms, and not those dictated to us by their good will. Remember, NFFF has been around somewhat longer than most of the others after all, and after 21 years, why not let this club proclaim, by its actions, that it has come of age.

I will try to help do it, anyone else care to line up with me, with the same offer? Fandom just may never be the same again if we really work at this and isn't that a worthy cause by itself?

//I've been editing the letters to death, but this one seemed pertinent to the club in its entirety (almost) so it ran two pages,..so what? GHL//

Mike Irwin; 1712 Tulip; Arlington; Texas.

Don't you think it'd be real neat for the N3F to have some kind of decals? Just think; some guy in a car right in front of you could be a fan and you don't even know it. But if he has a real flashy looking d decal on his rear windshield, you can give him a beep and strike up a real pleasant relationship, or if when he identifies himself, you remember him from some letter as being a real clod, you can poke him a good one.

And say, how about printing up a list of all the club members with name, address, and maybe a line or two of pertinent info. With about 300 plus members listed, it would only take about 10 pages; might even be worth 15 or 20 cents.

//I assume you are joking in paragraph one. About that name and address list, I trust you have yours by now. And we have 400 plus members.GHL//

Si Stricklen; Route 2, Box 1030; Augusta; Georgia.

First, I would like to introduce the membership to a new punctuation mark: the indifference point. It is written "‡" and, as the exclamation point is interpreted "How about that!" the indifference point is interpreted, "I couldn't care less ‡" This mark is intended to allow one to write down the inflections he imposes by shrugging, grimacing, or, in general, acting indifferent. Here are some examples: "I hear JWC has a new theory that little toes are really vestigial wings‡" or "We must all rise and save fandom from creeping spanish-mossism‡" or even "I just read the latest ish of Worlds of Tommorrow‡". Think of the fun a newspaper editor could have! I can see it now: MAYOR ANNOUNCES NEW CULTURAL SERIES‡ O' course, there are those who might think this just another childish foofaw, like a lot of the neologisms and funny spellings you already see in fandom. Comments, anyone?

G.M.Carr: It seems to me that you read George Fergus's letter a little wrong. I think he's saying that someone who's not really interested in a subject does better to go along with the general opinion; if everyone thinks the moon is made of purple cheese, then that doesn't have anything to do with the composition of the moon, i.e. it proves nothing, but a person who doesn't give a flip what the moon is made of is more likely to be right if he goes along with the masses (Especially Nowdays) than if he, for no good reason, gets some wild theory about green cheese. I don't agree with this (see next paragraph) but I think that's what he's saying.

George Fergus: I just said what I thought you were getting at in your letter, now I'll say why I think you're wrong. If science teaches anything to the general public, it is that one ought to suspend serious judgment on something until he has some evidence. For example, psi. Not many people believe in psi, and if you're not really interested you might say, "It sounds pretty unlikely to me," but it's not up to anyone else to prove it to you. It's up to you to go out and dig up evidence for or against, and until you do, I guess the most reasonable attitude would be to admit you didn't know. I think a lot of argument could be avoided if people used something approaching the scientific method to settle these things.

As for my own opinion on psi, I have seen some evidence and none of it convinced me. There exist situations in which the actual outcome is not the most probable outcome. Sometime, if I ever get enough energy, I'm going to calculate the probability that, out of a population of 190 million, there will be at least one person who will correctly predict



the Rhine cards all his life. Or that there will be at least one person who will be correct at least 50% of the time. Say each person, in his life, had to call 100,000 Rhine cards.....

As I said, I'm not convinced. I haven't seen all the evidence, though there have been plenty of experiments, but I've seen enough to make me fairly sure psi is a bunch of hogwash. Of course I might change my mind tomorrow if someone comes up with new evidence. I admit there may be someone out there with parapsychological powers!

James McLean: You have an awful lot of confidence in the enthusiasm of Mr. A--- to suggest he can pick up the drift of Carnap's book by just reading the English in it.

//As John Scarne points out, when someone says "Lookit, that guy just rolled six sevens in a row against odds of 2,000,000 to 1!!" it would be unusual if it didn't happen (average) once in every 2,000,000 sequences of six rolls. The law of probability states what the odds are in a continuing series of experiments. Even though the odds of calling a Rhine deck correctly three times in a row is high, I would be surprised to hear it hadn't been done in a large number of tries. More of this in Scarne's book on Gambling.

GHL//

David Ettlin, 3424 Royce Ave.; Baltimore, Maryland; 21215.

I would like to thank everyone who has voted for me in this election. I do not know the results, nor do I expect to hear them until December's TNFF, but your support is greatly appreciated.

I have several questions for the club membership, and would, for my personal reference, like to have them answered....in print!

- 1: Do you approve of my MS Bureau suggestions as they appeared in TB #20? If not, why?
- 2: Why do you consider yourself to be a fan? What is a fan? Do you really qualify? Answering truthfully, do you read the prozines?
- 3: Do you understand fandom? If so, what is its purpose? Do you have a purpose in being a fan?

Several inquiries have reached my mailbox regarding the Baltimore SF Society. I first thought of the club in late 1962, and mentioned it to Jack Chalker. We then organized the six stfnists in the area and built around what we had. Today we have 6 corresponding members and 11 members who can attend meetings. Several new prospects are on the way. The group meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at various homes. In the event any person desires to attend, if he will be in this area, please contact me and I will be most happy to provide information.

The Tape Bureau has a convention for sale in part or full. Let me know what you want in way of program, and I'll let you know the total running time and price. Reels are \$2.75 each, the entire Discon at \$15.00.

John Kusske Jr.	5	3	6	2	1	7	4
Nathan A. Bucklin	1	5	4	2	7	6	3
Mark Owings	4	2	7	6	3	1	5
Robert E. Margroff #1..	7	5	4	3	2	1	6
#2..	1	5	2	4	6	7	3
Coral Smith	3						
Phyllis Brodsky	5	4	1	6	2	7	3
Stephen R. Compton	3	4	1	5	6	2	7
Elaine Wojciechowski...	7	2	6	1	3	5	4

Since in this case, only the first and the last numbers are significant as to probability of being President, the first if you predicting in direct order and the last if you do it in inverse order, here are the chances each candidate stands of being President:

Candidate No.3	has	5	predictions.
"	No.4	has	3
"	No.5	has	3
"	No.7	has	3
"	No.1	has	2
"	No.6	has	1
"	No.2	has	0

Coral Smith got only one number and asks whether he is going to be the President. Wait and see! Robert Margroff has made two predictions, one by means of his own mind, and the other one by shuffling a deck of cards, the famous fortunetellers' method! He does not say which is which! Interesting!

The second experiment is permanent for classification of new participants and practice for everybody. Each Sunday I write 10 digits, repetition being allowed. Any day of the week, try to think hard about DIGIT and write down the FIRST digit that comes to your mind, no matter how, as a thought, as a visual image, or however you like it to come! Repeat this 10 times to get 10 digits. Send your series to me. Report as often or as seldom as you like, report about one or several series at a time, as you wish, just don't forget to tell me the date when you got each series. Don't expect me to answer you each week, please!

Here are the results of those already participating. The explanation of the letters and signs I am using is the following:

- N: Number of experiments performed by the participant.
- PB: PRE-SCIENCE, knowing events before they happen.
- RS: RETRO-SCIENCE, knowing events after they happened.
- CV: CLAIRVOYANCE, knowing events while they are happening.
- Av: Average % of correct answers in all experiments.
- Mx: Maximum % of correct answers in a single experiment.
- AP: Average per participant, belongs to useless statistics!
- AM: Average maximum per participant, still more useless!
- + : I check your digits with mine as they come, I call it direct order.
- : Inverse order, I invert one of the series before checking.
- % : I like how this sign looks, but what does it mean anyway?

PARTICIPANT	N		+ PS -	+ RS -	+ CV -			
John Kusske Jr.	14	Av	16%	19%	19%	14%	13%	9%
		Mx	40%	40%	30%	30%	30%	20%
Elaine Wojciechowski	13	Av	15%	16%	26%	25%	9%	15%
		Mx	40%	40%	40%	40%	30%	50%
Sharon Towle	3	Av	20%	17%	36%	17%	17%	3%
		Mx	30%	20%	40%	20%	30%	20%
Coral Smith	3	Av	10%	17%	40%	17%	17%	7%
		Mx	20%	20%	50%	20%	20%	10%
Mark Owings	2	Av	15%	5%	50%	15%	10%	10%
		Mx	20%	10%	50%	20%	10%	20%
C. W. Brooks Jr.	2	Av	10%	15%	25%	15%	00%	10%
		Mx	20%	20%	40%	20%	00%	10%
David Locke	1		20%	20%	20%	30%	20%	10%
Phyllis Bordsky	1		20%	10%	30%	20%	10%	00%
Stephen R. Compton	1		20%	10%	20%	10%	10%	00%
Nathan A. Bucklin	1		10%	20%	20%	20%	10%	00%
Virginia Marshall	1		20%	20%				
Department of Useless Statistics:	AP		16%	15%	26%	17%	10%	6%
11 participants. 42 experiments.	AM		24%	21%	31%	21%	16%	14%

Jim Harkness has abandoned project Psi, and said so. Others did the same, but did not say it. I hope they will return! From D.U.S. analysis, it appears that the most frequent and best developed psi ability is retro-science, followed by pre-science and, finally, clairvoyance, which appears to be the most difficult to find! Jim Harkness has offered to publish a zine especially for Project Psi. I don't know whether the whole project is worth the effort. What do you think? If all participants tell me their age, you will see how good I am at Useless Statistics! I hope to be hearing constantly from all the participants and many others. So just WRITE. New ideas are welcome. I have not listed Robert E. Margroff due to his way of performing the experiments, so his scores will always be retarded.

//I hope this will be of enough general interest. It's hard enough to type. I guess the good Dr. really works at this! GHL//

Warren de Bra; Route 2, Box 595A; Pensacola, Florida.

I just nailed my NFFF ballot. I read and reread all the candidates platforms. I have met a few and have read some of the writings of a few others. I feel that I made no bad votes but with more publicity for all I would be more confident of the wisdom of my choices.

I vote for President of the USA, the Governor of Florida, and the Sheriff of Escambia County because I have opinions in their favor or against their opponents.

Wish our candidates would announce earlier, and that their friends and supporters, if any, would give them campaign support and publicity. Then we would know better whom to vote for and whom to NOT VOTE FOR.

//This is a problem, Warren, but one must consider the candidates as having been campaigning all the while they participated in N3F and fannish pursuits. You'll be better prepared next year than this year, etc. GHL//

Janie Lamb; Route 1, Box 364; Heiskell; Tenn.;
37754

Number 21 was a nice issue, good job GEM.
What a beautiful cover, let's have more from her.

I'd like to comment on David Ettlins's letter.
N3F has always been proud to boast when a member
sells a story. But if we don't know, how can we
boast? If Wally West would just drop us a card
telling us when he sells and all about his other
activities, I'm sure we will be glad to let the
members know. Stan Woolston has at various times
started a News Bureau, but each time it collapsed
because of no news.

I remember when Holland mentioned West's
stories. At that time Wally complained to me because
his latest stories had not been mentioned. I
passed the letter to Ralph Holland, who was very
happy to get the news, and published it. I promptly
went out and bought the books (PBs). I always like
to read something by a fellow member, and
have an idea other members feel the same. So
Dave, before blaming us for not mentioning
stories by N3F members, ask them to give us
a chance...tell us what, where, when and How.
News sent the secretary will be forwarded, so
if in doubt where to send, let the sec have
it.

Wally West: You are cheating yourself by
not letting us know what your latest books
are when you sell. I always check for your's
when I go to a book store...I enjoy your
stories. But if you want honorable mention,
or a review, tell us where we can get your
latest...OK? Only a card to your's truly
giving info when you sell will get the news
in our zines.

Thanks, Gary for helping us out...and
best of luck with ""22.

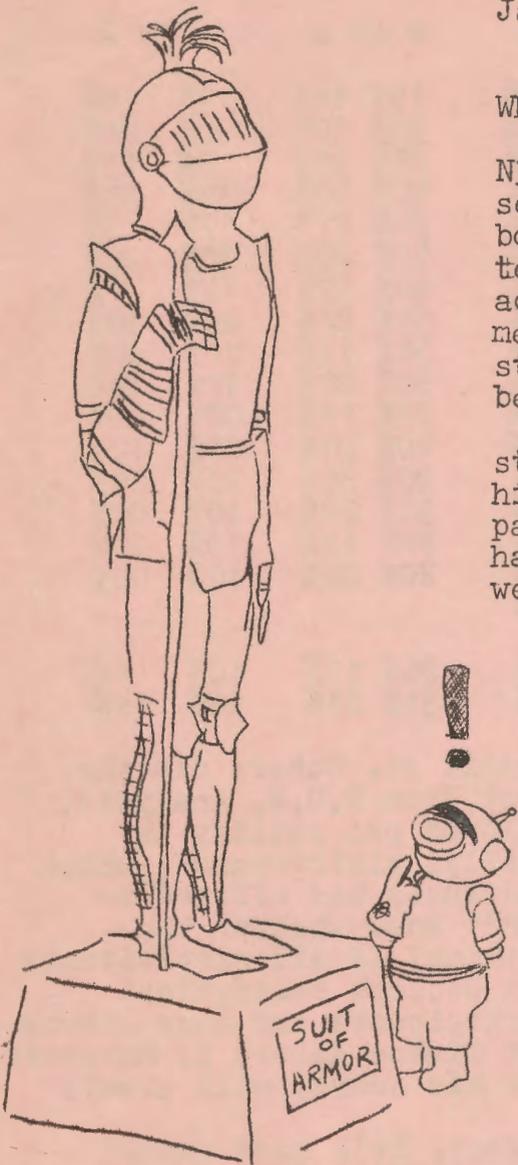
//Thanks, Janie. And best of luck to Felice Rolfe, 1360 Emerson,
Palo Alto, Calif. 94301. Get those letters in early. GHL//

Al Andriuskevicius; 2730 Burnside St.; Detroit, Michigan 48212.

At first I had thought of writing a "rebuttal" to the people who
took issue with my letter, but since it appears that for the most part it
was misinterpreted, I thought it might be better perhaps, if I explain
the point I was trying to make.

I was not trying to convert people to psi nor was I trying to compare
psi to a "belief in God" as some people thought. I was trying to attack
Hulan's position as a skeptic and the "analogy" between psi and God was
never intended on my part to be a comparison of the two.

The point I was trying to make was that if one stakes out a claim
as a skeptic, one should live to that claim all the time and not turn one's
skepticism on and off like a faucet. Hulan is not skeptical about the
existence of a supreme being, "God" or whatever label you choose to



apply to the concept involved, yet he is skeptical about psi. To me, that is a very strange attitude for a skeptic, which Hulan claims he is, to assume. The evidence to support psi may not be overwhelming but I believe enough exists so that anyone keeping an open mind and investigating available data is bound to draw the conclusion that there is something to the claim that psi exists after all, furthermore Peter Hurkos is living proof of the matter, the fact that the man's talents have been utilized by such agencies as Scotland Yard is sufficient to show that his "talents" are legitimate. On the other hand there is very little if no evidence at all to support the concept of "God". Yet Hulan tends to accept the latter and rejects the former with the claim of "I've got to see it to believe it." The true skeptic would demand evidence of both but not accept one and reject the other.

Felice Rolfe: re Inductive Logic--I stand corrected.

Jim McLean: The name is Lithuanian and in full is Albinas Antanas Andriuskevicius (please no joies about AAA, I've heard them) now try and get all that on a mailing label, hence I prefer to use shortened (?) form of Al Andriuskevicius. In case you are wondering if the last name has any special meaning, I'm afraid I must profess ignorance on that matter.

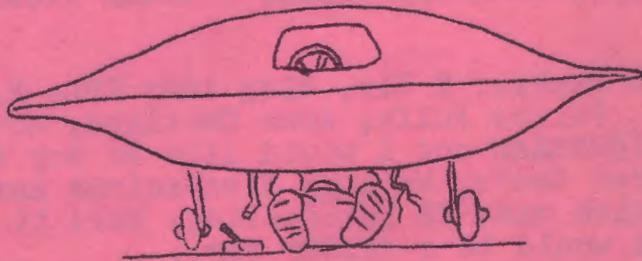
The only thing I'll comment on is a definition of Pragmatism. My definition is not a purely personal one. While Webster's may not make any distinction between Peirce's (incidentally it's Peirce not Pierce) and James's ideas, the two are not the same and even something like "College Outline of Philosophy" will make the distinction between the two and relabel James' outlook as Practicalism. The movement was founded by Charles Sanders Peirce and of which William James was a follower, but Peirce has just about been forgotten but James gets the glory. Personally I do not and will not equate James and Peirce and neither will any Pragmatism belonging to Peirce's school of thought.

Dr. Ladonko: You misunderstood me sir, I'm not convinced of impracticality of psi, though I do believe at present it doesn't have any great practicality attached to it. Hurkos has demonstrated practicality of psi more than I think any experiment could, but I personally would hardly label prediction of elections as practical but then that would depend on ones definition of practical.

Gil Lamont; 1970 Masters; Christilla Hts.; Beloit, Wis. 53511.

GEM's main complaint with TIGHTBEAM is that it has become a discussionzine, and that the letters are too long.

First things first. Why is TIGHTBEAM? So we can write letters saying: "Gee whiz, that new Heinlein story in GALAXY was crud!", "Goshwowoboyoboy, wasn't Zelazny's new short the coolest?", "I thought my last letter was great, and hi there everybody!"? WHAT IS TIGHTBEAM FOR EXCEPT DISCUSSION? We can't have 20 or so pages of just N3F business and/or our comments on it, because TNFF is for the former, and there just isn't that



much going on for the latter. I enjoy TIGHTBEAM because it is a discussionzine.

Letters too long?! Aha! I have the solution. Why not charge a small amount per page to the letterhacks who fill up TIGHTBEAM's pages? Say a dime? That way: (a) the cost to the N3F treasury is reduced. (b) TIGHTBEAM can run as many pages as is necessary. (c) letterhacks will be inclined to somewhat cut their wordage to save a little money. (d) it may look unfair, but it isn't. Letterhacks pay a negligible fee for the benefit of having their voices heard by the other Neffers. Say what you want as long as you want, but pay a small charge for that privilege. Comments?

Ira Lee Riddle: Foo on you! How can a mag which had only four issues be the best? F&SF won the Hugo this year. It took six-odd years to just get its first; Wo T the best? Galaxy is much better, as it usually gets the pick of all the stories.

Though ANALOG could, I suppose, be classed as the best all-around mag. Good sf; excellent book reviews; magnificent cover art; great fantasy in Campbell's editorials. Yessiree, friends, ANALOG is the best large-size stf prozine existing in the US today.

Tim Eklund: Although Heinlein is obviously your ideal and hero, I rather wish you'd state precisely why you dislike CANTICLE.

Phil Roberts: Regarding heroes: "the leading male character in a story or drama". That's my dictionary's definition (abridged). How about the little man who saves a universe by blundering around? Besides, I was quoting (though not verbatim) from a letter in some prozine.

Democracy: A government by all classes for the benefit of all classes. Same dictionary. We do not, repeat NOT, live in a democracy. Since when has the US Gov't been for the benefit of ALL classes, rather than the majority?

Granted, my idea would also constitute an anarchy, an autocracy, a monarchy, a dictatorship, an oligarchy, and a communistic state, plus a few others thrown in for flavor. Just because it is paradoxically all these things does not make it more or less a democracy. One lone man would have the entire wishes of himself at his disposal.

But please -- don't nobody, like nobody, nowhere nohow send me the deed to an uninhabited island. I have no strong desires of departing herewith.

Lou Pochet: Andre Norton is Andrew North, who is in reality a librarian by the name of Alice Mary Norton. Consult your WHO'S WHO IN THE MIDWEST to find out more.

Announcement heard from a local TV station shortly before THE OUTER LIMITS: "The following program is not recommended for viewing by an impressionable child." Think about that!

Ed Meskys; T Div, Bldg 162; LRL; P.O.Box 808; Livermore, Calif.; 94551.

Felice Rolfe, Anne Chatland, and I will be publishing the next TIGHTBEAM and I would like to say that our policy will differ somewhat from Gen's. We like discussions and feel that it is such discussions which make TB interesting. Were it to be limited to official N3F business it would be a deadly bore.

I published an issue of TB about 2½ years ago and wish to make a request based on my past experience. After you finish writing your letter and before mailing it to us please read it over, and if something doesn't

sound right please correct it. I remember getting a few letters which were so poorly written that they were incoherent and I couldn't even figure out what the writers were trying to say. OK?

ART RAPP: With reference to this bit about telepathy, let me quote the following from the October 7th 1963 issue of Missiles and Rockets:

"TELEPATHY DISCUSSED AT IAC

Paris--Both Russia and the U.S. are studying the use of mental telepathy for space communications, but the Soviets--if their reported results are to be believed--will succeed first, a U.S. delegate told the 14th International Astronautical Congress.

Dr. Eugene Konecci, director of NASA's Biotechnology and Human Research and chairman of the International Astronautical Federation's Bioastronautics committee, noted in a paper delivered at the Congress that the Soviets had given "top priority" to what he termed "biological radio communication." He said that Western scientists had until recently almost ignored such research.

General aim of the Soviet program, Konecci said, was to enable Earth-bound humans to communicate with humans on the Moon without using electronic equipment. "If the results of conducted experiments are half as good as the Soviet's claim," he added, "then they may be the first to put a human thought in orbit or achieve mind-to-mind communication with humans on the moon."

U.S. researchers have conducted tests between two persons, one of whom was on a submarine, Konecci reported. The results have been encouraging but not conclusive....

(A complete report on the IAF Congress will appear in the Oct. 14th M/R.)

But, but, I thought PSI was Campbell's private domain!

Phil Roberts: Your idea of general discussions of specific announced topics was tried recently in the form of an APA, IPSO, and it flopped miserably. There each member printed his own contribution and there was an awful lot of duplication and repetition. Also, many members weren't interested in discussing the topic of the quarter so they did other things. It just didn't work out. However, if the thing is edited and published by another as you suggest the editor could take out the redundancy...it just might work. But where to find the editor? Care to volunteer?

Dave Ettl (and Gem): I knew Wallace West was the writer, but I generally leave pros alone and do not bother them unless they are people I already know well. Thus I figured I was doing him a favor by not bothering him and infringing upon his privacy. Also, when he sold a new novel or something about 2 years ago Ralph Holland mentioned this in TNFF, and there was (I believe) a letter from Mr. West commenting on the mention and mentioning some of his other pro sales. So howcum you didn't know he was THE pro, GEM? Don't you read TNFF?

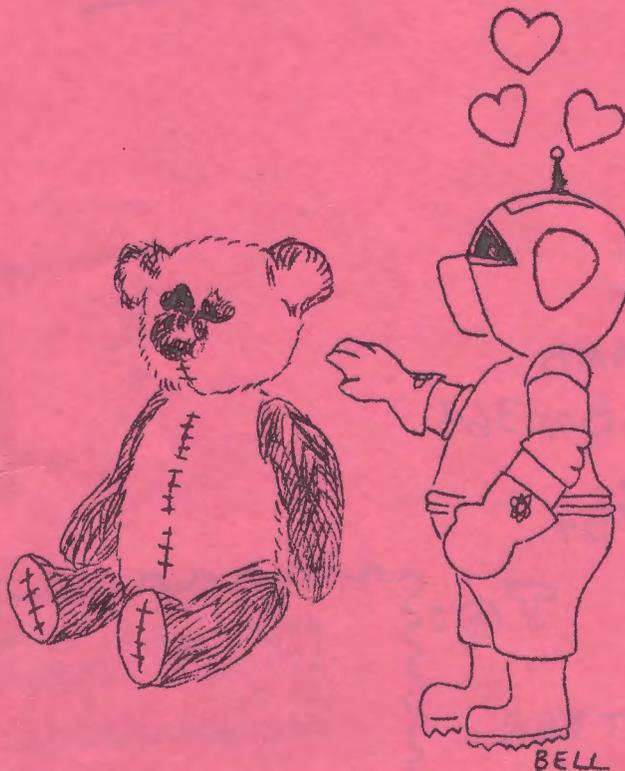
Finally a few words about long TB letters and N'APA. I like long letters but then I'm in N'APA too. I think the long-letter writers should continue doing so, for they make TB interesting...but this doesn't mean that they ought not give N'APA a try too. They should by all means and I am sure they will enjoy it. Publishing equipment is not necessary under a new scheme being tried out though it is still somewhat preferable if the member has access to it. But it is possible to fulfil requirements by having someone else publish your zine or even by writing letters. Why not give it a try?

And so ends TIGHTBEAM 22. I've enjoyed putting it together, though it is a lot of work. I cut the letters unmercifully and probably could have had an issue twice this size by not doing so, but the postage would just be too much. Thanks to all who wrote. All letters received were used. This last stencil is being cut 2340 CST Nov. 4. I plan to mail by the 7th. (Everyone now look at postmark and tsk tsk.)

I shall be writing to TB and will talk to some of you in N'APA. For now, thanks, good luck to Felice, and everybody write!!!

Keep smiling,

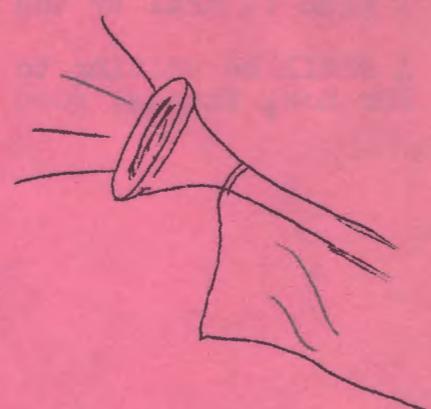
Gary



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TIGHT BEAM 22



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