

TIGHTBEAM



Number 17
January '63



this is

TIGHTBEAM #17 published by LEE RIDDLE, 144 ELKTON ROAD, NEWARK, DELAWARE

A few personal notes:; Since I do not wish to insert editorial comments on each letter (after all this is the place where the NFFFer can express their personal views), I am taking this space to insert a brief personal letter.

Many many thanks to all of you who sent the little notes of welcome back, since it was announced that I would publish this issue of TB. I had wondered if anyone would remember me after five years of absence from the fan world. I know now that I didn't need to worry one bit! To those of you who wanted me to revive PEON, the answer will have to be no--at least for the time being. Now that I am retired from the Navy (since last June), I am just too busy with my own letter shop (named, natch, PEON PRESS) to spare the time and money for a personal fanzine. I will, however, try to help out the N3F in publishing as much as possible, but for the time being that will have to be it.

For you who asked about the Riddle family, we now number seven (not counting a very strong-willed cat, Keiki). Besides the wife, Rosella, there are Ira (16), Bob (14), David (11), Alice (8), and Max (4). I'm happy to state that both Ira and Bob are devoted readers of science-fiction, and I hope one day to channel their liking for it into fan affairs. We all hope to make the convention on the east coast this year.

My congratulations to Donald Franson on his election to the N3F Presidency. Being the president of the local Jewish Community, I know what a thankless job it is! But, Don seems to have a firm grasp on things, I hope this year will prove a good one for NFFF.

Outside of a few mentions of it by various letters this issue, the Rapp-Lamb affair seems to be dead, and it's a mighty good thing for all concerned that it has die. Both parties to the affair are willing to let it drop, and I see no reason for the rest of us to get involved and drag it out any longer.

The next issue of TIGHTBEAM (#18) will be published by Bill Mallardi and William L. Bowers. Deadline for that issue is February 25th, and letters for publication are requested to be addressed as follows:

TIGHTBEAM #18
Bill Mallardi
214 Mackinaw Avenue
Akron 13, Ohio

And now, after you read the list of officials for the National Fantasy Fan Federation for the forthcoming year on the reverse side of this page, I invite you to wade into the bunch of letters published. There are plenty of ideas for discussion, and I look forward to future issues of TIGHTBEAM. Keep the letters rolling in--a lively discussion makes any organization that much better!

Since good wishes for the forthcoming year to all --

Sincere



OFFICERS, BUREAUS AND COMMITTEES OF THE NFFF, 1963:

President: Donald Franson, 6543 Babcock Avenue, North Hollywood, California

Directorate:

Albert J. Lewis (Chairman), 1825 Greenfield Ave., Los Angeles 25, California

Howard DeVore, 4705 Weddel St., Dearborn, Michigan

David G. Hulan, 228 -D Niblo Drive, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama

Arthur H. Rapp (in transit)

Roy Tackett, 915 Green Valley Road N.W., Albuquerque, New Mexico

Secretary-Treasurer: Janie Lamb, Route 1, Box 364, Heiskell, Tennessee

Election Teller: Stuart S. Hoffman, Box 13, Black Earth, Wisconsin

Editor, THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN: Albert J. Lewis (address above)

Permanent Standy-By Editor, TIGHBEAM: Lee Riddle, 144 Elkton Road, Newark, Delaware

Rotating Editors of TIGHTBEAM:

March (#18): Bill Mallardi, 214 Mackinaw Ave., Akron 13, Ohio

May (#19): David G. Hulan (address above)

Official Historian: K. Martin Carlson, 1028 Third Ave. So., Moorhead, Minnesota

Collectors' Bureau: Norman C. Metcalf, Box 336, Berkeley 1, California

Correspondence Bureau: J. Arthur Hayes, RR#3, Bancroft, Ontario, Canada

Follow-Up Bureau: David G. Hulan

Information Bureau: Donald Franson

Manuscript Bureau: OPEN

Overseas Bureau: Roy Tackett

Publications Bureau: Ron Ellik, 1825 Greenfield Ave., Los Angeles 25, California

Recruiting Bureau: George Nims Raybin, 1367 Sheridan Ave., Bronx 56, New York

Tape Bureau: David Ettlin, 3424 Royce Ave., Baltimore 15, Maryland

Welcommittee: Dave Locke, P. O. Box 335, Indian Lake, New York

Renewals Committee: Stan Woolston, 12832 Westlake St., Garden Grove, California

DONALD FRANSON, 6543 BABCOCK AVENUE, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Thank you for electing me President of the N3F for 1963. I will do my best to deserve your confidence, and will work cooperatively with the other elected officers.

Since December 6th, when I was notified of my election, I have been busy trying to fill appointive offices, so that the club may get started on the new year as soon as possible. There hasn't been much time to both write letters and receive replies (in less than ten days.) However, the organization chart in this issue of TIGHTBEAM is almost complete, showing that I have been lucky.

These are bona-fide acceptance s. Others have been contacted, or will be, but I can't announce their names until they have accepted in writing. There will be a complete list of officers and bureaus, together with an explanation of the functions of each, in the February TNFF. In the meantime, anyone interested in other bureaus and services of the N3F may contact me directly.

I am carrying on with the Information Bureau, and hope to have a column published at least as frequently as I had last year (9 columns in 12 months). Art Hayes will continue to publish THRU THE HAZE frequently, with a column in each issue as far as is practical.

Norman Metcalf will edit and publish the Collectors' Bureau zine, and the first issue will contain letters which I have received to date, as well as some features of interest to collectors. It is planned to send this first issue to all members, and after that only to those who request to be placed on the mailing list. Art Hayes' Correspondence Bureau zine will be similarly handled.

Bill Bowers and Bill Mallardi have agreed to edit and publish the March TIGHTBEAM-- send all letters to Mallardi's address (marked "Tightbeam", he says). Dave Hulan has volunteered to take on the May issue. I don't want to appoint Tightbeam editors too far in advance, as situations may change. The September issue, for instance, should be put out by someone not going to the convention. I'm always anxious to hear from volunteers for this as well as for any other job.

I am appointing a couple advisory committees, the Convention Room Committee, which will deal with the problems of the N3F Hospitality Room at the Discon; and the Story Contest Committee, which will try to work out the bugs in the story contest before we start on a new one. Meanwhile, the second story contest will be wound up with publication of the winning manuscripts.

Now to stop talking about me, and talk about you. What do you think of my activities so far....?

The November TIGHTBEAM was just about the size TIGHTBEAM should be, and had the variety a lively letterzine needs to keep going. With variety, anyone can always find something to comment on.

I must argue with those who think the NFFF should not accept financial help in paying for the N3F Hospitality Rooms at the conventions. The N3F supplies the personnel, the food and other services, and the arrangements making the room available to any attendees at the conventions, not just N3F members. This service is appreciated by the convention committees, and while they can't always promise help in advance (convention committees can lose money, or have you all forgotten?) it is certainly not resented, it is certainly appreciated, if they see their way clear to donate to the N3F after their books are balanced. Anyone who wishes the N3F to stand on its independence from the rest of fandom may send us a check for \$150 and we'll return Earl Kemp's...it isn't the principle of the thing, it's the money.

When I heard of the Chicago hotel rate, I was floored, to be honest, and couldn't see how the club could afford it, without passing a large hat. This amount was half the treasury. No one activity of the club should take such a large percentage--this is why we balked at excessive expenses in story contest publishing and other departments--it isn't fair to those members who aren't interested in such activities. A reasonable expense for any activity, of benefit to a minority of the membership; no excessively large expenses for anything unless every member benefits, should be our rule.

As far as I know, there was never any intention that the N3F should pay for everything, when the Hospitality Rooms were first proposed; we were only supposed to help out by manning (or womanning) the room, and supplying the eatments. By the way, we don't have a Convention Room Hostess as yet, for the Discon. Any ideas?

GEORGE ANDREWS, 9321 BUCKEYE ROAD, CLEVELAND 4, OHIO

Just seen your name, for a moment I recalled seeing it before, then "Peon" opened myeyes. Now I remember. I used to write to PEON. The present days are not like the old days of fandom. Bureaucrazy, red tape, dried in the wool facts and figures, beating around the two point bush is what is taking place now. All fandom's writings of the present have reverted politcally--another name for Politics, is evading the issue and the point.

When we were with PEON and SPACEWARP we told undiluted and naturally what we had to say. There was no top crust of non-comprehendability (gad a new word!) involved. We were We.

Times to change. But not all fandom has gone to the dog show. A few are still left, who know one and one are two. And you and I and those few--ARE THE ONLY ONES TO ADMIT IT!!

What has brought about fandom to an idealistic intelligentia way of thinking, I don't know. I still call a spade a spade and not a term used to correlative a mutual cybernetic optical illusion--oh, what's the use? B' t's that the point I'm trying to put over. Nuff sed.

Remember when we letter hacked to the pro-zines? I do and too well. I remember a letter by Chad Oliver in Planet Stories. It seemd to me that his letter was deliberately written on a must print mine basis. Gosh! did I tell off on his letter, my "advice to squirrels" (Planet's editor's editing) was a masterpiece. It was about--no names mentioned--of guys who liked their names in print.

Recently a letter by Ray Nelson (I'm sure you remember him) was in TIGHTBEAM. I couldn't resist a running away quarrel (just in fun) so I wrote to his letter and it was printed--but did they hack up the original with deletions and ommissions and corrections. When I saw it in TIGHTBEAM I did not recognize it.

There ain't gonna be any more letters by me. They go the way I write or not at all. Certainly their motives don't impress me as decipherable, whereas a spade is a spade.

When I was with PEON before I was just the man in the street--a working laborer, now the same, the future et cetera, et cetera.

Things may go ahead, but I'll be left behind, if fandom starts reverting from the simple and natural--to a closely perused repartee of complicated non-entities--dat's their business. I've been always an NFFF and always will be (if I can afford it.)

I'll just keep mum, glad to renew old friendships, AND WE DON'T ALL THINK ALIKE. Well, goodbye, Lee.

ROBERT P. BROWN, 1484 ELM AVENUE, LONG BEACH 13, CALIFORNIA

Roy Tackett: You missed the point, Roy. In fact your statement in TB 16 is similar to remarks made by individuals in these other groups (except for the part about Tom Armistead). It's like that old one about everybody is crazy except you and me, and sometimes I think you are crazy too. Hard that one before haven't you? Thought I would get more reaction to the letter, but, no soap. Sooo thank YOU for responding. By the way, how come you picked on Tom?

Gary Labowitz: The few collectors contacted personally, think the Xmas stmp is a klunker. Get a copy of Hersts Outbursts, Summer issue 1962 for another viewpoint on the Christmas Stamp. Send a stamped envelope to "Pat" Herst, Shrub Oak, New York. That is, if you do not have it now.

Mike Shupp: Some sort of information should be given to people who are asked to write welcome letters. Seth asked me to write to a Japanese Faan. A new member, says he, besides you have been to Japa. Okay, so I write, taking it for granted that the letter is going to a neofan. Yep, you know what happened; the "neofan" drops me a card as well as a copy of Uchinjin. Both show that the "neo" has been publishing for about five years! Bang, Bop, Crash. Hold it, no harm done, it's just me going through the floor. Can you blame the guy for making it an abrupt, GOODBYE, as part of the sign off on the card. A Neo (me) telling an established publisher, that one of these days he may publish a magazine, too! WOW! (How about it, WC members, are you getting information about the people you write to? Perhaps a bit of delay till information is available, would be better than going at it blind. Remember HaLevy's reaction?)

Anyone have an extra copy of Shaggy #39, also #38 with the supplementary page? Howzabout issues of G² from one to ten? 73

NORM METCALF, P.O. BOX 336, BERKELEY 1, CALIFORNIA

There's no need to establish a journal for scientific speculation by amateurs. It already exists. Subscriptions cost 4/\$2.00 to Particle, Inc., 2531 Ridge Road, Berkeley 9, California, USA.

VIRGINIA MARSHALL, 120 LOCUST AVENUE, NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK

Being a very new neofan, I hasten to put my 4¢ worth into your estimable letterzine.

First about the dues. At the time I joined N3F at the Chicon, which was my very first convention and my first contact with any fans whatsoever, I was amazed at the small amount I was asked to pay. When I started receiving printed matter and saw how much postage was on it, I was even more amazed. S.F. fans are fans INDEED when they spend so much time, money and sheer labor on these activities. Personally, I think an initiation fee of a dollar to cover all that postage and a yearly fee of two dollars (4¢ a week) is not a bit too much.

Alama Hill, I can spell and punctuate, but am not much good at expressing my ideas. Can I do some proofreading for you?

Don Franson, I, too, like Heinlein's "Pokayne of Mars" but "Stranger in a Strange Land" ugh!

Gary Labowitz, I don't get your point about the Christmas stamp affecting our space program. Just what is the connection?

Mike Shupp: Where does every one get the idea that only ANALOG prints Psi stories? My favorite Psi stories (Zenna Henderson's stories about the People) ran in FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE before they were collected into a book. Did you know that "Slan" is out in a Ballentine paper back now? I just got it.

About the welcome letters: I received three letters--one from Seth Johnson, one from Stan Woolston and one from Anne Chamberlain. I answered Seth's and Stan's right away and was pleasantly surprised to get an answer to my letter from Seth immediately. With all his correspondence I don't see how he does it. Stan, where is that Fanzine you promised me?

I guess this is 4¢ worth, so will sign off for now.

STEPHEN HODES, 8451 S. BENNETT AVENUE, CHICAGO 17, ILLINOIS

I am a neo and so I probably deserve all the rebuffs and arguments that I am going to get because of this letter, but please try to be tolerant.

Roy Tackett: it's common Knowledge that staf bame BEFORE fantasy NOT after it. With you on Correspondence Bureau; rules before ruler, and we do need a Correspondence Bureau.

Gary Labowitz: Commemoratives do look better than Lincolns. In fact I use commemoratives on all my letters.

NORBERT LAUS: I think Welcommittee correspondence should be three to six months long, stopping after that if the member wants to. By that time the neo should be a neo no longer. Fantasy is NOT disappearing. Look at the prozines. Fantasy is slipping into almost all of them

DAVE KEL: I LIKE ANALOG, psi and all. If you don't like it, don't buy it. I go with Mike Shupp about that.

Don Franson: I'm against restricting voting rights to the member who isn't paid up for the next year. The new member, even if he joined one month late for the election has to accept the election choice so why not let him vote in the next election. For who knows, he may have wanted to wait before he joined up till the end of the next year. He may still renew at year's end.

Mike Shupp: Has it occurred to you that some neos LIKE that Welcommittee letters? I do, for one (your letters, too, you little devil you!)

On STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND: I was disappointed on it winning the Hugo. A Hugo for Heinlein as a man and writer I would heartily agree with, but this book is not his best by a long shot.

On Rasing of Dues: I'm for it. I think the N3F needs it, and up to now Clay's arguments haven't convinced me otherwise though I'm not discarding the possibility that they might in the future.

Well, I guess it's not so hard to write a letter to TB after al. There's not much more to say now, so, until next letter....I remain, Fantastically yours.

P. S. Excuse the bad language, but, DAMN THE TYPOS!

DON'T FORGET: Deadline for TB #18 is February 25th, and letters should be mailed to:
TIGHTBEAM #18
Bill Mallardi
214 Mackinaw Avenue
Akron 13, Ohio

PHIL KOHN, BETH KRINSKY, YOKNEAM, ISRAEL

I hope the Lamb-Rapp incident has been settled by this time, or we'll have roast Lamb with Spare Rapps. I don't think an accusation of petty theft was implied in the Rapp letter, which might have been more carefully worded.

1) Tightbeam editors, if willing, and able, ought to edit 2-4 issues. This would give some continuity to discussion; without letting the editor get stale or blasee; and let us faraways in on the discussions a bit more. Generally I get TIGHTBEAM about 2 weeks after the deadline for the next one. Certainly, every effort should be made to let us know the second and third editor as long as each one is to publish one issue only. I understand it won't always work out either way.

2) Some kids have NO pocket money; some people in institutions don't have 4¢ a week either, and many more don't have \$1.60 all at once, which is altogether another question. I won't propose anything in the matter of outright charity, either for or against. But: a) the treasurer should be authorised, to give, on request, credit for a reasonable period. The risk really is not great, since the publications probably have been printed anyhow in the required numbers. (b) set up some trading facility for us foreigners. It is not the sum involved although it means about 3-5 times more, in labor time, here in Israel, and correspondingly in other countries, but the formalities involved in getting foreign exchanges were invented for the "benefit" of importers with office staffs and are simply out of question for sums like \$1.60 or even \$3.00.

3) Following Alma Hill's comment (TTH) maybe organisational members ought to be soaked \$5 plus extra pay for extra publication copies, as "alternative to human activities" Call it "discrimination in favor of human beings and extraterrestrials amendment."

4) Every new member should get a mimeo letter from the Wellcommittee, explaining that we welcome new people but can't write very good letters to blanks. There would be a questionnaire with LARGE BLANK SPACES, and the exaplination that the questionnaire was merely to spur the memory "reply about yourself in your own way". The answers should be published in TNFF and wellcommittee zine, and real wellcome letters based on this. Perhaps, in time, similiar "meet the members" reports might be published about the old members, too. And if this means elimination from TNFF of a few department reports, we'll cry...but can stand the loss. (Apologies will be sent to hardworking officers when and if they make their reports a bit livelier.)

5) In order to end once and for all the tiresome controversy about calendar year dues, I propose that any member who has paid his first years dues without knowing that he might have saved by paying a proportional dues for the year plus a full year, have this privilege extended for the second year of membership. Since most people will either have used the privilege the first time around or abstain from using it at all, little work will be caused for the treasurer and yet no one will be left feeling cheated.

6) Antiposal: Human beings use their minds and write messages of content. Dogs drop the equivalent of greeting cards at latern posts. The meaning of a greet ing card is either: You aren't worth a letter (why write all if so?) or, I haven't a thing to say (same Q.) Thats why I'm concealing my birthday, though not my age (40). I feel that this form of organized hypocrysy is not for us fans. Let the Artists send their illustrated messages to the zines, not as birthday cards in pseudofakepersonality form. And don't take this too hard, anyone.

And now, a special proposal of real importance to fandom. The one thing clearest from the conreports, and my own feelings--if unfortunately not experience--is that cons are too short. Prolonging them is not practical for most people. What is practical is for the N3F to sponsor Vacation resorts and Hotels in each region. This would lead to many more meetings and even impromptu conventions that can be held now. Also, by being "steady" customers we would get a better deal from some hotels, and needn't patronise any others. I propose that one of the officers take the thing in hand. Sorry, but distance prevents me from volunteering. He should invite recommendations from members and friends, and prospects from the trade. He should next try to check as best as possible these reports and prospects, even going as far as advertising for reports on some Motel or Resort to the general public, or perhaps in some trade publication read by travelling salesmen or truck drivers. If we have some such experts among our numbers let'em speak up. Then, when he's sure of some place with reasonable prices and service let him bargain with the management about special reduction, also offer them advertising facilities, not only in the clubzine, but a list of the better fanzines, with their circulation and standing. The managements would, of course, inform visiting fans of each other's presence.

There are good reasons for not voting. A person of little knowledge or uncertain preferences should not want to swamp with his vote the vote of someone who cares. Remember, apart from class interests, there is also a general interest in the best working of society in general, and certainly of a small and voluntary society like ours, which is best served by having things decided right. Those who care--either way--have more of a chance of being right than the mistaken "duty" voter.

Can anyone explain to me the meaning of an imaginary or complex index to an imaginary or complex number? Only recently have I understood the meaning of such an index for a real number, but cannot decide what it means for a imaginary or complex number, whether the result is within the complex number system, the quaternion system or some special system of a dimension of dimension (spinners?? I'm just guessing with a word whose meaning I don't know but might be revelant.) Please be explicit. I DON'T know the jargon. Thanks.

PROPOSAL: DECLARATION OF SOLIDARITY WITH "DER SPIEGEL" in its fight against creeping totalitarianism. Freedom of the press IS our business. Hello everybody!

EVA FIRESTONE, UPTON, WYOMING

Finally, I have been aroused to an expression of THANK YOU to the publishers and officers of N.F.F.F. These letterzines are appreciated. I enjoy reading TIGHTBEAM.

For the information of those who did not solve the puzzle, I was the mailer only, nothing else, of the one-shot entitled with that misnomer, "Garbage". The real editor-publisher is far from here, about 1400 miles distant.

The term GAFMOI was originated by Ken Slater of England. It is better, more precise, than Gafia.

Roy Tackett, Swords at dawn! I am NICAP member. Lee Riddle, good to see you have returned. Piers Jacob, your letter sent me into a gale of laughter. Please write more often.

Happy Daze to All!

FRED HASKELL, 3450 ZARTHAN AVENUE, MINNEAPOLIS 16, MINNESOTA

Although I am both a terrible letter writer and a neo (having received only edition 16 of TIGHTBEAM), there are a few things in TB16 I would like to give my view on.

First, I think that STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND is very good book, although it got a little dull in one or two spots. It is one of the best books by Heinlein that I've read. I haven't received any Welcome letters as of yet, but I agree with Richard Hinman that a member shouldn't have to keep up the correspondence if they don't want to.

I wholeheartedly believe that psi and flying saucers exist, even though there are a lot of hoaxes concerning these subjects.

BOB TUCKER, BOX 478, HEYWORTH, ILLINOIS

This seems like old home week. At the recent Chicago convention I was tricked into rejoining the N3F. I thought I was buying a book from a huckster; instead, the huckster presented me with a membership card and said, "Tag--you're it." Or words to that effect.

Within the past couple of months I've received any number of N3F fanzines and--you guessed it--a pair of welcome letters. But their hearts were pure, bless them. The writers said they knew I'd been in before and needed no guided tour; they were writing anyway because they wanted to use up the stamps they had on hand.

So I read my first issue of TIGHTBEAM and find that someone is pointing the fingerbone of suspicion at someone else, asking "Where's my money?" Or words to that effect.

Things haven't changed much since 1941, eh?

S.W.P. WYSZKOWSKI, BOX 3372, STATION "C", OTTAWA 3, ONTARIO, CANADA

Let's see now; dues, WC, SIASL. I think that's all I wanted to spout off about this time. OK, let's tackle them in that order.

Dues: I'm foursquare for an increase, \$1.75/annum being a reasonable figure in my estimate. Maybe I'm making too much money, or something, but even \$2.00/annum does not impress me as an intolerable burden. On the other hand, the more the club has to work with, the more effectively and more efficiently can it utilise its funds. I am also strongly opposed to philanthropic or charitable financing both of individual memberships and of club activities, except in emergencies. I would also add that the proposed increase is not worth the amount of discussion it has received, if it were not for the fact that all concerned enjoyed the discussion for its own sake. However, once the increase in dues actually goes into effect, I doubt very much that the rate of new memberships will be affected by it, though no doubt quite a few will fail to renew--on principle (fans are an extremely principled lot). I have spoken, and I shall not have anything further to say on this subject in the future.

With regard to renewals, surely the most practical thing which we can do right away and without worrying about expense or constitutionality is to put a series of reminders in the TIGHTBEAM toward the end of the year. These should be of display ad type, in a prominent place (like the cover maybe, to catch the eye of the majority of the readers who only skim through TB. And if that fails, send the delinquents one more issue of TB

(after the last one to which they are entitled) with the final reminder to renew and notification of their lapse of their membership.

I don't know whether paying in advance for more than one year is a good idea. It might be made available to those who wish to do so, but it doesn't tend to encourage one to remain an active member. If nothing else, the annual act of paying dues serves to remind you that you're still a member with all the duties and privileges attached to that status.

So much for dues. Now, the Welcommittee. I am not a member of it, though, as I indicated in my application form, I'm willing to write to half a dozen neos or so each month and expose them to my cynical view of Fandom. Whether correspondence should be continued or not, I feel depends strictly on the individuals involved. If there is a mutual interest, it will be only natural to continue the correspondence indefinitely, otherwise both parties will realise sooner or later that further correspondence would be fruitless. I don't think this is really a subject for discussion. It is something that should be left to the discretion of each Welcommittee member. I may be wrong, but I don't think there have been any actual cases of a Neo being abandoned with no one to write to as a result of a cut-off in correspondence with a member of Welcommittee. I believe such a cut-off is always a matter of mutual consent, with no ill feelings involved.

Incidentally, if there is any neo reading this who feels he's been neglected, let him cry on my shoulder. I have a most sympathetic ear and welcome all who wish to take advantage of it to drop me a word or two or ten thousand.

Now SISAL. In spite of some deprecatory noises being made here and there it must be admitted that the STRANGER has created a stir. It is, therefore, out of ordinary at least in that respect. I will admit that the literary style leaves a lot to be desired. I agree that the ideas presented are not new (what IS?) However, it is an impassioned and, as far as I can tell, beautifully logical presentation of pantheism, with a few imaginary gimmicks thrown in, to make it science fiction instead of a religious monograph. My personal feelings after I finished reading it were those of regret that it was, after all, only a fantasy! Were it Truth with a capital T, I would be one of Mike's most ardent disciples. However, without bothering to point out the philosophical fallacies of pantheism, I'll just stay that I do not subscribe to it any more than I subscribe to any other theology, preferring to remain in the limbo of agnosticism. The concept of "water brotherhood" is one that seems to be constantly recurring in fandom, and perhaps underlies it as one of the primary motivations of a fan. It is, I believe, a typically fannish utopia, and I'm not using here the word "fannish" in a deprecatory sense.

Oh, one thing more. Piers Jacob's objection to fannish jargon in general and "so croggle me good" in particular. In general: English language, although it is one of the most precise and flexible languages in the world, is pitifully inadequate, for expressing emotional attitudes. Slavic languages offer far greater scope in this respect. Anyway, fans, like beatniks, being emotional people felt need for creating new words for sake of convenient self-expression. OKAY? In particular: so what's so alarming about being suggestive? Differentially (watch that spelling, it's spelled with a capital DIFFERENT) Yours.....P.S. Hi, Felice! Remember me?

REMEMBER THE ADDRESS FOR TB#18

TIGHTBEAM #18
Bill Mallardi
214 Mackinaw Ave.
Akron 13, Ohio

ALMA HILL, 463 PARK DRIVE, BOSTON 15, MASSACHUSETTS

As of the above date (December 1, 1962), I have resigned as a Director of the National Fantasy Fan Federation.

As I explained in my platform in TIGHTBEAM and in THRU THE HAZE, I stand for more and better services for this club and for all fandom. I feel that I can pursue these goals better outside of office.

I have heard no comment from the Directorate Chairman on any club business since last August. It is possible that my disapproval of his methods and policy are a hindrance to this extent. Perhaps, if one of the Directors elected for 1963 will step into my place, the situation will improve for all. However, this is not a stipulation; I resign unconditionally.

I plan to retain my membership and wish to express appreciation to the 50 all-weather friends who voted for me. As unofficial activities have often been the backbone of this club, my real concern is with these matters, in which I plan to carry a good share.

I have no ill will towards any official, and have only admiration for the many talents possessed by those individuals. Some are pursuing a policy amounting to an advocacy of basic changes in membership and procedures, which I feel have done harm this year and can only continue to do so. It may be that these people are able to improve upon their opinions, and of course it may be that I am mistaken. I trust that the membership will both assist and scrutinize all that is done for this group, in which case individual errors do less harm.

As part of science fiction fandom, N3F is a microcosm within a microcosm within a microcosm; but no matter how communications are subdivided, there can be no substitute for mutual honor, a realistic approach to facts, a friendly consideration for others. When intelligent people violate these necessities, it must be out of misunderstanding, lack of time or other means, rather than any intent to do any injury. Perhaps with a new arrangement of officers, better understandings will be possible. Thus my withdrawal is in part to hasten this day and in part to free my services for those who do understand me easily.

DONALD F. ANDERSON, 429 CEDARHURST AVENUE, MCKEESPORT, PENNA.

Guess I'll just say hello to everyone and a belated Happy New Year. Really not much to say since TIGHTBEAM #16 (really a good job, congrats, Don) was just some more rehash of TIGHTBEAM #15. The only thing about it is that a few people got my type O blood a little warm.

Is this Piers Jacob for real? I'm sorry Piers if I offend you, but you sure aren't going to make any friends with statements like "Some of them are surprisingly literate", and "Fabulous" referring to people who griped about each other, like me. When you joined N3F you took everything that came with us. You really didn't expect to find 300 fans molded on the image of the intellectual upper class fan. There just ain't any such animal and if you really want to get into fandom you'll have to come down and get in the mud with the rest of us commoners. Still no offence, I'll even make room in the mud for you myself!

Mke Shupp wants to open up another reward fund. I'm all for Kaymar award, Hiller Fund, N3F room at cons, and other assorted support for fanzines and N3F publications, but at a "Neffers Scholarship (Gad!)" I draw the line. Come off of it, Mac. If a fan does more for the N3F than requested, has outstanding personal fanac, and has superior

knowledge of SF or Fantasy, it's because he/she wants to and is not looking for some sort of reward. Anyway the Kaymar Awards sort of take care of reason 1, friends are the reward of 2, and who ever heard of getting a PhD in Stf and Fantasy?

Alma Hill has begun to disagree with my tastes anymore. I won't say anything since Roy Tackett in #16 put it in much nicer terms, not so insulting.

Guess I ought to quit swinging and await the next round.

HARVEY FORMAN, 964 E. RUSSELL STREET, PHILADELPHIA 34, PENNA.

Fellow Neffers, but mainly amateur/semi-pro/guess what? I have a message for you. Alma Hill has been trying to set up more Writers' Services, especially a discussion group. Inasmuch as I imagine this would resemble a writer's club, any system of Round Robins would be impractical with any substantial group. However, an organization similar in organization to N'APA would probably suffice: members could write their stories, mimeo or otherwise duplicate them (or the OE could do it, perhaps at an extra cost), send it to the OE. The OE could publish the OO with latest market news, articles, etc. And here, mailing comments would HAVE to be worthwhile.

Concerning the Welcommittee: I've always thought that its purpose was to contact the new members and give them the impression of an organization covering wide interests, and give details on the various functions of the N3F. As far as I can see, however, Seth A. Johnson is the only one who can write a decent letter to neos. By the time he was thru with me, the two letters I received contained nothing I didn't already know.

Anyone interested in doing a column for me? Next September, I'm going to have a 100-200 page fanzine in N'APA, which will also sell as a genzine. I would like to have columns from the other countries and from the geographical areas in the United States, both for this and other fanzines. All contributions, of course, will be accepted with loving (inky) hands.

According to TNFF 9/60, the N3F has the book rights to David H. Keller's, "The Sign of the Burning Hart," with 250 copies published in December of '48. Since the Publishing Bureau is apparantly reactivated, why not reprint more copies.

Don A_n derson: I disagree with you as far as the reimbursement for the hospitality room goes. A society such as this always needs money, and I see no reason to throw money away. After all, we OFFERED to pay..

SIASL is NOT merely another version of the Chosen People concept. The CPc demands that you be born into it, but here it is a matter of training--and everyone was free to come. SIASL is a GRET book--I wouldn't have been disappointed if it hadn't won the Hugo.

I'm for a dues increase (Stop those stones! If you must throw something, throw money.)

As for that fund to pay dues for those who can't afford it, who decides whether such prospective members are worthy or merely? Some people must know them, and if they're that worthy, surely that member can bear up under the cost--unless, of course, he can't pay either.

Arnold Kruger: would you please elaborate?

Roy Tackett: I heartily agree with you on what you said concerning the Story Contest. Especially since I'm going to win the next one....

Ain't it great to be ~~dr/tt~~/a genius?

J. E. POURNELLE, 7831 5th AVENUE, N.E., SEATTLE 15, WASHINGTON

From both the printed discussions and the arguments at Chicago, I gather that the late renewal problem is, if not acute, at least the kind of nagging backache that the Federation could do without. I would, therefore, like to second Donald Franson's proposal that we restrict voting for the following year's officers to those who have renewed their membership for that year; and to propose that in addition, we impose a 25 cent late renewal fee, on the grounds that this is the approximate cost of reminders, etc. I'm not too sure how one circulates a petition as stated in the Constitution, so I hope that everyone who agrees with this will send a postcard to that effect to the Secretary. That should have the same force, morally if not legally, as a formal petition.

I am not concerned about the fact that not too many members vote. Political theorists have been arguing the matter for years, but it is generally agreed that in a nation or organization in which a light vote is traditional, a heavy vote usually indicates a grave crisis. The idea is that most people are reasonably satisfied with the management, and turn out in droves only when they feel that things are going badly; they vote against, rather than for. Now the exception to this general rule are many and varied, but in the special case of the Federation, I think it applies. Most members are not greatly familiar with the leaders, don't feel that any drastic changes will or should be made in any case, and prefer to leave the voting to those who care. Of course, they retain their right to "turn the rascals out" if things go badly.

A "get out the vote campaign," after all, succeeds in having a close election decided by those least qualified to decide - those who don't care, generally don't know, and wouldn't have voted if they hadn't been urged to do so.

Having agreed with Mr. Franson about membership, I'll turn briefly to his "analysis" of Stranger in a Strange Land. I don't pretend fully to understand the book, but I will say this much: it is a more profound book than Franson's comments indicate. However, let's stay on Franson's level for a minute. He says that "No religion which does not cope with all people is any better than a scientific theory which does not include all phenomena." (Emphasis by Franson) This is arrant nonsense. First, no scientific theory includes all phenomena; we haven't got around to the general equation of the universe yet. Secondly, and more importantly, a religion is true or false independently of the number of believers. The old Calvinist doctrine of predestination, if true, is not made "bad" because we don't like it. If an omnipotent God has chosen a People (and my Jewish friends say they are chosen with a Yoke, not a crown), it does not good for the outsider to say that it isn't fair.

Yet in Stranger there is no a priori discrimination against anyone. Every person is eligible for Valentine Michael Smith's Nirvana if he wants to accept it. Heinlein then goes on to show, in his apotheosis scenes, that almost anyone can be saved; even a hypocrite finds an assignment in Heaven.

It is, in fact, this non-exclusive nature of Heaven that I personally find objectionable in Stranger. God made Hell before He made men, because He knew there would be a need for it. We don't have to argue about the nature of Hell, or who is consigned there. It may be empty. But there is need for it, because if man is made free, he must be free to violate God's commandments, knowing and believing full well the consequences of doing so.

Heinlein doesn't seem to have provided for this possibility in Stranger. He does, however, quite explicitly provide for a large series of second chances, and

hints that Valentine Michael Smith has appeared on the theological scene more than once, and will appear again. The heresy presented in Stranger is a nice heresy; I personally find it attractive; and whatever its defects, it can hardly be accused of the sins according to Franson. It does not arbitrarily condemn the unenlightened to Hell; it does not even condemn the wicked, so far as I can tell.

To return to Federation matters, I think that since IES is about defunct, the N3F ought to take up where IES left off, or rather where it should have left off, but never got to. I have already written at length concerning the place of the gentlemen amateur in the speculative sciences. I have not changed my opinion; he is valuable as a source of ideas which quite often will never occur to professionals. There must be some sort of filtration; but there must also be a well.

I think a copyrighted quarterly would be an excellent idea; and I am willing to do two things: I will pledge ten dollars for the establishment of a journal of speculative science; and I will also volunteer to edit (not publish; I don't have the equipment at the time) the social science section of same.

Now this journal should not be a slick paper expensive thing; and contributors should not be paid, but might possibly be required to pay a nominal fee (say \$1.00) toward publication; although I won't be adamant about that. Also, if there is not enough material of sufficient quality to publish quarterly, it is better to skip an issue than fill it up with crud.

This is potentially a valuable journal, valuable not only to the Federation but just intrinsically valuable, as IES would have been had it become what it was supposed to be.

BILL MALLARDI, 214 MACKINAW, AKRON 13, OHIO

This is my first letter to our letterzine in quite a long time, as I've been busy with both mundane & fannish business. (The mundane being working nights, and the fannish being co-editor along with Bill Bowers on our new fanzine, DOUBLE-BILL....(end of free plug). But I felt I HAD to write TIGHTBEAM this time, to get a few things off my chest.

DON ANDERSON: So the Rapps pulled the same thing with you, et? I'm referring to your volunteering to publish & edit an issue of TIGHTBEAM, and then waiting to hear from them accepting it; and waiting, and waiting, and they never did write back to you, did they? Its also happened to Bill Bowers & I (so far, at any rate); after Bill & I bought a rex rotary to pub our mag with, we saw Arts' plea in TNFF for more volunteers to help with TB, so I wrote them, folunteering to put out the MARCH '63 issue. So far, (and its been about a month or more) we haven't heard one word from them, pro or con. And it figures we WOULD like to know ahead of time if we WERE accepted, doesn't it? Granted that now Art has/is gone/going overseas, and that no doubt things were in a hubub in the Rapp household, they could at least have forwarded our letter to Al Lewis, or someone else with some authority in N3F who might have been able to take care of it. Or even just a postcard to either Bowers or myself would have helped. (IF someone DOES know whether our offer HAS been accepted, I'd appreciate it if you'd let me know fast; Lee, did YOU hear who's next after you??) I mean you'd think an offer like that would be appreciated, since it isn't every day you are sure of someone to put out Tightbeam -- what with the editorship rotating like it does -- so I think its only fitting & proper to send an answering letter which an offer like that warrants. I certainly hope the next prexy of the club takes HEED of this advice. (By the way Don, please accept my thanks for a good job you did on #16...good

repro, and I commend you on taking it upon yourself to wait a few days past the deadline in order to insure getting enuff letters for it. You're a good man.)

To FRANSON, SHUPP, DONALD F ANDERSON, ETC.: I agree with you Re: "STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND" 100 percent! (I thot the first third was ok, but the rest of the book I thot was trash.) I didn't vote for it for the HUGO, and was surprised as all hell when it won. As a matter of interest, I gave a non-fan, mundane friend of mine the book to read, and HE liked it & thot it deserved the award! He thot mebbe the reason it stirred up so much difference of opinion in fandom was because it WAS so different. At any rate, I still don't see how so many fen could have voted for the thing.

TO HAMLIN, HILLER, etc: Le me go on record as saying I favor the raise in dues to \$1.70.... but not much higher than that. \$2.00 is the highest I'd agree to, at most. And I don't see, Clay, how just a dinky old dime's difference could arouse so much opposition from you. I mean, hell, everybody in fandom sure isn't in the poorhouse, or even close to it, and if the fans can't scrape up enuff cash to pay \$1.70 a year for dues, then they might as well leave fandom, or give up altogether. And its much safer to have the money in the treasury AHEAD of time just in case situations requiring it should arise.

ROY TACKETT: I couldn't say whether or not Art did or didn't have enuff interest in N3F affairs, but I have just finished talking to Dora Holland over the phone, and she didn't seem too pleased with everything that the Rapps did RE: the presidents' duties, etc., since according to her Art couldn't get along with many of the fans in "N3F offices" that her brother Ralph didn't have any trouble with. And Arts failure to notify Anderson & ME Re: TIGHTBEAM didn't help. Then to top it off, Nancy's letter in Tightbeam a few ish's back Re: Janie Lamb didn't help matters, either.

Dora also sez she failed to even receive the last ish of TNFF -- the one with the ballots inclosed, thus depriving her of her right to vote. She sez she wrote Al Lewis, inclosing 40¢ to help pay for postage, etc., but that she never heard from him either. She finally got a copy from Janie that was returned for some reason or other, but without the ballots.

BACK TO DON ANDERSON, AGAIN: I agree with you, (and, incidently, so does Dora, who mentioned it to me even before I got thish of TB) that Al Lewis was wrong, and guilty of a breech of ethics of his office, in printing IN TNFF his opinions of the feud that is making news now in fandom, without at least getting the permission of the other Directors and/or the whole N3F membership. TNFF is NOT for personal opinions of feuds, AL, but for the business news of the club. Al, you've done a good job in the club so far, until now when you did the aforementioned above....please try to avoid that in the future, and do your usual good job again, ok?

I'm sorry I had to pop off like this thruout the whole letter, but I am peeved at whats been going on lately in the club, and I hope you all can see why I'm so mad. I feel its a just anger, otherwise I wouldn't be saying what I said. As most of you KNOW my letters are usually just the opposite, and I hope the next time I write it will be about more pleasant matters. Thanx for hearing me out, and Bill Bowers & I: hope you like D-B #2!

J. STAN WOOLSTON, 12832 ESTLAKE ST., GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA

I see Don Anderson doesn't believe in editing at all; others have edited drastically. I have a theory Lee Riddle will use a happy medium in editing, and I'll be very happy. If not, he's going to have to include some nuttiness here and there, I'm sure--by me as well as others who put fingertips to paper and,

sometimes, let nonsense and wit pour out in equal quantity with the theory the editor will mangle the thing until it reads well. That's what an editor is for, I say forcefully.

Gem speaks of non-renewals. I've been appointed, along with Ann Chamberlain and Daymar Carlson, to dig into reasons why the renewals are so slow in coming in. A report will go to directors and new officers, one and all--but I'll point out a few things to everyone now. I assume this isn't a Top Secret deal: nobody furnished me with such a stamp, anyway.

First, Christmas and renewal-time is close together, so paying for presents seems to be in the minds of fans at this time. Second, the magazines--especially THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN, is used to remind people to renew--and sometimes such notices aren't even read, due to rush of partygoing perhaps. Third, no group is set up--no volunteers are asked--to write to everyone before Christmas to remind them to renew. If they did, I believe many more would, until it penetrated their observation that no more clubzines are coming to them (or, if they come, other things might interfere with them reading them at the time).

So a number of fans are writing to those on the 1962 roster and reminding people to renew now--and take advantage of the 2 years for \$3 if the Constitution hasn't been amended by the time they get the notice. (As we'll get them off by the end of the year--well before--everyone could send in \$3 if they wanted--or just \$1.60 if they favored the club with a bit more hard cash. Of course any contributions to the club is invited or at least welcome! My fingers speak.)

I've taken some issues off in writing for TIGHTBEAM, as have some others. Others have done the same thing. Especially if you've missed an issue or so, how about writing in? More letters earlier would help Lee get back on schedule, and that is always a good idea. If too many people speak on the same subject it would be best for an editor to delete that part of a letter, so it might be a good idea to write at least a few paragraphs on a subject not used in last issue--and if a fan isn't smart enough to do that I'm mistaken. It's a challenge, at least. One I ought to take, myself.

Letters are fun to read--an observation sport, perhaps we could call them. They are also a way to dig out rocks from the path, and discussion can always be mutually advantageous. A few of us might be insulted by difference of opinions, but as a rule we learn from what others say, or teach a bit ourselves. I enjoy the bits of scientific or fictional discussions and am sure there will be more, from those most interested in either kind of material.

I suppose many long-time fans consider the new fan is primarily a reader--ready to grow into a fan but as yet something like a tadpole. This odd way of looking at things occurred to me when I contemplated something I read in a Chicon 3 report--the talk about what a convention was came up in the talk of the Guest of Honor, Theodore Sturgeon. He said he would give a separate talk for the 3 cons: a con for pros, for SF readers, and for fans. The ideal convention, I suppose, must be a fairly close balance between all three, with formal talks by pros, material of interest to the "established" fan, and also taking into consideration the reader as well. The categories are intermixed, but conventions have been known to be so unbalanced as to contain program that is mainly pro-slanted--leaving the fan emphasis for displays and parties and hallway gab sessions.

From what correspondents and letters in TIGHTBEAM say, I suppose the club too has all three categories, with "fans" predominating, not unexpectedly. The neos are usually still readers, as are many of the fans--but often fans are so hyperactive they may be pushed out of reading very much. And some active fans, having adopted the habit of writing regularly, have built their skill to the point when those who want to, and who have the personality characteristics, turn pro.

Pros may still be fans, and still read--but the categories of readers, fans and pros seems to be realistic, nevertheless.

I'd like to see a new writer's contest by the club with minimum entrance fee and plenty of time to work over stories. With publicity widely distributed through fandom, and through N3F, it might lead to stimulating someone to become a professional writer--and that is something the field can always use. There is always the chance a new author will become a leading light in the field of science fiction or fantasy. Perhaps one author might help start a renaissance in the field, to bring it to a new height of achievement. Science fiction is not dead as long as there are minds to be stimulated and dreams to be dreamed!

Authorship is a sort of creativity, and some humans take to words naturally. Fans seem more apt to do this than others, or at least they can find out because they usually are word-oriented and they are so often found in conjunction with paper and a typewriter. I've no idea how many fans become pros, percentage-wise --but by intuition I can sense a relationship. Fans are not afraid to think on paper, and maybe that is part of it too. They reach out and make an effort to move the mental environment a bit--and maybe even transmit the feeling.

Perhaps authors are trying to transmit abstractions, such as how it feels to grow or how to help the human race grow. This implies a value rating, that it is worth while to grow and to help people. So many times people are downgraded by others who want to climb up by pushing others down, by the uncreative. Maybe, personally, I'm trying to be a part of a human race. Authors remind us we are.

Which reminds me--what are you doing? I'd like to hear from you, and I mean personally as well as in TIGHTBEAMS. This is probably why I am willing to collect news and pass it on to the interested people. This includes news of what fans are doing individually or together--what new publications are coming out, what new projects, and so forth. Write me please. Harvey Forman, for example, wants news for his zine. And I want to pass some on to Art Hayes and others. Help!

HUWARD DeVUURE, 4705 WEDDEL STREET, DEARBURN, MICHIGAN

It's been years since I last saw you, Philcon in '53 as I recall, but in any case forward to TB. I'll be as brief as possible.

I agree with GM that a renewal notice might be helpfull. Matter of fact I'm willing to print them, in a nice conspicuous purple ink or some such. My idea would be to include a printed card with the last TNFF the member receives, no hard sell item - just a simple notice that their dues have run out and they can't get further pubs unless they renew.

If an addressed envelope seems advisable I can run off a few hundred of these with little or no trouble. The notices will be printed on whatever stock I have on hand and will be donated, material, labor, etc.

I'm afraid that Tackett's idea of having a prozine "guarantee" publication of the top winner in the story contest isn't too practical, after all they are in business and even if some editor (such as Cele Goldsmith) is generous it must still stand on it's merits, too many times a "contest winner" does not meet the expected standards. I refer you specifically to the Galaxy contest of some years ago. True, the winner was eventually published but the pb edition was years after the winner was selected. Roy also mentions that the magazine would "up sales". I fear the sales wouldn't rise enough to be noticeable, for twenty years the editors have been saying that active fandom doesn't effect their sales & I for one believe them. You old-timers think back to the various sales pitches you've read of, Gernsback's stickers, etc. The only thing that will raise their

sales is better distribution, and that appears to be impossible to achieve. I know personally of several outfits that would do almost anything to get their pubs on the stands but the distributors control the sales & they frankly don't care what happens to the small publisher.

I stand opposed to restricting voting rights to members paid up for the following year. While I am ^{not} opposed to the Neffer Scholarships I do not greatly favor them; using Shupps standards it seems to me that the people who would probably get them are the ones who don't need them. I won't try to increase my statue but using his standards I am eligible, (with over a quarter century as a reader, a reasonable good memory, and a collection of several thousand pieces of Stf-Fantasy), however I can well afford to pay my own dues. Of the other two options; A service to the N3F, B Outstanding personal Fanac it is probable that either of these classes would take a considerable outlay in cash and a person who can afford these does not need free dues.

On the other hand; if they are to be given to a neo-fan.....The person who qualifies will probably not be a neo-fan. With rare exceptions neo-fen cannot do the above until they have grown in fandom.

Pierre Jacob; The answer to the OJ contest was definately "dirty nigger" as the Coulson's have the original manuscript.

Donald Anderson believe's that Analog stuffed the ballot box for Chicon Hugo's, I consider this very unlikely, I have served on a convention committee and have seen the Hugo votes come in. Ballot stuffing is very obvious, oh it's easy enough to do but it's even easier to spot. I'd also point out that Analog was the only magazine that did not donate free subscriptions as door prizes. Under these circumstances I strongly doubt that the Chicon committee would have let suspicious ballots pass unnoticed. Matter of fact I consider this very strong evidence that the voting was honest. Matter of fact I can't recall seeing any notices of the convention printed in Analog, wonder if perhaps John is soured on fans & conventions.

I disagree with Don Anderson regarding the financing of the "Hospitality room" at the World Con. I believe that the N3F should be prepared to pay their complete expenses, however if the committee can afford to stand the cost of the room rent or can provide us with a free room then we should not snub their generosity. The room is being staffed by the N3F, the refreshments are furnished by the N3F and I am sure that people attending consider it to be a service of the N3F. However, we must not insist upon special consideration from the committee. In some cases it may be possible for the convention committee to provide a room without charge, such as display rooms, etc. If these should include a room that can be used by our group then it is foolish pride to insist upon paying.

Word reached me today that I've been elected to the Directorate again. I want to thank those of you who voted for me & bring up a point; In the past year many things must have come to the attention of the membership, however, I heard very little of our problems directly from the members. If any member has any thoughts on the N3F I'd be happy to hear of them.

LARRY PINSKER, 7716 N. MARSHFIELD, CHICAGO 26, ILLINOIS

Richard G. Finch: !!! THE SHADOW still exists in Chicago!!! Every Sunday evening, 5:30 PM. Most recent was "Carnival of Death!" Thus far, out of about four broadcast, I've taped one, wherein Lamont Cranston is made "visible" and trapped with the use of an electric eye. From the nature of the station doing the broadcasting (small, independent), I'd venture that these are replays of past taloc. Margo Lane still hangs on. Makes you wonder, tho, about marriage, etc.

What was the exact relationship between them, eh? Got a taper, ANYONE? The Shadow is at 3 & 3/4 ips; Tapebureau---loans?

Re: manned spaceship. Last February I was in the hospital, met a nurse in her forties, discussed Glenn (almost spelled it Gleem). She was of the impression that once man landed on the moon, a certain Supreme Being would strike man's tracks into the universe, make humanity return to its birthplace. "After all," she argued, "didn't Glenn say that the stars weren't no closer when he looked." Reminds me of a cartoon in a college humor 'zine. Old woman looking past a fence at jets taking off, her eyes dark, angered, murmuring, "Evil, evil. Man was not meant to fly."

DJN Franson: Heinlein's IF serial "Podkayne of Mars" did not appear in September. Nor in October; nor in November. The Jan., '63 issue just arrived at the stands. What a sneaky way of getting subscribers! Offering November's issue free if you pay \$3.65 for 16 issues!

Arnold: HI!

Roy Tackett: Methinks thou are right. Steam propelling a man through the air! Crazy! A pencil-thin beam of red light cutting through a diamond or drilling a hole in a tank! Crazy! I remember Willy Ley writing dozens of pages in COMING ATTRACTIONS (ed. Marty Greenberg) on the use of artillery shells in interplanetary warfare. He never believed in death rays and disintegrators.

GARY Labowitz: Sie verstehen keine Yiddish. Better mail all your letters before the price of stamps goes up. Pretty soon it will be cheaper to phone.

WORB will never be a Laus to Fandom if he hangs on. And the only thing that's tight is Mike Shupp. (No offense, Mike.)

Apparently only once person in all of Pro- and fandom realizes what Campbell is doing. None other than James H. Schmitz, way back in September, '62 's F & SF. The story concerns itself with extraterrestrials who are educating earthies in the ways of Galspeak (I guess) by means of symbols & sounds broadcast on TV. In the end it turns out that the symbols only open the minds of men to psi-control by the real masters of the Galaxy, who are, it seems, very hungry. GOOD GRIEF!!! SOMEONE STOP CAMPBELL BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!!! It's obvious that someone's been affected by the Campbell march...(kill my pun? never!) Soupy Sales.

ACE does publish 1/2 crud, 1/2 cream. Like TIMES WITHOUT NUMBER backed with DESTINY's ORBIT. The latter seems to come out of the 20's, altho Grinnell may have intended it as a parody of the space-opera-with-secret-weapon. Science equipment is expensive, serShupp; our Physics II class is constructing its own cyclotron out of rubber bands and paper clips. Probably works a damn sight better than the government's (as Mr. Campbell would say).

Why aren't there gift memberships in the N3F? There are doubters who hesitate to join, so why not give them such gifts, say for a year's membership. If they like it, they receive a letter nearing the year's end from the Renewals Committee to the effect that their membership will soon terminate: would you like to rejoin? And, naturally, they do. Same should apply to fanzines. It works with prozines.

PIERS JACOB: Literacy has nothing to do with TB letters; among friends, a slip of the tongue, slang, a bit of incongruity in speech-type is usually permissible. Besides, they don't call the N3F the National Funny Farm Federation for nothing, nohow.

Apparently you are the only one who has read Sheckley's new novel in F&SF. Think it will receive the Hugo? (DO YOU see? That sentence would have been richer by two words in formalingo: "Do you think it will etc.")

IF is improving. They are taking some fanwork. Try now.

Soak your zines in Kerosene. At first sight of an approaching roach, ignite

the zines. I guarantee they'll never come back to the zines again.

I, at any rate, read every letter in TB. It turns up the most interesting little bits. Now if only I had a photo of the one who wants to

ANALOG did not stuff the ballot box; it just psionically hinted that it wanted to win; and, with a superpsi like JWC working at it, no wonder it won! (Hey! Just thought of a horribly cruel thing to do! Send Avram Davidson a Christmas present: A year's subscription to ANALOG!)

CLAYTON HAMLIN: There will be 163 members in the club. Janie made a slight error in placing my expiration date down, that's all. There! Doesn't that comfort you?

I hope that the Discon and Morcon committees intend to have some sort of free ice service going at their respective hotels. Does the Hilton in Washington provide that service? It got terribly hot running up and down the stairs, riding up and down the elevator just to get a cool drink of water or a lemonade (20¢ definitely-not cheap!). Trite point, no doubt; but what would those who drink coffee only during the game of INTERPLANETARY do?

Fan publicity should be an aim of all organizations in fandom, yes. A few weeks postChicon, the Sun-Times here ran a few photographs taken at the Costume ball. Naturally the attitude was, "Heh, heh, kiddies." Once I saw that Wonder Woman getup whoever it was wore, I winced. And the rest was improved only by Karen Anderson's cosy insect suit.

Too long a letter, no doubt. Oh well; how about a special Hugo for Ike Asimov, Morcon or Discon? He's begged for one already. Let's let him drool over a real one, instead of cardboard cutouts, eh?

(Next week on the SHADOW: "The Werewolf of Hemitlor Mansion"(or somesuch)

Ann Original Poem

by Ann Original

Hey Lee Riddle,
This cat can't play the fiddle,
The Russkie's first on the moon.

------(Complete in 25 words or less and then call names.)

Don't you just love Imperial Size cigarettes? The longer length of tobacco does the filtering. Every time you smoke one it grows shorter and shorter and shorter and pretty soon it's the size of a king cigarette, then a regular--and... Greetings from Geetz Romo; he's still loose around here.

PIERS JACOB, 800 75th Street North, ST. PETERSBURG 10, FLORIDA

You know, I've been sending a number of noxious communiques to a number of places, and wouldn't really be surprised to open a letter one day saying "Dear P-- And here's some advice for you, you conceited snot...."

But honest, fans--I was only having a little fun with this camaraderie of errors. I didn't expect to be excommunicated. I didn't even know that TB #16 had been published until I started getting comments on my letter therein. Now I'm told that it has been out for a month, which neatly voids my chance to vote for the new president, and forces me to write "blind" for #17. I can't even grotch at croggling femmes, 'cause I don't know what they've writ. Please--I've learned my lesson. I'LL behave. Don't cut me off the mailing list again.

Since I can't pick anybody else's letters apart, I'm forced to say something constructive. Yyech! I'm not sure that I even know how. There must be something I can drag down to my level. I notice that "Evil Eye Fleegle" is back in the Sunday comic this week. He's my favorite character, next to Fosdick, but I'm sor-

ry to see him fade. His single whammy used to melt a charging locomotive; but now it takes the double whammy. Things just don't measure up to the old days. No fun kicking him when he's down.

Ha! Got it. The magazines! I've had a thing about magazine wordage ever since I had a 5,000 word story (by actual count) rejected with a penciled note saying "about 3,000 words", by a magazine which runs 16 page "novelettes". Naturally my suspicious mind went into low gear: do they knock 40% off the estimate when they pay the author, then compensate by promoting his short story as a novelette? Just to demonstrate to what extremes a narrow intellect will go when aroused, let me describe the wordage calculation system I evolved.

I commence by counting the number of lines of type per page. This isn't as easy as you might think; for example, look at the January 62 IF. (By the way, did you notice how sneakily they put in color and extra wordage just after I popped off about their low quality?) Count the lines on a random page--like say page 23. That's 47 lines per column. Skip further on, to page 52. 43 lines there. Further on a small section switches back to 47, then 43 again. Must be a female typsetter in the works somewhere. Whatcha going to call it? Me, I took the average and set it at 45, although there are more 43's than 47's.

Next comes the letter-count. Since I mentioned IF, lets take it along for the rest of the hanging. I want to know how many letters per line, but here again there are problems. Those letters are different sizes, and this makes a difference in print, if not on a typewriter. Lets take typical line with no punctuation, minimum i's, w's etc., and normal spacing, such as the fifth line in the first column of page 100. Count the spaces as well as the letters: 36. If several more lines average the same, which they do, we're in business.

Now comes the hard part. Multiply the total lines per page, 90, by the number of letters per line, 36. Should come to 3240 letters per page. I don't know what the official length of the average word is in the English language, but my estimate for fiction is about five letters. And of course there must be a space between each word. So I divide my letter total by six and come out with the words per page: 540. Yes, I know--I could have saved time by taking my six words per line and saving the division; but not every magazine is obliging enough to come out evenly, and I need a system that doesn't force me to go beyond my meager mathematical education by involving fractions.

Of course a few words are lost in transit between paragraphs and in dialogue, but I ignore these defections. I'm unbelievably generous in such matters. I count the pages and--well yes, since you inquire, this is also problematical. There are illustrations, blank pages, advertisements, plugs for other issues--how are they to be counted? I compromise by counting everything that contributes to the content or appearance of the issue. In the case of IF, I start with their 132 potential pages, and subtract what detracts: namely, the ads on pages 2, 5, 84, 131, 132. I suppose they only got revenue for one of those; but four full page ads to toot their own horn is too much. I allow them their half page filler spots, but that's the limit. At any rate, I end up with 127 pages of content at 540 words per page, or 68,580 words for the issue.

Think I'm finished, huh? Ha! I'm not one to be pacified with a mere word count. I want to know how much I'm getting for my money, and it is hard to compare properly when prices range from 35¢ to 50¢. Are IF's 69,000 words at 35¢ a better value than Analog's 87,000 at 50¢? Yes, if you ignore story quality, which I'm doing for the purposes of this discussion. (But I'm willing to consider it if there's popular demand.) We need a common scale to make this clear, and I accomplish it by dividing the wordage by the price. This produces the number of words you get per penny of investment. Thus IF represents 1960 wds/¢, wile Analog

strains at 1730. Of course, last year's IF was only 56,000 words, to match its circulation of 56,000. Could be a connection maybe?

Let me wrap this up by boring everyone with a brief table of magazine prices and word values, as defined by my system, as they lined up for 1962. (Figures rounded; slide-rule accuracy.)

	<u>WORDS</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>WDS/c</u>	
ANALOG	86,700	50	1730	
GALAXY	81,700	50	1630	
AMAZING*	63,400	35	1810	*before page cut
F&SF	57,600	40	1440	
FANTASTIC	56,300	35	1610	
IF	55,900	35	1600	

JAMES F. McLEAN, P.O. BOX 401, ANACURTES, WASHINGTON

Rcvd. TB 16 today. Another remark in thish about how few names on the roster turn up on letters to TB encourages me to take the plunge again -- and this time I'm going to sit right down and hack a letter out before my determination weakens.

Seems like someone a couple of ishes back was lamenting the lack of discussions in TB. Personally, I like discussions; if there's one thing I can sink my teeth into and enjoy it's a good discussion. Trouble is, usually nobody else around wants to discuss the sort of stuff that interests me.

I look at it this way: we've been reading stf, most of us, for some while (myself since I was nine), and can entertain, consider, and enjoy ideas that would completely croggle a mundane type without ourselves turning a hair. This, let's face it, is a talent, and one that's always been a little rare: not gullibility, for we don't believe the ideas we entertain, but conscious, trained control over the mental mechanism that in most people automatically rejects any really new and unusual concept; the 'suspension or disbeliever' if you will.

This talent is developed and trained by the average fan purely for entertainment, and in many, perhaps most, is employed only while going thru the fiction sections or strzines. The 'Anti-Croggle' switch can be turned to 'ON' and the story enjoyed in full, but when the mag's laid aside an automatic cut-out flips it back to 'OFF' and the criteria or mundania rule his consideration of ideas until the next mag is opened: in 1950 'Dianetics' was obvious nonsense, it didn't deserve any serious consideration; hard-headed historical researcher Kenneth Roberts' Henry Gross and his Dowsing Rod (which a surprising number of anti-psi fen have run across) was obvious nonsense, deserved no serious consideration; the Hieronymous machine was obvious nonsense, etc.; the Dean drive was obvious nonsense, etc.; psionic pipe locators were obvious nonsense, etc. And on and on; if you aren't that sort yourself you have doubtless run across other fen who automatically reject, in daily life, any idea which seems unlikely to gain currency in the culture they live in or which has failed to gain such currency, on that basis alone rather than on personal evaluation of the data they can scrounge up on the subject, while had the idea been incorporated in a sotry the automatic "is this the way everybody else thinks? if not, reject it" censor would have been completely out of circuit.

A lot of fen, of course, discovered somewhere along the line that the 'Anti-Croggle' switch could be held 'ON' at other times and that the new and uncertain view of the world this produced could be more interesting than frighten-

ing. Thinking didn't have to be a democratic process, and just like JWC Himself said, the evidence seemed to indicate that a theory's validity depended on how well it predicted observed data, not on how many people believed it.

That kind of fan, frankly, is the only kind I can get into a discussion with and really enjoy it. He can see there's likely to be, still, a lot of terra incognita around no map's been made for; in the history of the growth of human knowledge there's always been more of it, however far the frontiers were pushed, and by plain statistics the odds are against our having reached the outer bounds in these last few decades. And he's interested in it, fairly strongly. You can't have much of a discussion if most of the people in it don't really give two hoots about the subject.

Recognizing the likelihood of terra incognita still to be explored, accustomed to using the 'Anti-Craggle' circuit on more serious issues than sf plots, a person is also much more ready to reconsider and re-think for himself questions to which a set answer is already thoroughly accepted by our culture. And very interesting things can come of examining some of those set answers, as JWC occasionally demonstrates.

If anyone has eyes to strike up a discussion on some fairly important & interesting subject, I'd certainly enjoy a chance to whet my typer on it. Some of the things I think would make good topics:

All we know about the course of human evolution and about comparative neurophysiology makes the hypothesis that the Cetacea (excepting only two or three dwarf species out of the nearly 100 different species) are one and all as or more intelligent than humans considerably more probable than its converse even without additional data on the subject. The data obtained recently by Dr. (Man and Dolphin) Lilly, a really-true cold-blooded scientist, on the easiest species to obtain and work with, increases its probability greatly, to the point where the burden of proof in all logic should lie with, and totally with, anyone trying to maintain the contrary. Yet, a situation which should strike home more clearly to us with our background of speculation on contact between physically dissimilar intelligences than to any other single group, these intelligent, language-using beings are being hunted just north of me in Canada, killed, and made into dog-and-cat food; fleets of killer-ships will pursue them next year in Antarctic waters as usual, killing thousands so that, among other purposes, Britons may use their processed body-fats as a butter-substitute. The situation affords many points for discussion, to say the least, ethical ones being prominent. It could well be argued that an intelligent species which will busily undertake to kill off some eighty or ninety others sharing the planet with it non-competitively should kill itself off in atomic war.

Another topic: an M.D. named Puharich has discovered (and demonstrated before an official group of observers from Harvard) a telepathic amplifier which can be built for ca. \$50 and in repeated experiments boosted scores in Rhine-card telepathy test runs from a statistically significant but just-above-chance level to near-perfect. Several sender & receiver teams were used with a distance of $\frac{1}{4}$ mile separating sender & receiver. Puharich's experimental set-up is easily duplicated and would make a beautiful amateur project. Other experimental results described in his book (Beyond Telepathy, Andrija Puharich, M.D.) make great meat for discussion tho' too complex to go into just now.

Another: we have lots of background in thinking about H-bomb wars, and nothing in recorded human history gives one any good reason for expecting that a nuclear war can be postponed indefinitely; nationally suicidal wars are a commonplace in our history. What do most Neffers think about the odds, the utility of shelter preparations, and the like? I have strong views on it personally, and

I'd enjoy knowing what conclusions others have come to.

Another: there's nothing like Dianetics/Scientology to arouse strong and usually (extremely) uninformed (considering their strength) opinions amongst fan. A surprising number think that, unmasked as obvious nonsense, Hubbard's mental therapy system died out years ago for lack of recruits; others, knowing fan Jack Harness is a scientologist and hearing of it in other ways, suspect it's still straggling along on a 'some nuts will join anything' basis. Few are aware that thriving branches exist in Australia, South Africa, & the US, with headquarters in England now, that the membership & income of the organization has steadily risen since the middle '50's, that the average I.L. of employees in the US & English offices (only ones I have data on) exceeds 130, and c. And that a very good case can be made out for its being the most effective system of psychotherapy on the planet at present (tho that's not saying much and it's not primarily a psychotherapy in the usual sense of the word). Which case I'm prepared to present and discuss should I get any takers.

And I could go on and on, but I'd just get cut if I did -- three pages is pushing a letterzine editor pretty hard as it is -- so I'll quit now. But how about some others' ideas about discussion topics, and a few thoughtful letters on subjects that take some thought. A good discussion or two in progress does brighten up a zine to my notion.

DAVE KEIL, 38 SLOCUM CRESCENT, FOREST HILLS 75, N. Y.

Well, Lee, the main reason I'm getting this letter off so soon is to congratulate you on your editorship of TIGHTBEAM. If you don't mind my saying so, I still prefer the rotating editorship idea though.

I have just finished reading THE HOBBIT by J.R.R. Tolkien. Not only was it excellently written, but some of the adventures of Bilbo Baggins were faintly reminiscent of Homer's ODYSSEY. Naturally, I am proceeding through FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING and will read the other two books which follow that. Everybody should make a point of reading these four books, though I imagine most of you have already. The history of the ring and the heir of Bilbo (Frodo) are exciting and inspiring. I would start, at once, to make plans for a Tolkien fanzine, if Bruce Pelz and another fellow did not already have one going. Maybe I still will; though I'd need plenty of ehlp with it, especially in the art department. What do you people think?

I realize the emergency election for president had to be held in a hurry, but I personally think it was handled very badly indeed. I read all of TNFF the day it arrived and the deadline for people who wanted to run had expired almost a full week before the TNFF arrived. It would seem that someone was eager to keep out competition, or someone was very careless. The result was that only two candidates with similar platforms ran, leaving little choice to the voters. One hardly had a choice. I would like to have seen Arty Hayes or someone equally qualified have run. It seems like a monopoly almost. And, the worst part of it is the fact that the outcome is inevitable. I wasn't planning personally to run, but there were many others I'm sure who would have been more qualified than either of the candidates, who weren't really given a fair chance. This last will probably bring in a flood of comments, both approving and deriding.

MIKE SHUPP: I agree with you, Mike, concerning comix fan. I have several fan-friends who support comics and their fans avidly but I personally cannot see anything in the whole mess.

PERS JACOB: Well, welcome to N3F, and concerning Welcommittee members I think you will find there are a few rare apples in every bunch and Seth Johnson

is one of those. His dog-like devotion to N3F and to recruiting new fen is unusual, and you have no doubt discovered what an unusual person he is. A credit indeed to N3F and not at all representative of Welcommittee members. I think you'll agree, however, that on the whole, the information obtained from these letters is valuable and helps to clear up some of your confusion in these matters.

DON ANDERSON: Do you really think STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND was poorly written? A mess? You personally may not have liked the style employed but this is no reason to throw around such descriptive words. This book has been the subject of more controversy than any other Hugo winner I can think of. I've defended it so many times in various letters, zines, and round robins that I don't care to deliver a lengthy dissertation here, may I just say in closing that you ought to have been a lot more disappointed with the winning of ANALOG, which certainly did not deserve it. Even if we assume that this stuff is well written, it is still not (a good deal of it) science fiction and therefore has no right to a HUGO no matter how well written it is. Campbell is turning the thing into a technical science magazine. I see nothing wrong in that, this is fine, BUT IT HAS NOT RIGHT TO WIN A HUGO ESPECIALLY WHEN CELE GOLDSMITH WORKED SO HARD THIS YEAR AND LAST. Analog was completely undeserving. A grave injustice, I call it. Comments?

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Although I was sort of dragged into the NFFF, (along with the rest of the Chicon Comm.), now that I am in, I'm happy, and expect to continue.

I think several good points were made about the story contest in the Gigantic 16th. As Al Lewis said, the contest has to be fandom-wide and well-publicized. In place of cutting the entry fee from a dollar, may I suggest that it be made one dollar for one or two entries. Each entrant would be sent a card acknowledging receipt, and this card could be used as entry fee for the same or subsequent contests.

Also, why not open the contest to articles? I know I would rather write an article than a story, and fandom needs some more articles to hand LoC's on.

Mr. Finch: don't flinch! Things are awful, but not as awful as you make them sound. As an amateur rocketeer and space flight enthusiast of long standing (from 1941), I would like to offer a word of hope.

Although the Russian feats with their big rockets are impressive, all the available evidence that I have seen seems to show that they are still doing tricks with their basic rocket, but not moving into something really new. The Russian feats like putting up two men at once, keeping them up for 65 hours, landing them on Russian soil, etc., are all feats of precision and reliability. How do you get precision and reliability? By using ol' Reliable. Yes, the Russian rockets are much larger than ours, but this is an accident of history. At the time the Russians were designing their big ICBM, we were designing one almost as big, but the AEC passed the word that H-bombs could be put in much smaller packages. (Apparently this was the change from a cryogenic deuterium bomb to a lithium deuteride bomb.) As smaller ICBM's are better, we scrapped work on our titanic Titan, and redesigned it into the smaller Titan of to 'av. The Russians either didn't get the word on the new bomb in time, or decided that they would keep going on the big rocket for any number of reasons, one which might have been thoughts of space flight. I doubt it, though. Ten years ago space was pretty far off but ICBM's were quite near.

I know that a lot of money is being wasted in the U. S. space program, and we seem to be charging off in all directions while the Russians seem to be charg-

ing toward the goal line. However, there is one thing to be said for charging off in all directions, someone is going in the right direction.

Unless the Russians show up pretty soon with a much bigger rocket, (because their present rocket is big but not big enough), I think the U. S. has a good chance to get to the Moon first. We have a depth program, and the Reds may not.

If Mr. Finch wishes to do his inch, I suggest that he do something on a longer range scale than worrying about our present space program. Not nearly enough is being done on long-range thoughts. I like to think of the difference between Corporal Hitler and General Ludendorf. What could Hitler do to influence WWI? He spent his time thinking about WWII, which he thought he could do something about. (As I faintly remember, he did have some influence on it.) Back in 1947, the Peace types were running around screaming that the Bomb was coming, and demanding Peace in Our 'ime! That was fifteen years ago. I have a horrible feeling that a lot of people wasted valuable time in 1947 and the same types are wasting valuable time today. In my opinion, we will not have Peace until we have disarmament, BUT we will not have disarmament until we have a functioning world government to take over the job of watching the US and USSR from each other, AND we will not have a world government until we have a world community with a world language, a science of government and world law, and a system of ethics suited for this Post-Modern or Terrene age.

Now, as to my last point (Gen. Lee, you may Riddle at will) I feel that the "Christmas" stamps, if anything, are threatening the Christian religion, but I don't care very much. I feel that the Church, back about 325, muscled in on the jolly solstitial festivals like Yule and Saturnalia in order to push their own line, but, two millenia later, we are still celebrating Yule in the old traditional manner of our prehistoric ancestors, with feasting, greenery, gifts, secret gift givers, fires, candles, singing, dancing, and drinking, and any Christian who moans that we are not celebrating "Christ's Birthday" in a dignified and holy manner has his Christian ancestors to blame. They had 364 other days to put the celebration on, since no one knows when J. Christ was born, but they wanted to stick it in on the winter solistice festival. I intend to buy lots of the "Yule" stamps, and carefully cut out the little piece that says "Christmas". That's the only part I object to. I note that there is a movement afoot to "take Christ out of Christmas" by moving his birthday to some other day, like January 6, and I think this is a good idea for the Christians.

NORBERT LAUS, 3903 N. LINCOLN AVE., CHICAGO 13, ILLINOIS

Hmmm, this seems to be getting a habit. I have so far received two issues of TB and this is my second letter - a perfect record! But I have found, much to my surprise, that I like writing letters.

First of all, I would like to say that I really did put my foot in it in my last letter. So now I'll apply the foot elsewhere and perhaps get better results. I am referring to my statement that I had not gotten a letter from the Welcom-mittee yet. My apologies to all concerned - this has been nullified many times over. Please excuse my large obese speaking-orifice (big fat mouth to you uneducated bums who don't get it).

After seeing Don Anderson's article (?) in the back of TB #16, I started wondering. Why shouldn't we urge all the TB editors to write a letter just like anyone else would? This would mean one letter in each issue answering the letters in that ish. And the ed might want to sound off about something - especially something like this, asking him to do more work - but feels, and rightly, that he can't officially. This is his chance (am I, somehow, lagging on this?).

I'm still sticking to my guns on the WC matter, but in a somewhat modified manner. I said that the Welcommer should stay with the neo for a couple of months at least. Not, of course, in every case. I meant if he had the time - and I think he should, if he's on the WC. There aren't, I think, that many members that we need seriously worry about yet, but I realize that it could - and probably will - get out of hand. Just one suggestion for the future - would it be unconstitutional to have some inducement to persuade all members to write to at least one neo each in one year? This is just a suggestion to be considered. In the meantime, as soon as I am sure which direction to turn myself, I intend to join the WC.

Ah, yes, the dues. I can see that a membership year would, indeed, be a clumsy thing to contend with. But a raise in dues, despite Clay Hamlin, seems definitely to be in order, especially considering the points our former editor, D.W.A., has brought up, such as increased expenditures for more members, the increased amount of services planned for the future, etc. I say RAISE THEM. As to the exact amount, I think the proposed \$2 sounds about right, with credit to Donald F. Anderson (not be confused with D.W.A.) for the idea of cutting it down for the more years you pay in advance. This would save the member money and nobody would have to worry about renewals for several years, making it infinitely easier on Janie. We might also have the proposed cut for renewals.

Maybe I was just a wee mite hasty on the fund. With a greater amount of thought, perhaps we should try it for a year or so, but with definite conditions. (The increased dues might help out here. If not, I am not unwilling to contribute something myself.) We should make it a policy that the members thus supported show their worth by as much fanac as possible. Then after 6 months or a year, judge whether they are worth the output or not. If not, oust them.

Say, I'm badly confused by the issue of Art Rapp. Will somebody kindly give me the facts (no opinions, please) behind this big todo, so that I know what's going on? Some say he's able. I get the impression from others that he can't tie his own shoelaces.

Piers Jacob; The only sure way that I can see to get rid of those roaches cheaply is to build a simple space warp. Then, unless you've got some very intelligent roaches they won't get anywhere near the books.

And on that somewhat questionable not, I shall sign off.

P.S. No, Don, my middle name is not Yvgvi. It's Frank. So there!!

Did I say a perfect record? This appears more like 150% to me! Oh, well, like I said, I like writing letters.

Anyway, this is just a long P.S. that I forgot to tack on before.

Mike Shupp; Your letter, on the whole, was something I can agree with, but saying that the non-renewals were made to accept the choice made the year before, and that they should then have SOME say as to who will govern next year seems just slightly verging toward quibbling, doesn't it? (If I seem to be defending Don Franson more than is natural, I agree with the guy.)

Piers Jacob - once more; Fan slang amusing? Yes. Asinine? Yes. And as to its being a kind of juvenile code, I think I can say with a fair degree of accuracy (mind you, this is a guess, but it seems fair), that about half of the membership is under twenty, and even if this were not so, this is an organization for enjoyment, and there is in each of us, to varying degrees, a lot of the childhood pleasure in something like this. Now, I'm not saying anyone should use this, I use it very little myself, but if anyone wants to use it, why not?

Before I cut this thing off, I would like to apologize for any vagueness in my former letter, on the Welcommittee, but I guess that came about because I'm just a bit vague on it myself - I sure wouldn't be able to conduct a long argument

on it with any success.

I had something else to say and I've been dragging this out to see if I could remember it, but no dice, so I shall (yawn) say goodbye.

I'll return again...

CLAYTON HAMLIN, SOUTHWEST HARBOR, MAINE

Get rid of all my gripes at once. If you notice that complaints for my failure to be elected are conspicuous by their absence, there is plenty of reason. As anyone who has served a sentence on the Directorate knows, it is a relief to get out.

Complaint number one. That there was no necessity for running the story contest into the ground last year. The directors were well aware at the time the rules were written last year that the fifty cent fee for entries the first year had been a total failure, they simply didn't send it in. Raising it to a dollar it should have been obvious what the results would be. Not only that, but there had also been plenty of experience the previous year to demonstrate that publications of the rules in June just wasn't enough time for the entries to come in. Remember, they had to extend the deadline the first year for this very reason.

Complaint number two. About two and a half months ago I sent out a letter, five copies, two of them to directors, one that I expected to be one of the new directors, and two to fans with close contact with all directorate discussions. It related in detail something I had run across while reading (of all the crazy things) the Postal Regulations. It was a special type of postage rate called controlled circulation publications, with rates just half of what is now necessary to mail them third class, and with no increase in 1963, either. Some of the details of this are as follows: Rate, 12 cents per pound. No fee or permit needed. All that is necessary is to request a special ruling on the eligibility of the publication, and a deposit of monies at the third class rate can be made to the post office. If the permit is granted, the difference is refunded. In other words, it is retroactive to the time the request is made. With savings something like five bucks on each issue of TNFF, and no more work needed than to simply make the request, you would think someone would realize the necessity for immediate action, not even director discussion is necessary.

So far not a word that anyone even read this letter, or has done a thing about it. Might I ask, why not?

Complaint number three. From an early report on the results of the election someone had better be doing some worrying. From a club that the past few years has been averaging a fifty percent of membership vote, this year it seems to have dropped to just about one third. If this indicates what I think it seems to, next year's directors had better be looking for active workers for the various benefits the club offers, especially since it is fairly public knowledge now that Art Hayes is dropping as much of the activity as he possibly can. Certainly if they don't vote you have to consider them reasonably inactive members when it comes to club work of the different sorts. And then again it hardly seems a mandate of the members to put over any specific program either, although presumably there will be a lot of double talk that it doesn't mean that at all. Still, it surely is not a vote of extreme confidence, would you say.

Complaint number four. Probably shouldn't mention this, but since it has been the subject of public statements of all sorts it can't do a great deal more harm than has already been done. Specifically, the letter by Al Lewis in the TTH received tonight. Now, Al surely has as much right to express his opinion as

anyone else. If he had presented any facts, it is not only his right but his duty to do so. But no facts here that haven't been gone over before, this is strictly an opinion. One I personally disagree with, but that is not important of course. But the point I am getting at here, is that when the chairman of the directors makes a statement, he should not make use of his position to make it seem a semi-official pronouncement. Actually the issue was a very small one, it could have been settled in the directorate and no one would have ever known there was any confusion about memberships. Not only it could have been done that way, it should have been.

Really, the facts are simple, if relatively unimportant. Nancy wrote a letter to Tightbeam, trying to straighten out some questions that had been raised. Certainly it didn't make any accusations, though the suggestion was surely there that when they sent in the other dues that Janie just kept it and didn't report it. Still, trying to remember offhand the date of every letter sent and received is impossible.

Then Janie answered, and I am sure that just about everyone is aware that she keeps complete copies of all letters written, so without any doubt she can name the exact date any of them was written. If she says she did notify them twice of their membership it is easily subject to proof, also that date the check was written. It was within Janie's duties to write this, since several fans I personally know of have read the same accusations into that first letter that Janie mentioned, and it would hurt the club to have the treasurer charged with keeping club dues. And that should have been the end of it, even if it had gone beyond the bounds of what was necessary.

I simply don't see that Al Lewis needed to have this letter of his published at all though (admitted, there is probably no more reason for my writing this one either). Using the official position to write personal opinions is all right, in one way, but at least he should have dug out the complete facts, dates and such, before writing it. And specifically, since the directors this year have adopted a stringent security to prevent opinions and discussion of directorate matters in public and official publications, how is it that Al seems to be able to break it any time he desires, when no one else is allowed to do so? This is the second time and to me at least it is not something at all in keeping with the statement published on the mast head of TNFF to keep disputes out of official matters in its public contact with the members.

End of gripe. For the time being that is.

And that, dear friends, is the end of this issue of TIGHTBEAM. I have reached the point where either I run three more pages and go into another postal rate, or stop here. Since I am about a week late with this issue anyway, I feel that this will have to be it for this issue. My apologies to those whose letters were not published in this issue; they have been forwarded to Bill Mallardi for possible inclusion in TB #18.

Thanks again to all those warm notes of welcome. One of these days I'll try to get off an answer to all of them!

LEE RIDDLE
144 Elkton Road
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