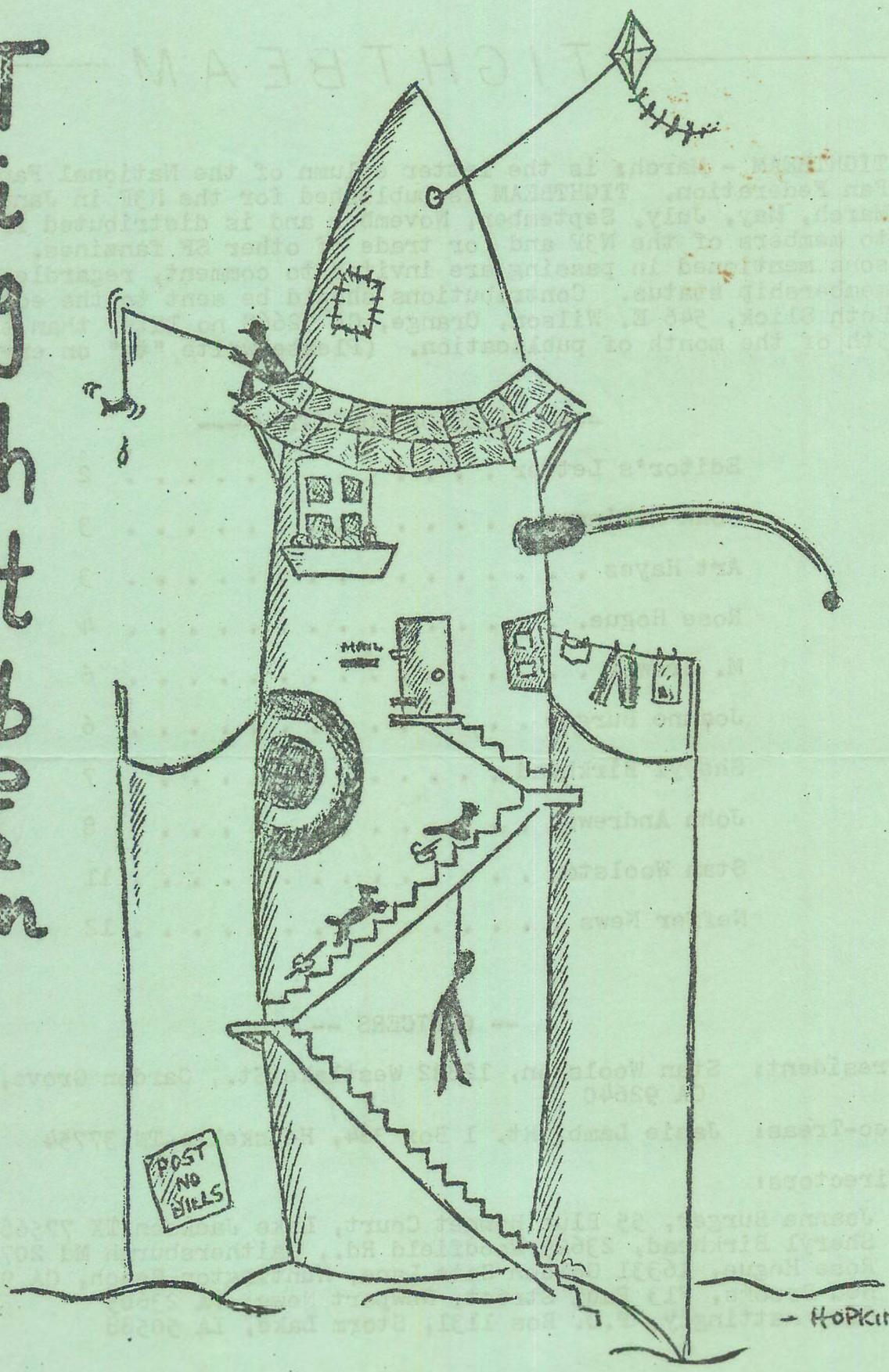


Tightbeam



- HOPKINS -

TIGHTBEAM

TIGHTBEAM - March, is the letter column of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. TIGHTBEAM is published for the N3F in January, March, May, July, September, November and is distributed free to members of the N3F and for trade of other SF fanzines. Persons mentioned in passing are invited to comment, regardless of membership status. Contributions should be sent to the editor: Beth Slick, 546 E. Wilson, Orange, CA 92667 no later than the 5th of the month of publication. (Please write "tb" on envelope.)

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Howdy--

As you are all aware, I am the new (and hopefully) permanent editor of TIGHTBEAM. Though most of you are aware someone named Beth Slick is the editor, you have probably never heard of me (nor I you in all likelihood). Therefore, a quick introduction is probably in order.

I'm one of the growing mob of people who got wind of an "organized" (sic) fandom through an interest in STAR TREK. My most outstanding qualification for this job is that I volunteered. Other than that, I put out a monthly zine entitled, SF&F/TV (while most people find TV a vast wasteland, I think it is foolish to overlook its possibilities as a major SF force, and my zine keeps track by way of synopses, reviews, and articles what is going on in the TV field.) I also write, edit, or publish newsletters for a couple of other organizations.

Though I have read SF for many years, my involvement in fandom did not begin until just recently. In fact, I have been a member of the N3F for less than a year. When I asked Stan if there were any time-honored traditions in TIGHTBEAM that I shouldn't violate or change, he merely said, "Don't get sued." With that advice, I shall proceed as best I can.

*

THANKS GO TO Rose Hogue and Stan Woolston, for sending me back issues of TIGHTBEAM and for writing to most of the people in this issue telling them of my need for material. Also, thanks to Gary Mattingly for also sending me a much needed back issue.

*

I've decided to print the letters in the order I've received them. To further clarify things, I'm also printing the postmark date with each letter.

*

The rules for the Science Fiction-Fantasy Short Story Contest are being sent along with this issue of TIGHTBEAM. The deadline date is November 8, but it's never too early...

Live Long & Prosper,

Beth

*write general article on TV about possibilities of medium
I explain why most do not think it can but how it can if properly handled*

JOHN

1-101st Street
Troy, NY 12180

ROBINSON

February 5, 1974

It has come to my attention that the N3F has a policy for suppressing recruitment. The apparent rationale for this policy is the fear of the IRS.

Who fears the IRS? The Southern Fandom Confederation apparently does not. They have over 800 members on their rolls. How many does the N3F have? I suspect that the number is slightly less than half that of the SFC.

Instead of cowering in ignorance I suggest we consult Meade Frierson III on this and find out the ins and outs of the legalities of such organizations. If he does not have the basic information necessary I suspect he can hunt it out.

In the meantime, membership in the N3F could be encouraged through a speculation list, that is, members could send names of prospective members to Ann Chamberlain, the recruitment officer, provided they include postage sufficient to mail a letter to each person listed. Where those suggested are already members the stamps could be retained for use by Ann in her regular duties.

I do not propose to add members willy-nilly. The vote for president during the last election came from fewer than 80 members. This is disgraceful. Participation must be increased. At least half the membership should be voting in any election. We must work on this as well.

ART

HAYES

Box 550
Ontario, CANADA P0N 1G0

February 18, 1974

Seasonal Hallucinations:-

I'll agree with Elaine Wojcieszowski that we had a very nice room at the Torcon. Ever since we started this idea of a room, whether called Hospitality or Neffer Room, I have always been somewhat lukewarm to the idea. When we were able to provide refreshments, it served an extra good service... but as the years went by, this idea of serving refreshments met more and more restrictions from the hotel staff, union, etc. Now, I remain less enthusiastic about it than ever, however, I am not ready to want it cut out entirely. Before cutting out, we have to find some alternative, and the ideas the members might have on this matter are no good unless someone is willing and able to assist in putting the ideas into practice.

Using the same facilities, the Neffer room, we can create a transitory phase, by having certain activities started in the Neffer room, which, if successful, the Concom would request be transferred to a program filler event, or even a program main event, and I still think that we have two activities in the N3F that would serve this purpose.

Photo Bureau:- Once this event gets going fairly well, it could have a slide show in the Neffer room. It could have several 1/2 hour shows of fans at cons, or fans in some fannish atmosphere, or just well known fans in mundane scenes. As an adjunct to this Photo Bureau could arrange to TRADE (after the con) slides, or sell slides (with delivery after the con, it would be financially risky for them to have a bunch of duplicates available for immediate sale).

Separate, but certainly allied in interest, with possibilities of trading and sales, is the Rogues Gallery Albums, which has recently been started. It did not wait until it had a large collection, but the important thing is that it started, and those running this idea should be encouraged by groups preferably, making up an album (preferably colour shots, but not absolutely necessary) and contributing the album for bringing to the various conventions around. At first it should be restricted to Neffers, but need not remain so restricted.

Tape Bureau:- Several - short - shows wherein 'old' shows could be listened to. The Bureau has an excellent collection of tapes of old and other shows that would interest SF enthusiasts. Possibilities of copies of these shows, for the standard fee, could be arranged for delivery after the con. The possibility also exists of the Bureau acquiring additional materials that it doesn't have now.

So there you have my current commentaries. As for the Writers Exchange, I will soon come out with material involving it so that all those who wish to become a part of this, will have the opportunity soon.

ROSE

ROGUE

16331 Golden Gate Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92649

March 1, 1974

Hi!

It's great to see another issue and it's been far too long between issues. Here's hoping that Beth will be able to serve as editrix for a bit and that the club will give her the support and letters she needs to create each issue! And thank you muchly, Beth, for taking on the work of this issue--here's hoping it has been a fun and worthwhile experience for you!

There are lots of things that members have been discussing and suggesting for the club of late. For the new members' information TIGHTBEAM is the place to bring them up and discuss 'em since it is the letterzine or Forum of the N3F so write a letter to TIGHTBEAM today!

One thing that some new members have suggested and that has been talked about from time to time within the club is changing the name of the club to a more international one. One name change that has been suggested in International Fantasy Fan Federation or IFFF or I3F. What do you think about this?? What do our overseas members think about it?? I'd like to see some discussion of this idea.

Also as everyone is aware there was a N3F handout zine at Torcon II titled "Our Yesterdays". It generated a bit of discussion among non-Neffers and some praise even. I hope to see such a thing as an established part of the club... but would also like to know what everyone else thinks about it?? Do you have some suggestions for it or material or artwork or what???

This year again Sheryl Birkhead is organizing a Rogues Gallery-- a photo album of members. So I hope you'll all be able to send her a fairly recent picture of yourself... or family so that those members attending are able to see what you look like.

Also I'd like to plug my own Bureau--the Round Robins--anyone interested in joining the next one I start?? I so far have one member listed for the next one--John Robinson. Also a few of my robins have gone astray or gotten lost and if you're holding one of them please let me know and send it on... pretty please!

Of late I've read a few books of interest and would like to recommend any of the following:

THE HOLLOW HILLS by Mary Stewart--a fantasy about the lives of Merlin, the youth of King Arthur and other related period peoples.

URSUS OF ULTIMA THULE by Avram Davidson--a historic sort of S&S tale about the life of a man who is able to communicate with animals and is part Bear.

ENVOY TO NEW WORLDS by Keith Laumer--a collection of short Reteif stories and most enjoyable and fast paced ones.

THE GLORY GAME by Keith Laumer--an expansion of a short story that appeared in THE BIG SHOW "message to An Alien" and a most enjoyable novel about political intrigue and one man who bucks the system for its own good.

Well I guess that about does it for me for now. Remember if you have something to say, here's where you say it! Wish everyone a most happy Easter and Spring!

M.

BREWER

922 S.E. 2nd Lot 27
Lawton, OK 73501

March 5, 1974

OK gang, what about this clipping bureau I thought up.

As you know, there is an ungodly number of small items in various newspapers and magazines that could be of interest to all neffers. It's a shame to waste them.

The way I'd like to see it run is have a central figure (chairman) to whom the C.B. members send their various clippings. The chairman could run them off on a duplicator and mail them out once a month.

I suggested that to Stan and he brought up a very good point -- we could be sued. Perhaps we could write up a form letter requesting permission of the publication to copy their material. (Is there a lawyer amongst us?)

not really necessary

Stan thought it better if we re-write the articles.

I'm sure there are many different ways we could handle it. If any of you have a better idea, send them to me or Stan and we'll see what we can do.

Or if you simply come up with a good item, send it to me so I can put it in cold storage till we see just what we're gonna do.

The type of stuff I'm looking for is just about any old thing. Anything that pertains to SF, fantasy, horror movies, writers, or general gossip. In short, something that is associated with neffing but doesn't belong in the information bureau.

fantasy not just neffing

For example, I once located an article explaining why Godzilla movies were going out of style, and another on George Orwell. Frank Balazs once sent part of an Ursula LeGuinn speech as she accepted an award.

I'm sure that the C.B. can be of use to the N.3.F. by locating tid bits of information and/or photos, creating more interest through participation, and add another dimension to the N.3.F.

I know that we can make it work for us.

JOANNE

BURGER

55 Blue Bonnet Ct.
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

March 7, 1974

I thought ^{Tb} might be a good place to go thru the economics of the NFFF. We have just had an increase in the dues and some of the

members may not know just where their money goes. For their \$3.00 they receive

6 issues of TNFF, at a minimum cost of \$1.50

6 issues of Tb at a minimum cost of \$1.38. The club usually donates about 5¢ a member to TAFF, and DUFF may receive an equal amount this year. So

Donations to DUFF and TAFF 0.10

Assuming a membership of 200, the \$35 for postage and expenses the Sec-Treas receives and the President's emergency fund of \$35 costs each member

0.35.

The President still has some of the fund left from last year, since it more than covered the cost of the emergency publications he sent out and the Sec-Treas often pays for the new member packet postage herself. But the 35¢ should be covered by the dues.

Thus, the NFFF spends a minimum of \$3.33 for each member from his \$3.00 dues. The postage for TNFF has been running 16¢ instead of the minimum 8¢ (until the recent hike), but I haven't been spending 15¢ per member on paper, ink, etc, so it balances out. It costs the NFFF approximately \$40-\$50 per issue of the TNFF at the current membership level. Postage remains the major expense.

For their dues, NFFF members also receive any special publications that the club may print. Such as the Our Yesterdays for Torcon or the Bureau Activities Booklet that went out with the Feb TNFF. At the moment, anyway, I think we can say that NFFF members are getting their money's worth, even with the increase in dues.

SHERYL

BIRKHEAD

23629 Woodfield Road
Gathersburgh, MD 20760

March 9, 1974

I'd like to pass along a few tidbits which might ordinarily go in the NEWS column of TNFF, but I want them to come out as soon as possible--since I have shown an alarming tendency lately to forget "important" stuff.

For those of you out there who collect the prozines and want a beautiful (AND EXPENSIVE) way to store them--The Jessee Jones Box Corporation (P.O. Box 5120, Philadelphia, PA 19141) has textured leatherette files already named for the major prozines -- they cost \$4.50 each or any 6 for \$24.00--just tell them the name of the publication and they'll provide the right one--otherwise a plain one is sent (i.e. if the publication isn't on file with them.) Another way--not as expensive--is to use the plain cardboard boxes available in most mail order catalogs--they aren't as attractive, but they perform approximately the same function.

Here's a temporary COA for Gary Mattingly--P.O. Box 1131, Storm Lake, IA 50588.

According to the latest TITLE, Ed Cagle is now gafiated--which means Kwaliouha (or some spelling like that there) is no more--please make a note of this if you are a KWAL person.

For any of you who are philatelists--Robert Rank (545 - 41st St., Union City, NJ 07087) has a Space cover service and I believe a sample is 10¢ from him--if you are at all interested, send him a dime and see what they look like--I don't think you'll be at all sorry. I may have a short article about it in TNFF in the future--we shall see.

That's the end of the newsy part.

It's really going to be great to see Tb again, I really miss the lil fella and his chatty goings on.

The DISCON is coming up--people ought to be thinking about the Hugo and Gandalf(s?) nominations. Any pictures for the Rogues Gallery will be gratefully accepted--just let me know if you want them back or what (for those of you who don't know what that is--it's a photo album which goes to the N3F room for people to look through while they are there.)

I also think we might be able to use wither Tb or TNFF as a ride posting location--much in the same vein as the DISCON committee has proposed for their progress reports--so, those needing or able to give rides--let me know (when, where, possible costs and so on) and I'll see to it that it gets printed up somewhere for everyone to look through.

J
OHN

A
NDREWS

2301 E. Foothill Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

March 13, 1974

I enjoy news about the World Cons, such as in the Dec. TNFF. I see that computerized games are being played more and more--which must have seemed visionary when I suggested it in 1967. Perhaps someday I shall have programs for other games besides Spacewar, if anyone wants them for Conventions. I did send a listing of a solitaire game, "Lunar Landing" to Wyoming last April. Perhaps from there, the game passed to MilHiCon, Colorado. If so, would someone please confirm? To set the record straight, the games played at Toronto Con are not anything like the ones I had in mind. I do appreciate your fanzine news. Some may get letters soon, especially since my travel fanac's so curtailed. Two sources of fanzine refs (rahter not name them) have apparently closed.

After many years, I have reached a new stage in my project to study Spacewar. I do have a nice copy of the classic PDP1 program. Boldly I let the news out, since apparently not many want me to send a free or paid copy. However, I'm certainly enthused over the prospects of trades--other Spacewars, other computerized games or--?

I hope I can make it clear that a computer program exists separately from a machine and can be converted (usually) to run on others. Alas, people that write programs don't save them or else write riddles and leave few notes for unravelling. By making up very good descriptions, new programs can be made or the old ones applied for amateur games or Convention extras.

I am gradually getting a short description of one little part of the Spacewar ready. Besides problems of deciphering, I struggle to make this clear to many. Also, I want a tidy representation to help anyone who might want (or have is programmer friend use) the ideas for a completely original game. One strange thing about Spacewar has been the lack of innovation: many variations, but no drastic exploitation of the building blocks.

Being poor, and struggling for a career, I had hoped to patent some of my designs. (Spacewar is public). However, the patent laws and practices are such as to force me into the position of, say, a Luther Burbank. Just as with his new plants, after one sale, anybody can copy and re-use at pleasure. Hence I shall give away many ideas, yet I want Don Miller to have first chance, for all the help he's given me.

Also, just for the record, the crude electronic games you've seen at county fairs and so on are nothing like the elegance and variety of the computerized. One bonus that may make my work commercially feasible is the ability to service several games, completely different, off one computer. It's no Buck Rogers forecast that many will have their own minicomputers. The price runs in the thousands, not much more than a new car.

Soon I shall send a sample translation to Writers Exchange. I deliberately chose a story already published in the Rottenstein collection View From Another Shore. This sample will give opportunity to test my skill against that, and possibly allow readers a rare change to catch both nodding.

SF and also fandom deserve a rare E for Effort. Though little mentioned, every art tends to last but a generation and lose much in crossing national boundaries. SF is to be congratulated for staying afloat so many years. I only pray the magazines won't collapse and let it ripen longer, before hardening into the mold of mainstream publishing!! And since Wells and Verne, it's made the first bid to be an art whose one school goes international. What a victory that would be! By an art, I mean the creative practice of it on the highest level, along lines set at start.

Having given a nice pat on the back, it is my mournful duty to write that SF has its blind spots, weaknesses and mirages as well. In particular, for reasons not necessarily traceable to any tiny group (probably historical) SF failed to give a good forecast and feeling for the computer: the exact opposite happened for space travel. Also, translation in SF has been slow, poor quality, and not conveying the nuances, the special shades. A friend wrote me

that terrible things had taken place in "translating" American authors (USA is the big cornucopia for foreign SF shelves) into German and French. I tested some Poul Anderson short stories against the original. Much worse than I would have thought possible. Hard to say if representative. Such a project would require much buying of European SF, acquiring English texts (my collection naturally leaves much to be desired) and patient reviewing.

But not only do they strip away the special SF terms and extrapolations of Anderson, thus converting some "Van Rijn" stories into tales very much like their sailing-in-the-Hansatic-League god-parents, but about a fifth or more simply disappears. Thus "translation" is the special, wry sense of knight's criticism occurs, but the direction goes backwards. Take a SF story analogous to a detective story or sea story or Western--and "translate" is so it's garishly like non-SF. Another correspondent writes that something like 35% of most American SF texts is dropped out.

Separately, I add that the publisher Gerard or Marabout does many very bad translations into French, while allegedly Casterman or Tournai performs much better. Gerard published L. S. deCamp and S. Lem.

On the other hand, I'm curious to see how their stuff fares here. Soon I'll be able to compare Lem's work in Russian editions against the American versions. I trust that the quality suits such a noble undertaking!!

Obviously I can't, won't be the watchdog for the field. What can an average fan do, especially one that reads only English? Plenty. For one thing, whenever you see a so-called translation made up from a second language not the original, you can know something has fouled. It just does not work, no matter how carefully the two relay-translators strive. One work of S. Lem came to us through French, another from German!! Also, if you see an English edition that's less than 300 pages and the original is nine hundred odd, don't wait for a Ph.D.: you can tell right off (and this happened) there's something rotten in Denmark or somewhere. Furthermore, when you complain, complain about the translation, not just the story. Also, try to find something particular about the translation: if you only shrug your shoulders vaguely, you help create the mood that it's hopeless--to be put up with. Another way to catch 'em: in the future there'll be more alternates for the same. Compare them; maybe they won't match at all.

Here's one more example of things you can detect without reading original. Suppose it is Japanese SF, allegedly laid thousands of years in the future or amid an alien species. So in the English, the characters spout off American slang that's already passing away. Ask yourselves, does this make sense?

If anyone happens to be interested (and some are fascinated with language lore) might want to check out one of the many books on the subject of translation itself now available in public libraries. Many appeared in the last 15 years. I recommend a collection of essays, so you'll get a sampling of the controversy. Many of the cliches current have no foundations. For example, the most important thing is not capability in the original, but the TARGET language. For no matter how well you descry the foreign text, it's only what you do about it in the English that succeeds or fails. That's why many feel translations should be done by native speakers into their own tongue, not by natives of the source language.

I could say some nasty things. Perhaps I should refrain, but this item may come too late, otherwise. Sometimes I wonder if the international reputations of certain authors depend on their stories being able to survive running thru the wringer. Suppose Poul Anderson happens to produce tales that can stand chopping and stripping more than others. They stand shakily, though not the things they set out to be. What a Bed of Procrustes! I don't see how R. A. Lafferty can get thru the language barrier.

I am all in favor of exchange of SF news. I even volunteer to translate a German article if someone else can't be found, to get the ball rolling. Here is a proposal. Each party prepares a nice news item, using ordinary style and their own language (but avoid slang and dialect!); then translator in the host country re-does into his native idiom. Thus part of the problem solves itself: the problem of odd turns in the published versions. Furthermore, several people can make up the source piece -- they don't have to know other languages, just avoid peculiar expressions.

*S*TAN

*W*OOLSTON

(The following "letter" was sent along with some other material that appears on the news page. Since this seems to "answer" some of the questions raised by John Robinson, I think it fits here.)

Now that N3F dues is \$3 by member's vote, we can afford to do some recruiting. If you know someone who is willing and eager to join a club with many activities you might write the prospect or tell them in person we publish two clubzines from 4 to 6 times a year (and usually on alternate months). For a long time, we have tried to do six of each a year, with clubs and other news atop anything else such as reports of prodom, other clubs, conventions, etc. Members may want to send Joanne Burger and Beth Slick material and that will be fine with both of them--and me. And you might tell these editors that if space or appropriateness makes an item unavailable for their publications it can be sent to Donn Brazier for the use of Manuscript Bureau "editors".

*wants to
Beth about
foreign
review
for Tb.*

David Locke, who was a past Director of N3F and head of the Wel-
committee years ago, has not been a member for quite a few years--
but living in the Los Angeles area is involved in local fandom.
At a Petard meeting he asked me if N3F existed--and said that while
he gets most fanzines he did not hear about anything it had done
lately. I mentioned our Story Contest (and I know information on
it last year was mentioned at the Los Angeles Science Fantasy
Society, because Bruce Pelz told me so.) I know Sheryl Birkhead
has produced a free publication from us to attendees and it has
been distributed widely, if not everywhere. And of course, there
is much more. But Dave was worrying because he had not heard about
the Club lately--and felt publicity was amiss.

I told him that for several years raised postage and other costs
made it impossible not to have more expense for just our two of-
ficial publications (TNFF and TIGHTBEAM) to cost us more than we
took in for \$2 dues--but now members raised dues to \$3 by their
votes we can publicize it more...

Years ago, some general fans felt we were pushing too much, as if
a Neffer was involved in all fandom and so felt it should be Heard
more. Dave speaks as if we should speak out louder--and while
both ideas seem contradictory, I agree with him and the other view
too: we should be heard more, without planning to be a huge club
only because of the extra problems to such as the volunteer edi-
tors would have if we grew overlarge.

Still, ads in progress reports and convention booklets are in order.
News sent in to faneditors (including newszines) may or may not be
published--it seems some have too much news to feature fan-news...

I believe in building up the club for members, but also no for-
getting N3F is a part of fandom. We are involved in similar areas
--readers and collectors (who may share interests at times but are
sometimes not the same! Or, writers (trying for prodom or fanzine
publication)), editor of fan publications, Tape Bureau activity,
writing fanzines or getting a local or specialized club started--
these and more are paths for some of our members, which reach be-
yond the club at times, but which we as a club can help with. And
of course, the Contest and the Manuscript Bureau as well--as David
can get anyone in touch with, if you write him or N'APA.

NEFFER NEWS

DON D'AMMASSA writes that The Collectors Bureau may be reactivated
with him as the bureau chief--if there appears to be enough in-
terest. Those with comments, suggestions, recommendations, etc.
should contact Don (19 Angel Drive, East Providence, RI 02914.)

CON GOERS will have fun in April--especially since there are three cons scheduled for the April 12 - 14 weekends:

Equicon 2 (The Star Trek Convention)
P. O. Box 23127, Los Angeles, CA 90023
GoH: D.C. Fontana

LunaCon (New York Regional SF Conference)
1171 East 8 Street, Brooklyn, NY 11230
GoH: Forrest J. Ackerman

MiniCon (Minneapolis Regional SF Conference)
343 East 19 Street, Apt. 5B, Minneapolis, MN 55404
GoH: Kelly Freas

Other April events include the British Tynecon and the April 27 Nubula Awards.

JUDITH BROWNLEE, Director of the Denver SF Association, and Ted Peak, DASFA Treasurer, will marry April 21 at a local Denver church. Society for Creative Anachronism will provide the ceremony, to be followed the banquet and revel.

This year, the DASFA MILEHIGHCON will have Poul Anderson as Pro Guest of Honor, Frank Denton will be Fan Goh. They will again have a writing contest. So far, Bob Silverberg has not yet refused to judge the writing contest, we're told. Membership is \$1 a year to their Secretary, Gordon Garb, C310 Corbett Hall, Ft. Collins, CO 80521 (and the \$1 gets you a sub to DASFax).

ELST WEINSTEIN (7001 Park Manor Avenue, North Hollywood, CA) has 800 entries already in his illustrated dictionary of SF terms. Elst expects to get perhaps 700 more by publication time. Many terms will be words used by special groups (Star Trek fans, etc.), occasions or locations (apas or clubs). He would appreciate help from any who can provide terms and definitions.

TIGHT BEAM
c/o Beth Slick
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USA

Joseph D. Siclari(1974)
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THIRD CLASS