

TIGHT BEAM



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TIGHTBEAM - July: 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 East Wilson, Orange, CA 92667, no later than the 5th of the month of publication. (Please write "Tb" on the envelope.)

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EDITOR'S LETTER

Howdy--

Recently I saw George Pal speak at a local college. He showed a 10-minute DOC SAVAGE promotional film. (For those of you who don't follow films too closely, George Pal has recently completed production of DOC SAVAGE...MAN OF BRONZE, based on the Doc Savage novels). The film is set in the 30's and backed by John Philip Sousa music, Doc's cry for "Truth, Justice, and the American Way" bring his five friends forth to do battle with the criminal element of the day. The film is obviously high camp, and quite funny. If the rest of the film sustains this style, DOC SAVAGE will be a recommended film to see when released in the middle of next year. A sequel is already planned.

*

Joanne Burger reminded us all in the recent TNFF that now is the time to let your candidacy for office be known. (Mike Kring kicks off the proceedings in this issue of Th.) Everyone is encouraged to at least consider running for an office.

Stan Woolston has received checks from Joanne and Kaymar for the "Ackerfund". Anyone else care to join them?

Be sure to send a photo of yourself to Sheryl Birkhead for her Rogues' Gallery to be displayed at Discon.

While I'm plugging everyone else's activities, I might as well mention my own zine, SF&F/TV. In addition to reviewing SF shows on the networks, the zine also tries to keep track of what SF&F shows are being shown on local channels. If you will send me weekly lists of what local SF shows are being shown in your area, it will help increase the area of coverage in my zine and I will send you issues in return.

*

Letters for Tightbeam are coming in at a healthy pace, but with enough diversity to keep things interesting. If you find something you're interested in, respond to it. If you don't think any of the letters reflect your thoughts, we want to hear from you! Remember, variety is the spice of life (or, as my Vulcan friend on the cover would say, "the differences in creation and the way these differences are combined give life meaning.")

KEEP ON WRITIN'

Beth Slick

STAN

WOOLSTON

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May 10, 1974

...Now that you told us about your mundane interests, how about your views on "entertainment" and reading outside SF? (Mine is quite wide, from nonfiction of a wide variety of types including books on writing of the "creative" sort, and psychology, archaeology, sociology and a variety of ologies and onomies and history, and mystery fiction, historical stuff, and idea-oriented things as well.) I think TV has a place for more imagination and probably also more organization--maybe something like selective types of fare labeled so the audience could pick much more than just detective and western and variety...and the few other types that are predominating. There is probably much more room also for series--not necessarily same characters, but same general types--perhaps adventure or exploration or people-involvement material that, with a crew of different directors, producers and actors might be fresh to the audience as series of the usual sort seldom are.

But I'm tempted to suggest what is most needed are a few competing groups on various networks doing shows that are NOT on at the same time. (Like races that are made with the clock instead of at the same time would allow the viewer to see more of their sort of material.) Perhaps having two different shows of the programs (at different times) would give both advertisers and viewers a chance to get what they want when a couple programs do seem to grab the attention and call for a viewing by the SF fan. SOMETHING needs to be done instead of trying to grab all the show-viewing by little tricks that the public seems to be the victim of. Of which I am the victim of...

Anthology shows don't seem to ever last too long (generally) and even though they offer a freer arena of creativity, their track record scares many of us. The best compromise of series and anthology was a non-sf show called THE NAME OF THE GAME wherein the weekly show alternatively focused on one of three main characters and their divergent roles in Howard Publications. This method left plenty of room to bring in new main characters if desired. The idea of running a show twice (assuming you aren't talking about reruns) would never be accepted by actors simply because this would cut down their opportunity to work. Continuing with Stan's letter...

Dorothy Jones--you say you vote for Beth Sharp as permanent editor of Tb. You understand the President does the appointing of editors, so I would advise you to put your name up as President and then, when elected make sure she is reappointed January 1, 1975. Next clubzine (TNFF) at midyear, will remind people it's again TIME TO SEEK OFFICE IN NFFF. So be sure, Dorothy, to tell Janie Lamb you will be running for President. She will be glad to get dues for next year from anyone for '75. Then, after you get the Presidency, you can appoint Beth as Tb editor again on January 1, 1975.

Ah, it is time again to remind everyone to seek office. Maybe Richard Trout, you'd like to make up a platform of your idea for improving N3F--for as a Director you might be able to talk the others into putting some of them into effect...

Irvin Koch, maybe we need an Official Reminder that various activities are N3F activities. It's easy to forget, if you're active in the club, or in a long time, that others may not have read or seen what you have...so repeated information in a N3Ffer's fanzine, or any other method to remind them of such things as "The Tape Bureau is a N3F activity" should be good. And the annual SRF-Fantasy Short Story Contest is a N3F activity, too...

Dave Shank--the Fanzine Clearing House is a project that Seth Johnson managed for quite a while (after originating it) and since then the few ads in prozines (his method of locating readers who might become active in fandom) never got underway. First, it takes quite a few zines to work. Seth wanted to recruit fans, and got quite a few faneds to send a few (maybe 5 or 10) of their zines if they wanted to increase their readership. Of course selling to Neffers would be something that might appeal to some of the members--but it wouldn't be what Seth conceived. Still, if it worked maybe you could get enough zines to furnish zines via an ad in one of the SF or fantasy zines, as Seth did.

Quite a few activities have been started by a single individual, many by action have drawn support and become Bureaus (and so Roy Tackett's advice to Milly Brewer is sound). I'll send her clippings.

Coming home tonight after work I find the January Tb arrived--for which I'm glad... Don, I took the election with a slug of grog--otherwise it might have upset me (instead of the grog doing it). But--why are you so sober, Don, in commenting on Janie's obvious fun-jabs? Maybe you've done the editorial while sober? But then--the endless circle of this all confuses me. Yeah.

JANIE LAMB FOR POSTMASTER GENERAL! BACK TO THE FIVE CENT STAMP!

DOROTHY

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JONES

May 14, 1974

...Thanks for your page about yourself. I enjoyed that part. The script type printing after each letter makes for a clearer type of reading. This way we can see and read immediately your contribution to a letter. That's a good idea, Beth, to use that type.

Now for some comments.

Sorry to hear about Harriet. Hope Neffers will write and give her encouragement and also let her know we are thinking about her and wish her well.

Regarding Sheryl's letter. I agree with her in regards to Janie's having some help. She has been carrying a big load for years. It is about time she has some help. I'm already in contact with Stan in regards to this matter.

Janie, you have done an excellent job! How about some help? Let us know how you feel about this suggestion. Richard Trout brought up some interesting questions. Pictures of fans and writers should be of interest to many people.

The art work is good. I liked Alma Hill's cover...and just enough of Sheryl and John's work to make it interesting...

Martin

1028 Third Avenue
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CARLSON

May 14, 1974

Just a few lines to answer the article in June '74 issue of N3F. A.E. van Vogt letter came right to the point. We should help along in this work for a Ackermansion. Forry has been a member of N3F since 1941 and always paid his dues. Now he is a LIFE member and rightly so. He helped in many ways to promote N3F and was always ready to help when asked.

I remember him when he was running for Vice-President way back in 1946. I had just joined and Dunkelberger was running for President. Dunk asked me to run for Vice-President against Forry! What chance did I have against such a well-known fan!! BUT Forry wrote to DUNK and said "I'm out of the race. Let Carlson run. He should make a good team-mate for you." JUST LIKE THAT! That was my first job in N3F.

As I became known in N3F it wasn't long before I got to be Sec-Treasurer (which I held for 2 years.) Many a time I got help from Forry on questions which concerned "the old days" in Fandom.

As I see it, we should do all we can to see that Forry's Ackermansion is kept for posterity. N3F has records there too, that must be preserved.

His VOM (voice of magination) was very popular in the early days. The VOM Maiden was on many of the covers, and created lots of interest. Many of the writers, now popular, were members in N3F. I have the TNFF files to prove that statement. N3F helped many to go up the ladder.

I for one, will give \$25.00 to any fund that is started in the name of N3F. We could all send in our money to Stan Woolston, a true Neffer, and let it accumulate to a respectable sum and then send it on to Forry for his use in maintaining his Ackermansion.

I sincerely hope that we all get back of this project for the good of future FANDOM.

Kayman asked me to print this letter again in Tb, the more publicity the better. Though I have never personally seen Forry's collection, I have seen a film dealing with it in the cinema which starred Forry and his collection of film memorabilia, which had this film bull absolutely captivated! Of course, there is also the past book, magazine, etc. collection. If you can help, please do.

SHERYL

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BIRKHEAD

May 17, 1974

Aha--another fine issue of TB and again, my thanks (and gratitude) to Beth--I didn't realize just how much I missed this forum of ideas and mumblings until it popped back into/onto the scene.

Several comments--I (personally) think the N3F ought to put small ads in the prozines--I had intended to do it myself and foot the bill, but unexpected expenses forced me to drop the idea. I especially think it would be a good idea to do so in issues of the prozines which would hit the stand about or before the Worldcon--and hence be in front of the fan who doesn't know about the N3F.

To Richard Trout--The Rogues' Gallery went over fine last year--so I'm hoping...A LOT of photos have been added, mainly from those given to me personally. I don't know of any place (aside from the photos, but one of these days) where pictures of fans are available--almost ALL (heck--ALL) of the Gallery pictures are not accompanied by negatives, so copies of any of them are economically unavailable.

For two years I have been trying to get the ok (i.e. money) to do a picture zine of the pros. It involves just too much money for me to do it on my own (offset and so on). The price quote I had two years ago is undoubtedly out of date and the place has since changed hands anyhow. I'll have to re-do a lot of the leg work in the event that the project IS passed, but I am still interested in it.

I'd also like to know if anyone would be willing to "subscribe" to such a zine (meaning cough up the money for it before it got published and trust me that it would indeed be published). Such monies would help a bit and maybe there would be a discount for it.

Previously, I was estimating the cost for a zine of about 40 pictures to be about \$1, maybe a bit more. So, with the prices going up the way they have, to be safe I'd say about \$2 for non-members \$1.50 (or \$1.75 depending on costs) for members and \$1--\$1.25 for SUBSCRIBERS--true, the costs may turn out to be less (and so the cost per zine would go down), but I'd prefer to be wrong on the high side rather than sit in the red on costs.

WELL--ANYBODY HAVE ANY COMMENTS?

About our name--N3F IS known (for good or ill, it IS known) and I, personally, think a name change might be disastrous--although I do admit going to 3F is a less drastic step than others I've heard. BUT, if we drop the National, we'd better drop the Fantasy too!

The worldcon fast approaches and I hope to coax my mimeo into enough activity to get the freebie YESTERDAY AND TODAY done for it--with RUSSELL PARKHURST as the artist therein and thereof--look for it if you get to D.C.

I don't remember how long I've been a Neffer--started sometime while I was in grad school so it has been at least three years or so. Until just recently, I don't recall seeing much reaction to/from/in the Manuscript Bureau. Now, suddenly, I seem to see articles cropping up out of nowhere (sorta) with the N3F Manuscript Bureau tag tacked on. I think we all owe a great big THANK YOU to Donn Brazier who is chugging right along with his Bureau and making it work as it was meant to. A lot of first time out faneds are finding material they can use and helping to start them out with a right kind of first issue--not to mention other more established eds who ask for and get material from Donn.

I hope these eds remember to send Donn a few stamps to cover the postage. Now that the rates have gone up, each stamp means a dime (gee, isn't that news??) and I'm sure Donn appreciates everyone who is thoughtful enough to help him out a bit.

Um...speaking of helping--why don't YOU help him out yourself and send in that article or review you've been meaning to write? Never a better time than now. THANKS DONN.

RICK

BROOKS

R. R. #1, Box 268
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May 20, 1974

Quite an embarassment of riches this week TNFF and TWO TIGHTBEAMS... I like to see more about the people in the N3F, so thanks for the personal info. Now all we need is a ~~centerfold~~ picture of you. I saw Sheryl Birkhead's scrapbook at Torcon and appreciate the effort on her part. Believe it or not, even with the con-going that I've done, I've never seen several close correspondents. It helps to have an idea what they look like when you sit down at the typer. It's almost like talking with them.

I like your idea of the N3F kicking in money to the ACKERFUND. I mean to kick in some myself as soon as I get financially above water again...

It's a good idea to put your answers to letter in script. I didn't care for the "1's", but it does avoid any possibility of confusion.

Markstein in his TIGHTBEAM was quite right about POGO. Mother, Betty, and I all loved the strip. Now with Walt Kelly gone, it stinks. The new artist has the pictures and the words that Kelly did but the poor (expletive most certainly deleted--write your nasty letter on censorship to me instead of Beth) can't even conceive of the tune. A pity.

Janie Lamb could use some help. I dropped out of the N3F last time over my zines being sent to an old address (after the change had been made for a few issues). But Elaine Wojciechowski put the arm on me at Torcon (in a very nice way, I might add) and here I am again. ((Please hold the applause until the act is over.)) An assistant secretary or even two would be a boon as one person can't always keep on top of things, even as small as we are now.

Don D'Ammassa has a point on translators. I got hooked on Baudelaire, the French poet and started reading different books of his. I ran into a poem in two different books by two different translators which had the same title. But there was such a vague resemblance that I still am not at all sure that they were meant to be the same poem.

Richard Trout has a good point on photos of sf writers. Ages ago, ASTOUNDING and GALAXY ran SF Book Club ads on the back with author's photos. It was the only time that I've ever seen one of van Vogt, whatever happened to him?

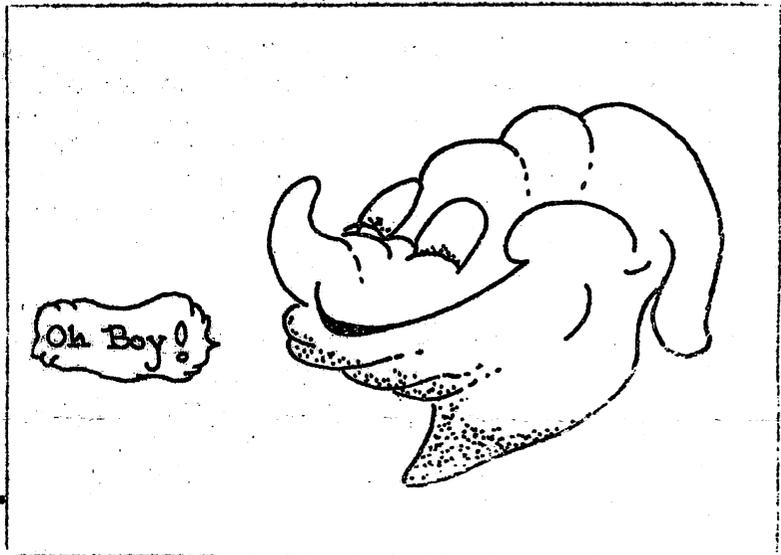
Joanne Burger has done a very good job with "Bureaus and Projects of the National Fantasy Fan Federation". I'm a big shot in organized Diplomacy (wargaming) fandom. I'm also a member of their First Fandom...having been in postal Diplomacy since 1965. Joanne's listing has some good ideas for our infant organizations and I've shamelessly borrowed some of them. I'm even running an Ideas Bureau of such a form that I should appologize to Sheryl Birkhead. Since you asked, postal Diplomacy dates from 1963. It was started by New York City SF fan John Bearman.

As for renaming the N3F, I'm not sure. "Fantasy Fan Federation" sounds all right to me, but I will point out that triple-F had obscene implications when I was in the service. However, there are people that think that N3F does.

I note in connection with Farm Fandom ("fanzine" - THE MOTHER EARTH NEWS) that certain of those desiring to return to the land are against harvesting animals for food and think that it is more moral to eat only plants. With such books as THE SECRET LIFE OF PLANTS indicating that plants may have feelings of a sort, the moralists aren't left with much. Could our "superstitious" ancestors have been onto something with the mandrake legend about the man shaped plant that screamed when pulled up?

I like to play with such Fortean stuff and believe it a pity that the proposed clipping bureau might do without the odd and the weird as Donn Brazier suggested. I find them fun. However, the Society for Investigation of The Unknown in PURSUIT goes over this sort of material and does a good job of getting rid of the chaff. I'm a born skeptic, myself, tho you might not believe it.

Farm fandom? That is a new one to me. Some scientists say that talking to plants is helpful only because you are breathing out on the plant. It has been pointed out to me that perhaps assistants to Janie could become a situation in which "Too many chefs, etc. etc." which is also quite possible.



JOM

WALSH

102 Prospect Avenue
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May 22, 1974

Congratulations and may thanks, Tightbeam is superb. Keep up the great work.

There are problems regarding John Robinson's idea of increasing the membership.

We could increase the membership in many ways. One way might be to have press gangs at conventions. Another way might be for everyone to go out and enthusiastically solicit new members. The result of the latter, however, would be much the same as the former: a great number of inactive, disinterested members.

The N3F is not a product. It is a club. The only way a club can be strong and effective is if its members are interested and willing to work for it.

By making information about the NJF available to those who want it and by refraining from selling it (as if it were a terrific detergent or a cure for every known disease) the membership will grow steadily. I said steadily, not rapidly. In this way, the club's strength and effectiveness should grow at nearly the same rate as the roster.

As Roy Tackett, among others, pointed out, there are limits to growth of an organization. Eight hundred is unrealistic (unless someone, willing to publish TNFF & Tb is independently wealthy and need something to do to keep busy). Any number close to that figure is unreasonable.

Yet a considerably larger membership, such as eight thousand (preferably more), would be satisfactory. With this many members the dues could be increased a dollar or two to pay the salary of the editor. This would make the editorship a job. Unless we are willing to go the whole distance, four hundred would be about the maximum membership to have and retain any kind of efficiency.

There are also difficulties with Rose Hogue's proposal to change the name to the International Fantasy Fan Federation (pronounced If?).

First off, there is not really a large amount of fans outside of the U.S. to warrant a name change. There are no members in Gambia, Bulgaria, Latvia, etc. Also, the present title doesn't say what nation. It just says National. Another reason that I am against it is that those members outside the North American continent get such lousy service (mailing time-wise) that I'd be ashamed at being so presumptuous.

Secondly, many members are primarily science fiction fans and some even dislike fantasy altogether. They are not represented in the new name.

Thirdly, Webster's points out that a federation is "a union of organizations". Notice the plural. We are but one organization and so cannot possibly be a federation.

STEEERIKE THREE!

National Fantasy Fan Federation also suffers those same defects. Being a firm believer in tradition, I'd rather have an old defective name. Changing NFFF to IFFF is not really much different from trading a brain tumor for lung cancer.

Has anyone read The Best of Stanley G. Weinbaum yet? If not, do so. This was my first exposure to Weinbaum and I loved it. Weinbaum created so many creatures that were to become basics for many future science fiction stories.

Just off the top of my head: There are, in this collection of short stories, the basis for 1) a silicon creature that appeared in Star Trek, 2) a hallucinogenic beast that also appeared in Star Trek, 3) the Tennessee Tuxedo cartoon show, 4) a movie whose name escapes me, 5) and quite possibly Big Bird of Sesame Street fame. Of course the similarities between these and creatures and ideas created by Weinbaum may be coincidental but I doubt it. This book is a must for anyone who wants to understand present science fiction or just loves a good story.

In closing I say that if anyone is interested in joining the Correspondence Bureau, write me.

I just purchased the Weinbaum book and although I haven't finished it yet, I have been very impressed and highly entertained with his writing. I've seen other favorable comments about it and recommend it to others myself. Perhaps it is best to leave the N3F name alone, most people seem to feel that what we've got isn't perfect, but the alternatives are even less attractive.

FRANK

19 High Street
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BALAZS

May 23, 1974

Seems that a whole bunch of Tb's have come my way recently: the two Beth produced and the one from Markstein, which I haven't read yet. Anyway, I will confine my comments to the May issue as that is the only one I'm able to dig up.

First, I'd like to ask faneds interested in having their zines reviewed to send their production to me. I am writing a fanzine review column for TNFF. Please clearly mark that you wish me to review (or mention if I run out of room) your fanzine, otherwise, chances are that I won't. Put the word "review" or the letter "R" next to my address, at the very least (actually that's good enough.)

I suggest that it is too much to expect the majority of the Neffer membership to make a major (whatever that might mean) contribution to the N3F. If someone joins planning only to receive the various zines and services the N3F offers, there is absolutely nothing wrong with that--he/she has paid the \$3 and is entitled. As long as there are enough people willing to run the various things and keep suggesting and starting projects, there is no reason for complaints. Now that Tb is back on its feet with the excellent editorship of Beth, I think a number of Neffers should be inspired to contribute a bit more. A well-produced zine for communication should promote a lot of good things for the N3F. Our circulation (so to speak) is being unclogged...

I don't see any reason for all out recruitment for members. We simply need a few ads or announcements now and then, so possible members know of our existence and can inquire further.

I've decided to break down after all and write a bit about Thots on The Hugo Nominations. Why Not?, after all? Personally, the Novel category seems to be a lost cause (No Award, the most useful tool in existence) and so far I've only read two of the short fiction nominated. My support is for Robert Silverberg as Best Editor, though I still hanker after seeing Lin Carter on the ballot. Remember him next year, folks--he's done a truly great job on the Ballantine Adult Fantasy series for years and years. 'Nother No Award for Dramatic Presentation unless "Sleeper" is good (I want to see it but haven't yet). All right, vote for Rostler--the man certainly deserves it. Also, I think it is about time we saw some new names on the Fan Artist ballot--the only category as stagnant as this was Best Prozone. I've never heard of Lauro Basta, but as of now my vote goes to Susan Glicksohn. I must ask in (slightly mock) horror: what is Jacqueline Lichtenberg doing on the ballot? And the Gandalf to Fritz Leiber, without a shred of doubt.

Although I've never read anything of Lauro Basta's, I do know she is quite active in Star Trek fandom as is/was Jacqueline Lichtenberg whose Star Trek based "Kraith Series" is the subject of sharp debate and keen interest to many ST fan.

JOE D.

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Staten Island, NY 10312

SICLARI

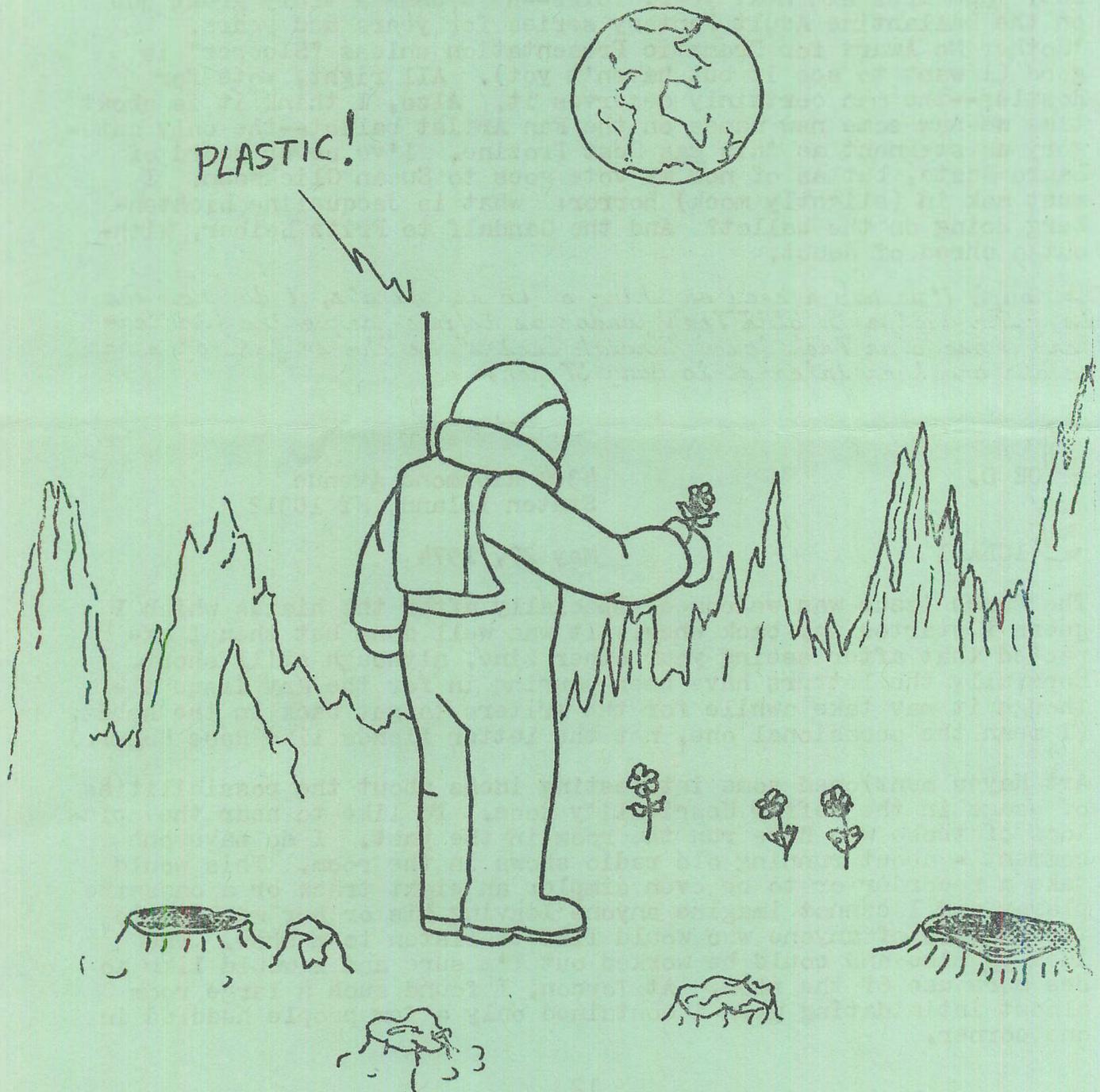
May 27, 1974

The March issue was welcomed especially after the hiatus which I guess I started way back when. It was well done but then I expected that after seeing your other zine, although still short. Hopefully the letters have been pouring in for the May issue although it may take awhile for the writers to get back in the habit. (I mean the occasional one, not the letter fiends like Rose Hogue.)

Art Hayes mentioned some interesting ideas about the possibilities of usage in the Neffer Hospitality Room. I'd like to hear the opinions of those who have run the room in the past. I do have one comment - about running old radio shows in the room. This would take a recorder or to be even simpler an eight track or a cassette player and I cannot imagine anyone leaving his or her machine to the fingers of anyone who would like to listen to a show. The idea is nice and could be worked out I'm sure and I would like to see more use of the room. At Torcon, I found such a large room almost intimidating when it contained only a few people huddled in one corner.

A clipping bureau or club or whatever sounds interesting, Milly. If you put out a zine or electrostenciled clippings there would probably be no problem from the syndicates and papers if credit was given and bylined material was not too often used. Many fans now print newspaper articles that pertain to SF or fans.

A small form letter sent to whomever you are quoting would probably eliminate any minor problems that would arise. Newspapers are rather lenient about this sort of thing, but AP and UPI are a lot LESS lenient.



JARRIETT
SOLCHAK

2330 N. Hancock Street
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June 2, 1974

I'm out of the fire, but not quite out of the frying pan; I have about 1½ years to go before I can do very much work, due to medication that I must take constantly. However, I want to thank those who sent cards to me. Also, I'd like to thank Jeanie Bogert for her constant work at the house.

Information to Janie Lamb: I have been informed that Martha Beck is now in the hospital, and she doubts that she'll be able to attend the Convention. Also, I have word that Alma Hill is or has been in the hospital recently with possible terminal disease. However, I will be at the convention and will be glad to offer Janie any assistance I can.

Good to hear things seems to be looking up for you! I just got a letter from Alma Hill last week and a three-page look at formula stories which is quite interesting and will appear in the next Tb. She is willing to help those she can in the Writer's Exchange, and currently seems to be feeling well enough to want to help others.

MIKE
BURGER

PSC #1 Box 3147
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June 24, 1974

I'm running for one of the Directorate seats in the upcoming election, and I'm using the Ego Party Platform: A VOTE FOR ME IS A VOTE FOR ME. I don't promise anything except: 1)I'll do the best I can to bring back feuds within the N3F with lies and rumor mongering; 2)I'll try my best to enrage the rest of the Directorate with silly and useless proposals, and dare the President to throw me out; 3)I'll ask for my own recall after three months in office; and 4)I'll try to bring back the spirit of anarchy, not apathy, to the N3F.

Remember, if you want a totally useless Directorate, vote for me.

I am truly serious in this endeavor, and have already notified Janie Lamb and Joanne Burger of my intention to run for one of the Directorate seats.

My campaign colors are purple and green, and my campaign manager is me.

I assure each and every one of you who reads this I will not work for you, but will work for my own vested interest and personal gain. This is not an idle promise, but one made in the true heat of the political crucible of our times.

I promise each and every one of you who reads this a truly mocking campaign, filled with sick jokes and genius.

The preceding was a political lie brought to you by the Kring for Directorate and/or Dog Catcher Committee, M. Kring, President, Chairman, Sec-Tres, and only member.

I certainly hope the members will not feel the neutrality of T& as a campaign forum is violated because the color sported by this zine happens to coincide with one of Mike's campaign colors.

WILL

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Schenectady, NY 12303

MORRIS

July 2, 1974

...I have been working off and on on a personal project for about three or four months now. What I want to do is collect information on existing and past stf courses, material which can be used in such courses or in planned courses, ideas, and so on and I want to make them available to teachers and instructors to use in starting or in supplementing stf programs in schools, whatever the level.

I have already collected some materials and was pleased to be able to help a state employee of the Virginia Dept. of Education, English division, in a small way to put together a "recommended stf curriculum" to be made available to Virginia school systems. Much of what I was responsible for was just giving him copies of materials I had collected, though I did talk with him for a couple of hours one morning. I am hoping that he will send me a copy of the finished report--I have several people on the look out for it.

I wrote Stan Woolston and proposed a bureau or quasi-bureau to handle it as an official function of N3F. He said that he is passing it along to the Directors, who are considering a similar proposal to put out a book for teachers of stf. He also suggested I ask around and check out the membership.

I have written Joanne Burger in response to her mention of the stf book proposal before the Directors, which I read in the June TNFF I received several days ago. I included some of the ideas which I sent to Stan. To both I offered to be chrnm, co, or quasi of such a bureau or quasi-bur, though I am not experienced in this sort of thing and will need a lot of help.

Those of the membership who have either taught stf, or taken a course in it, or simply have ideas on what a course would include, would be going me a great favor by writing me and including whatever they can send that would contribute toward the above goal. I cannot see any reason why, in addition to a book, N3F cannot have a bureau working on this, with a zine that appears annually, bi-annually, or quarterly and a newsletter that comes out more often.

Another thing the bureau could back would be the Bova Proposal which came out in his edcol in ANALOG (June, I think). In it he advocated that "There must be minimum standards for anyone who teaches a science fiction course." His other comments are worth reading and I suggest that everyone find the col and check it out. But the point is, he's right. Having read THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES and STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND does not automatically make a person a stf expert, that is, enough to teach a stf course. And I know of instances of teachers (or student teachers) who have had less knowledge of stf and have suddenly been told, "Well guess what? You are going to get to teach your students about sci fi." (Cringe.)

If anybody else is interested please write. I need some help and all interest, help, and so on would be appreciated.

An assistance bureau like this is very much needed. How well I remember my sf instructor who felt the height of sf was Star, so we spent a semester in a sort of "nostalgia sf class". I received a dirty look when I turned my end of the semester report on Kurt Vonnegut Jr. # I'm sure others have had similar experiences with a teacher floundering around for a semester looking for some sort of direction while taking his students down memory lane. # Stan Woolston (our glorious President) has gone ahead and appointed Will head of his proposed "teaching assistance bureau" and Joanne Burger has volunteered to be his assistant, so be sure to help Will out with your ideas and suggestions.

BOY
JACKETT

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July 8, 1974

The June issue of TNFF just arrived, Joanne is to be commended for the good job she does, and while the reports of the various bureaus are beginning to show up a bit more frequently, there is still room for improvement.

The absence of any report from the Overseas Bureau is particularly noticeable and certainly this show be one of our major activities. I think we should concentrate on overseas contacts. There are fans in many countries and a great deal of science fiction activity about which we know comparatively little.

Mike Smith's book reports are a welcome addition to TNFF although I must admit my hackles raised when he described Scortia's Earthwreck as technically heavy. I'm tempted to make 17 pages of comment about the failure of today's schools to put the necessary emphasis on science and the seeming inability of today's young people to grasp even the basic concepts...but I won't. I think we'd probably get into a lengthy discussion of the humanist vs. scientific cultures.

Which might not be so bad at that.

ANN

3464 Wilson Avenue, Apt.C
Oakland, CA 94602

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HAMBERLAIN

July 9, 1974

...There are still people who happen into a con hotel by mistake and wonder what is going on and who we are. And there are those who have only recently joined some sf club and they wonder what games we are playing or how it all works, and what the purpose is. Sometimes it works very much to our advantage, to be well known. Every time a con is held somewhere in the U.S and the activities become too, too -- the attention we get isn't always the most pleasant. That is why we had to have a few rules and regulations, - so the ones that appreciate their freedoms and do not abuse them, can continue to enjoy cons, without getting a slightly sooted reputation.

When it becomes such an accepted fact that is taught in Universities, it is time for SF Clubs in general and the N3F in particular, to stand up and be counted, with as good credentials as can be managed. One way to provide answers to questions like "What's fandom? What's an S-F Con? How does it function? Where can you get a course in S-F?" is to have a brochure or pocket book edition of information available to the public, especially to University Teachers who haven't the least idea of the way SF was BLOOMED into a world wide interest, with small groups everywhere accomplishing much that isn't given anywhere else. We can sell it if we want to, - it WILL SELL, and benefit any club willing to promote it. First, it has to be WRITTEN. If there are obstacles from the beginning, it will be delayed until someone with money and foresight takes advantage of the opportunity to compete it.

I hope there is someone in N3F awake enough to understand this need.

This letter was sent to me through Joanne Burger, Ann, in case you are wondering from whence it came. I'm glad she did send it my way because this letter deserved to be printed. What do you think about this, Neffers?

NEFFER NEWS

MOFFAT HOUSE ABROAD is published and available for \$2. Included in this impressive effort are cartoons, photos, and updated TAFF information. There is also a series of cartoon by British artists, and lines provided for them by Dean Grennel, Charles Burbee, Dave Locke, June Moffat and Anonymous. For this publication, send \$2 per tome to P.O. Box 4456, Downey, CA 90241. (The money will go to future TAFF trips.)

N*APA is wide open to new ideas, new members, and new procedures. Faneds, or groups of people who wish to produce a single effort for this Apa are invited to contact Dave Patrick (27 Silver Birch Road, Turnersville, NJ 08012) for information on joining N*APA. This is an excellent opportunity for starting faneds as well as being a fine outlet for those who are more experienced.

HARRY WARNER JR. has completed the first draft of his second fan history book late in June. Advent will publish it but probably not for 2 - 3 years. Harry will now be able to tie up loose ends and completed whatever re-writes are needed at his leisure. He would like to borrow photos and material of interest (in person) from those attending DISCON II (to lessen the chance of the loss in the mail).

TIGHTBEAM is a little late this time because your editor recently managed to chip fracture her elbow and it was well into July before she could type easily. The elbow has recovered nicely from the surgery and is again in normal use.

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I will... if you will.



