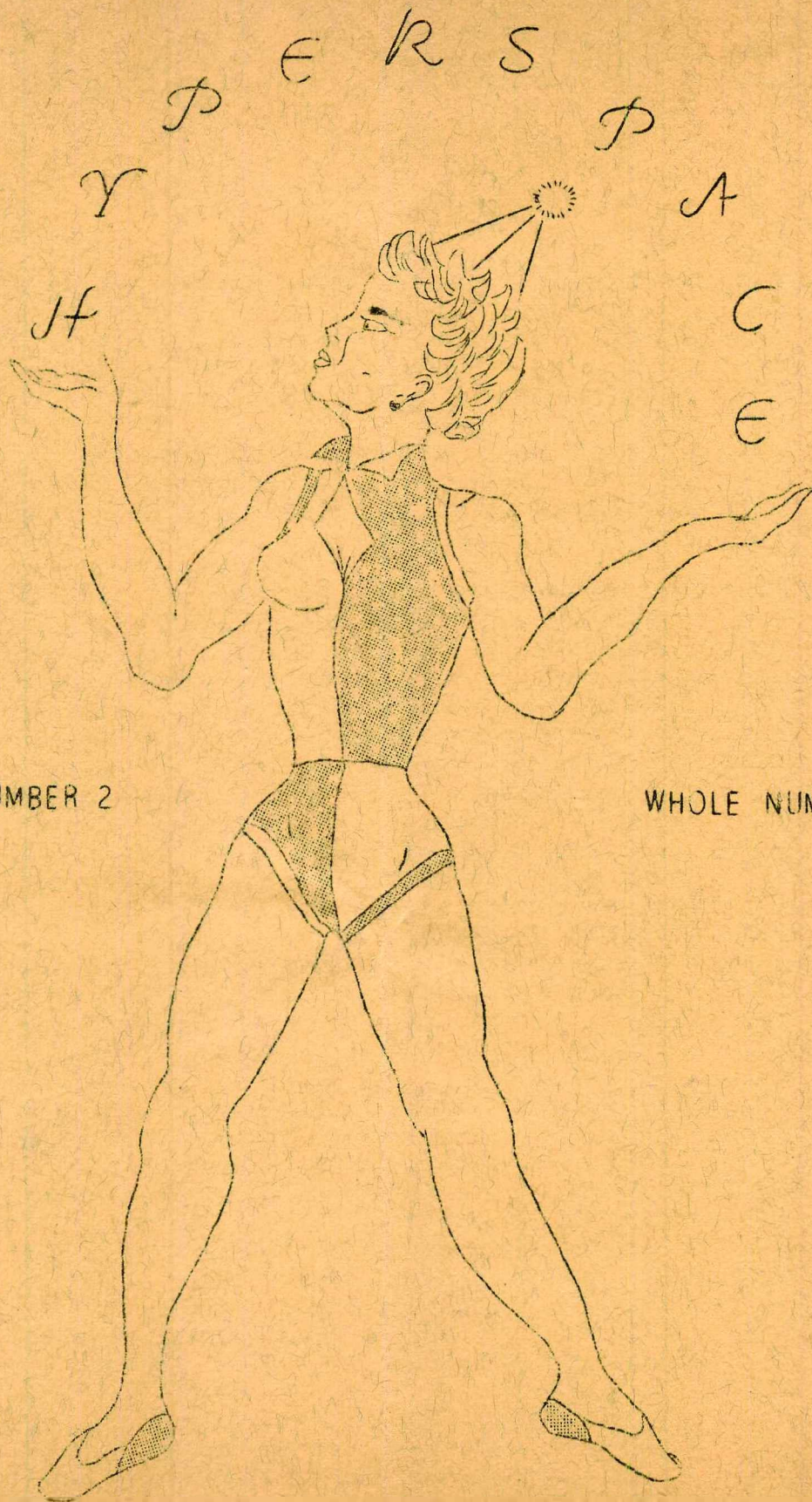


JULY

1960



VOLUME II, NUMBER 2

WHOLE NUMBER TWO

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the editor and publisher

for this, the July, 1960, issue of the NFFF letterzine is Robert N. Lambeck. The editor for the September issue will be

MARION BRADLEY
BOX 158
ROCHESTER, TEXAS
U.S.A.

I suggest that you get your letters to her by the middle of August if not earlier. In fact, August first wouldn't be a bad date to aim for. Remember, it takes time to type stencils, to mimeograph a zine, and to assemble the copies. She can't be expected to do everything at the last moment

Well, it certainly seems that Coswal has gotten things rolling again as far as the letterzine is concerned. We've got a nice, lively bunch of letters in this issue. I only hope that it keeps up.

The proposal that letter-writers type out their letters on stencil or master and mail them to the publisher of the letterzine isn't such a bad idea -- on the surface. Well, just think of all the work it'd save the editor; why he wouldn't have to go to the trouble of editing. He couldn't if he wanted to. And think of the convenience to the readers. Because letters only very rarely come out even on a page, there'd usually be all kinds of blank space following each letter in which the reader could jot down comments. Think of how it would help the paper companies -- because of all the blank space and no editing, the letterzine would use at least twice as much paper. And think of the post office. Twice as much paper means twice as much postage. And then there are the stationery stores across the country which charge exorbitant prices to people who want one or two stencils. Why, if I wanted to buy ABDick F960 stencils at a stationery store, I'd probably pay 18 or 20 cents for each one. However, I got the F960's for this letterzine for less than 5¢ apiece. (Of course, I didn't buy them from the ABDick Co.)

And now there's the matter of N'APA. Some people want unlimited membership because every Neffer has the right to participate in every activity of NFFF. Let's take another look at the situation tho. Is a membership limit actually denying any member his right to participate? After the membership of N'APA is filled, any Neffer will be able to get on the waiting list. Any Neffer with a little patience will be able to get into N'APA.

Saying that a membership limit deprives a member of his right to participate in N'APA is like saying that annual elections may deprive a member of his right to run for NFFF director.

And now a few words concerning POSTWARP, vol 10, no 6. Yes, for those of you who doubt it, there was such an issue. There were 290 copies of it. I know. I mimeographed about half of it. However, Alan J. Lewis turned the assembled, stamped, and addressed copies over to the tender love and care of the post office, and most of them were never seen again.

Yours,

Bob

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FRED GALVIN

I feel like adding my $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢-worth to the pen-pals-with-Russia controversy. I voted for it, but perhaps I was overhasty. In my naivety it never occurred to me that it might force some members to quit the club or be in danger of losing their jobs. I'm not worried for myself, because the damage is done; I already belong to several organizations that communicate with the Russians: The United States of America, whose president has hobnobbed disgracefully with Krushchhoff and other Russians; The American Mathematical Society, which has officially sponsored translation into English of Russian mathematical papers, no doubt crammed with subtle political propaganda; The United States Chess Federation, which has sponsored chess matches between the U.S. and Russia. If that weren't bad enough, I took a year of Russian on college, and I've been known to drink vodka. In my opinion, the admission by Americans that it is not safe for citizens of the Land of the Free to correspond with Russian science-fiction fans (if any) is better propaganda against our way of life than anything the Russians could come up with. Sometimes I think we will catch up with the Russians in totalitarianism and the suppression of individual liberties before we catch up with them in the conquest of so-called space. If the Guardians of Our National Security have so low an opinion of our system that they don't think it can stand free and open discussion with its opponents, they THEY are security risks and should be fired. As some radical foreigner said, "Though all the winds of doctrine were let loose to play upon the earth, so Truth be in the field, we do injuriously by licensing and prohibiting to misdoubt her strength. Let her and Falsehood grapple; who ever knew Truth put to worse, in a free and open encounter." I hope no one gets the idea that I'm a Communist. I'm a loyal American, and I can prove it: I signed a loyalty oath. ((It is a puzzle to me how any Neffer can feel that he may be considered a security risk merely because he belongs to the same club as some person who corresponds with a Russian under the State Dept's cultural exchange program. By the way, did you know that it is illegal to send political pamphlets through the mails of this free country? Of course, they call it "eliminating Communist propaganda", but we know what they'll do eventually, don't we. - rnl))

For some reason, I don't like the title, "Hyperspace Tightbeam"; I hope someone thinks of a better one. ((Agreed. Any title that cannot be pronounced in one breath is too long. - rnl))

That Long John Show Seth Johnson talks about sounds pretty interesting. Would anyone in that area be interested in sending me tape-recordings? Do you have a tape recorder, Seth?

I thought "Alas Babylon" on Playhouse 90 was pretty good for that sort of thing. Of course, not having read the book yet, I can't make comparisons between it and the TV-play.

I agree with Seth Johnson that all members of NEFF have the right to participate in all activities, including N'APA. How many members does it have now? ((34 according to the March N'APA YAP - rnl)) I couldn't join now because of lack of time, money, and duplicating equipment, but some day I might want to. ((If the waiting list gets up to some reasonable number, perhaps we could have a WLAPA. Then, when it gets filled up, a WLWLAPA, and ... - rnl))

My cheers for Don Anderson, Peter J. Maurer, and Alma Hill because they saw fit to comment on the pros.

In case you're wondering who I am, I'm a new member, I'm 23 years old, a grad student at the Univ. of Minn. (major math, minor philosophy), I've read the Stuff for many years, my favorite science-fiction magazine is F&SF, and I'm interested in math, science, fantasy, chess & other game, Kriegspiel, and lots of other things.

ART RAPI

I'll agree with Coswal's reasons for discontinuing the POSTWARP title, and even add one: several years from now, when circumstances permit, I'd like to revive POSTWARP as a letterzine of my own. Meanwhile, I'm grateful that N3F has kept the title fresh in the minds of so many for so long. On the other hand, surely you can devise a more euphonious title than the thoroughly Coswallian one the N3F letterzine now bears? It's almost as mind-croggling as Analog/As-tounding Science Fact & Fiction. {{Sorry, I'm not particularly imaginative at the moment, so HT stays for this issue. - rnl}}

I can't quite see what is so upsetting to Clayton Hamlin about current fandom. To a large degree, the situation is precisely as he describes it -- except that apazine writing has risen to far greater heights of quality that he gives it credit for. Now I have written a great deal of serious fanfiction -- a lot of it intended as profiction, at that -- and a great deal more of what is known in SAPS as "faanfiction" -- a sort of burlesque science fiction where the interest is in fandom rather than in science. Why did I switch from the type of writing of which Clayton approves to that which he frowns upon? Simply because that's what my readers want. Does this mean they aren't true science-fiction fans? No, it simply means that when they want to read science-fiction they'll buy a prozine and read a story ten times better than any I could write.

What right have I to expect them to wade through my feeble attempts at serious science-fiction writing? Sure, it's great practice for me, but it's a bit nauseous to them. And I have only pity for any fanzine editor who tries to sell his publication on the basis that "if you buy it you're helping future professional stf authors" rather than "if you buy it you'll enjoy reading it."

Perhaps, as Clayton implies, there are some fine fanfiction pieces being written these days in the roundrobins or elsewhere. If so, why not offer them to the subzine publishers? Lichtman's PSI-PHI or Jennings' MONDAY EVENING GHOST, or half a dozen other subzines would leap at the chance to publish good science-fiction stories. I mention those two editors particularly because they print what they think is worth printing, rather than merely relying on what they think their readers would like. It is a rare characteristic in an editor, and only successful when he has the judgment to select his choices wisely. {{Don't forget me, Art. I publish what I like because I know the readership will like it -- they'd better; most of them are freeloaders. - rnl}}

Now obviously, if the amateur writers of science-fiction are ever to become professional writers they are going to have to write stories which a professional editor will accept. Surely, it's not placing too high a hurdle before them to require that, now, they write stories that an amateur editor will accept?

It is very true that there is little fanfiction appearing in the apas. But this is not because the apa members are too lazy to write fanfiction. It is because they have learned thru bitter experience that the fanfiction they write is too lousy to inflict on anyone else. Hell, if it was any good, they'd be writing for the prozines.

This goes back to the old delusion that a fanzine should be an imitation prozine. If so, then the cover-blurbs, editorials advertising the contents of the current issue, table-of-contents page, and a great deal of fanfiction, are all justified. But what is the point of publishing an imitation prozine which, by purely mechanical considerations, cannot equal the professional mags? Imitation is a fairly sincere form of flattery, but still and all, we science-fiction fans rather pride ourselves on our resistance to the impulse-for-conformity that drives our mundane neighbors. {{Isn't that hitting below the belt, Art? -rnl}}

I hope I've made it clear that i'm not rabidly anti-fanfiction. If I run across a good amateur science-fiction story I'll learn to use it in my apazine -- tho, being afflicted with a conscience, I'll probably first advise the author to send it to the prozines, where he might get paid for his effort. But I can't see publishing page after boring page of feeble imitations of prozine writing, simply because an amateur author needs encouragement. If he has the determination and the talent to become a professional writer, he'll do better trying to break into the prozines directly. It is noteworthy that of all the fans who have later become pro authors, the only ones I can recall offhand who wrote much fanfiction are Marion Zimmer Bradley and Harlan Ellison. Silverberg, Rothman, Garrett, Bradbury -- they wrote for fanzines, but they didn't write fanfiction. Their fiction-writing was something they perfected for themselves, until they had developed it to the point of salability.

If anyone reading this is a famous science-fiction writer of the next decade, let me assure you that when your name appears on the cover of Galaxy of MoF&SF, your fellow fans will be the first to cheer, feeling a vacarious pride in your triumph. But until you can write a readable story, I'm sure you'll agree that your practice efforts belong in the wastebasket, not forever recorded, to your later embarrassment, on the pages of a fanzine.

BOB FARNHAM

It does seem that stf is at least in a decline where the prozines are concerned, but HLGold is a far-seeing person and, from I read, he doesn't seem to think so.

Kaymar is ^{so} right about the old Model T Ford. I had plenty of fun with that car and traveled all over the northern end of the USA in one I had put together from three other old Fords that had many good parts with which to make one good one. Even got a ticket for speeding! 46 MPH I did!

I know Bob Madle personally and think an excellent choice was made in his case, past or present. I've just snapped out of a two year illness and am not quite up to par on most things so if I've pulled a boner in reference to Bob, kindly overlook it but is it so that Bob is the US choice for TAFF-or was-or something? ((Madle was the US TAFF delegate a while back. His report, "A Fakefan in London," fan in JD-Argassy. Present US delegate is Don Ford. - rnl))

I too, along with Seth Johnson, believe that Ralph Holland, whether or not he keeps his threat to leave Fandom is the most deserving for the 1960 Carlson Award, and offer herein my vote for him.

There are going to be a few busted hearts if Bjo is engaged!

I dunno as how I was deserving of nomination for the Carlson Award (from Hayes' letter) as Firestone has done more than I could do if I was in NFFF for 200 years. At present I am engaged in a new movement to reawaken the south to Crifanac..we are hopeful of some success.

DICK FINCH

This paragraph is addressed to Don Anderson. I agree that "Alas Babylon" on Playhouse 90 wasn't too good, but from the standpoint of a person who hadn't read the book, it wasn't that bad either. As an individual who reads science fiction and fantasy but who had not read the book, I could see both sides of the situation. For anyone that does not read science fiction at all, this is a good way to be introduced to it. For those who, like Don and myself and the others in the club, do read science fiction, the T.V. story, as

Don put it so aptly, stunk to high Ghu.

In answer to Bob Farnham. Which nation is most savage now, the U.S. or Russia? Russia is in the situation ideologically we were in in 1861 when the South decided to secede. The North was more in the wrong than the South in deciding the issue. It was Republican radicals who pressed the issue and forced civil war on the U.S. So a political war took place, and the Democrats were forced to refrain from holding office from 1865 until 1877. The Communist Party is in control and will not allow any other parties to hold office. The difference is that no other party will ever hold office in Russia. On top of this, Russia is completely surrounded by bases of the Western World, and the U.S. is not. This makes the Russians more nervous and more fidgety than we ever could be. Then came the spy plane incident. This wasn't too bad. But then President Eisenhower states that American spy planes will continue to fly over Russia. That automatically makes us an aggressive if not an aggressor nation. And President Eisenhower definitely stuck his neck out and poked the skunk that was already primed to squirt at any sign of movement. This up-and-coming summit meeting will end in a setback for the Western World and allies. Not just sitting still as it did before. When Eisenhower stuck his neck in the noose, he put ours in a noose also.

The latest news on the Russian dummy-manned satellite is that it may be populated by a living being after all. Whether this would be a man or not was stated as being unknown. At any rate, whether it is manned or not and whether the Russians can reclaim it or not, the fact remains that they are at least 5 years ahead of us, as on a television program the other day, a scientist stated that it would be 1965 before we could get anything similar to this up in orbit. This is despite the fact that we will soon be able to recover any object put up. Even so, what good would it do us if the Russians have a man on the Moon and Mars by the time we are able to recover a manned ship back on earth? The most concrete result we could achieve would be to be able to put up a manned tomorrow, that is in a year and be able to recover it.

C. M. MOORHEAD Sometimes I read the "Dear Abbey" column in our local paper. One tickled me. It went something like this: "My husband talks back to the TV. If it is a program or commercial he particularly dislikes, he screams curses at it. I am embarrassed because the neighbors think he is cursing me." I was somewhat like him while I watched "Alas, Babylon" for I, too, had read the book before I saw the show. At first I talked back to the TV. Then I began screaming at it, and finally, in a frenzy of rage and disappointment, I kicked the legs out from under it and the set came down with a crash. Now the TV is dead and my wife and daughter won't speak to me! ((You remind me of Philip Rourke who shot his radio because he didn't like the news. - rnl))

I like the idea of a story round-robin. I have a few rejects here that I'd like to inflict on someone, and the story round-robin is just the place! Now I'm working on a novel (which will be a reject no doubt) based on the end of the world idea found in the Book of Revelation (Bible). Of course I won't try to palm that off on anyone but I might extract some of the most promising chapters from it to see how anyone may react to it.

I'm not much in favor of corresponding with the Russians either. But everyone to his taste, as the old woman said when she kissed the cow!

Say, just what has happened to the "Flying Saucers?" I haven't

heard a thing about them for a couple of years at least. ((Maybe they've gone out of style - rnl)) I never hear Long John this far west but I read the book written by the man who said he had ridden in the flying saucer and who has teleported himself and his pipe for 50 miles or so. I had more than passing interest in the UFO for several years, but can't find anything new about them. Have sightings ceased or has "security" clamped the lid so tight that even stf fans must keep silent?

Coswal, at this late date I find you are a collector of Bibles! I collect them too, but more for reference than any other use. I did have a rare volume, a translation from the original Greek by Count Tichendorf, and published by Noyes, but I gave it to my New Testament professor at Seminary who was making a collection of Bibles, Old and New Testaments, revisions, translations, etc. He had over 300 volumes. Before he died he willed the whole collection to the Evangelical Theological Seminary of Naverille, Ill. If you are ever in Chicago sometime, it might pay you to go to the seminary and look at that collection.

JACK L. CHALKER Personally, I can't see the good in the Iron Curtain proposal, especially in view of current events. I voted NO and I think that it will be defeated.

Clay Hamlin: I heartily concur with his opinions. Fandom seems more like a jazzed-up Ladies Aide Society than a group of stfnal fans! N3F is no exception. Neffer Andy Main said in his fmz, BHISML'LLAH!, (I note all them !s after 'zine names. Wonder why?) that book reviews are unnecessary and he is not in favor of them. Obviously, he is not an stf fan, but a lonely boy wanting mail company. What's happened to fandom? ((Since I don't happen to give a particular *a** about this subject, I can't make any terse, penetrating comments, but I'd be interested in seeing others' comments in next issue. I suspect that it'll be lively. How about it, Andy? Didja hear what he called you?))

G.M.Carr: Old story robins never die, they just fade away, it seems.

KAYMAR Carlson: A junior N'apa is a fine idea. The sooner it's begun the better. What about it, Mr. Holland???? ((Like, you maybe expect our overworked prexy to produce a Hectograph Amateur Press Alliance like a rabbit out of a hat? I suggest you write to Holland and J. Arthur Hayes to see how the administration feels about a second apa and then organize the thing yourself. That way you'll know that it's being done the right way. - rnl))

Seth Johnson: How many Neffers listen to Long John? How many people can GET him? I live in Baltimore. I can get Buffalo on a portable--but N.Y. City----- // Ralph Holland does deserve something! ((And just what is that supposed to mean! - rnl)) // I'm afraid the N'apa will be a Problem when and if the 50 member limit is reached. Starting another would be no answer, though. ((Why not?)) // I favor the reanimation of the Supplies Bureau. Get on the ball, someone!

Peter Maurer: You may be interested in an old Lovecraft from WIERD TALES which I am republishing in my fanzine CENTAUR--The Doom That Came to Sarnath. Out in July, this will be an all-fantasy (of the Lovecraft type) issue with articles and also another fiction, this time by Howard St. John on the Mythos--CONSPIRATORS OUT OF DORWICH. Hope H.St.J. gets it is soon now that I've said that!

Alma Hill: I concur heartily with this letter too, and can only add my support to all the suggestions and ideas therein.

Well, now we come to Art Hayes: Yes, there is a great amount of Neffer Bureaucracy, and I notice it all the time--but it doesn't hamper the fine things already established!

KEN HEDBERG

Man, like I got my copy of Hip to Space Jim Tightbeam so I'll declare my intentions of making the scene. Like, I'm here. What more do you want? Ya mean I gotta say somethin? Well, okay. I like the idea of having a rotating letterzine but why not make it monthly? It can be done. ~~But~~ But, man, like it can't! Firstly, there's the matter of bread. The NFFF treasury wouldn't stand the drain of an additional hundred clams per year. Secondly, it wouldn't be practical. It takes two weeks, on the average, for the USPO (which I would like to describe in rather colorful terms, but, after all, this is a family magazine) to get 3rd class matter to the addressee. Longer if he doesn't live in the States. Then, it'll take maybe a week for a fast reply to get back to the editor. Lots longer if it's coming surface mail from Europe. This leaves the editor a little more than a week to type a couple dozen stencils and mimeo, collate, address, stamp, and mail about 200 copies. Thirdly, the o-o is published on alternate months with the letterzine, so a Neffer gets an official zine every month -- in theory. - rnl}} I agree with what Clay Hamlin has to say. Too many fans have taken s-f for granted for too long. It's just possible that if the pump isn't primed, the well might run dry. It's a lot of trouble to dig a new well, man. Fanfiction is looked down on (and sometimes deservedly so) but you can't beat it for experience. Where have the greenfields gone?

As for writing to the Russians, I don't think any of us will be converted to communism by reading a couple of letters. I wouldn't be ashamed to receive letters from Russia or be associated with an organization that did so. I thought that guilt by association had died with McCarthy. Just because we don't care for the way a country is run doesn't mean that there aren't people worth meeting and knowing in that country. Neither must we be taken in by propaganda. I think that peace cannot come about unless the common people make contact with each other but I also think that peace will not come about from this alone.

I see no reason why certain Neffers think that the NFFF should be forced to take a stand on this issue. We are a collection of individuals with our own varied and diverse views. If a vote is taken on the above subject, we are bound to lose some members. Any member can correspond with Russia but why not make it an individual matter? Don't try to impose your will on the membership. If this sort of thing continues, we will see polls asking us to take a stand on presidential candidates, religion, and anything else that catches the fancy of pollsters. You might say I'm being ridiculous but bigger organizations have been split by less. Don't get me wrong, there are some things we that we will have to take stands on but I hope they will be on fannish subjects. Like, who makes the best home brew? ~~You~~ You called it yourself: ridiculous. You, sir, are a fugghead! The purpose of attempting to get the NFFF to officially endorse correspondence between US and Russian fen is so that this correspondence can be carried on under the cultural exchange program. The security risks and traitors in this country are those persons who would dismiss an employee merely because he is a member of an organization which has expressed itself in favor of a free flow of ideas and information between persons of similar interests. If a majority of the membership is in favor of this program, and the NFFF does not officially endorse the program, then the administration of the NFFF will have betrayed the trust put in it by the membership of this ostensibly democratic organization. You, sir, are skirting close to treason against the principles upon which the United States of American was founded. - rnl}}}

Bot Farnham takes a typical stand. Them guys over there ain't done nothin for us; why should we cotton to them? Apologies, Bob. I don't

care to correspond with them either but for different reasons.

I don't think that most people (young) have the resources or time to form an apa. It's a good idea but I don't think it will work. I think the idea of correspondence clubs, round robins, etc is much better and more workable for we young fans. I, for one, sort of croggle at the idea of corresponding with an old time fan. I feel at a disadvantage. Some of the other neos no doubt feel a similar misgiving.

I read about the people Seth mentioned somewhere. One question occurs to me. These people live high in the Himalayas where I should think they would get more space radiation than most people. Is there any connection.

I saw the tv program Don Anderson mentions. Not having read the book, I have no objections to the program. I thought it was the best tv play I have ever seen, bar none. This gave a truthful, clear, and stunning picture of what an atomic war could be like. I have always had the picture in my mind but it's much more effective to see it dramatized. I would like to see it win a Hugo. For those of you that didn't see it, you have only a short wait until you experience the real thing, which is much more effective than a tv play. However, I don't expect that WWII will win a Hugo.

One reason that I take such a negative tack is our recent spy flight over Russia. That is something I might have expected to read that only the Russians were guilty of. Yes, I know that we spy on Russia and they spy on us. I didn't know we did anything so crude as to fly a plane over their country. Maybe we don't realize it but we are lucky the Russians didn't take this worse than they did. True, they would be foolish to launch a nuclear attack on the basis of one plane but such an act isn't inconceivable to me. We have nothing to gain by the stupid, blundering acts which we are often guilty of. Yet wars are started by very small incidents. Our state department and administration have committed countless blunders and been caught in countless peccadillos. Whether we are Deocrats or Republicans we're not immortal and we shouldn't act like we are. Brinkmanship has no place in America.

What excuse we have for such an act is beyond my imagination. If our military hasn't already picked the targets they were going to hit with our second-rate missiles, there isn't much use to do so now. Our best missiles will probably be used by each armed service to destroy the other ones in an attempt to get a bigger budget. If our intelligence is so poor that we have to rely on visual information by flying over Russia, lets throw in the towel right now. There is something wrong with a country that spends at least ten times as much on liquor as it does on education. Or could it be that we are buying liquor in an attempt to forget that there won't be any future to educate our children for? {{Your statistics are a bit exaggerated. Spending on liquor and education are about equal: \$15,000,000,000/yr. One of the reasons for spy flights might be to determine the exact location of Russian targets. We do not have any accurate maps of Russia, so we can't be sure just where to aim our missiles -- although, with our accuracy, we shouldn't worry. - rnl}}

Too many fans take the viewpoint that Bob Heinlein believes what he writes. (Re Starship Soldier) If I should write a book on alcoholism or homosexuals, I hope I won't be counted as either if I do a good job. {{But, writers of high school history textbooks are afraid to mention the Communist Party (minor American political movement) for fear that they will be considered Communists. - rnl}} I'm glad that someone has the guts and imagination to picture an alien way of life. Hang not the prophet among you. Why don't we burn controversial books? Somebody

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with an impressionable mind might read them.

Alma Hill makes some good points. Many writers probably are ashamed of the crud they have turned out but they have stomachs too. How many of us are proud of the work we do every day? I think that America's problems are caused by trying to run on its stomach instead of by its conscience, brain, or heart.

This neo has spoken his mind and I hope he didn't offend anybody while doing so. He will not apologize for his opinions but he might apologize for stating them untactfully. Enuf for now. It's Saturday night, man!

BILL MALLARDI Say! I'm glad to see a letterzine back in my mailbox again! It's about time tho, don'tcha think? What I don't understand tho, is how some people knew about it coming, and I didn't. Was it announced in the o-o?? {{Not exactly. Ralph said to send letters for POSTWARP to him. He then forwarded them to Coswal who published the letterzine.-rnl}} If so, I must have missed it. And this bit about receiving the latest "Postwarp". I haven't seen a P/W since exactly a year ago, yet Art Hayes sez he rec'd an ish of it. Wasn't it supposed to go out to all members?? Or was it changed to a sub-zine?? I "don't get it." (!?) {{I got my copy of PW v10n6 on Apr 8th. A phone call to friendly Al Lewis didn't clear up the situation too well. Apparently the P.O. still has your copy.-rnl}}

At any rate, I'm pleasantly surprised to see the new l/z, and I approve of the editorship rotation plan. Hope it "turns out" good!

Clay: I agree with you that the fans are at least partly to blame for the decline of stf, since I've not read as much as I used to read, myself.

Do you think mebbe that faandom (aside from fandom) mite have something to do with stf's decline too? It seems to me that too many faans have established the habit of getting away from stf, (which was instrumental in their joining fandom) and now the fad is to develop other interests altogether devoid of it. But who's to draw the line where fandom ends and faandom starts?? Heh! Not me! By the way, Clay, I hope you & I can get together and get started on that story we're gonna collaborate on. It should be a good one.

Bobeff: I don't actually think the Russian fans are "savage," tho I voted against the proposal myself. I honestly believe the Russian government would interfere and shove a bunch of propaganda at us, which was my main reason for voting the way I did.

Ronel: Glad to see you joined N3F on your own accord. We've really got a bunch of good members lately, aywhut?? Yep, I agree that prexy Ralph Holland has done a good job on the o-o's. Let's hope it's always kept up to Ralph's high standards, and pul-ease, tell Ralph to stay in fandom!!

Seth: Whole-heartily am I with you re: Ralph Holland up for the Kaymar award!! I hope everyone supports your suggestion on this too. And neffers, keep telling Ralph to stay in fandom & especially in N3F!! I don't wanna be the only fan here in the Akron area!! Whut'll I do all alone?? I hate being alone!!! (And besides, who can I borrow onion-thin paper and zines from????) No, I couldn't stand it--so drum it into Ralph to stay--won't ya?? I don't wanna hold the fort here alone!! Haaaaaallpp!! Seriously tho, I do want Ralph to get the award & plaque, he's worked hard in the club and he deserves it.

Don Anderson: I didn't read the book "Alas, Babylon", tho I saw most of the T.V. production. I thot it was fairly well done, tho I heard later that the plot was reworked a bit from the book version.

Alma Hill: Yeah, 'twould be nice for N3F to have a genzine, aw'rite! I think new blood, new ideas, etc., are badly needed in fandom now, and the zine is bound to be welcomed by all fans. Hope it comes about. Hey!, Alma, that neffer room at the Penn-Sheraton sounds better all the time! I'll be there at the con & mite help out abit. You mentioning chess sets pleasantly surprised me, since I play the game. How about me bringing my chessmen and board along then?? I also run a column in "The Ohio Chess Bulletin", so I mite bring along a few copies of it also. I also have a large bone/wood chess with carrying case that I can set up for display only, if you like. I bought it in Mexico for a good price, and tho I value it a lot, mebbe, just mebbe, someone can buy it for a reasonable offer. How'zat sound?? That coffee in our rooms sounds good to me, I work in an A&P, so would ya like me to bring some canned coffee with me to the con?? Or anything else?? (Gee, mebbe we oughta have a tea-pot brewing too, just in case the TAFF representative visits us, eh??) Oh, didn't ya know that Bjo is engaged to neffer John Trimble??

Art Hayes: Methinks you're right, any editorial comments in the letterzine should be left til after the letter. It does interrupt one's thots & reading, and it also confuses me, especially when the letter-hack has something in parentheses too. (Like this!) {{Well, Bill, I happen to prefer comments next to the part of the letter to which they pertain. I don't have any trouble so long as comments aren't more than two or three per sentence. - rnl}}

Guess that's about all of Mallardi's malarky, except to say that I've got my TAFF vote and my Hugo votes in, can you say the same??

Oh,,,yeah, for curiosity's sake, can someone tell me who was in that last Postwarp's "Personality Corner"??? Huh?? {{Marijane Johnson}}

JOHN BOSTON Just rec'd Hyperspace Tightbeam #1. Pretty interesting job, too. Can't say much for the repro, tho. Wish the paper had been all one color; blue ink doesn't show up well on that yellow and salmon-pink (?) paper. The duplicating makes it even worse.

The cover was fair; good for Ray Nelson, average for fan art. Back over poor.

Will HT be the permanent title? Or will each ed slap on his own title? {{I believe that the Directorate is, at present, thinking over the title problem. If I'd been able to think up another title, I suppose precedent would have allowed succeeding editors to use their own titles. - rnl}}

Clay Hamlin: Didn't you read Alma Hill's "It's Me, O Lord" in the may '59 Future? Dave Prosser, if he would try a little harder, could become the equal of Wallace Wood.

Bob Farnham: I don't particularly like the MacLean plan, either. (I suppose that pretty soon ASF/Analog will turn into a reprint mag for Russian SF....)

Kaymar Carlson: The hecto N'APA sounds like it would be pretty interesting; I would like the formula for that home-made duper. {{While you're at it, Kaymar, why not write up an article on it and submit it to TNFF or in letter form to HT? - rnl}}

Ron Ellik: Oh, no! I wish something would clear the whole thing up.

Ralph Holland: I was puzzled at the advertising with TNFF; the way things are going, it looks like Sanderson has it sewed up; wouldn't bet, tho.

Seth Johnson: Those quads sound interesting. Yes Ralph Holland deserves a Kaymar Award. Although having a letter on stencil would save the ed some trouble, it will also make it almost impossible to edit.

Thus, a letter with a lot of good ideas in it might have to be junked because of a little name-calling. Oh, and the name of that mag is not Original SF, nor Original SF Stories, but S*C*I*E*N*C*E F*I*C*T*I*O*N S*T*O*R*I*E*S. It says so on the contents page, down in the copyright page, methinks.

Don Anderson: I agree with you re; ALAS BABYLON. Gurk!

Peter J. Maurer: I have the luck to live in a town where I can get all the promags and the pbs, for good measure. Oh, if anyone has Fantastic Universe, Feb. '60, and will part with it, let me know; I will have an ad in June TFFF (will already have had, by the time HT #2 comes out) listing stuff (Note to Pete Maurer: I have most of the recent ACE's) that I will trade. Altho Bob Heinlein has written some d----- {{sic}} good stories, in my opinion THE DOOR INTO SUMMER is the only "classic."

Alma Hill: I think a good genzine for N3F is a good idea. JAHayes' Memoritor comes closest to filling the gap, if #12 is typical of future issues. Lowndes is still in business; in the fall SFS and Future will resume. Columbia lost their distributor; all their fiction magazines, SF, western, mystery and all, are suspended.

Art Hayes: I haven't rec'd Postwarp. {{The P.O. strikes again!}} Your deal with Phil Kohn sounds kinda complicated. Gurk. I hope nobody in NFFF asks my opinion on it. Gurk again.

And now, a few comments of my own.

I discussed this with Seth Johnson, who thot that a quad would be better than a robin: launch a robin or quad to review books, hardback and pb, promags, and fanzines. At the end of each round, dispatch the reviews to the Mss. Bu. Seth suggested that instead of giving them to the Bureau, pub a zine for it. However, (says Seth) it would be hard unless there was an angel around to finance it. Maybe Art Hayes would be interested.

EDMUND R. MESKYS From what I understand most of the "benefit book-lets" which are sent to new members are gone & that only some copies of Ralph Holland's Ghu's Lexicon are left. Since the treasury is healthy at present, perhaps this is a good time to replenish the supply. Several possibilities come to mind.

I recently acquired a 2nd hand copy of an old "N3F Benefit Booklet" called "Fanspeak" but haven't yet had time to read it. However, I suspect that it wouldn't be too wise to reprint this what with the availability of Ghu's lex & the soon to be made available Neofan's Guide II.

Speaking of the Neo's Guide, when we do get them from Bob Tucker, I hope that we arrange to buy at least 700, perhaps 1000 so that they would last for many years to come. Since many copies will be distributed thru various APA's, etc, I think they should be made available to those current members who drop a card requesting it instead of a general circulation thruout the N3F -- why duplicate distribution?

An interesting one-sheeter might be a list of all known stf dealers -- there are quite a few around. For instance, I know of 5 right here in NYC. There might be small comments on specialization (eg--Steve Takacs specializes in Weird Out Of Print, hardcovers) & size of stock.

But the main thing I want to recommend is the publication in pamphlet form of a series of articles by Neffer MezBradley. Let me quote what I had to say about this in my N'apa mailing comments to appear in the 5th (June) mailing:

"In a bundle of old fanzines I recently bought from Martin Jukovsky was an almost complete set of one called Vega. It had most, if not all, of a series of articles you once did

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called "What Every Neofan Should Know" (I don't have the time to dig them out & see if they're complete & to check on the exact title) & this series was quite good. In fact, the NF³ might do well to reprint these as a pamphlet to give to the new members together with "Ghu's Lexicon" & whatever else is being currently passed out.A few minor corrections would have to be made to bring it up to date -- for instance, The Little Monsters of America is no more, but we now have a group called "Science Fiction Anonymous". (By the way, could someone say something about SFA? All I know is that it exists & Billy Joe Plott is an officer or something.) Also, some of the questions & answers in one of the installments could be dropped.

"How about it? How about it, would you mind seeing it reprinted, Marion? And Ralph, you mind having the NF³ shell out the money? I guess typing the thing would be no difficulty for I understand a number of people volunteered to do typing when they applied for NF³ membership. If nobody else volunteers, I suppose that I could run it off this summer on the Dietz' mimeo. (No Belle! Don't shoot! I take it back!) I'll even lend the typist my copies of the fanzines, provided I get them back in good condition." {{I could do the pubbing since I won't have much else to do this summer. - rnl}}

Someone (Joe Casey? Bjo? Ray Nelson?) could perhaps do some illos in blank spaces left on the stencils.

Now that we've got a letterzine again, those who joined the NF³ in order to find penpals & still don't have enough can drop a short note to Tightbeam saying they want more -- thus the frustrated letterhacks could "meet" each other & write away to their hearts' content!

As of now, 2 June, I have yet to get a copy of the Postwarp mentioned in the last Tightbeam. Howcom, Al Lewis? {{The Post Office strikes again ... and again ... and again ... }}

EMILE E. GREENLEAF Sorry to see Coswal gaffiate. But we can always hope that he will return to the fold, someday.

Clay Hamlin: Why should any group of fans go to the sweat of putting out a book of science-fiction reprints when Arkham House or Gnome Press can do the same job, for less money, with better typography, better distribution, and a better chance of reaching readers outside of fandom? The s-f scene has changed in the last twenty-five years, and fandom has of necessity changed too.

And fandom is a small part of the readership of science-fiction. ASF has a readership of at least one-hundred thousand. How large is fandom? Best estimates give a round figure of two thousand. Two percent of the readership of ASF, assuming everyone in fandom reads ASF! And in the past, fandom constituted an even smaller portion of s-f readers. Since it is obvious that we could do little financial damage to the prozines, even by a wholesale boycott, why should we kid ourselves that we have any power over the field?

Terry Carr, in a recent column in CRY OF THE NAMELESS, has said: "...it's becoming more and more obvious that fandom is not a fangroup, despite that term, but a group of writers, publishers, and partiers, congregated in a sprawling, anarchic society. That's an important distinction."

Granted that writing fiction is hard work; I've tried it. But it takes just as much effort, but of a different kind, to express an opinion in such a skillful, artistic manner that it becomes an essay or ar-

ticle. For instance, Project Ozma has started me thinking along certain lines. But if I ever get around to putting those thoughts and ideas into words, it will most probably be in the form of an article, not a story. The main theme is too big to be condensed and sugar-coated to background detail in some space-opera. Oh, some aspects of it would form the scene of action if I ever tried my hand at a story.

But Clay, what I am trying to say is that a man must write what he feels, be it a humorous bit of faan-fiction, a serious article on Van Vogt, or a novel intended for Campbell.

Also, many of you may not know it, but I dropped out of fandom for about six years, due to outside pressures. I came back, but not solely to discuss the plot construction of Heinlein's novels. I came back because I remembered fandom as being one place where I could find a group of people with a range of interests as broad as mine, ranging from astrophysics through zoology. Sure, I like science fiction as well as the next guy, and enjoy shooting the bull on the stories I have read. I did quite a bit of it at Detroit, and intend to do a lot of it at Pittsburgh. But I also intend to discuss philosophy, classical music, science, literature in general, religion, travel, sex, liquor, fan-gossip, and good food. Have you ever tried to discuss Buddhism with your next-door neighbor? Unless you live amidst the faculty of some university, your odds are nil. And how many people even care whether or not there may be life on Mars? And so on. But throw me in with a group of people who can discuss a couple of dozen different exciting and amusing subjects, one of which is science-fiction, and see how much time I spend on just one of them!

Peter Maurer: Just which of the ideas in "If This Goes On.." is revolting and a public menace? I have for a long time regarded "If This Goes On.." as required reading for those who think out society is perfect, and that what happened in Germany and Russia couldn't happen here. I personally think it far worse for impressionable minds to read the junk distributed by such syndicated jackasses as Westbrook Pegler, than for them to read Heinlein, Huxley, or Orwell. One of my big regrets is that s-f does not have any influence over the public mind. We might elect some intelligent public officials and be less swayed by such crackpottery as anti-vivisection if people could be induced to exercise a bit of intelligent imagination and give some thought to the future.

Hope this new plan of revolving editorships of HYPERSPACE TIGHTBEAM will work. But don't try and shove it onto me! I have just a small gelatin hectograph, and am up to my pockets in back correspondence.

DON F. ANDERSON

Please, whoever you are, quit the little post card sending out with the nice little rally round the enemy men slogans. I have taken it upon myself to speak for all the new members of the N3F and neofans to tell you it wouldn't do anyone any good. Here I was with all the happiness in the world and someone sends a little postcard with the words: Why is it that ----
----- (no names) was expelled from the N3F and so on -- as most of us know. Aha, something noble and great to fight for, a great crusade for the benefit of so and so. So I decided to jump right in and fight. To the left and to the right the fces would have fallen or so I thought. Before I jumped in I received a letter from Alma Hill explaining the whole thing and I read some more in a fanzine from Art Hayes. So I find my cause was in the wrong and the fellow was justly expelled. So you see it would have done none of us any good. I would have simply been attacked from all sides and torn to defeat while my letters would have bothered so many people. And the postcard sender would have

gained nothing, except many a more embarrassing defeat. So why don't we all junk our little slogan postcards ideas and crusades and leave things as they are. I'm happy that way.

As Clayton Hamlin has noted in the last letterzine, all of N3F isn't for the fanatic stf fan. I for one didn't expect to be swamped by letters filled with nothing but talk on the stf side, but I was surprised to find so little of it going on. But then on the other hand I was glad. It gave me a chance to expand my interests and find new ones without being gummed up in talk about a bug-eyed monster in the last Amazing. And the round-robins and fanzines should be able to take care of anyone's stf taste. Why don't we use this to get more fans into the club. A few I have talked to around here have the idea that the N3F is nothing but stf fandom. They said it was one of their interests, but they did have others.

If Peter Maurer will look in some of the back out of the way stores that deal in books I'm sure he'll find the ACE STF books there as many as always. Seems these stores get the small out of the way books people don't generally look for.

ESTHER RICHARDSON Sure enjoyed that May number of the N3F's letterzine. Hope it keeps up??

Nelson's illos were interesting especially the oriental gal in the many circled robe. Took time to do that. Was trying to figure out if she was yelling for help or greeting her long lost sweetheart?? Was wondering how long that spaceman was going to be able to hold on?? Wow! what a spot to be in!!!

Do you think that the reason why so many of the SF prozines are folding is that the type of tales being printed are too much along the technical lines and there is too long conversations between the men and not enough romance?? After all, when we do start going out into space and trying to settle other worlds our women will have to go too. Another thing I have noticed in some prozines that there is an inclination for them to print stories about how some drunken fool did some silly dangerous stunt and got away with it. The story is supposed to be humorous but am wondering how many really enjoy that type of tale?? Am afraid that there will be little time to clown while spinning through space.

Seth is a bit wrong about the older members not wanting to get in new Robins, as this one is more than willing and so far I have not entered into a new one. How about it Seth???? I enjoy the RR regardless what the main discussion is so send some along this way.

In regards to the "past" and "future" Don Anderson, according to most oriental teachings there is no such thing as "past" and "future." It is always the eternal NOW. When you finally get that digested then you have really made it metaphysically. Let me know when you reach that state of consciousness and I will kneel at your feet and adore you. {{I attained that state of consciousness a few months ago, but I outgrew it. At present, I don't believe in the "present" -- only in "past" and "future." - rnl}}

Quite a few N3F fans have written and asked me to tell them what things are like in Alaska. Being that my youngest daughter and hubby live up there eight months a year I have learned a bit about conditions there. So many of my friends seem to think that all they have to do is to hop in some sort of a car and drive up the Alcan highway, and after getting in Alaska they can find a job easy and make a fortune. Let me say that is one of the biggest pipe dreams even thought up by us human beings. In the first place the drive up there via car is terrible

after you get off the first five hundred miles of paved road. From then on it is dust and bumps in the summer, thick mud in the Fall and early Spring and snow, ice and way below zero in the winter. Even the paved parts are not too good and some people get car sick on them as they have "frost heaves" on it. Impossible to go over thirty miles per hour on them.

My children are in Anchorage and does it cost something to live there. Listen to this - Rent from \$175 dollars per month up. The \$175 per month places are dumps. They are now paying \$225 per month and they had to pay two months in advance. It cost them over \$60 dollars to stock up on groceries this time. Generally cost them more but they took along a lot of extras. Lettuce is .48 cents per head, etc, etc...

The only safe way to go up to some part of Alaska to live is to be sure that you have a good job waiting for you (pay is good) and at least \$250 dollars in your pocket when you cross the line as the Canadians won't let you through if you are doing it in a shoe string.

This isn't a SF subject but thought it might interest some one who is longing to become an old "sourdough." It might sort of scare them out.

Getting back to SF I ended my membership in the SF Book Club this week due to the fact that the type books they were trying to get me to buy were simply too silly or too dull. As I am a fairly new comer in the SF world I am way behind my good old SF reading so I think that these SF Book Clubs should republish some of the old time stories in book form and not some odd ball tale with a goofy ending that some one thought was excellent. I may be sticking my neck out but I think one book I got from the SF Club, "Science Fiction Showcase" edited by Mary Kornbluth, had mostly DUDS as far as I am concerned. "A Work of Art" left a bad taste in my mouth. I realize there was supposed to be a moral in it for us to profit by but who wants to profit by anything when we seek relaxation and enjoyment? "The Long Remembering" by Poul Anderson was about the only story in the whole book I enjoyed. Oh well, maybe some day I will chew a few TUMS and try it again. I may find another tale or two that looks better the second look than the first one.

ART HAYES The matter of a name for this letterzine is being discussed, though I am not too optimistic of the Directorate coming up with a name. It may be best to have the members do the choosing, as Ralph is suggesting. Anyhow, the most important facet of a letterzine is that it appears, not its name.

However, HYPERSPACE TIGHTBEAM did read well. One thing that is obvious to me about this rotation of the letterzine is that it will feature a variety of duplication methods, though Coswal did a good job.

It is not with thoughts of happiness that I see that Coswal is retrenching his activities for several years. He will be missed in the various apas he's in. But, this Bible project has been on his mind for a long time, and it crept in in his fanzines, so maybe he's just as well getting it out of his system.

There is no question that in North America, and in England too, we do not have SF clubs any more, in the sense that Hamlin refers to. The only SF clubs, in that sense, that I know of are in Germany. There, an SF club is more or less a professional publishing house, and not a club in the sense that the members use it to associate together. In Germany, an SF club is more of a business, rather than a social affair. There, the clubs are run by the professionals in the field. That may be good, it may be bad, but it certainly is different from what we have. What we have is confusing to the ones coming into the field of Fandom, but

they get used to it quickly. What we have is more or less associations based on Fandom, not on SF as such, with SF only occasionally creeping in, and being rejected almost as fast as it crops up. What we have, this pre-occupation on Fandom, rather than SF, means that we, those of us who participate in our type of Fandom, cannot take the time to be real SF readers. I know I'm not, I read SF in the odd moments, and then forget all about it when I enter the other more active facets of our Fandom. Our Fandom tends to discourage SF Fiction from the Amateurs, but still encourages art and cartooning.

GMC's comments on Story Round Robins remind me of a few a couple of years ago. I was going to get them for publication. I only got one. I'm still willing to use them, at least consider them, and I figure that with the latest ones starting the rounds, I may get a few of them for publication.

The Roster of N3F, the spring roster, is always a hard thing to get out, for the simple reason that it is not a pleasant thing to cut anyone's name out of the roster, not only because it reduces the membership, but that in some cases the persons cut off are only temporarily Gafia and would, in a short time, be back in the swing of things. However, sentimentality will have to be dropped in this matter, and the actual cutting done BEFORE the first issue of each year, the members having to renew before that issue, before the deadline of that issue, so that the first issue each spring will contain a fresh roster. Each of us knows that the renewal time is not MARCH, but December 31st, and should act accordingly.

MEMORITOR #12 went out recently, and it shows that I'm now capable of doing reasonable duplication. My name is in for a possible editing and publishing of a future issue of POSTWARP.

As for the Welcomittee, well, its publication, the BULLZINE, has now reached its 28th issue. It is still done via the spirit process, and as such, with me anyhow, the quality of duplication varies from issue to issue, but the publication is still coming out. There is still room, too, in the Welcomittee for those of the members who enjoy wide-spread and varied types of correspondence. All they have to do is contact me.

I'm glad to see Ralph explaining the idea behind the distribution of material with the OO. Because so few have taken advantage of this, few of us knew that it was a practice that had once been practiced in N3F.

On Seth Johnson's letter, I would like to assure everyone that Marijane Johnson was definitely sounded out about the possibilities of her taking over the position of Recruiting head. This department is in the area of responsibility of Honey Graham, but Marijane had been sounded out and recommendations made to Honey, before she finally selected the new head. Marijane would have made an excellent head of the RB, but she felt she couldn't accept the position.

Further with Seth's letter, the idea of a brochure. That is a sore point with me. I've tried for three years to do exactly that, but the lack of cooperation has disgusted me on this point. Now, maybe, now that I've got better duplication available, I can try again? That is up to those who are in charge of the various activities. If they send me material covering their area of responsibility, I'll try another brochure idea ... but it won't be for general distribution, but only to the new members as they come into our club. I can't afford too many of these general distribution affairs, and MEMORITOR is being reduced as to circulation.

I see no basis for confusion about the N'APA Official Editor being called an OE, all we have to do is specify, TNEFF OE or N'APA OE. When speaking in our N'APA zines, calling only OE would refer to N'APA OE

and whenever we wished to speak of the TNFF OE, we would refer to him in that fashion. In TNFF, the OE is the OE of TNFF, and the N'APA OE would have to be referred to as the N'APA OE.

As to whether N'APA should or shouldn't have a closed roster, I am in favor of letting N'APA decide that. If we have so many in the club who wish to be in an APA, then that group can do what Guy Terwilleger and Larry Sokol did, start up another. I would hate to be a participant in an APA with 80 or more members.

I doubt that a junior NFF or a junior N'APA would be well received by the juniors themselves. (I'd probably leave the club if any sort of "junior" organization were formed. One of the reasons that I'm in fandom is that in this group it's possible for adults and teen-agers to talk intelligently without looking down their noses at each other.)

A good Gen-zine for N3F? I only wish there was such, then I could drop MEMORITOR. That is what I'm trying to do with this publication. I know it does not fit the GOOD category, but it is a try.

KAYMAR CARLSON Dear Editor of "Postie": What's in a name! Someplace

I read that "a rose is just as sweet, whatever name you call it." There seems to be a "mania" for changing names. What is there to gain? If you insist on a change, let it be gradual so we don't forget what it is. I'd recommend "Neffpost" or "N3F-post" -- that would still spell "Postie" to most of us. There is a good tradition concerning "Postie." Art Rapp came out with "Postvarp," and kept this up for many years. We affectionately began calling it "Postie" and it will always be "Postie" to all us "old timers."

I'm still in favor of giving some "Benefits" during each year. We could take a poll and find out what most members would like. Used to put out check-list; Fanspeak; Neofan guide; fanzine list, etc. But maybe most members would like something else. These "Benefits" would not necessarily have to cost N3F so much. 1 or 2 fans who were really interested in a project would be glad to donate the mimeo work, postage, etc. so that, say $\frac{1}{2}$ would be all that N3F would have to pay. In past years I've done a lot of such "benefit" projects. 1946-7-8 were my most active years and I've never regretted all the extra work I did for N3F during that time. Racy Higgs and I have worked on the MEMORY-BOOK for many years and I know he has always been ready to help out on any projects.

Maybe Art Hayes and I will come up with some sort of "Benefit" for N3F. This one we will donate to the membership.

It may not be much for a "starter" but it will pave the way for a renewal of these so called "Benefits" in N3F.

Ralph Holland is certainly doing a fine job with TNFF and I hope he will become our permanent Editor for many years -- or at least stay on the staff as assistant Editor, if he can't carry on the actual work. We need experienced persons in all our departments.

Glad to hear that "Red" correspondence is not for us as a N3F activity. There is nothing to stop those interested from forming a Correspondence club for this purpose. Personally, I'll stick with the other countries that have "proven" themselves in past years. I correspond with the Swedish fans as it is easier for them to use the "mother tongue" instead of English. You have to think also in the language you want to use. I visited in Sweden in 1957 and 1959, and also learned many new words.

I'm all in favor of a new Editor for each "Postie" issue if it will give us a steady publication to alternate with TNFF. Naturally it will cost the N3F more - but we could set up a "Budget" to guide us, some-

what each year. We hope to increase our membership right along, so there should be some extra cash coming in. We've had a healthy balance the last few years and there shouldn't be too much of a change. Much credit goes to our treasurer, Janie Lamb, for her work during these many years.

Hope to see you all in next issue of "Postie."

BOB LICHTMAN HYPERSPACE TIGHTBEAM #1 warped its way into my mailbox not too long ago, leaving me both pleased and depressed at the same time. Pleased because I'm glad to see that N3F apparently has its own letterzine again; having seen and read parts of past issues of N3F letterzines, I wasn't expecting to be too thrilled at reading this one, but I was pleasantly disappointed when it turned out to be quite an interesting experience. And I'm depressed at the words from Coswal, who apparently has jelled more solid plans to quit fandom and publish that Bible study since the first word I had of it, which was in the April SAPS mailing.

Walt, I'd like to ask why are you publishing the book? From all you've said so far, it sounds like a mammoth research job and the results, if and when they are ever completed, should be most worthwhile, but what's the sense? You don't appear to have anyone upon whom you can foist copies of the volume, and what could be more ridiculous than producing a 200-page "fanzine" (Bible-fanzine, eh?) and then sitting around and looking at all the copies as they sit in a corner of your Fantasy Attic gathering dust.

And what of the Fantasy Attic? My spies, good and true fen that they be, have reported that you are negotiating with the SC Library to dispose of the whole accumulation, and, I have heard, for quite a lofty sum indeed. This is all a great shock to me, this news. As you know, I've been reading, recently, your fanzines from the late 1940s in which you went to great lengths recounting with obvious pride the steps you were taking to gather material from all corners of the earth for your collection. Are you going to rid yourself of such an investment in money and precious time all at once, without even a second thought?

Please reconsider!

I rather question Clay Hamlin's assertion that the "true purpose" of fandom is to use fandom as a jumping board to prodom. This has all been discussed time and again, of course, but maybe I can add a bit more to the morass. Fandom, in my opinion, has no one "true purpose." Different fans get out of fandom entirely different things -- they likewise put in quite different things. Fan A may be a hyperactive fan publisher, member of three or four apas, an N3F Director, while Fan B may be a writer type, who submits an occasional story to the proz and will someday crash into them (maybe), and who doesn't care all too much about fanzines and fannish doings. There's plenty of room in this big conglomeration we call, simply, "fandom," for lack of a really better term, for all. None need infringe on the rights of others nor question their actions.

As for this oft-repeated charge that fandom is probably responsible for the decline of stf, I shall repeat the oft-used truism that fandom is not a majority of the stf-buying public. Fandom accounts for relatively little of the sales, and even if everyone in fandom bought a certain prozine all the time, this wouldn't substantially increase its sales.

I note with interest Coslet's comment that the covers were done on guide-lined masters. I've never seen such things before myself, but imagine they must be quite useful. For the typing of masters I do from

time to time for my various fanzines, I find that just ruling a line across the bottom of the master at the point where your typer starts to slip is a good substitute for guidelines. If you can run a long page on your ditto, just start extremely close to the top end of the master and run things upside down. (When you're through, turn the collated copies right-side up and you have a normal fanzine. This is Lichtman's service to confused people.)

You have 102% agreement from me with Bob Farnham's views on this business of the proposed Russian Pen Pals club. If the N3F membership has actually approved this plan and if it goes into action, with results you won't be seeing my name on the N3F roster next season. Maybe I'm getting excitable, and maybe the State Department has given their smile of approval to the idea, but attitudes of government change, and so do the policies and like that, and in some years' time I don't want to have to sweat it with my security clearance because of something the N3F did when I was a member.

Despite the fact that N'APA is a part of N3F and that in Seth's words "in NFFF the member has a RIGHT to participate in all activities," I must come out strongly against any split of the N'APA or any unlimited membership business. The reason for the first should be obvious: there will always be a certain amount of people who will want to participate in both sections of N'APA, should it be split. You can figure right now that at least half of the members would be double-N'APAns, in such a case. And if you up and say that they can't participate in but one N'APA, there's bound to be grotching and grouching on the part of the eager beavers who want to be in both. As for this unlimited membership business, it should be obvious to anyone who can multiply and add that the price of publishing a halfway decent N'APazine goes up as does the membership. What do you want?: an active N'APA with a membership limit of 40 or a near-inactive N'APA that could have as many members as N3F itself? I know that if I had to produce an apazine for 200 people, I would, under N'APA's present activity requirement, produce 4 pages one mailing, 2 the next, 4 the next, 2 after that, etc. This is minimum activity, people. Ask someone to tell you all about the mundane apas, where there are over 200 members (our so-called initialsake, NAPA, has over 300, I believe) and almost no activity to speak of. {{Don't be too sure of that. The smallest mailing possible in N'APA with 200 members would be 400 pages. Not too bad at all. - rnl}}

I must register another negative comment on Seth's suggestion that each person stencil or master his own comments for the letterzine. Not only would this absolutely destroy the unity of the zine, not to mention the problem of odd stencil or master ends, and the fact that the editor would not even be an editor, but just a more or less voiceless publisher, but I imagine that most of the participants would write rather long epistles, much as I'm doing now. They're not going to take kindly to having their letter left out altogether because of space limitations, and it is next to impossible to cut their extraneous chatter out if it's already on stencil or master.

Rather pleased I am to see Stan Woolston making publishing sounds, but with FANAC doing an estimable job of covering most all of the news and other fanzines taking up the slack and enlarging on what FANAC says, it seems that a Neffan News Service would be just so much waste. Better that someone shunt Woolston, who is a Good, Faithful Fan, into the production and editing of that N3F generalzine that Guy Terwilliger proposes, about which Alma Hill had some choice words.

I see that Janey Lamb has brought up the business of these postcards that ~~has been~~ has been subjecting new members of the club to. Evidently the neo members (I don't consider myself one of them) who

don't know about Rehorst and all are writing the directors asking about it; this of course makes for a lot of work on the part of the directors, who are already overworked as it is. (I'll admit that even I wrote one of them, but not to find out about Rehorst; I was interested in whether or not many other had rec'd the cards.) Reproduced below is the text of the card I received. This card was typed in elite type, using a black ribbon in good condition. It was posted in Chicago on the 11th of April of this year.

Dear Neffer:

Why is it that Paul Harold Rehorst was expelled from the N3F in February of 1959 after a decade of loyal club membership?

Why is it that a small minority within N3F now prevents him from rejoining N3F?

Why is it? Ask the club president and the directorate for their side of the story.

FFHM

That, to the signature, is the text. What I'd like to know is, how did ~~REHORST~~ get ahold of a list of the new members so that he could drop these cards on them? Perhaps a close check of the present roster might reveal that Rehorst holds a membership under a false name.

Well, that's all the comments on the issue. Now I'd like to make some general comments and suggestions about the future of the letterzine and policies thereof, etc. First, a round of applause to Coswal for choosing the title he did. HYPERSPACE TIGHTBEAM is quite apropos for a letterzine, if you see what I mean. It's like a tight beam of letters warped through hyperspace into your postbox once every two months. (Asimov would be proud of us.) For future issues, may I suggest a limit of 24 pages per issue, so as to conserve the N3F budget for its publications? My reasoning is this: 24 pages is the upper limit for the 3¢ postal rate. 24 pages is of course 12 sheets of paper -- we cannot exceed 12 sheets of 20# paper and keep within the 3¢ postal limit. This leaves out such nice but unnecessary things as envelopes -- a mailing page like Coswal had is a good enough substitute -- my copy certainly arrived in good enough condition. And if things get crowded looking inside, there's certainly no law that most all of that rear page couldn't be taken up with text, leaving but a small mailing area down at the bottom, much as CRY now does and has for quite some issues. A cover isn't really necessary either -- just a logotype and perhaps a small cartoon, a la FAMAC. And interior illustrations are O-U-T -- there's no room. So you can see there can be quite a lot of matter, all letters, squeeze onto 12 sheets of paper, if the editor knows what he's doing. Other good things might be to eliminate the space between paragraphs, indenting five spaces instead at the beginning of each instead of running them flush left. If things get still more crowded, the system of using ##s for paragraphs and running each letter as a solid block of typed matter could be inaugurated. It's all up to the editor. Oh, for a last suggestion, all editors who have access to them should use elite type. Micro-elite, too, if you can borrow a machine with such a small face. Remember, the budget for the letterzine isn't unlimited! (Could I borrow that postcard from you, Bob? I'd like to compare it with Rehorst's typing. # Cross-hatching instead of paragraphing doesn't really save that much space. # I only get 11 sh. of 20# paper to go for 3¢. - rnl})

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G. M. CARR Another neat, prompt and up-to-the-minute news-filled TNFF just reached my desk, and reminds me that I'd better hurry if this letter of comment about it is to reach the rotating editor of POSTIE. (Hmmm, that's a fascinating concept: Picture a beanie-clad fan, labeled "editor," spinning like a top on a pile of letters.) Well, Good luck, Bob -- don't get too dizzy!

The best item in this TNFF, to my taste, was the fine report on the Mss. Bu. by Ed Ludwig. It not only reflects the healthy condition of this N3F service to its members, but it presents such an appetizing picture of the type of material being handled, that it positively makes me drool! Two of the poems I got from the Mss Bu for my GEMZINE will be reprinted (re-mimeographed, I should say) and sent to whomever is in charge of the PITTCOM MEMORY BOOK as soon as I can locate that information. (Mutter, mutter ... I KNOW I had it here, somewhere! ...) {{It's Kaymar}} What's more, this active Mss Bu gives me an incentive to finish up some of the material I have left lying around ... and if it gives me an incentive, no doubt it has the same effect on other fans. This is a Good Thing, in my opinion, and a very worthy endeavor. Congratulations, Ed. I hope you keep up the good work.

I am very pleased to see how well this rather unpleasant matter of the poison-pen writer is being handled, and the prompt and decisive handling of the other, equally unpleasant, matter of [REDACTED] who [REDACTED] (REDACTED) re-instatement. It is unfortunate that N3F seems to attract a cert in kind of trouble-maker. In the past, the club has, at times, been almost paralyzed as the result of this type's activities. But under Ralph Holland's level-headed and impartial fair play, the little turmoils which formerly used to blow up into regular whirlwinds of confusion and emotion, have had a chance to be heard without getting out of hand. If there were any possible way of "drafting" Ralph Holland to stay on as President of NFFF for the rest of his life, I'd be all for it. I dread to think of what can happen to N3F when we have to start looking for another President. It will be very difficult to find another Prexy with his calm but firm punctiliousness. Of all the organizations I know, N3F is most in need of a level-headed leader with a big fund of patience!

Alma Hill's "Hodge Podge" continues interesting. Likewise the plans for the PITTCOM, including the Art Show. Sure wish I were going Alas, too far away. I'll have to wait for the year after {{I'd been looking forward to seeing you at the PITTCOM. I doubt that I'll make it to the west coast for the '61 con. Guess the only thing to do is to start something like the Berry Fund: How about GEM CARR TO THE PITT? If we knock one T off, I bet even Pelz would go for it.}}

F. M. BUSBY Lastovica: the "closed-membership" of the apas is 99% strictly on a numerical basis, and about as impersonal as you can get. Basically, it's a problem of mechanics, in that an apamember has to know the size of the group in order to know how many copies to produce. Materials cost money, as any fan publisher knows. And no fan wants to run off a lot of unnecessary copies of his zine, to no good purpose.

Aside from the functionally-necessary limitation on the membership of an Amateur Press Association, I don't quite see what the gripe is: admittance to the Waiting Lists (if and when they exist) is purely in order of application. FAPA demands that applicants present "credentials" (evidence that the applicant will produce if admitted); SAPS doesn't even make that requirement -- anybody can get on the Waiting List, but publishing requirements are set for the new member's first mailing.

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Afans kid Neffers sometimes, sure, overlapping or not. But Albert Lastovica, sir, I tend to disbelieve that you can quote me even one full-extract from an "apan" putting down N3F strictly because of "open-membership." That ball just doesn't roll.

And while we're on the subject of exclusiveness, functional or otherwise, may I point out that N3F has recently expelled a member? Personally, I tend to feel that the group is probably just as well off without that particular trouble-maker, but in my temporary capacity of apa-advocate I've gotta point out that the current major apas have put up with a lot worse stuff than Rehorst's without mounting ouster proceedings, lately. SAPS hasn't ousted anyone for many years, if at all. FAPA bounced one waiting-lister because he was and is a clear and present danger to many of the membership -- he writes to the PO and the FBI and calls you a Communist if he doesn't like you --- I don't know how you would go for this routine, but a number of FAPAs decided they'd rather drop out than expose themselves to this sort of attack. It's dangerous.

Rehorst, by contrast, only made people uncomfortable within the organization, yet he found himself dumped by acclamation or Director-action or something of the sort.

If I haven't made my point, I never will, so I'll drop it, here.

Honey Wood Graham: the hell of it is, you're actually sincere in what you say in this PW. Well, the fact is that many if not most active fans outside of N3F have taken to kidding the organization in the past few years. Most of the non-N3F active types you know are apans. So you generalize that apans are snotty to N3F, period.

Honey, before you blast back -- tell me, when is the last time you read an apa mailing? Can you quote from it, to fix my clock? In context? Or would it be simpler if we just get along, more?

Clayton Hamlin: so I sweat to write down an honest opinion, and you (ol' buddy) label the whole thing as "hate N3F" propaganda, when (as an outsider at that time) I was leaning over backwards to do just the opposite.

I don't think you quite catch the spirit. I was not condemning N3F out of hand, but only what I considered to be its tendency to be wound up in red tape. I made it clear that this problem exists all over, not just in N3F or even in fandom-at-large. Now try it again on what I said, rather than what you took it to mean that I said, from your own expectations of what you thought criticism-from-"outside" would be like.

"Exactly how many members does he correspond with?" you ask. Well, not counting a dozen or so members who have written to CRY c/o me or traded zines, etc, I find exactly 32 names on the current roster of folks I've met&talked-with, and/or corresponded and/or taperesponded with; just about half of those could be considered active correspondents of mine at this time. This count is as of before I sent in my application and dues, by the way. Strictly for kicks, I just checked in the log, and of the 3 dozen-odd letters I've written in the past month, almost exactly 1/3 were to N3F members, it turns out. What with that, and the fact that I have joined the club, it should be obvious that "condemnation of the club" as such was not what I had in mind. A discussion (as requested by AJL) of what I personally didn't like about it, yes. Condemnation in toto, no. And my discussion was based almost entirely upon what I saw in official zines (Wally Weber's copies) as of about the time the Rehorst matter was going strong.

Sure, I imagine you and I can find something in common." We both publish, and read that crazy Buck Rogers stuff, don't we?

Ralph Holland: did I actually say in so many words that I am "against all organization"? (Can't find that PW right now, to check, due to lack

of organization of the Filing System -- a point for you.) If so, it was meant more as hyperbole or overemphasis or something of the sort. What I'm against is over-organization, Organization For Its Own Sake, Empire-Building, etc. If I went a little overboard in my remarks, you must keep in mind that I work for the U S Army and that maybe I'd had a bad day with the Red Tape Brigade. I am all for streamlining a job of work rather than making a big deal out of it.

You've doubtless attended and/or presided over meetings attended mostly by verbose foot-draggers, with one or two smart-alecks who "rise to a Point of Order" whenever they can find no other way of keeping things in a turmoil? Well, the impression I got of the writings of a number of the members in official zines about a year ago was just about like such a meeting, and I guess I've attended too many of them, myself, to have much patience left any more. It struck me that most of the club's energy seemed to be expended on procedural hassles. You yourself appeared to be doing a capable job, certainly, though I wished you could have had a heavier gavel to swing (and not always at the table).

While we're here, my heartiest commendations to your summary of the Iron Curtain Correspondence situation, in TNFF last. I'm the one who would have had to resign immediately such a plan went into effect, and so informed Janie on my application. Thanks for spelling the problem out so well for the electorate.

Bob Lambeck: I'm afraid I will never understand why anyone who wouldn't be perjuring himself would be bugged at signing an affidavit stating that he is not a subversive and does not belong to subversive organizations. Realistically, the Loyalty Oath is purely a tactical gimmick in the Cold War; it is designed to ensure that if Communists can't be screened out of a given critical activity, at least they can be nailed for perjury if caught (since the Supreme Court seems to make a fetish out of de-fanging all other means of clobbering the comrades). And one of the Communists' greatest victories has been making "Loyalty Oath" a Dirty Word; they have managed to amass a large number of idealistic-minded types to serve as cover-camouflage for them. Get the picture? If several hundred thousand "idealists" refuse to sign, the few thousand Communists who also refuse are safely hidden in the crowd. My advice is to simmer down on this Oath kick and pay some attention to some of the creeping compulsions from the Welfare State crew; quit kicking a straw man and have a shot at, say, the withholding-tax. If you really feel like a crusade, that is. {{But what's wrong with the withholding tax? - rnl}}

Mind you, I don't feel that the N3F or any other fannish group should have a Loyalty Oath; it's not in our province. I would not want to be in the same club with an admitted Communist for more or less the same reasons I'd have on hand against the membership of a dope-pusher. An underground Communist? Well, if he didn't let on, how would I know? And if he consistently sneezed when it rained in Moscow -- well, I've coped with that type before in arguments and I imagine I could do it again. Not trying to convert the jerk, you understand -- life's too short to waste it on fanatics -- but just to keep things straight for the reading-public.

So it boils down: loyalty oaths I find wholly unobjectionable in the official realm, but highly objectionable in fandom as such, though not for the reasons you give. {{Perhaps I should make my position a bit clearer. As a start, let's make a couple definitions: 1) subversive: the dictionary says this has to do with overthrowing or undermining a government. There are, unfortunately, fuggheads in the government at present (of course there have always been fuggheads in all governments; it's sort of traditional, I guess)/don't make the distinction between

a group attempting to overthrow the government and one attempting to improve the government. If you want to define subversive as pertaining to overthrowing the government by force, I can point out the subversive history of the United States' government. The American Revolution was subversive. The Civil War was subversive (I am referring to Lincoln's act of maintaining armed enclaves within the Confederacy). The state of West Virginia was formed as a result of revolution. To obtain the Panama Canal, the U S government fomented a revolution in Nicaragua. The United States government is not opposed to subversive activity; it is opposed to anything that will disturb its tyranny over the people. 2) loyalty oath: oath of loyalty to what? An oath that I am not a member of a subversive organization? I wouldn't sign it until the government defines subversive in such a way that it is clear what is meant. An oath to support the US government? I wouldn't sign it. I believe that the government needs improvement. So do you -- the withholding tax, for instance. An oath to support the Constitution? I wouldn't sign it. Neither should any Congressman. Otherwise, how can we make amendments to it? An oath of loyalty to the people of the United States? Hell, yes! -- rnl}}

Art Hayes: Thanks. I wouldn't say that my previous letter in PW was quite as "carefully considered" as all that, but it was definitely intended as "an honest expression of opinion," and I appreciate your noting it as such. Some of the folk seem to feel that I went overboard on some items, and you'll note that I don't mind pulling in my horns a bit when convinced it's the correct thing to do, on the facts.

Hmm -- don't think I advocated Activity Requirements for N3F members as such -- rather, I was defending their necessity in apas, I think.

JANIE LAMB It is very nice to learn you will be putting out this issue of our letterzine. I'm eagerly awaiting the zine to see just what you will call it. This policy of the pubbers calling it something other than Postwarp is highly interesting, who knows maybe a permanent name will come from this. I for one fail to see why it must be called something which most of us have to look up in a dictionary to know what it means, and since it is more than a two-bit word few of us have the type dictionary it is found in, so we have to hie to the nearest library or house of learning to browse and hunt until we find it, to learn that a simpler term have been found. This is not criticism of anyone or anything.

Wasn't the article in TNFF by Farnham GREAT? This is the type of articles we need, something to build up the morale of the club rather than someone telling us what is wrong, how refreshing to have someone tell us what is right ... if there is any publication made for the Pittcon then I'd suggest this article be used in it. This could also be used in recruiting ... I loved it.

Don't miss Alma Hill at the Pittcon, pay your 2 bucks now and reserve the right to meet this fine hostess, for an extra smile she can be induced to smile for you, this is what you have been waiting for. Sign in at the Neffer room and see this fantastic hostess at work, plead with her to let you help, and maybe you can tell your grandchildren someday that YOU helped Alma Hill, the Neffer hostess, make the Pittcon a memorable convention. Not even Mars can offer a hostess to compare with ours, you must meet her, it is well worth your 2 dollars, send in your reservation for meeting her today, don't forget \$2.00 to Dirce Archer ... see you there!

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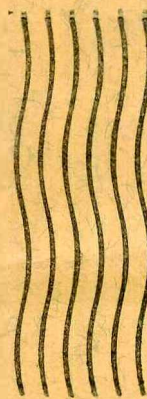
book review

THE FANTASTIC UNIVERSE OMNIBUS
Edited by Hans Stephan Santesson
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270 pp

Ordinarily when I see a title containing omnibus, anthology, or best of, I instinctively shy away because I have found, from bitter -- and expensive -- experience, that such books contain stories that, simply because they are of sufficient quality to merit republication, are so indelibly engraved upon my memory that I cannot enjoy them on a second reading. This book, however, is different. Whether it be from the exceptional merit of the stories or from my failing memory (old age catching up at last) I know not, but these stories, while yet familiar like old and dear friends, were not so utterly retained in my memory as to have made it impossible to have enjoyed them. Far from it -- I felt that, upon this second meeting, I was penetrating still further into their meaning and reaping all the more entertainment from them.

Like, BUY IT! It has Bloch's "A Way of Life" in it.



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