

TIGHTBEAM

no 8



HARRY

This is Tightbeam 8, official letterzine of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. This issue is edited and published by Ed Meskys, 723A, 45th St., Brooklyn 20 NY.

DEADLINE for the NEXT ISSUE is AUGUST 25th! Write NOW to

Robert N. Lambeck
868 Helston Road
Birmingham, Michigan.

CREDITS: Cover by Harry Douthwaite, Rexofaxed and run by Frank R Prieto. The two illos towards the rear are by Tok, who occasionally writes under the pseudonym of James V Taurasi, Sr., who was kind enough to stencil them himself. I also had some illos by Dick Schultz and Harry Douthwaite, but I was nervous about botching them up on these unfamiliar white Rex Rotary stencils. Blue pages run on the B'n'F Press with the kind permission, help, and sufference of the Dietz'. The remainder were very generously run for me by Frank Prieto on the Sci-Fi Press. Many thanks to all of you, and to all you who wrote letters for this issue. It goes without saying that without you there would have been no Tightbeam.

THIS IS AN EDITORIAL ???

Well, I can't think of what else to call it, so I guess it is. I want to start off by (again) plugging TAFF. Some of you might be getting tired of seeing all these TAFF plugs, but the latest issue of Axe (7) reports that thus far only 55 votes had been cast. If the campaign is to be successfull, many more are needed.

Look, most of you know by now that Trans Atlantic Fan Fund is a campaign to alternat-

ly send an American fan to a Brittish convention and a British fan to a US con-
vention, that this campaign is for an American, and that the only 2 candidates are 2 Neffers -- Ron Ellik and Dick Eney. To vote you must contribute at least 50¢ to the fund and must have been active in some phase of SF fandom before January, 1960. (This last requierment is, of course, to discourage ballot box stuffing which had occured in some early campaigns.) If you are inelligible to vote or have no preference, your contribution will still be very gladly accepted by the committee. Many people don't have any preference this year simply because there are only 2 candidates and they approve both. Thus they are just making donations without casting ballots.

So send your donations to Don Ford (Box 19T, RR No 2, Loveland Ohio) or Eric Bentcliffe (47 Alldis Street, Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire, England). If you want to vote, use one of the dozen or so ballots you undoubtedly already received -- but if you don't have one it isn't essential. Just name your candidate, sign your name, and give your address. If you aren't a known fan, also give the name and address of a fan or SF club as reference. Oh -- and make checks payable to Don or Eric--NOT TAFF.

And TAFF itself was inspired by the first such fund which brought Walter A Willis over in 1952. To commemorate this there is a special fund being raised outside of TAFF to bring him and his wife to the 1962 con, probably to be held in Chicago (where the 1952 one was). Send inquiries and donations to Larry Shaw, 16 Grant Pl., Staten Island 6 NY. Contributors to this fund get the extra bonus of a free indefinite sub to the excellent bi-weekly news magazine, Axe. This alone is easily worth at least \$1, and it often lists special fanzines and auctions for the benefit of the fund. Whether or not you are in favor of the fund you will find many of these special offers worth your while. (For instance, they are auctioning off Ray Bradbury's own fanzine, Futura Fantasia, published some 20 years ago.)

~~~~~  
FANDOM IS JUST A GHODAM WAY OF GOING BROKE

~~~~~  
It would seem that way, at least, from all the funds which are asking for your money. But nobody is forcing you to donate to all of them and remember that the oth-

David Travis First, I would like to say that the above is to be my permanent
1011th Box address, and I wish that all who might see it and who have occa-
Clovis, N.M. sion to write to me or mail something to me would note it. Some
 of the items are going through two and three forwardings each (I
am a school teacher who has changed jobs once, and taken a year off to go to school,
and the mail situation has gotten a bit involved.)

I have several things to say, but before starting, I would like to say amen! to Ed Meskys' plea to avoid pieties and platitudes. The people who give out with these are almost always well meaning, but the tone which comes across is frequently that of a self righteous reprimand to a naughty boy. I probably shouldn't criticize since I have no solution to offer. It seems to me that by definition a club project is one for which there is enthusiasm. When the enthusiasm wanes, William Jennings Bryan speaking and Orpheus playing couldn't save it.

Now to me and my comments. I am not an active fan. Most of you have never heard of me. The chief reason for my not being active is simple. I don't really know how. I've never met another person who even knew what an SF fan was, even among avid SF readers. Since I am not in the know, I have trouble even reading a publication like Tightbeam due to references that I just don't understand. (Incidentally, I think I got most of the initials in No 7 except for SFG, SAPS, and OMPA, though I gather that the first is a club and that the other two have to do with amateur publishing¹) I am a high school math teacher, who is currently taking a year off to go to college and finish a Master's degree due to receiving some of the National Science Foundation's money. I feel that I can qualify as a reasonable facsimile of an intellectual, and for this reason, wide and indiscriminant correspondence does not appeal to me -- which seems to be a prerequisite for being an active fan. I'm not trying to downgrade anybody, but I used to get very discouraged at writing a long letter, bringing forth the best ideas and thoughts I am capable of, a letter which would take a good while to think out, and then receive by return mail a letter from a voluminous correspondent who simply does not have the time (without regard to the inclination or ability which he may or may not have) to reply in kind. Because I do have to have something to say, I cannot answer every letter by return mail, and I am embarrassed at always being the one who "owes" the letter.²

Equally discouraging of course, if not more so, is writing a long letter, making comments, asking questions and receiving no answer or mention in the publication at all. This happened to me last year at least five times, which were about all the attempts I made. I can only assume that I talked about something taboo, or something that "someone" had arbitrarily decided to drop out of discussion (the affaire Rehorst for example). I know that I am open to the point that maybe I just wasn't interesting enough, or enough of a BNF (might be something to this) to merit an answer. I still feel I deserve to be told to go to hell at least.

From what I can gather from the letters in Tightbeam, the N3F is the most despised (by everybody -- including its own members), most insignificant part of fandom. Tell me somebody -- where in hell is the main body of fandom? What do they look like? Where do they come from? How do they grow? I'm really curious³

My main interest as a hobby is writing, and I was therefore interested in the comment (by Bjo Trimble) about criticism. I was hoping to get some criticism for my SF and Fantasy when I joined. So far I have gotten none -- as far as I can tell, none of the leading fanzines are even interested in fiction. Incidentally, I am very interested in the story contest and would like to have more information on it⁴ To get back to the criticism -- I have had a good many people criticize my writing in one way or another. I have discovered a curious problem. Asking for criticism is fine, but the person frequently gets very angry if I don't take his advice practically

word for word. If a specific suggestion seems reasonable, I try to use it. If not I ignore it, which seems only reasonable but it alienates people by the dozen.

Mrs. Trimble has evidently just encountered a neffer who did everything wrong starting with spitting on the rug, and ending with criticizing her illustrations. She must know that there never was a boor with an opinion so asinine that someone somewhere didn't agree. I sympathize with her indignation and congratulate her on restricting it (I hope) to a magazine that reaches only the N3F.⁵ As I understand it however, the N3F is primarily a correspondence club, and as is pointed out, written and face-to-face personalities are frequently different. The complete and utter silent treatment is my suggestion. There are many people and groups that cause me similar feelings when I meet, hear of, or think about them, including; Sanctimonious Southern governors who say one thing and do another, the American Nazi Party, Lar Daley, Joseph Welch or any other sanctimonious bigot.

Well, I think I'll quit. If I don't get at least one acknowledgement from the three letters tonight, I guess I'll assume that somebody up there hates me, and silently steal away.

Regards to all or any, *Travis*

→ → → → → EDITORIAL COMMENT ← ← ← ← ←

1) You are quite correct in your guesses. Actually, SFG stands for "Southern Fandom Group", a recently organized regional correspondence club, which was written up in recent TNFF. The others stand for Spectator Amateur Press Society and Offtrail Magazine Publishers' Association. Some of the esoterisms should be explained in the little booklet you probably received ("Ghu's Lexicon") when you joined the N3F (N3F₃, or whatnot) and more should be explained in Bob Tucker's "Neofan's Guide" which (I believe) will soon be distributed to the members. If these are not enough, there is always the Fancyclopedia II published by recent Neffer Dick Eney (417 Ft. Hunt Rd Alexandria, Virginia) for \$1.40 (which price includes the supplement). If you haven't seen it, this humorously written book not only defines virtually every term of fannish significance, but also gives a history of fandom, the backgrounds on many controversies and discussions, and much much more.

2) If you want interesting and intellectual discussions, may I suggest that you request a sample copy of Discord from Redd Boggs (2209 Highland Place N.E., Minneapolis 21 Minn?) I think you will find this small regularly appearing magazine of much interest. You might also be interested in trying Bill Donaho's (1441, 8th St, Berkeley 10 Calif) Habakkuk, but sample copies cost 50¢. This mammoth -- 130 page! -- periodical is for the most part quite interesting tho it is susceptible to material whose only purpose is to try to shock the reader or is pretentious and/or pseudo-intellectual. Also, the sf content is negligible.

3) Even tho (as Ralph Holland says in the latest TNFF) this is not its major goal, the N3F does try to keep its new members informed about general fandom by giving news of sf conventions and fanzines -- the principle areas of contact. (Correspondences with non-Nefferers are usually established after first meeting them at a con or in the pages of some fanzine.) Untill the Dietz's had to abandon it for lack of time, there was a fanzine review column in TNFF and now various substitutes are being experimented with.

4) There are fanzines (tho admittedly not major ones) which do print sf. Neffer Jack Chalker's Mirage comes to mind, off hand. And a number of others, mine included, occasionally carry it. As for criticism, most Nefferers (or even other fens) could n't offer it even if they had the inclination and time to try. You might try writing the mss buro to see whether they do anything like that -- I think they do but I'm not sure. Also, it is Ed Ludwig who can best supply you with more info on the story contest -- why not write him? (Address elsewhere in this ish.)

5) Bjo had something similar but with more detail and without mention of the N3F in Why Is A Fan? ← ← ← ← ←

Peter J. Maurer
818 South Jefferson St.
Hastings, Michigan

When I first joined the ranks of fandom several years ago I made the mistake of mentioning my deep admiration for H.P. Lovecraft. Because my views do not run to the extremes of adoration or violent dislike I have never been allowed to forget it. I have received many letters of protest (some not very tactful) from both sides. My rather clumsy style of writing may have a lot to do with it for it irritates people when they are not quite certain what you are getting at. I admit my fault. However, one fact stands out clearly in this controversy. Those who admire H.P. Lovecraft and those who hate the sound of his name argue emotionally instead of critically. His admirers worship him as a kind of literary magi without seeing the faults in his character or in his writing. All the stories written in the manner of Lord Dunsany certainly don't merit serious consideration and the famous Mythos doesn't do him much credit either. His style is "wordy", "arty", and sometimes downright tedious. But on the other hand he inspired the admiration and respect of men of greater talent than himself such as August Derleth and Robert Bloch. And he wrote several of the finest horror stories ever penned. "The Color Out of Space", "The Whisperers In The Darkness", "Rats In The Walls" and others are perfect examples of a type of short story that has always been with us and always will. I will argue with anyone about Lovecraft at any time and any place because I want his name remembered and I want other people to argue about him. You can hate him if you like but you have to read him first. Damon Knight doesn't care for Lovecraft and since this is a free country he can say what he wants, in print or elsewhere. But he mentioned Lovecraft in print and made people think about him. For that I am grateful. I hope that a whole new generation of Lovecraft haters (and admirers) will keep his name and work alive for the future. It may not be very important but it has a small place in the world of letters.

Yours truly, *Peter J. Maurer*

Fred G. Michel Early one morning, while
V.A. Center I was on sky watch in
P.O. Box 6 San Fernando City, Cal-
Bath, New York ifornia, I saw what is
drawn to the right. It
was a bluish color and shined so much that
the whole place close by was lit up far bet-
ter than in daylight. It was not very high
and was traveling east at about the average
speed of a jet.

The sky was clear and it was about 3 AM. Can
anybody tell me what I saw?

As ever yours, *Fred*

F. M. Busby
2582 14th W.
Seattle 99, Washington

I find it amusing that in TB No. 7 I'm speaking up for Eney's qualifications for TAFF where Ralph left some gaps, while in the upcoming SAPS mailing I'm doing the same thing for Ellik where John Berry omits some factors. Well, I said I was non-partisan this year, and that it's a close one in any case.

What with Floyd pointing out how the future belongs to the Marching Morons, and Tyrannical Al predicting how we'll all be fighting for a bowl of rice and some elbow room--and both of them all too plausible for my taste--maybe we'd better start enjoying the present while we have it; the World of Tomorrow doesn't sound like

much of a prize, according to these boys.

Don Franson: I seriously doubt that any of the "right-hand rules" in electricity or mechanics (gyroscopic phenomena) could solve the isolated alien's left-right dilemma --all these rules depend on purely-arbitrary definitions of the directions of "fields" and "currents", and in fact I've never seen a from-scratch statement of any such rule without a visual-aid of some sort.

Ed Meskys: in discussing a newszine, why is your first thought "it should be available only to Neffers"? Why this instinctive urge to keep N3F a separate island in fandom? Now, if "If it is to be subsidized by the club treasury..." were prefaced to your statement, it would make perfectly good sence. But why an insular newszine? Don't you want to publicize N3F in general fandom? Q.E.D.¹

Bjo: I could not disagree more than with your opening statement: "Good manners and social awareness seem to be two of the things most commonly lacking in fans", or with a number of your follow-up remarks (not all; stay tuned). Fans and pros who have visited here (and there have been a fair number, over the past 4 years) have for the most part been quite likable and of considerable graciousness -- not at all the way you seem to be tagging fans.

But I think I see where the discrepancy is. The fringe-fans and their unpredictable non-fan friends, who turn up in gross numbers at "open" functions, are quite another bucket of molluscs. Several years ago we gave up having "open house" parties built around the nucleus of our fannish-minded friends, and as long as the Nameless Ones are an "open" club, we'll never have a Nameless meeting at our house. In fact, just about any large wide-open party-type function is bound to attract hanger-on types who turn me off every bit as much as they could possibly turn you off (you'll just have to take this last bit on faith; OK?). It's not a matter of fans or non-fans; it's a matter of invitees vs semicrashers, in (the most of) my experience. (Come to think of it, Bjo, you saw an example of that here at our house in 1959; that local bunch that barged in uninvited, in my absence.) The actions you describe are typical of hangers-on, who turn up in fandom as "just another place to go", because their status and behavior are the same everywhere; wherever they go they are hangers-on and only indifferently welcome at best.

There is another aspect. Because of mutual interests and the smallness of the Microcosm, fans tend to gather together and perhaps overdo the gregarious bit, so that (as in the case of neighbors who overthrong, or relatives) perhaps familiarity sets in a little too much. One gets into the habit of over-extending hospitality; others get into the habit of accepting it; pretty soon it is definitely being abused--and this is not the fault of the people but of the situation! Fandom can become something like a 1000-year space voyage; cabin fever sets in when people are simply Seeing Too Much Of Each Other. I don't say that there is no discourtesy or boorishness in fandom outside of the above categories; there is, of course. But it is, in my experience, a small proportion of fannish behavior.

So much for fans in general; now for Neffers specifically. Except that you weren't very specific, gal. How about picking specific instances that you can put names to? Because the trouble with hammering Mr. Anonymous is that everyone gets a guilty conscience except the jokers you really have in mine. So I'll pass this part.

Art Hayes: I'm in only one RR, find it quite interesting but somewhat handicapped for continuity due to rapid turnover (Seth and I are the only 2 left of the original group, after about 6 rounds). But I can see how it would be difficult for an RR based on subjects to keep going more than a year or so; any really long-lasting RR would keep going because of basic mutual interest on the part of the people involved. Right?

Alma: For obvious reasons, I'd better not be taking time these days to write anything that needs reworking in order to be suitable for its destination. So I don't see how I could do a new piece for the story contest this year. I'd feel sort of silly send-

ing one of my old pro-rejects of 1956-7, particularly any that I haven't quite given up on yet (figuring someday I will have rewriting-time). But I'd like to see this contest succeed, and it can't succeed without entries, and it's chicken to urge others to work at it without also making an entry to show good faith or something, so I'll try to dig up an item, even if it's an old one.

Al: a very good issue; lots to comment-on if time weren't pressing as usual.

Best,

-Buz

→→→→→ 1) I really missed Fanac and it looked like there would be no replacement, so I sort of dreamed that perhaps this Neffer newszine might even jolly grow into one. But I didn't want it pushed outside the N3F untill it demonstrated itself as good; I was afraid that it might turn out to be a crudzine and do us more harm than good. Oh, I wouldn't have seen anything wrong with the publisher's sending out a few copies to friends or as trades, but no review copies or active seeking of subscribers. If the experiment worked out, then it might be advisable to push it. That is what I had in mind when I wrote that letter and I now realize that I hadn't said enuf.

Now that Fanac is back on an irregular schedule and (more important) Axe is coming out regularly there is far less need for an N3F sponsored newszine, but I would still support one. How about a monthly 1-sheeter (2 sheets if much is doing that particular month), sample copy paid for by Neff and sent to all members, and indefinite subs solicited at \$1 each? The sub would run untill the publisher ran out of funds at which time it would be time to renew? Also issues 2 - 7 or so could perhaps be ¹/₂ subsidized by the N3F to carry the zine over the hump?

Now all we need is a willing, able, and reliable publisher!

See also McInerney's letter for an alternate proposal. ← ← ← ← ← ← ← ← ← ← ← ← ← ← ← ←

Ralph M Holland
2520 4th St.
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

My item about Wallace West's books seems to have confused some of my readers. Gosh, fellows, I wasn't trying to write anything deep or complicated. I was just trying to do a routine reporting job on a straight news item, namely: that one of our members had four books published in

1960. Perhaps this does not make literary history -- I have no statistics on that. But it is uncommon enough to be news. It is also a strong enough testimonial of writing ability to justify an author doing a bit of crowing, and the fact that he refrained from this natural reaction is also news.

I did not mention his previously published works because I assumed that most of my readers knew that he was a pro-author from 'way back. I do not know exactly how far back. About 1925, after a fannish career which began with Hugo Gernsback's old Electrical Experimenter, I acquired other interests and stopped reading S-F untill 1943 - 1944. At that time I recall reading at least 2 or 3 stories by Wallace West in Fantastic Adventures. It seems that I have seen some stories listed in the 30's, but would have to search my prozine indexes for details.

The concluding "battle cry" in the Tightbeam item is merely my idee fixe -- that the ills of fandom are mainly due to the poor quality of the prozines, and that it is high time we had some new faces (or "different" faces if you prefer) among their staff writers. I refer to those who are identified with some particular zine because their work appears in every issue or two, and who sort of set the standards and styles of the zine. I would like to see Neffer West's style in the prozines oftener -- regularly if possible.

Ralph M. Holland

R. W. Dickey
1144 Vimy
North Bay
Ontario, Canada

I was sort of intrigued with the rather embarrassing predicament of Ruth Plant's cohorts, alien and otherwise. I mucked around with it at school today in between the events of field day, and by ghod, for a "supposedly insoluble" problem, I ain't never heard of so many solutions. Matter of fact, I was playing with the seventh when in a sudden (and startling) burst of regrettable genius halfway down the run to the broad jump I realized that our man on the ground was NOT familiar with the X-T's machine outside of the two button bit.

Unfortunately, I not only loused up the jump, but I was still left in the rediculous position of holding 3 solutions to an insoluble problem...not to mention being flat on my schnozzle in the sand pit. Just one of those days I guess. Anyhow I'll run through my "solutions" for Ruth and anybody else who still recalls the question. Maybe I'm overlooking something, maybe I'm assuming something that isn't quite crick-et. I dunno so I'm asking you.

(1) Ruth says our X-T comprehends all English words except "right" and "left". She seems quite specific on this point, and while "up and down" and "clockwise" have an obvious sort of family tie, I feel secure in assuming THESE concepts are understood by him. Not very much is said of the ship itself, but some use of buttons is made in it -- it apparently has some sort of autopilot -- so it would not appear that the controlls were anything unusual. A stick or controll wheel is probable, so ask him to horse around a bit, with precaution, untill the ship rotates about its lateral axis. Then have him bring it back to what, for simplicity, we assume is its native attitude. Now for discussion let us call the button on the left, which would bring him down, A. (After all this mess I'm hardly going to blow the rotter up!) The other, naturally, is C. So tell him to plop his finger or some such thing on either button and rotate the ship clockwise 90 degrees. If the button moved "up" by the X-T's local orientation, it is A, which he may push at will. If it moved "down", it is C, so he bops the other one. Or if either of you are in a hurry for lunch, just tell him to rotate his fool head clockwise 90 and you get the same results...only it sounds much more impressive the other way.

(2) This method is basically for you obstinate clods who want to get sticky about it and say Ruth said there were only two words because she figured any fool would know full well if he didn't understand right and left he wouldn't understand up and down. So dung on you. If our Ground Controller is in radio contact with our interplanetary wanderer, I should hope he knows where "it" is in relation to the Earth's surface. If the X-T is just entering our atmosphere, it is a safe bet he can see a goodly portion of the disc, possibly all. So call the weatherman. Ask him where the day-night line is, relate it to the ship's position, and order its occupant to clobber the button on the same side as the shadowed surface, or the opposite, as the case may be. And if the dolt is stupid enough to have approached so that he can't SEE the day-night line, then ask him to describe surface features, cloud formations etc "on one side", then "on the other side". Again, by consulting a map and/or a weather chart, you can decide which of his "sides" is left, and advise him accordingly. Nyet?

(3) Then again, it might be more fannish for someone to ask the bloke to mentally visualize the word "scientifiction" in front of the bloody buttons, and whomp the one on the "s" end, eh wot?

Mainly I wanted to know who the stupid clot was that forgot to paint the buttons different colors in the first place anyhow....

Northernly yours,

The Boondocker

→→→→→ A number of other people also proposed solutions which depended upon some sort of visual contact and or knowledge on the part of the BEM. Lawrence Crilly sug-

I first heard this problem in a slightly different and less dramatic form. It considered something like Project Ozma successfull so that radio communications were established with some aliens whom we had never seen. The problem was to explain by radio which way we meant by left and which by right. Untill 4 years ago (or so) physicists believed that this was impossible, but then a new principle was discovered and it is now possible to describe an experiment to them which they can then perform to tell them. I can also think of two ways of "cheating" by "showing" them something. If I find the time to write the letter and if Bob considers it of sufficient interest to print, I will briefly describe all 3 methods. But don't let that stop you from trying to come up with others (or even beating me to the punch with the particular 3 I am thinking of).

One more thing comes to mind: I volunteered to work in the recruiting bureau and asked for some membership application blanks. A few days ago I received a postcard from Dick Finch saying that there is a shortage of them, so "...just write a postcard, which will be cheaper than sending a letter with the application blank in, and refer the potential applicant to Janie Lamb..." So what do I receive in the mail

the same day? TNFF with a notice in it that an application blank was included with every copy. There's a shortage, eh? HA!

This is a way to run a bureau? I can just see my letter to that unknown person whose name I gleaned out of the letter-col of If... "How would you like to join the N3F? Dues are only \$1.60 a year! Send in the cash to Janie Lamb, et cetera." All this on a postcard. Can you imagine how many people I'd recruit that way?

Larry Crilly

Carol Smith Three Hips and a Hooray for Bjo for her letter on good manners
P.O.Box 226 and common courtesy! Count me as one who always writes "thank-
Encinitas, Calif you" notes, but then, I belong to the "older generation".

However, the younger generation does not have a patent on discourtesy; sometimes I think that it is the Hallmark of the American people. And where do we get the right to call ourselves "Americans" to the exclusion of Canada, Mexico, Central and South America? This is one sign of our arrogance, and we are probably the most arrogant and uncouth people in the world. Visiting in Mexico, for example, do we try to speak their language? Certainly not, they must speak ours; and with unfailing courtesy, they do.

Bjo's letter expresses so many things that I have often wished I could say, that I could have to thank her for writing so openly and, perhaps, so courageously.

→ → → → Probably Art Hayed didn't mean to insinuate that the "Flutterbird" RR was continued as a sort of "endurance" contest; indeed it is not. We write because we enjoy each other and because we like to hear from each other; in other words, we are a congenial group. Perhaps that is why we have survived, when other RR's have fallen by the wayside.

Carol Smith

Clayton Hamlin Seems to be normal operating procedure nowadays to sound off on
28 Earle Ave. the "provincialism" of the N3F. Usually in a constructive way,
Bangor, Maine but nonetheless with the idea that this particular characteristic
 is something to be deplored to a certain extent. Just last issue
of Tightbeam for instance, we had letters to this effect from Buz Busby, Bjo, and our
good editor Mr. Meskys.

No complaints, understand; at first glance this does seem to be a realistic appraisal of the situation. Yet I wonder just how many have actually considered the other side of the story. There is another side you know.

It's like this. The basic nature of the NFFF is such that the rules applying to other fans simply aren't applicable to this club, or its nature. For one thing, Neffers are generally correspondence type fans, as opposed to the publishing or convention type fans. Then again, they are what you might call amateur fans, rather than the type of fan you might call the professional fans that abound outside the club. Easy enough to prove; just how many of the members are really well known in the rest of fandom?

But perhaps most important of all is the simple fact that NFFF is about the only group around that is totally independent of anything else in fandom; Neffers don't need anything from them to exist. Not so with the rest; they simply have to have some place to find replacements for gaffiated members, someone that at least knows basically what fandom is all about. And this club is just about the only place around with the recruiting program to supply enough of a turnover of fans to supply this need,

besides of course the actual program to instill a desire to go on to other things. They would be pretty much a dead end without this new group of neos coming along all the time, be they an apa group or a local club that has branched out into publishing. Got to find subscribers for their zine you know, and about the only place to find them is among the readers of stf, who N3F recruits into fannish activity.

Oh, this club has its own type of professional too. Not many of them, which is awful easy to prove. Simply take a roster of 4 or 5 years ago and check just how many are still members--just a casual check seems to indicate it is about 10⁰/o. Generally this kind of fan tends to head up various types of activities in the club; you find their names on the list of officers and department heads. Reason is simple enough--they tend to be the sort of fan that gets a great deal more enjoyment from this neo type club than from the other sort of things of outside fandom.

You know Ed, since you specifically mention Seth Johnson and Racy Higgs as examples of the overly enthusiastic Neffers I sort of wonder if you had considered that this type of thing is very valuable to the club. Maybe it isn't completely sophisticated by the standards of outside fandom, but you know, with half a dozen more like them, willing and able to devote rather enormous amounts of time to promote club activities, this club could really sponsor many activities that would mean a lot to fandom, and to stf too. Just a half dozen more like those two, with Ralph Holland, Art Hayes, Janie Lamb, Ed Ludwig and there isn't anything the club wouldn't be able to do with a reasonable chance of success. There are others too, Stan Woolston, Art Rapp, and Gem Carr among them.¹

Couple of things that Bjo brings up that sort of seem to suggest an attitude which, while prevalent outside the club, just might not be too valid. Understand, I don't want to argue with her about the facts she brings up; such things do happen, though not particularly frequently. Only trouble is, N3F members are not the only guilty ones, far from it. You know perfectly well that you can hear such criticism about just about any segment of fandom, be it FAPA, ESFA, or LASFaS. Only trouble is, this is blaming the clubs for the faults of the individuals. Not quite fair, you know. There have been feuds all over fandom about such things. Probably always will be too, as long as fandom is composed of individualists and nonconformists. Don't forget though, there is another side to this, for each of these irritating types (and at one time or another I suppose everyone gets that way) there is also the chance of finding a fan who will prove to be one of the closest friends you ever meet, who go out of their way to be unusually pleasant. It all balances out in the end, and one always has the opportunity to drop anyone who bothers him--you don't HAVE to answer letters, or meet them.

As for this silly little idea of being laughed at for being a Neffer, good gosh, what of it? Surely after one has learned to put up with the uncomprehending stares of those who insist that everyone who reads stf is just naturally a little odd, this surely is not going to bother him. You know, there is NO compulsion to be a Neffef. Any one is acceptable, and the club will do its darndest to make membership valuable for him in whatever way he wishes, be he the veriest of neos or a professional. Of course it does help make it easier to do so if he puts forth a bit of effort himself, in whatever activity most appeals to him. But certainly no one is forced into activity either.

I must admit to getting a great kick out of that amusing interlude Al related there about asking Gordon Dickson what fanzine he published. In its way it is rather hilarious, and no doubt was treated as such. But one would almost suspect that the virtual deification of the pro writers that happens once in a while might be just as embarrassing to them too. That happens occasionally too, you know. Not just Neffers either--far from it.

More regretfully, there is one criticism to make here--this overdoing of the N3F getting involved in outside fandom, which seems to have turned N'APA into a sort of 2nd

N3F, as a club or as individuals, can be irritating, childish, and overenthusiastic about its own importance. Sure. They can also be kind, fascinating, and more darn fun than you can imagine for anyone, be he the youngest of neos or the most competent of professionals. So let's not be too hasty in decrying some of the absurdities and insisting that only through acting like the rest of fandom can the members justify the existance of the club. This whole thing is so darn worthwhile that I would hate to see it changed. Might take all the fun out of it.

Clay

Salaam Aleichum;

... Oh well.
Leung

Bob Farnham At present, my corry-list is taking a thoro beating as I am ears-deep
506 2nd Ave. in a copy-work job that pays C+A+S+H and may last till early 62.
Dalton, Ga.

I didn't understand too much of the material in the current ish of TB but one thing I did recognize--Bjo's comments on boorish fen. I've come into contact with only 2 such in 15 years in actifandom--the first in 45 and the 2nd, a current would-be-BNF, in 1960, who griped at having gotten a carboned w/c with only 12 lines! He was lucky he was even noticed. When I did that batch of w/c letters I had 18 w/c letters to do, 14 personal ones to reply to which had stacked up while I was a little sick, so I sat up all night long to get them ready for the mailman to pick up. I got one of the snottiest postal cards I've ever seen written.

This sort of fan, of course, does its bit to enhance the rep of our club membership. Another youngster, 15 years old, failed to see thru a blatant hoax-article on females and called me an "obnoxious Misogynist." It makes me laugh how some youngsters, still wet behind the ears, can call me such names in view of the fact I have been married twice and to the second one for 28 years. Of course I know nothing about wimmen! Chuckle! I am NOT a woman hater, consarn it. I LOVE 'EM ALL; trouble is that with my former weight (320 pounds, now 200) and my still more bald dome the gals just looked at me and laughed. 'Course I can't blame 'em!

But seriously, I have met only one boorish fan in all my fannish experience; have had a few fans in my home, Janie and Miller Lamb, Emile Greenleaf, and, some years back, Art Rapp, Bea Mahaffy and two lads from Detroit, all of whom I hold the highest respect and regard for. Art Rapp gave me a copy of his zine Spacewarp on which I promptly upset a cup of coffee. Got it cleaned off nicely, tho, at a stationer's store and had it for many years, untill it got worn out from re-reading.

NO ONE, fan or non-fan, need be unpleasant unless it is his nature to be so, and the only thing to do with such people is drop them.

Sincerely yours--

Boleff

Edward W. Bryant, Jr. Another member of the "faceless crowd" speaks up. Introduc-
Route #2 tion: I'm 15, a high school sophmore, and (of course) a fan-
Wheatland, Wyoming atical proponent of science fiction and fantasy. My prime
interest lies in collecting (I've about 1200 pb's, mags, and
he's now) but I also enjoy corresponding and publishing my fanzine Ad Astra. Sports-
wise, I love to swim. (Indeed, just yesterday my family bought a \$15 season
ticket which allows us all to swim all summer.)

Scott Neilson might be interested in knowing how we, in Wheatland High School, ob-
served the Civil Defence Alert. When the sirens went off, all we did was listed to
civil defence instructions broadcast over the P.A. system and to pick up civil def-
ence instruction cards which were passed out to us. We didn't stand up against the
walls, hide under our desks, or anything. Maybe the reason for this is a feeling of
slight fatalism. After all, Wheatland's only 60 miles from the Atlas Launching Sites
in Cheyne, which are prime targets.

Loved that blast from Bjo on The General Boorishness and Illmanneredness of Certain
Science Fiction Fans! Funny thing; I've always thought that science fiction fans,
being well read and all, would neccessarily be generally courteous and civilized. I
realize, of course, that Bjo is referring to what must be a small minority of SF
fans. If they are the majority, I am afraid that the Year of the Jackpot is upon us.
I, being a neofan of about 8 months, have come in contact by mail with 40 or 50 sf
fans. Of course, my impressions of these people may not be too accurate since I've
never met any of them in person, but I gained the impression of friendliness at least
from their letters. The one exception is an exceedingly nasty note from a pro. How-
ever, I'm satisfied with the ratio of 50 friends to 1 enemy.

A little bit of excitement is afoot. The radio just had an announcement that all National Guardsmen should assemble on the double at the armory. It seems that they are going out to guard the local micro-wave towers. Already, as I write this, three towers have been blown up. Oh well, they'll never catch me.

Sincerely,



Robert N Lambeck The duplication, layout, etc. of No 7 was very good to excel-
868 Helston Road lent. No need to dwell on that -- everything that emanates
Birmingham, Mich. from the Los Angeles group is of the same high quality. The
cover appears to be 1) artwork by Joni, 2) stencilling by
Bjo, 3) tri-color repro by Gestetner. Top rating on all three counts.

Lorentz-Fitzgerald contraction paradoxes: eulk! (My opinion thereof.) By the equations, a finite mass accelerated to the speed of light would have infinite mass. Actually, this is approached only as a limit because it takes an infinite amount of energy to accelerate a mass to the speed of light and we don't have an infinite amount of energy. As for light, light is at the speed of light and it is at this speed that it has a "finite mass." The rest mass of a photon (quantum unit of electromagnetic radiation) is z-e-r-o. This stuff is child's play. If you want some really (and I mean really) hairy ones, let me know.

By the way, when a body of rest mass m_0 is accelerated from some velocity (v_1) to another velocity (v_2), the change in kinetic energy ($m_2 v_2^2 - m_1 v_1^2$) is equivalent to the change in mass ($m_2 - m_1$). That's what happens to the mass defect in fission reactions. Anyone care to use this as the basis for something analogous to the second law of thermodynamics -- applicable to thermonuclear and nuclear reactions?

I, personally, never could stand the A-bomb shelter practice when I was in school. For normal bombs it was OK, but if an A-bomb hit, I'd much rather be out where I'd go fast. Being on the fringes of the blast radius of a regular bomb might lose me a leg, but one of those other things going off leaves open so many, many interesting ways to go -- I'm just not that morbidly curious.

CD practice: CD teams have been particularly lauded for teaching the people to get off the streets into some nearby store where they can stand safely behind a plate glass window. (First they get fried by radiation, second they get torn to pieces by flying glass.)

On the subject of holding material from contributors; I'm guilty myself. However, I always reject material that I have no intention of using as soon as possible. Anything that I'm holding is scheduled for publication or still under consideration. On occasion, I've written the writer of some material and asked whether he or she still wanted it published.

Yours (on the run),



Irving Siegel
2037 Farnham Rd
Toledo 7, Ohio

Concerning the questions raised by Norwood in Tightbeam 6 on light and speeds approaching that of light, the information supplied by Floyd W. Zwicky on these matters in Tightbeam 7 is confused and erroneous. The following aims to correct that situation.

The mass of a "particle" (electron, photon or light quantum, proton, etc.) is given generally by the relativistic formula

$$m = \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1 - (v/c)^2}} \quad \text{where } m_0 \text{ is the "partic-"}$$

le" rest ($v = 0$) mass, v is the "particle" speed, m is the "particle" mass at the speed v , and c is the speed of light.

On the basis of quantum theory one can consider all electromagnetic radiation (including light) as consisting of photons or electromagnetic quanta whose speed is always c . The photon either has the speed c or else there is no photon. Thus, there is no rest mass for a photon ($m_0 = 0$) and it follows from the above formula that the photon mass is zero always.¹

In general, the momentum \vec{p} equals $m\vec{v}$ which is equal to $m\vec{c}$ for the particular case of photons (ie, light). But since the energy E equals mc^2 by Einstein's well known formula, we have $p = mv = mc = \left(\frac{E}{c^2}\right)c = \frac{E}{c}$.

From quantum theory, E is also equal to hf where h is Planck's constant and f is the frequency of the electromagnetic wave. Therefore, since h and c are both universal constants of nature, $p = \frac{E}{c} = \frac{hf}{c} = (\text{constant})f$. Thus a photon has a (linear) momentum even though it has zero rest mass! The photon's linear momentum is made evident (for example) through the well known phenomenon of radiation pressure, which is used to explain the origin of comet tails.²

I might also mention that, besides possessing linear momentum, light quanta also have an angular momentum (or spin).

The preceeding was based on special relativity and elementary quantum theory. These ideas are well-established and do not require a unified field theory for their development, as suggested by Floyd Zwicky. The only paradoxes which might exist would be those arising from the pictorial view of nature which was extant before the year 1900.

Very truly yours,

Julius Siegel

→→→→→ 1) No, the formula doesn't prove that at all! For the case $v = c$ the formula sez $m = 0/0$ which is indeterminate. As for whether or not m does equal 0, why can't one say $m = p/c$?

2) Light pressure isn't strong enough to explain comet tails unaided. The picture is filled out by the solar wind -- a stream of matter constantly being thrown off by the sun which expands hydrodynamically away from it.

Mrs. S. Gordon (General Delivery, Kansas City, Mo) also wrote on this question, but most of what she said has already been expressed in the above 2 letter. ← ← ← ← ←

Phillip A. Harrell I guess you might say I've been rather lazy mainly because I haven't had any letters in but one of the Tightbeams and that was Marion Bradley's. I was reading the last one and thinking to myself "Horray for Bjo! Isn't she wonderful" and all that type jazz. When I finished reading it I decided to stop being lazy and write sort of an "open letter to Bjo and sundry other interested parties" and also to say Thanks to Al Lewis for putting out such a fine zine, and say I'm sorry I didn't get one in TB No 7 but I have a ghod 1st class ^{excuse} for not doing so. The day I got it it was due the day before. (???How's that again???) Rather, I got it one day saying "Letters for TB No 7 are due May 5" and it was then May 6. Obviously the only solution to that dilemma was to hop in my time machine and fly back a week (which is about as long as it takes a letter to get to Califandom) to be sure of being included in TB No 7. Well, as luck would have it my Machine was in the shop for repairs and there wasn't another handy, so I had to miss it. This one I hope to do better on. By the way, what fanzine does Gordon Dickson pub? (NO! Put down that Ax, Al. I know he's a writer, and a very fine one at that.)

Now on to Bjo's meaty letter (love those questions and comment hooks--especially the hooks. Just the thing to hang myself on.) I haven't visited fannishly myself more than once or twice, and that was local and I thanked them by phone later. But I've had two fannish visits from out of town/state fen and my mother got the nicest thank you for the swell time notes from one of them. That and her visit impressed my mother so favorably that now my mother thinks that maybe some fen are human after all.

I try to be as well informed as I can be, and am quite willing to be the first to agree that my opinion is probably wrong. Mainly this is because of a teacher I have that is like Bjo says; in fact the name he has (or saying, if you will) around school is "Daddy Long is Never wrong!" Examples of that are especially prevalent in the way he will give a test two minutes before the bell to dismiss the class. He will look at his watch and say "I meant to do that to see how well you know the subject." Apparently nobody knows the subject as nobody has passed one of these 2 minute tests yet, but still he's never wrong. I had an answer he marked wrong on a test once and went up after class and showed him in the book where I had gotten it right, and all he said was "The book and I don't agree on that point and my opinion is the one that counts." And you know something, he's right. (ALWAYS.)

I think the way to explain Bjo's 4th and 5th paragraphs is to say that fen don't look for hidden meanings in each other's letters, but usually take them as they are meant. I sometimes write a pretty wild letter, and if a regular person were to read it he would think I was nuts. I'm not -- I just like to enjoy myself. A non-fan read one of my letters in Cry, took one look at me and said "You've flipped." I can be sencilbe, but what fun is that all the time? Living with my folks here in Norfolk and being just about the only fan here (there's another that just moved into town), 90 % of the time I have to be sencible, and my letters are my only chance to let myself go. I don't believe in being rude, and I can't stand rudeness to myself and others. I like to let myself go and I think others enjoy it too as they find they can do the same with me. I have some letters which no one but me will ever see in which some of the biggest names you can name let themselves go and have a heck of a time doing it. But enough of that as I promised all of them I wouldn't ever mention a name. And I WON'T tho it was fun, wasn't it?

Bjo is especially right about "constructive criticism". In the hands of some fen it becomes "Destructive Criticism" and they use it as if they have an ax to grind with every fanned writing when they receive a zine. Each zine, even first ishes, they expect to be as Peerless as Shaggy, Cry or Yandro, and they go out of their ways to tell the budding fanned so. This will, likely as not, cause the fanned to stop in his tracks and maybe even drop out of fandom altogether. That type of person can only see what's wrong with the zine (and thinks there's so little good about it that it's no use worrying about it), dashes off a letter telling the fanned all the things he found wrong with it, and says that the ed would do fandom a favor if he would never publish again. Chances are this type of person (and I cite from personal experience) never has even attempted to publish a zine and thinks that all you have to do is sit back and watch the zine assemble itself. Nothing could be further from the truth, as any fanned will readily agree. Hecto is it's own special horror as not only do you find yourself turning purple from head to foot (or green, red, blue or black) from the ink, carbon or pencil, but you find all around you turning the same color (walls, bed spreads, sinks, etc.) and summer brings it's own special joy...soft hecto. Talk about FUN, you haven't lived till the compound sticks to the back of the master sheet and won't come off...then you wish it hadn't. After an eternity and a half you finally coax enough pages off the sticky ooze to call an issue, you staple it together, mail it out, and sit back and wait for the letters of comment to come rolling in. And you wait...and wait and wait, and still you wait some more. Finally when you're convinced the postoffice lost every issue, a letter comes in. You tear it open with shaking fingers, and read "Bhoy! That was the most rotten thing I've ever read. I

The fanzine cover, I think, is a rather important part of the overall impression that a fanzine makes. If it's lousy, it puts the reader in a bad frame of mind for going through the rest of the magazine. It is especially important to have as good a cover as possible on a new, unproven fanzine. (Older fmz can get away with a stinker of a cover occasionally, because the readers know through experience that what's inside is worthwhile.) For my money, now, the best way of getting an impressive cover is to have it done by 4 color litho.¹ Of course, this is both impractical and impossible for fans. What does that leave us with?

Ditto is perhaps the best alternative, since it's not only inexpensive, but has great flexibility. Also, you can print up to 7 colors (or more, if you really can get esoteric carbons) (not to be construed as a plug for Bruce Henstell's fanzine!) at one time, with one press run. (This is as opposed to mimeography where, unless you resurrect the trick Vicolor process, you need one press-run for each color. And here you risk precarious register problems.) Ditto has its limitations as to run, but then how many fanzines (excluding large projects like N3F-covering zines) print more than a 100 copies or so? There are 7 colors of ditto carbon available to the interested faneditor. Five of these are available almost anywhere in the states -- purple, grey, red, green and blue. Two more are available without much trouble through German or Swedish fans -- yellow and brown. With these colors you can do just about anything you wish to ditto. There are other colors -- various fine shades of purple and green in particular, and a flesh-colored carbon is rumored to exist somewhere -- but these are meer additives and not neccessary.

Unless you are really adept at putting artwork on master, and you probably aren't, you would be wise to try to get a good fan artist to put his/her own artwork on masters for you. Most artists, provided they have the time (and pressuring them will get you nowhere, I assure you!), will be only too glad to put their stuff on master for you. Some will even supply the masters, though it is polatic for you to offer to pay for them. This way you are assured of good work and they are assured that if their work looks lousy in print it won't be anyone's fault but their own -- unless you have duplicating problems, in which case you're likely not to get any on-master artwork in the first place.

But suppose you have to put your own artwork on master. (Well, not your very own drawings -- if you're like me, you can't even doodle half-well -- but stuff that artists send you on paper). Well, to dispose of one popular myth, you don't have to have an "artistic nature or bent" (whatever that is) to be a good masterer of artwork. I can cite myself as an example. What you need is patience and a number of styli. These styli may be purchased at the larger, better-stocked stationers in your town for various prices -- I paid 55¢ apiece for mine, but before I purchased my set, I was offered some styli at over \$1.50 each. (If you can't find cheap styli, you can write me and I'll get them for you, provided you send money in advance to cover costs of purchasing, postage, and packaging.) Get a fine point stylus, and get at least 1 heavy ballpoint stylus. This latter is for darking in heavy areas, but if you can't afford it, you can always substitute a dull-pointed pencil or something. Well, what you really get in all is up to you. My set includes the following points: very fine, fine, medium, broad, and coarse. I also have shading wheels, but I haven't any shading plates. Probably I should get some, but the cheapest I've ever found have been over a buck apiece, and that seems too, too much to pay for a 4-inch square of plastic with a grainy surface. (Instead, when I need shading plates, I use a piece of sandpaper.)

OK. You have your equipment, your drawings, and your masters. You're all set to go. What next? Take the drawing -- let's suppose it's an ATom cartoon for your front cover; it probably isn't, but I'm familiar with these so let's assume that it is -- and either paperclip it or otherwise attatch it firmly to the top of the master sheet (this is the white paper, not the back carbon sheet). Stapling does it nicely, but the holes sort of bug me. Then stop a moment and work out a color-scheme. Take care here, because you can really ruin a drawing by choosing the wrong colors. Unfortunately I can't offer many hints. I guess it's up to your own taste, and we can but hope that you have some taste.

After that's done, take out the tissue interleaving sheet between the master sheet and the carbon sheet and do all the areas you want to reproduce in purple. Use a firm, but not too firm else your master will tear, stroke of the stylus right on the illustration. You should get a clear, heavy-to-the-feel line on the back of the mas-

ter sheet. If you don't you're either not pressing enough or you have defective masters (and there are such things, I assure you). Anyway, take care of all the purple parts and then put the tissue sheet back in. Now go thru the same business for the colors. Here you put the color carbon behind the master sheet, face up, and trace again. There is a technique which one must learn in order to trace exactly, but I don't propose to go into it here.

In fact, I wonder how I got off on the subject of artwork in the first place? Well, anyway, let us hope that you develop a native sense for putting artwork on master and producing those nice fanzine covers I talked about way back in the second paragraph of this letter. NOTE: Hardly any of this applies to mimeographed artwork!

-o00o-

Now I'd like to talk a bit to Scott Neilsen, of Webster Groved, Mo. I wouldn't bother except that I notice that (a) he's only 14 and (b) he's put out his first fanzine and sounds too dangerously enthusiastic about the Big Future in fandom he has before him. I'd like to warn you, Scott, against getting too carried away in this microcosm. Publishing a fanzine or 2 can be a lot of fun when you start -- I know that the first issues of Psi-Phi were tremendously entertaining for me to put out -- but after a while it becomes sheer work. Also, people begin to take your magazine for granted and the egoboo intake lessens. Where the breakoff point comes is difficult to say. For me, it comes when the magazine becomes more work than fun, when you find yourself working on The Next Issue even though you don't really want to. At your age you should be busy just living your life, not cooping yourself up in a room with a typer and duplicator. I know you're not going to believe me, but I know. I went through that stage myself and I've only emerged from it in the past few months.

I speak to you not as someone telling you to get out of fandom, but as an Old Fan and Tired. Publish your fanzine -- I urge that of you -- but watch out for this break-off point I mentioned. When your schoolwork starts suffering and you find you're spending too many hours a day behind the typewriter or mimeoscope, then slow down.

But you won't listen to me. And I don't know you from Adam, so I can't really apply the generalities I've concluded to your specific case. But you mention in your letter that you're a pitcher, and you swim. Well, obviously you're not the violent introvert that I was, and to a degree still am. But really: take care! If I've managed to confuse you, just write and I'll see if I can straighten things out.

-o00o-

Bjo is oh so right in her comments regarding the social behavior of too many fans. Fortunately, of the people I've had over here at Lichtmanhaus, none of them have been of the slob type. In fact, none of them have even come close, but then I've not issued invitations to many people. The Fanhillton, with its slanshack atmosphere, attracts more people than this ol' house out in the sticks of LA56, and in a way I'm glad for this. I like most fans as people, but I would rather choose my own time for associating with them.

This isn't such a heretic attitude to take, either. How many of you can stand your relatives for longer than a short visit every couple months or, in some cases, decades?

In short, I agree with Bjo 100 o/o. More than that, if possible!²

-o00o-

This is probably going to be my last year in N3F. There are a number of reasons for this. In the first place, my primary motive for joining N3F was to participate in N'APA. I was on an apa-joining kick at the time and the "stigma" of being an N3F member didn't bother me as much as it seems to bother some people. In fact, I haven't objected to being an N3F member at all.

But my first interest was the apa, and still is. However, much to my disappointment, the apa has not at all lived up to the expectations that I had hoped for it. It is, in fact, a 7th-rate group in a fandom currently possessed of 7 apas. And though this

will hurt some people to the quick, the fault lies in the fact that too many of the members are serious constructive Neffers, to the exclusion, it would appear, of anything and everything else.³

Many of them don't even bother to contribute to the mailings, preferring to string out a line of penalty charges. But when they do, what do we get to retch at? Well, usually little of anything. Some comments about the N3F, oh how thrilling. This sort of thing runs to "What have YOU done for N3F recently?" or "Publish something for the Memory Book" (no mention of how much cost this involves, either) or "If you don't like the N3F, why don't you get out?" (the thing here is, while I have nothing against N3F as a fanclub, some of its members are quite obnoxious-- I'd name names, but this would create Hard Feelings)(on the other hand, some of its members are darned Good People, and here I will name names: Marijane Johnsom, Bjo, and FM Busby, just to pick on those in this TB). Or, barring this sort of thing, there will be putrid attempts at mailing comments. There is a definite art to writing interesting mailing comments that will be readable to most of the membership, but few people in N'APA seem to know this, and if they do they don't practice it. The comments are very sketchy and poorly written, along the lines of the Traditional SAPS Mailing Comment, which no longer exists to any extent in SAPS. Or else, if there's none of these, there's putrid fiction (one page stories with no point, Feghootisms that were best left unhatched, and rarely anything good, but sometimes, sometimes) or articles on science that few people care to read or reviews of comic books or monster movies. All of this is, I suppose, legitimate fanzine material, but it is terrible stuff to read, in or out of an apa. The few good publications in the mailings stand out like sore thumbs in a field of little fingers. But few of these are really good. They are excellent only in comparison to the utter crud. In comparison with apazines from other apas, they are average or perhaps somewhat above average. I could go on enumerating the faults, but this would be pointless.

It was this way when I came into the apa. I purchased the first 3 mailings and my membership started with the first mailing. I noticed some slight improvement in reading the first four mailings in sequence, and figured that maybe it'll get better in the future.

It hasn't.

Instead, the quality of publications has gone down and down, untill in the last mailing there were only 40 pages or less out of a total of 170 that were worth reading. The rest was below average or else sheer crud. This is a worse percentage than in the 4th mailing. There is a chance that under Harness' black hand, N'APA may pick up. I've a 6-pager of variable value in the June mailing, and an article in another's magazine (if he pubs it).

But if it doesn't improve by December, then N3F and N'APA have seen the last of me. I just wanted to say all this to let anyone interested know that it's nothing I dislike about N3F per se, but just a deficiency in its apa.

-oOo-

Shakespeare definitely rewrote his stuff many times. Though, I'll admit, his plays were less well-written than his sonnets. The facts as I know them are like this: Shakespeare's primary interest was his sonnets, his poetry. The plays were but a concession to reality, a way of making money. Still, the man had definite talent. He was perhaps one of the top 3 playwrights of all time. Some of his plays are sheer poetry, most of them are good. Offhand I can't think of one that I would consider crud.

That they are dull to modern readers is due primerily to the change in the English language. But Shakespeare's plays were difficult reading even to the people of his day. Wm. S. had a terrifically large vocabulary, consisting of all sorts of specialized jargons, and he held it back not at all in writing. Consequently, his work is

To someone who is interested in reading some Shakespeare, I might recommend the following plays as particularly good: Macbeth, Taming of the Shrew, and Othello. Perhaps some mentors in the audience are chuckling at my choices. Let me hasten to add that these are plays I found interesting, not necessarily workmanlike.

Bh

2) Aha! So you're a 103 % Boer!

In regard to Floyd's letter, I wonder seriously just how much further we can go in developing mechanical scientific culture without developing along social lines as well. Of course if the bottom of the human melting pot is to do most of the breeding

the general level of the human race will go gradually downwards. But then, consider at the same time the Athens of the Golden Age of Greece, where every citizen was cultured, studies and learned all he could and spent much of his time in one philosophical group or another and really kept his body fit and trim through athletics.

All this was possible because Athenians lived on backs of thousands of slaves. Now the same situation arises again where we'll all be living in an automated robot operated society. With plenty of time to acquire all the learning and skills one sets one's heart on, perhaps society would become one of higher intelligence and even better physically through being properly fed and exercised, etc.

Most sf authors seem to postulate pretty grim futures for earth, though. Orwell's 1984, Huxley's Brave New World, and others keep coming out postulating atomic doom and the like. But I'm just old fashioned enough to wish one or 2 authors would come out with a utopia-type futures once in a while. Like Bellamy's Looking Backward, for instance. Or some of those lovely utopia's in Gernsback's Amazing Stories Quarterly. Remember one of an Atlantis under the sea where they really had a near perfect culture and civilization?

You know, there really is a need for a fan file of the Neffer membership listing their hobbies and such. One neo who just joined volunteered to do filing work of some sort and I wonder if we couldn't set up a cross indexed fan file whereby fans would be filed by their fanning equipment (duplicators, addressographs, varitypers, typers, and the like). It might be possible to do lots of things if the directorate knew just who to call on for what when something came up that needs doing.

Fanatically yours,

Art Johnson

→→→→→ Might it not be possible that he joined in order to get into N'APA? He does belong to virtually every other apa there is, you know. Why must you suspect him of ulterior motives? ←←←←←

Art Hayes I am sending you over 225 copies of a 1-sheet issue of Thru The Haze.
Bird's Creek I hope it will go as a rider with Tightbeam, although this publicat-
Ont., Canada ion has no official standing and is to be billed for any extra cost
involved in so sending it. I hope to have such a rider with each and
every issue of Tightbeam and TNFF. It will vary in size from a 1-sheeter to possibly
a 4-sheet issue.

I've received a writeup on Ann Chamberlain, and am including it in the 2nd TTH. I would like further writeups on other members for future use in like manner. I DARE you to send me such a writeup, specially those of you who have a long period of experience in fandom, in or out of the N3F. In the case of the newer and younger members, I may include more than one writeup per issue, but I would like to have at least one such writeup in each and every issue.

There is a semi-official tie-up between Neffan News Service (of Stan Woolston) and TTH. A 3rd issue of TTH is planned to go with the next TNFF (not as part of TNFF, but as a rider). A first and a 2nd have been done, thereby showing that there intent to make this a regular feature. Since it is meant as a regular feature, you can now be sure that any news 'of Neffers will appear or at least be given editorial consideration, and that (if used) it will be used in a very short period of time. Therefore this should be an incentive towards making use of this "benefit". Your cooperation is essential if this is to be a success.

What is a fan? Why the insularity that has been a feature of N3F in the past? There are many of us in the club who are trying to break down this, and we are succeeding, untill some member decided to throw monkey wrenches into the works. Albert Lewis, in the last TNFF, had a second in a promised series on non-Neffers clubs and activities.

This is to be applauded and it is hoped that it is continued. But, whenever we seem to be making headway, we get some WKT attempting to reverse this success by attempting to deny the right of speech to some member. This is usually done by a tirade, 99% unjustified. A calm reasoning letter directed towards that member will do a heck of a lot more than those deliberately snobbish letters. What gives the right to a selected individual to attempt to interpret FOR the club that the actions of ONE are not in the "fannish" more? Sure, some of the members may complain...but, is it not their right to complain within the limitations of their viewpoints? What other basis do they have?

A saturnalian fiend,

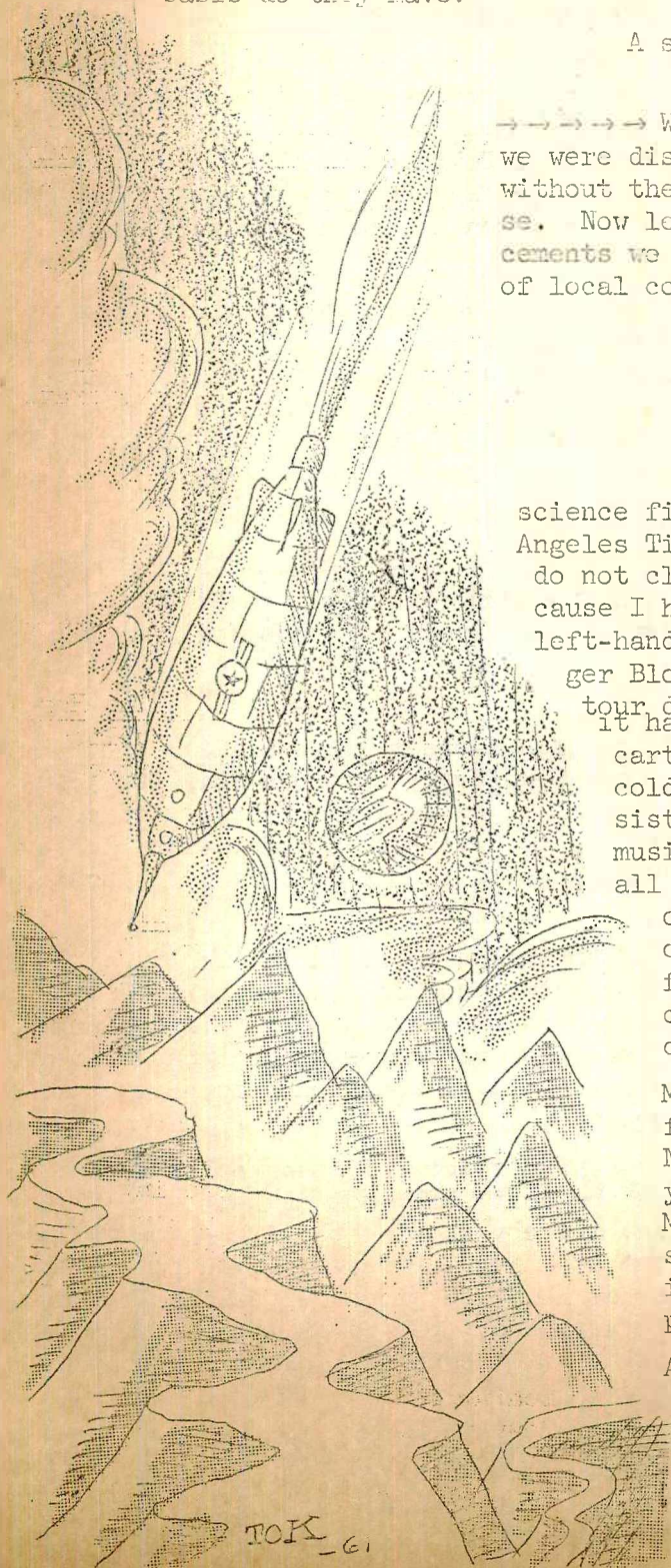
Art Hayes

→→→→ Well, it looks like we now have the newszine we were discussing -- no sooner said than done! And without the need for directorate approval or club ex-se. Now let's make use of it by sending in the announcements we want to present to the entire club (such as of local cons) and newsitems of interest to Neffers. ← ←

It seems that a Sweedish composer, Karl-Birger Blomdahl, has written an opera which a Times music critic calls a science fiction epic. This was on page 14 of the Los Angeles Times Calendar of music, art, drama, etc. I do not claim it is a science fiction epic simply because I have never seen it. The critic gave it a left-handed compliment: "Sweedish-composer Karl-Birger Blomdahl's science fiction epic, 'Aniara', is a tour de force of the first water. Not badly made, it has in its way the slickness of an industrial cartoon. One is impressed with the composer's cold-blooded ability to write two hours of consistently ugly but stylistically well-integrated music. A second hearing of such a work would in all probability be as thrilling as re-reading a cheap whodunit, and for that reason alone the choice of 'Aniara' as a potential repertory fixture must be questioned, since rehearsals constitute the lifeblood of musical permanency."

My comment on this is: Here is an opening for future musicians who wish to compose epics. Not just opera, but any kind of music. And you should read what the critics said about Mozart and Shakespeare. Their "music" is still here. Where are the words of the critics? They are remembered because of Shakespeare and Mozart's fame.

Apparently, earlier this year, British undercover agents cracked down on a spy ring in London. Persons subsequently arrested and convicted had been transmitting vital naval information to the Soviet Union by reducing photographic messages to "microdots"



and hiding them under punctuation parks in "innocent" letters. Apparently this can be done by anyone with a microscope, a 35-mm. slide camera, and special high resolution film. Just take the picture, set the unmounted negative under a microscope, and reduce the image to a small dot on the stage of the instrument. Expose the micro-image on the high-resolution film. When processed, punch it out with the help of a hypodermic needle. This information came from Popular Photography, July 1961. More particular information can be obtained from a book (Microphotography) by GWW Stephens, published by John Wiley And Sons, New York, 1957.

Dick Finch.

~~~~~

James V. Taurasi, Sr.  
18-36, 129 St.  
College Point 56, N.Y.

This portion of the NFFF has been about the most interesting and enjoyable one to me. The letters have all been of some interest and most of the subjects have been those that I've been interested in. The changing of editors for each issue has brought about a constant difference in the magazine which is refreshing. Frank Prieto and I have long been discussing the possibility of offering to put an issue out ourselves. We may come to the right decision after our annual report of the coming World Science Fiction Convention. This year Frank Dietz will be our reporter at the Seacon. He will forward an Air-Mail Special Delivery letter each evening giving the highlights of each day. That issue of Science-Fiction Times will be mailed out "First Class" as soon as the last report is in.

Speaking of Science-Fiction Times, Ray Van Houten, Frank Prieto and myself had a long talk about the delays in the last 6 or so issues and came away with the decision to mail out all future issues "First Class" from the first June issue on. This will increase the prices somewhat. The new rates will be: One year \$5.00, \$1.75 for 6 months, with it still being published twice a month. This should place us back on schedule. This applies to United States subscribers only; foreign subs are still the same price as before and will continue to go out "Third Class".<sup>1</sup> Actually the only issue that has been late since the first of the year has been the First June issue. The others were mailed out on time but some have spent as much as two months in the Post Office Department before arriving. Why, we don't know -- and it is hard to believe. The first June issue was delayed because we wanted Ed Meskys to give us a special report on the 6 fan mags that have been nominated for "Hugos" this year. Ed does an excellent fan mag review column for us each month.<sup>2</sup>

One subject that has given us much thought has been the non-science-fictional material in fan-mags, almost since the birth of fandom. There has been a school of thot that says that if an amateur magazine is published by a science-fiction fan and distributed among science-fiction fans, then it is a fan mag (science-fiction that is). I have never bought this definition. In my opinion, a fan mag should contain only material about science-fiction, weird or fantasy and/or the personalities in that field. Music, race cars, and what have you are the most interesting subjects, and I like to discuss many of them for hours, but not in a science-fiction mag. I have many interests outside of science-fiction, but never mix them. When I buy a science-fiction fan mag, I want it to be about that subject. If I wanted to talk about racing cars, etc, I'd buy mags in that field. For example: I'm a collector of toy trains, as is Frank Prieto. We also publish a toy-train fan mag, BUT we don't lable it science-fiction, and you don't read articles etc on Toy Trains in Science-Fiction Times.

Naturally every fan has the right to publish what he wants, and far be it from me to suggest stopping this. If science-fiction fans want to publish articles on cars, music, and what have you that's OK with me, but don't call it science-fiction. It is not! You'd look mighty funny going to the store and buying a can of pears only to



Sincerely,

James V. Farnham Sr.

So long -- see you on that first moon trib,

Esther Richardson



Larry G. Moore      Very nice cover, that was, on Tightbeam 7; the same goes for 3829 James Ave. the other artwork in the letterzine. It was the first issue of the zine I've received, other than the one Janie Lamb sent Ft. Worth 10, Tex. me when I joined the NFFF in April.

After seeing Scott Neilson's letter in the zine introducing himself, I decided to do the same. I'm 15 (June 17, actually) and this fall I'll go to high school where I'll take my last year of Spanish. I'm left handed, but don't have nearly as much trouble as that fellow who wrote a story for Reader's Digest ("My Sad Life as a Southpaw") did. I admit I did have a little trouble learning to play the violin (in fact, I didn't learn how), but the only thing that bothers me now is having to have my arm hang over the side when I have to sit at the end of the lunch table. I'm so busy watching for the people coming by that the lunch period is over before I know it. And if I don't watch for the people who rush by, I make a mess of myself and the table. I've known about fandom for 1 to 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years now. My hobby isn't collecting fanzines or prozines, but I do like to read the current ones. My interests include coin collecting and philately<sup>1</sup>, science fiction, and flying saucers.

Yes, I believe the flying saucers are here. They're as real as a slap in the face. There are just too many detailed accounts from people of high standing to be ignored. Of course, I don't believe all the accounts I read, but the majority of them I do believe. As for where they come from, I'll believe they are from other planets. I doubt the Russians could build a saucer, or America. Do saucers exist? Science says no, Adamski says yes. Some of the strange happenings on this planet include the falling of frogs, eels, hailstones (which weigh almost a talent<sup>2</sup> a piece), grain, colored water, flesh and blood, etc, from a cloudless sky, the disappearance of people and ships, planes that go into the clouds -- and never come out, to mention a few. Are the aliens dangerous? I doubt it, since they have been observing us as far back as 1500 BC.

Another reason I'm writing to the letterzine is to introduce to you a club I am a member of. It's the Science Fiction And Fantasy Readers' Club and its members number 150 or more. I'm told it was organized ten years ago. At present we have no activities, dues, O-O, etc. If possible we are going to pubb the O-O this month, or at least soon. The club has four officers; Ed Bryant, an NFFF member, is the co-President, and I am the co-Vice president. If you're interested in joining, just write to Ed or me.

Yours weirdly, *Samy*

- → → → → 1) You should get together with Esther Richardson.  
2) And, if I may ask, just how much is a "talent" And why do you use this weird system of measurment?

Donald Franson      I don't know if Tightbeam should include egoboo, but I  
6543 Babcock Ave      liked the cover on No 7. Thanks to Joni, Bjo and all  
North Hollywood, Calif. those shading plates.

Al Lewis asks why does Tightbeam only contain reactions to Tightbeam? Well, that's what it's for. If we wanted to discuss Hugo Gernsback's article, we'd write to the publication it appeared in. I wrote my comments to Cry. I did discuss his idea that college clubs should put out fanzines. They should, and when one did, I sent for it. (The Twilight Zine.) Where are the others, since Gernsback's article appeared in four publications?

The best letter in Tightbeam was Bjo's, but I am not going to comment on it except to say that I agree. Whatever she said ought to be useful, if taken in the right spirit, which is: what can we do to improve the club, so that it will boost itself? Not just, what can we do to boost the club ignoring its faults? I got a letter from







I just might enter the story contest. The only thing holding me back is time. I've got several articles promised for people that I want to do before starting anything else. I've also got a tremendous backlog of letters to write and this will take time too. But I will try to find the time somewhere.

I've got to stop now, but I'll be seeing you at the next ESFA meeting and every one after that.<sup>1</sup>

Yours Trufannishly,

*Mike*

→→→→→ Yes, lo and behold, you were at the ESFA meeting! Well, another stf club down the drain! ←←←←←

Frederick Norwood  
3 Ames Street  
Cambridge 39, Mass

I sent my problem in to Willy Ley, too, but either the PO swallowed it or R. Ley was still sick from answering a particularly fuggheaded letter I had previously sent him, for I got no reply. While I haven't

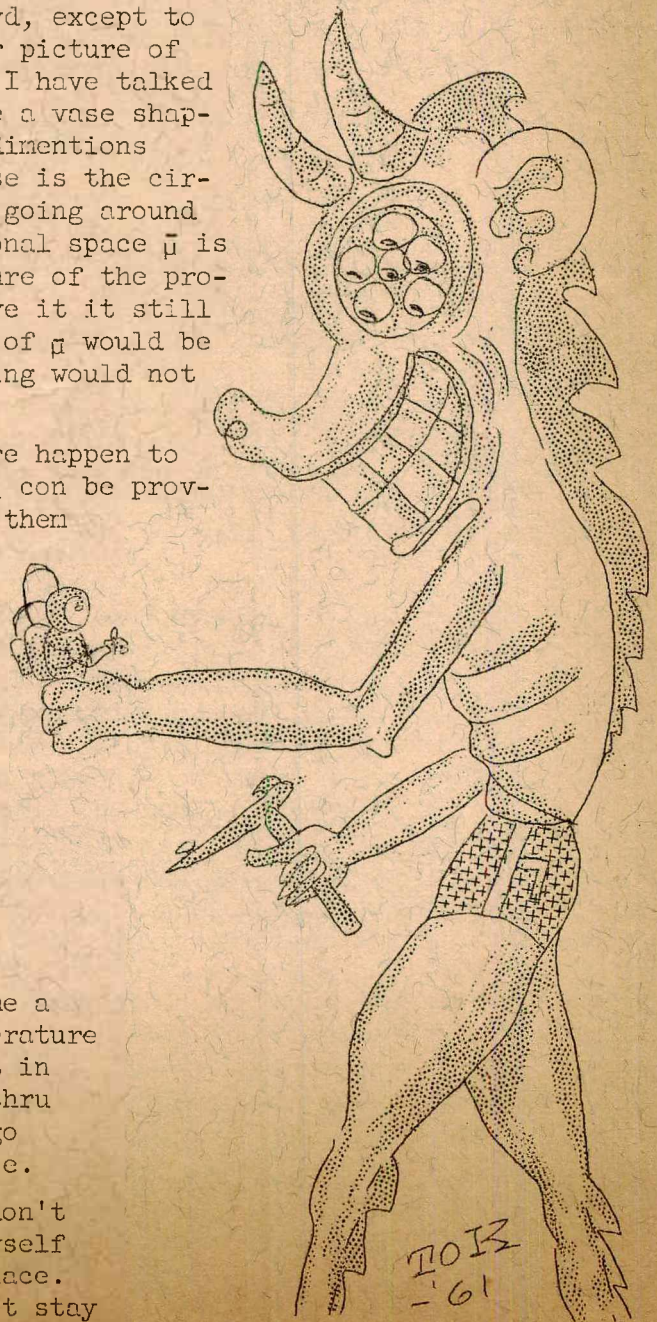
the foggiest idea about your fallacy, Floyd, except to agree with the conclusion, I have a better picture of  $\pi$  varying with the kind of space now that I have talked it over with a number of friends. Picture a vase shaped object, with its surface a plane in 2 dimentions warped into the 3rd. The mouth of the vase is the circumference of the circle, with the radius going around the side. Thus, on this curved 2-dimentional space  $\pi$  is less than 3.1415926.... This is the picture of the problem that I have now, but tho I might solve it it still seems that the proof of the irrationality of  $\pi$  would be based on such fundamentals that this warping would not affect it.

Speaking of fundamentals, anybody out there happen to know what Piano's axioms are and whether  $\pi$  can be proved irrational from them? I have heard of them but have never been able to find them listed.

Floyd, you are a pessimist about the marching moron problem. Now that there is a cheap effective prophylactic the valance is bound to go down. All thas is needed is a large volume of publications on the subject, disguising information as pornography (instead of the reverse which is so popular now), and the masses will stop having the kids that they don't want anyway. Nobody ever said that the morons wanted to march.

With the solution of that problem will come a better moral situation. I doubt that literature or ethics will improve appreciably, except in volume, but so many crimes are committed thru ignorance that the rate will be bound to go down with better education and intelligence.

There ought to be more visiting fans, so don't discourage Scott, Al. I welcome people myself except that a dormatory isn't quite the place. And I'd always welcome a visitor who didn't stay





2. Abolish the MS Bureau. A good fanned will write or find his own material and



there are quite enough bad faneds in fandom without encouraging more.

3. Abolish the Welcomembers. Most fen who can write intelligent and interesting letters are already too busy writing them to friends to bother with strangers. This leaves neofen or wellmeaning nitwits, many of whose letters scare away the people we want to attract and attract the people we do not want.

4. Abolish the Fanzine Title Bureau. What the hell does it matter how many fmz have the same title?

5. Abolish the library. Nobody uses it.

6. Abolish the National Fantasy Fan as a general fanzine. It's impossible for a fanzine to be both an official organ and a good general fanzine. Either it will be a dull and pompous verbiage from long winded officers or sooner or later there will be a row with the editor over his personal tastes as editor. Remember Burbee and the LASFA and Keasler and the N3F.

If anyone wants to carry on with these projects let him do so as private fanac and not waste space in the club magazine.

With the deadwood cleared away the N3F might be able to set about its proper function of attracting high quality recruits to fandom, on these lines:-

1. The function of the OE of the N3F should be limited to publishing as neatly and as economically as possible:

a. Fanzine reviews. These should come from a panel of reviewers--people like Gais and Carr who have shown their ability to write intelligent and interresting reviews. Each faned can send his zine to whichever he prefers.

b. News, pro and fan.

c. Essential club business, but no longwinded 'messages'.

d. Names and addresses of all members and prospective members. (see 2 below.)

e. Letters, expecially from neofen.

2. Officers should be appointed to scrutinize the pro and fan field and send lists of names and addresses of potential new fans to the OE. Liason should be close with Ken Slater whose OF already does a great deal of this sort of work. Every potential neofan should be sent a sample copy of the OO in which his name appears.

At present I'm sure more people are turned away from fandom by their first experiences than are attracted in. When their names appear in a prozine letter column they get three classes of material--dealers lists, a sample copy of the present TNTF, and sample copies of a new crudzine whose editor is desperate for subscribers. (The better fanzines don't need to throw away free copies in the hope of netting an occasional new subber.) In the circumstances it's not surprizing that they run away screaming.

But with the new set-up the newcomer would be presented with a sensible and comprehensive picture of what fandom has to offer. He can pick and choose among the fmz he sees reviewed and the odds are that he will subscribe to one or two of them if he's a potential fan. I can't think of anything more likely to entice a fan into the field than a lively review column...or anything less likely than the N3F as it has been up to now. No reflection on Magnus, of course, who has done a wonderful job with the material he's been given and would be a perfect OE for the new set-up I propose.

-----Walt Willis

Is aged corflu corGhu?...Alfred Raulcit Erickson

Well, there you have it--written and published 7 years ago. Much of what he recommended has been adopted in the last few years, and some of the other points should be seriously considered. (I disagree personally on the mss buro--where else is the neo faned to get his start?) Why weren't these adopted then? Apparently there was much interest at that time in reforming the N3F for Postie was devoted to nothing else. (This is the only issue I have so I don't know how long this reform mood lasted.) From hearsay I gather some major feud broke out within the N3F shortly afterwards which caused most of the members -- including the reformers -- to quit in disgust. Any of you oldtimers--am I right? Anyhow, the age of improvement is apparently upon us now. Willis didn't want the N3F to become the MT-F...Alfred Raulcit Erickson

With all my lousy puns this is becoming Tritebeam....Alfred Raulcit Erickson



Appropos of the preceeding, here's an excerpt from a recent letter I got from John Baxter. "By one of those strange coincidences, I only this morning received a letter from Maryjane Johnson, asking if I would like to join the N3F. This was apropos my letter in the June Amazing (written so long ago that I can't remember what I said - and, curse of curses, that issue won't be out here untill September at the earliest!), and I gather she hasn't yet heard of or seen Quantum, Bunyip and the other things I've Wouldn't it be more appropriate to call a fanzine Bunyap or Bunyak?... Alfred Erickson been associated with. It's a temptation to pay out the 5 bucks and get on the w-l, but I've been warned off a surfeit of fanac by my doctor, and I think my present commitments are enough to keep me going at present. Of course, I'll stick with letter-hacking, Bunyip and the apas, but just now, I think the N3F would be a little too much." Do they have fanspleens instead of fanzines in the Cult... Well, this does it--my issue of TB is drawing to a close. I had a few more rather windy things to say, but since they ought to be avoided, they will. I forgot to mention this above, but Bob Lambeck would like to receive his letters before the 20th, and the 25th is the absolute last date for inclusion of 1 or 2 late letters. And please--after you finish typing the letter, if you ever have 7 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> seconds to spare, please re-read your letter and correct some of your grammer, typos, etc! Some of the letters were abominable! I tried to edit them all but undoubtedly missed some goofs or made them worse, and undoubtedly I intruduced a number of my own. Like, Ai dunt no non uv dis heer gramma ur spelin stuf. ...and is the Cult's head a dreaditor?... Alfred Raulcit Erickson.

Mary was a little fan,  
was fleeced of all her dough,  
for fanzines took up all her geld  
at thirty bucks a throw.

She Ditto'd it in school one day,  
Which was against the rule.  
The one who dared to interfere  
Was found dead in the pool.

Mary's father punished her--  
He made her read some stf;  
and to her everlasting shame,  
she's in the en three ef.

To terminate this awful tale  
I voice this urgent plea--  
Don't ever publish fanzines  
Or join the en of three.

--he better remain Anon.

If you are NOT a neffer and are unfortunate enough to receive this it is because you are mentioned within (like, HUNT for egoboo)  
I believe there is something of special interest for you within or just to let you know that I am not dead and you will receive a letter of fmz from me Real Soon Now, and I am sending this as a sort of trade to make up for my delinquency.

JANIE LAMB  
Box 364  
Route 1  
Heiskell,  
Tennessee

FORM 3547 Req.

Forwarding postage guaranteed by above. If not deliverable, return postage is guaranteed. But try to forward it  
--PLEASE?????



Jerry Page  
193 Battery Place, N.E.  
Atlanta 7, Georgia