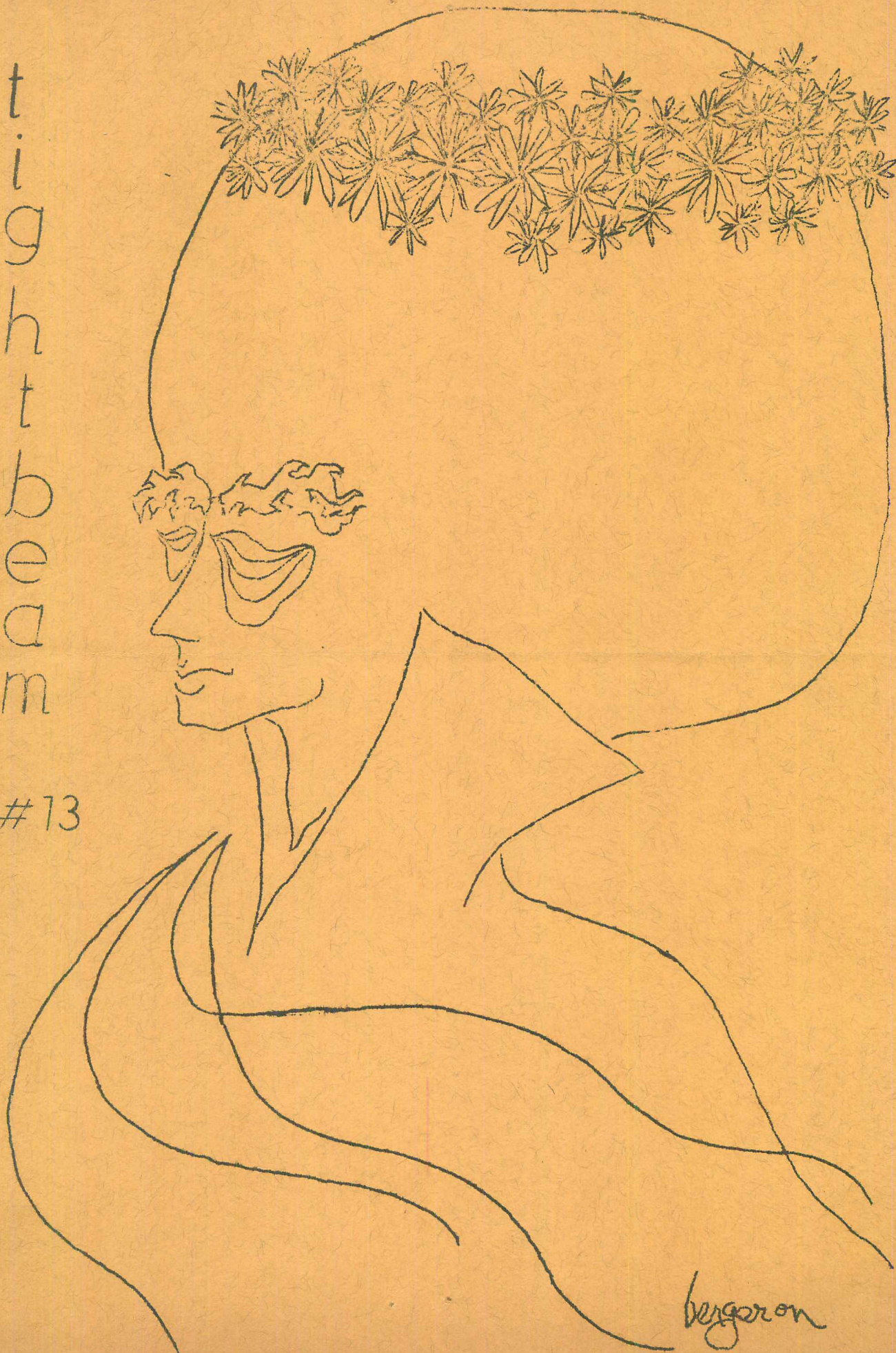


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#13



bergeron







TIGHTBEAM # 1.3

This is the May 1962 issue of the Official Letterzine of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Actual publication date is 18 June 1962, but that's not unusual as fannish publication schedules go.

BILL DONAHO, who was to have edited and published this issue of TIGHTBEAM, was unable to do so because of various factors, mostly such mundane things as having to work overtime, etc. Sic transit gloria crifanac, as they say in SAPS.

ART & NANCY RAPP, who were looking forward to seeing this completed zine land in their mailbox, suddenly found themselves confronted with the necessity of turning a stack of letters (forwarded to Art by Donaho) into a zine with which to fill the mailboxes of other people, namely the membership of the N3F. Consequently, this issue of TIGHTBEAM is published by:

Art & Nancy Rapp  
4400 Sunrise - Apt 4  
El Paso, Texas

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Strange are the ways of fate: the last N3F letterzine I published was Volume II, Number 2 of POSTWARP, dated May 1960, which featured fancy two-color mimeowork, but only 8 pages of letters, as compared with the 13½ pages in the zine you are now holding. The contributors to that issue (all members of N3F at the time) were Bill Venable, Vernon L. McCain, Arthur Levine, Paul H. Rehorst, Roger N. Dard, Dale Ridgeway, Rick Sneary, Alfred Machado, Ed Cox, and Lee Jacobs.

By the way, I'm running off this issue on the same hand-feed Heyers mimeo (the notorious Barracks Bag Press, Hit-It-Again-It's-Still-Moving Mimeo) which produced those first 8 issues of POSTWARP. As a matter of fact, it might even have the same inkpad on the drum!

All letters which Donaho forwarded to me are printed in this issue. If you sent TIGHTBEAM a letter and it isn't here, it disappeared prior to reaching me. Unfortunately, with the requirement for haste in getting this issue into the mail, space limitations became quite critical, and I had to slash away rather ruthlessly at some of the longer epistles. Then, too, since most of the letters were written in February or March, they contained some material that is no longer timely at this late date (such as speculations about whom the Directorate would choose as N3F President).

I am tempted to say, keep your TIGHTBEAM letters down to one, or at most two, pages, and very likely they'll be printed in full -- but the hazard in such advice is that, comes a slump season, the current TIGHTBEAM editor will be praying for LONG letters and cursing me for sabotaging his chances. So let's put it this way: take as much space as you need to say what you have to say, but don't be disappointed if the editor has to slash and prune at your wordage -- he has only a limited amount of space, and usually a whole crowd of letter-writers who want to be part of the wordage that fills it.

I have not included any editorial commentary on the letters this time -- not that I am against the practice -- indeed, with this rotating TIGHTBEAM editorship, I am of the opinion that it is a desirable thing, helping to give each issue an individuality of its own. But it has taken me 9 solid hours of typing to cut these letters onto stencil; if I'd paused to compose a commentary on each, this zine would never get into the mail by the day after tomorrow, as planned.

--ART RAPP

Cover by Bergeron, Interior Art by Radell Nelson; stencilled by Nancy Rapp



Roger Cox

913 Courtney Rd., Augusta, Georgia

Dear Tightbeam: TB #1<sup>2</sup> started off oddly with Ralph Holland as a front-page heading. Couldn't we abstain from over-publicizing his unfortunate death? At least four general notices have been sent out within the club and I feel if you overdo a momentous thing it isn't that quality any more, even if we all grieved Ralph's death deeply, as I've never known him personally but feel it is a great loss to any fan who has come into knowledge of his tireless, self-devouring work for the benefit of fandom. It has been a great loss to everybody.

EE. "Skylark" Smith seems to jump back and forth between residences almost as fast as I do. I'm moving to the address given at the start of this letter in June from over here in Germany with the Army. All non-bulk and semi-bulk articles should be sent airmail until then, if you don't mind.

Clay Hamlin's letter makes sense to me. Why should one confirmed group of letterhacks take almost complete control (heh, heh, I wonder who they could be?) of TB? People should write in. Certainly, everyone has expressable ideas. C'mon, people, wake up! And Clay, how about answering my letter for a change?

It's always interesting to see how different fans found out about fandom, and Ron Wilson is little different. But, darn it, it is awful hard to get people into the ranks these days, much less find them...

I think the WC members do a pretty fair job any day and I'm of the opinion that they are always welcome, as are new correspondents. HOW ABOUT IT ANYONE???

I sometimes wonder what prozine is ahead of all the others in sales, but every month it's different and you can't really tell whether AMZ beats F&SF or whatever. ANALOG is getting worse every day in content and higher every day in sales. How can they DO it?

It would be a pretty good idea to up dues, if you ask ME, as who is going to yell over 40¢? Besides, the club needs \$\$ and can't survive forever on pocket donations and what pitiful dues are collected. I am also of the opinion that the idea of switching faneds every ish of TB works fine, but you may have very different looking fmzs...Well, I've about run out of pen hand strength, so let me close with a simple: "CORROS ANYONE?"



I AWAIT ALL COMERS.

Christine Moskowitz

340 - 7th Ave. West, Newark 7, N.J.

Dear Bill: I have been reading many of the laudatory letters that have been published recently following the death of Ralph Holland and felt that I would like to add my own thoughts in the matter.

In my opinion, Ralph Holland, aside from being a really sweet guy, was probably the most level-headed fan in fandom. Although I only met him personally upon a few occasions, I had read a great deal of the material he had written in his own and other magazines and found that when he had something to say, it was generally something worth saying. Ralph was never one to go off half-cocked on any subject involving fans or fandom and preferred to remain aloof from any of its feuds.

I feel sorry for the fan who has to follow in Ralph's footsteps because he will have a tough job living up to Ralph's reputation; on that score I wish his successor a lot of luck.



I have extended my personal condolences to Dora Holland and hope that the fans will properly appreciate her effort in finishing Ralph's last magazine. Ralph's loss will leave N3F with a large gap in its prestige.

Dora G. Holland 2520 Fourth Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

Dear Bill: TNFF has just arrived, and I want to congratulate Al Lewis, and all who helped, for a job well done. Also, I would like to congratulate Art Rapp for his appointment as president of NFFF and commend those responsible for such a fine selection.

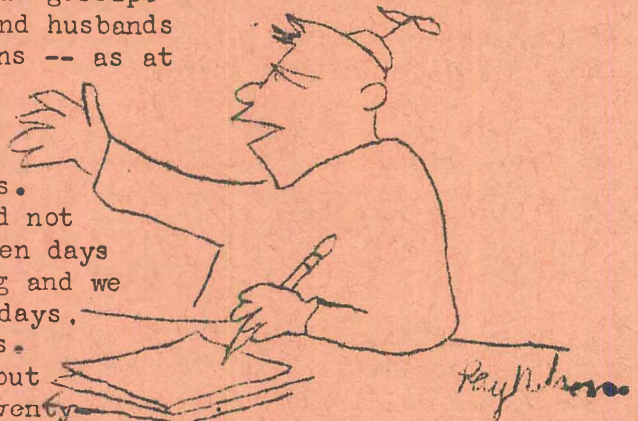
Art's experience and dedication to SF certainly qualifies him to be a part of the NFFF official family, a fact that my brother tried to convince him of previously. I am sure the NFFF is in good hands with Art Rapp as its president.

As many of you must know, my brother's desire to lay down the burden of his office was most sincere. He had spent much time, money and effort in rebuilding the NFFF, however, and hoped his successor would be one who would carry on what he had started. He always felt there were several who were qualified to be president. In fact, during the past couple of years he had tried unsuccessfully to convince some of them of his feelings as he tried to prevail on them to file as a candidate. Art Rapp was one of these, and I know he thought highly of him.

Dince Archer 1453 Barnsdale St., Pittsburgh 17, Pennsylvania

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: It has been reported to me that a certain individual is now claiming that FANAC won PITTCON's fanzine Hugo, and that he and Lynn Hickman witnessed an occasion when a stack of ballots naming FANAC were destroyed on the grounds that the handwriting is similar. This story, the last in a series of vengeful attacks upon our group, is entirely and totally false and with no basis whatsoever.

- 1) I have never met this man to my knowledge and do not even know what he looks like.
- 2) Lynn Hickman was not in Pittsburgh at any time during the year prior to the convention, and since ballots must be counted weeks before a convention so Hugo plates can be engraved, he could not have been present at a ballot counting session. Lynn's character is such that it is not even necessary to check as to whether he had any part of this malicious gossip.
- 3) Even PITTCON committee members' wives and husbands were excluded at ballot counting sessions -- as at all Business meetings. It would be ridiculous to share knowledge of the most carefully guarded secret of any convention, the ballot results, with outsiders.
- 4) FANAC, although tops in nominations, did not win a Hugo. In fact until the last seven days before the deadline SF TIMES was leading and we expected it to win. In the last seven days, four of the five nominees changed places.
- 5) PITTCON did toss out some nominations, but with excellent reasons. We received seventy-eight ballots - packaged, not sent separately - each nominating the same novel, short story and publisher, with an accompanying letter saying, "These are all bona fide nominations, as are attested by the individual names and addresses. They nominated a single author (author of the



HEY MATE, WHY DON'T YOU  
DO SOME OF THIS VOTING?  
I'M GETTING WRITER'S  
CRAMP -



novel and short story) totally unknown to our committee, whose stories appeared in an obscure British publication) (not Nova publications) which was nominated for best magazine.

Surely no one could expect us to believe that one English village of something under 7,000 population contains upwards of 60 bona fide fans, many with identical handwriting, seven with identical addresses and last names (the author's) and all with identical nominations!

It was our belief that duty required we discard these obvious attempts to stuff the ballot box. We would do the same thing again under such circumstances.

I trust, for his own sake, the fertile imagination of this individual will be kept under control in the future. We deplore legal action and have ignored previous slander, but there is a point of no return in these matters. We could and would take steps.

---

Pat Scott      Box 401, Anacortes, Washington

TIGHTBEAM: Hmm, all this furor over the Welcommittee. I admit to having an idea that might help the situation. The trouble seems to be that while the neos need the service of the Welcommittee badly, the oldtimers not only do not need it but find it too inept for words. It seems to me that the problem would be simply solved by having an old time fan on the Welcommittee to winnow the BNF's from the neos. Send the neos the usual production but content yourselves with a simple "Welcome to the bunch" for those who need nothing else.

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Clayton Hamlin      28 Earle Avenue, Bangor, Maine

Dear Bill: No real letter this time around, decided to see if some of the others wouldn't write as suggested last time. But as a service to any collectors among the readers, I am sending along a letter I just received from Pat Scott. Maybe some kind soul would be good enough to pick up for me the Algernon Blackwood collection, and the Lovecraft collection, the Dunwich Horror and others, if such is available. I will be only too happy to pay you a small profit for the work of course, and would not exactly protest loudly if you could also find a copy of The Dying Earth. Will pay a buck for that, yet to be perfectly fair, our member Mike Padgett will go higher than that for a copy, and it is only right that the rest of you should know, if you are willing to sell.

Just can't resist this one. If anyone has a few spare moments of time (what's that?) there is another fan club where you can have even MORE fun than NFFF. Name of it is ISFCC, and a free copy of its C-O is available on request. Just write, you might enjoy it. Yep, the directorate has been informed to expect some competition. Should be good for both of them.

(Enclosure):

Dear Clayton: Read your query about the Armed Services Editions paperbacks in the latest INFORMATION BUREAU and that I'd write and give you what information I have on it. This will do no good, course, 'less you have some friends in the Los Angeles area who

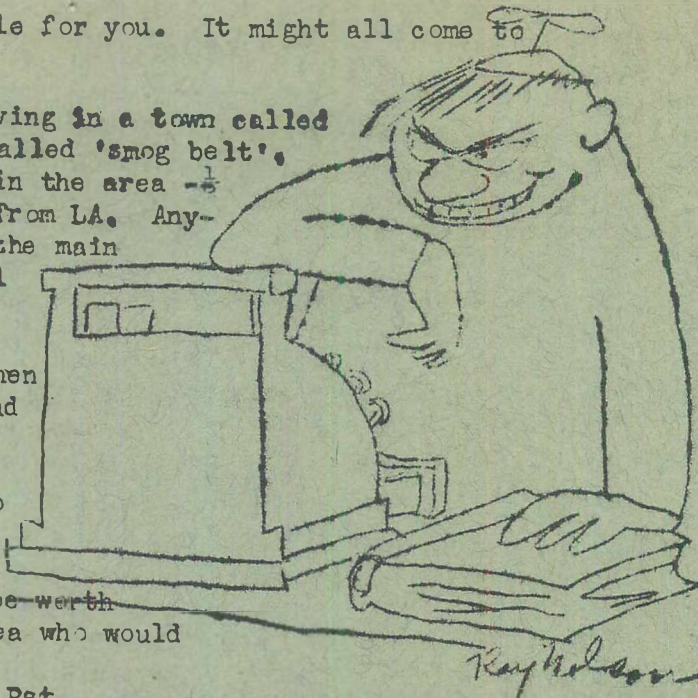


OLD TIME FAN  
WINNOWING THE BNFS  
FROM THE NEO'S



are willing to go to a little trouble for you. It might all come to nothing in any case.

A couple of years ago I was living in a town called Alhambra, in the middle of the so-called 'smog belt'. The town is easily found by anyone in the area - it is just the other side of Pasadena from LA. Anyway, there is a used book store on the main street (called Main St., if I recall correctly) about three (maybe two, maybe four) blocks past the library on the other side of the street. When I was there this place had stacks and stacks of these books and also vast quantities of Avon pocketbooks and other such like things. There is no way of knowing if the store is even there anymore much less what they have in stock, but it would prolly be worth a try if you have friends in the area who would not mind looking into it.



Regards, Pat.

---

K Martin Carlson 1028 Third Ave. South, Moorhead, Minnesota

Dear Bill: I want to compliment Racy on that #12 TIGHTBEAM. Very neat job of mimeographing. Calyton's letter kind of got under my skin so I felt obligated to write a letter. I believe that many of us old timers in NFFF let down a lot on our letter writing. It certainly takes a lot of time, and we don't have too much to say. The younger fans have more energy.

Yes, we do remember a lot of the good times in NFFF. We have made a lot of friends and we have always received more than our \$1.60 value from our dues to N3F. How do you measure the value of friendship? We (and I speak for a lot of the older fans) tried to do something for NFFF and not thinking so much of what NFFF would do for us. But times have changed a lot since 1945, when I first knew about Fandom. I had always liked ERB stories and it wasn't long before I started reading ERB in AMAZING. S-F grows on you, and I was soon reading everything I could find in various mags. PLANET STORIES really got me in touch with a fan who lives just across the river from Moorhead. Walter Dunkelberger was Sec-Treas of NFFF in 1945. ((Between the writing and publication of this letter, Walter Dunkelberger has died.)) He got me to pay the dollar dues and started me off as a helper in publishing his FANNEWS. My first N3F job was on the Welcommittee, when I was elected Vice President in 1946. I have held all the various offices in N3F and put in a lot of time and money in seeing that the work was done. But I still feel that I have gotten more out of the club than I have put into it. Perhaps that is why we are so loyal to N3F and can't see how anyone can look down on it. I KNOW that the club has done a lot of good in Fandom, to the new members, World Cons, etc.

NFFF has had many ups and downs. I think that 1947 was about the lowest in our history. I was Sec-Treas and we had no Editor, Racy had joined the club and I asked him to take on the O-O and he said ok. He held that job for many years and was always one you could rely on. He did a lot of extra work for NFFF. This was one of the reasons that he got the first Kaymar Award in 1959.

Those of you who read the NFFF HISTORY in each issue of TNFF learn of some of the things that happened in those early years. Two or three times we lost the Treasury funds to unreliable Treasurers. Never could collect the money and had to start over again. All the officers were not the best and did cause a lot of trouble for the club. BUT we are now in our 21st year and better than ever.



Ray Trevine's letter regarding the payment of dues reminds me of the years I was Treasurer and had from 300 to 400 members to record dues for. I used the quarter-year system and it worked out very fair to the members, but it was more work for the Treasurer. Take our dues for instance: If a member paid 1.60 in Jan he was credited for a year. A new member joins in April, he only paid for 3/4 year or \$1.20. If a fan joined in-between, I collected for the whole quarter. I always sent the current TNFF to the new member so he got full value for his dues. I never had any trouble with this system. (Read Ray's letter in TB #17). If we raise our dues to \$2.00 we should consider going back to the quarter-year system. It will save a lot of explaining.

Now I have rambled long enough, so back to the Kennedy Roker.

Ed Meskys

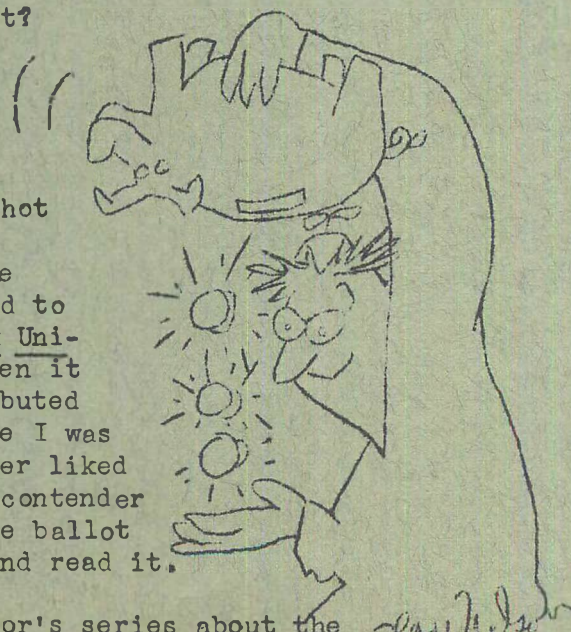
723A, 45 Street, Brooklyn 20, N.Y.

Bill: The only thing I want to comment on in the latest TB is the complaint about receiving only some 3 months membership for \$1.60 in dues. Perhaps something could be done about this by using a mixture of common sense and modified regulations...such as giving them the full next year if they join after 1 November, or sending them a form letter if they join after say 1 May telling them that they ought to pay the 80¢ or \$1.20 to cover them to the end of the next year. Or even carry the guy for a full year, allowing him to renew then but insisting he renew at the standard rate to the end of a year. Now since no renewals would be permitted to not pay on a calendar year basis, and a good portion of the new members would join properly, there shouldn't be too much extra work involved in just keeping a few people separate.

And if the club can use the extra money, I have no objections to and even favor a raise in dues to \$2/year, 2 years for \$3.50. (I figure the money lost by the "sale price" is compensated for by the savings in bookkeeping and lessening of opportunities for non-renewal, so should be kept.)

Tightbeam of late seems to have been losing some of its interest. Little more than N3F business seems to be being discussed now and most of the really swinging discussions seem to have been relegated to the scrap heap. Wahappen? Haven't seen much in TB on that mess of drivel by Heinlein tho the other fmz are full of it. Wassamatter, none of you have any opinions on it?

Don't you have any opinions on what should get nominated for the Hugo's, for instance? Me, I'm for Poul Anderson's Three Hearts and Three Lions in the novel category myself. Unfortunately before I thot of it I went and sent in my nomination for Clarke's A Fall of Moondust. Wonder if the TriChiCon committee would object if I tried to change my mind. Have any of you read Dark Universe, a Bantam PB? I missed buying it when it came out because it was very poorly distributed around here, and when I did see a copy once I was repelled by the blurb. But I see Sky Miller liked it very much, and even said it would be a contender for the Hugo. Well, if it makes it onto the ballot I will have to try to get hold of a copy and read it.



How about short story? I liked Bretnor's series about the Russia of tomorrow even tho I do know it is pure fantasy. Despite the obvious nonsense, they are very interesting and well written. I dug thru my Analogs looking for one to nominate, and found that my favorite was Black Man's Burden. However,



that was longish and might be considered a novel. Also, half was printed in 6<sup>2</sup>, so I put down my second choice: Freedom.

Obviously there is no dramatic presentation worthy of a tin rocket this year, is there? Artist? Freas is gone, ESMH got it first time around for his films and didn't deserve the second one. Who does that leave? I really couldn't think of anyone who deserved this year, but after poring over my back ish (including those of the British proz) I finally came up with Schoenherr. But I do hope that there is a No Award slot on the ballot in this category, for I might well want to use it when voting time comes around.

Fanzines -- Warhoon, what else? Especially after the fabulous October 61 ish, which was the best single ish of any zine thruout the year. And what promag should get it? Analogagain? It is still the best, but it is so poor compared its old self and Campbull is so full of it that I just can't see selecting THAT! I wound up choosing FANTASTIC myself. And you?

So, tell me. What sort of blundering mistakes do you think I made in my choices?

Marijane (Sparkle-Janey) Johnson N55<sup>2</sup>5 Lidgerwood St.  
Spokane 73, Wash.

Do It Now! A famous group of words, but as a rule I don't seem to be the "do it now" type & now stretches on into infinity, which means I just don't do it. Mainly, I think, because I'm just not the discussion type letter writer & feel rather foolish about what small talk I come up with. But, maybe there are other small talkers among us and after all, a letter to TIGHTBEAM is a sign of life of some kind. So what? Clay Hamlin says "write a letter", so who argues? A letter I write.

Also a bit late for comments about Ralph Holland, although, for those of us who were privileged to know him, however short a time, it's never too late. I did have the privilege of knowing him for a very short time, in person, & I feel my life was smiled upon. I enjoyed + + our spasmodic corresponding

((Oops, we goofed, folks. This illio is intended to go + with Bill Warren's letter, about half a dozen pages farther along in the zine))





over about 5 years, but having him & Dora visit me here in Spokane, & then to be able to spend some very pleasant time with them at Seacon, made his death more of a shock to me than ever. All of the tributes paid him have been from the heart & have covered many of the facets of his personality, but perhaps I saw him a bit different than most. I don't often go into the more gruesome aspects of my handicap (bloomin nuisance, I calls it) for reasons I'm sure everyone can imagine, but it was Ralph's encouragement that kept me from dropping N3F many times, when I felt I was doing nothing but dragging my feet. By letter that can be more or less easy, but after seeing me in person & realizing just how limited my activities are, he was no different in his attitude toward me. Also, what he & Dora went through with me at Seacon is laughable to tell, but more than a little more than many people would bother with. Not that they were the only kind & helpful ones there, far far from it, but they did take on a few extra details that were very gratifying to me.

So, I realize there was much about him in the fan line that endeared him & made him respected by many, but I saw a warm, kind, friendly, & compassionate man, one just everyone didn't have the opportunity to see.

Dora, also, deserves a vote of thanks & appreciation, for the excellent job she did in getting out the TNFF that Ralph had been working on. I realized more than ever at Seacon, that she knew what N3F meant to him & doing what she did at the time she did it was a mark of courage & love.

I'm sure that Noffers are going to want the club to continue as Ralph would have wanted it to & although I have had to cut down some activity for awhile, for various reasons, I am trying to keep the birthday card sending deal going that he helped start me out in & that he wanted to see succeed. He left cards & postage with me when he was here, most of which I have used. I've added to the cards some & will continue to do so until other arrangements are made. None of this has cost the club a cent as yet & I'm willing to carry on as long as I can manage. I am in favor of the "fannish" type cards that Art Hayes & several fan artists are working on, & the contest that will be run for verses. It is rather difficult to find cards suitable for the male members, most are too much on the flowery side. I've had several thank you letters from those who received cards which is very gratifying, as I do want it to be a popular part of N3F.

I like Ron Wilson's views on discovering fans & fandom, mine are very much the same. Although instead of discovering it, letting it discover you seems to sort of fit the bill. With me, it all came along when I needed "something" & believe me, it brought me that something & much more. I haven't had the chance to meet our two other members from Spokane, have talked to Jim Knotts a couple of times on the phone & called Ron's home the other day. He wasn't there, but I talked to his grandmother & I'm looking forward to having them look in on me here one of these days. Several have said maybe I can start a local fanclub, but somehow I can't quite see The Holy Family Home as a meeting place! They put up with some pretty weird shenanigans from me, but that seems just a bit "out of this worldish". Although, there is a nice big room in the basement where quite a blast could be carried on. I'll settle for getting to gether with Ron & Jim sometime, at least I hope it might come about before this sees print.

Unimportant item, but I'm the one who sells photo-stamps. Maybe not noteworthy news, but nice for exchanging.

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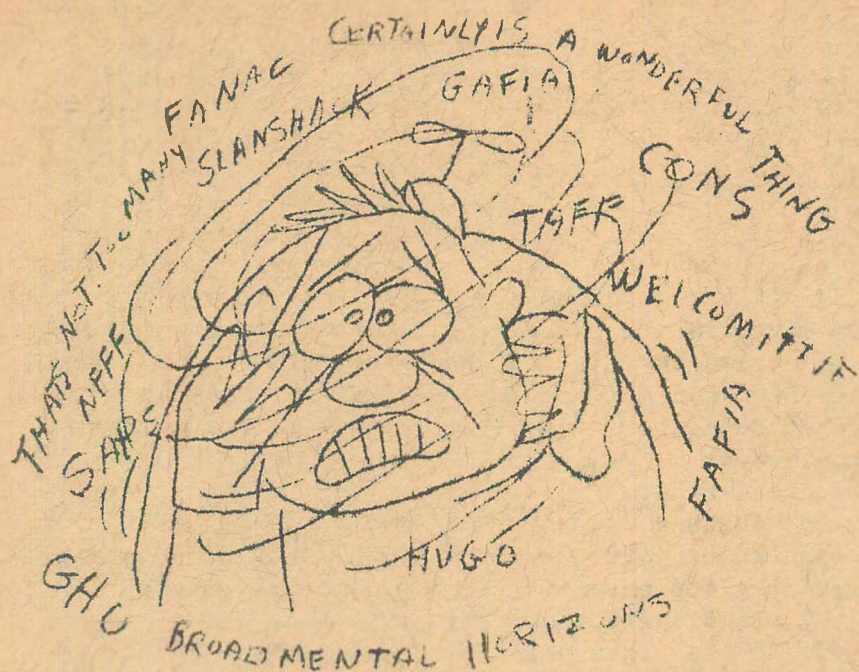
David Andrew Vanderwerf

Rural Route #2  
Redwood Falls, Minnesota

While reading TIGHTBEAM during the last several months, I've been very interested in the controversy over the Welcommittee, mostly because I hadn't received the letters over which the argument was raging. Now I have, and I'd like to know what in heck the big beef was about.

After the argument and the comments about these letters, I wasn't expecting too much from them, so when I got the first one I almost fell over. Mimeod letters there were-- and they were, at least to me, very valuable, since what I know about





fandom at that time was somewhat less than my knowledge of Abyssinian numerology -- totalling approximately nothing. I had been wading through the vague references to various organizations in TIGHTBEAM and TNFF, with reports and everything apparently clear to the rest of the membership, but leaving me in the position of the black cat in the coal cellar at midnight, as Heinlein would put it. I got some help from fen whom I contacted from other sources, but until the Welcommittee notes came I was steadily enmeshing myself in a growing morass of confusion. Came those much-derided

mimeo'd letters and suddenly I could decipher all those references. What's more, every one of those mimeographed letters was accompanied by a personal note offering some late information which wasn't on the mimeoed letter and also offering -- thank goodness -- any further help they could offer (In my case this may resemble the time-honored invitation, "Go ahead - hit me. "). I got a small glimpse into the personality of each of the writers, usually some information on each, and a lot of information which I had been sorely lacking. Maybe those who are not neo's don't need this information, but I most certainly do, and if I haven't thanked all the Welcommittee members who imparted it, privately, I would like to do so now in public. I'm in a few other national organizations, and none of them offer this very useful, and, I'm sure, typically fannish service.

While I'm at it, I might as well get in my two mills worth of logical(?) opinion on all the other pressing topics. Dues could use a hike, although not a large one, since that will lose those members who are living on a tight budget, like for instance me next year in college. For all the services NFFF gives, I would certainly be happy to pay more every year -- it's well worth it. The membership year seems to be good to me as it is, since it saves the keeping of a separate record of when everybody's dues come due, which would be an unholy mess, at least in my limited experience.

Ray C Higgs

813 Eastern Ave., Connersville, Indiana

NFFF owes Dora Holland a vote of thanks for the wonderful attitude in going ahead and finishing the job of pubbing the Feb ish of TNFF. Not only this but she also completed the pubbing of the Neffers' Guide to Current Fanzines - both can be regarded as very good reproduction jobs. I'm sure all our members appreciated what she did, and can say WELL DONE!

Another pat on the back should go to Donald Franson, Ron Ellik and Al Lewis for giving us Fandbook No. 1 - A Key to the Terminology Of Science-Fiction Fandom. This Fandbook was excellent, and I do hope there will be more forthcoming.

Let the lovely spring flowers fall may they wish to - but I must give out some more ego-boo to the new editor of TNFF - Albert J Lewis - was an excellent job, and I am sure he is well fitted for the editorship of our official organ. This brings me to voicing my opinion on the choosing of Art Rapp for president of NFFF - couldn't have made a better selection. I knew Artway back thar - worked with him in the Directorate, also when I was editor of TNFF for about 10-12 years.



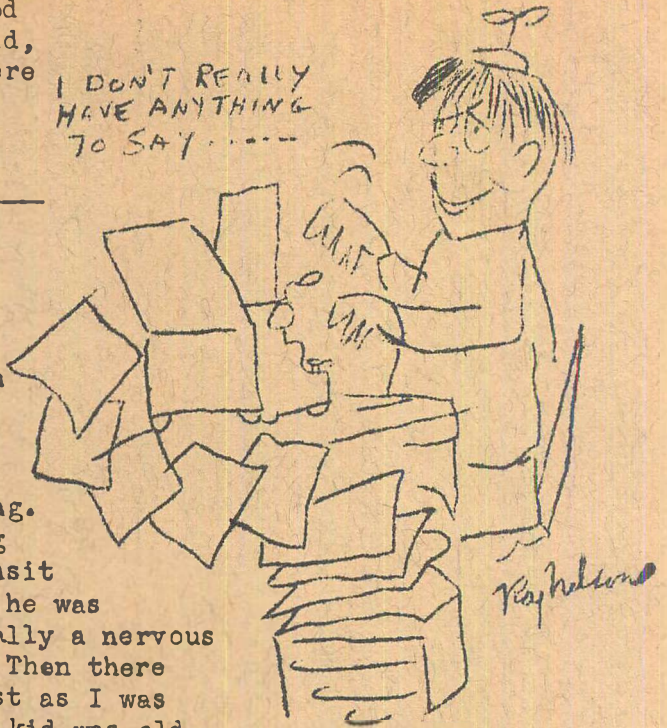
We had a real loss when death took our good friend, President and editor, Ralph Holland, but I'm sure both Art and Al will be in there doing everything they can to carry on for Ralph. I believe that is the attitude of all N3F members. I know that is mine.

I DON'T REALLY  
HAVE ANYTHING  
TO SAY.....

Phillip A. Harrell

2632 Vincent Ave., Norfolk 9, Va.

Dear Bill: I don't really have anything to say so I'll go on at length about it. Nothing inspiring has happened since the guy that packs things to send back to the warehouse packed the vacuum cleaner and forgot to empty the cleaner bag. Whereupon the boss got back a note stating that somehow the bag had come open in transit and when the warehouse man opened the box he was greeted by a facefull of dirt and practically a nervous breakdown as it was somewhat of a shock. Then there was the kid who decided to take a leak just as I was measuring her foot. I sell shoes and the kid was old enough to know better (at that age they're usually housebroken) but that didn't make any difference. Then there was the one that stepped in some dog mess and tracked it into my department...never a dull moment. Then there was the blonde who as I was measuring her foot bent over to watch me and when I looked up to tell her her size it was then I discovered she didn't have on a bra. Fun. And the time I was writing a ticket and felt something go slack at my waist, and then my pants began to creep down. I rush into the back room to discover my buckle had broken on my stretch belt so I tied it together with a piece of rag, buttoned my coat all the way down and carried on. Like I said, never a dull moment.



Well, I guess that's about it for this round. I just wanted to let you know I was still alive, and to thank all that voted for me in the election. I appreciate your confidence in me. Which brings up another point. I was quite shocked when I recently heard of Ralph Holland's death as I know many were. It is an irreplaceable loss to N3F and Fandom that one so invaluable should be lost to it. I want to extend my sympathy to Ralph's sister and all N3F on the death of one of their most beloved figures, and if the next President is 1/4 as good as he was he'll be most Excellent. Until next time, then...

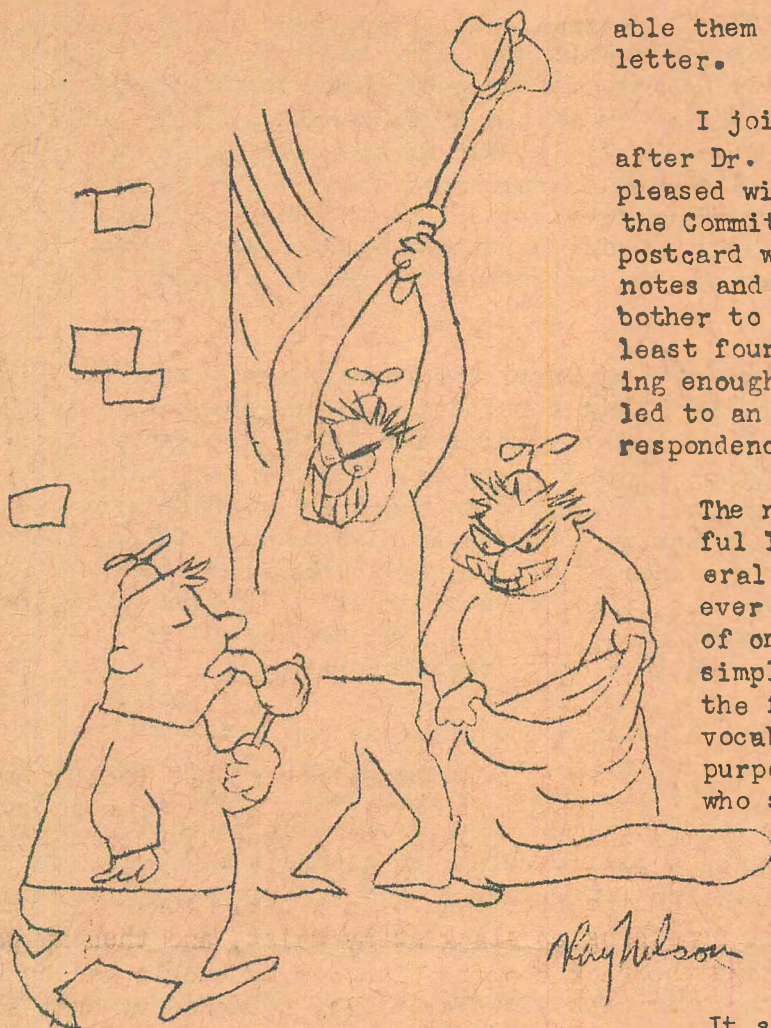
Larry McCombs

147 Bradley St., New Haven, Connecticut

Hi Bill, As a new member of the \*\*Welcommittee\*\* I feel it my duty to add my voice to those who are screaming at Dr. HaLevy, "What else can we do?" After all, when you have to write a letter to someone welcoming him to the N3F, what can you say? You can tell him that you're glad to have him in the club, tell him of some of the club services, tell him something about general fandom, and offer to answer any questions he may have if he'll only write. It is impossible to write a sparkling personal letter to someone you don't know - at least, it is impossible to do it consistently two or three times per week. And, as in Dr. HaLevy's case, when you've been warned by Art Hayes that this is an elder fan who knows ten times as much as you do about fandom and fantasy, what can you say except "Hi there?"

I would suggest that a possible solution to this problem would be to add the following sentence to the bottom of the membership blank: "Would you please attach to this blank a short letter telling us something about yourself, your interests, and your experience in science-fiction or fantasy fandom?" This would give the Welcommittee some insight into the sort of person to whom they are writing, and en-





able them to write a much more worthwhile letter.

I joined the N3F only a few months after Dr. haLevy did, and I was quite pleased with the letters I received from the Committee. There was one rather curt postcard which annoyed me, and a couple of notes and form letters which I didn't bother to answer. But there were also at least four letters that I found interesting enough to answer, each of which has led to an interesting and continuing correspondence.

The new faanish word-guide is a useful little volume: I've ordered several extra copies from Ron, and whenever I have occasion to send a copy of one of my fanzines to a non-fan, I simply slip the FANDBOOK #1 inside the fanzine. Its small size and basic vocabulary make it ideal for this purpose. For those like Pat Scott, who seem to have been born with faanish phrases already included in their vocabulary, it may not serve much purpose, but for most neo- and non-fans it is an absolute life-saver.

## HARD TO GET PEOPLE INTO THE RANKS - - - -

It seems to me that there is a need for one more volume to add to the shelf of fannish reference works - a volume of brief biographical sketches of BNFs, past and present. Broyles' work is fine for outline sketches of those who're still active, but the book I'm thinking of would contain one-page accounts of the fannish careers of people like Francis T Loney, E Everett Evans, Paul Freehafer, Walter J Daugherty, and many others whose names are frequently mentioned. And people like Rick Sneary, Forry Ackerman, Walt Willis, John Berry, and Donald Wollheim can hardly be properly pictured by the bare outline of facts given in the WHO'S WHO. I'm in the process of collecting a card-file index to fanzines which I own, but my information is far too sparse to adequately prepare such a biographical sketchbook. But perhaps someone could undertake such a project at this point and do a good job of it. Even the FANCYCLOPEDIA only gives information about two or three of the biggestnamefans, and they are usually not listed under their own names.

The idea of charging \$2 a year for dues sounds fine, but it might be a little steep for new members. I think that most of those in the club are convinced that we've been getting more than our money's worth recently, but fandom in general still has a low opinion of the N3F, and might find \$2 too much to risk trying membership. Why not offer a one-year trial membership at \$1.50 to those who've never belonged to the N3F before; then use the \$2 and \$3.50 figures for ordinary dues? This would mean a slight loss on new memberships, but would be a gain in income overall.

I think that a large part of the problem of apparent discourtesy and boorishness among fans is due to simple misunderstanding. Yes, there are a few people who have no thoughts for others and no manners, but they are a distinct minority of less than ten people. The majority of the incidents which Bjo and others have named are due to momentary forgetfulness or accidental misunderstanding. Since most fans have issued a standing invitation to other fans to drop in for a visit whenever passing



through, it is only surprising that more incidents of apparent discourtesy do not occur. For instance, I can recall a weekend when some visiting fans dropped in at the Fan Hillton. It happened that three or four publishing deadlines had all fallen on the same weekend, and every person in the Hillton was up to his ears in work. We tried to be as friendly as possible, but no one could spare the time to do much more than say "Hello." Later we learned that these visiting fans had been sorely upset by the "chilly" reception they got in Los Angeles. Perhaps what is needed is simply a willingness to hold off on getting excited about apparent discourtesies until the whole story can be put before the person concerned and an explanation requested.

Like Jerry Pournelle I noted with approval the formation of Campbell's society of gentlemen amateurs some years back, but never did anything about it, assuming that it would more than likely turn into a vehicle for JWC's propaganda about psi, Dean Drive, or whatever his current project might be. However, a journal truly intended for the publication of scientific papers on research or theorizing by amateurs would truly be useful. I'm taking a course in history of science, and doing some researching among the early issues of Silliman's Journal and other early American scientific journals. These are filled with articles by clergymen and lawyers and doctors who do scientific research as a hobby. In the letters and articles, they exchange ideas and information in a truly exciting fashion.

Although much of modern science has moved beyond the point where amateurs can know anything about it or afford equipment to experiment, there are still places where much can be learned by interested persons. As a soon-to-be high-school teacher, I too will write to McClean offering to help with a real amateur science journal. Seems to me that with a competent editor, such a zine would be of interest to a majority of fans - both those who exist only for stf and those who are interested in serious discussion.

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Donald Franson

6543 Babcock Ave., North Hollywood, California

Dear Bill: I don't favor calling the present "Hugos" the "International Fantasy Awards". In the first place they are not exclusively fantasy; in the second place they are not exactly international, since they inevitably must lean toward the English language; and in the third place let's not mess up fan history even more, by compounding the confusion that has existed to date about Hugos and IFAs. IFA is dead, long live the Hugos.

Bob Madle, in the March 1954 Future mentioned the Hugos as the "First Annual Science Fiction Awards". They haven't been annual, skipping 1954, and without this prefix the title becomes rather skimpy. "Science Fiction Awards" doesn't swing. I propose a name which would show who awards them: "The World Science Fiction Convention Awards."

To supplement the Hugo information that was in the April TNFF, this might be a good place to list the complete International Fantasy Awards, as given in Donald H. Tucker's Handbook of Science Fiction and Fantasy:

INTERNATIONAL FANTASY AWARD (IFA) Originated by 4 British sf fans for the 1951 British convention. Since the first, awards were selected by an adjudicating panel. Awards, given about June, covered fiction of the previous year (non-fiction ran only to 1953):

- 1951: Earth Abides, G.R. Stewart; non-fiction: The Conquest of Space, Willy Ley & Chesley Bonestell.  
1952: Fancies and Goodnights, John Collier; 2d: The Day of the Triffids, John Wyndham, 3d: The Illustrated Man, Ray Bradbury; non-fiction: The Exploration of Space, Arthur C. Clarke; 7d: Dragons in Amber, Willy Ley; 3d: Rockets, Jets, Guided Missiles and Spaceships, J. Coggins/F. Pratt.



- 1953: City, Clifford D. Simak; 2d: Take-Off, C.M. Kornbluth; 3d: Player Piano, Kurt Vonnegut; non-fiction: Lands Beyond, Willy Ley & L.S. DeCamp.  
 1954: More Than Human, Theodore Sturgeon; 2d, The Demolished Man, Alfred Bester.  
 1955: A Mirror For Observers, Edgar Pangborn; 2d: Mission of Gravity, Hal Clement.  
 1956: Apparently no award.  
 1957: Lord of the Rings trilogy; J.R.R. Tolkien.

If you're curious as to what kind of people or fans constituted the "adjudicating panel," here is the 195<sup>2</sup> bunch (from FANTASY-TIMES):

Great Britain: J.M. Walsh, Fred C. Brown, Walter A. Willis, John Carnell.  
 France: Georges Gellet, Igor Naslowski.  
 United States: Anthony Boucher & J.F. McComas, Everett F. Bleiler, Groff Conklin, Basil Davenport, August Derleth, Judith Merril.  
 Sweden: Sigvard Ostlund.

A good panel. Now I wonder what panel picked the panel?

Ray Trevino (TB #12) asks about a history of publication of sf mags -- the best thing to get is Bradford Day's Complete Checklist of Science Fiction Magazines obtainable for \$1.10 from Science Fiction & Fantasy Publications, 78-04 Jamaica Ave, Woodhaven 21, New York. This lists all issues of all mags from 1890-1960. For editors, size changes, etc. you will have to consult Tuck's Handbook, or ask the Information Bureau.

Bill Warren

Sherry Ross, Room 68, University of Oregon, Eugene, Ore.

I agree with Pat Scott that an editor (fan or otherwise) has the perfect right to print whatever he jolly well wants to in his very own zine. I just object to calling a mimeographed, stapled collection of chain-of-thought-writing a science fiction fan magazine. I joined fandom thru the N3F to encounter other people with the same general interests (science fiction books and movies) as myself. I have been isolated all my life, both from society in general and fandom in particular, squinting myopically thru my glasses. When I finally encountered what seemed to be a group of people with my interests, I was ecstatic. But my ecstasies were short-lived, for many of the people I have written to and the very few I have received replies from have been avoiding science fiction (Ann Chamberlain, Mike Kurman, Jim Knotts, Ron Wilson, Bob Anderson are exceptions) -- and this is nowhere more noticable or disillusioning than in the fanzines.

If, Pat, you want to include "The Next Voice You Hear" in with my list of movies (and, to flatter myself, I think that is what stimulated your comment), why don't you also include "The Ten Commandments" or "The Miracle of Fatima" or other religious fantasies; for what "TNVYH" was about was a town of disillusioned people who started hearing a voice that claimed to be God announcing on the radio. When the town, now reinstated morally and spiritually, gathered in a huge meeting hall for a mass listening of the voice, it did not appear. They came to the realization that they no longer needed to hear it.

However, I fully agree with you on "The Fabulous World of Jules Verne." In fact, I nominated it for the Hugo for drama. It isn't very often that you see such a film: scifi that satirizes itself, while giving such an air of charm to all that it touches. Incidentally, couldn't movies like "Monkey Business" or "Lover Come Back" be considered to be science fiction? The former's entire plot was centered on an age-reduction technique; the climax of the latter centered on sort of an alcoholic mint: "A good ten-cent drunk" the mint inventor called it.

There is very little I can say about Doc Smith's letter, other than the fact that I am eternally grateful for his sponsorship of my entry into the N3F.



I agree with Mike Kurman that Edgar Rice Burroughs should not be censored, but I disagree with his placement of Tarzan as an "adult" book. True, it is not a juvenile, but is aimed at and reaches best the audience that Heinlein aims at in his so-called "juveniles". Other books that Burroughs wrote (The Monster Men, The Mucker, The Land That Time Forgot, Bandit of Hell's Bend, etc.) are definitely adult, however.

But to get back to this topic of censorship: censoring Burroughs is utterly ridiculous (at least in the Mars & Tarzan series). He is one of the most sexless writers who ever wrote. John Carter falls in love with Dejah Thoris in about the same way that a boy falls in love with his sister; in fact, he avoids sex so much that she can't even get pregnant. Instead, she lays a huge egg. I read this book before I knew "what it was all about", and it wasn't very instructive. As all good Tarzan fans know, furthermore, Jane didn't marry the Lord of the Jungle in the first book, and instead went back to America to marry her fiance. In Return of Tarzan, the apeman, in search of his identity, goes journeying around the world. He eventually finds Jane and ends up luring her away (I believe -- it's been a long time since I read it) to marry him, and they live in the jungle, supposedly happy ever after.

Clayton Hamlin wants some applause for those lesser writers who do competent jobs year after year. I do applaud Murray Leinster -- his stories are corny and rather old-fashioned, but I get one heluva bang out of most of them. I kind of got on the Murray bandstand a little late; I think the first book by him that I read was War With the Gizmos. I have read few (if any) novels or stories by the authors Clayton mentions other than Jack Williamson, however. I do take his word for it, and add a cheer for Brown, Sheckley, Matheson, Simak, etc.

All in all, I enjoyed TIGHTBEAM <sup>14</sup> very much, and I also am enjoying being in the N3F very much. Mr. & Mrs. EE Smith, again I thank you from the bottom of the heart. For years, I harbored a dread inferiority complex that I was the only science fiction fan who almost literally devoured it on the face of the globe. By joining the N3F, this inferior feeling has vanished. However, I am sure that another will turn up, when and if this letter is published, for I know I have made all sorts of neofannish blunders.

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Art Hayes

R.R. #3, Bancroft, Ontario, Canada

Writing to TIGHTBEAM should be a habit, and preferably BEFORE receiving the next issue. Whenever possible, the President should see to it that TWO next editors are known to the members. This would allow the members to write on subjects that are not necessarily dependent on the issue just out, allowing introduction of new material which isn't just part of a serial of letters from issue to issue.

I was pleased with such letters as Roy Tackett's, Art Rapp, Dave Locke and Don Franson. I was encouraged in trying to continue with the Welcommittee. Now, to justify that encouragement, I need volunteers.

Don Franson's short explanation of the difficulties encountered by the death of Ralph Holland needs a few more words of support. I want to place myself in full support of what our Directorate decides in the way of appointments for their term of office. I urge everyone to do what they can to support, to help them try to put their plans into operation. Any executive who tries to do something has a chance of being able to do good. We may not all agree with what they try, but a chance must be given to their projects so that we can KNOW for SURE whether those ideas are good or not.

I was a director for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years, Directorate Chairman for two years. Some seem to be of the opinion that I should be consulted by the 196<sup>th</sup> Directorate in their deliberations in choosing a President, and, if necessary, the choice of a Director. Whether or not they should have, the point is they did and are doing so, for which