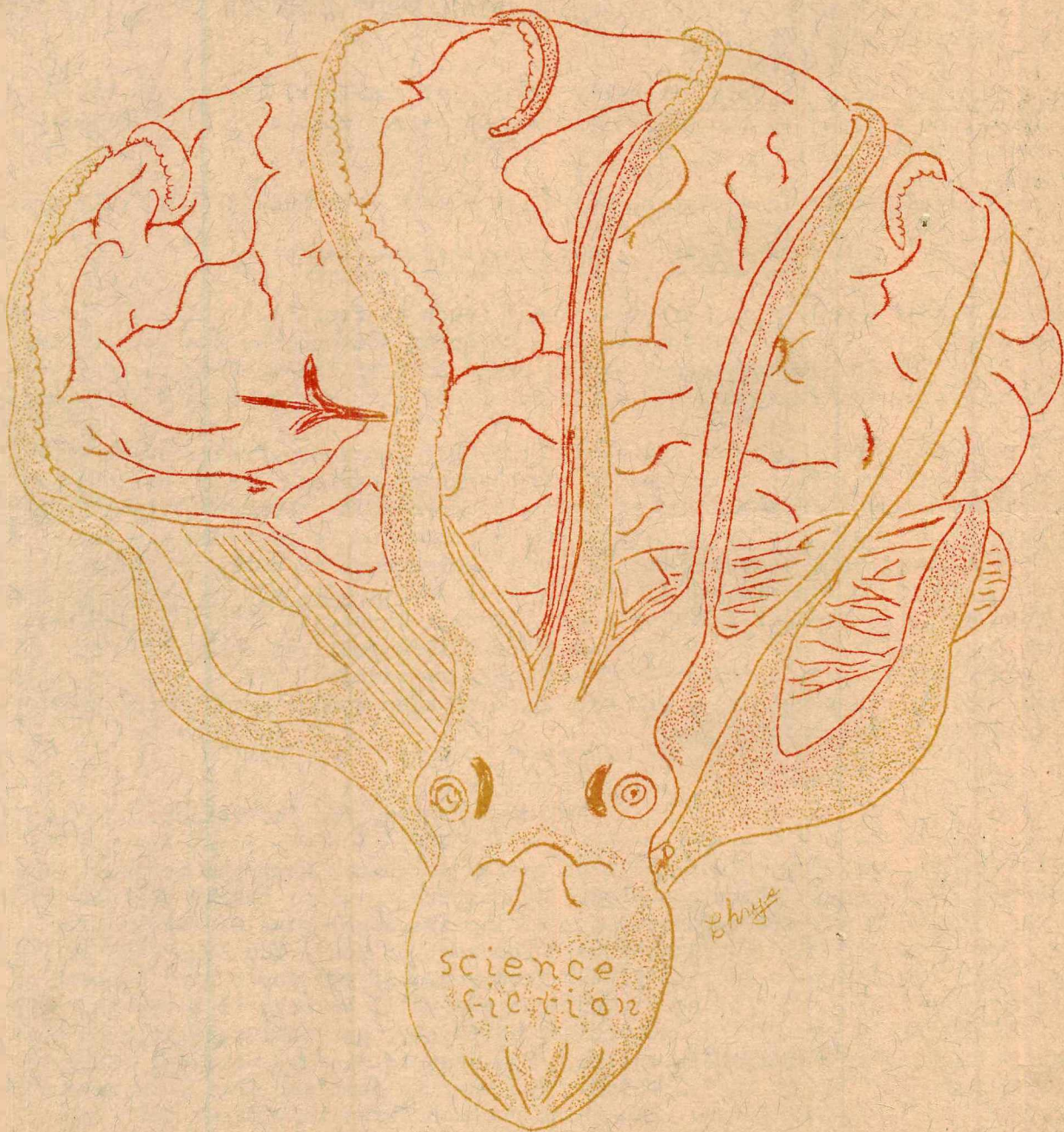


tight be am  
#14



"THE GRASP"



Greetings. This is ~~WYATT~~---oops! Sorry about that. Habit, y'know. This is really TIGHTBEAM #14, a Letterzine by, for, and mostly about the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Sigh. That shows you how old this club is. Nowadays most of the fen refer to themselves as "SF Fans" and fantasy is rarely mentioned. TIGHTBEAM #14 for July, 1962, is edited (loosely) by Roy Tackett, 915 Green Valley Road NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico (President Rapp pointed one of his missiles at me and said, "Ol' buddy, you do want to publish the July TB, don't you?" and since at this range he couldn't miss I eagerly agreed) and published by Chrystal Tackett at the same address.

TIGHTBEAM #15 will be published by Wally Weber, Box 267, 507 Third Ave., Seattle 4, Washington. The deadline for #15 is 31 August 1962. DON'T JUST SIT THERE. GET THOSE LETTERS OFF TO WEBER NOW. AT ONCE!

The cover this time is by Chrystal Tackett. Editorial comments, if any, in this will, as usual, be guarded by the Third Venusian Lancers. Like so: X. TIGHTBEAM 14 is a Marinated Publication.

X

We'll get to the editorial in a minute, but first a word from OUR PRESIDENT (Cheers).

O\*F\*F\*I\*C\*I\*A\*L    A\*N\*N\*O\*U\*N\*C\*E\*M\*E\*N\*T

Under the new Postal Regulations, 3rd Class mail (such as fanzines) on which the addressee has moved are returned to the sender with an 8¢ postage due charge. It is obvious that the NFFF's slender budget cannot stand much of this. Consequently, effective immediately, the following policy is in effect with regard to all NFFF publications:

- (1) If you change your address and notify the NFFF Secretary-Treasurer of your new address (either by letter or by one of the change of address cards available at your post office), any NFFF pubs sent to your old address and returned by the Post Office after the date of your notification will be remailed to your new address.
- (2) If you change your address, but we don't learn about it until the P.O. returns one of the publications sent to you at the old address, it will not be remailed unless you send the Secretary-Treasurer 10¢ to cover the cost involved. However, the new address, as reported by the P.O., will be used on future publications.
- (3) Moral: Keep the club informed of your current address! If we have to learn it from some source other than you, you are bound to miss one or more of the publications to which your dues entitle you.

ARTHUR H. RAPP  
President,  
National Fantasy Fan Federation.

-----

That's tellin' 'em, Art, boy. Keep the club posted so we can keep you posted. Now to the editorial: (Ahem.) There are about 250 members, give or take a few, in the NFFF and yet TIGHTBEAM appears regularly containing the same, give or take a few, 25 names. That's about 10%. Wuzzamatta with the rest of you? You like lazy or something? Wake up out there and let's hear from you. If you don't find a topic of discussion to your liking then bring up your own and we'll be only too happy to argue with you. TIGHTBEAM is the NFFF's letterzine, certainly, but that doesn't mean that discussion is limited to purely NFFF topics. You want to discuss your pet theory about life on Mercury? Do it in TIGHTBEAM. You want to complain that your witchwork isn't working? Do it in TIGHTBEAM. You think you can definitely prove that Yngvi was not a louse? Do it in TIGHTBEAM. You just had a thought that the members of CAFA are the Secret Masters of Fandom? Shuddup. We don't talk about that in TIGHT BEAM. What I'm getting at is this: Let's hear from the great silent multitude out there. This is your forum so get up on your soapbox and speak your peice.

End of editorial by

ROY TACKETT

-----

Sorry, chaps, but you can't prove otherwise. Yngvi is a louse.

-----



RACY HIGGS JoJo and I are compiling a FANFILE consisting of all data and information on SF fans belonging to every known organized club or group as well as all those individual fans without club or group affiliation. This FANFILE will tell all about each one interested in the SF and fantasy field (provided, of course, you assist us by sending us the needed information. Included in this of TIGHTBEAM will be a questionnaire. Fill it out and rush it right back to us. Don't be shy or modest in telling the world about yourself. FANFILE will be different from Lloyd Broyles' "Who's Who in SF Fandom" so get your questionnaire completed and mail it in at once. And, by the way, if you haven't already ordered Broyles' 1962 edition of "Who's Who" -- DO SO!

¶Hmmm. Here's my chance to find out all about Wally Wastebasket Weber, the Lothario of lower 3rd Avenue. Oh, I tell you, Weber, your guilty secret about the supermarket incident will soon be revealed. RT¶

LES NIRENBERG I don't know if the N3F manuscript bureau includes non-fannish manuscripts, but if it does, I might be a good guy to know. 1217 WESTON ROAD, I'm paying for material for THE PANIC BUTTON--cartoons, articles, poetry, and opinion BUT it must be non-fannish and non-stf. I pay from \$1 to \$7 per piece depending on how good it is. THE PANIC BUTTON is now a semi-prozine and sold in a number of coffee houses and newsstands in town. I'm also looking for good non-fannish material to reprint. Interested writers can send for a free copy of my zine.

DONALD FRANSON Lacking the last TIGHTBEAM to comment on, I still have the opportunity to say something about the latest TNFF. I think 6543 BABCOCK AVENUE it's a damn nice-looking zine, as well as being full of interesting goodies like my name on every page. ¶You bribe Al? RT¶ The usual thing that happens when someone gets so much publicity is that he gaffes and is never heard from again. No such luck, however, I hope to continue in the N3F as long as I can pay the dues, however inactive I may become in the future. Heck, I've been in the National Geographic Society for 15 years, paid dues, received their mag, and have never contributed to their activities--haven't discovered a single new continent. I like the idea of Kaymar's ads on the back--ads on the back look just right somehow.

¶Yeah, Ol' Tyrannical Al and his gang are doing a right fine job with the club's O-O. Let's hear it out there for Ol' Tyrannical Al. RT¶

FRANK HILLER An idea just hit me like a flash--why not a fund to pay the dues of people who can't afford to pay their own way? 99 SELLINGER ST. Each member who can afford it is to contribute \$1 (or whatever they wish) to the fund. ROCHESTER 5, N.Y.

To save embarrassment the names of the members whose dues are paid out of the fund would be kept secret. To keep out freeloaders only need fans recommended by known Neffers would be eligible.

How's that sound?

MARTHA BECK The plans for the breakfast are progressing nicely--14 members 647 E. 47th PLACE have sent in their reservations (this does not count the con committee which I'm sure will all attend). All the money is in for GARY, INDIANA the coffee room. Howard DeVore has looked over the hotel and me and seems to be satisfied.

Enjoyed TIGHTBEAM 13 very much. Liked the cover--let's have more by that there fellow, Bergeron. Damn, can't find a thing to complain about. That must make me some kind of a nut. ¶Martha, I'm not about to comment on that statement. RT¶

Hank wants me to tell everyone to just send one copy of pubs to me and drop him off the mailing lists. We don't need two copies of everything and in case of divorce I get all books and zines--he gets kids, house and car. I'm joking--I think.

Everyone come to the con. We're gonna have a ball! The coffee room will be open 24 hours a day with lots of talk, food and egoboo. Our "Breakfast" is cheap with



MARTHA BECK:

plenty of good hot food. It will be Saturday morning from 10 to 2 and there isn't anything else scheduled at that time to interfere, thus we can all meet and greet other Neffers before the con really gets started.

Earl says the banquet is to be semi-formal. Define semi-formal, Earl. RT so we'll have a chance to get out of our sandals and into our dress shoes for once. The Masque Ball is to be a real swinging ball with a very good orchestra. We intend to dance and dance--not like the past ones where after the parading and prizes everyone either goes to the bar or to bed. This time we're making an effort to have good music, crazy costumes, and a true ball.

ALMA HILL  
120 BAY STATE ROAD  
BOSTON 15, MASS.

Here is some grist for our open forum, TIGHTBEAM. Story contest winners are in Ron Ellick's hands now. Probably has a few hid in his bushy tail, too. RT and he says that the top winners will make a nice publication. That is his department, of course; he has found people to stencil and mimeo the results, and enough funds have been advanced to him so that he does not have to wait for a treasury report and vote.

If anything holds him up now, it will be the consent of the authors; and at this point I would like to say a kind word for red tape. This fellow, Red Tape, is he the agent for these stories? RT Our contest rules protect the authors, and if you ever wrote a story, you know that it is very personally yours. If the authors want us to try to get a prozine to use their stuff, well, it will take forever, as not every editor reports fast. Campbell is particularly slow, thoroughgoing, and a stockpiler besides, so it could be a couple of years before we could even get second-serial rights. Nonetheless, the authors are entitled to their choice in this.

Even Clay Hamlin--all of whose geese are swans - he read 50 scripts in 30 days and still loved some of them--agrees that not all are equally good. Well, to be plain, I phoned Cele Goldsmith, who also judged the winners, and she didn't see anything she could buy. Cele is a pro editor. So with or without the consent of the authors we can't force Ron Ellick to publish anything he doesn't consider at least fun. Neffer department heads handle their own details.

However, anyone may advise, and I suggested to Ron that if some of the stories are not too sharp then good critical comments might make them both interesting and valuable. It would help beginners to improve, too.

I'm also suggesting that the next story contest chief widen the scope again. I think that all pros are also fans, and wish there were a category for pros. We would get in more and better help that way. We could still have a protected category for amateurs. It seems to me the field needs a pro-caliber publication with the amateur spirit and this might be a way to do it. Also how could we help the talented beginner better than by conference with those further along? There are really no stf pros as such: the prices are too low, the field too restricted. It seems to me that a panel of judges would lack editorial bias and that we can offer prizes and applause worth anyone's consideration.

The pro category sounds interesting but I'm not at all sure it would draw many entries. If the story is good enough to win a prize the author would submit it to a prozine rather than to a contest. After reading some of the junk that passes for stf these days I'm almost ready to agree that there are no stf pros--any more. RT

ED BRYANT  
300 PARK AVE,  
WHEATLAND, WYO.

My first impulse upon reading TIGHTBEAM 13 is to jot down some comments on Ed Meskys' words on the Hugo Awards. Ed passes over the award for dramatic presentation by stating that there is "obviously" no contender for it. So? RT Not only do I think that any of the four nominees on the Hugo Ballot for the dramatic award (especially "The Fabulous World of Jules Verne" and "The Twilight Zone") are worthy of the prize, but it is my opinion that two items were skipped completely either of which is more worthy of the award than the ballot nominees. How's that again? RT These two items are the science fiction play "Aniara" and the motion picture "Blood and Roses" which I sincerely believe is the best horror picture I have ever viewed. Perhaps "Blood and



ED BRYANT:

Roses" isn't eligible since it is "horror" and the Hugos are "SF" but I think it should get some recognition. So far I haven't seen anyone else speaking out in its praise. Betty Kujawa does in DYNATRON. (Free plug) RT// Maybe I've just got lousy taste, but I don't think so. Try a good mouthwash. RT//

If anyone who was suppose to get AD ASTRA #5 didn't, notify me and I'll remedy the situation. #6 is delayed (an understatement) and an interim issue is being published. I need good reviews or articles about all phases of sf or fantasy for publication //Sigh. Don't we all? RT// especially articles about lesser known prozines such as STARDUST and MIND, INC. I still need about 80 or 90 paperbacks to complete my collection, in particular nearly all the stf in Armed Forces Editions. I'll send a want list to anyone having pbs for sale and a list of my duplicates to anyone interested.

//Actually, "Blood and Roses" is fantasy and despite the fact that the Hugos are "The Annual Science Fiction Achievement Awards" fantasy is eligible. I think. Possibly not enough fans have seen the film to have considered it this time. Nominate it again next year--the con committee doesn't keep track of such things anyway. RT//

CLAYTON HAMLIN  
SOUTHWEST HARBOR,  
MAINE.

They did well, eh? The Rapp's that is. One of the problems of being president of this club is that you have to be ready and able to take up the slack when things get behind for one reason or another. Art and Nancy did and get a loud and resounding vote of

applause.

I suspect they are going to run into another problem shortly, too. Concerning the 2nd fan fiction contest. Considering what happened last year it may not work out precisely as expected. I refer to the increase in the entry fee to a buck each. I know from personal experience last year that lots of the writers won't be enclosing it. Of the eight stories sent directly to me last year only one had that fee enclosed. Ed Ludwig mentioned that lots of them were forgetting it with him also. Of those that were sent here, I sent along the money for them personally //You were easy. RT// and Ralph donated a few extra bucks for postage or it would have been somewhat less than it was. //Ralph was easy, too. RT// This suggests that the same thing may happen again this time. I could hardly blame the writers for just ignoring it and certainly no one was turned down from judging because of lack of fee.

No, I don't blame them. Unless a writer is near professional it simply isn't worth it just to be told that you don't quite have it--the little extra. Sure, plenty good for fanzines, there were few that wouldn't find a place easily, but why pay for finding out? If I had been a prozine editor about three of them would have been purchased right then but for merely fan writing, it doesn't seem worth a buck.

Let it be on record, I have been and will continue to be opposed to raising the dues of this club to \$2. Being one of the half-dozen or so that have paid the dues for several who couldn't afford to join otherwise, it is plenty high already. Let them use the funds, if any to do other fannish activity, maybe publishing a fanzine or some other thing that appeals to them. The club doesn't NEED a dues increase. Not while the treasury has several hundred bucks on hand. Long term prepayment of dues should not be considered a liability. Only one year at most. This should make an additional working capital of something like \$70 right now. Let's bury this idea of raising the dues once and for all, shall we?

In case anyone is interested, this new address of mine is right in the middle of what might well be the loveliest National Park in the country--Acadia National Park. Of course, it is a depressed area in a fannish way, but if you are up this way by all means drop in.

And finally, just to frighten everyone, plans are well under way to publish the entire collection of those items about the Odd Ones and Saturnalia and such like. Mike Mitchell and myself will be representing the Odd Ones, that sadistic fiend Hayes for the cause of Saturnalia, and Bill Mallardi holding forth for the Bems. The astonishing Bunia with all the details on Martian witches //Nonsense. As I explained to Hayes, Bunia is an obvious fake. RT// and various oddities by such as Phil Harrell



CLAY HAMLIN:

Janet Freeman, Alma Hill, our good editor, Roy Tackett, and many others. Illustrations by Joni and Dean Latimer. Publication is expected to be comparable to my previous one-shots but publication will be limited and copies, with very few exceptions, will be available by request only and to contributors. Anyone interested?

Yeah, I am. I'm a contributor, eh? I get mixed up in some of the strangest things. # Regarding the short story contest -- I rather agree that it isn't worth a fee just to have the yarn printed in a fanzine and end up with the usual fannish criticism. Not that I'm knocking fannish criticism--some of it is good. What is needed to make the short story contest a success is a tie-up with one of the prozines with guaranteed publication of the number one story. And, of course, lesser prizes for the other winners. There is no reason why it couldn't be done and it seems to me that the sponsoring prozine would welcome the attendant publicity. OK, Directors, kick that around and see if you can get AMAZING & FANTASTIC to sponsor the contest. RT

DAVID HULAN

228-D NIBLO DRIVE,  
REDSTONE ARSENAL, ALA.

As stated in the June TNFF, I am the new Chairman of the Welcommittee. In my report I asked for volunteers. You've been in the Army long enough to have learned that you're not supposed to volunteer for anything. RT I'd like to explain here what sort of people I want in the Welcommittee, and what I'll expect them to do. Uh-huh. A typical Lieutenant--always expecting somebody to do something. RT

I am primarily interested in getting fans on the committee who are sincerely interested in helping neofans get started, not in building up their own personal correspondence. I realize that there is a strong urge for neos to want to increase the number of their correspondents; for this reason I plan to publish a zine describing the new members periodically and distribute it to all members who joined during the preceding six months (other interested parties can contact me and I'll include them on the ML). However, I prefer that Welcommittee members confine their activity to welcoming and giving an initial boost and not try to maintain a continued correspondence with everyone they welcome. The first letter should be friendly, telling about some of the club activities, especially those in which the new member has indicated interest on his application blank, and offering to help him in any way to find his niche in fandom. Don't tell him to write somebody else in the first letter. If you get an answer asking questions, answer them yourself if you can, or refer him to someone who can. Normally by the third letter you'll have done about all you can, and you can sign off, explaining that if you continue to correspond with everyone you welcome you would soon have no time to welcome and help out others in the same position.

The requirements of activity are not strict. When you join, I'll ask for a figure of how many you feel you can welcome in a month and I'll check off certain names in your copy of GJALLARHORN for you to write to. GJALLARHORN will be published about once a month listing the new members and as much info as I can garner on them. There are only two requirements for remaining on the Welcommittee--you have to report to me by the suspense date given in GJALLARHORN what your activity has been since the last report and this report has to be the truth.

Now that I've explained in general terms what you can expect if you join the Welcommittee, is anyone interested? The WC is potentially the most valuable service to fandom the N3F offers and a good WC will do the Club tremendous good. You can welcome as few as one a month if you're busy--and welcoming one neo per month isn't difficult.

I will also announce here that I am running for the Directorate this Fall. Many of you know this already, but this is my first public announcement in an official N3F zine. I am, it is true, relatively new to fandom, but I have had a good bit of experience as an office holder in mundane organizations in the past, and have had a considerable amount of experience in leadership and organization in my Army career. I do not propose any radical innovations, since the N3F as presently set up seems to be working well and I understand is more highly considered in general fandom than it has been in a long time, but on the other hand I will not oppose change on principle. If a new idea seems to have merit, I am willing to give it a trial. I do intend to



DAVE HULAN:

press for more vigorous and efficient operation of the activities currently in existence - this is the major direction in which improvement can be obtained.

This is my platform and I will appreciate the support and vote of all of you.

I think that Dave will be a good Welcomittee Chairman and his ideas on how the committee should operate promise to liven it up a bit. RT

JANIE LAMB Don Franson has often raised the questions of Neffers not being able to spell; I'm beginning to think they cannot read either. The most common grip about the calendar year for membership seems to be that of joining late in the year, perhaps October or November, and not getting the full year's membership. The question is then raised as to why wasn't they allowed to pay for a quarter year. The fact is they were. Beginning April 1st they may pay for the current year and for the sum of \$1.20 extra, \$2.80 total, they will pay for the current year and the following year. As the year passes the extra pay decreases, after Oct 1st, the cost is 80¢ extra. Anytime you see a mention of joining N3F you will see a notice to this effect. All membership applications list this at the bottom of the application blank. Usually when I get a late member with only the \$1.60 I write and explain the difference; some pay, some ignore the letter. So if they can read, why don't they?

Replying to Meskys in TB #13: anyone joining after Nov, do get paid for the next year, that is if he doesn't get in in time to vote. If he votes then he would have to be counted as a member of that year. Let's check and see if one should be allowed to pay only 80¢. New members are sent a packet of material, and figuring on what new members were sent this month, let's see what they would have gotten for their 80¢. "Who's Who in SF Fandom"...price 50¢; Fandbook #1...price 20¢; Index to Zines...price 20¢; Fanzine listing...price 20¢; TIGHTBEAM...price at least 20¢; TNFF...price at least 20¢; postage for the package is 20¢ and figure paper and envelopes at 25¢. It totals \$1.95. So he pays 80¢, picks up the material dirt cheap, then he says, "That the heck, N3F is a stinker", and refuses to renew, then we've lost money on him. But if he pays \$2.40 he will remain long enough to find out what N3F is and perhaps learn to like it. The quarterly dues are there, if one reads and wants to use them.

A change in dues year will not only upset the secretary's bookkeeping, but will upset the method of typing labels for the club zines. Members renewing after deadline for report to NFF would fail to get that month's TNFF, this would make hard feelings.

-----  
Address change: Frederick Gottschalk, 6716 Sulky Lane, Rockville, Maryland.  
-----

ESTHER RICHARDSON Really enjoyed Art and Nancy's TIGHTBEAM. Thought the cover by Bergeron most interesting and different. Wonder if it was 3627 NW 65TH COURT his interpretation of what future humans might look like? SEATTLE 7, WASHINGTON

All this fuss and bother about how to write Welcome letters amuses me. I remember when I first joined the N3F a little over 5 years ago and only received about 5 letters. I never thought to look how they were written but enjoyed every one and felt most flattered that I was remembered. Come to think of it, I did receive one briefly written postcard and enjoyed that too. Why on earth is it expected that a person should write a long, inspiring letter to an utter stranger? A few short, nice words are more than enough and should be very satisfying to the new member.

It is too bad that more of you can't get here to see our World Fair. It is very much along SF lines. One of the most interesting trips to "tomorrow" is the one you can take in a large round, glass "Bubblevator" which holds 100 people. The man that runs it is dressed in a sparkling "space suit". He sits above you and tells you in an eerie voice that we must get ready soon to step into the year 2000, so why not now? We step from the Bubbleator and for 21 minutes we are lead through the next century. I've done it twice and intend to do it again.

You working for the Chamber of Commerce now, Esther? RT



RON WILSON

Nancy and Art must certainly be commended for their efforts on such a short notice. I greatly enjoyed Ray Nelson's illustrating the letters and would have liked to see his handling of the rest of Phil Harrell's letter. I have always liked Ray's work and know that his untimely passing will, indeed, be felt for some time to come. ~~RT~~

For my part I am in agreement with Roger Cox, K. Martin Carlson, Dave Vanderwerf, and Larry McCombs on increase of dues. Thus far, I believe that I have gotten more than my money's worth and admit that I would have paid the price of the dues just to obtain INDEX TO THE SCIENCE-FICTION MAGAZINES 1961.

I presume, Ed Meskys, ye be referring to STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND when ye speak of "that mess of drivel by Heinlein." ~~RT~~ Bow down when you mention the master's name. ~~RT~~ I presume you have read Walter Breen's absorbing rebuttal to Jim Blish in *Wrrhn* 14? For drivel, there is quite a bit to say for it. ~~RT~~ STRANGER will win the Hugo this year. ~~RT~~ The inclusion of sex in any book automatically opens the door for controversy. ~~RT~~ Only among the narrow-minded. ~~RT~~ You have no doubt read VENUS PLUS X wherein Sturgeon flatly stated, "It was my aim...a) to write a decent book, b) about sex." The only point on the subject that most everyone can agree on is that there are two of them, and that it is here to stay.

DARK UNIVERSE holds no attraction for me, mainly because I avoid the introduction of religion into science fiction. The result is usually sacrilege. All one has to do is look at CANTICLE FOR LEIBOVITZ to see my point. ~~RT~~

Sparkle-Janey's small-talk is no smaller than most in TIGHTBEAM. I am in the middle of reading Marijane's remarkable JANEY'S JOURNAL and don't know when I've enjoyed amateur writing more. A vote of thanks to Marijane, Clay Hamlin, Bob Lambeck, and the rest.

To Bill Warren and movies: I suggest you add EXODUS to your list of fantasies. Ghod! And sex even in TARZAN? What next? Banning PEANUTS because suspicion of Charlie Brown being a homosexual? I mean really, isn't there enough things to knock without going into ERB's fine stories? I suppose next they'll be telling us that A FAREWELL TO ARMS is pornographic because it reminds us of Venus de Milo. As with every other well-meaning thing, sooner or later it gets carried too far. The trouble being that in attacking innocent publications it is more likely they will receive a taint that will be harder to remove than it was to apply. Let's hope that common sense will hold some say in the matter.

~~RT~~ The trouble is that these blue-nosed idiots are not well-meaning to begin with. And they have no common sense. In the Downey case, for example, it is obvious that the people involved hadn't even bothered to read the Tarzan books. A suspicion crept up in someone's dirty mind and action was taken without bothering to check the facts first. It's a dangerous world we live in, kiddies. ~~RT~~

G. M. CARR

Enjoyed TB 13 and especially liked the neat appearance and clever illustrations. Thanks for a very nice mag, Art and Nancy. 5319 BALLARD AVE., SEATTLE 7, WASH.

I am glad to see constructive suggestions emerge with regard to the Welcommittee; especially the suggestions by Pat Scott McLean and Larry McCombs. Perhaps these can be simplified even further by having the application blank carry a space for the new member to state for himself in just which category he considers himself to belong: a new fan or a returnee to fandom, instead of expecting the Welcommittee to recognize him.

As David Vanderwerf's nice letter indicates the neo who is really a "neo" really does need and can use the services the Welcommittee offers. These are not the members who are griping and complaining obviously. Perhaps if those new members who are actually old members rejoining after a lapse of time, were to indicate that they do not consider themselves neos by saying so on their applications, their over-sensitive egos need not be ruffled by being given the routine treatment.....

As to raising the dues, I hope it will not be necessary. But I suppose if they are raised, the members will just have to dig deeper...N3F gets to be such a habit after a while that dropping out is unthinkable, no matter what the dues may be.



G. M. CARR:

However, the "Quarterly" approach to dues-paying needs to be clarified. Unless the N3F constitution has been changed, the dues are strictly on a calendar basis of 1 Jan to 31 Dec. Members must renew for an entire year. The "quarter-year" dues apply solely for NEW memberships. A new member has the privilege of getting two calendar years membership, i.e., the fraction remaining in the calendar year in which he joins, plus the entire year following! Therefore when Ed Meskys, for instance, says in his letter, "...receiving only some 3 months membership for \$1.60 in dues" he is mistaken.

One final comment, I was amused by Bill Warren's objection to the idea that "chain-of-thought writings" should be called "science fiction fan magazines". Actually, they aren't. They are called "science fiction fan magazines", because science fiction fans form an "in-group" wherein they publish among themselves "fanzines" on any subject whatsoever, including (if they so wish) science fiction.

A question such as "How long have you been in fandom?" on the application blank might solve the problem of sifting the neos from the more veteran fen. When I rejoined the N3F after many years I did not expect to be recognized --I sure didn't recognize a large portion of the membership--and noted on my application that I was a returnee. # Gem, you didn't mention that some of these "fans" are not stf fans at all and how they got involved with fandom is beyond me. RT

AL LEWIS

The Westercon was apparently a smashing success from most accounts. Everybody had fun, which is most important, and almost as much so is the fact that we made money. Pending a final and exact audit of the books, and payment of a couple of minor bills and collection of a couple of minor debts, we seem to have made in the neighborhood of \$380 clear profit. \$100 of that goes to the next Westercon, and we have the rest earmarked for various useful fan projects--how much to what depends on just how much we have when the books are audited.

I have a particular smug satisfaction in all this because LA fandom has been saying for a couple of years that cons were charging too much money. You may recall that we opposed the registration fee increase that was voted in at Pittcon on the grounds that any con committee could get by with good management. Our registration fee for this year's Westercon was \$1, down 50% from last year's Baycon, and we would have made a profit even if we had had no auction at all. If we had had any decent amount of artwork this year, we would have racked up another couple of hundred on the auction. Considering that Solacon made money, dues were raised and Detention made money, Pittcon made even more money, raised dues, and Seacon made money, I wouldn't be surprised if Chicon doesn't rack up over \$1000 clear net this year. The only justification for such a large profit would seem to be a major fannish charity that needs a rather large sum, and needs it continuously. Conversely, it means that for the first time in its history, fandom would seem to have the resources to sponsor a really large money-drinking project of real merit. #Like pubbing a prozine? RT

Judging from the number of requests for my magazine index that have gone to Janie Lamb, perhaps a bit of explanation of the finances would be in order.

The Index to the Science Fiction Magazines, 1961, was distributed to all of the members of the N3F as of the mailing of TNFF for April. This comprised the 198 people on the April roster. Members who joined after this date and non-members have to pay 50%. Since it costs rather less than 50% in terms of materials--stencils, paper, and ink; if I can sell 100 copies at that price I should come reasonably close to breaking even on the whole project--Neffers getting their copies free at the expense of general fandom.

The fact that an N3F "benefit" had to be financed through such subterfuge as this is one of the reasons that I am plumping for an increase in dues. The Directorate has already overspent itself for this year, but we have had reasons of considerable merit and fortunately the capital to dig into. Next year, however, we are either going to have to curtail our activity or increase dues to balance the budget. \$1.60 per year pays for TNFF and TB but not a whole lot else. We have either to cut back publishing, cut our con expenses, secure another windfall such as followed Sea-



AL LEWIS:

con, or increase dues. I prefer the latter.

I think Art Rapp deserves the thanks of the membership for coming through in fine style on two emergencies in recent months. The first was in the decision to go ahead with the story contest inspite of all obstacles, and the second is the fine job of firemanning he did in producing Donaho's TIGHTBEAM. I think Art has shown through his actions that he is the sort of person who is willing to bend every effort to improve this club, and I think he has more than justified the confidence the members of the Directorate placed in him in naming him president.

We thought he was a pretty good man when we named him President; I don't think any of us realized quite how good. Elections will be here in October, and I think Art deserves re-election by the membership for a job well done.

And I second the nomination. Following Ralph Holland was a difficult thing to do but Art has done it and done it well. It would be very difficult to find a more conscientious fan. Ol' Tyrannical Al here deserves a big vote of thanks, too, for the time and effort he has and is devoting to the Club. The NFFF is fortunate to have such members. RT

Ann Chamberlain sent along the following letter with the suggestion that it might prove of interest to the membership.

HERBERT BODENSCHATZ, Dear Ann,  
8 MUNCHEN 27,  
MAUTERKIRCHER STR. 24,  
WEST GERMANY

I can't tell you how glad I am finally to hear something from NFFF! First I must thank you for your very nice letter which impressed me rather much. You wrote such profound details about the whole complex that I can hardly add anything more. Seeing you sympathizing with us and being well informed on conditions in Germany makes me rather glad, as people living far beyond the sea - in spite of modern traffic - can't always be expected to have much interest or even knowledge of the problems of Europe. But I think one of the main tasks of science fiction should be joining the nations and I am sure it can do that. I must say that we here in Europe envy you the license, the vastness, and the immense wild beauty of your country, your technique and your way of considering problems. You are not charged with such a lot of traditional ballast as we are. But now I'm going to answer your questions and introduce myself to you:

My birthdate is April 5th, 1943. I was born in Berlin, but I have been living in Munich since the end of the way. After four years of elementary school, I went to a Munich "Realgymnasium". That is a sort of high school. We have 14 compulsory subjects including Latin, English, French, natural sciences, math, and others. Next year I'll be passing my final exam, and afterwards I want to go to university for studying English and German. Besides stf I am interested in history, astronautics, music (classical, good hits, hillbilly songs) and foreign languages. I have been reading stf for 10 years and especially with all intensity when getting nearer to it by studying English. Two years ago I got a member of the SFCD, and I am participating in some fanzines like "Munich Roundup", "Anabis", and "Science Fiction Times" (by Burkhard Blum). Just recently I joined Buz Zeigert and his German sf group (N3F group). My favorite subjects in literature are sociological sf (Orwell, Huxley, Tenn, etc) classics (Wells, Burroughs, etc), all sorts of anthologies and short stories, and good space stories. My favorite authors include Bradbury, Wyndham, Asimov, Frederic Brown, E.A. Poe, A. C. Clarke, Clifford Simak and others. For instance non-English writers like the French, Barjavel, and the Pole, Stanislaw Lem. But my SPECIAL FIELD is sf film!

I am collecting programs and all things concerning sf or horror movies. Unfortunately there are not so many good utopian movies as there should be, and particularly with us in Germany you don't have the opportunity of getting a good view. I am trying to get any copy of American film mags like SPACEMEN, FAMOUS MONSTERS, and I don't know--are there others? Perhaps you can help me in this matter. Later on I intend to edit, with a fan friend of mine, a book or brochure containing the development of utopian movies, principally restricted to those shown in Germany, of



HERBERT BODENSCHATZ:

course.

I will gladly correspond with any boy or girl about my own age, but the partner may also be older. It would be nice if he or she had similar interests. Moreover I would like to BUY or exchange books, stills, film mags, disks, and so on.

I hope a real friendship will grow from these future correspondences, and I promise I will do my best to keep it on. At last, I still have a wish: could you send me some informative material about N3F? I am just a tenderfoot you know. Was everything okay with my membership fee? I am asking you all that, as I have not got any message from N3F up to now. Zeigert told me something about an application blank I should get but I didn't get one. I hadn't any address to write to. Many thanks for all your endeavors! I hope to hear of NFFF soon again.

Well, Neffers, don't just sit there; clue this boy in. That school schedule of his is a little jewel, isn't it? Can you imagine American schools coming out with something like that? There is no doubt that we'd be much better off if our educational standards were raised in such a manner but, Great Roscoe, how the parents would scream--most of them--if their kids had such a schedule to follow at school. RT

All of which just about winds up TIGHTBEAM #14. Rather a slim issue this time but that was rather to be expected since the deadline for this one came so soon after the publication of #13. Let's make Weber's issue a nice, fat one.

For you amateur publishers interested in the mechanical details of this issue: The stencils are Speed-O-Print Sovereigns, the typer is a Smith-Corona portable, vintage of about 1948. The mimeo is a Vari-Color Model 98 and the ink is Vari-Color Kontrol Flo. The paper is Twill-Tone. The editor is vintage of 1925. Ah, that was a good year.

Egad, I hate to see all this space go to waste. Guess I'd better rattle on here about this and that.

Another excellent Neffer service is the "Information Bureau" conducted by good fan Donald Franson, whose address is somewhere in thish. If you have any questions regarding the NFFF, fandom's history, science fiction, etc., send them along to Don. He'll dig up the answers somewhere and they'll be published in Art Hayes' newszine "THRU THE HAZE". Send your news along to Art, too. THRU THE HAZE is a newszine mostly for and about Neffers but news items have been rather scarce of late. If you move, get married, make a sale to the prozines, or anything at all, let Art know about it. Art Hayes, RR #3, Bancroft, Ontario, Canada.

I mentioned CAFA up front and no doubt the reference mystified most of you. CAFA is the Carboniferous Amateur Press Alliance, an organization dedicated to keeping alive the spirit of 5th Fandom. A right fine group. CAFA publishes a fanzine called FIVE...BY FIVE which is chockfull of all sorts of goodies by some 5th Fandom types. Unfortunately, FIVE...BY FIVE is published in only five copies (naturally) each month so it isn't generally available.

Er, if you just happen to have some stf-slanted articles or essays knocking about and don't know what to do with them I might suggest sending them along to me for possible publication in DYNATRON. Bryant, you don't have a chance with me editing thish of TB.

This has been TIGHTBEAM #14. Remember the deadline for TIGHTBEAM #15 is 31 August, 1962, so get those letters off to Wally Weber quickly. And let's hear from somebody other than the usual gang of letter-hacks. They write interesting letters, to be sure, but they're beginning to feel lonesome.

ROY TACKETT

XXXXXX



FROM:  
JANIE LAMB  
ROUTE 1, BOX 364,  
HEISKELL, TENNESSEE,  
U.S.A.

PRINTED MATTER ONLY  
RETURN REQUESTED.

TO:

Sterhen F. Schultheis  
Special Collections  
University of California Library  
Los Angeles 24  
California

