

The Official Letter-zine of the National Fantasy Fan Federation -- Issue Number 46
 Editor and Publisher: Don Miller November, 1967

In brief --

We had planned a rather elaborate cover on this issue, but the new source which we had tapped for the drawing failed to come through, so this will have to do. Not that it matters, really -- the function of TB and TNFF is to disseminate information, and not just to look pretty.

Since we've already started to do so, we'll use the editorial "we" on this first page -- but we'll dispense with it in the body of this 'zine, in deference to Don Franson, to avoid possible confusion between personal opinions and official club policy. All opinions expressed on this page, too, are those of the editor and not necessarily of the club.

Next editor of TB will be Wally Weber, Box 267, 507 3rd Ave., Seattle, Washington, 98104. Remember, you'll have to mail your letters to him during the Christmas mail-madness if he is to receive them in time to meet the January 10 publication deadline, so mail early!

We have volunteered our services, and they have been accepted by Stan, to take over as Official Editor for N'APA. So send all 'zines for the December mailing, all requests for membership, etc., to us: Don Miller, 12315 Judson Road, Wheaton, Maryland, 20906. Again, remember the Christmas mail-madness -- be sure to take this into consideration when trying to get your 'zines to us by the December 15th deadline. If you send your 'zines by other than first-class or airmail, send them by 4th-class, special-handling. The extra 35¢ special-handling fee will insure that your package gets extra-special treatment, and will be well worth it.

We have cut off this 'zine today, Nov. 4, so we can run it off and get it out this weekend. Any letters coming in after today will be sent on to Wally Weber. We have also printed all letters received in their entirety, with only a few minor editorial corrections in some of them.

Assuming that Don Franson will be elected President, and he confirms his tentative appointment of us as 1968 TNFF Official Editor, the primary focus of TNFF during 1968 will be on club news and activities, with strong secondary emphasis on news and activities of "outside" fandom; the remaining space will be filled with general material, with special reference on timely reviews of books, magazines, fanzines, movies, etc. To accomplish this, we will draw heavily on our already-existing WSFA JOURNAL channels -- but we hope that new channels can be opened through the N3F, with its 400-strong membership, so that our coverage of "outside" activities can be complete. We therefore issue the call for volunteers to provide us with information -- we need persons to: 1. Keep us posted on apa activity; 2. Keep us posted on forthcoming conventions and other club and regional activities of general interest; 3. Keep us posted on news of time, place, and program (if any) of clubs around the country (this can be done on a regional basis, or on an individual club basis -- certainly with more than one person involved in the reporting); 4. Keep us posted on clubs, conventions, and other fannish news from outside the U.S. (we would hope for respondents from Canada, Sweden, England, Germany, Italy, Japan, and from any other country represented in the N3F membership); 5. Keep us posted on forthcoming movies, TV shows, books, magazines, etc. (certainly involving more than one "reporter"). So, come on, out there -- if you know anything, or come across anything, which might possibly be of general interest to the N3F membership, share it with us by sending it to TNFF for publication therein.

To save writing individual letters to all those members who have written us asking about our various publications, we publish the following: THE WSFA JOURNAL (see elsewhere in this issue for info); THE GAMESLETTER (Games Bureau o-o); THE GAMESMAN (general games); YE FAERIE CHESSEMAN (fairy games); RULESHEET PORTFOLIO series (self-explanatory); DIPLOMANIA (Diplomacy genzine); DIPLOPHOBIA, DIPSOMANIA, FANTASIA, and SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS (Diplomacy gameszines); SENA (Amerind lore apa MC's); KITTLE PITCHERING HUBBLE DE SHUFF (apa MC's, so far).

John Boardman, 592 16th St., Brooklyn, N.Y., 11218

(25 September 1967)

Dear N3F:

Thanks for TIGHTBEAM #45.

Someone else apparently has charge of Eric Blake now; the letter which appears in this issue is not from my hand. I've heard about the "Eric Blake at LASFS" incident before, but have no idea who perpetrated that one. Perhaps some west coast fan, who like Ed Meskys saw through the pen-name, got a buddy from outside fandom to attend and utter Blake-like opinions.

Besides, there actually appears to be a Blake somewhere in the Metropolitan New York area. John McCallum says that once he attempted to phone "Blake" long distance anent a postal Diplomacy game, and was told that his phone is an unlisted number. And, so help me, another member of the NYCON 3 committee has, from somewhere, a mailing list which has the address of an Eric Blake in Harlem!

By Shango, you don't suppose that....

((John later passed on to me a letter from Ann Chamberlain addressed to Eric Blake, which he asked me to print in this TB to show that, despite his declaration of Eric's non-existence, people still go on believing in him, seemingly, according to John, because: "1. Over a year ago, someone representing himself as "Blake" showed up at a LASFS meeting. 2. A letter purportedly from "Blake", which imitates his style excellently, but is not of my authorship, appeared in the last TIGHTBEAM." I am not going to print Ann's letter, John, as it was not originally meant for publication, and I would not feel right publishing it without her permission. If Ann gives her permission to have it printed in the next TIGHTBEAM, I'll pass it on to the next editor.

As far as "Eric Blake" is concerned, it would appear he will not die easily. Your creation, John, has assumed an identity of its own, independent of your influence, and refuses to let you "uncreate" him. You did too good a job -- "Eric Blake" exists in the minds of too many people to be erased by mere words. "Boardman's Monster" now haunts the minds of a good many Neffers and non-Neffers! See what happens, John, when one meddles in affairs not meant for mortal man? --ed.))

Harriett Kolchak, 2330 N. Hancock St., Phila., Penna., 19133

(Sept., 1967)

Apologies from your Neo-Fan-Fund Hostess --

To all fen, new and old:

I would like to extend my apologies to those fen with whom I did not have a chance to get acquainted at the convention. I would have liked to have had more time to talk with all those I knew and with all those who were new to S.F. The trouble was that, with 1,700 con members, I could not even find many of the friends I had listed on my must-list, much less have time to more than say a friendly "hello" to the neos. I spent as much of the little time I had just getting acquainted with new fen, often missing a program which I would have liked to see in doing so.

If you were among those fen who just got a "Hi" from me, or whom I contacted by mail earlier and then didn't even see at the con, please forgive my overlooking you. I did not want, nor mean, to ignore anyone. If you didn't see me at this convention, I now invite you to come into the N3F room at the next convention I attend, which may be the Baycon, and get acquainted. If I had to pass you up with a mere "Hi", I am also extending the invitation to get better acquainted, and if you are on my list of acquaintances well known, or listed among those I have met only briefly, the same thing goes.

I do not know how it will work out, but I believe that if we have as many members at the next convention as we did at this one (and it would be wonderful for the con-committee if we did), I will just pick one spot to hole up in, and post the location on the bulletin board for all who want to talk with me to see.

With several hundred fen already on my list of friends, and more on my list of further acquaintances to be made, it would really be a very rare thing for me to have all the time I need at any convention to really spend with them.

Besides all this, I do have my work on the N3F, the New Writers agents, and the Neo-Fan-Fund, not to mention that I try to aid any committee I can in any way I can.

Again I ask, if I passed you up, please forgive me. Do write me if you feel you want to.

I am sure the apologies to fen passed up by their friends, etc., goes from all to all. A convention the size of this one leaves us but little choice but to talk only with those who come within ear-shot or with whom we have business. And many of those with whom I had business I did not even find -- and I only saw 4E Ackerman once, when he hunted me up.

((And the fact that the N3F room was located so far off the beaten path at the NYCON 3 didn't help much, either. I, too, apologize to all those persons I didn't get to see, and invite you all to come down to the 1968 DISCLAVE this May (Mother's Day Weekend). --ed.))

Garry Pullins, 500 Hillcliff, Pontiac, Michigan, 48054 (Sept., 1967)

The main reason I joined the N3F was to meet new fans and get a better idea of just what's going on in fandom. I believe that, if one's a neo, this is the best place to get started in fandom. Although I realize that each fan has his own interpretation of just what a fan's job is, I feel that a person can achieve the most experience by working, writing, and corresponding in the ranks of the N3F.

It seems that there has been much controversy on the efficiency of the federation in the past few issues of TB. Of course, I don't know what it was all about, but I think I have a pretty good idea. Was it because people weren't doing their jobs, or that other members didn't like the way some people were doing their respective jobs?

Bob Varde-
man sure hit the nail on the head when he said that new members didn't get enough information to even ask intelligent questions. All I've received so far were the TB's and a thank-you card from Ann Chamberlain. I'd surely like to receive a list of all the Bureaus and what they do, and perhaps be told of something I can do to help the club out. But maybe I'm sounding off for little or no reason at all. So please put me in my place if this be the case. However, as of right now I don't have the slightest idea of what to do or to whom to turn for the info I desire.

I agree that Jan Slavin has a good thing going with her fan dictionary. There are still many terms with which I'm unfamiliar. I also agree that Fred Lerner is absurd in his views of voting at cons. If I paid the same price to get in as "Joe BNFF", I would feel that I deserved the same privileges in voting. Besides, if I had enough interest to come to the thing, I'd not be throwing my votes around.

I've been in fandom for about a year and a half, and it wasn't until about my 14th or 15th fannish month that I heard of the N3F. I believe that the club should be more publicized in order to acquire new members. I would go as far as to say that at least one-fifth of fandom has never heard of the N3F.

((Hear, hear!! The lack of an organized, systematic, intelligent and logical approach to the "new-member's packet" is one of the major faults of the N3F. I hope Don Franson (if he is elected) and the 1968 Directorate will tackle this problem as soon as they take office, and will quickly come up with an N3F information-dissemination system which makes sense. And as for a fan dictionary, the N3F has, in its fandbook series, an excellent short dictionary of this sort. The fact that none of the fandbooks are kept in print and regularly revised is further evidence of

the aforementioned lack of a sensible publication policy.

As far as publicity is concerned, I entered fandom in 1948, and first heard of the N3F at the 1963 DISCON. So, the fact that it only took you 14-15 months to hear about the N3F after you entered fandom would seem to indicate that the publicity situation has improved somewhat. However, it is still weak, particularly in "word-of-mouth" promotion. The real problem is not so much of getting new members, as it is of keeping the ones the club has. If the club were of sufficient value to its members that they all were to stay in once they joined, the club would grow in "leaps and bounds" by word-of-mouth promotion alone. As it is, "word-of-mouth" probably keeps out more members than it brings in. --ed.))

Harriett Kolchak, 2330 N. Hancock St., Phila., Penna., 19133

(Sept., 1967)

Screams From Convention N.Y. in 1967.---

I am in the process of gathering together separate sections on all the convention screams. There are enough to fill a book, it seems. This one is directed at the fen themselves. I would like to see this in several fanzines, because it is for the fen and all of them do not read every fanzine; some fanzines many do not even see. But, since the N3F has so many new fen in it, I think TB would be the place to put it. I did this once before, and it helped a lot. I now think it is time for the neos to get a calling-down again, for their own good.

While it is true that the hotel staff was very rude and did not provide good service, and even raided private parties, it is also true that much of this may have been due to the actions of the fans, themselves.

I know for a fact that many of the parties spilled over into the halls; a great many fen do not realize that this is an invasion of the privacy of others, and presents a safety hazard. Empty glasses, discarded flash bulbs, empty bottles and cans left around the halls are a detriment to those who have to use the halls and expect a degree of safety. I might suggest that for the good of all, hotel and fen, the halls be kept as clean and as quiet as possible during convention parties. I am sure the hotel would not have objected nearly so violently to room parties had they been kept in the rooms, or at least quiet and neat while in the halls.

Another thing is that the destruction of hotel property, for any reason, is not an item to invite attention to our preferability as conventioners. I noted that several fen went around dropping lit cigarette butts on the floor, carpets, etc. This could result in a fire that would endanger life throughout the hotel, not to mention the loss in property value. I think it was this very thing that resulted in the hotel taking up several of the better green rugs that were on the floors, and replacing them with old, hole-worn, red ones on the second day of the convention.

On one occasion, I saw a whole ash tray (a sand-filled one), which had been tipped over (as the result of a squabble with the elevator operators) against an elevator door. This could have resulted in faulty operation as the sand filtered into the mechanism, or even in a fire if it had gotten into the electrical system. Drinks set on wooden tables, in addition, can bring about discoloration and destruction of property, and demands made for service which are not in order can bring about temporary chaos to management as well as to fen.

Being polite and helpful does not cost much -- it just takes a little self-control. Doing so could result in a much more pleasant association with the hotel management, and in much quicker and better service, as well as in a much safer hotel. It could also result in a faster reply to our request for a convention site, as well as in a better hotel because of a larger choice available, since all hotels pass on information about one convention to the next convention hotel.

Please be advised that I do not think that all of the blame should be placed on the shoulders of the hotel manage-

ment -- much of it was of our own making.

I think it would be a good idea if older, more experienced fan would take to sort of advising and directing neos as to how to act in public sections of any hotel during a conference or convention.

If the hotel should get out of line with you, do not attempt to get back at them through a spiteful trick that may endanger the lives of others as well as your own life. If ash trays or trash cans are not in evidence, a cigarette should be crushed in a place of stone or other non-flammable material before it is discarded ((hmmm -- I'd extend that cigarette-crushing to trash-can disposal, if I were you, Harriett. --ed.)). All trash should be placed safely against walls so as not to impede someone walking along a hall.

It is much easier to say "please" and "thank you" than it is to say "Why you dirty so-and-so", and it takes less effort and time. If an attendant is rude, it would be far better not to answer back, but to take his number or name and turn it in as a complaint to the management.

A pleasant smile or word can bring a lot of peace, while a nasty remark can bring much turmoil and wasted time. If an elevator passes your floor, just change to another one, the operator of which is more considerate of his passengers. You can then report the other operator later. Poor room service should be reported immediately. Requests for service should be worded politely, but with force, and if they are ignored, it should be reported -- but take into consideration the fact that it takes time for an attendant to fill your request if he has as many requests as he can handle. With 1,700 people at a convention, a little thoughtfulness on the part of the fan can do much to aid the reception of the attendants.

Be forewarned that I will probably be forced to have this reprinted at some future date. The last time it was necessary to print this was six years ago. Just remember that fans can be, and often are, the cause of a lot of their own troubles.

((While we're screaming, let me add a scream of my own. The behavior of a good many of the persons present at Bob Greenberg's "experimental film" showing at the con was such as to ^{make} me ashamed to be in the audience. If you don't like something, get up and leave (and do so quietly) -- that is your right and privilege. But don't sit there and hoot, hiss, and hollar, as many of you did that night -- not only is it most impolite and rude to Bob (who, after all, was only trying to entertain the convention), but it's also most unpleasant for those persons in the audience who are trying to enjoy the show. And, I might add, Bob's "experimental" films weren't all that bad -- he had some pretty good effects in places. Granted, I have seen better -- but I've also seen much worse -- and I would have enjoyed Bob's much more had it not been for the cacaphony from the audience. And I might add that Bob was pretty bitter about the whole thing.

Before leaving the subject of NYCON 3, I'll sneak in a plug here for Jay Kay Klein's "truly exhaustive and entertaining report of the NYCON 3" (Harlan Ellison; THE WSFA JOURNAL #49) which made up 21 of the 22 pages in THE WSFA JOURNAL #48. Jay Kay is the best con-report writer going today, and he outdid himself in his report on the NYCON 3. A very few issues of #48 are still available at 25¢ each, but if you want to read some of Jay's other con reports, you'd be well-advised to subscribe to the JOURNAL at 5 issues for \$1.00, 12 issues for \$2.00, or 20 issues for \$3.25; and do so now, before postage rates go up. Back issues are also available, at various prices (write for details). To read a little of everything the JOURNAL "dishes up", including a Jay Kay con-report, try the extra-large special DISCLAVE '67 issue (50¢). The preceding has been an unpaid advertisement.

Oops, almost forgot -- the JOURNAL is available from Ye Olde TIGHTBEAM #46 Editor: Don Miller, 12315 Judson Rd., Wheaton, Md., 20906; phone (if you're in the D.C. area), 301-933-5417. --ed.))

Alma Hill, 463 Park Drive, Boston, Mass., 02215

(28 September 1967)

Gary Labowitz puts me on a spot with his question: "Alma, what about a fiction-zine?", but I hurriedly depart, leaving the question for Manuscript Bureau and Fanzine Advisor to mull over if they choose. The Writers' Exchange trades comments on unpublished mss. and reads my fanzine for writers; but as to where the material gets published if it ever does, that is up to the individual authors, not this department.

In fact, you can see that after making suggestions for improvement, we think of that improvement as something that may happen soon or never, again a matter that is up to the writers themselves. This naturally bends our thought in directions away from the publication of the material we see, in the stage in which we see it.

Several people have been thinking about fiction-zines, and some good fiction does get into fanzines. (I have here a page listing fanzine material by erstwhile crudziner, Neffer Zelazny. You may not have it. I yam saving it for MY crudzine.) But most writers, budding and otherwise -- and believe it or not, some of my best friends are pros -- we just don't brag about it -- most writers are looking around for prozine publication. If a story is fun to read, usually some prozine will buy it.

No literary form shows flaws up the way fiction does, science fiction in particular. If one's style is neat but cliché -- if one's dialog or characterization is wooden from lack of practice -- if the plot is illogical, or the logic not clearly shown -- if the whole thing is well done except for seeming pointless -- bloooooey. You might as well go out in full formal dress with a dash of ketchup down the front.

My fanzine, WIZARD, publishes the best short fiction I see -- and at that, it is merely there so the authors can be told how to do better.

However, the idea of a genzine, or a fiction-zine -- with lots of illos photocopy, huh? -- either stenofax or multilith, maybe? -- that is an attractive idea, just as an idea. Well, Gary, you know the He-Who law: "He who suggests idea shall be chairman of the committee to get it done." I hereby second your self-nomination.

And look -- don't overlook the excellent abilities of our Official Publisher, who not only did TB #43 for me, but also an excellent Bok portfolio for the Art Show, and WIZARD #4, and who charges the club VERY reasonable at-cost rates. He only works it in where he can, but Wally Gonser is not only a nice guy but does beautiful work, right? There were some pages in TB #43 that were hard to read -- actually not many, and you should have seen the copy BEFORE he tackled it with his equipment. Nobody was forewarned that this would be a photo-zine, so it all came out with variety. I wanted it that way. It gives people a chance to see how much photocopy can be asked to do, and it shows that there do have to be limits. This is not Wally's fault, or anybody's. Most letters can be done facsimile, all art can, and if any need to be copied, that isn't too much work.

I'll volunteer to edit TNFF, for that matter, if Wally will do the printing and the club will pay the costs. The official news should be supplied by the President in the exact form he wants it run, and thus it shall be. Kaymar Trader and other departments, in reason, the same way. Why should this be any problem? If the address stickers are supplied I could collate and staple it in an evening and mail it out; if hand-addressing is called for, that would use up a weekend, but only bimonthly, and I don't run around much. Surely we have plenty of members who would do the same for the club, some of them well known to be reliable -- I suppose the official organ shouldn't be handed out to unknown volunteers. But really, a photocopy zine is a breeze and a lot of fun. The editing is nothing and the clerical work is reasonable, not enough to get really boring. Oh -- this elite type is too small for photoreduction, but pica comes out nice and legible, doesn't it? Let's volunteer Gary Labowitz for Official Editor and Fanzine Energizer, let's, huh?

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((I agree that an N3F genzine is sorely needed -- not just for fiction, Alma, but also for art-work, reviews, articles, reports, and other material of a general nature which is either too long or unsuitable for the two club-zines currently in progress: the letter-zine, TB, and the business and news-zine, TNFF. There's plenty of talent in the club, and neither TB nor TNFF are suitable outlets for most of it. Yes, up an N3F genzine, by all means! --ed.))

Vincent Rowe, 1840 Bridle Lane, SW, Roanoke, Va., 24018

(Sept., 1967)

I agree fully with Bob Vardeman on his idea about new-member packets (TB #45). Although I'm a new member, this is one subject on which a neo can speak with the voice of experience.

My own new-member packet contained: TB #43; a fan-terminology handbook; the September, 1966 issue of LORE; the F & SF Book Co.'s Summer, 1967 catalogue; four sheets of typing-paper stamped with the NFFF seal. This is about what I should have expected, since, in the introductory letter sent to me, Janie said that the packages contain "anything fannish which may be on hand at time of mailing". The neo's introduction to the club really should be more organized than this. And here's where Vardeman's idea of a one-page description of activities for each Bureau comes in.

Each Bureau could send the sheets it has written up to the Sec.-Treas. When it comes time to send a packet, she would simply enclose the information sheets of the Bureaus whose activities correspond to the particular newcomer's interests. This would be of great help in acquainting the neo with the club's various activities, and should, it seems to me, eliminate a lot of extra correspondence between new members and Bureau heads. The Bureau heads would not need to answer dozens of letters asking for information about the activities of their Bureaus, since the new members would know from the start what the purposes, procedures, etc., of the different Bureaus were.

Is it a money problem? The savings from the postage of letters of information would seem to make it well worth the cost of printing up the sheets.

Or is there a lack of equipment? One way of solving this problem would be to have each Bureau send its information sheet to one person who has equipment for reproduction. This person would then send the bundle of sheets to the Sec.-Treas.

If this idea, or one similar to it, is accepted, I'll volunteer my services, unless someone more skilled or better equipped offers to do the job. That is, the task would be more difficult with me performing it, for two reasons: (1) I cannot type, and (2) Although I have access to a mimeo, ditto, and infrared copier, I'm only beginning to learn how to use them. Perhaps someone else could type up the sheets, and then send them to me, but this would make things complicated and more expensive. Therefore, I hope there is someone better qualified who would be willing to do the job. In fact, I volunteer only because I really would like to see this thing work, and am afraid that no one else might offer to, or be able to, do it. I feel that the information sheets would be a boon to the settling of new members into the club, and that if a poll were taken among the other new members, you'd probably find that they feel the same way: "It's just too darn hard to get into the swing!"

In closing, I'd like to say that if I've given the impression that I'm criticizing the club, it was unintentional; if it never changed, I'd still be glad to be a member.

((Well, now, here's a rare breed of Neffer -- someone who offers constructive criticism, and at the same time offers his services to do something about what he is criticizing! Follow-Up Bureau, there must be something useful for this gentleman to do to help the club, even if it isn't in the production of new-member information sheets.

See my notes following Garry Pullins' letter, Vincent. You hit the nail on the head -- lack-of-organization, etc., in N3F information-dissemination! And if

you'd had a copy of TB #40 (Nov. '66), you'd have seen pretty much the same arguments being put forth then (and, undoubtedly, in TB's for years before that). The problem is not money; nor is it lack of equipment. The problem is lack of initiative, lack of continuity, and lack of any sort of an organized approach to N3F publications and information-dissemination.

Sometime last year, Art Hayes solicited from each Bureau head a one-page description of his Bureau, which he mimeoed and stapled together into an "activity brochure" to be sent out in new-member packets. This brochure was supposed to be a regular thing, and to be updated periodically. However, when the supply ran out, none were reprinted -- and the thing was never updated -- in fact, I doubt if all of the Bureau heads even responded to Art's request. It would have been a fairly simple matter to keep the thing up to date and in print -- but nobody has bothered to do so, and so new members come into the club "in the dark", and remain so for most, if not all, of their first year of membership.

I was about to embark on a policy of printing a one- or two-page "survey" of activities in outside fandom in each issue of TNFF, with these being added to and updated until sufficient information was gathered to either make each "survey" into a handbook, or to make the "surveys" "chapters" in an information folio for new members. This project was still-born when I was removed from the editorship last January. I may take it up again if and when I begin editing TNFF again in 1968, although I'll have to start from scratch, as many of the informational channels I was preparing to use have since been closed.

You might also notice that you did not receive a copy of the N3F Constitution and By-Laws. When I came into the club, I didn't receive one, either. I complained to the Sec.-Treas. about it, and was told that I should have gotten one, as new members always get one. However, I have yet to hear of a new member who has (at least, recently) received one in his packet. There is really no excuse for this. Last November I typed up a self-contained, four-page (two-sheet) Constitution and By-Laws, designed expressly to be sent out on its own after its initial distribution as a part of TB #40 supplement (MASER, I believe the supplement was called -- the letter to which I referred above was in the supplement called LASER). The stencils were sent to Wally Weber, who was editing the Nov. TB, for him to run off on his mimeo, with extra copies of the Constitution and By-Laws to go to the Sec.-Treas. for distribution in new-member packets. When the Sec.-Treas.' supply ran out, the four stencils could be reused, and additional copies sent to her for additional packets. This process could be repeated over-and-over again, so that there would be copies of the Constitution and By-Laws in new-member packets for years to come (or until the Constitution and/or By-Laws were amended). However, this obviously has not been done. Why? All it would have taken to keep this thing going was a little coordination and a bit of initiative on the part of someone....

Which could also be said for just about all of the club's problems.... --ed.))

Ross B. Peterson, 185 Russett Rd., Stamford, Conn., 06903 (31 September 1967)

Why not change the name of the publication from TIGHTBEAM (ostensibly an s-f FAN letterzine) to N3F ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES LETTERZINE, or some less unwieldy title? From the looks of things, this would only be recognition of the fact (I'm not complaining, you understand) that TIGHTBEAM deals mainly with discussions over ways and means of operating the club. According to the extant formula, I should now be saying whether or not I think N3F does a good job, what departments should do what, which should be dropped, who ought or ought not to be editing any given club publication, etc. This is all fine and necessary, to some degree anyway, but poor neofans enter the club and read TIGHTBEAM only to be disillusioned and wonder if we are really concerned with science fiction at all. That's what happened to me about a year ago. Most fairly new fans are not interested in this stuff, they're interested in talking about science fiction, as Roy Tackett's blessed letter does in TB #45. If

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there are very few contributions to TIGHTBEAM now, maybe it's because most of the Neffers (bar Old Timers) aren't that interested in discussing the administration of N3F and Department operations. Could it be?

Comments-of-a-more-general-nature: The cover on TB #45 is a problem. Is it a brain, a small mushroom cloud, or a pile of radio-active sludge? Other illustrations for this issue are barely adequate. The photo of Gary Labowitz came out quite well in my copy, and I applaud the success of his attempt. Also: I was at the Nycon, but I never found out during my 3-day stay where the N3F hospitality room was, if it was, so I never spoke with anyone that I knew was a member, and being a member made virtually no difference for me at the con. I wonder if this happened very much? Did other N3F members have the same experience?

((The best place for "administrative" and "departmental" correspondence would be in a lettercol in TNFF; and the best place for general correspondence, about science fiction and such, would be in a lettercol in an N3F genzine. But TNFF doesn't have room, and there is, as of yet, no N3F genzine. I plan to edit a monthly, 10-page (sometimes 20-page) TNFF next year, but doubt if there'd be room for a lettercol, unless I did a 20-page issue each and every month -- and even then, the 'zine would be quite crowded. However, the monthly publication of the 'zine would make many of the letters more valuable because of the shorter time-lag between inception and publication; and would enable much valuable discussion to take place concerning pending important events (such as an election or proposed Constitutional amendment). Or, maybe TIGHTBEAM could be laid out in two sections (say, THE LASER and THE MASER), with one containing only letters on general subjects, and the other only letters of an administrative (or the like) nature.

Of course, the main problem is to get someone to write "general" letters of a sufficiently controversial nature to draw a response from the readership. This valuable service was performed by "Eric Blake" not too long ago, in his remarks on STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND, and by another Neffer (I forget his name at the moment) in his remarks on censorship in a TB a few months ago. So, Ross, how about starting off such a discussion, yourself? Or how about commenting on Roy's letter, in an attempt to stir up some controversy? --ed.))

Robert L. Hillis, Assoc. Ch. ~~OC~~CON Committee, 1290 Byron Ave., Columbus, Ohio, 43227
(2 October 1967)

As we know, Fred Lerner proposed certain changes in Worldcon voting rules in TB #45, and received an immediate reply from Gary Labowitz. I will let others discuss the specific proposals if they wish, but I do have some current information to contribute.

A committee was appointed at the NYCON business meeting under the chairmanship of Ray Fisher of St. Louis to consider one possible change in the consite voting procedure. This committee also includes myself, Brian Burley of New Jersey, and some others. A rule was adopted at NYCON requiring a foreign convention every four years. Currently a bid committee for a given year must travel to the immediately prior convention at whose business session their fate is decided. Since under the current rules the 1970 convention will be held in Europe, the East Coast representatives will have to go there to make their bid. Not only is this unpopular with most bid committee members, but the foreign attendees do not want the responsibility of choosing an American city since very few of them can afford to cross the Atlantic. Europeans also have no idea of the relative merits of the nominated cities. Our committee has been selected to consider, and recommend for the consideration of the Baycon business meeting, a special rule to be followed only in the year before a foreign convention. The site of the 1971 convention, for instance, would be chosen in 1969 (I expect in Columbus). Thus American fans would choose the site of the next American World Convention. This would please, as I have explained, both American and European Fandom. It would also remove such irregularities as happened in 1965 when Syracuse, N.Y. arrived in London to bid as a Midwestern American city and almost won.

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I would also mention that the competing cities are not really nominated until the business session of the Worldcon at which they make their bid. A group of interested fans form a committee to promote their city and start securing support. Those who send representatives to the Worldcon are listed on the ballot. For those interested in making a bid, I must add that a serious Worldcon bid from recent experience of prior committees will cost one kilobuck (\$1,000) to cover such items as bid parties, correspondence, publicity, posters, and more bid parties. This does not include the personal expenses of the committee members for travel, food, and shelter.

((Agreed, Bob, that choosing the Eastern site at the preceding U.S. convention would be better than choosing it at a European or Asiatic convention. However, I favor one of the suggested plans in S.F. WEEKLY #202 (Andy Porter, 24 East 82nd St., N.Y., N.Y., 10028; 14/\$1): change the overseas convention site to every 5th year. This would mean that the overseas convention would itself rotate, so that, for example, it would fall between the Midwest and the East one time, between the East and the West Coast the next time, between the West Coast and the Midwest the next time, and so on. As it stands now, if the site of the Eastern con were chosen at the preceding U.S. con, the East Coast would have the permanent disadvantage of having to choose its site two years in advance, with all the preliminary "diplomacy" pushed so far ahead of the con as to present all sorts of difficulties. Also, the West Coast con would also be at somewhat of a disadvantage in that they would be unable to do much of the "diplomacy" which takes place during the convention before the one in which the site is chosen. By a 5-year plan in place of the current four-year rotation, the problems would be shared by all three U.S. regions, on a rotational basis.

I also favor having a U.S. national con (or a group of simultaneous regional cons) during the year in which the Worldcon is overseas -- but not as a solution to the problem of choosing a future con site. I also believe that choosing a consite through the mail, in the same way as the Hugos are chosen, has some merit -- but, again, not as a solution to the future con-site problem. --ed.))

George H. Wells, 814 Madison St., Second Floor, Syracuse, N.Y., 13210 (4 Oct '67)

I just started reading TB #45 which arrived recently, and came across some egoboo in Ned Brooks' letter -- but, the trouble is, that it appears he's seen a notice of my re-entry AND I HAVEN'T. Since re-entering I've had TIGHTBEAMS, contact with the Tape Bureau, a bit of info from Janie Lamb, and ONLY ONE Welcomity letter correspondent. And I joined hoping that the past summer would be full of fanac. Now, did I miss the publication of a letter of mine to TB and a notice somewhere of my re-entry??? I mean, how did that one Welcomity member know I had rejoined -- why didn't I get the pub that she got with the notice in it? I imagine that Welcomity members passed me by cos technically I am not a newcomer -- but I was hoping for a flood of mail.

Also, if anyone knows of upstate NY fanac, let me know.

Oh yes, since Ned Brooks mentions SE, I figure there are a few who view my return with alarm, but like I'm 24 now, and the last SE was pubbed when I was 17 or something. I've since lost my Xianity and a few other social absurdities. And of cors I've gained new ones, like trying to make the prozines. Two stories written this summer have been rejected once each and twice for one of them, and they are at SWANK and MOH now being looked over (a week has gone by, and that's a good sign). Recently had a letter in THE MILITANT and that's about it.

If anyone is worried about my being in THE MILITANT (the Socialist Workers' press), like it's a part of my studies for grad school in American Minority Movements. I sub to THE WORKER, WEEKLY PEOPLE, STORMTROOPER, WHITE POWER NEWS, YOUNG SOCIALIST, and a lot of goodies. Am currently reading PROTOCOLS OF THE LEARNED ELDERS OF ZION and have QAHSPE, WHITE POWER by Rockwell, etc., on order, and a collection of Malcolm X, Gus Hall, Alan Watts, and other works by American pluralist leaders. I'm particularly interested right now in the

U.S. Nazis and the Negro in and in relation to the Mormons. Anyone have info or interest in these?

Also, and therefore, I've changed my values about indecent literature and may in fact be writing some.

I'm not surprised that neos don't know about Merritt. I once tried -- METAL MONSTER it was called. I never got past page 30 or 40, tho I read up to there twice. In comparison, Doc Savage and Vargo Statten were Heinleins of action and character writing. Of course I've seen some Merritt-based movies and heard well of CREEP SHADOW, CREEP, which I've planned to read for a few years, but I really can't blame a neo for giving up (on Merritt, that is). Of course, no neo should have missed my favorites in poor sf, like Savage Statten, and, once my favorite author, Alexander Blade. (That reminds me -- I have a Paul Robeson album (a good one) on the Allied Artists label (a CPUSA front?), with liner notes by Alexander Blade. What gives? (Was that great house name also a Commie??!!))

Found a copy of CANDY and GO TELL IT ON A MOUNTAIN in a gutter in Ithica the other week. The latter was okay, but CANDY was soaked. I left C'Y in my car to dry out and a week later it was still soaked, so -- I IRONED it. This made the cover come off and the pages change sizes (even on the same page -- making the pages trapezoids and different-sized rectangles, and some bell-shaped), but Elmer's Glue-All put it back together again and I then glued on the parts of the cover. The original glue had melted and become useless in the ironing. The book now looks very homey and old-fashioned, with the different-sized and crooked-bordered pages. In gluing, I tried to put the pages in as neat a pile as possible, and clothes-pinned them together while gluing the one edge. I feel like an old Renaissance humanist or an early bookbinder.

The fellers running for Directorate offices make NJF sound quite exciting, but imply that it needs new life. Let's hope that the proposals will not remain pipe dreams. I like the intro packet, fiction 'zine, and other ideas, while I'm a bit taken aback with the photo-pubbing idea. I went to some cons and had a good time, but, except for a few cases, I'm still trying to forget the looks of some of the crowd. But, remember that old YANDRO photo-cover, and then there were dramatic-looking people at the con like Ellison, de Camp, Silvia and Ted White, etc.

Art Hayes mentions a letter of mine. This is to inform y'uall that I've missed that TB ish. It's probably because of my moving, as I'm sure I would have noticed it. So, if there is an extra floating around.... By the way, the Directorate sound so French Revolutionary, should we change to Offices like the Great Glaroon, the Dictator, King, and Yes-Men Functionaries???

((I can't say too much, here, George, not having known you before. But, as far as Ned's knowing you were a new member is concerned, Janie sends around to the Welcommittee and to the President and Directorate Chairman the names and addresses of all new members and renewals, for informational purposes. This is in advance of publication of same in TNFF. So Ned and that Welcommittee member undoubtedly got your name off of one of Janie's lists. --ed.))

((Before we go on, I'd like to go back to the consite rotation situation once again, and mention that a 5-year plan would be fairer to the possible overseas convention bidders than the 4-year plan, in addition to being fairer to the U.S. bidders. A European site would have a better chance of being chosen if the vote were taken at an East Coast con; a Japanese or Mexican site would have a better chance of being chosen at a West Coast con; and, it seems to me, a Canadian con would fare better in the voting at a Midwest con. So, a rotation of overseas cons at 5-year rather than 4-year intervals would assure that overseas bidders, as well as U.S. bidders, would not be placed at an unfair disadvantage permanently. I hope that the Baycon business session will give such a 5-year plan its careful consideration. --ed.))

Richard T. Blackburn USN, V-6 Division B70 17 73, USS Hancock (CVA-19), FPO San Francisco, Calif., 96601 (8 October 1967)

Well, as Bob so aptly put it (may I quote you, Bob?), the perpetual argument over the efficiency of the club ran rampant throughout TB #45. It seems that since I joined N3F a little over a year and a half ago TB has been used solely to discuss the efficiency or inefficiency of the club, and who or what should be done about it. Actually, there is nothing wrong with this, but I do think some new ideas would be refreshing. It happens to be three a.m. here at the moment, though, and for some reason new thoughts are just not abounding through my head, so as usual I'm up to my neck with no way out; would someone care to throw me a line -- a new one?

The "new-member packets" are a good idea which I, for one, would like to see brought back. I have never seen one of these, but can see how useful they would be. To be sure, I don't even believe I received a "Welcome to the club. Hope you like it. Sincerely.." letter when I joined, and was pretty well confused as to activities. Luckily, though, our lending library librarian, Elinor Poland, started a correspondence with me and was very helpful, but I don't believe she can spread herself around to every new member in this manner.

Sorry, Fred, I can't agree with your idea at all. At Tricon I was your Fred Furd -- my first Worldcon, and even though I was admittedly a neofan, I voted for Nycon on the basis of what it had to present and how meaningful it would be to me as a fan. I do not think it would have been fair if they would have said, "No, no, voting is for the true fans only". Also, I must ask, do you really think these "non-fans" make up such a majority as to be able to control the voting? I think not.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend Nycon and therefore know nil about next year's agenda. Could someone therefore tell me what the City has to offer next year? LA sounded awfully good to me -- how is SF planning on out-doing them?

("As entropy increases, the universe, and all closed systems in the universe, tend naturally to deteriorate and lose their distinctiveness, to move from the least to the most probable state, from a state of organization and differentiation in which distinctions and forms exist, to a state of sameness. . . But while the universe as a whole . . . tends to run down, there are local enclaves whose direction seems opposed to that of the universe at large and in which there is a limited and temporary tendency for organization to increase. Life finds its home in some of these enclaves. . . ." (Wiener, Norbert: THE HUMAN USE OF HUMAN BEINGS; Eyre and Spottiswoode, London, 1954). O.k., Dick, there's your line. Now, go to it....

The tentative Baycon program is in their PROGRESS REPORT NO. 1. I can't locate my copy at the moment, so perhaps someone out there on the Baycon Committee, or someone else who has a spare copy, will send Dick a copy of P.R. #1 -- or maybe you can join the con, Dick, and get a copy of P.R. #1 that way. Suffice it to say here that the proposed program sounded very good; I only hope that they can pull it off. --ed.))

Ann Chamberlain, 4442 Florizel St. #99, Los Angeles, Cal., 90032 (October, 1967)
WELCOMMITTEE --

This department requires members who have above-average powers of analysis, imagination, warmth, and some show of refinement. By imagination, I do not mean that colorful things are said in order to mislead anyone concerning the aims of the National Fantasy Fan Federation; I mean the ability to discern talents as noted, however humble the beginnings may be, and to point them out.

A letter of welcome is more than a nod of acknowledgment. If all you can think of to say is: "Hello, glad you joined us, write to me anytime" -- then Welcommittee is not meant for you. It is better for this department if you do not ask to be a member here. No muddlers, please.

When Joe and Jane neo provide you with information concerning their birthdates, how long they've read science fiction and what, the authors they favor and whether they have belonged to other clubs or not, what operational differences there are between clubs, what their own occupations and hobbies are, and how much or how little printing or tape apparatus they have -- I should say you could find quite a lot to make some kind of comment about.

Not everyone has special interests. Some want to try everything. Some want to try the robins, the apas, the Tape Bureau, story-writing and art work, and the N3F Library. Some just want to read. Some just collect books or magazines. Some just want correspondence. A member of Welcommittee adapts to these needs and is interested in what the new member decides to do with his membership. A Welcommittee Member is well enough informed on all of these activities to describe how they operate and to make it interesting. Example: "You say you would like to get into a Round Robin. This department is now handled by Richard Labonte, 971 Walkley Rd., Ottawa 8, Ont., Canada. Tell him what your favorite subject is so that he can put you in touch with others who also specialize in that subject. The same five or so persons continue to correspond round after round and year after year, if they care to do so, and if they want to change to an allied subject they may do so. To drop out, all you need to do is to enclose a note saying, 'I am dropping out. Thanks for bearing with me', or something to that effect, AND FORWARD THE WHOLE ROBIN TO THE LAUNCHER, MR. LABONTE. Never destroy a round robin on your own. It must be returned so that you can be replaced. Every Round Robin contains a Route Sheet, with names and addresses of the same people it starts out with, which is never at anytime left out of a robin. You read all the letters, you respond, and remove your last letter which everyone had already read and commented upon. Five letters on one stamp is quite a saving, if you stick to your own size and weight share of the letter."

Why do we write letters in the first place? Well, we think the N3F is a good idea. We think each department fills a need for certain people. We think that science fiction is thought-provoking and stimulating, and that friendships can be built on these interests. It is possible to develop the art of communication through the practice of correspondence, and everyone should have this ability, unless they want to be spectators, and not participants. When the talent is there, expansion is inevitable. When it is not there, results can be chaotic.

((I'm afraid I wouldn't be much good here, as I am, without a doubt, one of the world's slowest when it comes to answering letters. --ed.))

Donald Franson, 6543 Babcock Ave., North Hollywood, Cal., 91606 (15 October 1967)

The only thing that holds the N3F together is communication between its members. While it is good to say, "write to a fellow member today" (or at least answer his letter!), the burden of communication falls on the N3F's periodical publications.

The LASFS can get along splendidly without SHAGGY, First Fandom survives in spite of its highly irregular BULLETIN, but the N3F seems to rise and fall on the fortunes of TNFF and TIGHTBEAM, more than anything else.

Let's face it -- the N3F is dependent for its active life on the activity of the fanzine editors and publishers who pub its zines. Fanzine editors and publishers are fans just like you and me, only more so. They suffer from gafia and fafia, miss deadlines, disappoint their subscribers and contributors by folding, and lose their membership in apas for inactivity. This doesn't matter too much, and they hurt only themselves and a few friends, unless they are in charge of an official club publication. Then, if they are late or unreliable, the club totters, activity ceases, old members are disgruntled, new members bewildered, and everyone wanders off. I am not talking about the present; this is a chronic situation in N3F, as true fifteen years ago as last year.

I might even go so far as to say that the greatest weakness of the N3F is in its periodical publications; and in

the club's complete dependence upon them. There are therefore two ways to remedy the situation: improve the schedule of the publications; and lessen the necessity for all activities to depend upon them absolutely for their existence.

In appointing Don Miller as TNFF editor for 1968, I must also go along with his suggestion to increase the TNFF schedule to monthly; this should partially take care of the need for more frequent publications. (How do I have the right to appoint anyone to 1968 office, when I am not officially elected President yet? I don't. I can only potentially appoint, subject to my having power to confirm this after the first of the year.)

No matter how active a bureau or group of fans within the N3F is, if the publications do not reflect this activity, it is as if this activity did not exist. This applies even to the Directorate, which has never really been as inactive as it has appeared from the outside. Therefore Art Hayes' suggestion for a Directorate newszine is welcome, even if I don't quite agree with his reason for it (to make it possible for the membership to participate in Directorate discussions before they are voted on -- this would delay things).

I want to extend encouragement to any additional publications, to lessen the club's dependence on one or two. I think there should be more bureau zines, bureau pamphlets, new-member leaflets, Fandbooks, etc., anything the Treasury can afford or find a sponsor for. The Welcommittee and the Correspondence Bureau should be expanded, to encourage more letter-writing. All bureau heads should be required to answer all queries promptly, especially those received from new members. Rosters should be published regularly and their use encouraged.

Communication is the lifeblood of the club. The only time there are rumors that the N3F is dying is when no one hears from it.

((THE GAMESLETTER was born because TNFF was too unreliable as a means of information dissemination for the Games Bureau. The \$1.00 fee for Regular membership in the Bureau was established both as a token fee to help us to periodically pare the roster down to those persons who are really interested in the Bureau and not just interested in getting their names on another mailing list, and to help defray the costs of publishing and mailing THE GAMESLETTER. I've always felt uneasy about charging N3F members the same fee as non-Neffers, but we have yet to get a penny from the N3F treasury, and do not think it would be fair to ask the non-Neffers to subsidize the memberships of the Neffers, when the club is providing no financial support. It is my firm belief that the club should closely examine its Bureau/Activity set-up, with a view towards developing a more sensible policy than the present policy (if indeed there is a present policy), including direct subsidies to its activities, etc. It is really not fair to ask a member to pay dues when he joins the N3F, then ask him to pay an additional fee to participate in a club activity. Part of the dues of a member should be earmarked to support the club activities in which a member may partake. It would probably be necessary to eventually raise dues to achieve this -- but the current dues are ridiculously low, anyway, and a raise is past due. --ed.))

Cuyler Warnell Brooks, Jr., 713 Paul St., Newport News, Va., 23605 (22 Oct. 1967)

Very good issue by Gary Labowitz, even if he is unfannish looking... I really don't care what other fans look like; I'm quite willing to wait until I meet them at a con.

Vardeman is quite right when he says N'APA is in a mess. The former chairman has still given no explanation for refusing to answer official inquiries, and has not turned the treasury over to the new chairman. The difficulty is apparently involved with the attempt to separate N'APA from the NFFF, but I have not been able to communicate with the former OE to find out how. N'APA is still operative though, and the 34th mailing is out. We are providing temporary funds from the NFFF treasury, and are looking for a new OE. Stan handled the 33rd mailing and Lesleigh Couch the 34th. If anyone wants to join at this point, he should write Stan, unless a new OE

is announced before this letter sees print.

Gary, I agree with you about Lerner's proposal on limiting convention voting. I have talked with him about it, and I understand his reasons, but I think it would cause too much hard feelings and would be extremely difficult to enforce.

If a responsible fan who was willing and able to run it presented the NFFF with a plan for supplying "at cost" repro service, he might get support, depending on who was on the Directorate at the time. How much would it cost to supply stencils at wholesale cost to neffers, then run them off for the cost of the paper and ink? That is, what initial investment would be required? It might be well to first take a poll and see how much demand there is for such a service.

The "Eric Blake" letter of lastish is obviously not written by the author of the previous letters published under this name. It's a wonder you didn't get more than one "Eric Blake" letter, Gary! I thought about writing one myself, but never got around to it...

I suppose you have heard by now, Gary, that putting that "Hotter Flash" sticker on the back of your TB caused quite a few of them to be delivered to Don Miller rather than the fan they were intended for. Don crossed out the stickers and remailed the zines, so that many fans, like myself, got zines with the "Hotter Flash" notice crossed out, as if Miller wasn't really to do the next TB... The moral of this story is, don't use address labels for anything but address, on the outside of fanzines! You will probably get quite a few TB letters that you will have to send to Miller. I would have sent mine to you, except that I have seen Miller in the interim and found out what happened. I hope you will publish this part of my letter, Don, as a warning to other fans. PO clerks are none too bright...

((I figured that crossing out the label would confuse some people, but I had no choice; those I dropped back in the mailbox without crossing out the label simply came back to me again (I got some as many as three times, even when I handed them back to the mailman -- who, incidentally, had been catching many of the 'zines before they even reached me, crossing out the "Hotter Flash" label and remailing them himself). I must have received 40-50 here, all together (no telling how many were diverted by the mailman before they even reached me!). And I might add that I have been receiving the things throughout the past month -- I received some as late as the end of October -- an excellent commentary on the unreliability and inconsistency of third-class mail!! --ed.))

Bobbie Breeden, Berry College, Mt. Berry, Ga., 30149 (24 October 1967)

First a word in behalf of Leonard Nimoy's album, Music From Outer Space: Granted Nimoy's voice is not the greatest when reproduced on record, but at the present time who else has come out with an album of this type? The Ventures have one called Ventures in Space, but still this is not the same. At first I thought Nimoy was just trying to capitalize on the success of his T.V. show, but I have since come to the conclusion that his album is a fresh new alternative for those who like such. I had hoped that the Ballad of Bilbo Baggins would be in the album, but it wasn't. Most of the songs in the album are slow; Baggins is fast, and when he sang it on T.V. it sounded a lot better than the slow songs he does on the album.

Gary H. Labowitz, what do you have against Leonard Nimoy? So you are running for the office of Director. I like what you have to say (but not what you said about LN).

Bob Varde-man, all this worry about new members -- but what if newcomers don't want to be turned into a cadre? Ah, but I guess most newcomers are not as apathetic as I.

It's a good night for writing letters to TIGHTBEAM. The clock just struck twelve, there is a thunder storm going on, and the blind just knocked Binky, my black-cat bank, off the window sill. Do I feel the symptoms of a case of tristridecaphobia coming on?

((Rather than comment on your letter, Bobbie, since space is short I'll quickly run over a couple of points which have come to mind while reading through what I've typed so far.

First, with the impending rise in postage costs, a dues-raise in the N3F will be mandatory, if the club is not to eventually have to cut back on its already low output. The question is, shall we go all the way to the logical raise to \$3.00 for old members, and \$2 for new members -- or should we take a small step first -- say, a flat \$2 for both old and new members alike? I favor the raise to \$3 -- but only if the club can evidence to its members that it can and will put the additional income to good use.

In my notes following Vincent Rowe's letter, I meant to point out that I disagreed with his idea of selective mailing of activity sheets. All new members should receive descriptions of all activities when they join, so they can see what is available before making up their minds as to what, if anything, they are going to devote their time and energies.

Finally, my notes to Vincent Rowe concerning the N3F Constitution and By-Laws might be construed by some as being critical of Wally Weber or Janie Lamb. This was not my intent. Wally and Janie are doing all the club should expect of them, and much more besides. What I was criticizing was the lack of a policy towards information-dissemination. Either the President, or a representative appointed by the President, should have the responsibility of directing such a policy, particularly with respect to the new-member packets. Janie should not have to decide what goes in the packets, and she certainly should not have to obtain the material for these packets herself. Someone should have the responsibility of deciding the proper content for these packets, and then seeing that Janie receives the necessary material, so that her only responsibility would be actually mailing the packets out to incoming members. --ed.))

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