

9/71

Tight Beam

69



**THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION
1971**

President: Stan Woolston, 12832 Westlake St., Garden Grove, CA 92640

Sect.-Treas.: Janie Lamb, Rt. 1, Box 364, Heiskell, TN 37754

Directorate:

Chairman: Joanne Burger, 55 Blue Bonnet Court, Lake Jackson, TX 77566
K. Martin Carlson, 1028 Third Ave. So., Moorhead, MN 56560
Irvin Koch, 835 Chattanooga Bank Bldg., Chattanooga, TN 37402
Janie Lamb, Rt. 1, Box 364, Heiskell, TN 37754
Frank Denton, 14654 - 8th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98166

TIGHT BEAM Editors

Frank Denton, 14654 - 8th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98166
Charles Ruthford, 9600 Burke Ave. No., Seattle, WA 98103
Mail Stop 3NC2312B

August 25, 1971

Hello, Neffers,

I don't have a great deal to say this month as I've been out of touch. Five weeks in England and Ireland do that to you. I didn't forget about science fiction, only about fandom. And when I returned home there was the inevitable pile of mail to be sorted. First the throwaways, then one stack for the bills, one for the letters from fans, and one for a gigantic stack of fanzines which, I am afraid, will never be located.

I shouldn't say that I completely forgot fandom. I had a very pleasant three hour visit with Phil Muldowney, one of our English Neffers who writes quite frequently to Tight Beam. He not only showed me a few pubs out on the moors, but caught me up with the English pro scene a bit. We had three delightful hours of talk which I enjoyed greatly. Thanks, Phil.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Chuck was teaching summer quarter and has now departed on a fishing trip for his vacation. He won't be back for a bit, a well earned rest.

In Belgium I had hoped to contact Michel Feron, another of our overseas Neffers, but was unable to do so because of some time commitments. Sorry, Michel. Maybe next time.

Meantime the summer doldrums have set in. Not so many letters this time, but I expect with the advent of fall that the next issue will be a bit bigger.

And, of course, the science fiction world was saddened by the death of two of its greats, August Derleth and John W. Campbell. If there is a science fiction "happy hunting ground", let's hope that they are both there.

Distant Early Warning: It looks as though Chuck and I will be unable to continue publishing TightBeam this coming year. Chuck is working on a book on economics which has been promised to the publisher in the spring. I will be teaching English in addition to my administrative duties. Additionally I was chewed out royally by friends at Westercon for not getting down to some serious writing, so promised that I would devote more time to it. We will publish the November - December issue but will be giving fair warning to incoming officers that we will be unable to continue after January. We took on the task as an emergency measure at Stan Woolston's pleading and hope that we have done a good job. Any volunteers should contact us or Stan, so that the takeover can be made smoothly.

Well, enough. Write!

Frank and Chuck

birkhead

Sheryl Birkhead
23629 Woodfield Rd.
Gaithersburg, Md 20760
July 17, 1971

I rarely sally forth to confront people in groups larger than one, but after having read parts of Tightbeam 68 I thought I'd stick my 2¢ worth in.

I'm not asking for the wrath of members to descend upon me, but here are my feelings about N3F. By its very nature of being a primarily mail club, it can't have the tight knittedness of a club that gets together every Friday and shoots the bull (for one thing, tempers have a habit of cooling? when there is a lapse of at least a few days). I think I have read about what the officers are supposed to do, but would one of the directors please print up a condensed version of what he/she did - not what the job is supposed to be?

I'm not complaining, but I wrote to both Tightbeam and TNFF asking about artwork and I still haven't heard from Thighbeam. As I said, I'm not complaining, I'm merely pointing out that a lag does exist due to the mail.//Since I've been doing this job, don't remember any request. Why don't you ask again and let us know what you have in mind?ccr//

I compliment all Neffers on the wide scale of activities and the willingness to introduce new members to fandom which the group exhibits. No matter how active a few members are, the whole group can gain from new "blood".

Okay, after reading the last line, I have my mouth open and it's all set to have my foot stuck in it. BUT, since I don't know a whole lot about what's needed where for what, when, etc., let anyone who needs a bit of help just let me know - I VOLUNTEER. (Hmm, that foot's still awfully close). Let me put it this way. I promise to do whatever I can for anyone who lets me know that N3F can use a little help - just let me know and I'll try. My good intentions are promised, I can;t do anything until I know what's needed.

I had thought by finding out about the artwork for the two magazines I could help a little that way, but due to that blasted lag I felt I should write just so some of those members who write and say more people should volunteer can see that there is a little going on!//How about helping this young lady with her foot placing?ccr//

gersman

Robert "Argee" Gersman.
3135 Pennsylvania
St. Louis, Mo. 63118
July 19, 1971

That bac-cover is that Mike Scott's interpretation of a jaundiced eye, which all editors are supposed to have and to cast very generously on the works of all aspiring, would-be writers, artists, composers, etc., etc.

I see by our first letter, a rare thing to behold, someone actually wrote a letter thanking NFFF for the effort on his behalf, instead of constantly belly-aching about what NFFF has done for them. Even long time members have not bothered to make an effort to say something nice about NFFF after all you do have to do something yourself, you can't just sit back and expect Neffers to seek you out. The Welcommittee can do so much, you must do the rest. Get involved!

Seems like George Beahm is more on the beam than other club members who always complain but never get involved. He's involved.

BOB WEINBERG glad to see you around, also, I see you're connected with a convention committee which is trying to get together Pulp Collectors and have a Convention in St. Louis, I hope. I'm sure there are numerous Neffer who are pulp collectors who would be equally interested. Saturday, Nov. 27, 1971, on the Premises of PURELY PULP #1 in St. Louis, you plan to have a meeting with fans who would be interested in having a Convention. Have you ever thought of contacting Lynn Hickmann?

To get back to your letter, I have not seen any copies of Withcraft and Sorcery, and I hope it won't be as shortlived as that other one which only lasted two issues. Keep up the good work with Morgan Smith.

MR. KOCH, if the membership as you so graphically put it is already totally disorganized and confused, then we can't be anymore confused that we are already. I presume you include yourself in those ranks, or are you the only one whose great knowledge of all that is right and correct lifts you above the common Neffer, who plods about like a lost sheep, who lacks the knowledge of which end is up? But, aha, you, the Great Mr. Irwin Koch, the all knowledgeable comes to lead us from the darkness of our abysmal ignorance. Well, Time will tell.

Dear Editor, I agree with you on censorship, slanderous remarks and out and out lewd comments should be scissored.

MISS HILL, I'm glad to see you have read Zane Grey, Max Brand, Sax Rohmer, whom you say would never get past the critics today. Critics are a crashing bore of whom we can get along without. 9 times out of ten after reading stories that the critic did not put their okay stamp of approval, I enjoyed them more than the former. I believe in deciding for myself what I like and what I don't like, I don't set much store by critics. Also, I couldn't get all steamed up over Lotr; I feel about Lotr the way some people feel about Burroughs, I gave up the Lotr type when I stopped reading the Green Fairy Book, The Yellow Fairy Book, Hansel and Gretal, Hans Brinker, etc.

sabella

Bob Sabella
32 Cortright Road
Whippany, N. J. 07981
July 19, 1971

Let me tell you about a very annoying thing that happened to me: a few months ago I wrote an article for a fanzine with which the editor was in strong disagreement. Consequently, nearly every statement that I made was immediately followed by a counter remark by the editor so that the article ended up reading like a dialogue. This upset me quite a bit, and I informed the editor that if he ruined one of my pieces in that manner again, I would never deliver another article to him.

Why do I mention this incident? Because you, Chuck Ruthford, are guilty of that same course of action in TB 68 in Rick Brooks' letter on page 3. His letter consists of merely 14 sentences, but it was interrupted by you 5 times. This is unfair to the writer. I firmly believe that an editor should confine any remarks on his part to the end of his contributor's letter. After all, it is only fair to let a person have his say before butting in on him. Of course, I fully understand where occasionally it might be necessary for an editor to interrupt a

letter, but such a circumstance can only be needed where the editor has some explanatory statement to make to the reader. Your remarks in Brook's letter do not fit that role.//I agree that I did overdo in that letter, Bob. You have me so upset that I may never comment on another letter as long as I live! Sorry Mr. Brooks.ccr//

IRVIN KOCH is a good politician. He starts his letter by angrily blasting the present administration of N3F, being sure to back everything he says with facts; then, he turns around and remarks that if the members want to have things improved in the organization, we can vote for him because he is acceding to Stan Woolston's wishes and running for the presidency.

Actually, I agree with many of Koch's statements as to the inefficiency of N3F, and while it is largely the fault of the members, a large brunt of the blame must reside in the persons of the officers. Last summer I decided that I should do my part and lend a hand in the organization. I wrote to Stan Woolston and offered to take over some jobs that were temporarily vacant, including the editorship of Tightbeam. Stan Woolston has yet to acknowledge my letters.

I'm voting for Irvin Koch. Things have got to be better!

jones

Dorothy Jones
6101 Euclid Av.
Bakersfield, Calif 93308
July 21, 1971

I must write to you to tell you that the Tightbeam is great - how about GREAT this time (:#68).

Letters were more interesting (to me!) and good art work - and format.

You and Frank are to be complimented in editing your material. I'm not a prude, but I call it distasteful and low intelligence to use some of the filthy language going around today.

Recently, I read a crude work in a fanzine, and, frankly, it was augh!!

If I want to read that kind of material, one can go in certain stores and see it filled with low class reading material about sex and - - - - - (If you follow me here, and I know you do!//Dorothy, are you saying that I - - - -ccr//)

When that kind of crummy reading material enters in a zine, I quit right now. As for N3F, I hope we keep up the good standard we have right now.

So, thanks, Chuck and Frank, for your editing material.

Guess Frank and family are "living it up" over in Europe. Oh! LUCKY PEOPLE!

I'm reading Asimov's Opus 100 and thoroughly enjoying it. Confess I can get all but the chemistry bit.

Is it possible to get stories about the Author's lives - Since Tightbeam is a letter zine, guess not . . . but maybe official zine, eh?

Nice meeting you via letter, Chuck. And are you a teacher, too? //Yes - I teach accounting at dear, old North Seattle Community College.ccr//

hiller

Franklin J. C. Hiller
1730 Main Street East
Rochester, New York 14609
July 31, 1971

The postal non-service of the U. S. is being bad-mouthed in the page of Tightbeam because it so richly deserves being bad-mouthed, lynched, tarred and feathered, guillotined, etc.

This from Goodman Ace's column in the July 31st issue of Saturday Review. Subject title is Snail Mail. The text begins, "Have you been able to detect that neither rain, nor snow, nor hail, nor all that other gloomy stuff, plus a hike in the price of postage stamps, has sped any couriers to your mailbox? Nor I.. The completion of the mailman's rounds, to which he has been appointed, finds me disappointed."

This past winter we had two or three quite heavy falls of snow. The mailman didn't get through on those days but the fourteen year old boy who delivers my morning paper did. This at six-thirty a.m. yet.

However, if you have a tender spot in your heart for the postal service, you can relax. The Tightbeam letterwriters seem to be moving on from bad-mouthing the postal non-service to bad-mouthing each other's letter writing ability. Apparently they all want deathless prose in every letter of every issue but nobody wants to be the first one to write it. //No soft spot. Just a slight case of nausea from overindulgence.ccr//

cushing

Charles Cushing
903-8315105 Street
Edmonton 60, Alberta, Canada
August 9, 1971

I have been enjoying Tightbeam very much under your editorship. TB 68 has a very attractive cover by Frolich. Of the letters, I enjoyed the ones from ALMA HILL and PHIL MULDOWNY especially.

ROBERT SILVERBERG continues to write better and better. I have just read Son of Man, and I agree with ROBERT SABELLA that it should be a very strong contender for any prizes going next year. It is a marvellously written visionary book of an immensely distant future. Occasionally I was reminded of Joanna Russ' And Chaos Died, but the two books resemble each other only in the sense that both can be described as trips - and both are brilliantly written. I was also reminded a little of Brian Aldiss' beautiful story "Old Hundredth", also powerful and also set in a time when man as he is at present is almost forgotten.

But, then, there is the collection of Silverberg's Urbmon stories, which will also be one of the outstanding books of the year; and there is A Time of Changes . . . Whichever book Mr. Silverberg decides to allow to stand for an award, there will definitely be readers who would disagree with him.

Another work which should most definitely not be overlooked is Brian M. Stableford's Dies Irae. This is excellent science fiction, and at the same time has close parallels to the Iliad and the Odyssey. Mr. Stableford is particularly good on battle scenes, so vivid that you almost feel them as well as picture them to yourself. The Days of Glory is his Iliad, and it contains both

realistic battles and interesting thoughts on politics and the course of history. In the Kingdom of the Beasts parallels the Odyssey. Mr. Stableford did very little with Helen in his first volume; she is called Angeline, and never appears. In the second volume we get a very attractive portrait of Nausicaa (here called Yvaine). I cannot wait for the third volume.

Does anybody reading Tightbeam know who did the covers for (1) Robert Silverberg's Nightwinds, in the Avone paperback edition; (2) Vernor Vinge's novel Grimm's World?

sch

Ken Scher
3119 Mott Ave.
Far Rockaway, NY 11691
August 12, 1971

BROOKS: This sounds rater like a statement that was going around in the last few N"APA mailings..."The N3F owes us..." And my answer in both cases is...why? As far as I can see, and from what recent experience has shown, the N3F is a congregation of largely independent bureau heads who are bound together (except for the disbursement of funds) in a framework of convenience...the convenience of the neo member. Groups paralleling almost every one of the bureause exist outside of the N3F, and in periods of chaos, most of the bureaus still have business as usual. The only ones who are greatly affected by chaotic periods are the neos who don't know where to go for the service of the bureaus. As long as there is an efficient O-O, there is no problem. The point that I'm trying to make is that the N3F isn't a group or a single organization...it is a group of groups, an organization of organizations, and by and large (with almost everyone pulling in a different direction), it does pretty well. As for the rest of fandom, when they start showing another organization with a membership as diffused geographically and with as high a percentage of neos THEN I'll start to listen (don't bother to cite the worldcons, the cases aren't parallel).

MULDOWNEY: I don't know about you, but I am getting damned sick of Dickson's superman stories...his last 3 novels have all had that same plot.

WILSON: Despite what I have above, I'd be against a proliferation of regional bureaus...duplication inevitably means inefficiency and the N3F at best is already that.

GERSMAN: The Black Hole was British propaganda...which didn't stop the British government from putting up a monument to it's "survivors".

Even in the days of pre-JWC prozines, the fmz generally had lower-quality fiction than the prozines, so while I'll admit that there may be people who still want Purple Jellyfish Stories on the stands, the quality therein would still be higher than most fanzines.

KOCH: How did I get in there? I can't even keep up to date with my correspondence. Thanx anyway, tho.

NOW FOR THE IMPORTANT STUFF

As I hope you are aware by now, I am the head of the New Fanzine Appreciation Society. Including Stan Woolston and myself, the NFAS currently has 5 members

(that I know of...I'll come back to this later). Naturally, I am looking to build up this number, so what you're now reading is recruitment propaganda.

It has come to my attention that at least on Neffer isn't quite sure what the NFAS is. At it's most basic, the NFAS is a list of people that a faned can send his fanzine to and be sure of getting some sort of response. To join, all you have to do is take the pledge, which merely says that: (a) you want to receive new fanzines, (b) if you receive a fanzine, you will respond with either a LoC (Letter of Comment), trade (for your fanzine, if any), subscription, or by contributing material (either written or artwork), and (c) you have enough time to respond to the fanzines sent to you.

Besides being a good thing for the faneds, who generally prefer to get a long LoC or some material to money, this is also a good thing for the NFAS member because he has a chance to get sample fanzines...often getting many fanzines for no more than the price of a letter.

At the current time, this is the entire scope of the NFAS, the member sends in his name with a short list of his greatest fanzine likes and dislikes, and this is published in every issue of TNFF. Fanzine editors can either get the names and addresses there, or they can write to me, and I'll send them a list.

To get off the list, the member has only to write and ask that his name be removed. Since, however, I wish to make sure that only active members have their names on the list, the members must inform me of their continuing interest (a postcard is sufficient), every other mailing (every 4 months) of TNFF.

In the future, I want to get together a detailed statement of the likes and dislikes of all the members, as well as a short biography and some indication of the response that they would be likely to make. The reason for this is simple: if, as I hope it will, the membership of the NFAS goes to, say, 25, a faned may not have enough extra copies to send to all the people on the list. A faned may only want a certain type of response, or may want to reach a certain audience...possibly all of these. In such a case, the faned would be able to determine which of the members of the NFAS would be likely to give him the response he most wants. This is also a good thing for the NFAS members, since it would help to insure that they get the types of fanzines that they most like.

I commented above on the fact that I'm not quite sure how many members the NFAS has. The reason for this is simple: to join, you could write to me, or to Stan Woolston who was acting head, or to Art Hayes who publishes the list in TNFF, or to...but you get the idea.

Please, gentlefen, when you join, send me your name. The others are busy and have better things to do than to try to get all the names together. We'd love to have your name on the list...but send it to me!

kessel

John Kessel
Box 6836
River Station
Rochester, N. Y. 14627
July 4, 1971

I'd like to take a little issue with Mike Scott's letter praising the virtues of The Thing. I realize that often discussions like these degenerate into "Well,

I think it's good!" shouting matches, but in the interests of another point of view I'd like to quote John Baxter's book Science Fiction in the Cinema:

"...the characters quickly separate themselves into professionals and dreamers. The airman, the reporter he takes with him, and some of his crew are professionals; the scientists, and especially their leader, are dreamers. Hawk's contempt for the former comes out clearly...scientists generally shown as being incapable of adjusting to the real world. The fact that Tobey (the hero) is almost always wrong in his decisions does not prevent him from emerging as the most favorable character. Even a wrong tough guy is better than no tough guy at all. Although the head scientist does everything that a logical man should do to communicate with the creature, he is smashed down..."

I will certainly agree with Scott as he quotes Robin Wood saying that the maturity of the whole human being is more vital than the development of the intellect alone, however, Hawk's film projects scientists as being solely slaves to intellect and supressing emotion and sexuality. This is incredibly misleading and pernicious - I know many scientists personally and I have never met one who was an inhuman machine. There is too much of a tendancy in many people either to treat scientists with undue respect or as malicious Frankensteins. They are neither - they are human beings. That is one of the major failings of The Thing - its simplistic view of good and evil.

So much for sermons. Now for pleas. Steve Carper and myself run a fanzine here at the University of Rochester called URanian - and we could certainly use any artwork, articles, stories, etc., that anyone would like to submit. You can mail stuff to me or to the U of R Science Fiction Society, Todd Union, University of Rochester, Rochester, N. Y. 14627.

Also, anyone who didn't vote for "Don't Crush That Dwarf, Hand Me The Pliers" for the Hugo will be in real trouble. George Leroy Tirebiter lives!

koch

Irvin Koch
% 835 Chattanooga Bank Building
Chattanooga, Tn 37402
July 21, 1971

My compliments to Denton & Co on a very great issue of TB. Keep up the good work.

As for publishing or not publishing a list of officers and activities in TB, it is up to the editor. All I ask/say is that accuracy is deperately needed and hard for anyone to maintain. I was behind on several of the bureaus when I last wrote. Hays (and Woolston) seem to be doing a much better job of keeping up to date that was done in 1969-70. Hayes also improves as he goes along (as do the present TB editors).

As for my spelling - it is weël known that I am quick, sloppy, and usually fairly clear despite it.

Addenda to my letter on fandom in the South. We now have a club in Florida, (I am living near "the cape" but have no permanent address. It is only a 2 day delay to write thru Chattanooga.) 70% girls. This is an East Central Florida group. (There is a West Central and a Northern, also.) Anyone with addresses of fans within 75 miles of Cocoa Beach - write Rosie Green or Nina Wicoloff or

L'shaya Solkind or myself.

RICK BROOKS: (1) You are correct on N3F activity but (2) would you care to take on a bureau yourself or help with one? Why not? The only way any fanac runs is that someone does what interests him/her/them because no one else will.

ANN WILSON: There are only 2 truly regional groups - all others are merely local clubs that take in a wide area such as NESFA and ESFA. The true regionals - in that they cover a region are the SFC and Caroline FF. If I am wrong - people - write our fanclub buread; Anita-Neshe Kovalick so she can write up a list/report/ for TNFF. As for your plan to centralize fandom about N3F - I had the same idea once; then 9000 anarchac, uncooperative, apathetic fans beat me on the head. Lord forbid any such plan. We are doing very well as is. The bureaus as are, are hard to man; the regional organizations will do better with Laison but not association with N3F. It's worth SFC or any local club the N3F dues to put them in contact but that's about it unless the entire regional membership wants different.

GERSMAN: The Black Hole of Calcutta was a lie thought up by a 2nd Lt. British propaganda officer.

FRANK: someone misspelled Offutt's name. Beward - the sky will fall on you (chuckle). Also, the latest word is that Len Collins WILL hold Gnomoclave II in Johnson City, Tn - probably in June '72.

As for my running for President, etc., all I need to say I said in TB 68.

L'shaya Solkind or myself.

krieg

Edward J. Krieg
510 North Chapelgate Lane
Baltimore, Maryland 21229
July 24, 1971

VASBINDER: Welcome to the club, Sam. Just hope you stay in it a while. I thank you for your remarks concerning AS. By the way, have you (or other Neffers) seen the film of Andromeda Strain by Robert Wise? Much better than the book. Quite strong in spots, too - such as the scene of the dead town and various corpses. I feel that the scene of the doc cutting into a wrist for blood samples was not too tasteful, but still the overall impression I got of the flick was that it was good. I feel that AS (as I call it) will be a nominee as well as ThX 1158, and possibly a Night Gallery episode, as well.

Was anyone seen the rerun of Wylie's episode of "Name of the Game" - IA: 2017? I saw it about two weeks ago and was quite impressed. Could this episode be nominated for a Hug?

Note to all fans - particularly those in the East Coast: If you want a repetition of St. LOUISCON '69 and LunaCon '71 fiasco (see a recent Locus issue #8/74 or something) vote for NYCON in '74. Same awful hope - er - hotel. Even the first MONDOCON in Jan of '71 was better organized. DC in '74, Toronto in '73. One good reason (to me, anyway) for having a TorCon II is the fact that you can get British sf paperbacks not available in the U. S. In DallasCon, you will get a large number of comix and old radio fans. WORLDCONS should be exclusively for S-F fans - though comix and other fans are welcome. I don't want comic book juveniles (which most comic fans are) dominating a science fiction convention. //Are you comic fans going to take that sitting down. ccr//

VASBINDER again: Bantam has just published another STAR TREK collection. ST: 4 (abbreviation) Blish says in his intro that another 4 at least are forthcoming.

Hugos: I will mention a few I read that are worthy for an award. For the first time in a few years, I read most of the various stories. Novel: Ringworld. 'Nuff said. Go out and vote. Novella: "Ill Met in Lankhmar". I can't think of any other story coming close. Drama: NO AWARD. Prozone: I don't know. JWC's death - coming a few days ago might cause people to vote sentimentally, but I doubt it. I believe on second thought that voting for the awards was closed as of 15 July.

Anyone (but Frank Denton will do): Care to comment on the deaths of Augut Derleth (sic) and J. W. Campbell? I trully believe that Campbell, despite many controversies involved with him, made modern "SF". Sturgeon, Heinlein, Clarke, and many others owe their careers to him. Derleth did much to bring LoveCraft to attention of many people. For that alone, I suppose sf fans will be grateful. Lovecraft did write a few pure sf stories.

I recommend a special vote of thanx go to Art Hayes for publishing his Through the Haze and helping with TNFF. Art is a big help to the N3F. Picked up Universe One at my bookstore. Looks interesting. I feel that the paperback anthology will be the wave of the future.

brooks

Cuyler Warnell Brooks, Jr.
713 Paul Street
Newport News, Va 23605
July 24, 1971

Good issue of TB...I have not written TB in a long time, I'm afraid. I would like to suggest something - I am bugged by this crap about the almighty hotels not allowing the NFFF hospitality room to serve our own coffee or whatever. Why don't we create an instant tradition of a fannish drink with secret ingredients - say Sweet Blog, to distinguish it from Hard Blag - the we could bring it with us and serve it to certified trufen only. Anybody know any good recipes?

mattingly

Gary S. Mattingly
7529 Grandview Lane
Overland Park, Kans. 66204
August 11, 1971

The art which you have in TB 68 looks nice and definitely hope you can have more of the same in this issue or future ones.

RE: IRVIN KOCH: Fandom is growing in even odder places (where it should have been for a long time. Kansas City now has an F&SF Society. I guess you could say our meetings are minicons, too. First meeting - 24 people. Second (3 weeks later) - 39 people. And that's only from the KC metro area. When people start coming from other parts of Missouri and Kansas?? Kansas has had some fan activities before this, but nothing excessive. Fandom in Kansas may grow yet, with a little prodding, and showing "readers" what fandom is all about.

The regional idea stated by ANN WILSON sounded good, if the regional directors don't decide to gafiate or just let things go for two or three months. This might help add membership to the N3F, especially if the director could have the

time and transportation to get around in the region and maybe try to start things in dead areas that should be alive and thriving. I mean there are still a lot of large cities in the U. S. where people don't know about fandom and might really enjoy it. Of course, this would take time and cancellation of a lot of mundane activities, but think how large the N3F might grow and how much fandom just might benefit. Also, the N3F needs a little bit more coordination and new ideas or rejuvenation of old ones to make N3F a much better club. ZI really think it would be possible if more people started doing something.

3rd and 4th class can be forwarded to a new address if you tell the post office that you will pay for the postage if they send it to your new address. At least they did it for me.

Most of the time, what IRVIN KOCK said about a 3 month old neo vs. a 10 year BNF getting things done is true. However, a 10 year BNF can probably get something done faster through the lines of fandom if both put out an equal amount of energy, since a 10 year BNF should know who to contact to do whatever he wants done. But, I do know that if anyone wants something done, if they stick to something, 9 time out of 10 they will be able to get it done.

"Don't Crush That Dwarf . . ." was done by the Firesing Theatre (their third album, so far, if anyone is counting).

Seems like ALMA HILL is doing a lot for the N3F at the Noreascon. I hope all turns out wee there.

One more thing. Some people may have been reading this letter and thought, "So, why doesn't Mattingly do anything?" Well, here it is. I guess I'm running to be a director. A few people said I ought to and if elected I'll work as much as I'm physically able. I will be in college but my number of credit hours is rather low and the courses are basic so I can;t really see too much interference from that sphere of the mundane world. Even if I don;t win, I hope it adds a little bit of excitement to the normally not-too- exciting N3F election. Also, if anybody wants me to do domething, I'm volunteering (except for "excessive" traveling, since it cost money to travel and I don't quite have enough to cover that and mailing expenses.) But for those of you who weren't reading too well, I'm running for the directorate and I really do want to help. I mean fandom really ought to be better than politics and look what politicians are doing (or does that make any sense)(how about stamp collection-model airplances, ummm?) Make the N3F grow and help where you can (To members, not Tightbeamed - he's already helping.)

berglund

Edward P. Berglund
Apartment 305
3916 Regency Parkway
Suitland, Maryland 20023
August 1, 1971

The following bit of information is for the next issue of Tightbeam. First off, I would like to say that effective the 13th of August, my mailing address will be 1226 Washburn Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55411. This will probably see print after the effective date.

The reason that I am writing, is that I hope that there are some members out there who may be able to help me on two items.

The first item is that I am in need of information (bibliographical) on

Cthulhu Mythos stories which have appeared in the amateur magazines. I would also like to have copies of these, but am not able to make any purchases at the present time. The reason that I need these is because I am trying to obtain copies of all Cthulhu Mythos stories, poems, articles, and what have you, for a project of mine, tentatively entitled "The Cthulhu Mythos: A Study". The stories do not necessarily have to be solidly within the Cthulhu Mythos, but if they have a minor relationship with the Cthulhu Mythos, I would like to see them, for I wish to make my own determination on what should be considered a Cthulhu Mythos tale and what should not. Along these lines, it would also be appreciated if anyone would give me a copy of a professionally published story which is related to the Cthulhu Mythos which has never appeared on a listing of such previously.

In the case of amateur Cthulhu Mythos stories, I would also be interested in the possibility of reprinting them in Nyctalops magazine, which is devoted to H. P. Lovecraft and Arkham House.

I would also appreciate seeing any original stories dealing with the Cthulhu Mythos, as long as they use those elements in a conscientious manner. The only length restriction is for a story to appear in one issue - 6,500 words. If a story ran over this amount, the author would have to agree to break it down into equal installments and write a synopsis of the preceeding installments.

I am also interested in purchasing a copy of a magazine entitled Monster Parade or Monsters and Things (circa 1958) which contains a story called "The Curse of Cthulhu" - author unknown.

h i l l

Alma Hill,
463 Park Drive
Boston, Mass 02215
July 24, 1971

What is this field going to do unless we can somehow produce an analog of ANALOG?

Maybe there are such things as thought waves, for this question has been bothering my mind off and on since about the time John Campbell died, days before the bad news came. It must be occurring to many others. John himself was so individual and his magazine such a reflection of his attitudes and abilities, that the publishers may simply consider it foolish to continue with anyone else. It brings home a realization of why they used to bury Norse captains with their ships, doesn't it?

Of course, there is still Schuy Miller, one of the few people able to review the publications not only of this field but of related areas informative to the same readership. There is still Kay Tarrant, who must know the mechanics of publication inside out; and although she always loyally insisted that Mr. Campbell reads everthing, she may well be a first reader of no mean merit, and is doubtless a peerless proofreader. Maybe she could even sort out the letters that made Brass Tacks unique among letter columns - but who'd choose the items and add just enough comment and arrange the batch? A committee?

Fred Pohl always wrote great editorials, and could be challenging when he wanted to, but he has ever been too sage to take great delight, as John always did, in upsetting tin gods and tying cans to the tails of the sacred cows of science. John could be solemn, but not for long at a time. Al Budrys, I have

long suspected (I'm a devoted reader of his book reviews) might write editorials closer to the Campbell mixture of information plus deadpan sucker-baiting. Budrys, though, is young and, though the suggestion might infuriate him, is inclined to be literary. That, of course, might come from the magazine he writes for. Mercury Press, which publishes F&SF, is not unaware of trends and logics, but is apt to let the matter serve the manner, whereas John always put it the other way around. This field doubtless has many whose knowledge of the sciences and of new developments is as encyclopedic as John's; but it takes a vast experience in scanning it for material that an intelligent gadget-minded readership can grasp and will like, before producing the kind of leadership that we had from John all these years. //Pardon the interruption, but I can't help feeling that you are feeling sorry for yourself and us without thinking that we should be grateful for having had the unique experience of John Campbell. We certainly wouldn't want another Bach or Van Gogh or JFK. Their uniqueness is their glory and ours.ccr//

All those who considered him to be getting old, stiff, and dusty were thereby biting on baits for suckers, and wouldn't even know what it was all about. This may rule out quite a segment of fandom right there, for all its other talents and potentialities. John was forever throwing out such baits. Remember the time when . . . and the time when . . . well, for an epitome, consider the time he mentioned the scientists who refused to pay further attention to a photograph of a field, half insect-ridden, half clear and healthy, merely because John suggested that the treatment had been psionic? It probably was nothing of the sort but instead of taking that for a joke or asking for facts, the whole matter was brushed off despite the photographic evidence. This says a lot about how some so-called scientists think, but nothing at all about what really did delouse that field. Remember how several other fans (smart people, too) were outnumbered by John on the opposite side of the stage? Who has this particular notion of how to stir up ideas? Who is so well able to laugh off nonsense or take it from whence it comes?

As to picking the stories, Doc Lowndes is probably the only one who knows good style (BOTH verbal AND logical) that well. He has always been willing to do business for love instead of money, apparently, so his magazines have been perennially ill-funded; so he has seldom had the means of showing what all he can do. But he, too, by Campbellian standards, is overly polite to idiots. No, that isn't fair to John, for he could be kindness, itself. But who has ever ridden so roughshod over stupid ideas? Who so thoroughly earned and held the respect of the technicians, garage men, carpenters, bricklayers, engine tuners and other practical-minded, logical, down-to-cases readers who knew all the time that John was playing games? And what ideas he would take to play games with! Remember when . . . or when . . . of course the classic case was the story about atom bombs when Oak Ridge was a-building and nobody was even supposed to think about nuclear fission, and WW II was darkening the thoughts of us all, anyway. Who else has ever gotten the FBI and Military Intelligence that badly upset, one wonders? But when lasers were just as hush-hush, John was editorially urging all and sundry to study crystals, right?

Who do we know offhand that encyclopedic AND that irreverent AND that devoted to the great ethic of logical search for the new aspects of truth?

John's loss is not just a disaster to this field; it's national if anyone should ask me. As for ourselves, we had better take stock of the pieces, all around the crater. There may not be enough left for the Blowhards to lean on.

woolston

Stan Woolston
12832 Westlake St.
Garden Grove, CA 92640

If candidates for office do not use TB, they are missing a bet. Obviously, there is always room for improvement in any group, and whether a person runs for office or not, there is room for comments and suggestions for bettering the club. I write this to point out a few things relating to candidates.

Any member can still seek office, even though the August TNFF is out listing some candidates. Anyone running can send in a platform, though of course those who had one published needn't bother. I hope some have taken the opportunity to write into TB, too. Of course, they need not have their dues paid up for next year now - they can have their names on the ballot only by paying for next year's dues, but can announce before they renew, and have their platforms published as well.

With emphasis on officers, we may remember that sometimes those who are presented now are also apt to seek office of the appointive sort later. Actually, the opposite is so, too: candidates, whether they win or not, may be sought out to fill an opening in a bureau. Right now there are some openings, including the Manuscript Bureau. Art Hayes mentioned he would serve to collect such material and, if he did not use it in TNFF, it would be available to faneditors who wrote in. (At least, that is how I remember it - if I goof, he'll correct it, I'm sure) So . . . consider Art Hayes as "Acting Head" of the Manuscript Bureau, and until we find a suitable replacement, he can enjoy the extra job . . .

Incidentally, I have a few articles and some artwork that I'll send to the new Manuscript Bu head or individual faneditor who seeks that sort of thing. Write card or letter if you're interested - but give some idea what your publication is about, and, also, type of material wanted including length. In fact, why not write Art with this information, and send me a carbon copy? You would be expected to use it or return it at your postal expense though . . . sometimes I can be stingy.

One of the things that always interests me are reports. Reports, like news sometimes come to me in fragments. It may be something like "Add something in my Report about John Q. Phan joining as assistant, and that our Newsletter will be out every two days thereafter". I assure you NOBODY has written the above but me - and sometimes it is more complete than that, and still could not be used as written. Sometimes, it refers to a letter sent me a few weeks earlier, or it may be a report written in the midst of a letter. As such, at times I find my own words creeping in, and at others I'm not sure what is the report or news and what is a personal observation. Sometimes this is important.

So I want to end with this suggestion: whether news or reports, it is best to put it separately from the page of a letter. It is best to read it over with the viewpoint of the reader: is it complete and said as you'd like it to be read? If this is done, I'd have to write fewer queries - or there would be less confusion and maybe false information when I decide to send out what I think it is (but find my decision was false).

And of course Art will find the same is so for candidate's platforms: read it over and say what you intend please!

ccr's filler

Thanks for the great copy that has been coming in. You can't imagine what a pleasure it is to be able to read it. Also, the next issue will be my last - so if you want to take any pot-shots at me, you'd better get them in by Oct. 15.

A LATE STOP-THE-PRESSES LETTER FROM MIKE KRING

8/17/71

Dear Frank,

I have a question:

Why doesn't the N3F engage in an active advertising campaign to increase its membership?

If such an idea is against tradition, so what? The last membership list in TNFF showed approximately 160 members, and a short campaign (like a few ads in about 3 or 4 fmz and/or a few classifieds in the prozines) couldn't hurt that much.

Now, I would be happy to head any advertising bureau and co-ordinate all the efforts in that field (such as what type of ad copy to use, art, etc.) though I have absolutely no experience in that field. (I do, however, get a few "underground" periodicals, and I could scan the ads in them to get ideas. In fact, I have several ideas already, but...)

The Advertising Bureau I envision could not, by itself, send the ad off, but would have to put the best ad ideas before the Directorate and let them choose which type of ad idea or campaign they wished to explore, unless the Directorate wishes to give full power to my imaginary bureau. (And if anyone has any experience in the advertising field, I would gladly hand the job over to them, if they wanted it.)

What say you, fellow Neffers?

And I am serious.

Sincerely,

Mike Kring
P.O. Box 626
Sabinal, TX 78881

LATENEFFERNEWS

FANZINE CLEARING HOUSE TO OPERATE AGAIN

The Fanzine Clearing House is going into operation once more. For years run by Seth Johnson, the FCH places ads, usually in The Magazine of Fantasy and SF, so that people can meet fandom. The approach is through the fanzine, with a number of fanzines being sent to the enquirer for \$1. Along with the bundle is sent information about the NFFF. Of course, fanzines are needed for this worthy enterprise. Publishers of genzines, who may have stacks of outdated issues sitting around, are asked to donate them to this project. Donald Miller, long-time Neffer, has taken over the project. You may send your zines to him at 12315 Judson Rd., Wheaton, MD 20906.

OVERSEAS BUREAU HEAD RESIGNS

Phyrne Bacon, head of the Overseas Bureau has resigned. A replacement is being sought by the President to continue this important contact with fans in foreign countries.

MANUSCRIPT BUREAU TO HAVE ACTING HEAD

Art Hayes has consented to fill in temporarily as "acting head" of the Mss. Bureau. This bureau helps to place manuscripts of writers who do not have any contact with fanzines. Art's address is Box 1031, South Porcupine, Ontario, Canada.

NEWS BUREAU SEEKING ASSISTANCE

Searching for a way to round up more news nationwide, the News Bureau is looking for the assistance of a number of reporters scattered around the country. Many hands make light work. If five or six persons can be found who would volunteer to send news regularly about happenings in their area, a better news column would develop. If you are so inclined, please contact, Judith Brownlee, 1556 Detroit, Apt. 1, Denver, CO 80206

BOUCHERCON TWO

Bouchercon Two will be held Oct. 8-11, 1971 at the International Hotel, 6211 Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045 and \$4 is the current joining price. Bill S. Ballinger is CoH. Send checks to Bruce E. Peiz, Box 1, Santa Monica, CA 90406. This con is of interest to readers, writers, editors and publishers of Detective, Mystery and Suspense Fiction. There are quite a few sf fans who also grok both so come along and have a good time.

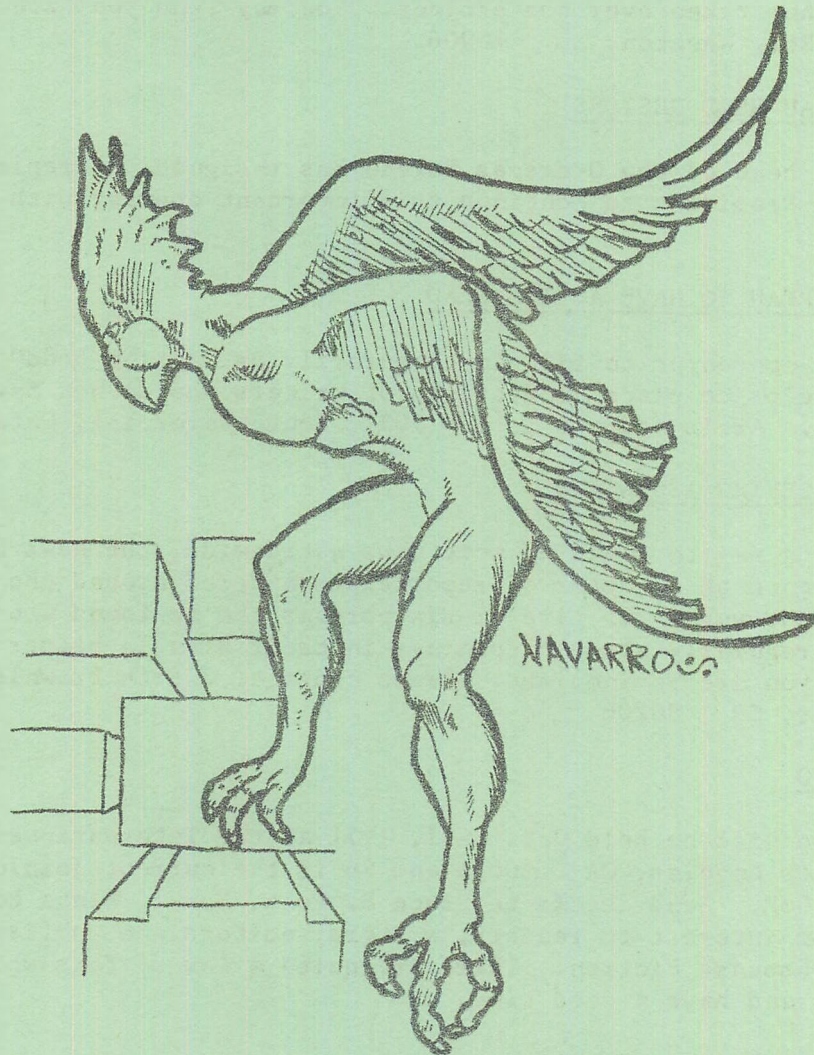
THE JDM BIBLIOPHILE

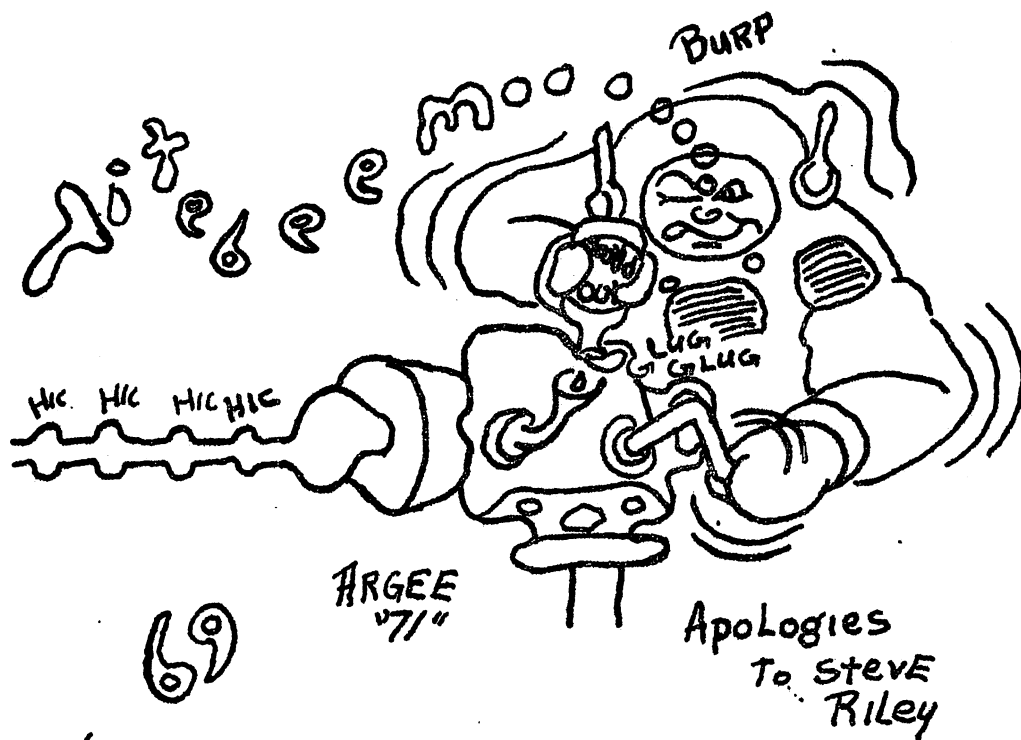
Detective story fans may be interested in sending for the latest issue of The JDM Bibliophile from Len and June Moffatt, Box 4456, Downey, CA 90241. Cost is 50¢. You'll find a good many sf fans represented therein. This is one of the older and better mystery and detective fanzines of a growing fandom. Try it.

NEW FANZINE APPRECIATION SOCIETY

Here is a group of people dedicated to the proposition that the editor of a brand new fanzine, his or her pride and joy, ought not to be left weeping in the wilderness, awaiting some comment on the product of his efforts. These people will

joyfully read the new zine, and respond in some way to it; with a LOC, a story, some material for the next issue. If you have a new fanzine that you'd like to be assured will be read, or, if you would like to receive a new fanzine and will promise to respond to it, contact the head of the NFAS, Ken Scher, 3119 Mott Ave., Far Rockaway, NY 11691 and he'll do right by you.





Would a generator-POWERED
Light, fueled by alcohol give a
Tight beam

