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TIGHTBEAM

Tightbeam # 75

The letter and opinion zine of The National Fantasy Fan Federation.
This is the November, 1972, issue of Tightbeam.

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March, May, July, September, and November of each year. Tb is distri-
buted free to members of the NFFF and for trade for other fanzines.
Also to persons who are mentioned if addresses are known. All persons
who are mentioned in Tightbeam, whether NFFF members or not are invtd
to comment.

If you or your organization would like to have an announcement pre-
sented to a sizable body of fans (over 200), send your information
to Tb and it will be printed (space permitting, of course), free of
charge. Whenever there is a need, Tb will have additional pages fo
for news or other items of fannish interest.

Please send all changes of address to me as well as to Janie Lamb.
This could keep you from missing issues of Tb

All letters that are intended for Tightbeam should be so marked.
If not marked they will not usually go into Tb. I have quite a
few correspondents and publish other fanzines so please mark that
a letter is for Tb.

The Neffan

//Each issue, hopefully, this feature will help to acquaint Neffers with each other. Some of the more experienced and widely known Neffers will tell us something about their own fannish careers. This ish we have Harry Warner, Jr. to tell us about himself. If any of you have been in isolation for the last few months, Harry won his second Hugo award as best fan writer at the LACon this year.//

My definition of a fan is a person who does something more than just read science fiction. By that definition, I'm not sure when I became a fan. I'd begun reading the prozines in 1933, and I'm not sure when it was that I stumbled across a couple of 1929 issues of Amazing in a small music store that had a table filled with second-hand magazines. By investing 20¢ in those two magazines, I became a collector, and therefore a fan.

But the other major dates in the stages of my fannish evolution are fairly well established. I had my first letter to a prozine published in 1936, received a few sample copies of fanzines and acquired some correspondents as a result of it, began publishing my first fanzine, SPACEWAYS, in 1938, and attended my first con in 1960. I never was the sort of person who rushes into things like attending fan gatherings. Honesty compels me to admit a less savoury phase of my fannish career. I sold some stories to the prozines during a year or two in the 1950's. Everyone yields to temptation somewhere along the pathway of life, including me.

There's a general belief in fandom that I've been feverishly active all during the years since I first thrust my way into the fanzine world. It isn't so. My fanac declined sharply partway through the 1940's and it didn't perk up again until late in the 1950's. During perhaps a dozen years, I was active mainly in FAPA, kept up correspondence with some old fannish friends, and wrote an occasional fanzine article, but was in semi-gafia in most respects.

I suppose I'm most famous at present as a LoC writer. Well-intentioned people keep referring to me in fanzines as the fan who writes a LoC on every issue of every fanzine he receives, and this keeps getting me into trouble. I try to live up to the reputation but I just can't do it: maybe half of all the fanzines that arrive never get attended to, despite good intentions on my part.

Actually, I'm more proud of my record in FAPA than of any other fannish activity. I've had at least a dozen pages of HORIZONS in every quarterly mailing since early in 1944, and for more than a dozen years each issue has contained at least 24 pages. Please don't ask me for copies, because I no longer do my own mimeography and I receive from my publisher only a few spare copies of each issue.

My association with NFFF started before the organization began. I rejected the article which led to its creation. I avoided controversy in SPACEWAYS and asked Damon Knight to send his article to another fanzine, knowing it would create fusses over the need for another national fan group. But I was active in the first few years
(continued on page 21)

*rvin Koch, 835 Chattanooga Bank Building, Chattanooga, TN 37402

My first comment is on Tom Drake's MIDGUARD 2. He is progressing nicely on the rules and it seems I have been drawn into his net--as a ruler, of course; too many other people wanted to be wizards and heroes. One of the things we will need is someone to be ready to assume the role of gamesmaster alternate in the, hopefully distant, future. I have already given way to the urge to be volunteer to be gamesmaster of MIDGUARD 3 --the overflow from the waitlist of #2.

Then there are Joe S.'s comments on my zine cost calculations. I did indeed disregard the cost of reducing offset page size by photo; this would or would not result in a net savings depending on a lot of things I leave for the pubber to worry about. On collating, my copy service will collate mixed mimeo-offset.

I must scream tho, that the proposed postage rates on 3rd Class were cancelled last I heard, and in any case did not double any rates under 4 oz. The only difference they made--and they aren't in effect on any post office wall rate sheet I've seen this month--were to lower the number of 20 wt. pages that could be sent out at the same rate as book rate from 40 to 30. Above that book rate becomes much cheaper but gives little difference in service. Below that 3rd Class is cheaper. And 2¢ extra in postage were on Tb 74... //The only remark I can make to this is that in all 3 local post offices in town the increase in rates is and has been in effect-JoeD.//

In any case, at \$3. per member, publications become easier. Also--howmany people out there who can and do pay \$2. per year will be hurt by \$3. instead? Any? It seems that the people who can't or won't pay \$3./year can't or won't pay even \$1./year.

Then there is Roy Tackett. Roy--usually I answer letters by scribbling replies on the letter sent to me. That's the opposite extreme from Hayes' multicopy system. I was told you were doing a fanac manual; that's why I sent you the letter on such.

I do not think it's impossible entirely to get bureau reports in TNFF: I just think it would be nice to get all the stuff in one zine instead of having new members wait one to three years of watching TNFF to get a good idea of the bureaus activities. Other than that minor detail, we agree very nicely--even to needing material for our genzines.

In any case, I should have Art's luck. A woman of his own even.

Buzz Dixon, 905 Weston St., Raleigh, N.C. 27610

First off, please note the new street address. My home address is still in Raleigh, though I'll be stationed at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana.

Must renew my membership to the N3F one of these days. I think mine is to run out soon. //That is something all of us should do right away so we will all be members for 1973--JoeD.//

The N3F could use a little more pepping up. I doubt if we have any political pressure to bring to bear in fandom and, while I don't want the club to set itself up as the fourth ghod of fandom, it would be nice if people listened when we made an award or write an article in a fanzine.

Perhaps individual fans could do this by signing their letters and articles and artwork in the following manner, "Buzz Dixon, N3F". It would certainly advertise our names and our club's name by being different from other fan signitures. (Why do you think rich brown and andy offutt sign their names in small case letters. They ain't modest, they just want to draw attention to their names. Many fans are imitating them so they may have to start signing their names in a different manner pretty soon.) In any case, it couldn't hurt.

I would suggest that the N3F do more things like the coffee/game room at Noreascon. Two fans at a convention with a pot of coffee and a couple of dozen donuts would do wonders in good will.

I would also suggest that faneds who are members of the N3F use the manuscript bureau more than we have. As soon as I have a chance to get BACKYARD ROCKET going again I promise Robert Gersman I'll use some of his backlog.

Most of all, I would suggest that the various bureau heads (there's a pun to be made here but I will spare you) get on the ball. I can't participate in the N3F as much as I'd like but in three years Uncle Sam will be rid of me and I'll be able to handle a bureau. Or even assume the presidency, eh, Stan?

Well, leave such fantasys for the future. I would like to compliment the many bureau heads who do work for the N3F.

Seriously, I think if we all get off our fat cans and did a little more campaigning for the N3F, we could have a hell of a good club.

Robert Barthell, Route 2, Powell Wyoming 82435

I am a recent member of NFFF and would like to get this request into your next issue of Tb-- I am teaching a three credit course in science fiction literature here at Northwest Community College and would like to receive some sample fanzines for the class. The course will cover two lectures on fandom and I would like to have some sample zines to pass around to the students and some to keep in the library. Frankly, I am using the class to get students into fandom (Wyoming is pretty isolated) and the zines would help. Send old or new issues, they'll be appreciated. Mail them to me here at the college.

The Wyoming Committee for the Humanities has just given me a \$7945.00 grant to put on a horror-science fiction film series this year. There will be a total of eight films shown. Each film will be preceeded by a lecture and followed by a discussion period. The films will be shown in three communities: Powell, Worland, and Thermopolis. In addition to the films there will be two guest lecturers who will appear on our college campus to discuss various aspects of horror and

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science fiction films. If the series is a success, we will try it again next year. Right now, we're off and running. //Good luck. The type of film program you describe is something which has hardly been touched academically but which deserves it very much..JoeD.//

Attended my first Worldcon in LA and found it to be unique and wonderful experience. Will definitely make the next one. Plan to hit the MileHiCon in October. Have some students lined up who want to go so it should be fun.

Hope to get some response on the zine request.

James A. Hall, 236 Lansdowne Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2W 0G6, Canada

Just received Tb today but figured if I'm ever going to get a letter away to you I'd better do it right now. So here I am.

It is as you say, the members make Tb the sort of zine it is. But does this mean (by your too frequent repetition of this irrefutable fact) that you have no faith in the membership to provide interesting material for an interesting Tb? You seem to be shifting the blame in advance of the calamity. //I don't think the membership will not send interesting letters, as long as they write. I didn't mean to sound like that in Tb 74 and apologise if I sounded so-JoeD.//

The big discussion this time seems to revolve around Larry Neilson's complaints from the preceeding ish. All the old foxes sure are jumping on him. (No insult intended.) Well, let me add my two cents worth, I joined the N3F early this year. I am not bored! Surprised? I find many interesting things to do. Let's see, there is my personal correspondence, I am in a round robin (and perhaps two by now) and, of course there are the fanzines (NFAS). These few activities keep me busy enough and very satisfied. I like N3F; it has given me very many pleasures and I've only been a member for about eight months.

The best advice I was ever given when I joined came from Irvin Koch. (I hope he won't mind if I repeat it here.) "Most of N3F is really individuals running projects and activities with or without the help of others; do what you can and whatever you feel like. Tb and TNFF make good central information points."

A conclusion perhaps--OUR club is what YOU make of it.

I suppose it figures, here is my first letter to Tb and already I am complaining, though a little more subtle than most. I agree with Rose that a new topic of interest is needed. Or maybe a couple of lively feuds. Of course there is always (my voice fades to a whisper here) SF. Please don't be shocked. What is a male chauvinist pig? //By my own admission, not being one, I will not answer that question. But maybe one of the others will. You old foxes--any egotistical swine among you?//

Verne O'Brian, c/o 1320 Arthur Ave., Las Vegas, Nev. 89101

Horntoads, but I've been trying to get this written for several weeks. Not that things haven't been rough enough here at the ranch for months now (no electric power since March), but I'm just barely getting some feeling back in my nerve-endings (all ovuh M'bodddy...) after a riotous Labor Day weekend in that nearby teaming metropolis of Beatty, Nevada, and the World Champeenship Wild Burro Races. This thrill-packed event draws dashing sportsmen and the jaded jet-set ~~world nation state~~ -- well, Southern Nevada, anyway. Why, I'll bet Swampy Marsh has heard about it from even as far away as Carson City!

A lot of controversy in Tb 74, I note, about the worth of the club and its value to the members. I think the longevity of N3F speaks for itself, in a way, and while I realize that not too many members have consistently maintained their membership for many years on end (although are still many who have), the point is that it must have been of some educational, instructional, and social value to a certain portion of fandom over the years or the old N3F would have faded away years ago.

It would certainly be improper to stifle any current criticism, however, as there is always room for immediate improvement in just about any club. A group held together (physically, I mean, rather than mutual interests!) by the whims of the U.S. mail often is limited, so changes and improvements do come slower, as I'm sure just about anyone knows. While I've done nothing to help improve the club (but hope to sometime), I've certainly enjoyed my membership, and Frank Denton did send me a sample mailing of N'APA, which I found very worthwhile and personally interesting. I intended to join, but felt I had too many grits in the pot already.

I see in Tb there's been several inquiries about Mike Scott's COLLECTORS BULLETIN, and three or four have written me as they had seen my name on the masthead of #11. All I did was mimeo the issue for Mike so am not sure of his future plans, although I too have read in several places that #12 was already in the mail, but I'm sure this is not the case. I had originally offered to help Mike (who had no mimeo facilities at the time) because I thought CB was an official N3F publication and felt I might be helping the club in some small manner. It took Mike quite a while to get around to telling me that such was not the case -- not that I wouldn't have helped him anyway; he just hadn't corrected my original assumption. Anyway, so far as I know he plans to continue CB; just when I can't say for sure. My own fan pubbing has been considerably delayed due to the above mentioned power shortage -- I can cope with about anything, even be semi-disabled, but trying to be an enthusiastic editor in 107 to 115 degree heat without even a swamp cooler is a little hard for anybody to choke down, especially with the high humidity we've had here in south Nevada this year. And, of course, no refrig to chill your beer is just the damned last straw.... Hope to have the electricity restored this month or next, tho.

Hey, don't kill the Birthday card idea! If it hadn't been for nice gals like Sheryl, Elaine and Rose, there's nobody I know who would have remembered mine last July. Of course, a crusty old pal of mine

did come by with a cold six-pac, and when I thanked him for it and said how he knew it was my birthday, he gave me a blank look and said he didn't know nothin' about no birthday, but hell, it was the 4th of July, wasn't it? I was crushed...especially when the bum drank four of the six...

Guess it's something that should go to the Ideas Bureau, but I've been thinking it would be a real good focal point if the N3F published its own quality genzine about three times a year. Yes, I know we have N'APA, TNFF and Tb, but I mean a real-to-gosh amateur journal where the members can display their various artistic and writing talents in an officially sanctioned N3F magazine devoted solely to that specific purpose. Sure, a few members publish their own fanzines and many others contribute to several dozen around the country, and abroad, but our own magazine of the type I'm thinking of could be a consolidation of our own members' many and varied talents -- articles, stories, poems, indices (whew, I'm not sure about that one grammar-wise a'tall!), drawings, etc., everything that goes into a quality amateur literary journal (now there's a subject that's really open to debate, but let's forget it for the nonce!)

And what the heck ever happens to the stories that are entered in the story contest? If they don't get published, we're losing a good bet there. Especially on the winning entries! With the Writers' Exchange and the Manuscript Bureau going for the club, how could we lose? Maybe I'm wrong (probably), but it looks like the very thing the N3F is trying to foster, enthusiastic fantasy fans, publishing fanzines, helping fans develop their potential in creative ability, etc., is going down the drain -- to a certain extent. Sure, much of it is going into other fanmags and channels, but what better place for the ball-game than in a park of our own? And I'll bet a lot of creativeness would be encouraged if the members had their own wall to fingerprint on, so to speak. Well, it's just a thought -- but one I've had for some time. With all the talent the N3F obviously has (and I'm sure much of it isn't being used), I think it's a natural. But I suppose it's been thought of or done before and maybe there are reasons why it wouldn't work out.

Tom Drake's game sounds like fun, but if I got involved in something like that the kids in the Indian Springs Shiny Club would think I was going highbrow and wouldn't let me play goalie anymore....altho I don't know why not as I'm the only goalie they ever had who doesn't bawl when he gets hit in the head with a stick or the puck (generally an old can). I just make like I didn't feel it and keep right on grinning. But boy, when I get back to the Escobar do I ever let out a scream. Oh well, that's enough about the games us grown-up kids play.

I gotta try to get a lift to town and get this in the mail.

David Shank, 30 East Laurel St., Lawrence, Mass. 01843

To me, 1972 was actively fannish. Recently I had the luck to attend

Lexicon, which is NESFA'S idea of what a relaxacon should be. I stayed in a single room at the Lexington Sheraton Motor Inn,

All weekend I did absolutely nothing but talk, enjoy the pool, and go to parties--plus shelling out exorbitant amounts in exchange for lunch and dinner. Late Friday night I had snuck Craig McDonough as per the unwritten law of crashing. We shared the bed and I watched out for the hotel staff. I was nervous but I was quietly explained to that the hotels expect this. Saturday night I had a gaggle of NESFAns over to watch Star Trek--which included Elliott Shorter(TAFF-SCA), Mike DiGenio(official collator of Apa-NESFA), Jonathan Thomas, Joel Rubin, Craig, Elliot's girlfriends and myself.

That same night was the barbecue banquet which wasn't quite what I has expected, so I felt cheated somewhat. But I'll let it ride. I watched Paul Jordan consume two desserts while I sat squirming in my chair. I wanted it.

Daytime at the pool was pretty good. Fans kept on luring other fans into the pool--there were pushings into the pool; an impromptu game of NESFA tag, and other delightd. On Friday night the group strolled out on the driveway of the motor inn to watch a faint Aurora Borealis. It looked like drifting celestial smog. In all, a great convention...one I'll look forward to in 1973.

News from NESFA: It was announced that NESFA will be holding the 10th annual BoskOne (Boston Conference) at the Hotel Sheraton-Boston. Selection was made by pulling slips designated A thru H which had descriptions of various Boston Hotels. The H slip was voted the best hotel suited for the convention and it turned out to be the S.B. It will be the second week of March--GoH undetermined because I never attended the meeting physically.

Oher reasons why 1972 is most active: I placed some material at Rich Harter's disposal to be reproed for Apa:NESFA. The 27th mailing should have my COCKAMAMIE #1. As for RAPS--that is taken care of. I had a Xeroxed apazine in Slan-apa #31 and still have other copies if you want them. They stink.

NEILSON: I think it was you who planted ValAPA in my lap. I'm doubtful if I'll join, it looks unpromising. The way Hulvey is handling RAPS I'll do my minac and then drop out. He's too crude.

To all again: As of now Boomerang Beta has been launched and should be on its way back. On it are Craig, Joe Rizzo, Tim Marion, Russ Parkhurst, Elinor Poland and I. It started out very small but ! it'll be like other round robins.

This year you who know me will be surprised. The greeting cards for Christmas are from Morris Scott Dollens who prints very pretty cards with astro-symbolic-ecological themes.

Whether my idea for program book poopsheets at worldcons is not a wise idea, Joe, I still would like better public relations and advertising. As a matter of fact, you can even ask me if I wasnt

to give out stuff at Boskone 10. I'll be there on Saturday and maybe I can ask NESFA to give me a news summary on artshow winners, Skylark Award winners, and the like for Sheryl Birkhead's news section in TNFF.

Now, movie bureau: I think we can work this thing out if I drop most of my Neffer activity and concentrate on this. That means no new round robins or We work and round robin commwork will be minimal. Like I said the bureau would be reviews (mostly of professional movies), new movie lists, and other paraphernalia like commentary on stars past, etc. If Forry Ackerman could help us out (4e?), we could give this a good start. You would print, Joe, from typed copy. I will have summaries of movies and lists, but I'll need more time. I'd like sample copies of the fanzines PHOTON and GORE CREATURES. The fanzine GOTHISM also has articles on movies and LOCUS will be helpful. And TV Guide has announcements. One good thing is the announcement that Star Trek will be around soon. And George Pal is filming a telefilm sequel to his WAR OF THE WORLDS. I hope he doesn't handle Wells poorly like Boulle has been, in regards to the numerous APES flicks, which I think is a slap in his face!

//So far Dave and I have been the only two to show a positive interest in creating a Film Bureau--correction there are three of us, add Buzz Dixon to the list. What do some of you other Neffers think? Do you even go to see SF films? JoeD.//

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Elinor Poland, 9723 Mockingbird Dr., Omaha, Neb. 68127

The library is offering all its hardcovers for sale in order to carry only paperbacks. Postage costs are more for the larger books and they take up needed space. Money from the hardcovers will go to replace them with paperbacks and to buy new titles. If you want any of these for your own collection please let me know. Any books not taken by members will go to the Public Library here in Omaha. All books are \$1.00 each.

Anderson-THREE HEARTS AND THREE LIONS, TROUBLE, TWISTERS, TWILIGHT WORLD

Boucher (ed.)-TREASURY OF GREAT SF (2vol.)

Blackburn-A SCENT OF NEW MOWN HAY

Bradbury-THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES

Bretmor-MODERN SF

Campbell-PROLOGUE TO ANALOG

Clarke-FROM THE OCEAN, FROM THE STARS

Davies-PSYCHOGEIST

DeRey-STEP TO THE STARS

Doctorow-BIG AS LIFE

Frazee-THE SKY BLOCK

Garrett-UNWISE CHILD

Gold-THE SIXTH GALAXY READER

Heinlein-STAR BEAST

Keller-SOLITARY HUNTERS, THE ABYSS

Knight-FAR OUT

Kornbluth-(Mary)-SF SHOWCASE

Leinster-OPERATION: OUTER SPACE

Lymington-FROOMB!

Lovecraft-(His)BEST SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS

Machen- DREAMS AND DOLLS

McIntosh-THE FITTEST

Mills(ed.)-A DECADE OF F&SF, BEST FROM F&SF 11th

Norton-POSTMARKED THE STARS

Phillips-THE INVOLUNTARY IMMORTALS

Pohl(ed.)-THE 7th GALAXY READER

Pratt-DOUBLE IN SPACE

Russell-DEEP SPACE

Salamance-LILITH

Silverberg-THE TIME HOPPERS

Simak-ALL THE TRAPS OF EARTH

Taine-COSMIC GEODES

Smith (G.)-PATTERN FOR CONQUEST, HELLFLOWER

Tubb-ALIEN DUST

Tsiolkovsky-CALL OF THE COSMOS

Van Vogt-ROGUE SHIP

Wollheim- SECRET OF THE MARTIAN MOONS

Wright-DELUGE

//Elinor sent me this list a while back so it would probably be wise to write to her to see if the books you want are still available. It would also be nice to send her a post card or a SASE on which to reply to you. JoeD.//

Alma Hill, 78 Summer St., Natick, Mass. 01760

When anybody talks about the market for fantasy you'd think there was no such thing--with all the fantasy classics around us. To be sure the Cinderella-Gothics have come up strongly as a separate genre in the last couple of years, and the wave may have crested. But it will be a long while yet before it spends its force, if it ever does. There is something about the Cinderella theme that sells and sells and sells. Add some detective-mystery, and/or some spooky-weird, and you have a good strong brew with a large loyal clientele.

When somebody tells me that fantasy won't sell just because some good fantasy books and magazines didn't pay off well, I think about those that did: Tolkien and Howard, Eric Knight and Thorne Smith. (This may be heresy, but Lovecraft didn't write all that well. "The tumbled stones of monoliths ruins" --MEGALithic, dawgun't, MEGALithic; a monolith is one single stone, not many!) But look at all the kinds of fantasy there are: swords & sorcery, action-adventure, horror, weird, humorous, romantic, and for all I know, pornogothic. Young writers who like SF but don't feel fond of machinery should work out with fantasy as a much more manageable and congenial form.

What makes one story sell while another doesn't is something we all wish we knew, but surely the joy in storytelling is one component of a winner. Whether the writer feels fiendish glee in piling up obstacles for the hero to battle, or whether it's simpleminded pleasure in

imaginary paradises, orwhatever, some writers are just darned good company. One looks to see who wrote that and one buys the next out by the same writer. Yes? Well, we all know that writing is hard work but so is any good game.

The plague of this field is the stuff being written, and sometimes cleverly worded too, by people who write science fiction when all the while they hate science. And don't like people very much either. The howlers may pass an editor who doesn't dig the genre either--and the pseudo-poetic wording may impress others of the same ilk, but there is something that makes a writer feel he's not in good company.

Fantasy, though, is mostly written by people who feel like doing so. There is no urge to write down to the mechanicals. If the piece is litter-airy it's part of the fun of the game. And a good fantasy piece sells, and sells and sells. Of course, good fantasy. But as to which kind sells best, that seems to depend on which kind you write best. Most gadget fiction is fantasy that happens to have been written by people who like gadgets, if anybody should ask me, and every so often somebody does. And please notice that although the club slogan reads "Science and Fantasy", the name of the club is National Fantasy Fan Federation. So I just don't think that we weirdos are very badly threatened by obsolescence. It's taking ourselves too seriously we have to look out for, because truth nowadays is so exceedingly weird that it blows the ball game. But don't worry about my telling too much truth about how to sell stories. Nobody really knows enough about that to be any menace.

Joe Rizzo, 21_68 41st St., Astoria, N.Y. 11105

I just joined N3F six months ago, and at first I was surprised at the number of welcome letters that arrived. I really only expected the club's mags. However, when the mags did not arrive and the bureaus did not write, I began to wonder if N3F was worth any effort.

I continued to correspond with the club members who wrote me, and I asked them to whom and where I should write for more information. I wrote to Stan and volunteered to pass out N3F flyers at the cons I huckster at. Stan sent back a three page letter thanking me and asking my ideas for improving N3F.

I wrote back to Stan suggesting many changes. I know now that much of what I suggested was off base. This was because I did not know much about N3F's workings and history. N3F is fine as is, but as I told Stan Woolston and Janie Lamb, today there is a large amount of people who would like to join fandom. For example, look at the change in attendance at the Lunacon from 200 four years ago to 2,000 just last year.

Joe, what if each N3F member tried to set up local clubs that would be part of N3F. Then bureau heads and the club publishers would have people in their own area that would help them. Would you or the other publishers be able or want to handle 1,000 memberships in the club if

you had four or five people to share the work with? //1,000 members in the NFFF? The only way publications could be done would be offset and while I have done layout for offset magazines here in Tallahassee it takes a lot of work to make it look decent. It could be done but the work would have to be given to a regular printer. Come to think of it, the amount of work would depend on the contract with the printer. It might be less work if the printer did all the typesetting and other miscellaneous work that goes with offset zines. All that would be necessary would be getting the material typed and to the printer and then mailing it out. But this is just conjecture because I find it hard to imagine that NFFF will ever have 1,000 members. Many members don't think we should get up to the 400 level we were at a few years ago. Still, the printing could be done. JoeD.//

Anyway, what my fiends and I are attempting to do is put on a con that will bring more people into fandom. I'm not trying to out-do any other cons. It's just that SF cons are clannish and only want people that are really interested in fandom. I'm not blaming them. I just want to present an opportunity for people to find fandom. In this way those people that are interested will know where to find the clubs, fanzines and cons.

I would appreciate it if the members of N3F spread the word to any and all SF organizations, fanzines, etc., to send representatives that will try to enlist new members. Also, we are very interested in getting more fans to lead group discussions.

//INFINITY CON will be held on Jan. 19, 20,21, 1973 at the Hotel Commodore, near Gradd Central Station, New York City. Advance registration is \$3.00, at the door it is \$4.50. Supporting membership is \$2.00. Room rates are \$17.00/single, \$23.00/twin, and \$27.00, triple. Scheduled guests are Isaac Asimov, Joe Simon, Keith Laumer, Hans Stefan Santesson and Donald A. Wolheim. Activities include: films, luncheon, art display and auction, costume contest, panels and many discussions including one on metaphysics.//

Larry Nielson-I know everyone else has jumped on you already, but if you feel that N3F does not offer what you like, why don't you start it yourself? There seems to be enough of us who want more activities, and if each of us does what he enjoys and shares it with the other fans who care, then the kind of fandom you and I want would exist!

Janie Lamb-Thank you for sending the old Tb's--they helped change my ideas of N3F.

Rose Hogue, 1067 W. 26th St., San Pedro, Ca. 90731

Muchly enjoyed the Sheryl Birkhead cover. Sheryl has a real flair for aliens and I like the way she adds so much expression to them too. I, for one, would like to see interior artwork in Tb. That is only if it isn't too much extra work and wouldn't be too much expense. //I had hoped to have interior art this ish but problems in pubbing forbid illos, at least until next ish. JoeD.//

I'll definitely be looking forward to seeing what you'd like to add to Tb. Each editor puts his own personality into Tb or TNFF. I actually prefer reading Tb to TNFF for I enjoy seeing what the members have to say and for the most part they say things so well.

Sheryl Birkhead- I do hope you'll submit artwork for Tb's interior. //She has but next issue hopefully.JoeD.//

Frank Denton- I muchly enjoyed your friendly rebuttal to Larry. Also I'm relieved to hear that N'APA is alive and as well as ever. Perhaps one reason there are few gals pubbing zines is that they just don't have access to the equipment needed, as is my case. I have to rely on the generosity of others to publish me.

Argee- Well, what's your rating of N'APA? I've never seen a N'APA mailing but I seem to have this affinity for crudzines--at least what other faneds label as such--and I sort of enjoy them. The lower Buck Coulson rates them, the more I enjoy them (well almost anyway). Hate to disillusion you, but I didn't see a 100 page dossier on the NFFF at LACon. Actually I did get to meet Stan though and that's an experience in itself. Believe it or not I read THE MAD KING and enjoyed it very much. Did JoeD. get your letter right? I see that you expect some argument as to the status of John Wayne. I personally wouldn't call him a MALE CHAUVINIST PIG. He's bigger than I. I'd be more inclined to label him (behind his back) a War Mongering SOG.

JoeD.-Just who are these female chauvinists in the NFFF? You really have aroused my curiosity and if you dare to call me a F.C., I'll never buy you another drink at a con! So there, be warned! //I call all women who use the term male chauvinist pig female chauvinists. Do you fit Rose? The key word in the phrase is the last because everyone is a chauvinist of one type or another.JoeD.// Now if you come to California within reach of San Pedro, I might even volunteer to help you collate. That is if I don't move to the East Coast first.

David Shank-Thank you for the info on your RRs. It is muchly appreciated as I have just been appointed head of the RR Bureau. Just write and tell me who's on the RR, what the subject matter is and what round you're on and I'll write a report for the next TNFF.

Roytac- I missed not seeing you at the LACon. I also missed seeing a NFFF Hospitality Room. Alas I did meet Larry Nielson there but he was fully clothed. I also saw George Wells and he was clothed too! //Rose, you should join a nudist camp.JoeD.// Having seen your lithe, little body (and I better add fully clothed) at Westercon I rather doubt that you'd ever be taken for Moby Dick. I, on the other hand, most definitely would be taken for the great white whale so I stayed fully clothed; you never know who might be Captain Ahab in disguise, maybe even Stan Woolston. Say, Stan, did you participate in the skinny dip party Sat. night? You neglected to mention my bureau again...for why? I report regularly to TNFF and even write letters to Tb and you NEVER mention the Welcommittee. I even wrote you a LoC for DYNATRON, so why do you slight me, Roytac???????

George Wells- Was glad you recovered from the poison ivy, and hope

you also recovered from the lack of sleep at LACon. Did you get any revolutionary insights into the NFFF or life in general while at LACon? Just curious. Having seen both Larry and Roy, I doubt that either would have been noticed if they were nude at LACon, and in case anyone is curious, to my knowledge, neither one of them has tattoos to speak of. All I can say about the plucked chicked is that I'm glad I didn't find the Hospitality Room while you were there (I need every darn feather I can grow!).

Loubel Wood- My littlest daughter (Lenore) is a Virgo and I'll drink to your comments about the same. I'll also drink to your comments about all children being declared legitimate, but why not take your petition/bill to the UN and make all children legitimate? That way only nasty old men could be called dirty names. Did I hear someone mention Roytac again?

Stan Woolston- I have your letter and even if I forget to tell you I'll be happy to head the RR Bureau. So again--everyone send me a short note about the RR your in.

Kaymar Carlson- Hope the urge to write Tb occurs to you again soon. I muchly enjoy the work you do on the NFFF Trader and also in conjunction with your Kaymar Award. So I for one appreciate you, and slute you.

Ann Chamberlain- I'm really sorry that I missed seeing you at LACon and hope that you enjoyed your day there. Since I was unable to attend the whole con I'm not in a position to report on many of the events. I spent most of my time meeting people. I even missed the skinny dip party. But I agree it would have been nice if there could have been a few Neffer reports on the various activities, and it would also have been nice if these reports could appear in TNFF or Tb. There should have been a lot more coordination between the concomm and the NFFF. I seldom heard the NFFF mentioned at all, and then only by fellow Neffers. I'm sort of curious to see how many new members will result from the con. As Welcommittee chairman I look forwards to seeing the influx from the con. In past years, the list of new members just after the con is most impressive! I did notice Stan passing out some green info sheets and I managed to get one of these. It's titled "A Fandom to Share" and I think it a very good guide/introduction to the NFFF. Perhaps it would be a good idea to have more of these and more membership applications around for other cons?

Alma Hill- I really love your explanation of 2001--even more so than I do the movie!! It is really brilliant. How you managed to say so much in so few words astounds me. I certainly do hope that article sees much print.

Dorothy Jones- I agree with you, Irvin and Joe. Non-members joining bureaus should pay for the privilege. As it stands now to belong to the Welcommittee or RRs you have to be a member of NFFF. Which reminds me, I should send off my dues to Janie before Joe gets elected and raises the dues to \$3./year. It isn't a bad idea either. I agree,, with the rising postage rates, it's not a bad idea at all.

Don Lundry- Hi! I'm sorry that I didn't respond to your plea for info.

It must have come at a time when I was busy with other things, or else I felt it wasn't in my place to respond to it. Sorr about that! In the future I will try to be more helpful.

Tim C. Marion, 614 - 72nd St., Newport News, Va. 23605

I am indeed the new Neffer. I don't know why there was no information on me - Rose Hogue is my sponsor.

I haven't been in the NFFF very long and already I have volunteered for a position, and been accepted. I am the new head of the New Fanzine Appreciation Society, altho I plan to change the title to the National Fanzine Appreciation Society as the old title makes no sense because I never knew there was an Old FAS. //I think the New in NFAS was meant for new fanzines and not a new society. JoeD.// I plan to publish a newsletter whenever necessity demands for the NFAS. I will list all the members (I will try to get some non-Neffers to join also), their special interests in fanzines, and all the fanzines that I am sending copies of the roster to. So, old members-- please get into contact with me telling me that you still want to be a member and I will put you on the newsletter mailing list. Also I want you members to send me quarterly reports telling me what fanzines you are receiving so I know if the NFAS is doing any good at all. Remember, the rest of you Neffers, that this is a service for fans and faneds alike. Not only will you have the joy of receiving free fanzines, but you will experience the thrill of having your material in print. Please, don't join if you don't have the time!

Other fan projects of mine include founding a special fandom for sword-and-sorcery fans called, simply enough, the Sword and Sorcery Fan Federation. For your \$2. dues, you will get free subscriptions to the official organ, The Frozen Flame, which will feature financial reports, news on coming projects, free classified ads section, and plugs on all members' zines. After that point all similarity to NFFF ends. I will be publishing the literary organ Broadsword, which will feature offset pro covers (already George Beahm, ex-Neffers, has promised to donate a Krenkel piece) with interior flawless mimeo with art by top fanartists. I will make this as close to Hugo quality as possible. TFF will be pubbed quarterly, Bs will be published roughly around three times a year.

I will be holding a mini-con in Newport News with Ned Brooks, probably on the Saturday before Easter. Things are only tentative, but I have already picked out the spot. It has plenty of dealers' space and I will charge 50¢ admission. I hope to attract the N.C. CFF regulars, many VA. fans, and the WFSA people.

Young fans might also be interested in knowing that I am going to be starting an APA 55 where you have to be born after 1955 to join. Dues are \$2. and when I get enough members I will inform you when to send your APA 55 zine and how many copies to send. The \$2. dues cover mailing expenses (my mailing the mailing to you) for a year.

And I'd prefer it to be a small apa.

I must say I was impressed with Argee's rebuttal to Nielson. The only thing I dislike about your editing, Joe, is your "corrections". In Tb 73, Ned Brooks said that he hadn't received Mike Scott's Collector's Bulletin. Argee was just agreeing with Ned. //Sorry.// I totally agree about your comments about faneds. I know a Tennessee fan (and a good friend) who sent me a very nice poem for my genzine, Celestial Shadows, but I refused it because it really didn't have that much fantasy in it. Since I have told him I wouldn't use it, I haven't heard from him. Of course, my last post card could have gotten lost in the mail.

About the postage rate increasing, I recently read in a newspaper that the 8¢ stamp would not increase to 9¢, but in the middle of next year they might raise it to 10¢! And if the dues really have to be raised, why not just change the frequency of TNFF and Tb to quarterly? Agree with Irvin that Nielson is a valuable member. He's got quite a good service with his SOUTH OF THE MOON. It's nice to hear that those cliché'ic gothics are going out of style, Irvin, but think you're being a bit morbid when you say that the NFFF will be continuing on even after some of us are gone. Probably a true statement, but one that I find rather morbid nonetheless.

David Shank- I think something that scares people away from NFFF is that they think it is cliché'ic if they join. I? Well, I joined when I got enough information on it. I agree with you about cons letting NFFF stick info in their program books. I'm sure someone is nice enough to do it as a favor. One sheet of info can't be all that much extra postage and if it is then the NFFF could reimburse the con because it would probably be a nominal amount, and lastly, sticking info sheets in the program books would not cost a bit of postage because most cons don't mail their program books.

Roy Tackett- "Gross white body", that's me. Harry Bennett, a gothic cover artist whose work I enjoy looking at, doesn't stick to the cliché'ic cover you mentioned (with all the times I've used cliché'ic, it's a wonder JoeD. doesn't ask if I've just learned the word). About the only gothic I read anymore is Victoria Holt's stuff, and every now and then even she suffers moments of poor writing.

George, you are not a member of the NFAS because you're still trying to get out of the car.

It seems Loubel Wood playfully blames all of the males in the NFFF for the femmefenne's letters being put in the back. You are right, Joe, she should only blame Gary. "Ladies first," I always say, and when I edit an issue a Tb, Loubel can trap me by seeing where I will put the femme fen letters.

Joe- I hope all mimeo chauvinists read your comments on how many copies ditto can make. Matter of fact, from experience, I've learned that you can make 300-400 perfectly clear copies. I really need some instructions on mimeo, desperately. I think Stan is expecting too much if he expects every Neffer's mind to be limitless with imagina-

tion. Gad! The skyrocketing costs of cons. I'm sure Rick Sneary
can break even without having to charge \$8. for admission.

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No matter what Dorothy Jones thinks, I think I should allow non-
Neffers to join NFAS, because with non-Neffers joining it will
not only provide a greater service for faneds, but it might increase
a non-members interest in the NFFF, to the extent that he might want
to join. Besides if I leave the membership to the Neffers, it makes
it seem like the bureau is too good for non-Neffers and makes it
seem that only Neffers should have the honor of such a service.

Ann Chamberlain, 4411 Van Horne Ave., Los Angeles, Ca. 90032

I have been working out the machinery set-up for the way Trial
memberships will be handled until finally I've come up with a
form which I believe will find favor with everyone in NFFF. I've
asked Stan Woolston to please print copies of the Trial membership
form.

//Ann sent me a letter explaining my part in the trial membership
idea which she has come up with. As she is the only one who has
mentioned this to me, I am not sure if this has been made an
official NFFF function. I am going to print the form below and
page 20 will have her article explaining it. I would say that this
should be taken as a PROPOSAL only until it can be confirmed by
the Directorate and/or the President. AS for my part in the proposal,
it is workable; for the other parts, judge for yourself. JoeD.//

NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION
Trial Membership Form 01072

// Yes, I am a reader of science fiction, fantasy, mythology, or
other such in like vein, and would like to learn about this fan club
for considered activities in ventures into the field of amateur pub-
lishing or writing.

I will send 25¢ to the Editor of the NFFF letterzine, known as
Tightbeam, at 1607 McCaskill Ave. #3, Tallahassee, Fl. 32304

Date

Name

Address

Further, at the end of this two month period I will inform the
Welcommittee Chairman (as to my decision regarding this matter)
who resides at 1067 W. 26th St., San Pedro, Ca. 90813

#####

"In Germany, first they came for the communists, but I wasn't a communist so I didn't speak up. Next they came for the unionists but I wasn't a unionist...then they came for the Jews but I wasn't a Jew. Then for the Catholics but I wasn't a Catholic. Then they came for me and by that time there wasn't anyone left to speak up."

-Pastor Neimoller.

When there isn't anyone to speak up...that is indeed a sadtime for all.

Before one can speak they need to know the issues and have ability to define their terms and phrase things as they are. Not everyone has the gifts of observation required for this. But it is possible to choose from among ourselves someone who does have the qualifications of a practiced leader, and it is better simply to repeat the things said by a person who is trusted, than to say nothing at all.

However it may appear, everything costs somebody something. There is good cause for us to be courteous to each other, to be inclined to be helpful to each other, and to resist being hurtful. It is a short life span and our things of today will be almost obsolete tomorrow. We hope our children will be selective and carry forward only our best thoughts. They may remember our faults and weaknesses and promise themselves they will not be guilty of them.

You can foster your own fan club without downgrading another. Our world of the science-fiction-fantasy fields, gives us common goals, and the more support we give each other, the more solidly do we build our world. Every fancub will have an influx of new members to be called neos, from time to time, from whom some substance for the future will be gained. So, to each his own.

It takes the combined talents of accomplished individuals to make the efforts of the group count most toward the common goals. The neo will soon become the accomplished, and will remember the days of his beginnings. Will he have your kindnesses to remember? Or will he remember your sneers and ill-placed jibes?

Henceforward the NFFF offers Trial Memberships. The prospective member will send 25¢ to each editor of TNFF and Tightbeam for as many issues as he may desire. The prospective member will have contact with the Welcommittee. Such membership can be taken anywhere, any time, and must have the name of a sponsoring member. This is equal to offering a few free visits to meetings, as some clubs hold weekly meetings. Forms may be obtained from the Office of the Recruiter as well as from the Welcommittee. Typewritten forms can be made by any sponsoring member, containing the addresses of the editors of TNFF and Tightbeam, and the amount payable per issue.

//Remember this is to be considered only as a proposed motion until it can be ratified by the Directorate and/or the president, JoeD.//

of NFFF's life as officer, publisher of the official organ, and behind-the-scenes conspirator, then dropped out when I dropped so many fannish obligations, and didn't rejoin until perhaps a decade ago.

I consider myself quite evenly balanced between the fannish and the sercon types of fanac. If I write more fannish than sercon stuff, it's because the former doesn't require much research or high-powered thinking and it's more apt to emerge when time is scarce.

Outside fandom, I'm a bachelor, who will have experienced the traumatic experience of celebrating his 50th birthday by the time this sees print. Since 1943, I've been working for the Hagerstown newspapers, currently serving as feature editor for both the morning and afternoon dailies. Other hobbies include baseball and music; principal obsessions are Kim Darby and Julie Andrews; main goal is to somehow find time to write another book about fan history.

Harry Warner, Jr., 1972

Editorial by JoeD.

First off let me wish all of you Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Fannish New Year.

I realize this issue is late but I had what, to me, was a good reason, I lost my job and had no means to publish it until one was bought by a friend of mine, Rich Small. I hope it comes out ok.

I hope all of you like the feature which I hope to continue in future issues. Thank you, Harry, for taking the time to write for us.

All editorial comments in this issue have been enclosed within double slash marks as usual. I welcome all comments on my remarks in this issue and will try to answer them in the next issue which will be out at the end of January. The deadline for the next issue, # 76 is Jan. 25, 1973 but please, if you can, write sooner than that so I can get the zine out on time.

If you think that I am just trying to fill up space and don't have anything special to say. You're right.

I want to keep up the NFFF Bureau so if you bureau heads will write a short paragraph telling about your bureau or activity I will include it in the next issue. And I do mean short, not more than 15 lines would be perfect. All longer reports should go to TNFF which is being edited by Joanne Burger, 55 Bluebonnet Ct., Lake Jackson, Tx. 77566.

I hope to hear from as many of you as possible. I would love to start off the new year with a giant issue of Tightbeam. Please write. Better yet why doesn't everyone make a New Year's resolution to write at least once to Ib and let the other members know of your opinions about the NFFF.

Tightbeam

Joe D. Siclari
Apt. 3
1607 McCaskill Ave.
Tallahassee, Fl. 32304

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