

Tightbeam

ITF, FOR FANS OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION

THIS IS TIGHTBEAM 150-151.
JULY-SEPTEMBER.
THE DUE DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
IS OCTOBER 25, 1987.
For more information,
see page 132.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

THUNDER ROLLS by Sally A. Syrjala	1
STAN WOOLSTON'S NEWS UP-DATE	3
SIX OF ONE	5
LETTERS OF COMMENT	
Anne Hintenlang	6
Joe Napolitano	9
Laura Todd	10
Stephen K. Metzger	12
Jean Lamb	14
Owen K. Laurion	16
David Heath, Jr.	18
Allyson M. W. Dyar	22
Thomas Sadler	23
Andrew J. Nagel	26
Nola Frame	27
Harry Andruschak	30
Theresa D. Buffaloe	32
Marie Evans	34
Allan Beaty	36
Roy Tackett	36
Mikel Norwitz	37
Eileen Roy	39
Ingrid Maack	40
Dave Gorecki	41
Lance Oszko	42
David J. Alway	43
Taras Wolansky	43
David Bates	45
Michael C. Peralta	46
Joy Beeson	47
Taras Wolansky	48
Rose Secrest	50
Patty Paludan	52
Max Garrone	54
Jean Lamb	55
Lynne Holdom	57
Kate Cochran	60
Priscilla Johnson	63
Stan Wolston	64
Robert S. Miller III	65
President Raygun Speaks...	67
Flint Mitchell	67
Katharine Duncan	69
Rick Neube	71
Laura Todd	72
David Bates	73
Garth Spencer	75
David Bates	78
Nola Frame	79
Laura Thompson	80
Harriet R. Goren	82
George H. Wells	86
Diane M. Thome	87
Rick Loomis	91
Leland Sapiro	92
Tom Sadler	93

continued on inside back cover...



THUNDER ROLLS
Editorial Comment
by
Sally A. Syrjala

Recently I have come across a few words which have echoed in my mind: "objectivity is a cop out." These words were used in reference to the way our news is currently reported and, to me, they get at the heart of the problem, not only of our state of media "journalism," but also of our personal attitudes.

I recall the reports of Edward R. Murrow and how they bore out the truth of these words. We no longer have any type of real commentators on the issues of the world. We have reporters and moderators and this is a far different thing.

What this lack creates is a chaos of confusion in which "truth" loses its luster. In the rush to give all sides an equal say (and this is a noble goal), we are losing the focus and the channeling which allows the evaluation of those sides.

Ed Murrow said that a commentator needed to go beyond the reporting of facts and that their reports should be something which moved people to action. This is something we have lost. Apathy and complacency is something which is claiming the land in the wake of a confused state of mind. The half truths of the Nixonian language have pervaded our culture and we have lost the ability, as well as the inclination, to ferret out the deception.

The lack of true commentators has limited our ability to see the truth and that makes it all the more difficult to safeguard the freedom about which we speak so much.

Freedom has become synonymous with patriotism. Dissent now as in the age of McCarthyism is taking on the tarnish of disloyalty.

It is forgotten that this is a country founded on dissent. Dissent is one of the checks and balances built into our political system.

Today's commentators and editors need to listen to the cry "objectivity is a cop out." We are already beginning to formulate a system where illusion obscures the reality. We are already losing our capacity to question authority and to require that authority to grant a full accounting of their activities. That is not democracy. Democracy requires a government of its people to have independent thoughts. It requires independent people who are not afraid to speak out and who are not censored for doing so.

We must always face the challenge of freedom. Objectivity must not become a sacred word that has lost its true meaning and begins to obscure freedom's edges. Objectivity means that an open mind is

side. If some can come up with some to
the so called news of objectivity,
without opinion and feeling from the
the base of objectivity. It is the
function.

In an age where confusion reigns
and more, we need to have a voice that
speaks and puts a focus on all the
opinions. We need people objective and
independent of mind who are not afraid of
investigating all sides and distilling the
essence of truth from that objective
vantage point.

Issues today are far too serious and the
consequences of an inaccurate action too
disastrous to not actively seek truth and
clarity.

It is my hope we will find commentators
and editors who are not fearful of stating
opinion based on objective research. Who
are not afraid of giving the harsh truths
a forum for expression. Who are not afraid
of letting the people know the truth over
the confusion.

In a democratic society we rely on our
news gatherers to sift the truth out of the

confusion of today. They are the ones we
depend on for the truth. The big news question
is that all can see the entire picture and
not just the large American version has
highlighted the issues so that the reality
might be seen.

Let us encourage those in responsibility
to meet those needs and to carry out their
function in the manner originally intended
and on which our democratic function
depends. Let us find the reality behind
our objectivity.

I hope you find the opinions stated in
this issue of interest and that they might
challenge some thoughts on the subjects
they cover.

Letters for the next issue should be at
P. O. Box 149, Centerville, Va 22532 by
8/29/87.

All material in this issue is copyright
in the name of the contributor and rights
revert back to said contributor upon
publication.

For now...PEACE, *Yaff*



STAN WOOLSTON'S
NEWS UP-DATE

Lisa Jenkins writes to say the Fanzine Publishing Round Robin needs new members. I didn't know it was possible to feel pressure over the miles from Minnesota without a powerful sorceress — and I feel the urge to join. I've a note to write to a member and ask if she's interested — tell her of the need. I may join briefly, I've started fanzines, taken over others, and I enjoyed it. I've talked to fans wanting to start or improve one, and I've contributed and enjoyed that, too. "Fan pubbing RR discusses putting together fanzines, format of fanzines, and shares ideas about publishing 'zines," she says. (That's good).

She wants to hear from interested NIF members to continue the RR after it was disbanded.

Also needing new members is an "open" Star Trek RR, now under the RR of Lisa Jenkins, who is also in charge of the Fanzine Publishing RR. With info in various places, maybe Lisa Jenkins, EET, Box 79, Madama, RR 56481-4724 may locate readers twice as fast.

I've pleased Catherine Mints you've need for news last for active members and started The NEWS. I've wanted to write all kinds of people, etc., to encourage their news and basic interests, not limited to their hobbies. Sharfog interests can encourage the news, the why and the once-active to enjoy NIF more. Of course, Sally, Tighthead in itself tends to grab them, but locating more info is not restricted to letters. But it's one of the best ways!

So — I may try to write to Catherine about getting news and interests from active members.

Rose Secret sends news: "If all goes well, I'll get a B.A. in Physics this

December. I'll move to TN in January. Geep! It will probably not be.

She plans stories concerning "kid's lib" and time travel.

I told her I planned to go to the O. Co. SF Club where the talk on Walter M. Miller, Jr. was given. She says anyone can read her pencil notes. I almost met Miller at a con; he was conversing with Ron Ellis, a fan friend, at a table and I could tell they were enjoying their conversation. You don't have to hear or speak to exchange notes. I'll try to get to Fullerton — any month now. I think she still has a reminder that I need news plus.

Beth Case extended the info I got from a newsletter about the Magnum Opus Con 2 in Columbus, GA.

Patrick Troughton, the second Doctor Who, died of a heart attack on March 27.



"I met him at the con Friday, got his autograph and pictures taken with him, and heard him speak. The next day I found he had a heart attack the night before and died. There was a general announcement



The Times

Published approximately every three weeks. THE TIMES is two fourteen-cent stamps an issue: one to send the issue to you and one to cover production costs. Send your stamps to THE TIMES, c/o Catherine Mints, 1810 South Rittenhouse Square, 1708, Philadelphia, PA, 19103-5837.

later that day. Many people were crying. I was prepared. It was still quite a shock!"

"Still, he was at a convention, surrounded by those who loved him. There can be worse ways to go." She couldn't locate newspapers for official details. I'll send her some if I get them.

HUGO NOMINATIONS

NOVELS: Speaker for the Dead by Orson Scott Card; Count Zero by William Gibson; Black Genesis by L. Ron Hubbard; The Ragged Astronaut by Rob Shaw; Marooned in Real Time by Vernor Vinge.

BEST NOVELLA: "Eifelheim" by Michael Bishop (Analog 11/86); "Escape from Katmandu" by Kim Stanley Robinson (IASFM 9/86); "Gilgamesh in the Outback" by Robert Silverberg (IASFM 2/86); "R&R" by Lucius Shepard (IASFM 4/86); "Splice Program" by Connie Willis (IASFM 10/86).

BEST NOVELETTE: "Thor Meets Captain America" by David Brin (F&SF 7/86); "Natrack River" by Orson Scott Card (IASFM 8/86); "The Winter Market" by William Gibson (Interzone Spring '86, Stardate 3/86, BURNING CHROME); "The Barbarian Princess" by Vernor Vinge (Analog 9/86); "Permafrost" by Roger Zelazny (Omni 4/86).

BEST SHORT STORY: "Robot Dreams" by Isaac Asimov (ROBERT DREAMS, IASFM 1/15/86); "Tangents" by Greg Bear (Omni 1/86); "Still Life" by David S. Garnett (F & SF 3/86); "Kat" by James Patrick Kelly (F&SF 6/86); "The Boy Who Plaited Nanes" by Nancy Springer (F&SF 10/86).

BEST NON-FICTION: TRILLION YEAR SPREE by Brian Aldiss with David Wingrove; SCIENCE FICTION IN PRINT: 1985 by Charles N. Brown and William G. Contonto; THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS by Frank Miller with Klaus Jensen and Lynn Varley; INDUSTRIAL LIGHT AND MAGIC; THE ART OF SPECIAL EFFECTS by Thomas G. Smith; ONLY APPARENTLY REAL: THE WORLD OF PHILIP K. DICK by Paul Williams.

BEST SEMI-PROZINE: "Fantasy Review"; "Interzone"; "Locus"; "SF Chronicle"; "SF Review".

BEST EDITOR: Terry Carr, Gardner Dozois, Edward L. Ferman, David Hartwell, Stanley Schmidt.

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: Aliens, The Fly, Labyrinth, Little Shop of Horrors, Star Trek 4: The Voyage Home.

BEST PRO ARTIST: Jim Burus; Frank Kelly; Freas; Tom Kidd; Don Maith, J. K. Potter; Barclay Shaw.

BEST FANZIN: "Ansible"; "File 770"; "Lan's Lantern"; "Texas SF Inquirer"; "Trapdoor".

BEST FAN WRITER: Mike Clyes; Patrick Nielsen Hayden; Arthur Hlavaty; Dave Langford; Simon Dunsley; D. West; Owen Whiteoak.

BEST FAN ARTIST: Brad Foster; Steve Fox; Stu Schiffman; Taral; Arthur "Atom" Thomson.

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD: Lois McMaster Bujold (2nd year); Karen Joy Fowler (2nd year); Leo Frankowski, Katherine Eliska Kimbrie; Rebecca (Brown) Ore; Robert (Yousalin) Reed.



'Lost episode' from 'The Prisoner'

Six of One
PO Box 172
Hatfield, PA 19440
U. S. A.

URSA A
URSA
VI

LONGITUDE DEGREE MARKINGS
LATITUDE DEGREE MARKINGS

6

A (Deg/30)

SEND AT RISK FOR A FREE INFORMATION KIT
FROM THE PRISONER APPRECIATION SOCIETY

LETTERS OF COMMENT

March 15, 1987

Anne Hintonburg
17803 Shaffers Hill Road
Mt. Airy, NC 21771

I just received *Tightrope* 147, only to discover that the deadline for the next issue passed several weeks before the issue even arrived. Perhaps when we get this time travel bit sorted out, we can go back and get our letters in before the deadline.

This is my first LOC, although I've been participating in a couple of round robins for a time. Before I get to specific responses, I'd like to know why the National FANTASY Fan Federation seems to be grossly under-represented in *Fantasy Fan*. For the most part (prepare to be shocked) science fiction leaves me flat. I accept G. S. Lewis' space trilogy — the first two — and some children's SF, like L'Engle's time trilogy, but *Dune* didn't do much for me, and I never developed the fanatical devotion to Star Trek that obsessed my brother or the Dr. Who aura that surrounds my husband. I thought at one point I had crossed the border when I found myself completely absorbed by Star Wars. Unfortunately for the genre, however, a close examination shows it to be fantasy and not SF, star cruisers or no.

I especially want to find those fen of so-called Christian fantasy — George MacDonald, Charles Williams, Tolkien, C. S. Lewis and others, both newer and older. I had an article published in the November '85 issue of *Christian Herald* called "There's a Hobbit in My Wardrobe," and in subsequent letters to the editor got blasted for asserting that Christianity and fantasy could be proper bedfellows. There is an alarming trend (well, lots of alarming trends, but one particularly disturbing to fantasists) in the growing fundamental right to cast out as satanic literature with any mention of magic. Needless to say, this would eliminate the problems of shelf space in libraries, but what a price to pay.



I believe in God. I believe in the tenets of Christianity. I believe in the church as an institution. And I feel about the church the same way I feel about politics — it's an awful mess, but you can't expect to fix it from the outside. There must be others out there who realize that imagining God in a different form on a different world does not negate his form in this one, and that powers that might be of satanic origin here on this earth might be as natural and self-generated as breathing on another.

There's a lot floating through TB 147 about religion, so perhaps I'll continue generally on the subject, rather than addressing individuals and saying the same things over and over. When I say I am Christian, I mean I have an active relationship with God and have found Him to be more-or-less as the Christian church portrays Him. I can respect atheism, although I find it a needless strain on the intellect. Christianity, as presented in the teachings of Christ, contains the most sensible solutions to life's questions that I've found — and I've looked a lot of places. It's an awful lot of work to believe that there is no being other than man, that the seeming organization of the natural world is a fluke, and that our souls simply cease to exist when our bodies give out. To the atheist who has thought through all of that with his/her logic intact — hats off. To the atheist who is merely avoiding the issue and adopting the title as an anti-Christian protest — go away, you annoy me. But to the agnostic — the guy sitting on the fence — I say make up your mind. Everyone is entitled to a period of thinking things through, and as long as someone is still actively trying to figure things out for himself, I have no problem. But so many simply sit on the railroad tracks, claiming they're not sure about the existence of trains — never really trying to find an answer. They're bound to get squashed.

To those of you who have been turned off by the church — I understand you. The church is often its own worst enemy. But don't throw the baby out with the bath water. We don't abandon medicine because some doctors are quacks; we should not abandon God because the church has problems. If people with sense keep getting offended and leaving the church, it isn't hard to see that only the senseless will be left to run it.

OK, onto lighter matters . . .

Jean Lamb: You're absolutely right about the writing in *The Empire Strikes Back*. I've always felt it was the cleverest of the bunch — although the dialogue in *Jedi* was so bad it can hardly be counted. It's sad that *Empire's* script is the only one that has not been made available commercially. I'm further amazed to see that you're president of your UMW at the tender age of 32. Our bunch counts 50 as a babe-in-arm.

Gail Gormely: "Are all writers crazy?" Yes, if by "crazy" you mean different from the rest — all artists are. That's not a bigoted stereotype, as I like to number myself among them, but artists are what they are because they see life differently. They can see things we can't. But, unlike the truly deranged, they are in tune enough with life to be able to take their own visions and put them into a form that will enable others to see what they've seen. The truly crazy see the visions, but lack the base of reality to put those visions to constructive use.

If you have been at your current job more than a year, I would make quick work of finding

another one. It would take a year's time to begin to meet other people who keep your hours -- either co-workers or people in the community that you might meet through church or other volunteer organizations. If you've been in this predicament more than a year, however, you are a sitting duck for someone to take advantage of you. Men is a social animal -- if you don't get some social activity going soon, you'll be able to count yourself among the truly crazy. Further, as a writer, you can't create realistic characters without a lot of contact with people -- real, intimate contact. Life is your material -- if you shut it out, or let something else shut it out, you may as well toss the IBM.

To join in the fray on children. What is a worse travesty than intelligent people opting not to have children, and that is people who really do not want children having children. No child deserves to be raised in a home where he/she is not wanted, no matter how much society would like to preserve the genes of the parents.

Robert Briggs: This fan does not ignore musicals -- I adore them (with the possible exception of Dr. Doobittle). How about Big River? That was a tremendous show.

Taras Wolansky: As to Marxism ... There is only one major omission in Marxist thought: man. Marxism is a beautiful thought which inevitably, when presented properly, appeals to the idealist. Its big problem is that it doesn't work -- it can't work. I am not a pessimist, but I know that there will never exist on this pre-millennial earth a society without greed and lust for power, conditions that must be met if Marxism is to succeed. Every so often someone wakes up thinking, "Hey, if everyone were just nice to everybody else, there wouldn't be war," and then they go out and try to convince other people. Sure, it's a true statement, but it's rather like saying that if sidewalks were made of cheese, the homeless wouldn't starve. It's a true statement, but the chances of cities exchanging cement for cheese are slim.

On the man/women SF/fantasy observation: SF does indeed point to science and engineering -- fantasy points to the arts and humanities. The focus is often on music, language, poetry, history -- philosophical rather than analytical. Men drift toward SF and women toward fantasy for the same reasons that men drift toward science and women toward the humanities -- whether those reasons are innate or environmentally instilled. As society changes (if the reasons are purely societal), so will the balance of men and women in these two genres.

Laura Todd: Sally is absolutely right in her editorial remark that people have multiple cats because of adoption. The home I grew up in was on the outskirts of town -- to say the least -- and our street was a favorite dumping ground for cats -- especially pregnant ones. At one point we hosted 21 cats and kittens -- not because we had an overwhelming desire for 21 cats, but because we had too much respect for life to have them destroyed.

Michael Persita: Believe me, there is a sizeable contingent out there that considers Halloween celebrating a no-no. Mostly the same bunch that objects to fantasy on similar grounds. More moderate factions allow the celebration if the children avoid the "evil"



costumes -- witches, devils, and the like, and stick to ballerinas, angels and clowns. Then there are others -- like Jehovah's Witnesses, I believe -- that object to celebrating period. Then groups on the other side claim it's a religious holiday and object to its inclusion in publically funded activities -- like school. A friend who teaches first grade in a nearby county can give her children pumpkins to color, but they have to be complete pumpkins and not jack-o-lanterns. No mention of Halloween, no mention of Christmas. What a ridiculous extreme we have come to.

Our Esteemed Editor: I especially appreciated your comment on family and priorities. As I read some of the LOCs, I am awed by how much people have read and how well versed they are on every subject under the sun. I read them and feel illiterate, politically unaware and socially slothful -- and perhaps I am. But long ago, I made a decision that I would tie my life to the lives of other people, and they get first grab at my time. Perhaps there are those who can work, read extensively, keep a house, go to coas, write extensively and still have quality time for loved ones (or for sleeping and eating), but I'm not one of them. It was nice to see I'm not alone.

((What is fantasy, but imagination and what if SF, if not imaginative speculative fiction? I don't really hold with an "either/or" approach to things. I think that there is a basic unity within and that all are somehow connected. You speak of "Christian fiction" of the fantasy sort, well how about Star Trek's episode of "Bread and Circuses"? That got into religion. Philip Jose Farmer is a name known in the SF circle. He has written a book called JESUS ON MARS which is one of my favorites. Philip Dick's later works got into metaphysical domains. There is a book out called CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH THE DEITY which is a collection of stories by Michael Bishop which deals with the subject of "the Deity" in different settings. WEEPING MAY TARRY is another book you might want to keep in mind in your search for such reading. It was a paperback and I forget the author's name. Speculative fiction gets into all ranges of being and spirituality is but one of them. I recall something I once read in a book on Eastern religion that said, "I'm all for Christ, but not for Christianity." There are times I wonder if Christians are for Christ and whether they would be His new executioners in this day and age. He speaks of tolerance and even of that golden speculative age of people loving one another and forgiving each other and living in harmony with each other that you say is the reason Marxism cannot exist. Correction must often come from outside. People on the inside are too close to the situation to see clearly. That is why outside investigators are called upon to look into things such as Watergate and Irangate. Insiders are not for correcting matters, but rather covering them up to preserve the status quo. There are many gods and/or goddesses in which one might put their faith. The Christian god is but one. I don't know if I could attain faith in a logical manner. Man is many things and logic is but one and that sometimes works to be more of a limiting factor than anything. The human species is best when it is not logical -- when it takes chances and risks which are completely illogical and don't make sense. That is often how our "great" discoveries get made. Too, there are many paths each person might travel. That chosen by him is the one that is right for him. No one else can "walk that lonesome valley. I must walk it by myself." The only concepts and beliefs you can accept are those which are your own -- which you yourself believe, not those which others tell you to believe. None of us is god to tell others which is the only right way. Each must chose for themselves. That is having faith, not only in the ultimate "right" of things, but also a respect for each other to come to their own conclusions in their own way. In other words freedom of choice and will which even God granted, but many fundamentalist Christians wish to take away in His name. sas))

March 27, 1987

Joe Napolitano
P. O. Box 1651
Covina, CA 91722

I just paid my eight dollars and am now back in the N3P. I was a member some years back, but decided to drop out for a while. Some of you may remember me? Anyway, I would like to say a big hello to everyone and I'm hoping that we will become the best of friends.

When Lightbeam first showed up in my mailbox, I must say I was impressed by the obvious quality. My thanks goes to Don Frauson for sending me the latest copy of TE and T&FP. If this is a sample of what the club has to offer, then the future looks very bright indeed. The NSF now has over 500 members and that represents a lot of progress. So there's plenty of opportunity for fans to do their fanatic. I would like to start by making a few comments about censorship.

I am opposed to any kind of censorship. Censorship is just plain stupid. It never solves the real underlying problem which is fear. And I don't need the Supreme Court to tell me what I can watch or read. I have confidence in my own ability to make up my own mind. In short, I'll be my own Supreme Court! If I don't like something for whatever reason, I'll change the channel or close the book. And I suggest that everybody else do the same thing.

McCarthyism should be fought where ever it exists. But the problem is that people have a tendency to sit around and do nothing when idiots like McCarthy get started. Stand up and be counted. Speak out against intolerance wherever you see it. Write a letter. Contact your Congressmen. I'd like to think that most fans are more intelligent than the average American. You guys spend hours and hours banging away on your typewriters. Spend a little more time and let these politicians know that you won't put up with it. Fight back and evil will fade away. It has to because evil is weakness.

Well, sorry to sound so preachy, but I sometimes get carried away. One of my many faults. Well, I like cats and dogs and animals in general, even though I don't own any myself. My sister has five cats and I guess that takes care of the whole family. Personally, I'd rather spend money on buying food for needy people than spending it on animals. But that's just my personal bias.

So has anybody out there been following the Reagan Irangate scandal? It looks like Reagan is in big trouble. The scandal will not go away because there are just too many unanswered questions. And I think there are probably more bomb shells in the pipe line waiting to be dropped. When the whole story comes out, Reagan will probably be at best a useless president unable to lead. He was never a good leader anyway. But now the general public is beginning to find that out. Another thing that could happen is that, if the economy goes sour, Reagan might be impeached. That's basically what happened to Nixon. Nixon's scandal took part when the economy was slipping into a recession. And presidents always lose support in a recession.

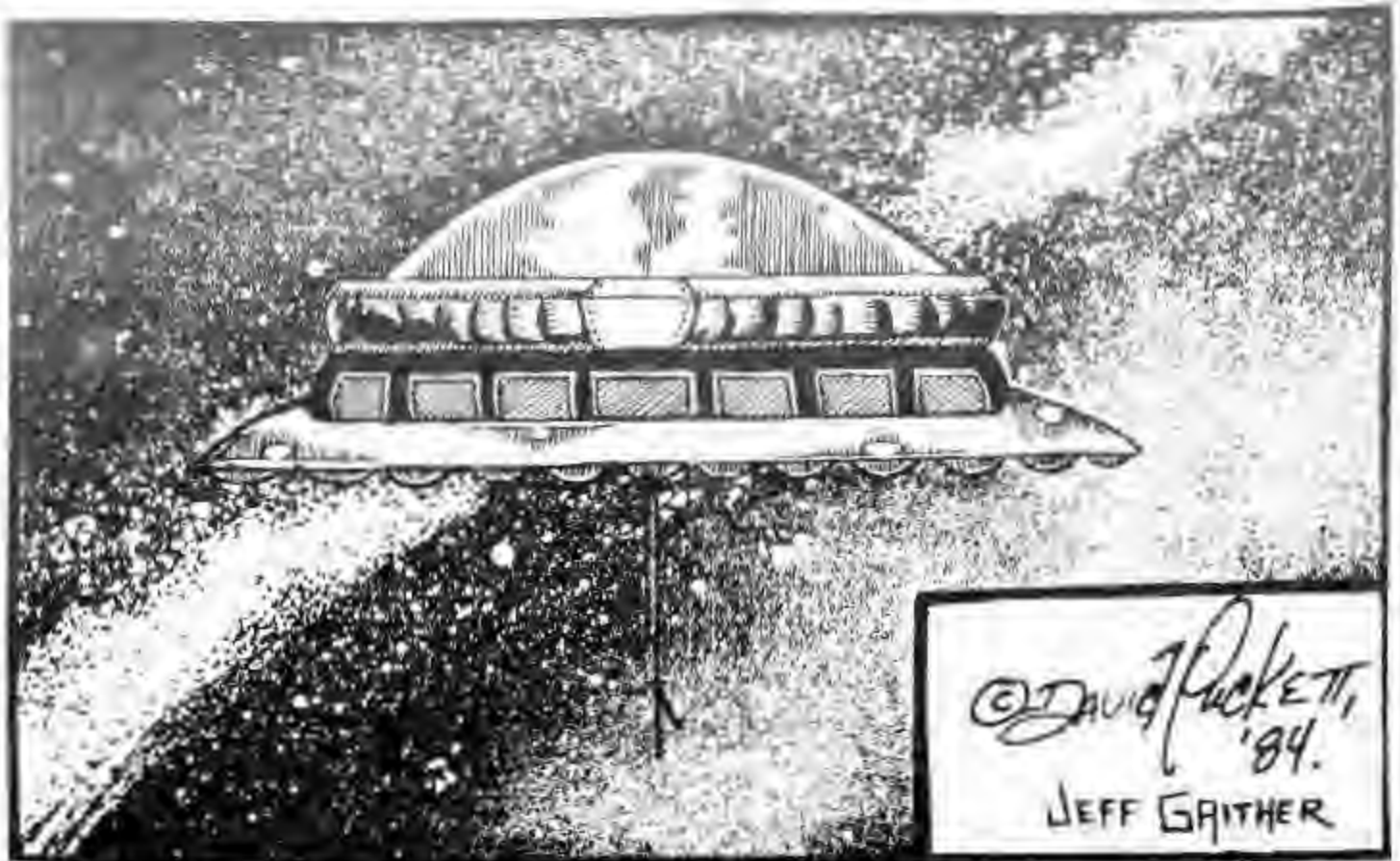
Well, I've just about run out of space — my limit being just one page because I figure that's the most anyone can take of me. And so until next time, let me say thanks for the opportunity to express myself. Bye.

((It is always nice to welcome someone back to fold and to see them sharing their opinions in TE once more as well. There is a book about the worship of power and politicians who achieve such a condition. I saw it listed in Orson Scott Card's new column in the Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction. This book is called ARSLAN and is by M. J. Engh. What the explanation for the rise of people such as Hitler and Stalin is, the description which Mr. Card gives us, is simply that the human weakness of power worship allows such a condition to happen. Could this be why people also put up with the way Reagan acted and lied and circumvented the laws before and now are more willing to say it was wrong? Now he seems weaker. Then he seemed stronger. Then, why do people put up with politicians breaking laws in the first place? Morality seems to be skewed. The followers of PTL — Praise The Lord — still stand behind their "leader" even though his wife has become victim of drug abuse of the prescription variety and Baker himself was blackmailed by someone with whom he was sexually intimate. Why are any of these things allowed? eaa))

March 30, 1987

Laura Todd
404 Brover Avenue
Oaks, PA 19436

Kate Cochran & Sally: About your comments on names: I'm not one of those touchy people who gets ticked off about the silliest things, but there is one thing that makes me see



red, and that's being addressed as Mrs. Robert Todd. Everyone — please, please, don't ever dehumanize a married woman by addressing her this way! Like I said to my husband, who can't see what the fuss is about: "How'd you like to be addressed as Mr. Laura Davids?" (My maiden name).

Garth Spencer: "Will we live out the century? Can you raise children with the sword of Damocles hanging over your head?" Yep, you said it. You just touched on the basic anxiety of living in this age. This is what sends me running to the bookshelf and the typewriter to escape into fantasy worlds and avoid the problem. And it's not just the fear of nuclear war, it's also the certainty of slow ecological collapse that will leave my children with a grim "Soylent Green" world.

Patricia Williams: You say that the male fans who look nerdish are often the most sensitive and intellectual. Well spoken! Of course this is another generalization, but I've often thought the same thing. I've noticed that the serious writers are the ones who look the least flamboyant. Oh, and what about us women? I was always the "skag" of the crowd, and even today I despise make-up and high heels. And I consider myself "sensitive and intellectual"! Oh, and thanks for sticking up for Israel and Jews, by the way. We're no better than anybody else, but it's sort of a bummer to always be portrayed as the "bawdiak" in the Mideast.

Priscilla Johnson: About blacks and other races in SF: Maybe there aren't that many blacks in SF because most of the authors are white. (Am I correct?) They're scared to write about blacks because someone will accuse them of being patronizing and they just can't know what its like. As for me, I'm working on a novel where none of the characters are white. This resulted from my reading about the destruction of the ozone layer after a nuclear war. I figure the whites would be most vulnerable to the effects of increased UV radiation. (Back, it may happen even without a nuclear war.) Anyway, I meant no implied value judgements about one race or another; it was just logical speculation on my part. But I wonder how the editors will react to it?

No soapbox ranting this time, folks.

(The Mideast situation. I don't think it will be solved by an antagonistic stance, but

coming to the conclusion that each side has some right and some wrong. The "either/or" situation just won't work. It has to be a coming together as equals. History plays too much of a reason for continuing with the cycle of revenge on each side. People have to learn that to survive they are going to have to learn to co-exist and share the same planet. The problem is each side concentrates on its "rights" and the "wrongs" done to it by the other while ignoring the rights of the other side. There is a saying that hope is a way of looking at the future which is not bound by the present. Let's hope we can all find a way to do this before it is too late! aas))

March 31, 1987

Stephen K. Metzger
7523 N. Damen
Chicago, IL 60645

Dear Neffers: More in response to TM 145, pages 67 to 88.

Page 71 Ed Chambers to Mikel Norwitz: More on Diane Duspe. She is a great lady who ran a new writers' group at BOSKONE. After she read a short story of mine, (my one and only) she suggested I submit it for publication. This was a real encouragement, which has sustained me through a good many rejections.

Laurence Grey to Katie Duncan: Page 72 (right column): Some clarifications of Zionist history need to be made: Jews had likewise been resident in Palestine for centuries (admittedly in small numbers); Zionist settlement of Palestine started about the turn of the century and was accomplished by purchasing land from the local sheikhs (who would sometimes expell the residents on their own authority); restoring the Jewish state was a matter of elementary justice after the genocide practiced against the Jews in WWII, especially since most of the gentile world was quite willing to let it happen. Zionism claims a historical connection with Palestine (not Biblical), which they brought to life by settling in Palestine.

I hope the preceeding does not brand me as a raving anti-gentile; but this account seemed so one-sided that it provoked a response. Especially the comment about how President Truman should not have recognized the state of Israel as legitimate before anyone else did: The whole of Jewish history since the destruction of the first Jewish State in AD70 has been one long search for legitimacy, for without it a people is prey of every state that would enslave or destroy it.



Re **Lynne Huldum**: Page 71, Paragraph 2: Nice to see someone pointing out the demographic connection between traditional Catholicism and nationalistic (i.e., you must have children) viewpoints. My own guess is that encouraging baby-making was one of the compromises that a sex-hating early Christian Church made in order to be accepted by the Roman government. The quid-pro-quo was probably "you stop persecuting us and we will encourage population increase." I wouldn't agree with you more about the effects of 100% reliable contraception being a cause of modern neo-paganism/feminism with childbearing now a choice, not a fate, women are free to dream of more than motherhood and widen their horizons. And men can now consider living with their families rather than just working for them.

Re **Paul Doerr**: Page 81, last Paragraph: Was glad to see your comment about nations being too big. If we are ever to have a real peace on this planet, the political units will need to be reduced in power (size?) to such an extent that none can command enough resources to have an armed force able to threaten its neighbor. Just enough men-at-arms to keep civil order, thank you! Good point!

Page 81 -- right column -- SAS insert on the Libya bombing in the paragraph for **Jackie Kuma**: You make a good point about it being morally degrading to fight terror with terror, especially over the long term. But there are other dimensions. Nations (and the individuals who compose them) are responsible for what they do, and we all wish that sponsors of terrorism could be brought into a court and made to account for what they do. Alas, there is no court anywhere which can bring a nation or its rulers to book. This creates a situation in which nations that feel victimized are left to make their own justice -- which is doubtless how many people feel about the Libya raid: a rough, but effective, form of justice. Someday mankind will come up with something better, but the day is not yet.

You're right -- Palestinian terrorism will not end until they have a country they can call their own. But trying to get it by destroying Israel does not help matters.

Page 82: **Allan Beatty**: I sympathize with your attitude -- especially since I ride the El every day. It is more important to have a safe transit than to keep homosexuals shut out. Getting a majority to see it that way is another matter -- here in Chicago disputes about police protection are ongoing, but the Gay Rights Bill failed to pass the City Council. There is also an unpleasant amount of gay bashing occurring. Ads have been placed in a local paper directed at gays; if responded to, neighbors of the respondees get nasty letters.

Page 82: On Dr. Who: War Games was a superb episode. The atmospherics in the various combat scenarios were just right. I got a particular charge out of how the lieutenant and nurse were being so very British as they got romantic with each other; and from the awkward gallantry of the Confederates as contrasted with the more brusque Union troops. "Mark of the Rani" was a howl -- it was especially fun to see how she and The Master could only just stand each other: Such disliking amongst scoundrels! I wouldn't be surprised that Peri drove down ratings -- she is an archetypical dumb blonde in an age when that form of female heroine (?) is in decline.

Page 83 to **Sally Syrjala**: I do sympathize with the crunch you find yourself in when typing up all the TB letters. Nothing is quite as distressing as having to go to press knowing that mistakes will appear. Your efforts are truly appreciated by me -- especially your kind thank you note for my earlier TB 145 letters!

Page 83 Cap'n Ozone: WHO IS MORT

Page 86: SAS NOTE: Yeay! Another print person. I agree print should be the primary source and fiche used as secondary copy. Right on, Sally!

Page 89: **Jackie Kuma to Katharine Duncan**: Zoe was another brainy and pleasant companion to the doctor (Patrick Troughton). She was a computer scientist/astronomer who could outsmart a computer and stave off a Cyberman invasion fleet, but had a hard time with ordinary things -- Jamie once had to show her what a candle was. Played by Wendy Padbury, she had a definite charm to her.

That's all for now -- do not mind receiving individual responses separate from Tightbeam.

Two-third of 145 completed!

((As I've said, after putting all the time into T# 145, it is good to see it is still being savoured. Comments on it may last as long as the typing stint needed to get that issue out! Justice has an easy way of being confused with revenge. True "justice" is tempered with compassion and does not come from the heat of anger. History is turning into a Tower of Babel in the way it keeps people apart and keeps them from understanding each other. Each people are treated to a look at the way things were from the point of view of their people. We need to learn to accept our differences and to learn from them. This is the only way we are going to be able to survive our technology and prevent the hates of the past from taking over the future. MOP=Ministry of Propaganda. sas))



Jean Lamb
4846 Derby Place
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

I got Tightbeam #147 on February 25th, so I don't think I'll make the deadline.

COVER: I find it difficult to believe only one human could make it to STARCON CCLXVI, no matter how much it costs. Why, more than one even voted for the Bermuda Triangle at Confederation, and fully expected to be able to go, too. Ah, well.

Letters, I see letters . . .

Harclet: Well, if you're a Mets fan, you should have been happy. (Sigh.) I still don't want to talk about that sixth game. I am (on occasion) a football fan, though as a graduate of Oregon State University I have long given up on my alma mater in that sport. But after how badly the Denver Broncos died in the Super Bowl, I am considering giving up on the pros, too.

My cure for writer's block is to force myself to chunk out a page a day as an absolute minimum, good, bad or suck swamp water. What are rewrites for, anyway?

T. L. Bohman: I don't know about seat belt laws (though Oregon has one for children under the age of 16) but anyone who rides in my car is going to be wearing a belt. People who don't wear them fall under Niven and Pournelle's slogan in *GAIN OF FEALTY*: "Think of it as evolution in action." (The same goes for helmet laws; if I or mine ride a motorcycle or Peugot putt-putt, helmets will be worn).

Ah, come one — I like Sally's comments. I would miss them if they weren't there. Lighten up!

SALLY'S NOTE TO MY LETTER: Joining Amnesty International means you get three addresses to write to each month and guidelines on how to write to them, so activity above and beyond dues sending is definitely encouraged.

Gail F. Gornley: Yes, writers are crazy. Welcome to the club! I've reached the addiction stage myself. One method that I use that you might be able to use is to bang out a first draft on the typewriter, and do your first revision by hand (say on your coffee break at work or when things are really slow). I used to work graveyard float as a nurse's aide about ten years ago (was it really that long ago?) and on some floors on some nights absolutely nothing happened (that was, of course, balanced by nights when everything broke loose and I had to run the floor because the RN was so busy with one patient she barely had time to pass meds. If it wasn't for the drawsheets, I would still be trying to cure that stock-out 300-lb Swede).

I basically steal time whenever I can to write, and can manage (by force of training) to come back to a train of thought no matter how many interruptions interfere. It's not easy, but it can be learned. I usually find time to read in the bathroom or in the tub, or whenever I eat. (This has the unfortunate repercussion of making me want to eat whenever I'm reading). I do all right without a word processor with my trusty elderly electric IBM (the floor model they showed Mark Twain, I think), though a printer for my Commodore would be nice. I do live without it, though, because having a hard copy of all drafts helps me, because sometimes a thing that shows up in my first draft, got eliminated in the second and third drafts, can be adapted and shows up in the final draft, but would have disappeared completely with the use of a word processor.

There really is a lot of fandom in Boston. They threw a good party at Confederation — can someone out there give her some names of people to contact in her area?

Take a notebook and pen with you where ever you go. I forget how many ideas I've written down waiting for the doctor/dentist to get around to see me. And as long as we're within range of a radio station, I have been known to write in the car on long trips (as long as Mike is driving, of course).

Victoria A. Smith: I know there would be ripple effects from teh rescue of the Alexandria Library (for one, I would be cited by the county for building an over-sized storage facility without a permit).

Fortunately, the pulpit pounders have been going after each other (slightly reminiscent of the critics' room in NUMBER OF THE BEAST) and Ronnie is losing his teflon. There's hope yet!

I only wrote as much as I did during a single lunch hour because I had to. Let's just say the quality left something to be desired — quantity is not quality, or why I need at least four drafts of something before I let anybody see it.

Laura Thompson: Thanks for the compliment! To get to your discussion of weapons, not only does conflict with them provide many a mainspring for an exciting story, but they're fun. Stuck in traffic? Fire up that old laser cannon and clear a path! (Anyone recall what George Carlin said about driving behind an old man wearing a hat?)

As a person who often associates with mundanes, a lot of them are really nice people, even if they're not quite sure what a tribble is.

Well, FSI is a problem (though fortunately not as much for me as for some — blocked spouses do have some advantages) but working with these kind of people does help them to learn some social skills that otherwise they might not pick up off their electronic billboards. At least they do know how to read. I don't look at comics much (save Elquest on occasion) but I probably fit under the rest of the categories just fine.

Taras (Bulba) Wolansky: When I worked for procurement when I was in the Air Force, over half of our office was civilian (the reason we had military there at all was so the enlisted types could get called up at 5 a.m. for an alert and ship them off to Mudpie, Wisconsin, and so at the end of the year all the military could "volunteer" for excessive overtime that no self-respecting civilian would put up with).

I don't know about the dichotomy between male/female hardtech/fantasy. There are more women writing hardtech (Cherryh, Pamela Sargent) and more men writing fantasy (aside from straight bash & slash) than in past years.

I doubt there would be much effect on the human genome from the successful man-successful woman process you mention — each human being receives exactly half of their genetic inheritance from each parent, so the mix/match would pretty much come out the way it is now. That is, if there are genes linked to success. After all, success is defined differently by different cultures. A Talmudic scholar who is considered successful by his particular family rarely has the same characteristics as say, Ted Turner. Who defines what is success — and for what culture?

David and Su Bates: If you're looking for an spa to be involved in, you might consider joining IMAGIAPA (c/o Eric L. Watts, Capitol Station Box 11603, Columbia, SC 29211-1603).
End of Paid Announcement.

NOTE TO SALLY (Tom Sadler): The first ST movie was also characterized (by Ron Gerard) as Star Trek: The Motion Sickness.

Mikel Norwika: You better believe I've never done any slow dancing (except informally at a Jaycee convention once when a fire alarm accidentally went off during the Saturday night mixer). There's too many people out there bigger than I am!

Laura Todd: As far as population reduction and environmental stress reduction goes, there's this perfectly lovely new sf book called NATURE'S END by Whitley Strieber and James Kunetka (WARDAY) where this charismatic leader proposes the suicide of at least one-third of the current population -- and he's gaining support. Read this book!

Nickelodeon used to run some other series with an SF basis -- The Tomorrow People, Into the Labyrinth, The Witches and The Grinnygog, The Haunting of Cassie Palmer, and others (some of which were admittedly rerun into the ground). And, of course, there's Danger Mouse, thinking person's Dr. Who.

John Graham: You think the grandfather paradox is confusing, try making sense out of BEARING AN HOURGLASS by Piers Anthony.

The LoC cartoon was very nice, though it did not discuss what happens to many LoCs before they get in the mail. (Perhaps next time.)

A great issue!

((I didn't know ST: TMP had enough motion in it to even be able to cause sickness! I saw it again on television the other week and I must say I disliked it even more than when I first saw it. Never thought that would be possible as I positively detested it the first time round even! Thanks for mentioning the new book by Strieber and Kunetka. I enjoyed WARDAY and will try to catch this one as well. Another male writer who has written "fantasy" is Greg Bear. THE SERPENT'S MAGE is listed as fantasy on the cover. I enjoyed that book. It basically said we must be as we must be no matter what others might try to tell us, as well as saying how differing species/races had to let history go and learn to live peacefully with other. I enjoyed the book. sas))

April 1, 1987

Owen K. Laurion
12808-C Dune SE
Albuquerque, NM 87123-3628

Kate: I quite agree that names are important to people. My own was one that didn't lead to contractions, variations, nicknames, or such, so I've had the same name all my life. (Fortunately, "Owen" is also immune to derogatory mutilations.) When I was young, I was occasionally called by my middle name (a common one), by well-meaning people who thought that since my first name was so odd I probably didn't like it. So I stopped using my full name and now only reveal the middle initial. Indeed, since my last full name is so often mispronounced by those who only see it written out (pronunciation is Anglicized to Lorian, in the original Acadian it's Lou-ree-awn', Lou as in loud, with the r rolled), my signature is just "Owen K.", with the last name dropped. When my two daughters were born, they were given first names that could lead to multiple nicknames, since changing one's name is so often a part of the rebellion of growing up. The older one has already done so once, insisting that the pronunciation of Jeannee (a diminutive we made up for Jeannetha) be changed from the English Jenny (but with accent on the second syllable) to a French that comes out Shoo-nay'. In order to give her something to rebel against, I, of course, opposed the change, but secretly I was quite pleased. (She doesn't see TP, so if you don't tell her, I'm not letting anything out of the bag). She also still answers to the J.R., as in Junior, since her first name is a variation on the names of three female ancestors, and her middle name, Howena, is the feminine of my name. (I told you Owen was a hard name to manipulate!)

I also saw Croc Dundee, and a croc is just what I thought of it. Oh, I agree it was funny and enjoyable, but the ending was just too utterly wrong. The editor who wanted to marry

the heroine was a nerd, admittedly, but a nerd who did love her, was from her own circle, and with whom she would have been totally compatible. Instead she chose Dundee. He would



have been miserable anywhere but the Outback. She'd be miserable stuck full-time in the Outback. Neither of them would have been satisfied with her travelling the world while he stayed in the Outback. So what happily-ever-after could they possibly have? My date got mad at me for being so unromantic about the ending, but personally I thought Star Wars far more realistic!

Garth: I appreciated your comments on real religion, NeoPaganism, politics et al. You expressed some important sentiments well, and there is little it would profit me to add on the religion comments. On the South African matter, I would add that it is none of our business. We may decry apartheid, but as long as SA is an independent government and not a colony, it would be a greater sin for us to impose our social structures on them than let the racial discrimination continue. This does not mean that I support apartheid, because I don't; it does mean I think the principle of national self-determination is more important. For us to print editorials is fine. But for us to impose embargoes is morally wrong (besides being counter-productive).

Patricia: How come you're afraid to let me see your zine. Darkover, religion, politics — it all sounds like just the type of stuff I love to argue about!

Jean: What's this about "Fanzines are about the only place to practice writing skills anymore, since the death of the pulps."? First off, the pulps are not dead. There are several digest-sized magazines still going strong, including a few non-SF ones (like *Hitchcock's*) that run occasional SF stories, and even slicks like *Ogni* that carry on the traditions. And second, even the worst of the old pulps were still professional markets, that demanded some minimum quality (at least, better than anything else in that month's slush pile). And since so many of those old pulps used stables of in-house writers, the market for free-lance stories is probably more today than ever. The only way I can see that you could possibly have meant that statement, if you had given it any thought at all, is that the old adventure pulps let new writers add to an already existent universe, creating more stories of Doc Savage or The Shadow or whoever; the 20's or 40's versions of *Star Trek* and *Darkover*.

Laurence: Liberal is a relative term. I support gun control, belong to a conservation group, and oppose further defense spending, so Republican or not, I'm not as extreme as some people.//Don't send Rose to Santa Clause — she's an imp, not an elf.//A dragon/cat cross? Horrors! Tuna breath is bad enough, but BURN! tuna breath?!?!//Interesting comment about "SF couldn't be invented until the rate of change became fast enough to be noticed". I had not thought of that before, but I think you are right. SF is a bellwether of technological change, unknown prior to the Renaissance, and rare until the Industrial Revolution. It makes me wonder what's next. Any speculations, anyone?//Hmm, can you imagine "The fog stomps in on little cat-dragon feet"?//If you liked *Bill, The Galactic Hero*, you should also like Harrison's other satire, *Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers*.//Aw, isn't the kitten cute, playing with that ball of fire-resistant yarn.//"I threw an old shoe at the cat-dragon yowling on the fence last night." "Did he shut up then?" — Just long enough to eat my shoe.//Well, Sir George, did you slay the cat-dragon? "I couldn't. He kept batting at the tip of my lance, so that I never got a clear shot at him."//What do you call a cat-dragon with two heads? A Siamese cat-dragon?//Why do cat-dragons terrorize the countryside? They're purr-full people peters!//Arggh, what have you started? As the whale said when he went on a diet, "Stop me, before I kill again!"

I'll close by commenting on the artwork in this. CM is an excellent artist, and her drawings are ~~great~~ look at — but they do seem to predominate just a bit. I was also disappointed in some of them being placed at the very back. Full-page art should always face a page of print (unless it's a double-page spread), so that it can peripherally seep in to a reader's subliminal perception as he's reading the text. Art facing art without text is glanced at and then passed over. I'm also muchly impressed with Ken Helfrich's gadgetry — thus exposing my masculine/hard SF prejudices. David's picture of the King of Saturn reminded me of his mutant brother who used to star as a dog in a TV Western series. Not David's mutant brother, I mean the Ring King Kin.



((Owen, it is nice to see you LoC'ing these pages and I hope this is the start of a regular series of LoC's from you. And remember, you have only yourself to blame for having caused me to be appointed editor! Now to the fun part of the disagreement aspects between what is within your LoC and what (contained within my mind. Ah, the ending to Croc Dundee was not ridiculous. Opposites are often attracted romantically. I would not want someone who was "perfectly suited" for me. I don't want a suit in a marriage. I want a partnership. A suit wears out. A partnership should be more of a permanent bond. People alike in every way are going to get VERY bored. A bit of conflict causes growth to take place. South Africa: Well, Germany was also an independent government and not a colony. Did that make it right what they did to the Jews and gays and blacks and any who happened not to fit in with their master scheme? If someone is bigoted, that is one thing. When that bigotry leads to imprisonment and death for people, that is another story and it is at that point where morality screams out for people to do something. There are some words to a Pete Seeger song. "Where was your mother when?" This relates to why the German people allowed what happened to happen. Why they did not stand up and speak out when people were "taken away." For evil to exist, a populace has to allow it to do so. Our world is too small not to get involved with humanity. If wrongs are allowed to get too far out of hand, the solution then gets more complicated and more involved. Too, silence bespeaks of acceptance and approval. sas))

March 29, 1987

David Heath, Jr.
11856 S. San Pedro
Los Angeles, CA 90061

This is my official LoC to TP #145. Though I am a bit busy, I thought I had to respond to a couple of things in that issue which was full of good comment.

First off, the wine reads and looks great. A tribute to you and Cat, and it was timely. You too must be working overtime to get them out on time. I am glad to see more new letters and the frequency that people are responding with letters now. If you keep this up, you will soon have your work cut out for you. Here are my brief comments:

Kate Cochran: My father's name was David, and so was his father's. I have not admitted till now that I could be called David Heath III. Robert Miller seems not to mind, but I didn't grow up being called that so I don't think I could take it now. Yes, a name can matter. Although my wife did take my last name in marriage, I can see where a female might not want to do that. The Name-Name compromise seems a bit much to me. If we kept it up, we could have John W. Heath-Synthe-Baptist-Wilton-Wayne IV running around.

Mark Spencer: I understand that the reason we don't talk about South Africa and the problems there is that they are hard to think about. My point is, though, that if you don't at least talk about it, they will go unnoticed or undebated. Folks like us are supposed to be the ones with a little foresight, someone soon will have to come up with alternatives to violence and intolerance or these evil forces will win by default. I also realize that this is a forum for fans, but I'm sometimes disappointed by the lack of insight and the unwillingness to look at issues with an open mind that fans exhibit. Maybe I am fixated on South Africa for personal reasons, so be it, but I still think the issue should be discussed. In the Army I read a book on the The Threat with a similar title to that you mentioned. It didn't make me sleep easy. I was stationed in Germany at the time and commander of an Armored Scout Platoon. My stints on the border viewing that "threat" didn't make me sleep easy either. But I am not a hawk in any sense of the word, again I go back to that open mind. I am all for disarmament, but let's see what the Russians are up to. I will admit that their recent actions make us look like war-monger jackasses, but they play chess well. We probably need a better compromiser than Reagan to deal with the more subtle approach the Russians are taking these days. By the way, I worked with the Royal Canadians in Germany and they are a damned professional bunch -- wouldn't mind having them on my right flank ; . in fact I did. To be honest I have spent many a cold night in Grafenwer, Germany trying to figure out why there are still armies and such. Oh well, to you, Garth, I say well met and good hashing some ideas over.

Patricia Williams: Your question to me as to what to do about the fact that other races and countries have a greater need to get into space than we do is probably the most relevant asked yet. That's what this forum is all about and to answer you, I don't know. We already give aid to Third World countries and have for years. It has not done much good that I can see and the countries resent us. Here is another thought. If we gave aid to countries' science programs and high tech research, they may see answers to problems we can't. They will have a different perspective. They will be starting fresh and not be constrained to certain ideas like the US is. Look what happened around the time of the Mercury program. We left lifting bodies (X-15, etc) and started to go ballistic (capsules). Once we used that idea to the max, we had to go back to researching and developing lifting bodies in the form of the Space Shuttle. Think where we would be if, while we were doing the ballistic studies with Mercury and Apollo, the Chinese or Indians or Russians were doing research in lifting bodies, without fear that we would learn something and not pass it to them. We could share this information and thusly save money on a world-wide scale, more to help the poor maybe. It is funny to me that the Russians have the biggest boosters to get stuff into space and the US has the best payloads to get into space. Can a more appropriate match be found? Dorsai? Botha? I love you Chewie. .

Andrew (no hatch) Nagel/Sally (policewoman) Syrjala: I thought I saw the acknowledgement to Harlan in the movie version of Terminator. Though I've watched it so many times on my recorder I may be mixed up. Sally, in "Soldier" the Outer Limits episode two soldiers get displaced in time, not future policemen or criminals as in "Tracers". The sides were unimportant but one soldier after being with Lloyd Nolan and family (a typical American one) learned compassion and destroyed his foe from the war-and nuclear-torn future. I had assumed this was the reference to Harlan Ellison by the producers of Terminator as he wrote that episode of Outer Limits as well as the only other two that were any good: "Damn with a Glass Hand" and "Architects of Fear". (Correct me if I am wrong on this last one. I don't have my reference material at hand.)

Laurence Gray: I meant no arrogance by making your name "official." So many people had misspelled it. I figured some sort of truce had to be called. Thanks for all the comment directed my way. Was it cut somewhat? We seem to have jumped from a discussion on religion to ADF, who comes up in my eyes for his Aliens adaptation (more later when I go to the couch and get Freuded) last year. I didn't see the umbrella in Amadeus, but I erased it from tape after watching it five times. The story was nice, but tedious and over dramatized for me and what little I had read about Mozart seems to have been misinterpreted or some license was taken. Speaking of music, how about "Take My Breath Away" winning the Oscar for best original song in a film. I knew the crop was poor this year, but really. Gosh. I could have sworn that the one from An American Tail would win, or even "The Glory of Love." Was your letter really that long? My copy was blurred on page 29, but I have it going from 24 to 33. Nah. That can't be all one letter. Hank Head did the Teens in Fandom cartoons. I am glad someone liked them besides me and could take them as a joke. I guess I would cringe at a Black in Fandom series, but I thought they were cute. I liked Wargames, too. Thanks for supporting the art. Thanks for the congrats.

Rose: Admitting you're wrong takes a big being. Loved your book reviews and short story. Sally, glad to see this kinda stuff. Let's have more.

Gail: "Uh." That's my reaction to your in-depth review of Aliens and of my Aliens review in your answer, "Women with Guns." I did like the second movie more than the first because the first was a bit lifeless to me. Don't get me wrong. I really like the original Alien. In fact, I loved it. It was one of the only original video tapes I've ever bought. There are reasons I found it flawed though and you mention them as well on the plus side. To me that movie seemed like Dan O'Bannon and crew set out to film the perfect horror film and succeeded. They had all the cliches they could create. They tuned the settings till you couldn't sit still and they hand picked the finest and weirdest artists in the world to make the movie. Aliens, on the other hand, used the original theme and, yes, many psychological mechanisms to purely entertain you. I found the SFX more stunning in the original. They weren't perfect in the second, but they kinda left things to the imagination. The reason I listen to more radio drama these days. Take the scenes where the Marines first take on the aliens under the cooling tower. Almost all of that is done through the monitors of the combat center. We already have an idea of what the aliens look like and can do to harm you, so they give us this fight in a strange Vietnam cum docudrama newsreel fashion. I agree with you on most aspects of the film, the sexual symbolism is too obvious to hash over here. But your Male/Female reactions are classic. I'm not sure a powerful woman with a gun scared me in the movie. I've seen it in life. I was a range officer on a M-60 range when headquarters troops (60% female) were firing the army standard machine gun (the model Ripley's weapon seems to be based on, though it takes two hands to hold one today) and I tell you those gals were getting their rocks off! I don't think that Colonial Marines are imbeciles. I think the movie didn't bring out that Ripley was set up. They picked a bunch of numbskulls to go with her in order for the mission to fail and to get an alien back to Earth via Burt the company man. Also not much is made of the fact that Ripley is the Chief Warrant Officer of the Nastro. Though not a military position, I view it as something like the Merchant Marine service or something like a civilian Scotty from Star Trek. She has to be tough, knowledgeable, fast on her feet, and resourceful. Remember we are talking about SPACE. We traditionally give these characteristics to a male (how about a study of the characters in the original movie — contrast the Cartwright role to Weaver's) and I think the director of the original movie intended to show us that a woman can work with these characteristics, and, in fact, space will go far to break down the boundaries between the sexes that exists now. (Is there a men's and women's rest room on the Space Shuttle?) I think that was continued in the second Aliens. In any case, good review, Gail. I liked The Fly, by the way, (it seems someone else liked it by its winning and Oscar for best make-up) but am scared to tell you why. - -

Priscilla Johnson: I found your comments illuminating. Octavia Butler has made some other comments on the subject that I liked. I had a talk with her at LA Con II. Made me feel good. I sometimes wonder if the issue is worth debating. I, too, wonder about the designation of a person as a "black" instead of being more descriptive on the skin tone.



Speaking of Blaxplotation movies. I've had an idea for a Blaxplotation SF movie in mind for the longest time and don't know what to do with it. Actually there's two: One is set in a taken-over LA in the future called "Blood Dawn." (RE: "Red Dawn", get it?) The other is a period piece set in antebellum South when a space craft crashes. The crew is "black." I could go two ways -- a modern or future crew goes into the past or they are aliens with dark skin (maybe even talk five). What do you think?

((It is good to see some of the old crowd returning. Owen's LoC got here a day before yours did, inspite of the dates of writing. Laurence's LoC was indeed that long and there was not cutting in it of which I am aware. I rather liked the Aliens review done by Gail. It is good to see it generated some comment by you, as you are the one who inspired it! ass))

April 2, 1987

Allyson M. W. Dyar
Forty-A Cecil Lane
Montgomery, Al 36109-2872

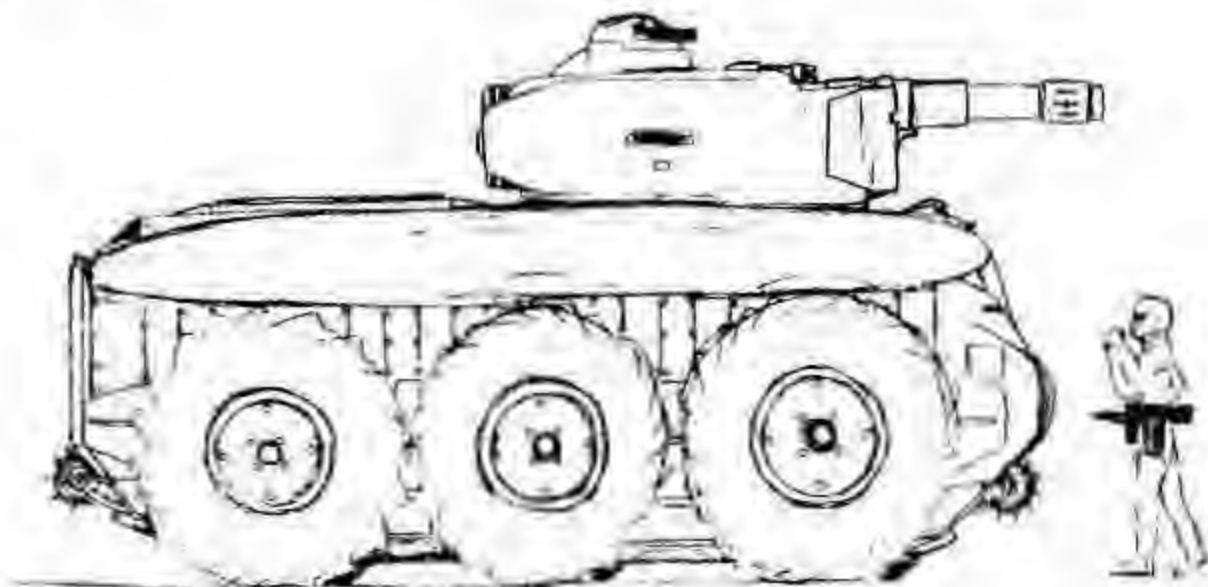
TR 14A arrived the other day. Great issue, but not many comments. (I guess I'm all commented out from doing COMLINK #29).

Jean Lamb: OK, you can put me down also for watching MTV. I love it and I am enjoying it even more since they have gotten back to presenting rock videos than that mish-mash of everything, but rock. After all, they can put the more mellow videos on VH-1.

Lia S. Ward: Actually four computers! We currently own an IBM-PC, color system with 1 meg of RAM and 20M of harddisk, a Tele-Video luggable, a Gavilian lap-top and a Zenith Z-181 laptop (which I am using at work right now). We're selling/getting rid of the Tele-Video and the Gavilian as we only purchased the Tele-Video for Dafydd when he went overseas and we really can't use the Gavilian with its non-standard MS-DOS.

The difference between our PC and Z-181 is one of portability mostly. I can take the Z (called weazel) to work with me while the PC stays at home. On the other hand, the PC is a much more powerful machine.

Priscilla Johnson: The Blaxplotation films of the 70's were an interesting phenomena. I did a paper in collage on it. Mostly, these films filled a void that the Black male audience was interested in hearing and seeing. I was particularly interested in the fact that the majority of the women cast in these pictures played undesirable characters, prostitutes, mammas and that ilk. And I agree with you that most authors not using black folks as characters in their books because they don't think about it. Hopefully this trend will be alleviated somewhat with the rise of more black authors.



Lawrence Gray: Interesting letter. Jean-Michael Jarre can be described as a "new age" musician in a similar vein as Vangelis. I personally think that Vangelis is more lyrical while Jean-Michael is more discordant.

Of course education shouldn't be geared to the average, but it is. I enjoyed college much more than public school because the pace was much faster. If the pace of the course is slow, I tend to lose interest. I enjoy going to night school because the pace tends to be fast and it holds my attention.

Sally Alward: It would be nice when a time comes where I do not have to defend my decision not to have children, but I don't expect it to happen soon. I am, however, seeing many more articles about childless or childfree couples (it would help if another term could be found as both of these sound rather offensive). At least at this job, I feel that I don't have to defend not having children (having two other folks here without children helps). Perhaps I will regret the decision later on, but I doubt it. I am hoping that the number childless/free couples will be such that when Dafydd and I are in our later years, we'll enjoy adult company rather than children and grandchildren. I noted that in one article I read, if the couple doesn't have any children, they usually have a pet. Does that hold true for those of us married and who have no children by choice?

Sally Reason: of Sally, while an editor might strive to publish a more "balanced" issue presenting both sides might not be what the readers want. If this balance was indeed achievable, we wouldn't need, for instance, publications that play to either liberal or conservative views; one publication would do. Balance in a publication is achieved if both the editor and the readership wants it.

((My commenting ability goes down with my wakefulness. The more tired I get, the less I am able to say. Balance indeed is a tight rope balancing act between editor and readership. A publication dealing with hunting doesn't want to look at gun control. There are times you have to subscribe to magazines on both sides of the issues to be able to pull out the truth of the middle ground. Much better if all sides of the issue could be discussed in one place. sas))

April 2, 1987

Thomas Sadler
422 W. Maple Avenue
Adrian, MI 49221

All in all, I think you're doing a very good job. I got my copy of Tightbeam #147 on February 24th. Number 148, to my surprise, arrived on March 27th, which is quite good and somehow has managed to escape the usual snail's pace of the USPS. Maybe it'll happen with the next issue, too. We can only hope.

After reading Tightbeam's 147 and 148, I'm even more confused. Now I'm impressed and awed by the sensitive, thoughtful, intelligent people whose letters appeared therein. Maybe I won't fit in after all. I don't really mean that. N3F is the place to be. And the members seem to be good, reasonable people trying to understand and make sense of this incomprehensible and curious universe in which we live, and that's a tough job. Good luck to all of you.

I was thinking recently of the curious fact that the "baby boomers" (What a phrase! That and Yuppie. Bleagh!), of which I am a member, popularized the phrase "Don't trust anyone over thirty." We must have been a very short-sighted generation not to see that one day we'd be there, too. Now we are and we're confronted with a younger generation (several, in fact) which in many ways are like we were. It's also interesting how every "younger" generation has all the answers to all the problems and sees everything in such a clear-cut manner and almost as absolutes. Was I that way at that age? Sure I was, just like everyone else in the 60's. It's hard to accept the fact that to a lot of people, "Baby Boomers" are old fogeys(ies?). I sure don't feel like one, and I'm sure a lot of others don't either.

I remember once a long time ago seeing and hearing the word "aficionado" being used in conjunction with science fiction fans and fandom. Apparently the word never caught on.

Too cumbersome? Too hard to pronounce?

Alexander Haig just announced he will be running for the 1988 presidency. Now that's even scarier. He's an intelligent, capable man in many ways, but also a career military man. Wouldn't the Soviets love to see somebody like that as President! I'd think Haig would scare them silly. Actually, in some ways, a military man would be less liable to use military force than a civilian.

I just came across a quote by Casper Weinberger. He said, "I think it . . . vital that we proceed to work on (Star Wars) just as vigorously as we would work on some attempt at control for cancer or heart disease." I agree, we ought to spend millions of dollars to halt the spread of Star Wars and find a cure for it, to see that it -- wait! That isn't what he meant, is it? Sorry. I thought for a minute he'd become rational and sensible. Well, anybody can make a mistake.

I never got around to seeing *Aliens* and I could stick my head into a neutron star for not seeing it. There's another reason for getting a VCR, to see that and *Dr. Who*. But then I'm not sure I want to be exactly like 90% of the population who ran out to purchase the darned things.

After reading the review of *Aliens* by **Gail Coraley**, I wonder now if I really want to see it. I've often suspected that military people aren't chosen for their high intelligence and good sense, but for their ability to follow orders without questioning them. Personally, I'd feel very threatened by anyone who carried a large, powerful weapon -- regardless of their gender. I have no great fascination for guns either as killing devices or phallic symbols. I do find it interesting how people can find a sexual meaning to almost anything. I'm not speaking of anybody in particular, only generally; there are plenty of people who find that symbolism in movies like *Aliens*, and quite likely there is more than a little justification for such an analysis. If such symbolism is that easily detectable, chances are it was intentional. I think about sex, but I don't look for it in everything around me. Of course female/male relationships are fascinating, especially since that's how humanity is divided. By the way, if one stops to think about it, rockets are an obvious phallic symbol. So then space would be the female aspect. (I hope that didn't sound sexist; it wasn't meant to be.) Maybe that's one reason not very many women like "hard science fiction," because of the heavily masculine symbolism in it. Me, I'm all for strong, intelligent female protagonists in science fiction and I'm not scared of them or threatened by them. I know my limitations and I accept them whether I like them or not. What I don't care for is the "macho" and "super-macho" attitudes of men when women and men are completely equal in thought and deed and neither side has to beat the other over the head with the fact they are just as good. It'll sure be nice when there's no more of this "We're better than you are because we're (men)/(women)." Now tell me there's something wrong with me.

I get a kick out of reading **Rose Secret**'s letters in *Tightbeats*, and the word gaffly comes to mind. That seems to be one of her missions in life, at least where fandom's concerned.

But there's nothing wrong with that and I hope she keeps it up. In this still largely male-dominated society we need more women who aren't afraid to speak their minds regardless of how fresh or abrasive they may seem. **Rose** is still young yet and capable of change -- for the better. Always! That ought to get a response out of her.

Taras Wolanaky: Don't forget: another thing about J.S.B. is that he also had a lot of little Bachs to support and so was conscious of the need for money. And it wasn't as if jobs for composers were all that plentiful and well paying. I also understand he wasn't always the easiest person to get along with and could be imperious and abrasive. But no matter what kind of music he composed, it was consistently good.

I'd like to hear more of Monteverdi, but the two classical music stations I alternately listen to seldom play any of his music and the only music store in town has a very poor classical music section. Country-Western and Rock dominate it, so it seems. Not that I object to either category; I like quite a bit of rock music and a little country-western.

Roq Nyren: I've heard about Jorge Luis Borges and I think have even read one or two stories by him. I do know he has a reputation of being a premiere writer in his native country. So you can add another one to the meager list.

Sally Alward: Thanks for your comments about my question about atheists and Christmas. Actually, my query was a semi-rhetorical one. But isn't it true that even Saturnalia has somewhat of a religious basis? I've tried to figure out what I am and I guess I'm a religious anarchist. I haven't yet found a religion that completely satisfies me and I'm not about to change myself to fit any of the religions, even the weird ones like Scientology. One thing I've never been able to understand is how anyone can give up themselves entirely to any religion, to follow it so blindly that they give up everything else in their lives. Is there something wrong with me? Very likely. Celebrating Saturnalia might be a welcome change from celebrating Christmas. Of course, I'd have to leave out any human sacrifices. But I fear in this stymiedly conservative area I'd probably be strung up or run out of town.

What does one do if, in his/her younger days, he/she was in a sort of Twilight Zone between the jocks/sheetleaders and the nerds/wimps? I was, and it was sure lonely. That was probably why I went out for plays in high school. Also to overcome my shyness. I sure wish I'd know about MSP way back then. I wouldn't have felt so strange, though there were a very few who also shared my interest in science fiction. But enough already.

This letter has gone on entirely too long. I don't want to take up valuable space that can be used by someone with something intelligent and worthwhile to say. So that's it for this time around. Again, keep up the good work, Sally, and may you continue as editor until you become fed up with the job. I'm sure I wouldn't have the capability to handle that function.

((There are times this over-30 feels "old" just as Kirk felt old in ST: TWoK. There are some days the Frey takes it out of you and you get very tired. Maybe "aficionado" was too affected a term to last long. Perhaps in its definition of "devotee" something besides our loosely applied term of "fan" is meant. Maybe it is more of a stack-up and stand offish type of word that doesn't go all that well with fandom. sas))



Andrew J. Nagel
104 Frey Court
Michigan City, IN 46360

I've been busy helping to start a writers' club here so I haven't had time to write a letter to TB. So, I'll have to back up a couple of issues and catch up.

Comments to TB #146

Kate Embow: I found your comments about the changes the N3P has gone through interesting. Apparently I joined after the hoopie died down.

Rose Secret: My explanation about "All You Zombies..." was not wrong. (You'll have to find which TB that was in on your own. Sorry.) It was a proposal of a possible stable reality explanation. And Rita did not bring it up on BTRR. That was someone else who is no longer on the robin and will therefore remain nameless. And don't accuse me of confusing someone. I never do that (deliberately).



Sally Sycjalar: Mr. Spock's line was originally "There are always alternatives." It's from the TV episode "The Galileo Seven."

Theresa Buffalo: You'll find that in military circles, the greater the rank, the greater the ego.

Comments to TB #147

To whoever wrote that alphabet: The letter "T" on page 30 should have the caption: "T is for Tank Hatches, which should be kept shut."

Jean Lamb: You're not too far wrong about the problems with the LATs. According to the Post Action Report! The psychological defense screens were ill suited to weather. Frequent lightning strikes caused them to malfunction. As you can guess, Franchot is in BIG trouble for the screw up. I didn't say I was old, but I was not the odd/18-year-old envying the youth of a 13-year-old.

Al Macintyre: Is "All You Zombies..." a stable multiverse? How many universes does it cover? Does it really loop forever into infinity?

John Graham: The Prime Directive in Star Trek covered primitive or less advanced societies in their own time. It did not cover any possible TT aspects. And is the crew

really meddling in the past or just looking by a part of it and insuring that all things occur as they should. After all, we do not know the complete details of history from the 23rd century which would (be from) the Marx et al viewpoint.

And the characters in the Philly Experiment hardly stumbled around. It degenerated into a standard chase film. The Para character would be overjoyed to see the Marines and would have surrendered willingly if only to get back into a familiar environment.

Hey, I try to keep BTTR on the subject. I've even begun to send stories around. If you "lived" the last one (as I write this I don't know) you'll be wild about the next. And I'm not the one who started the graffiti on the route sheet, not that I would stop it. It's too much fun.

SIDE NOTE: To other RMC: How many of you suffer from graffiti on your route sheet or is that problem unique to Black Time Travel Round Robin?

Michael Peralta: The Philly Experiment (movie) was advertised as a docu-drama of the alleged event. What it was was pure fiction based loosely on the alleged event.

I've caught up. . .

I'd like to thank all those that voted for me in the last election and I hope you all will continue to support me in my future attempts at office.

As to LucasFilm Ltd, I never expected much. Lucas is an asshole, has been ever since he made Darth Vader Luke's father. (I better stop there or I'll start all over again.)

Oh, lay off the book quite quiz unless it is put into a special section. It takes up too much room otherwise.

Sally Syrjala: I knew about "Soldier" from Outer Limits. It was written by Ellison. I discounted it because the differences far outnumbered the similarities. If that is what this is all about ... well, Ellison is an asshole, too. (My opinion.)

Rose Secret: A question: If you ever do get published, will Geep smile?

Emily Alward/Al MacIntyre: I, too, have no objection to the licensing of prostitutes. I had even written a plan that I was going to send to my congressman. Then AIDS became an epidemic and now the plan is on the back burner.

Catherine Mintz: I have a feeling you are going to make some people mad for the first couple of issues with your new format. Get ready to weather a storm. As for myself, as always, I'll wait and see.

Thanks to Vivaldi and Voljenweider for helping me get through writing this letter.

((As to single-column format, bid it good bye. As of next issue it is a thing of the past. I gave it a go, but I don't like it. You have to get your priorities straight with TR. This is the LETTERzine of the N3P. It is not the art zine. It helps to have art and text complement itself, but the text has to come first. And the text has to be presented in a manner which is EASILY read. I don't think a single-column format allows for this and I will stop using it in the next issue. I also prefer to type all the LoCs myself. I want a single typeface in this zine. So, no matter what you have heard, I type the LoCs and they will be in a double-column format. End of edict. sas))

March 23, 1987

Nola Frame
933-B Maple Avenue
Inglewood, CA 90301

Oh hey! It's time for one of the fun things I like to do. On to the commons!

Max Garrone: I would be very interested to hear why the death penalty is "morally right" when our Constitution has an amendment against "cruel and unusual punishment." Most who get the death penalty belong to a minority and/or of a very low income. It is uncommon

for a white who has enough money to defend himself, to get said penalty. I would also be interested to hear more on this "morality" of a country that executes its children, one of the few developed countries that do so. Let's put it another way. One of the most moving scenes I read in THE LORD OF THE RINGS was between Frodo and Gandalf the Wise, discussing what should be the final outcome of Gollum, a sneak-thief who stole the One Ring. I don't have the book on me, but Gandalf's reply to Frodo, who felt that Gollum, the little bugger, should be wasted, was, "Deserves death? But then, there are many who deserve life. Can we give life to them that deserve it? No. Then do not be so hasty as to whom deserves death."

T. L. Bohman: "Why would anyone give up trees, blue skies and fresh air to live in a sterile canister?" (I know this was a quote from someone else, but I couldn't resist.) *Ahem* back to the question. Answer: The disenfranchised, the galactic wandering Jew, the ones who have been deprived of living on a Class M planet, the deep space merchants. ** Good comments about seat belts. So why don't people use them? They're not macho. Now, if you could just tell people, and prove like in the same manner like the wizards of Cyllimates (sp?) that the nonwearing of seatbelts is a carcinogen .. I can see it now . . The nonuse of seat belts causes cancer . . so says the surgeon general. Seriously, As for those . . people . . who refuse to use them, and refuse to see that not using the little straps causes loss of life. . I guess you have to have been there. They know better. People never get sick, never get injured, and never die. *I told ud so.*

Juan Lamb: Re: "Reese's Pieces Disease" -- ooh so that's what's wrong with Stephen King. The fun really starts in his books when he *starts speaking in tongues* using mysterious words I don't understand, and you find out all he's doing is namingsome fersluggingsaber New England candy bar. "But is it chocolate?"

Al Macintyre: Read a very scary article about hunger here in the US, in all places Scientific American. According to the piece we nearly licked hunger in the 70's but then Reagan came along. I am not making this up. Anyhow, interconnected with the problem of hunger is the inequality of medical care between whites and non-whites. We're the only other industrialized country where this is so. So what is the other one? I ask myself. Answer: South Africa. Brrr. *** According to my friends who went to an Anne Frank exhibit while up in San Francisco, banning isn't all that was done to that book. When Anne Frank's diary was released by her father, he left out pieces, parts of the book we've never seen, says my girlfriend, which would have strongly suggested that Mr. Frank's daughter was a *gasp, faint* lesbian. My reaction was, "Oh well, I always felt that the son of the dentist's family who was living with the Frank's was too much of a nebbish for our Anne to be romantically interested in him. ** Agree 200% on your views about prostitutes. ** Your remark about how our voting populations prefer children to have children over sex education reminds me of a conversation with my Unitarian minister, gay, whose lover was stricken with AIDS. I told him that out of the problem with AIDS will come some good. Sex education in this country will never be the same. ** I was rather croggled, to put it mildly, over your remarks regarding nonviolent demonstrations and your assumption that Martin Luther King's demonstrations were the antithesis of the former. I was especially taken by your line, "I make a distinction between a peaceful demonstration like those of Martin Luther King's in which a bunch of people march from one place to another and those so-called-nonviolent demonstrations which do violence to the ability of people to conduct their legal business." Martin Luther King's demonstrations did obstruct business. I remember this because I remember reading an article in Time magazine, many, many years ago on just this point. The piece took "regular" demonstration (I guess the article meant riots and the like) and compared them with nonviolent demonstrations. As an example, the article cited King's trick of encouraging Negro patrons to frequent luncheonettes which practiced segregation but to just sit there at the booths and count -- and not order anything. (In this way their bodies would be a "living wall" which would prevent new customers, Whites, from coming in, ordering food and eating.) It was the opinion of the writer of this article that this "nonviolent demonstration" was more violent than the regular kind. In this case, the ends justified the means. And yes, Martin Luther King did go to jail for his beliefs -- many times in fact. And most of those involved in present so-called nonviolent demonstrations are as willing to go to jail for their beliefs.

EVERYBODY! And now for a general type question. What is a "hard science" writer? Is he/she someone who was sitting in their chair one day, read an article they found interesting, say ANALOG or SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN ~~but not DMMZ~~ and thought, "Gee, I could make a story out of this!" Or, is "hard science" stuff that can only be written by such engineering/scientific types like Robert Heinlein, Gregory Benford, and Jerry Pournelle? What is "hard science" anyhow?

April 4 — Sally Ish #148

Hoo boy! I don't believe it! Just when I thought that I was catching up with the remarks for this issue, I get another one! (don't you ever sleep, Sally?) This is my fannish way of telling you "thanks" for all the work that you've been doing. And thanks for the remarks you made about my cartoons, they really mean a lot.

Catherine Mintz: Sorry, neither Louis nor I understand your instructions. I guess that this is goodbye for my cartoons. Due to my vision, I can't draw large, and I certainly can't plan in advance what size my cartoons will be. They have a life of their own. Well, it's been fun. I feel honored that my 'toons have graced the pages of Tightbeam. Not everyone has had this opportunity. I just kinda wish that I had taken more advantage of TB cartoon-wise when I had the chance. And so it goes .. Guess this is a sign that I move on to other things.

Sally: The above doesn't apply to you. Though I do wish TB kept to the double-column format. I can't keep my letters away from TB. They have a mind of their own, too. My remarks about the planned new column format isn't based on personal preference. I have never been able to read ISSAC ASIMOV'S SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE because they use the one column style. Also, I noted that the print was lighter. I suspect that this is due to the change in character printers. True? Like I said, my vision cannot handle the wide pages.

The smaller print or handwriting is, the easier it is for me to see. The print must be dark, like TB was. I know that it isn't fair of me to expect TB to change its looks to suit my low grade vision. But I just wanted to let the people of TB be aware that some people such as I, do things the way we do them because we have physical limitations that control our actions, as opposed to personal whim. It is for this reason that I, over this past year, am making the switch from writing to personal pen friends and round robins, to fannines. The small black print is usually easy for me to read. As for the former, many letter writers and RR's insist on writing in blue ink or worse, pencil, no matter how often I ask them to pretty please write in black ink, or type their letters. I love fandom and letters, but the former isn't worth the blinding eye and headaches I get from reading their stuff. And it's inconvenient, not to mention frustrating, having to hold on to a letter several weeks, hoping to find someone to read them to me. Louis has been good about reading to me, but since last fall, he's been putting in a lot of overtime, (he builds helicopters) including weekends.

Sally, I hope that you can find the room to print this. It has been a problem with me for some time. But, what I want to tell you, Sally, and the club at large, is I really love this club. Trite, but true. I am so happy and grateful that I am part of the N3P party. I love you all ~~even for Robé~~. Thank you.

((Mola, this is one of the reasons I have decided that the grand experiment has failed. TB has to be available in readable form for all our members, not just some. And it has to be of its primary self a letterzine with a sprinkling of review and articles, but mainly a LETTERzine. Full page art is nice, but IF THERE IS ROOM. Priorities have to be gotten straight. Special sections are also nice, but they should not take from TB's space or its monetary allocations. As of next issue, you will once more see the double-column format. Even I have trouble scanning the text with this format. I can well imagine anyone with any type of vision problem would be all the more put off by it. At least it was tried. I would have preferred more of a trial run before it was commenced, but we all learn. I have learned to take more editorial control over the way this zine is done, and I have learned the double column format is indeed the better format. sas))





April 4, 1987

Harry Andruschak
P. O. Box 1422
Arcadia, CA 91006

I received Tightbeam a few days ago, but have only just got around to answering it. I have been very busy, since I am still unemployed and still actively looking for another job. But the situation is bad. I am over the age of 40, and face discrimination. And the whole aerospace industry is still in a state of collapse after the Challenger disaster.

So now what? Money is tight, and unemployment insurance payments end in June. In some respects I am both over-qualified and obsolete. I am very good at what I can do, which is maintain JPL's computer systems used to support planetary exploration. But right now, there is no planetary exploration, with the exception of Voyage Two, still outwardbound to encounter Neptune in August, 1989.

But Galileo, Ulysses, Magellan, and Mars Observer are all stuck on the ground, with no way to launch them until, or IF the shuttle gets back into operation. The earliest possible launch dates are sometime in 1989, but a slip to 1990, 1991, 1992, etc, etc, etc, is quite likely.

In the meantime, I and all the others who worked at JPL must find some sort of work, somewhere, with the current unemployment rate at 1 out of 15.

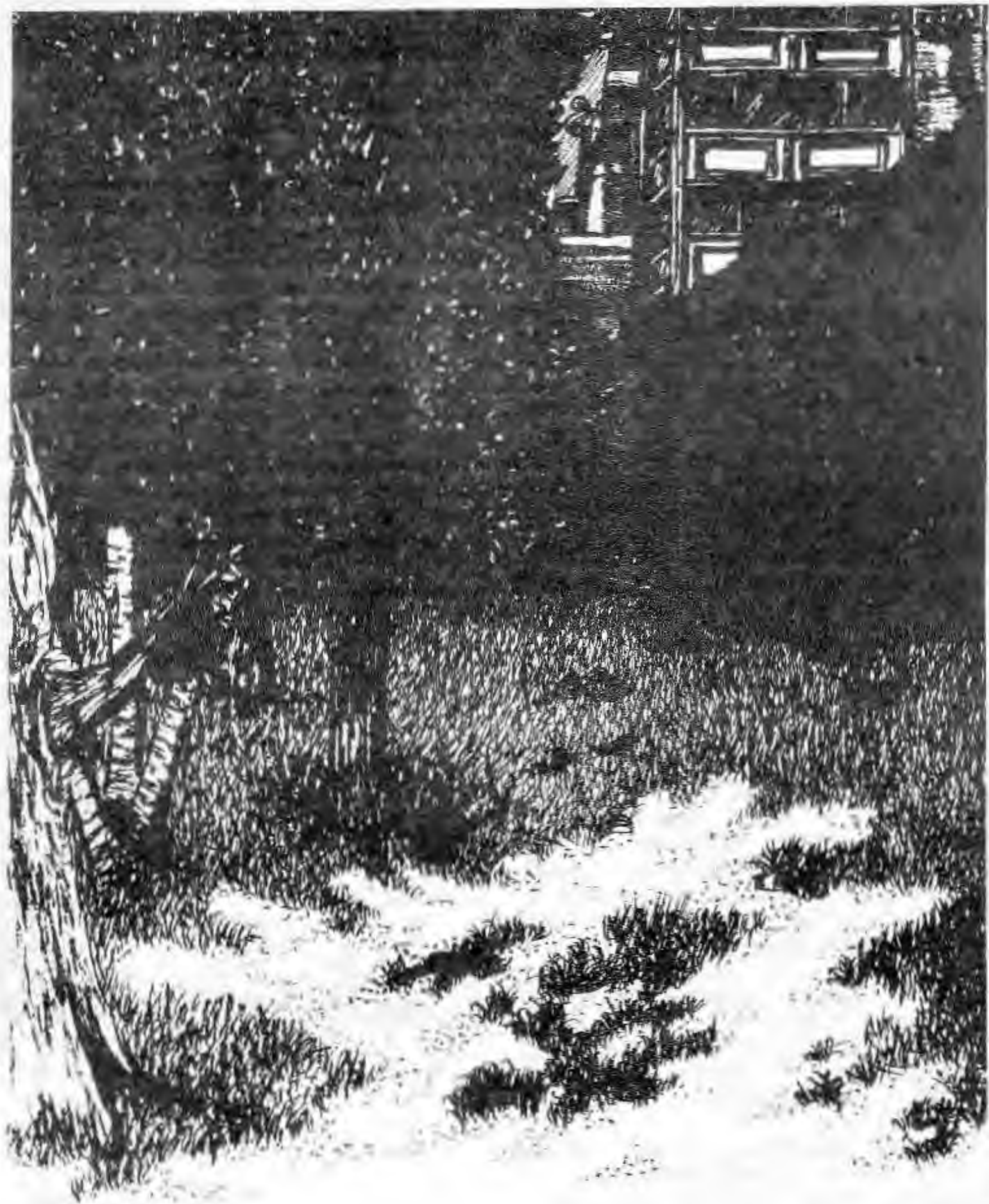
However, I do not see NASA recovering fast or well. NASA has this huge problem, in that it cannot admit that the shuttle is a total failure. Instead of facing up to the truth, and admitting failure, and going ahead with a replacement, NASA is essentially trying to rehabilitate the shuttle. Too bad, it won't work. Fundamentally flawed engineering and concepts cannot be saved by throwing money at it.

I guess it is similar to the nuclear power industry. They, too, cannot admit that they made a fundamental mistake in going ahead with the light-water reactors as the mainstay of the US Nuclear Power Complex. Since Three Mile Island didn't get the message across, I guess we will have to wait for the inevitable meltdown. Let us just hope that the inevitable meltdown is in France or somewhere else. (Chernobyl is a special case, caused by gross operator error. You can make reactors fool-proof, but not idiot proof.)

I guess I am a little sour in mood. I seemed to have wasted thirteen years at JPL and now have nothing to show for it. No job, no pension, and no hope for the future.

Oh well, there is still fandom, and science fiction, and conventions, and LASFS meetings. And who knows? Maybe I can find a janitor's job somewhere around here.

((Andy is the person who got me involved with LASFAPA and from there I found fandom of the SF kind in general. I will always remember your sending me that sample copy of LASFAPA and it is something which I thank you for having done. I do hope you are able to find SOMETHING jobwise that half-way interests you! sas))



March 30, 1983

Theresa D. Buffaloe
Rt. 3, Box 632
Bay Minette, AL 36507

Having shipped the last couple of Tightbeams, it's time for me to LoC again. ***I just came back from Magnus Opus Con - I so excuse me if I'm a tad incoherent ('course, I tend to be incoherent anyway, but I do like to have an excuse once in a while).

Sally: Oh, it's quite possible to be poor and still write. I'm well acquainted with poverty. Excellent example you brought up - The Beans of Egypt, Maine. *** I was speaking of humans as a species, not of individuals when we said we were omnivorous. However, all life, even plants, live on death. Without the nutrients from the decomposition of dead materials, even the simplest plants would die. I'm more than a little carnivorous myself and don't feel too much guilt about it. (Unless I get to really thinking.) But then, it bothers me when I think of destroying even plant life to live. As Spock once said (paraphrased) "Even vegetarians kill to live." Hey, plants have feelings, too. It is the way of the universe. I'd weep and feel awful, but I like living too much. Ye gods! How depressing! *** By the way, I do believe I like the way you put your comments at the end of the letters best of all - excellent idea.

William Wilson Goodson, Jr.: I've been quite interested by the thought of a female Doctor lately. In fact, I'm trying to find out the address of the casting department of the BBC. I have a suggestion for them. Anyone got it? *** The new Doctor - the Doctor actually does change sex as a bit of revenge from the Black Guardian. As far as I know, no Time Lord has changed gender. *** What do you think of the new Doctor, Sylvester McCoy? He is a different type - ought to be interesting. *** Once you listen to Anthony Ainley, Tom Baker's regeneration takes on a whole new meaning. *** I'm finally getting the Davison episodes. Interesting.

Joyce Lee: The people who cut down SE/E invariably know next to nothing about it.

Mikel Norwitz: Miss! Vice has gone down hill a lot this season - Boring! It'd be better if they'd just play the music and let us look at Don Johnson and Edward James Olmos - Oh, come to think of it, that's pretty much what they've done lately!



Michael Feralta: Who's James Burke, you ask. You got a week or two for an explanation, love? Well, briefly, he's an author and correspondent for the BBC who espouses the philosophy that everything is subject to individual interpretation — everything exists because you personally think it does. In short, it's all in your head! Reality is a figment of your imagination! Most recently he did a series (PBS) called *The Day the Universe Changed*. Fascinating stuff.

Kate Cochrane and Rose Secrest: Try being named Buffalo. I don't think anyone likes their name all the time. Note: only people with a death wish have ever called me Buffy!

Patricia A. Williams: Thanks. My life has been negative enough without my adding to it. Negativity is so .. un-fun. *** My problem with men is attracting the very ones I don't want. — Once in a while I do luck out and get a decent one, though. Just don't give up. My luck has improved lately. Oh, and try not to let three or four of your admirers show up at the same place at the same time. Can get a bit sticky!

Jean Lamb: Oh I agree! With almost everything you've said. *** The robin monster ate the Tolkien RR (just before it completed its round! SOB!) and I had to restart the bloody thing. Gops, sorry, forgot that was a not-nice word in Britian. Oh well, it's time I learned to curse. *** David Lee Roth is cute in anything, or practically nothing, as far as that goes! Growl! *** My problem with writing jags is that I do nothing else when I get on one! It is an incredible high, though *** Sorry, *As The World Turns* is my soap. I don't do prime time soaps at all.

Priscilla Johnson: I wish my characters would let me do whatever I wanted to with them. They fight back! Little devils develop minds of their own! *** Funny, whenever I'm writing and have to describe a person of African, Oriental, European, or any other descent, I describe their skin tones, be it pale copper, safe ole, yellowed ivory, bitter-sweet chocolate, or lavenderish alabaster. I guess I always was ahead of my time.

Laurence Grey: I promise you that I don't buy a book because it has a naked woman on the cover! In fact it's one thing that will cause me to by-pass that book for something else. If there's an equally naked man on the cover, that's a different kettle of tribbles altogether! I'm in favor of

equal opportunity nudity! *** Hmmm, one should be intelligently promiscuous, I reckon. *** Ah, but I do answer myself and occasionally interrupt myself. Think I have a multiple personality disorder. Ah well, at least I'm never lonely! And, like the Doctor, I always talk to the most intelligent person in the room! Ha. Ha. *** Another cat? No, thank you. My last just got killed. You met me at World Con and you remember me? I may be in trouble again.

Rose Secrest: You like my letter best? Why? (My paranoia is surfacing again.)

Emily Alward: What with "Holy Wars" going on, the moral majority types ought to be kept busy enough to leave the rest of us alone. I can't help it — I think the whole situation is hilarious *** Goodness! I'm only 27 (almost) and I freely admit that I like looking at cute males! MOC² was full of cute guys. Melissa Holt and I had a great time wandering about just observing (and commenting). Ah, perfection, where ever you are, we remember you fondly.

General: Well, I managed to keep this down to a manageable size. I didn't mean for the last one to ramble quite the way it did. I can talk a lot. — We now interrupt this loc for a commercial message: Anyone interested in joining a Blake's 7 Round Robin, contact me! I will even welcome those misguided souls who think Blake was smarter than Avon! Wanna argue with me about it? Write! Join! Have fun! We now return you to your regularly scheduled loc — Well, now that I've alienated all the Blake fan, I'd best shut up before I get myself in any more trouble! Attribute it to having had thirteen hours of sleep out of the past seventy-five hours. Sleep deprivation produces some odd effects. But the adrenalin is finally wearing off! Good night all! Peace and Prosperity! ((There are folks who are a step more advanced than are vegetarians. Those folks only eat seeds and things that fall naturally from a plant and not the plant itself. Apples, nuts, things like that is what their diet consists of. That would be my ultimate goal, but vegetarianism is a good compromise. Too, a good porportion of the world's population is vegetarian. Just look at all the people who follow this practice in India! ** Is it any less sexist for a woman to lust after only a male body and not consider the person inside of that body than it is for a male to do the same with a female? I personally don't think so. We are all people and need to look at

others with this in mind and not to consider
them merely an object. (as))

March 30, 1987

Marie Evans
800 Pierce
Maumee, OH 43537

I wanna talk about music for a while:

Anyone out there heard Peter Gabriel's
fabulous disc yet? .. very fine!

Laurie Anderson and Stewart Copeland even
gave him a hand on some of the pieces.
(Stewart Copeland is the drummer for The
Police — when they're together.) I love:
Mercy Street, In Your Eyes, Red Rain — Oh,
shit, it's all good!

I haven't heard a voice that's impressed
me like Gabriel's since Robert Plant was big
.. and I like Gabriel's a lot better. It's
a thick voice — rich, powerful .. and
depending on what he's singing —
passionate!

Jean Lamb: Yeah — I love music. Gonna
see U2 up at the Pontiac Silver Dome in
about four weeks .. looking forward to
that!

I painted this quarter! (oils). That's
why this letter's so late .. My first work
play with COLOR. I revelled in it! My
final painting was a 3 x 4 foot (preprimed
canvas is a BITCH to stretch!) canvas — a
very lively still life! I practically ran a
marathon finishing it — I "step" back to
look at my work as I progress .. splash at
the canvas (1"-3" wide housepainting brushes
for the rough work), run back 50 yards —
survey balance of color, composition, ...
movement! I abused this particular canvas
with my palette knife and tags dipped in
turp. I expend tremendous amounts of energy
when I draw or paint — My instructor thinks
I need valium — actually, she'd like to tap
into my supply. Linda's a terrific teacher!
(I also had her for Drawing III.) She
bounces back and forth between NYC and
Toledo several times a year, and meets a lot
of famous people on her trips though the art
centers of the world. She's a friend to
Philip Glass! Come to think of it, the
other painting instructor (John Bots) lives
"just down the road" from George Lucas (in
Marin County), six months of the year ..

Hey, Jean! That drawing "Burn" I was on
lasted two solid years. If I stopped
drawing for more than three days in a row
(only when I was so sick that I couldn't get

out of bed — KARE), I'd have terrible
nightmares. But I felt so good when I was
drawing that I didn't want to think about
the absurdity of the situation: I've worked
through a lot of my anger (that's why I was
drawing so much) and feel happy and
contented now .. but my passionate nature
compels me to express myself, so I continue
to work.

Thanks, Patricia Williams, for your words
on flight! (My drawings) Much appreciated!

Priscilla Johnson: Yes, I understand
what you're saying about warm/cool art. I
thought of Jackson Pollock's wild, hot
paintings and Mondrian's beautiful
"squares"! I love all of it!

The obliquus externus abdominus? .. Yes,
I put it in all of my figure drawings —
NOW; but all of the drawings you'll see in
TB or INFF were done when I was just a
beginner — before I ever had any anatomy.
My figures in these drawings will be more
"symbolic" than real. I used myself (very
loosely) as a model, and I'm slender (5'6",
112 lb). I also work out twice a week on
Nautilus machines, so I'm very firm. I
don't have a very noticeable external
oblique. (For anyone who cares to know: The
external oblique is a sheath muscle that
inserts into the frontal 2/3 of the iliac
crest, and originates from the 5th to 12th
ribs under the arm. In other words — it
holds — in conjunction with sublayered
muscles — your side in — between your
pelvic crest and rib cage!) I also tended
to elongate my figures (too much space
between rib cage and the crest of the ilium,
etc.) a little. Have you had any anatomy,
Priscilla? Sounds like it!

Laurence Gray: Ya got me, there! (You
asked how does a composer write about that
which he's familiar?) I dunno! I
particularly admire musicians, because your
"medium" is much more abstract than mine! I
can see my visions come to life! Your
"visions" are born on the air.

Ah! But some music is warm, and some is
cool; some thick with texture, some more
linear .. and some fairly flies in huge
whorls around me as I listen! I can sink
into stuff like that.

Music — I love it as much as my ART!

Do you ever listen to a syndicated
program called Music from the Hearts of
Space? (It's produced in California, and
airs on Saturdays after midnight, I think.)
Are you familiar with Andreas Vollenweider?
I have a recording given to me by a friend
who plays (double bass?) in the Toledo



Philharmonic Orchestra ... he puts (Vollenweider) like pick-ups on every single string of his harp!

You're a composer! What kind of ground are you breaking? I mean, are you pretty progressive? How does music come to you?

I was told to learn the "BULES" first, too, I love to draw very loosely ... some of my teachers encourage it — others tell me I need to harness it, tighten up, polish my skills. They're all right, I don't like being controlled — it shows in my work. (Not so much in my drawings in TB — they are relatively tight.)

Hey Erin: Your reaction to my drawing gives me reason to believe that you've felt what that woman is feeling as she clears that wall; The thrill of flight! Do you ride? (Mrses?) English? I like bareback best!

King's early work was awful (Stephen King). It was terribly depressing (THE LONG WALK, etc.). THE RAFT was so scary that I couldn't get out of bed that night for fear that slimy "circle" would slip out from under the bed and suck me up! BLEH! Try THINNER. It's funny in parts — lighter. His last work (IT) was fun, and was much

more optimistic than his old work — he's mellowed a lot.

EVERYONE: Anyone out there like Dean S. Koontz (Phantoms, Whispers, etc.) or F. Paul Wilson (The Keep, etc.)?

Mikel Norwitz: Thank you! (wild, frenetic line drawings — I liked that.)
Underground music: How do you define it? As far back as '69, I was listening to underground stations .. dunno how I managed to find 'em back then. I get a good one (after midnight) on the lower end of the FM band (from Montreal) lately. Lessee .. tonight I've heard some Hunting Lodge (ick), "Celebrate" by Simple Minds (nice! — '82), Commodity Fetish (excellent), Portion Control (Excellent), Circle Jerks (didn't like) ... I like some of this stuff a lot!

Well, I gotta go run a couple of miles .. I'm an insulin-dependent diabetic (since age 11) and I ate too much crap tonight — gotta burn some off!

((When you mentioned you were using "house paint brushes", I could only think of Bill Alexander brushes. Any tool that does the job is where it's at! Good to hear from you again! sas))



April 1, 1987

Allan Beatty
P. O. Box 1906
Amar, LA 70010

No time for a proper LoC on Tightbeam 148, but I did want to say how much I appreciated Gail Cornley's review of Aliens.

"When you've seen one gun, you've seen them all." Indeed!

((Yes, that was a good review. There was a lot of work put into it and it contains a lot of very interesting discussion. sas))

April 5, 1987

Roy Tackett
915 Green Valley Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107

I have been thinking ever since I reactivated my membership a few months ago that I really should join in the merry discussions in Tightbeam. The problem is that it has been such a long time that I have trouble shifting into this particular mode again. The little gray cells are red with rust. Having read through two or three issues of TB, I find myself still wavering

with uncertainty. A lot of what is being discussed is of no particular interest to me and I hesitate on the rest for fear that an expression of opinion might fill my yard with hordes of god-fearing Neffers all praying for me. That would, of course, be hard on the tender shoots of grass just turning green as winter mure of less stumbles into spring. I was moved, though, by Sally's report of the great January storm at Cape Cod. We also had a huge snow storm in January. The ground was almost covered throughout the area and in some places the drifts were almost 1.5 inches deep.

Sally told me that she saw TB as a forum where the members could express their views on life, death, and the Universe. That doesn't seem too difficult. Life's a bitch. Then you die. The Universe doesn't care.

Kate Cochran says that her typing ability has difficulty in keeping up with her thoughts. I have the opposite problem. My penmanship has deteriorated so much that if I try to keep up by handwriting it all becomes completely illegible. I have to use a typewriter in order to make any sense out of what I am writing.

Like Janet Ellicott I prefer small, low-budget conventions. They are much more

relaxed and more fun and one gets a real chance to interact with the other attendees. I gave up on worldcons some years back. Too huge, too much going on and far too many people.

Yes, Sally, Harlan Ellison was the author of "Soldier" and that was the basis for his suit against the producers of "The Terminator." Which is why he gets the credit line on the movie.

And I would have to agree that the current administration has a very poor record on protecting civil liberties. The rights of the individual are of no importance to the Reagan administration and seem to be something of an annoyance to it: this so-called war on drugs is just one manifestation of the attack on civil liberties.

Laurence Gray: The Adventures of Fafhrd and The Gray Mouser may not be Leiber's best work, but they are far superior to any other sword and sorcery tales. The pair are no better than they should be, as fallible as any of us and, more often than not, their schemes go awry. Most enjoyable stories.

Billy Alward: The book bannings in Tennessee and Alabama are disturbing on several levels; not only do we see censorship of material that a certain group finds objectionable for assorted reasons, but we also have judges who seem to be actively promoting the establishment of a theocracy. If this goes on...

And I did it. Managed to get a few lines written for TF.

((Indeed, and most welcome lines they are. The only way to get a discussion going that you find interesting is to start it. Most likely, if you find something interesting, others will, too. One of the problems I find with the current lack of concern over the civil liberties of the public is that many of today's younger people don't know what liberties are being taken from them and may allow such a thing to happen because they have known none else. People have got to start to stand up and say they will not take it. Until that happens, the situation will only get worse. sas))

April 5, 1987

Mikel Norwitz
1010 North 48th Street, #2052
Phoenix, Arizona 85008

I am currently blogging my way through Thomas Pynchon's Gravity's Rainbow, which is

not as funny as V, but is a lot more linear in its story telling. Down 1, 2, 3, comes up for air 2, 3, down 1, 2, 3.

Kate Cochran: I'm in a situation of having a name that is far too common. I've had to get used to looking over my shoulder when I hear my name called in crowds and having it be meant for someone else. That's why I try to at least spell it differently, though I haven't reached the point of having to change it yet.//I'm sorry, but my favorite t-shirt is now and probably will forever be, "Eat the Rich."

Patricia Williams: I personally really don't care whether my fellow fans bathe all year or not. Of course, if they don't, I feel absolutely no obligation to get within twenty feet of them, but that's their choice, too. It's sort of like the sociobiologist view on schizophrenia. Maybe these people don't bathe because they've fit in so badly all their lives anyway that now they don't WANT to fit in, they prefer to alienate themselves and give other people as many reasons to keep them alienated as possible. I think that's the case with most self-conscious "nerds." It certainly was the case for me when I was in high school.//I'm a Jew, um, hereditarily, though not necessarily religiously. Which I sometimes feel sort of guilty about, especially when I think about kids. I mean, my parents aren't religious, and my only exposure to Judaism is through my grandparents. So my children aren't even going to have that, unless I marry a Jewish woman, and I've never dated one in my life. I think it would be hypocritical of me to pretend to believe in a religion which I actually don't just for my children's sake, but it would be nice if they were raised around people who have some reverence for the traditions which their ancestors followed. More reverence than I do, anyway. Otherwise, how will they be able to reject it and find their own way?

Jean Lamb: You underestimate yourself. I'm 5'2" and weight 115 lbs, and I've gone slugging plenty of times, and come through just fine. I have trouble with rap music though. For some reason it just doesn't strike me as "musical" (granted that a lot of people would say that about what I listen to), and I don't even like to dance to it.//Night of Power put me off because of the cover (Spider told me at a con that he hated it, but it was one of the publisher's best sellers in the sci-fi market), but what you said makes it sound sort of intriguing.

I just went to a used book store and bought a bunch of novels to read in-between chapters of Gravity's Rainbow though, so it'll be a while before I go book buying again. (In case anyone's interested, they were: The Gallery by John Horne Burns, Compass Rose by Ursula K. LeGuin, Agent of Chaos by Norman Spinrad, and Dog Soldiers and Hell of Mirrors by Robert Stone).

Priscilla Johnson: I've never written fan-fiction in the typical sense, because I've always felt that it would be competing with the originals, and I didn't want to do that. I have, however, lifted certain characters that I really liked out of the other people's universes and plunked them in the middle of mine, because they were so entertaining that I wanted to have fun with them, too. For example, I used to really like Hawkeye Pierce from M.A.S.H. so I would create a character named Hawkeye Pierce; he wouldn't be a doctor, wouldn't be nearly old enough to have been in the Korean War, but he would have the same appearance and speech patterns as the character on the television show. Now, instead, I base characters in my fiction on people that I really know.//Am I the only person in the universe who LIKES fruit cakes? I never thought it was an issue until that Keiffer monologue.

Andrew Nagle: Harlan Ellison wrote a script called "Man with a Glass Hand" for some television series or other. I don't think it's been published anywhere in script form, but if you don't have a VCR, I do believe that it is available as a comic book trade paperback, which you should be able to find by calling one of the shops that specializes in those types of things.

Laurence Gray: One of the problems of the way the government is now is that it ALLOWS people to behave like scumbags, by giving corporations special privileges. And I was referring more to philosophical hedonism, not wasteful self indulgence.//If you had trouble with Child of Fortune, you should not read Gold Captain's Tale, as the language there is even more difficult. Actually though Spinrad's writing doesn't bother me; I only speak English (and sometimes that not very well), but I can usually get by context what he's trying to say.

Emily Alward: I've never enjoyed anything that I've been required to read for school; if both my parents weren't readers, I might never have known what a joy it is. I know several people who were basically

taught to HATE reading in school. More revealing is the interview with an 8th grader I heard on the radio. She said that she didn't like to read because the people in books weren't like real people. It turned out what she had been presented in her textbook was Mark Twain, hopelessly bowdlerized by some editor to remove any controversial language. No wonder she hated it!//Another reason the Romans didn't much care for Christians is because the movement started becoming really big around the same time as the Empire was starting to crumble, so they were viewed as just another group that was threatening political stability--given that premise, I think the Romans may have been justified in trying to prevent the spread of a radical religious element in their midst. To a degree: they were always horribly cruel to prisoners, which is the one thing left out of many world histories which glorify the Pax Romana.//As I mentioned before to the seemingly gaffed De Ghysel, I've always found both Norman Spinrad's and Spider Robinson's fiction to be tremendously sexy, though Robinson is more dependably feminist. Check out his "High Infidelity" in Melancholy elephants, which is a great anthology which you should have anyway.//Sociobiologists would have no trouble with a woman's looking for a physically attractive man. They explain it



by saying that the woman FINDS him attractive because she thinks he'll give her attractive off-spring.//You seem pretty coherent, let's see your name more often in TB, now that you've "broken the Ice."

Cat Mintz: I wanted to withhold comment until I had actually seen some of what you are proposing re: format changes, but now that I have seen it, I frankly prefer the small lines and two-row pages. Your directorial was extremely difficult to read, and I frankly found the full-page illustrations to be a distraction. One of the advantages of the current system is that you can print art by non-artists (like me), who would be way too intimidated by a full page. And I definitely oppose clip art, as in the last TB. Let's keep art in Neffer lines by Neffers (or something like that)!!!

((Clip art. It is something I see as being what people use so they don't have to pay an artist. Scab art is another term I have for the material. I read in a video magazine that three episodes of Outer Limits (of which series comprised such segments as "Demon with a Glass Hand" would be available in March. Does anyone know what episodes?? sas))

Eileen roy
3619 Fletcher Drive #B
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Hif Two letters is one letterzine, how ostentatious of me.

Garth: I would say that the early Church Fathers were misogynists because they were, by and large, Jewish patriarchs to begin with, and any culture which has males daily thank God they were not born female is not a real natural for feminism.

Patricia: both India and China are very interested in satellite technology and what it can do for their people, but let's face it, neither country right now has the technological, social or monetary resources to even begin to think about shooting large proportions of their population out into L5 havitats. (In fact, I don't think India even has the resources to shoot them, period. Those bullets cost, you know.) If they could, I think both would -- both countries are well aware of the problem of overpopulation. Oh, yes, prehistoric people did know of ways to prevent conception. They wre called 'condoms'. Quite ancient ones have been found, made of animal gut.

Nola and Rose: White ghetto called Orange County? Orange County has the most



© 1987 by Eileen Roy and Garth. This drawing is their work as advertising and illustration for the TB. It is a gift designed to complement them for the TB with the TB. It is a gift designed to complement them for the TB with the TB.

poverty of any county in California. It has large and largely ignored concentrations of Asian, Latino, and black poor. PBS did a special on it.

Laurence, your attitude (which I agree with) reminds me of the old adage that all those who believe in slavery should be allowed — nay, forced! — to participate in it — as the slaves.

There have been a lot of nuclear accidents over the world, with very few of them getting as much publicity as Three Mile Island and Chernobyl. What about the melt-down in Wyoming that killed three people? The one in Brazil? And there seem to have been couple of big ones in Russia, years ago, that we only know about by rumour and hear-say.

Emily, I agree, the Romans were very tolerant of differing religions and cultures, which was probably why they succeeded so well in knitting half the known world into one loose empire. They seemed to have objected to Christianity because the early Christians (and later ones, for that matter) did not recognize any one else's religion or society as valid. Who said that the two laws of civilization are: 1) Everyone outside of us is a heretic and 2) We tolerate heretics here.

Am I totally off the wall in suspecting that lowered birth rates in developed countries, decreasing marriage rates among educated women and AIDS are all first-round efforts by Gaia to cut down our population before we overload the planet we're living on? If not, we'll know in about five to ten years because things will get worse — much worse. Looks like fun —

Call: Your review of *Aliens* was a crack-up. Hurt, more! I would love to see your psycho-analytic analysis of *Trek IV*. What do the whales mean? Tee-hee.

Onward into spring.

(I find your mention of Gaia most interesting. Is there really a Gaia Society? I remember once upon a time there was an English film that used the society as a basis of the film and I have wondered if such an organization really existed? sns))

April 5, 1987

Ingrid Meack
30 West Edsall Blvd.
Psilissdes Park, NJ 07650

Finally, my second LoC for Tightbeas, as I have comments to make on issues 147 and



Roman Soldier

148. Here goes:

Katharine Duncan: I am also very disappointed with Marion Zimmer Bradley's attack on role playing games. I'm really surprised that she would over react that way, and that's what I think she did. I am one of these people who do play role playing games.

Tom Sadler: I don't think that atheists do celebrate Christmas and Easter. Religionwise I consider myself a pagan. I think that *Star Trek IV* made the best *Trek* movie.

William Wilson Goodson, Jr.: Tom definitely are a Whovian. (As, you, I think it would be very interesting to have the next Doctor be a female. I'm all for it. You're also right about the Doctor getting very defensive when wrong — especially the Tom Baker Doctor and Collie Baker Doctor.

Max Garrone: You're right. There are a lot of missing Hartnell/Troughton episodes. They had only five Troughton episodes to show. But at least *War Games* survived and that's either 11 or 12 parts.

Laurence Gray: What were the things that were erroneous in *Amadeus*? Outside of the title itself? I think that the movie *Amadeus* should have been called *Salieri*, as it did center mostly on him. Whereas, the original Broadway play really was *Amadeus*! (I saw it while Mark Hamill and David Birney were in it, and they were both fantas etc.)

Priscilla Johnson: I'm glad to find someone else who likes Peter Davison's

Doctor. I also do like the way he dresses. Colin Baker's Doctor did wear light colors, too, though.

Emily Alward: I also celebrate Christmas as midwinter. Midwinter and midsummer are also pagan holidays. And, I'm all pagan.

Did you ever read The Quest for Saint Gamber? What did you think of it?

Oh, to any who may be interested, I've learned that the next book of The Belgariad is out. I believe the title my friend told me, was Guardians of the West. I can't wait to get it.

That's it for now.

((Role playing: Is not day dreaming also a form of role playing, as is avid reading and writing for that matter. When you write a character, you play the role of that persona. There are many types of role playing. So could not MZB be said to role play in this matter? sas))

April 9, 1987

Dave Gorecki
9129 W. 167th Street
Orland Hills, IL 60477

Garth Spencer: Your image of people literally stuck with an image (e.g. Carl Sagan as Public Crusader) and forcing themselves to fit into a role is dead on. Stop and think: have you ever seen anyone in public office, or in the public eye, actually come out and say: "Gee, now that I take closer look at the fact, I see I was dead wrong, and I'm going to reverse my position." Anybody not in the public eye can change his mind with relative ease...but, by God, it seems once you've committed yourself to print or in a comment to the press, you're locked in to your statement. Reagan's non-apology on the contra scandal is a perfect example of how to try waffling as a cover-up when you're found in the wrong.

I'm always amazed by people who consider fandom as a way to get socialized... somehow the idea of trifans as role models and peers is a frightening one. Unless you believe in the principle of learning from other's mistakes.

We'll end the series of jury-rigged, overexpensive space vehicles when private enterprise gets off its duff and stops waiting for NASA to hand over the solar system on a platter. It's happening to some extent in France and elsewhere, but in the U.S., NASA's domination has retarded rather than helped the Next Giant Step.

Joy Beeson: The problem of censorship only arises when we get into the confusing concept of public property. If the Nazis were to hire a private hall and spout their atrocious nonsense, the proper response would be to ignore the proceedings. But when they march in the streets of Skokie, or seek to lecture in a public school auditorium, it's possible to make the case that because they are part of the public, they have some rights. But as you said, you're not required to pay for distributing someone else's opinions. Now, proceeding from this..Sally, whether you realize it or not, you don't have to worry about what's "left out." Anyone who disagrees with what's said in TB has the freedom to vote with his dollars and drop out. I appreciate your attempts in seeing that TB presents a "balanced" view..but are you honestly saying that if you received a letter that, for example, forwards the view that some Jews practice ritual child murder, you'd feel obligated to include it? I hope not. For a long time, the less-well balanced elements of society have taken refuge in the confusion between sensible discrimination and censorship. The mere presence of an idea in TB is a confirmation that there's something worthwhile about it. As we are, in a sense, born of a literature that values ideas and the rational thought that produces them, I'd hate to see that lost in a welter of nonsense published only because of an ideal of open-mindedness.

((What is "sensible discrimination"? I am sure it could have many different meanings. All ideas do have value, even if in a negative way. You get a chance to see how other people are thinking and what problems need to be addressed and what information may be out in the world that exists in a "slanted" manner. Then, what is truth? If you believe something to be true, to you it is true. If someone says you cannot say what you truly believe, you will resent it. That resentment will build into something much more dangerous than merely voicing an opinion of truth. Ideas left to fester in the darkness mutate into forms that are difficult to combat. Left to open debate, they can be looked at to determine if they are truth or an illusion of truth. Opinions presented in TB are simply that — opinions. None have to agree with your opinions to have them see print. They are yours. This is a club zine and as such should be open to opinions of any member of the club. Many of those opinions may be things with which I vehemently disagree such as an opinion that

We take rape too seriously. That does not mean that I act as God and cease that opinion to be represented in these pages. Each letter is treated in a manner which is individual. I would never say what I would do until a situation has presented itself. However, I do not think anyone should try to act as Big Brother to "protect" others less supposedly able to handle "truths" than are they. I have recently read something which says "objectivity is a cop out" in regards to the methodology of news reporting in this country. How we seek to present extreme ranges of viewpoint without including the mid section. How we have to care passionately to find the truth of truths. To be human, we have to care and that caring involves feelings and emotions.

All is not "rational" within the human condition, nor should it be. We have to be able to tap into our feelings for all sides of the truth to find the reality of it. Ideas should never try to be combated in darkness. The candle of light should always be lighted to help dissipate the shadow of illusion which some contain, but censor, no. That only worsens an already dire situation. The illusion has to see light to be scattered. sas))

April 6, 1987

Lance Opzko
6176 Edsall Road — #73
Alexandria, VA 22304

To one and all: You are hereby cordially invited to join the bid for the 30th Worldcon 1992, DISCON III, Washington D.C.. Send SASE to DISCON III, P. O. Box 2745, College Park, MD 20740-2745 or drop me a line.

To Gail Gornaley: Some thoughts on Aliens. I know a female Captain in the U. S. Army combat engineers. While she was stationed in Honduras, she would go on security patrols, carrying sidearms and mounted on horseback. Short hair is customary for women officers, though she ties her hair back. Women are still banned from direct combat roles, but could conceivably operate long-range weaponry from reserve units. Such weaponry far exceeds the hand-held weapons in Aliens. Combat engineers have a multiple barrage mortar system which can clear mine fields by the acre with one pass.

The guys, who I have seen Aliens with, have admired Vasquez' strength. A girl

friend of a friend is a law enforcement officer, who declines to make frisk searches while not on duty.

Of course, the marines made tactical errors. They were set up for a Blitzkrieg. Move in fast with overwhelming force and move out fast. Step by step trench warfare against a more effective enemy requires a wholly different plan. The marines probably had no experience with such a situation.

On breaching vacuum, Ripley was not outside the ship. At the upper side of the airlock, assuming a cargo hold volume of 1000 feet by 400 feet by 100 feet at 14.7 psi in a ship 4000 feet long, it would take over 30 seconds to drop air pressure to one half atmosphere. Wind velocity would be 156 miles per hour, pushing with a force of 1.25 G's.

More on tactics: The transport ship was close, not in geosynchronous orbit. The crew were not weightless so gravity control was evident. The ship remained in close support, nearby and directly overhead. More evidence of gravity control. The shuttle craft was not aerodynamically designed for orbital speeds. When it was launched it was dropped, it had no orbital velocity to kill.

As it picked up speed, it converted its velocity to horizontal flight at only supersonic speeds. A much simpler design in terms of delta v for a machine to carry fuel for the descent, operations, and ascent without refueling than needed for an orbital spacecraft.

The mother alien rode up to the transport ship on the exterior hull recess of the landing gear. During the surface battle with Ripley, the mother alien had no



minifatures along. She would also have had enough trouble maintaining her grip during the ascent in a Mach 3 airstream. However, when the mother alien dropped from the altlock, assuming 200 Km. altitude and one gee acceleration, she would reach Mach 4.5 after 150 seconds and an altitude of 50 Km. She would then aerobrake for 16 minutes, hitting the surface at 125 mph terminal velocity. SHE LIVES broken and bruised.

E. S. For a tough container to hold an alien, try boron carbide.

((She has to live for an Alien III to take place. The question is how? On the transport ship? Did the explosion on the planet merely give the little creatures a better breeding reaction before? sas))

April 7, 1987

David J. Alway
1101 Egleston
Kalamazoo, MI 49001-3819

Emily Alward: Thanks for the boost. Actually, a high percentage of the modern artists represented in The Catalogue of Centaur Art and Literature and the artists represented in The Centaurs Gatherum Newsletter are women.

And the artists do mostly female centaurs. Perhaps it's because we drooling males pay artists to do female centaurs; perhaps it's because women artists identify with the vigor and sensuousness of the female centaur.

We did run a questionnaire in one of the early CGN's. Of the 25 men and women who answered, 17 liked centaurs because they were nice to look at, giving physical beauty first place; and 14 (not necessarily the same 14) responded that they liked centaurs because they were sensual (having more or different sensations than humans); because they were large, powerful and speedy; or because they were notoriously sexual. A three-way tie for second place.

I do know that, from the post-classical times until the 1930's, male centaurs tended to be depicted more in "fine art" than the females. This became less so as the 1800's waned and through the 1920's. All though it's not clear when the portrayal of female centaurs became dominant, my favorite point is Walt Disney's *Fantasia* (1938-1940). It is easy to check in the film, because male and female centaurs are carefully matched; but there are several female centaurs left over. (These are the black servant girls --

there's a story about them, by the way, but too long to relate here-- and the Nubian zebra centaresses in Bacchus' procession.)

I suppose one could argue that the battle of the Lapithes and Centaurs took an enormous toll on the male centaur population.

But, yes, there are some real stallion-esque hunks out there in the centaur world! At the moment I'd direct you to characters such as Terrie Smith's Dutch and Rainstorm, Donna Barr's Stina Lowhard, and works by Erin Jahr-Strom, among others (hmm--all female artists!). I would definitely love to see many more male centaurs realized by artists, male and female.

Sally A. Syrjala: Thank you for printing the LoC in 147. Only one typo deserves comment -- which is so humorous that I couldn't stop laughing until now: That's Philostrates of Lemnos, not Lemons. (yuk-yuk). By the way, I (and others) have developed a number of non-Med centaur races.

My favorites are the Sleipnirian centaurs of Scandinavia. They have eight legs and they are BIG; hope those fellows don't go berserker in front of you.

General Religious Quarrel: Pappy told me never to argue about religion in polite company. Said it caused too many deaths and dismemberments in something called the Reformation, and then the Counter-Reformation. Whatever that was, seems polite company had swords hidden under cloaks, I guess. But it sounds like so much fun. And besides, we've had several letters in the local Kalamazoo Gazette about the definition of "Secular Humanism." Whatever that is. But if I ignore me Pappy and dive into the two-foot deep pond of religious discussion I would probably break my neck. ((Who said this was "polite company"? Join on in. The water's fine -- very deep. Those Scandinavian centaurs might be the family mascots! I used to like making intentional typos in apa meanderinga. I find it hard to stop! sas))

April 8, 1987

Taras Wolansky
Clay Hill Road
Kerhonkson, NY 12446

This letter addresses the LoCs in the March, 1987 *Lightbeam* (#148).

Garth Spencer: All right, what is the "one unmovable a priori belief" necessary

to the relativistic limit on velocity?

I can't help being nauseated when I hear about South Africa muzzling the press. It's as if the leaders of that country wondered, "In Zimbabwe they're killing ten times as many people as we are, and in Uganda a hundred times. Why, then, are we on the American news every evening and they aren't?" And their high-priced American media consultant responds, "Stop providing this great news action footage!" And it looks as if it is working: there is not as much news about South Africa on TV any more.

It must be some fault in my upbringing, but I count mass murder as a somewhat more serious crime than racial discrimination. By my standards South Africa has got to be at about the middle of the very sleazy pack that is the governments of Sub-Saharan Africa. Economically, it is at or near the top, even if we consider only the economic status of blacks. Politically, South Africa's black majority has no voice in its government -- which makes South Africa exactly the same as every other country in Sub-Saharan Africa!

I find the black-rule-good, white-rule-bad dichotomy to be utterly specious. It's as if Adolf Hitler became the dictator of Israel and we said, "Hey, he's white and they're white. What's the problem?" Which is to say there is no such ethnic group as "black" in Africa. Black people there belong to a vast number of nationalities -- which we persist in calling "tribes" for some reason -- and some of them have hated each other for centuries. The usual pattern is the strongest "tribe" seizes power and persecutes the weaker, sometimes to the extent of genocide.

I guess my fundamental point is that very often we decide some government is a "bad guy" -- quite accurately, in the case of South Africa -- and then immediately conclude that all we need to do is get it out of the way for the "good guys" to take over. After all, we've learned from thousands of TV shows that if you have a "bad guy", then whoever is opposing him must be the "good guy." I think of Jimmy Carter's State Department describing the Ayatollah Khomeini as "another Gandhi". But what if the "bad guy's" opposition is the "worse guy"?

Unfortunately the "worse guy" will always make "good guy" noises, so you can't go by what he says. Unless he says he is a Marxist "good guy": then you know, from all the experience of the 20th century, he is

very, very bad.

Garth makes a very good point about how people's occupations tend to determine their views on "larger" issues of public policy. In fact, this is a good test for all of us to see the extent to which we allow our private interests to bias our judgments. If what is in your interest is in too exact agreement with the interest of the public, you are lying to yourself. One example is lawyers' ethics, which appear to be designed so that they never have to turn down any fee.

Sally Syrjala: Good point. If pollution causes death, polluters should not be safe from the law. The difficulty is that the causative link is purely statistical; e.g. lung cancer deaths in some group go up by 5%. I would suggest in such cases that damages be assessed at 5% of what they would be in the case of simple causation.

In fact, there is one powerful environmental cause of premature death: not smoking factories, but smoking people. In my unceasing effort to fight blandness in the pages of Tighbeam, I suggest this controversial topic for debate: Should all smokers be shot?

I take a moderate view, myself. I believe only people who smoke in public should be shot. In this I am following George Bernard Shaw, who felt that capital punishment should be the only punishment because imprisonment is too inhuman. A malefactor would be allowed to commit crimes with impunity until they reach a certain, weighted quantity and then -- zap! Clearly a public smoker, who chemically assaults hundreds of people every day, has long since used up all his freckles. And consider the economic benefits: the cost of the funerals has got to be orders of magnitude less than the medical services smokers will eventually consume, in a futile effort to stave off the doom they have so richly earned.

Carl F. Cornsley: Good essay on Aliens! I made the natural mistake of viewing a videotape of Alien the night before I saw the sequel, and it underscored the new film's lack of originality, for all that it is good entertainment. I'm disappointed with both films in that they fail to develop the character of Ripley; if anything, the first film did a better job, as she struggled against hysteria. Sadly, the new film added nothing. Oh, you said that already. You're right, the story of the colonists would have made a good movie. As for the notion that "robots might become

victims of bigotry," that's already been done — as Blade Runner.

(As to why people berate South Africa, as Martin Luther King, Jr. said when contemplating America's role in Viet Nam, you must stand up against that which is wrong. By co-operating with an evil system, you give it respectability and credence. You simply have to speak out and stop supporting such systems. To say something is more "evil" than something else does not in any way absolve the "lesser" bad guy. It is still something from which we must separate ourselves. sam)

April 8, 1987

David Bates
355 Kennedy Drive
Putnam, CT 06260

Well, I guess inspite of all best intentions and all best expectations NAPA is now dead. Several of us heard that a new mailing would be out about Christmas or maybe just after the Holidays. Well, January passed, as did February and March as well, and now eight days of April. Since the APA is now more than a year late, I must assume it is defunct. I know that what would have been the final mailing would have had publications by myself, by Su, George Wells and Robert Newson. Maybe others.

I am looking around for some place to write, and a friend from a few years ago,

Mr. Lynn Hickman, P. O. Box 6, Wauseon, Ohio 43367 is launching a pulp oriented APA. Dues are \$5 per year, and minimum activity is some four pages. Mailings will be bimonthly, the first mailing to be in June or July. Material may be rather broad in its scope. If there is any doubt, then write to Lynn and just simply ask what he needs. I know in the past he published The Pulp Era for a long time, and was a valued member of PHAPA (Pulp Heroes Amateur Press Association), which is now defunct.

On another subject, I might mention that collectors of old films and also of old TV shows might do well to write to David Miller, 708 Springbrook, Allen, Texas 75002 for a copy of his catalog. His prices are very generous, and a friend of ours, speaks highly of his quality. I have sent off for a couple of films, but they have not come in as yet. Catalogs clearly state to allow four weeks for delivery.

There is a great deal of interest in the old serials. I have not had the best of luck in getting prints yet, but do have a fine print of Sailing Jack. The other serials I have are all in some flawed prints, although still kind of fun to watch.

I have much better luck with old B Westerns, and even some old SF and monster films. Better prints all the way around. And my daughters and my wife sit with me and watch old films eagerly. My daughter, Sarah, has the greatest of interest in silent films, and in Charlie Chaplin. For several months a week didn't go by without watching our prints of Gold Rush or Tillie's Punctured Romance. And then they discovered W. C. Fields!

Well, anyway, we all sit down to a lot of films. I would say when buying films, make sure you know who you are dealing with. If you deal in commercially made films, such as your local K-Mart's, be careful of the bargain prices — the price may be, but the films may not! You can find bargains, but watch for the time that the film runs. Some have been cut, sometimes drastically. I don't bother buying films that have been "computer colorized." There is a Frank Sinatra film around where his eyes are not blue, and a colorized Randolph Scott film, where his hair is now red. (His hair was silver!)

We get cable here, so have a chance to see a very wide selection of films. We tape Dr. Who or my daughter, Kyrin, wouldn't let me in the house. We all like it. I was sorry to see in a recent issue of the Comic Buyer's Guide, a weekly publication for the



trade and for the fan/collector, where it was announced that Patrick Troughton had died while visiting in Georgia. I am really sorry to read that as he was one of my favorite Dr.s. Other than Peter Cushing, but he was just in the two movie adaptations.

I want to send a special "Thank You" to Catherine Mintz who sent me some valuable information on old radio shows, and where I might locate some that I want to find. Much appreciated.

I said this would be a short letter, and it doesn't seem to be that way. But Sally, you edit a good magazine, and you generate much response. Thanks. ((Thank you. It is the LoCs that generate the response. As to "older" serials, I have found a source for all 79 episodes of Star Trek on an installment plan. The CBS Video Library is offering two episodes of ST every six weeks or so, I am looking forward to building a good quality video tape library of the ST episodes. sas))

April 11, 1987

Michael G. Peralta
400 N. Acacia Avenue #C-26
Fullerton, CA 92631-4011

Good to see this issue of Tightbeam right on time. It looks even better than it usually does. I'm a little rushed for time, so I'll just head right into comments on Tightbeam #148.

COVER: This looks very nice. The wrap around effect is well done. All the rest of the art in this issue is good, too.

EDITORIAL: Winter golf on Cape Cod? I thought it was always cold up there!

Kate Cochran: Glad to hear about how you dealt with your name problem. My case is a little unusual. My father's name is Miguel Cordova Peralta, but all his ID cards say "Mike" and everyone calls him by that name. My name is Michael Cordova Peralta, so I am not quite a "junior" but darn close to one. It was in an attempt to establish my own identity that I decided to ask people to call me "Michael" and not "Mike," although this is difficult to enforce. (Rose now calls me "Piggy" so I avoid the problem completely!)

Janet Kilcott: The biggest problem with a "Star Trek" style computer would, I think, be getting it to understand human speech and to be able to reply in spoken words. This

would seem to require true artificial intelligence, which seems like a tough nut to crack.

Garth Spencer: I hardly think that the limit of the speed of light can be called a "unprovable a priori belief"! When first postulated, it was a hypothesis. Many experiments since have shown it to be about as sure as any scientific fact can be.

Patricia A. Williams: I don't think ancient methods of birth control were as reliable as those used today; nor are those used now as good as those to come in the future. *** It is mere wishful thinking to believe that the children of fans will be the ones to conquer space or to accomplish anything else. The children of fans will be just like anyone else.

Jean Lamb: I LOATHE the "can you do better?" argument in any debate over the quality of an art form. It makes no difference at all whether Rose can write better than MZB (although from what little MZB I've seen I believe she can); what matters is how she judges it as a reader.

Lin Ward: I was in Britain many years ago and it was indeed very nice.

Taras Wolansky: Property as life? Hmmm... a provocative notion.

Priscilla Johnson: I don't suppose that ball of light above your bed might have been a dream - .

Nola Frame: Thanks for pointing out the often neglected discrimination that exists towards the disabled. Good point!

Andrew J. Nagel: I believe that The Terminator has plot elements similar to Ellison's two "Outer Limits" scripts, "Soldier" and "Demon with a Glass Hand."

Steven E. Metzger: Sally: As much as I hate to say anything that might appear to be in support of the current administration, I fail to see how IranGate makes an anti-drug stance hypocritical. It's possible for someone to be sincerely against drug abuse while also being a cheat and fink.

Laurence Gray: Re: the Catholic Church and conception, the official word now is that any in vitro fertilization (the so-called "test tube babies") is also sinful. This is yet another example of religious beliefs getting in the way of something that I (as a secular humanist) think is very good in certain situations.

Rose Secrest: Good to see Geep!

Sally Alward: Excellent comments on social issues. What can I add?

Joy Beeson: What are Wheelmen? What is a Bikeshout?

Reviews: (Rose Secret and Gail F. Gornley) Very thought provoking! Keep up the good work! (The layout by the Art Director for these reviews looked very good, too.)

That's all for now! See you next time!
(The hypocritical stance is on law and order. If you say that you believe that law



is something that should be obeyed in drug testing and the abuse of illegal drugs and then break a law you don't think serves your purpose, you are sending a message that law is fine, as long as it is something with which you agree, but something to be ignored when you don't. If you make your stance on a particular circumstance, you show your feet of clay when you show how underfired the body of the sculpture has been. ** Wheelman I think are those who ride bicycles and BikeAbout a magazine for those who ride bicycles that Joy edits. sas)

April 12, 1987

Joy Beeson
RR2, Box 461
Voorheesville, NY 12186

I've finally got the Bikeabout to the print shop and have time to comment on Tightbeam 148.

Ach, these letters to express one simple idea! Were it not the current head's motto that "them is the folks what needs us the most" I'd resign from the Writers' Exchange in embarrassment.

I find that my letter in TB 148 left the impression that I don't approve of publishing press releases from non-members in clubines. It's the other way around; I not only use material from outsiders, I steal* it. The May, 1987 Bikeabout, which I have just delivered**, will have eighteen pages. Two are the responsibility of the Ride Calendar Editor, and is needed for the

indicia and the address label, and advertisements fill six. Of the remaining nine, I devoted two pages, the center spread, to other clubs. A great deal of this material appeared spontaneously in our post office box and some of it I wrote myself in order to present the important parts of unusable material.

In addition, Team Johnstown's RAAM-sample invitation is restated on the front cover and is the subject of the editorial. A quarter of page 15 exhorts the members to contribute to the American Lung Association in honor of two Wheelmen who will take part in the TransAmerica Hike Trek and a photograph of the two Trekkers will appear on page 1 with a caption calling attention to page 15. One of our regular columnists not only isn't a member of the club, but isn't interested in bicycling. Heaven only knows how our president got him to volunteer.

I haven't counted the League of American Wheelmen, with which MHW is affiliated, as an outsider.

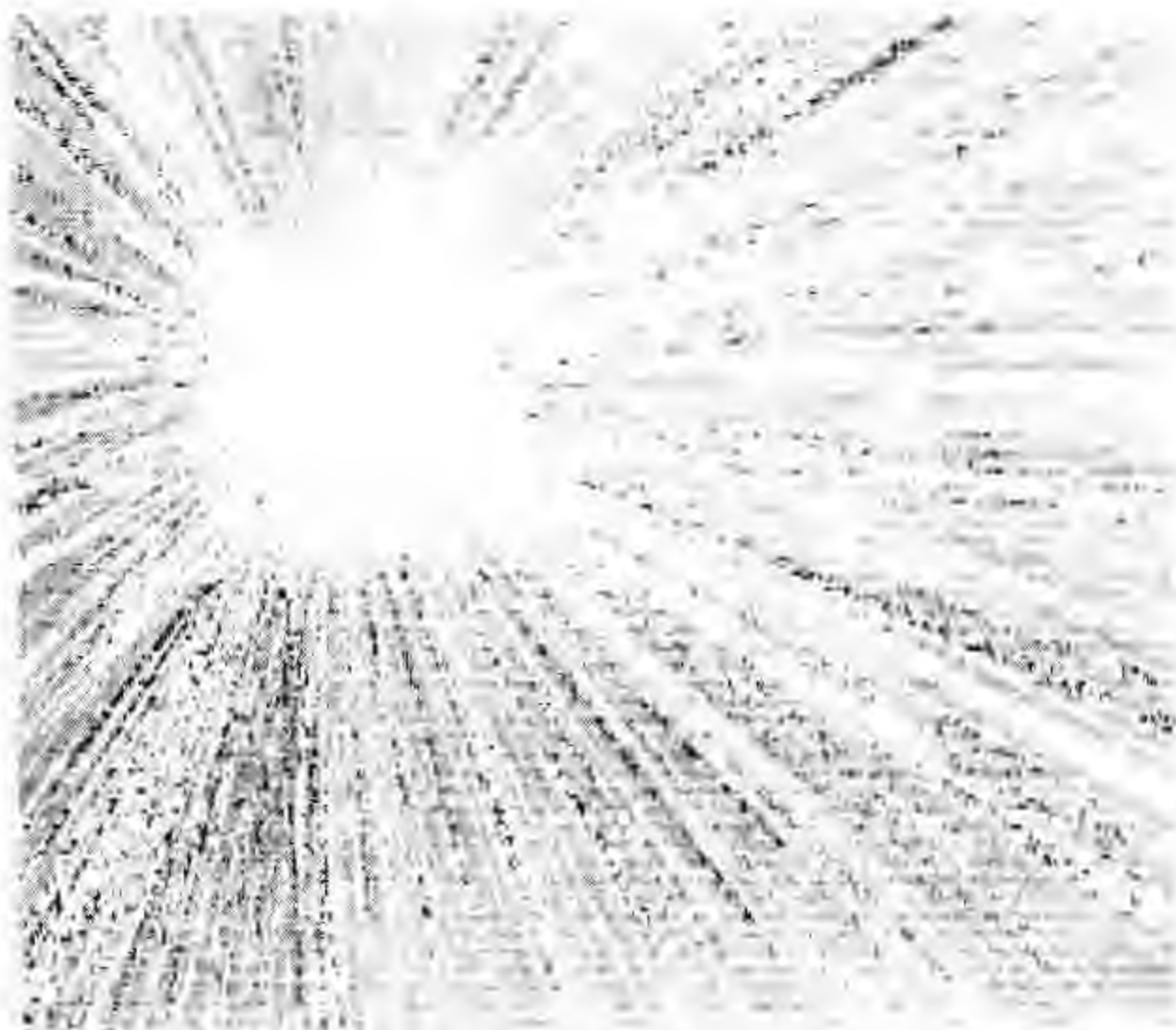
To Sally A. Syrjala: Thank you for explaining the meaning of the dates on N3F publications. I've been meaning to ask for quite a while.

Recently my alumni magazine printed an essay on hunting which was written by a fellow who once lost control of himself and blasted an entire flock of ducks and then grew up thinking that all hunting was like that. This reminded me that you are the only person I know who has a right to object to hunting on moral grounds. If you feel up to starting another fight, I'd like to see an editorial comparing the status of ethical*** hunting with the moral status of teaching an animal to trust you and then whacking it on the head with a sledge hammer.

I myself come from a long line of carnivores. I do believe that no one who is unwilling to whap a rabbit on the back of the head or chop the head off a chicken has a right to eat meat.

A carefully selected club, by the way, is the best way to kill a mammal for food. Since shock waves travel faster than nerve impulses, it literally doesn't know what hit it and you avoid any off-taste that fear or pain might produce.

To Priscilla Johnson: insect eggs are practically invisible and they turn up in the most unexpected places. That's why Mommy taught me to put everything into air tight glass jars. (I don't, but I feel



Black Hole by Lisa Jankovics (ed) 1987

guilty.)

To **Laurence Gray**: I can't recall having read any Lord of the Ring imitations. (Maybe I erased upon input!) Have you read anything by Watt-Evans? If you are only fifty-percent persuaded, try The Cyborg and the Sorcerors.

To **Emily Alward**: Whenever a problem gets complicated, you are asking the wrong question. I think that in the Tennessee Textbook case, the questions we should answer are "Are government-run schools legitimate? Who should we trust to bring up our children in the way that they should go?"

*In this issue, Myer's "Road Etiquette," StClair's discussion of commuting in the rain, and a few fillers.

**Bikeabouts are labeled with the month they are for, not the month in which they are published.

***Hunting in which the hunter makes every effort to kill cleanly, promptly cares for the meat, never fires without knowing

where the missile will go, never injures the herd, never cuts a fence, etc.

((I don't think ethical and hunting are words that go together. Hunting is done for a lot of emotional reasons — showing how "manly" and "self-sufficient" a person is, etc. I, too, come from a long line of carnivores, but that way is not something with which I could stay. Because you were brought up a certain way does not mean you have to stay that way. We have to reach inside and see what is us, and not what others tell us is what we are. sas))

April 13, 1987

Taras Wolansky
Clay Hill Road
Ketchonkson, NY 12446

This letter has all the stuff I forgot to put in the last one. I had a cold last week, as you no doubt guessed from my

unusually complacent attitude.

Emily Alward: Perhaps fundamentalists have good reason to be suspicious of SF and Fantasy. I still find it mildly surprising that some people remain religious after becoming familiar with SFF. You'd think after reading Tolkien they'd recognize the Bible as what it is -- a fantasy epic.

When you started talking about the subconscious motives of sociobiologists, I thought "Ah-ha! I've finally got a real irrational rant and rave after me!" Unfortunately, the discussion that followed was quite lucid and sensible; a terrible disappointment.

The last thing I recall reading about the sociobiology of human sex differences was in Discover magazine. The article pointed out that among all the non-human primates -- and a great many other mammals -- the degree of polygyny can be predicted from the relative size of the male and female of the species. Because of the not very great difference in size between the human male and female, the human animal should have a tendency toward polygyny, but a mild one. This is, in fact, what is found among existing hunter gatherers: only a few, superior hunters have more than one wife.

Female choice is central to all this. don't make the mistake of thinking the male is larger so he can subjugate more females: selection for size comes in competition with other males. And without this selective pressure the females remain smaller, with more fat and less muscle, because that is the configuration best for surviving when there is not enough food.

Very interesting what you say about females using reproductive choice to build alliances and gain status, in the world you're working on. You know, sociobiology does a good job of explaining why men fool around, but what about women? Merely because they don't fool around as much, does that leave nothing to be explained? When men fool around or trade in their wives, it's nearly always in pursuit of youth, i.e., fertility. My hunch is, when women fool around or trade in their husbands, the new "mate" has higher status than the old one. The end result, once again, is younger women paired with successful older men.

I wonder if women don't tend to build up their men in their own minds, to satisfy this innate drive for high status mates. Then, eventually, comes the inevitable disillusionment when she discovers he wasn't a hero after all and, in reaction, thinks of

him as completely worthless.

It's not the dearth of women fans of hard SF, but the dearth of women SF fans that worries me. SF bears a relationship to knowledge and reality that fantasy does not have; indeed we say "science" fiction when what we really mean is knowledge fiction. SF leads one to learn more about the real world, sometimes to the extent of becoming a scientist by profession. Fantasy leads nowhere.

By the way, I believe that the Russian phrase usually translated as science fiction literally translates to "educational fantasy."

Anyway, there is still a gender gap in science fiction and fantasy. And hints of a change: I'm beginning to see space operas written by women and starring women. Now let's see if girls read them.

Laurence Gray: Milton Friedman and other classical liberal economists have for years been pointing out what is wrong with meeting our defense needs with a military draft. If the benefits of defense spread throughout a society, why impose its costs so unequally? Instead, pay people enough to do the work and you will get the people most eager to do it and most easily spared by the rest of the economy. And you will avoid injecting a zone of involuntary servitude into a largely free society.

I remember a panel I saw at Confederation last year, with J. Neil Schulman and Asa Drake, among others. Schulman had written a brilliant and horrifying book entitled The Rainbow Cadenza, which pictures a future world with a severe shortage of women and a law requiring all teenage girls to serve two years as public prostitutes. Drake took great exception to this cogent and libertarian analogy to the military draft, though he had no argument to raise against it.

Which reminds me of one of my Great moments in Television. It was the old Dick Cavett show and William F. Buckley had just finished a lengthy explanation of whatever. Cavett responded: "There's something wrong with what you said, but I don't know what it is." Buckley smiled with incredulous contempt and after a brief silence they went to a commercial.

Interesting story you tell about the Marxist history teacher whose ass was kicked out of the University of Arkansas. Perhaps we might compare him to a creationist biology teacher! I guess the State of Arkansas wants its students to learn history

instead of Marxist historical theology. Come to think of it, I hope they are as fastidious about Biology teachers.

As long as government is in the education business, these kinds of conflicts are inevitable. How a free people that prides itself on freedom of speech and press got snookered into having government dominate education, I don't know. If Marxists paid for Marxist schools and creationists paid for creationist schools, there would be no conflict.

Garth Spencer: I find religious intolerance very interesting. In our society it seems to go by how old a religion is. Thus, in the nineteenth century the Mormons were a crackpot religion, and furiously persecuted. Today they are part of the establishment.

Modern intolerance I found amusingly illustrated when a local New York TV reporter interviewed the North American branch head of the Unification Church. Drawing an analogy with modern-day "deprogrammers", he told the story of how in the middle of the nineteenth century, believing that a young woman was being held captive against her will, a mob of angry townspeople had attacked and burned down a Roman Catholic convent. I was not surprised by the story; I'd heard it before. What amazed me was that the woman reporter refused to believe it! By the way, they were both of Jewish ancestry; which only goes to show once again that anyone who thinks Jews are monolithic anything has his head up his — kazoo!

Additional note about South Africa: Some readers may have found it hard to believe what I said about the economic status of South African blacks compared with the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa. In fact, I found it hard to believe. After all, TV news constantly showed us South African blacks in their shacks and huts — certainly giving the impression of extreme poverty to middle class American eyes — and compared them to the lifestyle of South African whites, but never to other African blacks.

Then I came across this in the March 23rd U. S. News and World Report: "While they are voteless, South African blacks remain Africa's richest, healthiest and best educated."

Which brings up the question of why American blacks are so greatly concerned about South Africa, yet so little about, say Uganda. This question was put to Jesse Jackson on TV's Nightline, but he evaded it.

I think the answer is South Africa is an affront to their pride; and the fact that black living standards are higher there than anywhere else in Africa only makes it a greater affront.

On early Christian distrust of Woman: As the Marine Corps comedies of Moscow and Leningrad continue to unfold, I'm beginning to think they had a point!

((I think all this stress on the blacks of South Africa being better off economically than the blacks in the rest of Africa smacks of racism in and of itself. If you are black or white, you are still South African. You are not Ugandan. Should we compare American blacks with Ugandan blacks to show how well off they are? Should we say American women have much more freedom than women in another country to keep them in their place? That type of argument only serves to continue racism and does nothing to alleviate it and to show that all people are citizens of a particular country and should have their status compared with that of others in THAT country and not confuse the issue with all sorts of snake hands. sas))

April 13, 1987

Rose Secret
400 N. Acacia Avenue #C-26
Fullerton, CA 92631-4011

Garth Spencer: Self-images and beliefs can change though.

Patricia Williams: Yeah! You said, "...Christians are not the whole ball of wax...they just think they are!" Have you read The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction, May, 1987 and July, 1986? I'm going to write a letter of protest to ol' Ed Ferman the vermin!

But...both you and Ron Nyren (who I though had more sense) are elitists. Children of fen aren't guaranteed to be fantastic, and children of fen aren't the only worthy people around. I was not born of fen, so I am living proof! Telling fen to have children so that the quality of humanity can be raised ("The Marching Morons", C. M. Kornbluth) is elitism! Fen can adopt and raise children in their supposedly enlightened manner, like in The Inner Wheel.

Who is Taras Wolansky?

Jean Lamb: Who is Janie Lamb? *
Lumonous Flux so far has not benefited from the revolution she deploras. It kills her

family, her friends, and of course, millions of others. All she has left is her RCHO boyfriend. Now, I haven't figured out the end yet, but she might actually benefit from the RCHO's letting her live, but, then again, she probably won't.

You're right. I don't believe in my ideas enough to take any risks. Why? Because my ideas are nowhere near being established. At my age, I plan to keep an open mind and read Tightbeam!

Hum. A good substitute for politics? How about . . . nothing?

I started asking for Geep! submissions August, 1985. You could have and should have sent it in earlier. However, I can't blame you for this, because two certain editors of two certain clubzines at the time didn't want to publish my intentions. The content of the story had nothing to do with its acceptance, because I didn't even read it. You say fan fiction has places. What made you think Geep! was one? You are obviously unaware of zine lateness and zine management.

The people who don't take their kids to free libraries are the people who don't take their kids to free libraries. College is



free, and if it's not, it should be.

I have no idea what the ideal government would be, but I am intelligent enough to see that democracy has huge faults.

I brought up my examples of being busy and poor to show that they are relative. Don't start a brag chain.

Science fiction fans love to deplore illiteracy, unaware that they are victim to it, too. So, who all of you all said what all about me hating southerners?

I define published as me getting a story in cherished F&SF.

My statements on heterosexuality and homosexuality don't conflict! (And so what if they do?) They're both good! (exclaims the bisexual) Why should one be better?

I happen to know I do write better than Rose (at least what she's written so far; she still has a chance).

Incidentally, with her "psychic sensitivity," you'd think she knows enough to keep out of F&SF.

Homosexuality, believe it or not, is also

portrayed favorably in other more respectable SF (like mine!), but you probably don't read it because it isn't at all like Darkover. Just because she writes about homosexuality doesn't mean she can write well, and Diane Duane is probably yet another who's better off not being published.

Whew! I love being griped at!

Nola Frame: You obviously didn't learn to ignore what other people said about your art. You should like me stand above criticism. And somebody else thinks I was not born in Chattanooga. Harrison is home!

Sally: Thanks for the description of ludicrous cold winters! I always wanted to know what paradise is like.

You're right about possessions. If someone steals a book of mine, I'll buy another. If someone steals my TV, they can have it. If someone steals my cats or any project, they will die! If someone steals my air by smoking, they will die!

Neppers don't read their zines. They ask "How's Geep!?" I grind my two brains together and say, "Read TNFP! Grr!" Advance order Geep! now. Put your name and address, and how many copies you want on a 3 x 5 card.

Taras: You are obviously naive in thinking the US does no wrong.

Laurence Gray: If a person shouldn't be both editor and officer, what do you think of our holy president?

I have been to one convention. I guess you can't read, either.

See earlier definition of Rose getting published.

Who cares if CA doesn't have any water? They don't anyway!

A wonderful professor of UTK said he was a communist. He didn't get kicked out because he was lucky enough to teach in the south. It's horrible, no, impossible to imagine that, especially in the glorious (HA!) US, he would. (I love sarcasm.)

No, I'm not Irish. I was born in Tennessee.

Kick your roommate's butt.

Join the type 35 wpm club. I'm president.

M2B's age is irrelevant.

Well, if you don't like being ordered about, leave the country.

"All right" is spelled "all right."

I interrupt and answer myself all the time.

Rose Secret: I loved your reviews, but the play is proof Sally publishes all!

Has anyone read Francine Prose?

Once you people figure out how to read, you can figure out how to write.

Allyson: When one yells "Nigger lover!" at me, I say "Of course!" People who yell anything fall into the same category. I get yelled at all the time. I must look offensive to some people. If this is your first time, you're lucky! I put up with those assholes and you can, too.

I'm collecting Kitty pictures. Everybody send me some.

You people better quit congratulating me for grabbing a young, fannish flubby. No one congratulated me for grabbing the individual Michael, and no one congratulated him for grabbing me. So, bite it, buddies! ((Janie Lamb served the N3P for many years as secretary-treasurer and did a very good job of it. It seems you and Taras agree on the penalty for smokers! Indeed, I do try to publish most everything that comes in. This is a clubzine. It has to have the contributions of the members within it. LoCs are first consideration. Then, if space permits, everything else gets jumbled in. The more varied, the better! sas))

April 17, 1987

Fatty Paludan
217 Pickardy Lane
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501

I'm intrigued with **Emily Alward's** letter in the most recent Tightbeam. This is my first letter to your publication, and I'm new to a lot of this. I've become active quickly, however.

I've been corresponding with Emily over some of our writing — hers is excellent, by the way — and I find some of her ideas very interesting. I, too, am appalled by the "book burning mentality," and find these people far more frightening than the Communists. Of course, science fiction and fantasy "give people ideas" — that's what it's all about, for heaven's sake! I doubt if I would have attempted to write Fiction if I hadn't been seduced by the underlying science fiction question of "what if...?"

I like Emily's suggestion that we write to textbook publishers, but I'm not sure how, as a grandmother and not a librarian (although I honor librarians as every writer's guardian angels), I go about finding out what's being accepted or

rejected in my grandchildren's school. And I'd like to suggest that we buy some of the excellent science fiction for youngsters to give to the children in our lives. I did that this past Christmas for my twelve-year-old niece when I bought the first three volumes of The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe series, at her request.

I seem to have come late to the discussion of the moral/religious pendulum, and would like to see **Victoria Smith's** comments on the subject. From what I know, Emily is right on with her description of the Romans, who seem to have been above all a pragmatic society.

On the discussion of female subservience: goodness, I shouldn't get started. You don't yet know how I get! I am proud of my Bachelor of Arts degree in Women's Studies, from the University of California at Santa Cruz, and I've been pleased to find society's male bias questioned so effectively in so many stories/series. My first discovery was Joanna Russ' story which I believe is called "When It Changed" (???), but Marion Zimmer Bradley's Darkover stories have a lot also, and of course Elizabeth Lynn, Anne McCaffrey and even Tiptree have a lot of not-so-obvious questioning that I believe may be more effective than obvious proselytizing.



I'm not sure I'd agree on the several different husbands issue, unless — as in Emily's own writing about Cobale, which is worth waiting for — the woman had some control. But perhaps that's just my bias. Having had a bad marriage, I wouldn't want to have to deal with several different men. One was enough!

How are you all defining "hard SF"? Do you mean something like James Hogan's work? I'm definitely female and I love his stuff. I don't however, have much patience with Greg Bear, who is also very technical. Emily has a point: when "hard SF" includes the responses to technology, it's fascinating; when it's only a description of the technology, I get bored quite easily.

As I do with so much erotic material-

That's one of my big objections to pornography: there's so little creativity and fun in it. I suppose it's difficult to think of new things to do sexually, and I'd sometimes rather the autor had used a row of asterisks and let me imagine for myself. Now, when it's well written, it's fine, but to reach a little outside of SF and fantasy, Jean Auel's third Earth's Children book, The Mammoth Hunters went on for pages and pages with explicit descriptions that I didn't find at all interesting. After awhile I learned to recognize the scenes coming up and began skimming for the action. Of course, that's a personal opinion. It's not that I'm against sex: it's just that I don't like to be bored.

I'll have to look for Chant's When Vioha Makes. My own current long work, a Star Trek novel that follows "Star Trek: The Voyage Home" by two years, also has "no violence, no 'action' like chases, natural disasters, etc." It's a psychological, human (and Vulcan) interaction story that I'm having a wonderful time with. If "popular taste does demand violent action" (I'm in trouble! Personally, I don't like it, and that's the other thing I tend to scan over in my reading: long scenes of battles or warriors fighting. I guess it's just not my thing.

As to having or not having children and the issue of contraception, elective celibacy is a realistic choice. For people who are deeply involved with their career and/or their creative work (and I wish those two could always be synonymous), not having to compromise with someone else's needs can be very healthy. This is something we could role model for our teenagers consciously and intentionally, particularly in TV series and films which seem to be where many teenagers get their societal pressures. Emily, you grew up in a different place than I did, obviously, as many of my classmates did get pregnant and did marry right out of high school, some already swelling obviously with their children. I'm not sure about my children's ideas, (they are in their middle twenties), but I do know that my daughter was strongly influenced by a friend who had and kept her baby, and for whom Laurie used to babysit frequently. She learned what it was like to have a wonderful little baby — around all the time.

I see us returning to something awfully close to the Fifties (I was a teenager then, too) and I don't like it at all! The idea that so many young women have that marriage

and children are the be-all and end-all of their existence is simply unhealthy in a society where an estimated 60% of women will be alone by the time they are age 60. Raising our young people to support themselves, both financially and emotionally, and to not need the support of a husband or wife is economically feasible and even wise. Then when that young person chooses to live with/marry someone they will be doing it because they want to, not because they believe they need to. And then we wouldn't have so many displaced homemakers aged forty and over who have few obviously saleable skills (though most have more than they think they do). Or so many women staying in bad marriages because it's never occurred to them there is any other choice.

I'm not against marriage — for other people, of course — but I am against individuals remaining dependent beyond the age of childhood. It's not good for our society, and certainly not good for us individually. A marriage should be a relationship both people choose to be in, not, as the jokes say, "an institution."

Which of course brings us back to education, which is where I began this letter. I've gone on far too long, I know, but I suppose you can cut where you think necessary, Sally. Anyway, I'm enjoying my correspondence with other writers and fans of science fiction and fantasy and I'm very happy to have Tightbeam as part of that, one-sided as the correspondence may sometimes be. Unfortunately, I can't reply to everyone's letters, even though I might like to.

Sally, keep up the good work!

((It is always good to hear from different people with different view points and I am glad you took the time to write.



We differ on our opinion of marriage. I think the right one will help a person grow and provide companionship and commitment that can be very satisfying emotionally. Too, a financial partnership between husband and wife can be better for both than an independent course as well. Keep those ideas and letters coming! sak))

April 17, 1987

Max Garrone
699 Madison Street
Monterey, CA 93940

I just received TB 148 as I was leaving my home for an extended vacation to the South Pacific. While on the 8-hour plane trip to Bora Bora (where I am currently staying) I read TB 148 and took notes to take up time. Now that I am here, I have nothing but time on my hands so I am writing you all a letter.

Patricia Williams and all animal lovers: I have a little brother that is 7 and is in first grade. Lately he has had many unusual feelings towards animals that he says all of the "other" kids do. For instance he hits dogs and cats that reside in our neighborhood, and when he is reminded that his fish need feeding, he says why bother they're going to die anyway. Just recently since we have been in Bora Bora while snorkling he tries to take live giant clams, oysters and sea urchins out of the water so that he can take their shells home. He is thoroughly discouraged. Another great hatred that he, his classmates and many other 2nd and 3rd graders believe is that the Russians are all ugly ogres that want to kill them in their sleep. I mean this paranoid behavior is amazing. My parents have tried to explain to him that the Russians are the same as us, except they have a different culture. I don't know if these events are wide-spread, but the teenagers of A Clock Work Orange look about a generation away.

Howard DeVore: As to 145. It was my first TB to be received. I was quite amazed at the size and only until I received TB 146 did I see what the real size of normal TBs are. In short, it was great!

Have any of you folks read "I am Legend"? I think it's by Ian Matheson. It's a great book about a different future. The movie, Omega Man, was based on this book.

Is this Darkover series by Marion Zimmer Bradley? I hear so much about it from you people, I'd like to know what it's about. I seldom read a lot of one author, except Harlan Ellison and have certain kicks when I read a lot by one author such as Zelany's Amber series.

Andrew Nagel: I've only seen Terminator on my VCR and have not noticed any Harlan

Ellison acknowledgements. It might just be that the writer of the Terminator was inspired in general by Mr. Ellison's writings. About Sally's editorial comment at the end of your letter, I know of another Outer Limits episode, Demon with a Glass Hand, where a man comes back from the future to save earth's future population by acquiring four more glass fingers that give him more hints to where or what happened to earth's future population. Very interesting.

Gail Gornley: I disagree with many of your comments about Aliens. I've bought the sound track and the only similarities were with ST II's musical score, which was not Mr. Horner's fault. I don't care what you say but "modern safe fusion reactors" will never be safe enough so that when their cooling system is destroyed they can become stable again.

About Ripley destroying the Alien in Alien, the original plot had the alien cut her head off in the end.

All that stuff you said about feminism, men feeling threatened by women with guns is a bunch of BS. I know that I felt scared because most everyone in the Marines, Burke, Ripley and Newt were faced with creatures that were top dog. Humans here on earth are the undisputed top predators and the alien and aliens take over that spot. I felt threatened in both movies by creatures that were as smart and at least twice as better physically.

About women having short hair cuts, could it be that Ripley cut her hair because that was the style? And it is a tradition in the Marines to get your hair cut off.

This movie was suspenseful. I didn't know that a chest burster was going to pop up and multiple Aliens coming out of the ceiling. A queen popping out from under the landing gear. Come on!

About the Marines' IQ's. Most people that I know that have enlisted in the Marines did not have the best education and were hard up for money.

About Ripley being a mom. In the original script, she was a mom in Alien and her daughter died while she was in hypersleep.

The door to the drop ship was probably open because Bishop and what's his name wanted to be able to get in and out with supplies and such. They didn't know that they would have to take off so fast.

Inconsistencies? Script riddled with errors and plotting flaws?



Over all, Allen was better, but the ways you point out have easy answers.

Catherine Mintz: I will send in some art as soon as I return from vacation.

((You probably will not like what I have to say about your brother. He sounds like a spoiled brat who is being brought up by a pop culture and not by real people. I read a line in a book recently that said we were raising a group of spiritual Nazis and I thought "right on." Caring is something which is sucked out of the being. Money and status are things that are carefully incubated into the success mode that is considered where it is at. The Me Generation that looks at a piece of Reynolds's Wrap to get their picture of where things come from. I think they should be given a good dose of life not handed on the silver platter. see))

April 18, 1987

Jean Lamb
4846 Derby Place
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

EDITORIAL MEANDERINGS: Our winter was pretty mild, but our spring, as usual, is quite unpredictable. 70 degree days will be followed by nasty cold and cloudy. (We haven't had our spring snowstorm yet, but it's only a matter of time until our plum tree blooms, only to be felled by a late flurry.) We're still burning wood in our woodstove. We don't have snow on the ground right now, though.

Kate Cochran: My maiden name was Miriam Turner. I switched to using my middle name, Jean, in college (having seen all known spelling variations on Miriam in my life — you should see what a computer can do to it some time). I acquired the "Lamb" through marriage shortly after, but my side of the family STILL calls me Miriam and so does the Air Force (and since my payroll check was listed under Miriam, I went along with the gag). My mother's first name was Lillie and her middle name was Anne, but since she was raised in Arkansas, she was generally called "Lillie-Anne" which she got tired of, so switched to Anne when they moved to Oregon when she was a teenager.

Yes, I agree with you about the character of Melanie. But I'd liked to have dropped a rock on Ashley. He belongs in a home for the Severely Wimpoid.

Janet Kllicott: It's no mystery why round robins show up at the same time — birds of a feather flock together!

Garth Spencer: I don't know if this is a trend or simply an attempt to recognize reality, but the Air Force (when I left) was considering training Black Muslim chaplains in their school (of course, like all chaplains, they'd have to be able to run all the services). I think it will be quite some time, though, before a pagan slips through.

The sword of Damocles always hangs over EVERY generation's head, as far as knowing the future goes. If it's not nuclear warfare, it's war or plague on a more local (but no less fatal) scale. There never has

been any such thing as security.

Cons and the like are also like the grandfalloons mentioned in CAT'S CRADLE, which are no doubt like the artificial families in his other works.

There are several factors maintaining social cohesion even in the light of divisions going on — TV, radio, newspaper (owned by conglomerates, at least the networks and major cables share many of the same values), though the multiplicity of cable stations available cater to a variety of subcultures. Also, bureaucracy does maintain social cohesion in that everyone bitches about the same things (IRS, land use regulations, etc.). And there's a lovely book (can't remember the authors) called CORPORATE CULTURES which takes a look at the never-never land of big business and how the people in them Really Operate from day to day.

I have to agree with you on space and heavy industry. I don't suppose you know one of the managers or one of those alternative-Earth orbital factories who could, as a reasonably honest accountant, do you!

Patricia A. Williams: I agree with you about the fan population being too low. (At least Laura Todd is doing something about that...). Both my children are growing to be bookaholics. I don't know if they'll be fan, but at least they'll know how to read.

(Note to Sally:) I'm against cruelty to animals, too, but if I have to shoot a deer to keep my kids from being hungry, it's bye, bye Bambi. Sorry if that offends you, but that's the way I feel.

Lin Ward: I wish Randy hadn't done in his hip during the Winter Olympics, and that Scott Hamilton was as good free style as he was in the technical category. I like Dick Button as a commentator, but Chris Shenkel's worked at it for longer.

Priscilla Johnson: Yes, it is more fun to invent your own characters and world and muck around with them. But when you fail to love with a character, whether it's your own or not, rational considerations do not apply.

Arthur Hlavaty has two labels for the latest unpleasantness: Iranamuck or Gipperammerung.

There's all colors of people in the universe I developed for THE RIVALS. The heroine has a lovely olive-colored skin, the hero is a tad paler, one of the secondary characters is rather proud of his darker skin, since he believes it underscores his aristocratic status, and so on. (Me, I'm so

pale I don't dare go out on Halloween without makeup for fear of getting a stake through my heart. See what happens when you run three Vampire RR's?).

Laurence Gray: Your comment about the tornado reminded me about the softball game we played in a thunderstorm because we only needed one more inning to make the game legal/counting and we were ahead at the time. It was kind of fun, actually.

I was at LRAFN from 1976-1980 (Sept. to Sept.). As I am related to about one quarter of the state through my mom's family, it was a lot of fun. Got to meet a lot of cousins I'd never even heard of. I know all about some of the contractors there. Especially Ray Henderson Co. and McDaniel Bros. (don't get anything built by them if you can help it).

One of the typewriters I destroyed is out in the shed and the other is in the back closet (the "n" doesn't work at all, but the rest of the letters are all right, and since it's a manual, it works as a backup in power failures).

I saw the Arkansas Travelers once when I was down there (probably should have gone to see them more, but preferred running down to Hot Springs for the horse racing).

Holmes was never much of a pacifist in the stories I read. I distinctly recall him coming home to Watson rather the worse for wear a couple of times, and one story where he captured someone trying to rob the Bank of London by clapping a horse-pistol to his head as soon as he walked in the door. I also recall one time when he and Watson were burglars, when trying to deal with the notorious blackmailer, Mr. Wilverton. Some pacifist! As the stories proceeded, Holmes tended to take justice more and more into his own hands.

Rose Secrest: Gosh darn, and here I thought we were making progress! But then, what do you define it as?

Sally Alward: On a totally frivolous note — I doubt Michael Jackson would be a Jehovah's Witness if they were cannibals.

KITeworld (by Keith Roberts, reviewed by Rose Secrest): Call the Guinness Book, I and Rose actually agree on something! After seeing he was the author of PAVANE, a book I found both strange and interesting, I saw this and decided it was worth borrowing from the library.

Yes, it's GOOD! I didn't know it was a collection of stories, but realized the reality of it when Rose mentioned it. I did think the ending was a bit tacked on. Is

might fit his philosophy, but it could have been more fully worked out, in my opinion. I do wish he'd spent more time on that one lunatic Zep flyer aside from the brief glimpses we get of him though. I can only say that Rose's review is totally accurate. read this book!

The artwork was great, the explanation of format clear and concise -- bye for now! ((Well, as far as I am concerned, format is send the LoCs to me and I will type them in a two column format so that all can read them -- even the visually handicapped. ** As to starving children or a shot Bambi, that's a lot of bunk! If you are talking feeding the world's hungry, a vegetarian based diet is more feasible. You get more food per acre of land. Too, if you want your children to live long and healthy lives, it is a wiser choice as well. You aren't pumping fat into their systems to breed heart attacks and cancers and all that nice legacy of a meat-centered diet. If you want what's really in your children's interest, teach them about fiber and whole grains. Teach them also about sharing our planet. What offends me is the rampant ~~melan~~ in this world and the "bye bye Bambi" attitude is just one manifestation of such a philosophy.

We were put on this world to live with it, not in conflict against it. sas))

April 20, 1987

Lynne Boldon
3808 Macalaster Drive NE #25
St. Anthony, MN 55421

Finally decided to write a letter to TB. Why do we (myself included) talk about religion rather than about South Africa? Well, religion is one of the most universal and personal topics. Religion affects most people in their personal lives. South Africa doesn't unless you happen to have the misfortune to live there. A lot of people don't even know that South Africa exists judging by tests given to high school and college students. They don't seem to know enough to follow the news intelligently. Then you consider that these folks vote.

And, assuming you know where South Africa is and a modicum of what's going on there, what can you do about it? Boycott South African goods? I don't buy them anyway. And just what South African goods are being sold here? Not many. There is no South African consulate even in Minnesota, the closest one is in Chicago. As a matter of

fact, I think the only major South African products sold here are gold and chromium. Are we really going to boycott gold? And the only other source of chromium is the USSR which I dislike equally with South Africa. I also suppose we could get tougher on companies that do business in South Africa, but even the limited sanctions have affected Blacks there more than whites and have capulted a lot of Blacks into poverty. If Black children grow up malnourished because a US company isn't there to hire a parent or to provide lunches or even early education, is this a good trade off to get at the white government? I don't know. But it's not a simple problem for Americans.

There is also the fact that a lot of other governments are equally repressive of their citizens but are either equal opportunity oppressors or don't have anything we want or don't get in the news and so don't exist. In Afghanistan for example, children are getting blown up by land mines designed to look like toys and the world yawns; the former Cambodian government killed off one third of its citizens (but didn't discriminate by race) and the Indonesians are waging a low key war in West Irian (formerly Dutch New Guinea) which pits Yellows against Blacks and no one cares.



I don't know why the early Church fathers were misogynists. In part it could have stemmed from a lot of Neoplatonist ideas intermingled with a resentment toward upity women. The birthrate in the later Roman Empire was quite low and government policy tended to bribe women to have more children, but they didn't do so. But judging by the language they used, they resented women for tempting them away from chastity. They had lewd thoughts and blamed the victim. They thought devout Christian women should dress in a non-seductive way, in fact they encouraged them to look ugly and I can remember a discussion about a saintly Christian woman that they couldn't really believe was "sincere". Why: she was a naturally beautiful woman.

Priscilla Johnson: I think that there is another reason that writers don't have minority group members in their books and that is they do not feel they can portray a roughly present day Black or Oriental convincingly. I correspond with a few people in Australia and one person spent a good deal of one letter telling me all about the sins of some novel that has Australians in it that she called Americans under the guise of Australians. An Australian Dr. Who zine mentioned that Tegan is one of the least popular Companions there because she just isn't "Australian". Brian Aldiss had an American in *FRANKENSTEIN UNBOUND* who is as American as Margaret Thatcher. This sort of thing tends to detract from the reality created by a novel and jars the reader. I seem to remember that when Spider Robinson had a Black protagonist the consensus seemed to be that he did a good job "considering he was white." So probably this problem will only be redressed when more Blacks start writing SF. I am not writing any near future SF so this would not apply to my writing and my characters aren't American W&Ss as I agree that these have been way overdone in SF. Meanwhile you might try Alan Dean Foster and Andre Norton who both have a lot of books around and use non white protagonists. In fact, I remember learning about the existence of the Black cavalry units — the Buffalo soldiers — in a novel of hers, *THE CROSSROADS OF TIME*. I also like Octavia Butler's works.

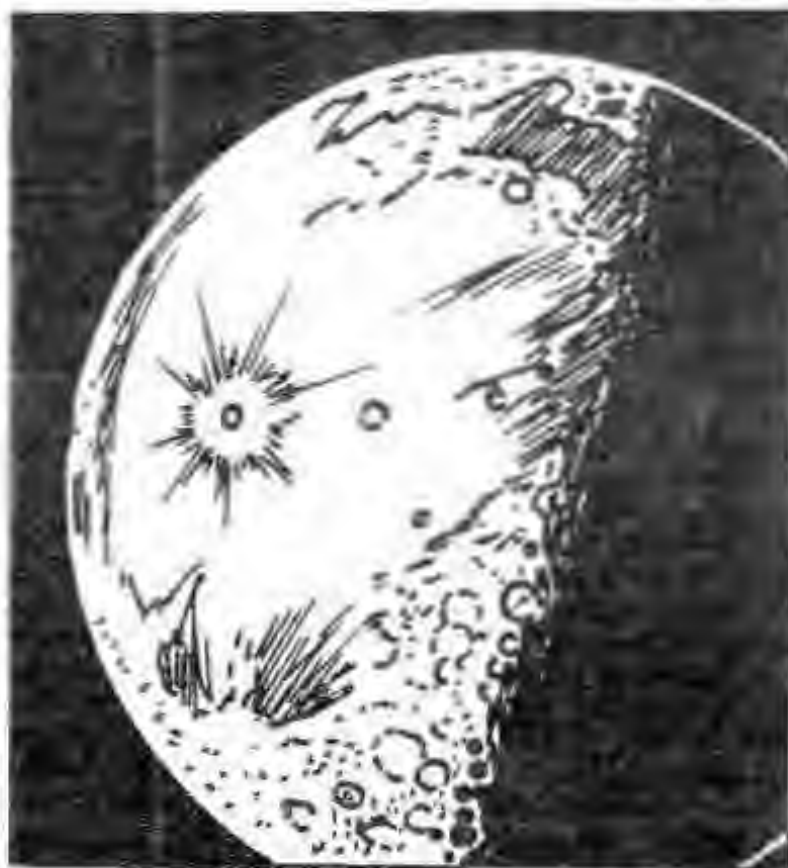
Those little bugs in your cereal are probably carpet beetles. I had an infestation of them back in NJ and they seem almost impossible to get rid of. I never saw the adults just the larvae that get into flour, cereal and even chocolate powder.

Laurence Gray: Gee, I had a friend who had a story rejected by ASIMOV's on the grounds that it was a "thinly disguised historical." That was under the former editor so maybe she should try again.

As I have the videotape of *AMADEUS*, I will look for the scene you mention. Stop action is so handy.

I heard Phyllis Shafley on the "Phil Donahue Show" and she seems to be uncomfortable with the freedom women now have. I sometimes get the idea that these people are glad AIDS exists as it raises the possibility of automatic punishment for sin and AIDS is a more severe punishment than getting pregnant. I think also that the possibility of abortion disturbs a LOT of men who equate masculinity with the number of children they sire. Now there is a morning after pill and the local right to life group leader practically foamed at the mouth when mentioning it as according to him, now women can take it automatically and not know whether they were pregnant or not and THEY WON'T EVEN FEEL GUILTY.

While I agree that there is a certain amount of common sense to be used in travelling (like avoid Beirut), some people were there before things got bad. Terry Anderson was one of them. Recently we have been told that one of the hostages is gravely ill and that he might die so please



send 100 prisoners out of Israeli jails. It never occurs to them that the decent thing might be to release a gravely ill man. Of course, if they were decent men, they wouldn't be in the hostage taking business.

Steve Metzger: When I lived near New York City, we heard over and over that the Iranians thought that the fact that we aided the Shah (and were giving him medical treatment) was justification for seizing the hostages. I didn't buy it. One of the few rules in international dealings is that diplomats are sacrosanct. The reason this is so is not so much because of high ideals but because of hard necessity.

have to be able to talk to each other occasionally and they do it through diplomacy. Country A doesn't seize Country B's personnel so that Country B won't seize their personnel. If this were not so, you'd have an international vendetta constantly going on. Iran was condemned by just about every country -- including the Soviet Union, Syria, Mainland China, as well as the USA, and the World Court which tends to be Third World oriented -- because every country wants to maintain diplomatic immunity for its personnel. Not high mindedness at all.

Emily Alward: While I agree with you in abhorring the rulings in some recent textbook cases, I do have some nits to pick.

One: I disagree that all children love fantasy. I know two people who worked mostly with ghetto youth and mentioned that they tend to void fantasy like the plague. The first question they'd ask about a book was "Is it real?" In fact back in the 60's they used to criticise textbooks for being too traditional and rural in outlook. They kept suggesting more realism. They were as against fantasy then as any of these fundamentalists types, but they wanted the textbooks to be geared to the real life of inner city black kids. I know that my kids hated the realism in these books, but with two parents who read SF what chance did they have? Also a librarian friend of mine said that the problem with trying to get kids to read SF was that it was too far away from their day to day world. He worked in Wisconsin and not in an inner city school so the problem is more complex.

I do agree with you and others in deploring the fact that they wish to keep only traditional roles, etc., and will not for the most part even mention that the theory of evolution exists so that they will not offend either side.

On the other hand, I have a certain

sympathy for the parents when they complain that religion isn't mentioned at all. You have textbooks mention the Puritans and the First Thanksgiving without mentioning religion. What sort of picture does that give children? As a former history teacher I object. For better or for worse, religion is a powerful force in history and in the present day. Children should know about it. I used to complain that newscasters and writers for the NY Times didn't seem to know that religion could be a powerful force in the lives of those who were neither fanatics or kooks. (No wonder they couldn't foresee how Iran would react to the Shah, and cannot understand American fundamentalism, let alone Islamic fundamentalism.) In NYC they used to get Jerry Falwell on as the "token protestant" whenever some religious discussion came up. As I am a Protestant, I felt completely unrepresented and felt that somewhere along the line the networks should realize that there were Protestants that were not fundamentalists. Of course, that was a NYC station. The picture is a bit better here in Minneapolis.

Actually sociobiologists say that successful -- as well as handsome -- men have the opportunity to pass on their genes more than poor men or ugly men. I'm not sure that this is actually what happens today. The least successful seem to be passing on their genes more than the successful. Just attracting women isn't "success" in evolutionary terms. It's siring children that constitutes "success." Women have probably been attracted to rich and successful men because this was a socially acceptable way of "making it." Women couldn't easily become rich and successful with the opportunities offered them.

Good looks are just as important for men -- as well as women -- in attracting the opposite sex and getting your genes passed on. A glib tongue has been another good point as the charming, socially successful bad lot, proves. Also different societies have different criteria for success so it is possible that a man could become rich in one society and starve in another. (This assumes that he can get trained in his talent, which is also not always possible.) Michaelangelo would have starved if he had been born in a Islamic society as those traditionally did not permit representational art. Though I suppose he could have been an architect.

Patricia Williams: When I lived near NYC, I resented the fact that any criticism



of Israel and Israeli foreign policy could get one accused of anti-Semitism. (By that logic any criticism of the USA government or of the USA could be called anti-Americanism, but they didn't see this and engaged in a LOT of anti-USA criticism.) I am disappointed to find you feel the same way.

Anyway: Since I am not a fundamentalist who takes the Bible literally, I do not buy the "promised land" theory of Israel. Considering that, most Jews who have settled there are exactly the same as people who have settled in other already occupied parts of the world and reduced the natives (in this case, the Palestinians) to second-class citizens. They have Pass Laws for West Bank Arabs that make those in South Africa look mild, but no one calls them on this. Once, I did hear an Israeli woman talking on TV about how there was one system of justice for Jews in Israel and another style — look them up and throw away the key — for Arabs.

I think this is a legitimate area of concern particularly since we censure other countries for doing far less in human rights violations. Or at least some groups are TRYING to get people to notice this. In the USA if you try almost any criticism of Israel, you get labelled an anti-Semite.

I do think the Palestinians are a bunch of terrorists. So is the IRA, and the African National Congress and they have supporters. But the Arabs like the Nazis, are one group that it's okay to make as villainous as possible.

((On the South African question, could it not be that paternalism is a form of racism? After all these poor black people could not possibly care for themselves if it were not for some sort of great white father protecting them with jobs and food and education geared to keep them in their place? Maybe there comes a time when people are allowed to be adult — to face the problems that adulthood brings with it. If you want to do something about the South African system, you can do things like not buy Shell gasoline. Many people cut up their Shell credit cards because of that

company's involvement with South Africa. Instead of trying to remedy the situation, we are trying like crazy to make up excuses to do nothing — Uganda has more killings. The situation is complex — the poor blacks can't cope without big daddy, etc. Cop outs are always easy to find. They are the strong voice that cuts through all the softax voices which carry more of the truth of conscience than would like to be heard in the land.))

April 21, 1987

Kate Cochran
55 Sunnyside
Brocton, NY 14716

I recently read a short story that should be required reading for all Neffers contemplating a LoC to TB. As usual though I can't remember the title or author, but the plot was very simple. A General was to take his mother to lunch but when she arrived, the General was very busy talking to his aide about a problem in communications. Seems there was this military outpost in space far enough away so that the time lag was measured in hours and the General was trying to figure out how to carry on a normal conversation but nothing seemed to work. Several times his mother tried to interrupt but the General thinking she was getting impatient for lunch kept shushing her. Finally she got very fire (the way only a mother or top sergeant can) and said very forcefully that the answer to the problem was very simple. All that they had to do was to keep talking, from both ends simultaneously, and to keep talking continuously and if there was a question that needed an answer just slip it into the conversation and eventually the answer would come back. AMAZING — the dawn came up like thunder, and the General implemented the plan forthwith. The solution to the General's dilemma should apply here as well, except substitute the word write for talk. If you have something to say about the most RECENT TB that you have gotten — REGARDLESS of when you got it (let's stop carping on the date that is arrived since nobody should be held accountable for the vagrancies of the U. S. Snail's Post Awfuls) then write your LoC and mail it out. And if it goes after the deadline then look for it in the TB after the next one. From what I have observed the subject matter changes very slowly so just KEEP WRITING!!!! Having

gotten that off off my chest, I'll take my own advice and write.

Sally Syrjala: I was addressing Rose who complained in her LoC that her mother-in-law called her Rosemary instead of Rose, which is a first name, not a last name. Yes, I do use Kate because I like it best, but I wouldn't have it entered in the official record as my legal name. As strange as it may seem I like nicknames better, but not for the record. I suppose because I saw at first hand just how bad that can be because a very good friend of mine had a cousin who had a legal name of Jimmy. As you can imagine every time he gave it people automatically translated it to James. He told me once that on more than one occasion he had been handed back an application form with the instructions that he was to use his legal name. He eventually got to the point where he carried his birth certificate with him to avoid the hassle. So, no nickname for the legal record thank you very much. All the legal mumbo-jumbo is under Katrina, but mostly I'm called Kate or sometimes Katie Beth.

Laurence Gray: Re your comment about a volunteer fire company refusing to fight a fire because the person hadn't paid for 'fire protection'. There are circumstances where people are charged for protection and if you have never dealt with a volunteer fire department, you might not realize why this is so. First of all, a volunteer fire department is just that — volunteers — your grandfather, father, husband, boyfriend, son, the guy next door and down the street. They aren't paid to put their lives on the line when that whistle blows. A couple of years ago in the town just down the road from Brocton there was a housefire and what nobody realized was that there were power lines down in the area at the same time and when the fireman went to put the ladder up against the house he completed a circuit and was electrocuted on the spot. He wasn't even 22-years old and the accident happened just three days before he was to be married. Naturally, there was compensation and insurance, but the fact remains that this was not how he earned his livelihood. As far as I know there isn't any volunteer fire company in the state of New York that does charge for 'fire protection', but if they did, you can be sure I would pay my assessed cost. Actually, I've never liked the word protection. I have always felt that a more appropriate word would be insurance. You are insuring that the fire

company that will come to fight a fire at your residence has the equipment to do the job. All the free fire fighting in the world won't be of any use if the equipment is so obsolete that it is practically useless. I remember hearing after one such incident where there was no life at risk — just the property that the owner didn't or wouldn't pay his yearly fee of a measly \$25.00. The property was valued at \$125,000 and the fee to protect the investment was only 25 bucks. I could understand his maybe balking at a fee of \$125, but \$25 — give me a break. I didn't feel sorry for him in the slightest.

Jean-Michael Jarre is one of the artists currently riding the popularity wave of "new age music". He is the son of Maurice Jarre the French film composer who is best known for his song "Somewhere My Love". Jean-Michael has done about a dozen albums but only about half were ever released in the US. His biggest albums in the US were Oxygen and Equinox. He has never achieved the popularity in the US that he has enjoyed in Europe.

Billy Alward: I enjoyed your comment about dumbing down textbooks. In much the same vein is an essay by the late Stephen Leacock titled "Softening the Stories for Children." He discovered what was being done to kid's stories when he asked his niece who was reading LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD if she had gotten to the part where the Grandpa was eaten. The little girl didn't know what he was talking about because the parents that he decided that the story was too violent and so they rewrote it so that when the big bad wolf arrives — Grandpa isn't home! It was Leacock's contention that children read right over, under or around the violence in a story, and that it is instead the adult who feels for the lost child wandering alone in the woods, the Grandma who is eaten by the wolf, etc., etc. I suppose that it just proves the old adage about the more things change, the more they stay the same.

I found myself wondering just what book and authors you would place in the soft SF category since you put Asimov's ROBOTS and FOUNDATION series in a hard SF category. (Personally, I think I would place them in a soft SF list myself, reserving the hard SF list for authors like Brin and Hogan and Benford and Niven and a few others.)

Gail Corneley: Despite your excellent review of Aliens, I still have no intention of going to see the movie. I suppose in

part because I found the first one to be so yeachy-icky that I was glad to leave the theatre when it was over. Your likening the movie to a ride on a roller coaster was an interesting one, but somehow I'm sure that the surviving family members of the victims of the accident in Alberta wouldn't agree with you. Perhaps not that many people recall it, but several people fell out of a roller coaster. And not some little coaster in a travelling show in pdunk town. This was a new state of the art one in the world's largest mall up in Edmonton.

Sally Sycjala: Not having seen the movie, I'm not sure how the Colonial Marines were presented, but why would you think that someone who couldn't fit in anywhere else would fit in the Marinas? Joining a branch of the service regardless of which one is not going to suddenly make a responsible person out of a misfit. Was there a rational for sending in (from what I can glean from the reports) a whole squad of completely green troops? No one in their right mind would send that many untried troops into a situation that involved civilian safety. And where were the experienced non-coms? Did they get killed off before leaving the ship? As you said, interesting ideas for discussion.

((Ah, don't you know the saying that joining the service will make a new man out of a boy? Like it or not, the service is where people go when they can't get a job in the civilian environment or when they just don't know what they are doing with their lives. Completely green troops were sent into battle in Viet Nam and anywhere else the military has been. You have the material to work with that you are given. If a particular job isn't people's top choice, you are not going to have a lot of choice in what you get to fill it. And who said the military was in their right mind? Politically I suppose that is the side they take, and that term can be used with that meaning correctly. Volunteer fire departments.

It is a sad story to hear of the volunteer fireman who died, but it has no bearing on whether a department should fight a fire or not. If you volunteer for something, you take on a responsibility. You also take on a responsibility to learn that trade whether it is money producing or not. You turn off electricity before you tackle a fire. The first thing that is done when you get to a house is to cut the current from the outside. We, too, have volunteer fire departments. People fight to get on them. It is a matter of prestige.

Equipment money can be raised from public donations, from having bingo games, etc. I think it is unconscionable to refuse to help in an emergency. Just as I think it is repugnant to refuse help to a sick person at a hospital because of money, I also think fire fighting falls into this category. The main issue is not how much money is involved. The main issue is what is right and what is wrong. I guess another instance of the me generation not caring about the meaning of the role they have taken on and the responsibility it puts on them to help others in need regardless of who they are or what their credit situation is. sas))



FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY

Dear SIR,

MII

April 21, 1987

Priscilla Johnson
3563 6th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95817

This letter breaks a personal tradition of mine — either typing up a LoC to zines or writing them in pen on typing paper. But since I drew on all my typing paper, I am forced to use plain old lined paper. And my typewriter is shot.

Max Garrone: I am a comics fan, too. Been one since 1976 when I saw a copy of X-Men #101. I stayed with it until 1984 when Claremont commenced his cycle of suffering, death, destruction, and unrelenting grimness in every issue. Ugh. I stopped buying the book. I don't buy books I don't like. I am not a completionist. I scan for quality, not more quantity. What I like about comics in the black and white explosion is that there are quite a few science fiction comics out. The most science fictionally scrupulous of these is Alien Fire, which is about an alien who captures a merchant ship full of nostalgic items from Earth. There's Micra set in a dystopic future Earth in which the protagonist is a quadriplegic whose mind animates a super powered android. And there's Borderworld, Fusin, and Stark Future.

Who are your favorite artists? Mine are Marc Silvestri, Kevin Nowlan, Alan Weiss, Bill Sunklesiz, Jon Daurjama, Craig Hamilton and Colleen Doran. I used to be a big fan of John Byrne until his work deteriorated so.

David Seath, Jr.: Thanks for giving me the award. I was in the down end of an emotional cycle so it papped up my day considerably. I will keep working on my drawings and will keep sending them until I draw one that meets your standards.

Mary Ann Van Bortseveldt: Yes, I have seen Excaliber. Good film.

Lloyd McNeill: Before Dell, Mike Oldfield did a totally captivating record called Incantations. It's a double album of magic and enchantment. Beautiful, beautiful, beautiful. It sounds as if it came from the sixth dimension.

Then came Dell Airborn, a score for the movie Star Trek: Five Miles High and a few other records. With Five Miles High, Mike Oldfield was out of ideas and begins to repeat himself. His albums after that go downhill. I have Stratofear by Tangerine Dream which I adore. I'd like to get more

when I have the time. I like what I've heard of XTC. Have you heard their new single called Dear God yet?

No, you shouldn't give Witch World No. 5 a second chance. And Sorceress of Witch World is even worse. But Spell of the Witch World is pretty darn good. Have you read The Crystal Gryphon? Now that's a good story.

Ron Nyren: The story was "The Marching Morons". I think Korobluth wrote it. I have also read a few stories by Jorge Luis Borges. I want to collect all his stories. PBS had a feature on South American writers a few weeks back and the show reviewed his works. It also revealed that Borges had died last year in July.

Erin McKean: I'm no fan of Stephen King's. On the whole he drowns his readers in mundanity. He takes his own sweet time getting to the point. But now he's done a book called The Eyes of the Dragon. It's different from his usual stuff. "A fairy tale for all ages" says the book jacket. We'll see about that.

Michael Percita: You don't know who James Burke is?? You poor fellow. You missed some of the most intellectually stimulating television in history. James Burke's favorite theme is that many discoveries were made because the scientists were trying to discover something else. One chemist was trying to discover a substitute for quinine. Instead he discovered mauve dye. He (James Burke) had two programs on PBS.

David J. Alway: I didn't know there was any mention of female centaurs in classical times. I am very fond of centaurs. I don't like unicorns either. Cute, but loveable. I have a painting of a centaur with alven rider hanging on my wall. I haven't written any stories set in their world for some years now. Not that I lost interest. It's that another universe came along. Three worlds later, I find new ideas for Ariji (the centaur) and Ysatay (the elf). Both are female. They are slated for a story in my zine, "Xenomania." It's a black and white comic. I may or not give it a xerox color cover. I love working in color. But I haven't done any large paintings in over a year.

One and all: Happily, that changed last week. I finished a 19 x 14 inch painting and it turned out great. It's a giant version of the cover to "The Starside Trade" No 1. The painting records the moment when Xarisa, a telepath, power links with the

Shipwarden in order to probe a Megaceph's mind. Marisa's part of the Flight crew gestalt which is very draining on one's energy. There was something about the Megaceph passenger which required a mind delving so Marisa turned to the Shipwarden, a veritable powerhouse of energy. It's done (tempera which is my latest love object. Temperas are fantastic. One can work on conveying three dimensionality so much easier than with acrylics or oils, both of which dry much too fast. Temperas are also safer than either. Even in the old days (1600's) oil painters got sick from the chemicals used in their paints. I read about an artist who had to give up oils and go to acrylics. Temperas are cheaper, too. Acrylics are selling for five dollars a tube! Two ounces of tempera go for 59¢ and even half a gallon of tempera goes for three dollars. Yet, I want to go back to acrylics. I'd like to show my paintings at cons one day, but first I want to get better at acrylics.

When I can afford it, that.

I aim to do a face in color tempera a day. The first I did turned out very, very well. It's of Christine Jones of One Life to Live. As the painting progressed, it looked like 1. Donna Reed, 2. Lee Meriwether (you know, Spock's girlfriend) 3. Barbara Walters. It positively glows. I'm having so much fun. I wanna fill up sketch books and sketch books with paintings! And now I really have shot my wad. Ta ta.

((I wish your typer well. I could barely decipher your handwriting. I think I have gotten the main points right! sas))

April 22, 1987

Stan Woolston
12832 West Lake
Garden Grove, CA 92640

I'm writing this after sending some material for the 50th Anniversary mailing of FAPA -- the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. Members of FAPA and early fans and members of other groups liked the idea of a National SF club with wide interests and as such people as Harry Warner, Perry Ackerman, Bob Tucker, Sam Moskowitz and others have started and sustained their fan activities in both groups. I was glad to write something about my memories of my FAPA years in Moonshine, Len Moffatt's fanzine.

He will also have material by an old N3F president (Rick Snesry) there too. Rick, Len and I were Directors in the 1940's -- with them involved before! We met in 1946 at Pacificon (my first Worldcon).

Of course, Rick and I had our own publications in FAPA, but did columns, etc., in Moonshine, too.

I see the Disneyland people are trying to locate their first Snow White -- the young lady who played the part at the Anaheim fantasy "community." Nobody remembers her name. Disney hired her and some of the 40 others and if any records were made, they're lost now. So the lady probably won't be able to attend the 50th anniversary celebration.

Quite a few authors and some magazines have celebrated 50 years anniversary, and LASFS as one of the oldest clubs is only one of these that has existed from the time Gernsback published the first SF magazine. In 1991 it will be N3F's time to celebrate.

So in 1991 this club can call on members to help make it a time to remember -- the past and of course the continuing existence in the future.

I've a birthday card here that I may have sent to someone, fan or pro, but I couldn't exactly fit it to one person. Outside it says "Happy Birthday to someone who's slightly off". Inside it lists three "off-lys" -- the last "Off-ly wonderful."

I think the idea is what I would like to say about N3F, on any birthday. People in N3F include an Off-ly lot of individuals I've been glad to know -- which is why I plan to remain in it indefinitely.

And it's one reason I seek your news -- any month. @ workcrew! Well -- collectively, yes. But your help will keep me active. So I welcome your messages -- the fan or pro input of news and views -- in TNFF. And now, also in Tighthouse.

News for Neffers

The Tighthouse Connection

Terry Carr, editor, author, anthologer, and fan died early last week.

I am trying to remember when Terry served as the final judge of the N3F Short Story Contest. I believe it was before Ed Ferman of The Magazine of Fantasy and SF did. He was in FAPA for years and attended conventions, as part of many programs -- and an excellent pro.

Kate Wilhelm's novelet, "The Girl Who Fell Into the Sky" -- LASFS, Oct '86 has



inadvertently been omitted from the Nebula ballot. (The Science Fiction Writers of America, I bet, sent every member the info on a revised form.)

((It's always nice to have your information appear in the covers of SF. More remembrances of the early days of the NSP would, I'm sure, be of interest to our current members. sas))

April 28, 1987

Robert S. Miller III
P. O. Box 236
Clio, Michigan 48420-0236

Why wait on a C64, when Atari's are so much cheaper. Atari 800XI or 65XE can be found for around \$69.00. The only thing Commodore has going for it, and it does count for something, is numerical quantity. The Atari is faster, though most people will never have the occasion to know it in useage, and has about 8000 more pixels of display capability than Commodore or Apple. (Commodore has a little more voice capability for sounds, although my Atari does a few musical pieces on the level of a cheap synthesizer).

A printer for Atari can be gotten for between \$69.00 (thermal printer & interface) and about \$100 for a daisy wheel, or dot matrix, (a better dot matrix for about \$180), the disc drive is around \$130, and you have your basic system for nearly any use you want! A word processor can be gotten for around \$30, or a newer one with spelling checker for about \$49.

This letter is on an Atari 600XL (\$29.00), a 1025 printer (dot matrix, \$100), and an Atariword processor (\$29.).

Marie Steiner: van Daniken, should have been put out of business long ago, most of his works have been picked to pieces, but a little room for doubt has kept his fans (and publishers) going!

His 'In Search of Ancient Astronauts', was a monumental fraud and even its exposure

by a fellow SFer didn't stop the sales of future works.

A similar case was the event where "The Great Randy" duplicated all the Uri Geller stunts and confronted the public and Geller fans with the evidence, only to be told that just because his work was mere tricks didn't mean that Uri Geller's miracles were mere tricks!

I love archery, too. I haven't yet sent to England for my Long Bow of real English Yew, but if I find a good deal, I might give it a try.

RAPE: Should be classified as a crime likened to murder in some cases!

As a crime of passion, where both parties went too far, and then it became rape, it must be taken on the individual merits of the case (I'm letting myself in for it on this?!), but as a violent crime of terrorism and criminal assault it occurs to both the body and the mind, and it is a form of murder for all of the victims! The only differentiating circumstances are in the constitutional personality of the individuals, which is no excuse for the leniency of sentencing, but a survival factor for the sanity and potential to continue with life for the victim.

I say this from my own point of view and I believe it. I feel the invasion of the mind and body of the individual in the case of rape is on a par with murder and brutalisation akin to terrorism and other forms of violence.

And as to terrorism, it is unjustifiable when applied in the random manner to which it is being carried today! Actually, any form of terrorism is wrong, but it makes a very effective device of military value when utilized properly against military or governmental controls to accomplish a purpose towards their overthrow. **THIS DOESN'T MAKE IT RIGHT!**

But it is effective! Military targets are not airports or civilian populace and making war on randomly selected targets is more criminal than any form of war.

I shouldn't get into this, as I get into technical arguments on the side events of such things.

I am not a pacifist, I should like to be, but I am not. I love the clash of swords and din of combat, albeit, preferable from a safe and comfortable position, such as before a movie screen, but I like SCA, laser tag, paint-ball combat, martial arts, target shooting, (gun or bow), and I like the advance engineering and exactitude behind

modern weaponry, (NOW I'm really putting my foot into it!), but the best and most effective equipment tested and operational is often military equipment! The best aircraft are usually fighter planes, the fastest, most maneuverable, sleekest, AND I LIKE CATS, one of the most sleek and efficient killing machines on earth, (also soft, cuddly, playful and cute!).

I like to say I like the engineering perfection of weaponry, but I like the bans they make too, I do prefer not to go bang at anyone else, or have them go bang at me, (It's safer) that way I can enjoy things to come with future years!

Brian, I do collect and read books on WWII, true story accounts, also on ancient history, most middle-ages events, on dinosaurs, Vietnam, and cars and airplanes, (also computers and SF&F), (That was to **Brian Suth**).

I think **Dorothy Wethington** made some unusual and interesting statements, although I'm curious to envision the person behind the statements. "Interesting" seems to fit the tone of her letter, (yes, I'm eccentric, yet mundane and even somewhat boring), I'd rather talk about the latest Cray than SDI.

Someone tell **Marie Steiner** she isn't missing anything with the GOR books, the first couple weren't too bad, as general fantasies, but I kind of wonder if his wife or girl friend left him and sent him into a spiral, as he seems to radically change his outlook on the opposite sex after the third or fourth book.

I liked **Linda Leach's** dragon on page 7. She turns out some great stuff for TP, with ink wash of the right colors. It could take on an oriental print likeness.

Laura Todd: I like to think of myself as a radical Pro-Space type, but I'm also a radical Pro-Earth and anti-pollutionist. Earth is a planet, too!

Besides, if they really want to discover other intelligent species, they can support current work with dolphins and the whale family and the Gorilla Foundation and other such organizations which are proving we aren't alone in the universe RIGHT NOW!

Susan Kennedy: I do not intend for my statements on rape above to be misconstrued.

If possible, I don't believe date rape, to be in any way less innocent than any other form of rape, but it will be a long time in the process of preventing or controlling. A lady's body is her own. I like to think I have enough control not to give in to lust, which is in all probability a cop out plea



anyway when used, and feel that sex is a sharing experience. (This sounds kind of wimpy), but I want my rights respected and hope that I can return the favor to the rest of humanity! I'm not trying to sound overly in favor of feminism anymore than male machoism. I'm being quite selfish. I belong to me, and with obligations I've accumulated to my family and some friends, I intend to be my own self. I feel that everyone has the same right, without cutting into anyone else's rights.

Rape is a violation of that belief, as is murder, brain washing, terrorism, and subjugation or domination. I do not desire to control the world simply because it would heavily interfere with my being me, even a bad dictator has to take into account the country and the people under him, if he expects to remain in power, and the more beneficial a leader is to his following, the more his time becomes their time. (I'm lary, there is too much work in being a dictator, or president — Kotsa Ruck, David!).

Juan Crespo: The F16 is a dog compared with the F18? Hmm..All the early reports on the F18 sounded like an overpriced underachiever, which couldn't carry as much as the A7, but couldn't go as far either, but it could do it faster, and required considerable more maintenance and more downtime.

Yeah, the new surface navy is somewhat anachronistic, if an aerial burst goes off, where do they hide?

Carol Klees-Stark: Gaelic/Celtic music sounds interesting. I haven't anything by any of those you listed, although some by the Americanized Irish fovers and I like James Galway, flutist. (Someone mentioned flutes earlier? Any J.G.?)

As most issues do not see any contribution from me, I suppose I am

considered a non-interactive member. I do not usually get so verbose, but it happens from time to time. Sorry about all the brackets, Sally. Maybe you can make them into italics?

Nuff said.

((By the time you add up the component costs of even a "cheap" computer system, you are still talking \$400 to \$500. Such a thing is still in the future! sss))

April 28, 1987

In an address to the nation, which was not previously announced, as is the White House policy, President Raygun bluntly shocked the press corps by having a large number of them arrested, after some light bludgeoning by special guards of his newly founded Elite Guardsmen.

Then in a short oration, he informed the nation that he had decided not to run for office again, even if he legally couldn't anyway. The real news came with the announcement that he had no intention of relinquishing his present power and with the government firmly behind him, declared his new roll as the first emperor of Amerika.

He also announced the cancellation of the star wars program since it's cover-up purpose need no longer be kept secret, -- the TV screen's blanked momentarily, then panned to a vista of stars from a satellite camera. As the camera focused on the moon, the world was shocked to see the moon revolve about, bringing the "Dark Side" into view, revealing a huge crater-like aperture aimed at the earth!

Then, with his new commander, G. Lewkias, beside him, he announced the activation of his moon base/fortress/spaceship, "The Death Star"! (With its General Motors space drive engines and Chrysler turbo laser ray).

Further announcements are expected sometime today... Please stay tuned to this channel!

April 29, 1987

Flint Mitchell
7331 Terri Robyn
St. Louis, MO 63129

I have not seen fit to write to TB mainly because of the reactions I have gotten from the small amount of material I've written for the NSF. I have, it seems, a natural

ability to develop outrage in people. But I suppose I should straighten out a few things.

First off, Hugh Gallagher did not make The Green Terror, the film with the scenes that offended everyone. Both Hugh and I have tried to put together minor film projects, but to no avail. Hugh just distributes the films he sells. He has nothing to do with making them. And, David Bates was right in that I was trying to show that the filmer of The Green Terror was a loser -- a point that I certainly got across. Quite frankly, the idea of doing such a thing (killing a cat for a film) is utterly foreign to me -- so much so that I'm unsure how to react.

I'm glad to see, in the reaction to the reviewed films, that the NSF is devoid of pornophobics (and to think that pornophobic sickos try to palm themselves off as the normal ones -- ick). Only in America does a minority count as the majority. 60% of those polled in a recent national poll said that they didn't object to X rated films being rented in their neighborhoods. In a presidential election, 60% would be considered a near landslide. But who does the government pay heed to? The 40%. Our local cable system was worse! 2% of subscribers objected to having MTV on an "unlocked" channel. Guess who got their way? (Speaking of MTV, everyone should watch The Young Ones, which is shown every Sunday night at 11:30 EST. It's a lot like Monty Python -- only funny).

Now for a real sense of outrage, nothing can beat the catalog for a St. Louis outfit called "WW2 Limited". On page 112 of their catalog is the listing: "NAZI #10204-S Soap. Most of this was buried by occupation troops. Ingredients are better imagined than described. 24 x 14 inch bar -- \$6.00" Funny. I thought it was illegal to own or sell such things.

Katharine Duncan: At the same time ABC was showing Amerika, The Discovery Channel was showing live broadcasts from the USSR. The contrast was interesting. Especially noteworthy was the ordinariness of the Soviet broadcasts. They have the usual mix of cartoons, old movies, rock videos, and even an aerobic exercise program. One thing that surprised me is that their morning programs have the time displayed constantly; this, I suppose, so the people know when to go to work. The Soviet news, "Vremya", basically covered Gorbachev's comings and goings. The week they had it on, he was

visiting a lot of eastern light factories. "This is a good factory!" he said after one trip. Uh huh.

Soviet TV movies are no big shucks. One I saw that week, "Mystery of the Blue Mountains," still has me trying to figure out what happened.

In Missouri we have a state ID. In fact, I think it's pratty universal. If you don't have a driver's license, you can get one for identification. In fact, the ID looks like a driver's license, except that the upper border is a different color.

Patricia A. Williams: It was Pogo Possum that said, "We have met the enemy and they is us!"

I'm beginning to prefer the company of horror fans. It's almost impossible to offend them (except for the sissies).

Reagan's pontificating after the US Marine spy scandal was a lot of fun to listen to. We need "value oriented" education, eh? I supposed "value oriented" education like, say, Jim Bakker got. Has anyone noticed how delicately the news media is treating Bakker? For instance, from Jessica Hahn's testimony it's clear that Bakker raped her — but the news media calls it a "love tryst." Of course, the media always has treated religion with kid gloves (has anyone noticed that, after the Oral Roberts fiasco, that no one has called for government regulation of the electric church — in fact, there aren't even any calls for hearings. What's this country coming to??).

David Bates: I thank you're giving Reagan too much credit. He's much worse than you imply.

Marie Steiner: I should hope there is a difference between a film where an animal gets killed and a "pornographic" film where no one — animal or human — gets harmed.

I think more people are hurt by arguing about the "Three Stooges" than they are by watching them. Do you support the butcher job they're doing to the old "Road Runner" cartoons? (If children really imitated such things, this would be a nation of cripples).

Carol Klees-Stark: What you should do with the fanatics who go to your bookstore is say to them, "I agree with you. I have some books full of pornography that I'd

love to burn." Then show them a box full of Bibles. (As an example, there's 2 Kings 18:27 EJV — a passage so utterly disgusting that I dare not quote it here). As an atheist, I find it hard to believe that I know more about the Bible than some "Christians" do — perhaps ignorance of what the Bible really says is a prerequisite to being a "good Christian."

What gets me is that Stalin and Hitler are mentioned as mad executioner's; compared with Mao Tse-dong, Marxism's finest flower, they were pikers.

Kiric of Melniboné: I have since sent Susan of Yee an apology, written in verse (since my hatred of poetry is universally known, you know what a sacrifice that was for me.).

Lisa Jenkins: When young Sherlock Holmes came out, some friends wanted to see it with me. Being a Holmes fan, I told them I was willing to watch it, provided they were willing to listen to me list the film's inaccuracies as they occurred. We ended up watching another film — Jeremy Brett is the first Holmes I've ever seen that actually followed the novels. As good as the Grenada TV adaptations are, they do take some liberties.

Funny, I always thought there were parallels between SF fandom and fundamentalism; both groups are rather cliquish, looking askew on "outsiders"; both groups have a "recruitment" mentality, believing that people will be happy once they join.

Allyson Dyer: I do believe I knew your husband a few years ago. I suspect that his memories of me are not fond ones. What can I say? I genuinely dislike Doc Savage (cf: Sprockets #3). I'm typing this missive up on an Amstrad Word Processor. The disks are hard to find, but the price was right. Like all fans, I'm basically cheap.

To everyone: Right now I'm working on an article for a horror fanzine — an article about snacks, if you can believe it. Anyone in the NSP who has opinions about snacks is invited to send them to me (this article promises to be a weird one).

((The ability to outrage is a God-given gift. Don't let it go to seed!)) Actually, if someone really disagrees with a product, they should not become involved with its distribution. For then, you approve by association. Your friend should not have sold the film, if he really disapproved of it. **Your article could get into "snacks" for dragons — young virgins. Snacks for vampires — like warm human vintage, etc. I



can also be slightly "sick" at times! see))

April 30, 1987

Katharine Duncan
P. O. Box 13146
Minneapolis, MN 55414

What happened? All I can urge you to do is please return to the two-column format. It is much easier to read for those of us with bad eyesight.

I was going to write a LoG on last issue, but forgot. It's just as well as it would have been within the stated deadline, but after the moved-up one. I would have been annoyed if I had written one and it hadn't appeared in this issue.

Yes, I know you say consider the state of the zine last year at this time. I will grant there has been a LOT of improvement. But, if you were as bad as Owen at getting the zines out on time, you would have been relieved of the editorship.

You want ideas on surrogate motherhood??? Well, I think Mary Beth Whitehead should have been given a period to change her mind after the birth of the child. She knew she wanted it as soon as it was born. The child was no longer a "thing", but a living person. Women who can view a child as a "thing" frighten me. Now Mary Beth may no longer even get to see her child. And what will little Melissa think when she is old enough to know what happened. Will she hate her father for depriving her of knowing her mother?

The only reason rape isn't taken seriously is that men run the world and men (most of them) seem incapable of understanding how a woman could not want something that they want so intensely. Recently the Minneapolis Star-Tribune had some articles on date rape and rape on college campuses. This last may be the place where most rapes happened. Yet college officials do not want to face this. If one in four college men has been guilty of what could be called rape (about this number said they had used "a bit" of force to get sex), it's common and being covered up. Of course the same college men did not consider what they did "rape" since no one got hurt. This is really reassuring to someone who will be attending college next fall. Yetch! But a TV talk show (local) brought out the point that even if the police will believe the young woman who complains about "date rape", most of her

friends and acquaintances will be against her particularly if they know the man involved and he seems "normal."

Sally: An internal passport for aliens is quite different from one for citizens. In the USSR, the citizens have to have them and need permission to go from one place to another. I think unfriendly aliens — such as the Russians with a known history of spying — should need permission to travel anywhere. Americans in Russia can't go anywhere without a guide. Diplomats are very restricted.

Also, I am getting a bit tired of your equating eating meat with harming animals. There is a vast difference between slicing up a cat for movie making purposes and eating a chicken sandwich. To argue differently makes casual cruelty to animals much more common, not vegetarianism more common. I read a book about food habits called something like THE SACRED COW AND THE PROFANE PIGS & it explained a lot of the reasons behind food prejudices. Among other things most vegetarians do eat some meat — usually fish — or meat products like eggs or milk. Cannibalism may have arisen from "meat hunger". And even the local papers have been stressing the dangers of a strictly vegetarian diet for young children.

I also liked Star Trek IV better than the other Trek films because it was more light-hearted. Most of Trek seems too soap-opera for me. I can hear the violins playing.

Patricia Williams: Why should the Palestinians have to move away from Israel as they were there first? They are the descendants of the Canaanites that Joshua had conquered, massacred, or said should be "hewers of wood and drawers of water." The Canaanites, however, are also mentioned in the New Testament. Jesus spoke to a Canaanite woman. They were called Phoenicians by Greeks and that is mostly what we know them as outside the Bible. Phoenician means "purple person" and comes from their selling purple dye. And they gave us the alphabet. In the 7th century, they were converted to Islam except for some of those who lived in the mountains of Lebanon. Why not move the Israelis to the Australian outback? They would make the



desert bloom and be productive citizens. Of course, you could say what has Australia done to have the problem foisted on them?

Sally: (again) I don't like the death penalty either, but all too often a killer given life imprisonment gets out after eight years or so. I remember seeing on the news about some killer in California who got let out and the prison system said that he "deserved it" and they were powerless to prevent it. You might have fewer people backing the death penalty if life imprisonment meant life imprisonment.

And the record deficit is not all Reagan's fault. The congress will not cut anything either and has passed several bills which Reagan claims are too costly over his veto. The problem seems to be that NO ONE has the guts to make budget cuts.

Carol Klees-Stark: I also saw "Harvest of Sorrow". I also say "boo-hiss" to the networks for not showing us this. It was worth ten "Americas" because it was true. Doesn't anyone want to admit that the Russians are capable of such things, or can you only show Nazis doing this? I'm confused.

We have quite a bit of hammered dulcimer, pseudo-Celtic music. I'm not all that fond of it however. Maybe because my family is Scottish/Irish and I was raised with too much of Celtic so that I'm sick of it. My grandmother is taking me to Scotland and England this summer on a trip to see our relatives. It's better than sticking around here but there are a LOT of places I'd rather go. I may get to the WorldCon however.

Lisa Jenkins: I also read the article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune where William Forstcher is not considered a "real" writer worthy of speaking about the art of writing to Maine schoolchildren. Isn't it great to know that what you and I like to read is not "real" literature and those who produce it aren't "real" writers? And the school children would probably prefer to hear a SF writer than a stream of consciousness poet who has been read by 50 people. Maybe they're afraid that Forstcher would be too popular. I've only read one of his novels called INTO THE SEA OF STARS which is about contacting lost colonies which have gone haywire and transmuted into some of the strangest societies. It was a good time passer, but hardly great. But I consider Forstcher a "real" writer even if the state of Maine doesn't. For that matter, would

they consider Stephen King a "real" writer? If he weren't practically a household word and ignoring him would make them a laughingstock? Where does Harry Longest fit in? He also lives in Maine.

Taras: I agree with you regarding the Jews and Palestinians. Also NO one is innocent when it comes to the lead stealing hit. Generally if you managed the "theft" before 1700 or so you are safe though not



always. But unless you outnumber by a large margin the people you stole the land from (The USA versus the Indians) or intermixed with them (in Britain) you can expect to get chastized -- South Africa is a good case. They won't give the land back or allow the natives to have all that much in the way of rights. Israel isn't about to give the land back and won't let the Palestinians be anything but second class citizens. Thus the problem. I'm only surprised they don't get more flack for this. I don't believe God is in the real estate business any more than He is in the extortion business. (I suppose you heard about Oral Roberts being "called home" if he didn't come up with a few million.)

Recently they had a demonstration at the U of Minn because Bush came up to speak there. I wouldn't vote for Bush for ~~dog~~ ~~dog~~ president, but I think he should be allowed to speak. I thought -- stupid me -- that freedom of speech meant freedom of speech for those who disagreed with you, not just for those who share your opinions, but these needs didn't realize that. Yet they would be the first to yell censorship if someone did that to them or to a speaker who shared their opinions. How is this different from the fundamentalists trying to wipe out all opinions they disagree with? (Good comment provoking letter. First, I would like to defend Owen. I happen to think that ALL editors who have put sweat into this site deserve thanks, not

criticism. Do you know how many hours are sweated into these pages? Or how many conflicts you get into in just trying to get the line out as is indicated? Until you have to do the job, you don't know and have not earned the credentials to criticize. Owen spent many long hours on this sine and I, for one, thank him for all those years and all that fine reading. We all have our faults and our individual ways of doing things. That is only part of the difference that makes humans so interesting.**Next you say that "vegetarians" eat fish. Sorry, but you have been reading things written by meat eaters who are copping out on their consciences by such things. If someone eats fish, they only have a restricted diet. If they say they are vegetarians, they have no idea of what they are speaking. Eggs and milk are not "meat" products, but animal products. Have you heard of "humane" farms where the egg laying chickens are allowed to range at will and the animals are well treated? These are the egg and milk products sold in some health food stores.

Those who follow an ovo-lacto vegetarian diet (no meat, poultry or fish) are those who consume such products. However, there are vegetarians who argue the point of these people being called vegetarians.**Next, why do you "tire" of hearing that because you kill an animal, you harm it? It is the truth -- like it or not. It is another cop out to say that saying such things might kill cats. We hide behind too many "complex" arguments in such things. The truth of the matter is simply that the human animal does not HAVE to eat other animals. They chose to do so. To say young children might suffer on a vegetarian diet is another ploy so meat eaters won't have to think of what they do. I mean, they HAVE to do it for their own good! Bunk! It's time they admitted they wanted to and have made the choice of their own free will. When we get to know animals, we suddenly find they are not "things". They are living creatures. Just as you are "frightened" by those who see children as "things", I get rather upset at those who see other living animals with whom we share this planet as simply "things." It is another form of discrimination. That seems to be a part and parcel of the human condition -- egocentric arrogance. Maybe it's time we started to evolve upwards from this state.**Using the same logic, if you think we should let ourselves be inundated with all history, let

us also show how the American Indian was slaughtered AFTER 1700. History can teach us or it can trap us. WE have to learn to see it for what it is: what we as the human race have done to each other in the past and learn to overcome it, not to wallow in it and repeat it forever and ever to come.**Life imprisonment. Get the judges to make a sentence so it will stick. Don't use the argument of them "deserving" to get out as a cop out plea there either.**Deficients. Why don't we admit our responsibilities to not self destruct our environment or our citizens and do something about PAYING for this responsibility. If we use resources and reap the harvests, we have to put something back to keep the golden goose alive and well. sas))

April 30, 1987

Kyck Heube
302 West 20th
Covington, KY 41014

What occurred at Boskone to earn 'em the boot from Sheraton?

Stallone is trying to bankroll a film in which he portrays Edgar Allen Poe. How long will it be before Schwarzenegger stars in the life of Lovecraft? Now, tall me life isn't an illusion, if not a full-blown practical joke.

I truly wonder about people who cavil against the seatbelt laws. Did America ever slow to 35? Does America report all its earned and unearned income to the IRS? Has the fear of a 20- to life-rap stopped a single Texan junkie? Let's get real. One of my acquaintances is a professional mugger. Yet this bastion of disorder rails against seatbelt legislation like Ole John Law is gonna use rocket launchers on folks sighted unbuckled on the road.

One of my hobbies is studying the streets. Much to my wife's disgust, I interview bag persons, share the occasional bottle with derelicts, and chew the fat with local hookers. Ergo, I feel compelled to dispel the myths when I can. Regardless of Hollywood, stereotypical pimps are a minute fraction of the game. The vast majority of females and males strutting the street are independent contractors. What blows me away is the new breed of pimp surfacing with the layoffs at the local GM plant. They are parents trying to maintain their middle class standard of living by putting their

kids on the street.

By the way, if you ever wondered about alien thought processes, just ask your local sidewalk schizoid. There's more SF/V in a single block of the ghetto than in all of NASA, fersure.

Ere I forget, I wanted to praise Gornley's Women with Guns. Good stuff! I counted two whole sentences I agreed with, but it was all a good stit for the grey cells. What We Point At by Briggs also merits a thumbs up, though given the limited space I would have preferred more meat and less Toynee and charlie-mange.

Indeed, I really applaud the quality efforts you've been turning out. Bloody excellent work, fersure, Syrjala. ((What happened to Boskone was probably trying to get bigger than the world population by inviting one and all -- SF interest or not. Bigger is not always better, fersure!***What has the lack of deterrence with our laws have to do with being against seat belt laws? If the law doesn't work, it is just one more reason to scuttle it. However, the primary issue is freedom of choice. If someone has a right to choose to eat meat, have I not the right to decide for myself about seat belts? I use them, but I have no intention of allowing a governmental agency to tell me I HAVE to use them. If you are caught not

wearing them and a law exists, you are struck in the pocket book with the ole vacuum hose. Insurance increases, as well as immediate fines. That's one of the rubber hoses we still use as punishment on our populace. sas))

May 2, 1983

Laura Todd
404 Brower Avenue
Oaks, PA 19456

Greetings! Someone mentioned Fundamentalists, so I'll tell you my tale. Many years ago, during the Great Hippie Age when everyone was searching for Enlightenment, I became attracted to Christianity. As a result, I somehow ended up going to a fundamentalist church. (Charismatics, I believe, is the term.) Folks, you would not believe the number those guys did on my head. Single women in their 20's and 30's being told to move back home or in with a Christian family so they could be under "submissian" to a male authority. A silver-tongued pastor who claimed he was an Apostle. Local prayer groups becoming the arbiters of all our actions: what friends to have, what kind of books to read. (SF, of course, was 7af the



devil".) Oh, and I won't even talk about their teachings on Tithing!! It scares the hell out of me that these kind of groups are becoming so powerful. Frankly, I'm real glad to see the current PTL scandal!!

Seat belts: Yes, I respect your arguments about how safe they are, but for someone like me who's 5'2", the shoulder strap rests right about on my jugular vein. It's uncomfortable to say the least. Also, how about when you have kids in the back and have to keep taking the thing off so you can reach back and help your kids? (passenger side.) Or when there's 1 seat belts and 3 children. Or when you buy a used car and \$\$\$c things don't work. Or try confining an active child into something as restrictive as an electric chair for a 4-hour trip. In other words . . . it's easy to talk about issues in the abstract, but reality isn't always the same thing.

Sally: I was very deeply moved by your description of growing up as the child of an alcoholic. I've been married for 15 years to a man who's had several bouts of "substance abuse". I sure could identify with your descriptions of coping with insecurity and instability. The hardest part is the psychic wall you must build between yourself and the abuser, to protect yourself from pain. Where does that leave "love" and trust??

Carol Klees-Stark: Yeah, I'm a fan of Celtic music. Clumped is one of my favorites; also Touchstone and Steeleye Span.

Cyberpunk: I have to laugh when I read the publishers' blarney about how "hot" it is. Today's "hot" is tomorrow's "warmed over", and cyberpunk is just another flash-in-the-pan fad, another example of style over content.

Be: Single-author fandoms, I used to be a great fan of Orsiver and other such single-author fandoms, but now I'm turning off to them. Reason: it's too much of an ego-massage for the author to have a horde of adoring worshipers. Eventually she begins to lose touch with the basics of good writing and thinks she can get away with anything. I won't mention names, but I've become disillusioned with some of my former favorite authors this way. They've published stuff that would get me laughed out of my writers' workshop. Oh, and about the constant feminina in fiction: it's starting to wear thin. Don't get me wrong; I'm in complete agreement with the philosophy. Indeed, as a member of one of

society's lowest-status groups, the full-time mother, I'm all too aware of the biological inequities inherent in being female. So I'd rather not be constantly reminded of it in fiction. I read fiction as a release from reality, not a reinforcement of it.

One final comment about the new zine format: I frankly preferred the old one. It was easier to read, and it gave more opportunities for budding artists to get small cartoons and doodles printed. The policy of printing only larger art favors the more accomplished "serious" artists. Don't get me wrong; their work is great, but as a beginner artist, I feel I've been pushed out. If I spend the time and effort on a large art masterpiece, I'm more likely to send it to some "big" fanzine, which I can then receive for free as a form of payment.

Enough for now!
((Love can exist under any and all situations. It is trust that quickly pulls a vanishing act. Such circumstances can either make or break you as a person. To some it might give added strenght to be themselves, but others can lose themselves. It is not an easy situation at all, but then life in general isn't and never promised to be either.**I agree with you on the art format, as well as the two-column format. It was tried, but didn't quite get off the ground. I think art and text should be merged into one. I don't think they should be "separate, but equal." Both forms usually suffer under such an instance. It is in their enhancement of each other where one will make the other shine and each will show up points of the other than might have been missed without that merging. man))

May 2, 1987

David Bates
353 Kennedy Drive
Putnam, CT 06260

Lightbeam #149 arrived yesterday. May we well make a few comments and I will try to keep it to a short letter. I sometimes have to try and keep things short, if a lot of comments come to mind, generated by the wide variety of letters and their subject matter. I suppose you will have to limit the comments, or start to edit letters.

Dorothy Wethington: Interesting sense of humor you have. I agree on ALP as a really original and funny show, but I do think it

has survived its first full year and will be back next year. They are making a tremendous push and I have been told they are getting up a marketing package, for things like an ALF doll, and an ALF comic book. Point is that I think they may actually be around for awhile. By the way, not all sitcoms are the same, although I would have to agree most are the same old ticky-tacky. However, there is a British import around that is great, Raising Damp, with Leonard Rossiter. He runs a really run-down boarding house, and some of his boarders are students, a rather lovely old maid, and assorted types that wander in for a week.

Haven't watched Oster Lintis for years, until the other night. We had a "dead" hour to kill, and watched an episode. I didn't catch the title, but it starred David McCullum as "Tone" and had one of the neatest time machines I have seen. Very imaginative script, and McCullum was excellent as the idealist sometimes almost sinister master of tilting time.

Caught two shows recently that Trekkies would probably be interested in. One edition of Saturday Night Live has as guest host, William Shattner. He did a take off on T. J. Hooker that was funny. A second skit was on Star Trek, where the Enterprise had fallen on hard times, and been turned into a restaurant. Another skit had him as a guest at a Trekkie con, and reacting as an actor might when really put upon. The final bit with Shattner was the introduction bit, where they sang a song in the background, "The Ballad of the Mute Marine" and Shattner did a devastating pastiche of Col. Oliver North. If North ever sees it, he should head into immediate exile. Funny, funny, funny.

The other is a little fan station in our area, Channel 26, is showing a very realistic series of war shows, one being Combat. The episode (originally broadcast 10/22/63) entitled The Wounded Don't Cry has an excellent performance by Leonard Nimoy, even though he is only in the first fifteen minutes of the show, before becoming wounded. I might mention it is also a hell of a performance by the late Vic Morrow as well.

I was amused by your list of things to do. However, #7 intrigued me. Going to a house where some one died with tape recorder, radio, etc. I am not sure if this is an invention or if you are quoting something. I have never heard of this



before so far as I know. It does make an interesting experiment. If this is quoted from something I wonder what it is? And if your own idea, something that might have some interesting possibilities. One I also don't intend to try.

Well, on to other things. The Reagan era seems already over. Thank God! The Iran-Contra Scandal will start regular hearings on May 5th, and everyone so far states it will be very embarrassing. If to the president or to the party, I don't know.

North and Poindexter are in it up to their chinny chin chins. And now, it seems we bought some weapons for the Contras from Soviet bloc countries. I can't follow this garbage. Reagan trying to get away with stating he just didn't know, or that Poindexter didn't tell him, to protect him.

Can you actually believe that Poindexter or North did all this without presidential blessing?

You hear interesting comments like Twilight of the Reagan Administration, and now that it's over. Well, I don't think it is over yet. You also hear some comments that Reagan might step down. Again, I don't see it. Not yet. His ego wouldn't let him. Nor would Nancy I expect. I expect if he did step down, it is the only way Bush would

ever be President. He gave up his chance long ago. And I don't think Reagan would willingly allow Bush an edge by so doing -- stepping down.

What does anyone think of the sexual hijinx of the PTL Club? Geez, it seemed like a replay. I saw it all long ago on Soap. Now it is for real. And Reagan's old buddy, James Watt, was on the board of directors. He has resigned. And old White House visitor, Jerry Falwell, is about to step down from custodianship of the PTL. Actually, I don't think Watt has done anything wrong, here, and certainly not Falwell. It is just the atmosphere created by Reagan that has helped these groups grow in the last six years. But, he didn't create them. I'm trying to be fair.

Sally, I appreciated your well-thought out comments. You have your facts well marshalled and presented. I am nervous about laws for random stopping that I mentioned. Would you feel better if instead of a random sweep, for seat belt violators, anytime a police officer sees a driver without one, or anytime he stops them for something else, a ticket is issued to them for not using the seat belt? With the rest of my stated recommendations referral to the insurance company? Or not? People should be educated on their use, of course. And you are dead on center when you say, the manufacturer has a responsibility as well. Air bags would be great. I am all in favor of that. I doubt that it will happen while Reagan is in office or Elizabeth Dole heads her department.

You admit seat belts save lives. That is a proven fact. A law insisting they be worn is common sense because some macho type may come along, not wear it, have an accident and it will take man hours away from other needed endeavors. I mentioned cutting the boob out of the wreck, the cost financial and emotional to his family, the time the doctors take, the paramedics, the nurses..someone may well die while they are taking care of this person. Perhaps a harsher reality would be, anyone in an accident not wearing a seat belt should not have the same priorities of others. But a good society is the society that cares for its weakest member. In this case, a non-belt wearer should be protected, and maybe a law to be passed, in the preamble: "...promote the general Welfare..." The welfare of all would be better served if people wore seat belts.

Well, I must have used up my two pages, so will close this off. Should have commented to another two or so, but just know we read everything, and will separately respond to you all. All the best!
((I am against all seat belt laws. It is common sense that getting in a car is the chief cause of accidental car injuries. Therefore, being in a car should be outlawed. If you start to make laws on who should be treated as to what philosophy they hold -- seat belt wearers or non-seat belt wearers, you are saying some very dangerous things. You say only those who abide by what you think is right should be saved. If such a philosophy started anywhere, just think where it could lead! xxx))

April 14, 1987

Garth Spencer
1796 Richardson Street
Victoria, B.C.
CANADA
V8V 3E1

Here comes another monster LoC from the aspiring essayist here.

NAMES: To Kate Cochran -- I've had name problems, but not on a personal level. "Spencer" is not an unusual name for a WASP city like Victoria, but neither is it as common as Smith, Jones, Chang or Gomez. I grew up in a mostly male household, though, so when a phone call comes in for "Mr. Spencer," I have to ask, "Which one?" This is followed by a significant pause. This is still happening even though both my brothers have left home.

"Garth" is not a common name either. I was named after a family friend, and wouldn't you know that it was a Scots name. I present this in evidence to support my case that Canada is a secret colony of Scotland. I think this is a name slightly more common in Canada than in the States, but I've still never been confused with anyone else. (If you wanted a name all your own, I wonder you didn't choose an exotic one, like Scheherade, or Shuimith, or Solange, or Ghislaine, or Aviva, or...)

My name has never lent itself to nicknames. Come to that, nicknames have never really caught on up here. Or fan names, for that matter. I've noticed very few fan names among my Canadian correspondents, or at least the Northwest fans I've encountered.

COPYRIGHT & LUCASFILM: Janet Elliott: A friend informed me about Lucasfilm's antics and attitudes several years ago. Things like setting up a short-story contest where they got all the rights to everything submitted, and so forth. The question with them seems to be what weird ideas have they been saddled with, that they will bring to their dealings with fans?

There are at least two international copyright conventions to which nations can be signatory. I believe Canada is signatory to both, while the US is signatory to one. (For domestic/Canadian fans — recently Parliament introduced a new Copyright Act, with new benefits for artists and writers. There are new tax breaks, anyway.) Under American law, at least, I believe that a fan publication, or any publication under a certain level of circulation, is held simply not to break copyright.

Nevertheless, Lucasfilm seems to apply to fan publications some cut-throat paranoid standards, and grab-every-dollar-you-can values, that they apply in mundania... or at least in Hollywood.

FALSE EXPECTATIONS: More to Janet: If I were to give them the benefit of the doubt, which I don't, I would say Lucasfilm expects fanzines and fanfiction to conform to their standards, on a professional level; but they go beyond that, and demand concessions that no professional writers or editors would tolerate.

To Patricia Williams: For the last few months, I've been getting similarly bizarre standards applied unfairly to Maple Leaf Rag. I have carefully stated, repeatedly and ad nauseam, what I'm actually saying, and what I'm actually trying to accomplish. It makes no difference; over and over, readers and tradeskeeps misinterpreting what I write, and downgrading MLR for not meeting standards that don't really apply.

Pat: what I think happens — in fanzine reviewing as in anything else — is that there are always people around who apply false expectations to what you do. The trick is to dismiss them, make them not to matter.

Lucasfilm is an extreme case of one party applying "professional" expectations to other parties pursuing fan activities.

Fandom is an anarchy. There is no longer a common understanding as to what fanzines, cons, clubs, are for; no common definition for SF itself anymore. I think we are just going to have to take some irrelevant abuse



in stride. If we can.

We can do this in fandom, I suppose, but in mundania it's harder. As witness South Africa . . .

Not that it isn't hard in fandom. I can't count the number of column inches or \$\$'s worth of ink I've spilled, trying fumblingly to discover what readers thought they were about. My expectations were that, sure, of course, fandom was entertainment, and fan activities were for fun — but when you're putting on a large activity, dealing Other People's Money, and in four- or five-figure budgets, you can't afford to make many mistakes, or to act like you can put off or neglect the activity the way you can a hobby. My expectation was also that I had to tell some fans these things, and then I could sit back. Seems I was wrong.

RELIGION: (Continued from last issue):
To Patricia Williams: Someone who takes Christianity to be a complete world system, and literally true, is of course going to have conflicts with current scientific knowledge. (This is fundamentalism.) If you take Christianity as a belief-and-value system, on which you can base a life and a system of ethics, then these conflicts aren't important; simply beside the point.

Apparently — and this is just on talking, assuming that what operates for Christianity operates in the same way for other world religions — you can't have a valuesystem without arbitrary, a priori, ad hoc axioms; such as, for example, the conviction that there is a Maker to the world, that he therefore owns the whole shebang, and that (punchline) this makes us responsible to him.

If you're a religious liberal, you can tell yourself that large parts of the mythos are metaphorical and there is still someone you have to be responsible to. This is fancy mental footwork and not everyone

can do it, forever, or at all. Which is one reason why a lot of people aren't trying.

To some extent, neopagans and witches and people outside the Judeo-Christian-Islamic stream are still obliged to invest a lot of faith in arbitrary propositions. Which is precisely the problem -- faith itself.

To **Laurence Gray**: Re your comment to **Lynne Holdom**: Well, yes, it may be possible to be ethical without believing in God, without a religious commitment; but I just got through saying, a second time, that a great many people feel they have to buy into a whole belief structure -- not only to have some ethical guidelines, but in order to make some sense of reality at all.

LAND & PROPERTY: **Patricia Williams**: As I understand it, there are two attitudes you can take about any amount of land. You can look on it as a place to be, or a property to be used. The difference between these attitudes was also the difference between the crofters and the imported southern landowners in 18th-Century Scotland, which led to the Clearances.

On the one hand, the troubles in Palestine, or Israel, or whatever you want to call it, revolve around the land as a place to be. As I understand it, the Zionist movement was an attempt by Jews to find or make a place of their own, based on the premise that Jews could only survive with their identity intact (not to say their skins) if they could stake out some turf. Notice that this is a distinct and separate premise from claims of land ownership.

I also gather that in 1948, both Palestinians and Israelis harboured some hotheads who wouldn't tolerate peaceful coexistence with each other, not yet submitting to "foreign" rule. Since then, the extremists have been the reason why land ownership vs. staking out turf is not a difference that makes any difference.

Here are people wanting a place to exist, and fighting over the same place.

Taras Wolanaky: On the other hand, the controversy over property rights vs. right to life revolves around what they're for. We are rapidly approaching a state of society in which a person's life is worth what someone else can get out of it, specifically in monetary terms. For ages, for time out of mind, property usually meant land, and land meant life -- the ability to produce food, for consumption or for profit.

I wouldn't have thought of property as what gives life, not what you spend life to

get . . . but the difference makes no difference, the Vance quote still applies.

Read Peter Farb. Rights/ownership over land means the right to use it. (one of the several things Amerindians were just a little too slow to understand about the whites' lifestyle.) Take away the land someone owns and, to some level of our minds, that threatens our livelihood. Take away some property and, no matter what it is, you threaten the owner on that emotional level.

Ever caught yourself thinking of money as food?

ELITISM (?) IN SF FANDOM: **Priscilla Johnson**: Re your remarks to **David Heath**: I've noticed for some years the low number of black people at Northwest cons, and the much lower number of Indians. I think I met one Eskimo woman at V-Con 13, a punk rock fan from Seattle.

I don't think anyone pretends Canada is not in its own way a racist society. For us, the under-people tend to be natives, far more than blacks; but then I live in a backwater, with little experience of oronto, say, or Montreal.

BOYS AND GIRLS TOGETHER: **Patricia Williams**: You "prefer the male fans who look rather nerdish", you say? Patricia, why don't I meet ~~you~~ women like you? I seem to be doing a full-time Les Nesomud impersonation. Don't I qualify?

Re your second letter, to **Laura Todd**: Well, I've begun to realize, for my part, that most fan, male and female, are liable to be "self-centered assholes." . . . No, make that most humans. Oh, and cats, too! Don't forget cats. Cats and humans . . .

A FEW QUESTIONS: **Patricia Williams**: What? Where did you hear the USA was subsidizing birth control devices in Europe?? I never heard that.

Emily Alward: What? "The successful man in our culture has several 'wives', not always sequentially"? News to me.

The job I have now is as a sort of male Kelly Girl. Sit in one place, take massages for twenty people, type for whoever comes along, guard the boss from angry creditors . . . People phone up and expect me to be the accountant, or the accounts payable department, or anything but the secretary. Now that's sexist.

((Lucasfilm and fanzines. The fear over Lucas is what kept SW fanzines from appearing for a time. But nothing can stop fandom forever, even Lucas. **SW** fandom

exists inspite of him. There is a statement on the front inside cover of media lines stating that the line is a not-for-profit venture and that its publication in no way infringes upon the copyright of LucasFilm/Faramount or whoever it is they are dealing with. Who knows how it would stand in court? No one has tested it yet and neither side is eager to see what would happen. But it was nice to see LucasFilm lose its battle in court against the US government taking "its" trademarked name. Evil does not ALWAYS win! sas))

May 1, 1987

David Bates
355 Kennedy Drive
Putnam, CT 06260

I thought the following might be of interest to the readers. This is from a list compiled by Greg Myers in Comic Buyers Guide for May, 1987. The comments and conclusions are my own. And I am not quoting all the magazines and comics whose circulation figures are reported. Just the ones closely associated with the field, and one or two others for comparison.

Inspite of reports that our economy is doing great, the people who make the bucks and buy the goods know better. The dollar does not go very far anymore, and if it comes to buying a book or a sandwich, the sandwich wins out almost every time. Old standard publications, and newer ones who had shown great potential, are slidding in sales. Fantasy Book has announced it will end with the current issue.

Some figures: Conan the Barbarian in 1986 had an average 12 month loss of 25,046.

Conan the King had a loss of 13,602. Savage Sword of Conan had a loss of 2,300.

Now this may just reflect the stories and art are not too good, or that the public may well have had enough of our muscle bound antideluvian hero. There has been an awful (sometimes a most apt word) lot of Conan material published, and the fact remains, no one wrote Howard like Howard.

General Magazines: Most magazines took a loss in 1986 over the prior 12-month average total paid circulation. Even two ultra conservative publications took a nose dive: Reader's Digest down 625,054 and TV Guide down 107,850. The last named may be down for another reason: with the spread of cable systems, most people with cable get a special publication listing just the cable

programs, making TV Guide a kind of luxury.

Playboy still has a healthy circulation, but after the attacks by Jerry Falwell and his idiot legions, is down 356,425. Omni was down only 535, the smallest loss of any.

Alfred Hitchcock increased 2,700. Analog was also up a modest 939. Twilight Zone took a hefty loss of 3,968, due probably in some degree to the trial in regard to the deaths on the movie set. Isaac Asimov down 4,439. Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction was a real surprise, with an increase of 2,221. Amazing Stories did only an average of 13,183 copies.

Little magazines seem to thrive. No figures are available for Weirdbook, Weird Tales, Black Mask or Ghosts & Scholars, which are more specialty stores and direct sales than magazines for news stand distribution.

If the trend continues, then 1987 may just about be the last year of news stand distributed fiction magazines. At one time there were thousands, and now they are a handful each year, and that number shrinks. The really sad thing about it is where do authors hone their skills in the future? We had the pulps and we had the digests, and now you can only go with the little magazines that often don't pay other than in copies of the issue you are printed in. There have always been the little magazines and they fill a vital need, but where does a person go after that? There are no pulps, and precious few magazines of any kind using fiction. You have to go to books, but how do you sell one? Well, you need an agent.

But if you don't have a published book already, you have little chance to interest an agent. Kind of a Catch 22 situation. ((Thanks for the information. I find it fascinating. I know magazines are getting expensive enough that I no longer purchase as many as I once did. sas))



May 1, 1987

Mola Frame
933-B Maple Avenue
Inglewood, CA 90301

The latest TB has just arrived so it looks like I had better play catch-up with the last two TB's -- Issues 147 and 148.

Gail Gornley: Geeze, I wish that I could find myself in the position of finding out that writing is addictive, but I haven't had the chance to get through to the needed equipment, what with my schedule. Pant, pant. As this very moment, for instance, I am typing this as I wait for my roomie, Louis, to get dressed for church, Unitarian Society that is. (Writing must be addictive -- I keep having withdrawal.)

Golly gee, does your letter bring back memories. There was a time when I was working such screwball shifts in convalescent hospitals, as a nurse's aid or kitchen attendant (which meant knowing about patient's diets,) that fanac and creating were my sole anchors to reality and social interaction.

Don't knock it. IBM Selectrics are nice machines -- usually. I used an old used, IBM Selectric I until it went belly-up for the upteenth time. Now I'm using an Olympia Electronic Compact, which was actually bought for an Osborne computer, which also went belly-up. One of the disadvantages of a computer is the keyboard. They are not designed by touch typists. As an example, the Caps Lock key remains at the same level regardless of whether you're typing in Caps mode or not. Trying to solve the problem by putting a little light on the key kinda defeats the purpose of trying to touch type. Me, I'm drooling over and waiting for those neat-o computers we see on Max Headroom -- The terminals with the keyboards that look like they were ripped off of ancient Royal typers, and the like. Now they were designed for touch typists! ** There's a lot of fannish activity here in Los Angeles, but it's unconnected. Think of lots of fen doing their own thing. Having a C*A*R is definitely a requirement. That's why I'm so delighted with being in TB and the NJF. Ya don't need a car -- honest! ** As for the rest of your question, I think the appeal of writing for Hollywood might be bringing some of 'em here. Me, I wouldn't

know. I was born here. (Father used to work for KABC TV. He worked in radio and migrated out here to California, for the jobs.)

Beaches here can be a problem. Since people are into owning their own private beach along with their little beach house, the public beaches we do have are verrry overcrowded.

I look forward to seeing your review of Aliens.

David Speakman: As an old girl friend used to say: "Get your mind out of the gutter so mine can float past!" I adored your SMURF cartoon!

Victoria A Smith: As for your question of the possible effects of sending Lynne back in the Tardis to microfilm the Alexandrian library, I can't imagine much of an effect, except that Lynne might be accused of fraud -- like Hitler's diary.

As long as I've known MZB, she's never had much empathy for non-reading fandom. I don't think age has much to do with it. When I confronted her about this, she confessed that she has never been much on movie going, being a die-hard reader, that is why she has trouble understanding visual fandom. (Those weren't her words, but that was the gist of what she said. We were talking about ELF QUEST and why she didn't care for it.)

Taras Wolansky: Re dirty ~~Y&F~~ ~~photograph~~ fen -- Some fans cannot afford hotel rooms, or plans made fall through. A girl friend let me down by saying that we had a room at a con Saturday night. Hence, I told my other friend that it was ok for her to go on without me. So I spent the night crashing the film room, only to be awakened at 8 the next morning by the complete SHOGUN. Still that wasn't the hard part. It was fighting the call of nature because the movie/serial wouldn't let me get away! Other fen just didn't learn the necessity of subduing body odors. I had to train someone very close to me in this. ** Were you aware that there are more Jewish people living here in the States, particularly Southern California, than the entire state of Israel? ** At times I feel out of place because I'm a science fiction/fantasy fan, not fantasy (unless the book has Barbara Hambly's name printed on it.) and a woman.

David and Su Bates: I can't claim to know why apas are declining, or even that

there was such a thing, but I do hafta ask myself: Could some of this be to the scarcity of agents for ditto or mimeo. Not everyone lusts for the chance to send a bundle (both monetarily and literally) through the mail. Not to mention that mimeo masters are getting to be rare. Go into a stationery store and request mimeo masters and watch the sales person go "Whatzat!" or worse direct you to lettering stencils.

Sally Syrjala: I hafta ask — have you ever been to a con?

Victoria A Smith: Humph — It would be child's play to pick out the active fen in TB and the NSF — look for the fen wearing Nikes and running shorts! ** No, no, Harlequin novels are not alternative world fiction. The Tall Dark & Handsome are cloned and colored to style via factories.

Michael Norwitz: I hafta ask. Wouldn't it had been better to show your daughters that issue of TB and then explain?

Erin McKean: Re Dante -- Have you read Inferno by SF writer, Larry Niven? The original means in which Mr. Niven punishes wicked publishers and the like leaves one breathless. The punishment for the people who helped ban Cyclamates is — in a word — unforgettable. And I don't mean blood and gore. You'll also have fun recognizing Ingerno's "guardian angel."

Rose Secrest: State ID's fill most of the purposes of a driver's license. If a driver's license were mandatory, I would be out of luck. I say "most things" because you cannot leave your ID as collateral when renting skates, in some places. ** Have you ever lived in a commune? ** Your letters have not been dull: that is why yours is one of the first I rush to when I get TB. (I miss your writing in RACEZINE.) ** Read an article in Scientific American where the author of a piece felt that drugs should not be outlawed because "getting a fix" is one of the major reasons for violence. The author? An M.D. and head of a trauma center at a major hospital. ** No, the trouble is that some people make snap decisions about poor people not willing to make sacrifices, yet have never been poor themselves. On the flip side, the reason why some women don't go to cons is that they honestly feel that they should spend X amount of money to keep up appearances, looks, dress, try to look like they are living as well as their wealthier friends. What can you do about them? Nothing. Except try not to think about them as they wait, "I wish I could go

to cons like you."

((Yes. I've been to a couple of cons. I like media cons better than SF ones. Money is a consideration in getting to a con, but time is also. I enjoyed the cons, but honestly not as much to make me want to give up my time to go to them on a consistent basis. There is too much to be done on the home front! sas))

May 2, 1987

Laura Thompson
3243 Gunston Road
Alexandria, VA 22302-2102

I hope that the printer gets better quickly. This could really be bad for the NSF, if our main communications can't go to print.

Katherine Duncan: I take back everything I said in defense of MZB. I was at the 1986 Darkovercon when she chewed out Hannah Shapero for being a baseball fan. An independent eye witness said that he didn't recognize either of the two women -- just saw this old bat ripping this young woman up one side and down the other for liking sports where all men do is play with their balls. He thought Hannah was going to punch out her lights. Marion probably didn't realize that she had said anything offensive, tho, and at a panel said that Hannah's art was the only art which really brought Darkover stories to life for her. Hannah said she was just kind of stunned by the verbal assault.

MZB is without a doubt a very intelligent lady, but she is also rude. Another victim of FSI, which afflicts young and old alike.

Patricia Williams: Oddly enough, I didn't like FORTY THOUSAND IN GEHENNA. It was like reading a history text. The problem was, I was expecting a novel and it just never seemed to get started as a coherent story. I like history tho, and will probably go back and start over, now that I know what the book is like. THE FADED SUN trilogy is about a mercenary race, the wri, who were working for a race fighting humans, and lost the war. The few survivors try to regain their homeworld, along with a human companion. It is one of her earlier works, but is set in her Alliance/Union universe, taking place in the Alliance after the Gehenna novel.

Of course, Klingons aren't green. Marian Ellison is often wrong. I find that I

LISTEN! I'M NOT IN TO NUCLEAR FREEZE, ARMS REDUCTION, AND ALL THIS OTHER LIBERAL JUNK YOU FANTASY FANS BELIEVE IN!!



always like his stories tho, and then get irritated that I do, because he is such an obnoxious person.

Did the person not want to go to bed with you at all, because of their religion, or jaut at this particular con? I am not certain that I make the connection between this incident and FSI. Please do elaborate, as it sounds fascinating.

Sally: AIDS maybe a disease of homosexuals in this country, but it is destroying whole villages in Africa, proving that it can be transmitted very well by heterosexual contact (most of these villages don't seem to have much intravenous drug use).

Marie Steiner: Archery is fun! You don't know what Gor books are? Oh, boy! The best thing to do is find someone you can borrow two from. I had a fannish friend at work who insisted that I read two of his. It was very educational. The first novel is pretty much a straight Edgar Rice Burroughs Mars or Venus adventure story. There is a small mention of noble women being hidden in large estates, sharing in the wealth and power of Gor, and more mention of the peasant women being kept as slaves. Years of breeding have made the slaves exquisite toys for men's pleasure. The second one I read was about number 15 or 18 in the series. I read 25 pages, skimmed another 25, then gave up. By this time in his career, John Norman has begun droning on and on in long diatribes about how pretty the slaves are with their white necks in shackles, chained to the master's bed. And we all know that is what women really want! Truly revolting. Sexually explicit stories

are one thing, and they can be entertaining and well written, but this is true pornography! S&M, bondage and discipline, women subjected to .. well, you get the idea. (I want to know what becomes of all these women when they turn 30.) Ick.

Laura Todd: I think that we can explore space and improve the way we take care of the Earth. It doesn't have to be an exclusive proposition. Space may be able to supply us with clearer energy resources, such as solar power, and allow us to mine asteroids, not the Earth. We should not ruin the Earth and then leave it behind, neither should we turn our back on the shore of space at hand.

Carol Klees-Starks: Maybe the offensive fan was a zombie.

Michael Peralta: I have an excellent background in the hard sciences, so I don't believe in a hollow Earth. But I have personally witnessed examples of ESP and will continue to investigate the paranormal.

I do not believe everything that I read, but I do believe my own eyes. Many physics theories, especially in the field of astronomy and quantum mechanics, rest entirely on mathematics before observational evidence exists. As far as had theories go, there are unproved ones and implausible ones.

You can prove something is true (it only has to be documented once), but you can never prove something is always false.

William Wilson Goodson, Jr.: So that's where I read that Clarke story! Thanks.

Well, that's enough excitement for this LoC. Until next time.

((Ah, AIDS is not "just" a homosexual disease in this country either, but that is the IMAGE in people's minds. Image rates more on the scale of what people believe and how they view a situation than do facts. Actually, different viruses have been found.

Studies were conducted to find out why it is so widely spread in Africa. I heard one report said folks with allergies and cold sores and such were more likely to contract the disease than those who did not have these conditions. Perhaps because they indicate the immune system is already under stress? It will be "interesting" as well as scary to see how the transmittal mutates as time goes by. sss))



May 3, 1987

Harriet E. Goren
72-15 37th Avenue -- Apt 51
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

This letter has been breeding since November, 1986, and is finally fully caught up, like TB itself!) To begin comments mostly on TB 146:

Sally Syrjala: Instant replay (which you decried in TB 147) did, unfortunately, invade the World Series telecasts, mostly pitches reviewed from various angles. I found this preferable to watching the first baseman scratch himself, which is usually what we have to watch while the batter limbers up. The best way to see baseball is in person or on the radio. I agree with you that the "lifelike" aspect of many sports is disappearing. . . the designated hitter rule is one example. Not letting a pitcher hit so that he can spend more time in spring training improving his specialty is almost as bad as giving steroids to high school athletes (a scary new trend): the whole meaning of the game as a team effort is lost, as is the philosophy which underlies all sports, mastery of a skill through the balance of physical and mental disciplines. Many professional athletes are now in it just for the money and seem to be trained not to think. Gelsey Kirland, in her autobiography Dancing on my Grave (good book, awful title) also sees this problem in many of today's young dancers. They're taught to respond like a cog in a machine, perfecting the body without much regard for the mind of the artist who inhabits it.

I really enjoyed your reminiscences about baseball in TB 146. I'm sorry about your Red Sox. Well, not really. Only kidding. I understand how you must feel. Throughout my childhood, the Mets (who were born just about when I was) were branded as eternal losers and buffoons, and we both suffered through the same jokes about the unfortunate name of our home town, Flushing. Talk about underprivileged childhoods (theirs, not mine).

Baseball fandom is nothing like science fiction fandom. Generally, the more baseball games you watch, the more of a fan you become. You have to understand the sport in order to stay a fan. Not so with SF . . . joining its subculture leaves less time (and possibly inclination) for SF

itself. Baseball fandom is like nationalism: where you live, or where you're from determines the object of fixation. SF seems to cut across all lines of demarcation. I also prefer this fandom because I don't think SF fans spill beer on your feet as often as ballgame attendees do.

Here's the baseball story that will become my reminiscence in a few years:

On October 27, 1986 I was at work wondering if I had bought enough potato chips to satisfy my friend, David, while we watched that night's seventh World Series game on TV, when the phone rang. It was David. "I think you should wear lots of warm sweaters and bring sandwiches tonight," he said.

David has a friend who is a lawyer for the Baseball Commissioner's office. (David went to 50 games last season and in his spare time taught and worked on a Ph. D.) He went to two playoff games as well as series games six, and just happened to have laid his hands on two tickets to game seven, courtesy of the lawyer friend's friends' last minute cancellation. And since he had planned to watch the game at my house, anyway . . . If my head hadn't been securely attached, it would have shot through the ceiling at that moment.

I became part of a 55,000 unit living organism that night, all thinking, feeling, and, after the fifth inning, standing simultaneously. The magic in the air even caused us usually paranoid New Yorkers who happened to be in adjoining seats to talk to one another, sharing in the unreality. By inning nine, we had experienced all emotions in unison: at the very end, we cried and hugged, dazed by success . . . Was I awake? Did you see me on TV (yellow coat, screaming)?





Unfortunately, the way things are going this year, I don't think that experience will be repeated, at least not at Shea Stadium. (But I could be coerced to go up to The Bronx, if necessary.)

Another comment for Sally: I like editorial comments, especially yours, but I think they were too lengthy this time. Maybe I feel this way because you often wrote exactly what I felt like saying. I prefer comments which raise questions about what I've read rather than ones which answer my questions. Maybe the problem is that I've never before so often agreed with an editor's opinions!

Ron Myren: The story you have described (TB 146) won't happen here because of too much birth control among the educated rather than the ignorant .. if anything, the cause of a future world filled with ignorant people would be the decay of the public education system and the rising cost of living which, because we must spend more and more time at work to put food on the table and to pay for our new and improved gadgets and live out the American dream of "more, more, more!", leaves us less and less time to spend with our kids. And whether or not "creative" or "dull" parents have children, these children will have to grow up in the world we're now making. Today's actions yield tomorrow's food supply and unemployment problems.

I don't think we'll ever know the answer to the "nature vs. nurture" question. Only in clearly defined cases do we have the right to decide who is best suited to raise a child (for instance, it's clear that a heroin addict shouldn't become pregnant, but a really boring accountant has the same chance as anyone of begetting the next Einstein).

If taken to an extreme application, your idea that intelligent people shouldn't have

to worry about population control might sound like a Nazi's view of things. Also, those artistic individuals who choose not to bring new life into the world but who want to propagate their unique views can adopt. And who's to say that highly individualistic parents won't be so wrapped up in themselves that their kid turns out messed up? (I've seen this happen often.)

Ultimately, what counts most in a child's development is if the parent is able to give love to him or her.

On this topic:

Rose Secret: On your comment in TB 146 that one's opportunities as a child determine which way one's talents develop: "nature vs. nurture" again. But in this case I think the answer is "nature." For every case where budding artistic ability was quashed because of the inability to afford paints at the age of three, I can give you three to the opposite. Me, for example. Until I reached kindergarten I did all my drawing with ballpoint pen on those styrofoam trays that butcher meat was packed in (washed of the blood and fat, of course).

Also, I would deface every magazine and newspaper in sight, especially the bed and furniture ads, which I would festoon with little people climbing up and down the pillows and bedspreads aided by elaborate systems of ropes and pulleys. Who knew from charcoal and drawing pads? OK, enough bragging. The point is, no one encouraged or discouraged me; this ability was part of me, just as writing was to you as a child.

I see in the same LoC of yours that you've never seen or tasted an anchovy. In February, I was in the San Francisco area for a few days and visited the Monterey Bay Aquarium, where I watched thousands of anchovies swimming around and around and around a huge tubular glass tank, all in the same direction. No, they are not the most exciting of fish and are way too salty as well.

Regarding your comments in TB 147: Yes, I agree that it's best to let kids make their own decisions. Unfortunately, some parents use this as an excuse for being apathetic.

Lucky for you that your cats can go out -- mine would have a hard time negotiating the elevator .. How does one train a kitten not to jump on the stove? I'm not trying to curtail her personal freedoms, but I don't think she understands about boiling water.

I'm also learning to write and communicate better (despite years of training, as the One Week Piano Mastery Course ad goes) because of the NZP, as you are. (Why don't other segments of the population have correspondence clubs to help them organize their thought processes? Lawyers? Politicians? Taxi drivers?)

Unlike you, however, I'm unable to write anything without taking it seriously and agonizing over it until deadlines are long gone. This especially in regard to Tightbeam letters -- so many in this club know so much, have such a strong command of literature and history and their finger tips that I occasionally feel unable to make a convincing point in such company -- but whenever I'm in that frame of mind, I tell myself that IDIC is wonderful, that's what this club is all about, and nothing is stopping me from revising the letter fifteen times until I feel comfortable with it. (Usually, I have underestimated my ability and it comes out fine the second time.) It's interesting that you are just coming to this way of thinking regarding Tightbeam. I believe that a writer has to be as much or more precise regarding her intentions in any form of one-on-one communication than in a novel, because you're addressing fewer people and so have a proportionally greater chance to be misunderstood. Maybe if I wrote regularly in other than letter form, I would not feel as I do.

P. S. As you have been asserting all along, Geep! is real! (See photo below.)



A two-year-old geep: Part goat, part sheep

Al McIntyre: I'm surprised there haven't been more comment upon your letter in TB 146, which infuriated me.

When, as a professional artist, my time and work is undervalued, it's called "paying

my dues". The market allows me to raise my prices every year or so to acknowledge my increased experience, demand, costs and ego.

It's a lousy system, but I work with it, because no one will employ me, a relative beginner, if I ask for what I'm really worth.

SP illustrators who draw and paint in their free and stolen time, expecting no recompense, are neither less able nor less worthy than the pros, and luckily do not have to live by the pro system. So they can and should demand realistic prices for their good work. A professional would be offended by a \$20 price tag on any piece which had taken substantial time and effort; an amateur might not know enough about market values to be offended, but the public should not be allowed to take advantage of that ignorance.

Now, the loan of convention art to local stores, as you suggested, isn't a bad idea at all. Of course, each piece would bear a sticker in the corner with its price. Many artists and photographers exhibit and sell their work in this fashion in the windows of banks.

MORE COMMENTS ON TB 147: I noticed a lot of opinions in this issue upon the meaning of "Freedom." (Sally Syrjala and T. L. Bohman disagree on seatbelt laws..Joy Beeson discusses negative vs. positive censorship.. Al McIntyre discusses the right of prostitutes to be licensed like any other business..David and Su Bates disagree with Flint Mitchell's right to review a certain film..Taras Wolanaky comes out in favor of guns..and so forth.) You know what I think freedom is? It's all of the above. Where else, but in a free country would all those opinions be allowed to proliferate, and where else would people with such differing ideas have the opportunity to become friends?

Michael Peralta: Re your comment to Gary Jay Anderson in TB 147: In New York City, "dirty" is in style now. You can buy artistically ripped jeans for eighty bucks (this used to be "punk" fashion, but has made it into the mainstream) and scientifically worn out leather jackets for three times that. So perhaps "dirty fans" are onto something big.

Re your comment to Laurence Gray: Fundamentalist Christians probably could, as you write, "enjoy science fiction and its view of the universe as a scientifically knowledgeable place as a game, such as a

sceptic might enjoy fantasy." but I don't think they would, based upon my (admittedly limited) experience with such people. For instance, I work with a very nice woman who seems to have built a wall around herself with her beliefs. She'll argue her views on a subject up to a point, but will refuse to comment once we get into territory that might contradict her religion. ("What about all the wars fought in God's name? How can those millions of deaths be justified?" "It's God's will. He works in mysterious ways. I have to get back to work.") She'll have her coffee break with you, but won't eat lunch with nor attend parties given by non-believers. She thinks everything I read is heretical, but in general keeps her opinions to herself and doesn't try to proselytize. In truth, the quiet, insidious prejudices of this woman make me nervous.

Laura Todd: These days, society's negative views about "just being a mom" seem to be changing -- at least among that growing sub-group called "Yuppies". I know or know of a bunch of working women who have great jobs, fur coats, and one or two babies. The great job usually ends after the maternity leave, as more and more women realize that three months is not enough time in which to get to know your infant. New York Magazine had a big article on the new breed of "non-working mothers" last year.

T. L. Bohman: Thank you for reviewing the "Wonders of the Universe Calendar" .. every year I try to find a space-related calendar to hang up next to my typewriter and did not succeed last December, and so settled for a John Lennon one instead..but now I'll know a sure place to find next year's.

Gail F. Gornley: Being an artist sounds almost as lonely as your description of being a writer. It's one thing to be on a "creative jag" (Marie Evans and others have written about this exhilarating state) and something totally different, but equally part of the job description, to sit at your desk and plug away for hours at a time.

I hope you're managing to find room for fanish activity; even just writing LoCs without going to conventions or reading volumes will open up a world of nice and articulate people out in the void. It's hard to sit down and write letters at night after being alone at my drawing table all day, but I'm trying to make myself do it..the exchange of ideas gets the mind going in many normally ignored areas, and



also gets me thinking about stuff other than the usual problems. The only way to do all the things you want to is to get used to constant exhaustion and frequent artistic frustration; that's what positive results grow from.

Taras Wolansky: I also love Monteverdi, especially his madrigals, which are as much fun to sing as to hear. Speaking of music, I think I win this month's award for reading Tightbeam in the weirdest possible place. This issue (147) arrived in my mailbox the day I had to sing five minutes worth of choral music in a three-hour-long Czech opera, Dvorak's "Rusalka", (and sit on stage for the entire thing). No offense intended to opera lovers, but I was supremely bored. So I hid TB 147 in my music and immensely enjoyed the evening. Please, Sally, send another Tightbeam along before this Tuesday because I have to do the performance one more time..

Some more comments on TB 148: **Kate Cochran:** I also believe that a name is much more than an emotionless label. As a young child I received a lot of teasing for being called "Harriet" .. everyone seemed to have a least favorite aunt with that name. I'm still not thrilled with the way it sounds, but have grown used to it, not into it. (Lately, I've become rather picky about including the middle initial "R" (for Ruth) .. a slight but important improvement in my eyes.) An elementary school teacher friend of mine has a first grader in his class known as "Oscarina" .. her parents should be prosecuted for cruel and unusual punishment.

Janet Ellicott: Re your comment to Taras Wolansky: I finally realized that computers are now a part of daily life when doing research at the New York Public Library last week for the first time in a few years. No such thing as card files anymore; instead, tables full of terminals. Since the whole collection of a billion or so volumes is now on database, it takes five minutes to cross reference

what before would have taken hours.

Garth Spencer: What you say about our social and sexual behaviors dividing us up into radically different communities reminds me of the two related but opposed worlds in Ursula K. LeGuin's The Dispossessed.

Neither was totally "correct," nor "free." When we evolve into a truly mature society, we will be able to understand and accept that about all the different cultures which co-exist here on earth.

Re Sally Syrjala's comment on Jean Lamb's letter: I'm also an L.A. Law fan, any others out there? In fact, lately it's been the one and only show I watch during the week. But that may change soon, next week I'm getting cable (!) which is available in Queens for the first time ever (our corrupt politicians have finally paid off the correct contractors). The cable company throws in a wireless remote control, as well. Now, I'll never have to leave the couch..

Laurence Gray: Perhaps the most up-to-date definition of "nerd" might be found in the Broadway musical of the same name. What is our popular culture coming to???

Whew..that's all for now.

((Actually, instant replay hasn't invaded baseball officially the way it has football. In football, the game will be stopped while officials look at the replay.

In baseball, only the fans get to argue over what really was! ** As to comments: I

make them as I do. I first draft the comments after typing the letter and what comes to mind is what gets put down. I figure putting 60 hours of work into a zine should grant the editor certain rights. Also, an editor's personality MUST seep through to the pages of the zine or else it becomes bland. Too, "The moment we begin to fear the opinions of others and hesitate to tell the truth that is in us, and from motives of policy are silent when we should speak, the divine floods of light and life flow no longer into our souls...Every truth we see is ours to give the world, not to keep to ourselves alone, for in doing so we cheat humanity out of their rights and check our own development." Elizabeth Cady Stanton**On your fundamentalist: She has a right to believe as she does. I have a question: Why must we always try to pull down the belief patterns of others? To say that "they" will not allow "our" belief means nothing. All beliefs need to be respected. Too, just because a war is fought in God's name does not make it God's war. "Here on Earth, God's work must truly be our own." When you consider Bob Dylan's song "With God on Our Side," remember God is on everyone's side. However, that does not mean that everyone is on God's side. Men do many things in the name of a deity who will eventually say of those actions, "False Representation." ** Glad you enjoyed the issues. sas))

May 4, 1987

George H. Wells
8 S. Dorado Circle #28
Hauppauge, NY 11788

The May Issue of Tightbeam arrived today, for which much thanks indeed.

To reply to your question, well, I can't remember WHAT kind of communication system the "tightbeam" in the Lensman series was! It may have been telepathetic or mechanical in some fashion. I was too excited by the action and the characters to stop and figure it out.

Latest news on Billy Vera (co-star of Buckaroo Banzai) -- I've just bought the sound track album of the movie, Blind Date.



♪ " WHY DO YOU ALWAYS READ THIS?
♪ IT'S NOT QUITE WHAT IT SEEMS... ♪

which has three terrific songs by him. (I didn't see the movie yet, which he has a role in, apparently.) His own LP is rather terrific and I highly recommend it (one song has a couple of naughty words in it if that makes any difference to anyone.)//I should also mention, speaking of sound track LPs, that I received that of Howard the Duck for Christmas and it has some beautiful instrumental music on one side -- equal, I think to ET and Star Wars, though it is only one side of an album.

If there were only one subject I could be quoted on in Tightbeam; however, it would have to be this -- please, everybody, write ABC TV to have Starman (the TV show) renewed. It has taken a long time for it to grip my family, but it is our very favorite now. Old episodes that were recently rerun after the terrific two-parter (where they met the mother again) have now shown themselves in a new light. We love the characters so much that the milder episodes are much more of interest now. Please write: ABC, 1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10019. If you do write only because I ask, I'd be glad to return the favor and write to have a show you (the Neffer reading this) most wants renewed.



Hey, Sally, several people I know also thought the announcement of the new actor playing the Doctor on Doctor Who would be Sylvester Stallone, when they first heard the first name announced. Hank Davis of SPPA has been doing a Rambo impression to me over the phone, with the Rambo voice saying Doctor type dialogue. I can't describe it myself. I never saw Rambo.

My next comment is LONG overdue -- the highly esteemed David Heath, Esq. gave a

very negative review to Trancers in an NSF pub within the past couple of years. This is my favorite SF film. I even BOUGHT it on video tape (Vestron released it.) It may be Blade Runner as played by "my other brother Darryl", but that's GOOD. There should be more such films.

Thanks once more to all the active Neffers out there and particularly those serving officially. I'll really miss Kaymar Carlson (until quantum mechanics zaps me into the 4th dimensional after life) and I must say he really enriched my life. And he's not the only Neffer by a long shot to have done so.

((The last letter campaign I joined was on behalf of the Clam Shell Alliance. I wrote the NRC -- Nobody Really Cares -- to go on record as being against the proposed rule change which would no longer allow local communities a say in the evacuation plans set up for the people for whom they are responsible; thereby allowing big business to do as it pleased without thinking of what the people of the area wanted. sas))

May 4, 1987

Diane M. Thome
P. o. Box 1708
New Milford, CT 06776

I don't often get the inspiration to



♪ d • IT'S LIKE SOME KIND OF TORTURE, ♪
♪ TO HAVE TO READ THIS ZINE! ♪
♩

send a loc, but there were enough remarkable things this time round that I've decided to laden Sally's mailbox with this letter with comments on #149

Sally asked questions about the whole surrogate motherhood issue. I think the choice of having a surrogate mother is a difficult one. I for one will probably never be able to bear children, but I would definitely try to adopt before going the surrogate route. The problem with adoption is that it takes several years; and while I would not care about the race of a child I adopted, I would care to adopt one reasonably young and mentally healthy. (I would have no qualms about adopting a physically-handicapped child, however.) I think one must consider the alternatives carefully before finding a surrogate mother.

But I do not believe this alternative should be banned either. As for poor Baby M, all the hoopah is doing her irreparable harm, which no one (especially the press) seems to consider. Anyhow, were I the judge on that case, I would tell the surrogate mother that she entered into a contract willingly and without coercion, and that she should relinquish all rights to raising the baby. Yes, it is hard on her, and I empathize with her feelings, but some choices in life are not easy ones to make. She should live with her contract, just as mothers who give up their babies for conventional adoption should live with their choices. Difficult as I am certain it is. I don't think the question comes down to the person with the most money should raise the baby. It is the matter of an agreement freely entered into which should be upheld.

Katherine Duncan: I likewise did not understand all the fuss about Amerika -- if I find I am too frightened by anyone's ideology, my TV comes with an "off" switch. Actually, it wasn't the ideology that frightened me -- it was the deadening boredom of that show that kept me from seeing over an hour of it. I would relish more controversial material on the tube -- keeping everything "acceptable" eventually does more of a disservice than not.

Ah, so MZB thinks women should be above the silliness of watching sports -- well, I don't watch sports (maybe twice a year, if that) but I do not assume my personal predilections should be held by everyone. (I do get tired of co-workers who can only talk sports, but that is something else.)



Mary Metiva: I assume Cardinal Spellman was speaking tongue-in-cheek. The "official" Catholic line is that the Pope is infallible, but only in matters where he speaks "ex cathedra". This does not apply to his mis-saying of the Cardinal's name, but to certain official pronouncements. P.S.: I am proudly an ex-Catholic. But this is my own choice.

Patricia Williams: "I'd rather go to space in a tin can with [andou] than stay on a beautiful earth and get naked." Yes, but I'm afraid the choices aren't so simple and one-dimensional.

If you think mundanes are only a tad higher evolved than amoebae, then I feel you are definitely missing out on a lot of good people. What is your definition of being evolved? And maybe it really was against that one fan's religion to go to bed with you (generic you) -- I assume incompetence only arises if he volunteered this information out of the blue, rather than in the context of having been assed.

The Tad of Physics, eh?? Sally, was this a typo or have I missed out on a good book?

Sally: I agree with you about the death penalty. I do think that if it is illegal for me to kill someone (and I agree that that should be illegal) it is



J. Cooper

also illegal for the state to kill someone. Now I shed no tears should fellow prisoners off a heinous criminal — at least I haven't given tacit assent for the additional murder through the state. As for the argument that tax money is used to support criminals better off dead, I'd like to see a tax cut come into effect if the death penalty starts being handed out more frequently. Hets? My main argument, however, against the death penalty has to do with the (admittedly infrequent) death sentencing of innocent people. Isn't even one innocent death committed by the state one too many? How do we apologize for that? Should we then sentence the state, and how?

Karens Klieforth: Guinea pigs shrieking at 6:45? They wouldn't last long as pets around my place.

David Bates, Karens, etc: I started wearing seat belts 1.5 years before they became mandatory here. We got rear-ended by a car on the highway, and both of us suffered whiplash. Plus I banged into the glove compartment, denting both it and my knee. I still don't think the rule should be mandatory. For instance, whiplash is exacerbated not by not wearing seat belts, but by not having head rests at the proper height. Shall we mandate this, too, while

we are about it? Yes, my knee was damaged by not wearing the belts, and I have learned from my experience. But I have also learned from life's experiences that one cannot have the government stepping in and mandating everything. Should I take up skydiving, am I also selfish? Should I fly in a plane, am I also selfish? Should I jump, hop, skip and run, am I also selfish?

Should I leave my room with its rubber padding, am I also selfish? Where do you draw the line? Why can't we keep the government out of this? (You may be guessing that I am a libertarian. Close. I am a minarchist — I do believe in government, but believe it should be minimal. They have a hard enough time performing the tasks they are supposed to do without saddling them with something like this. And as Sally notes, "safe" only goes so far.)

Marie Steiner: Ah, Von Daniken! Is he still around? I found his material amusing in a poorly written and researched sort of way over ten years ago. But I would have thought he'd have faded from interest by now.

I find pornography to be less offensive than the killing of a cat. Indeed, I find non-violent pornography to be perfectly

okay. (Check out The Ribald Tales of Canterbury.) Of course, I still much prefer movies with plot, but that's me.

Ah, a Madeleine L'Engle fan!!!

Laura Todd: No, this pro-spacer and degreed ecologist doesn't believe that if we ruin our Earth we can just plop down somewhere else and start over. If we ruin our Earth, we're sunk — pro-spacers and non-pro-spacers alike. I firmly believe we have the resources to help this planet AND move onward into space, if we work on it now. Indeed, the resources of space can and hopefully will help us restore this wonderful planet beneath us, IF we can keep our sense of balance in proportion. All of you: keep in mind the example of that barge with trash from Long Island that has no place to dump the trash — this will keep happening and happening with increasing frequency until and unless we come up with real answers down here on Earth. No, I do not claim space exploration will settle all of Earth's problems, and nor do I feel that we can just up and leave Earth behind in any practical sense. But I likewise know that the dream of further frontiers is ingrained into humanity, and that we as a species need something to strive towards in the sense of a new horizon. There will really be much to be gained from a rational settlement of space. Both Earth and interplanetary/interstellar expansion (learning from the lessons of the past!!) are intertwined in possible positive futures. We, I fear, cannot have one without the other.

Susan Kennedy: Yes, agreed that drunks should be held responsible for their own actions. And definitely not the people who served them (to expand upon your thoughts a tad). Yes, definitely agree with you regarding rape.

Carol Klees-Stark: I like the anti-censorship attitude of the bookstore at which you work. Were I to visit Texas, I'd surely patronize it.//Celtic Music!! Hammered Dulcimer!! Ahhh!! Try Robert Force and Albert D'Osaha's Crossover and When the Moon Fell on California. Try A Health for the Company by Banish Misfortune. Or Kenny and Tsipora's Wineskins, Tinklers and Tears. All of the above available through Kicking Mule Records — write me for the address, if you don't have it. My favorite music seems to be folk music that incorporates the



styles of various cultures, yet still finds a certain sense of "belonging". Tell me more about Celtic Stone and Wyndwyre.

Lisa Jenkins: I agree — fandom does have its discriminations. What is sad is that it does not always recognize this.//if it is any comfort to you, I have a friend who goes to church, but only to sing, and also refuses to take Communion.

Michael Peralta: If I were ever to get interested in any professional sport, it would be basketball. Those skimpy outfits .. men taller than myself..wow...

And I think I agree with you about the selection of judges.

The epic of Gilgamesh I believe was created for both religious, philosophical and enjoyment reasons — I suspect all philosophical myths/legends (including the Judeo-Christian Bible) were created for the same motivations.

I haven't seen Little Shop of Horrors yet, though I want to, but judging by the music, I much prefer Rocky Horror Picture Show. I despise '50's disco music.

Stacey Potts: Actually, the impression I got from The Cat Who Walks Through Walls is that one doesn't really know if the protagonists get killed off at the end.

Okay, this thing ran a bit over the requested two pages. But, so it goes. I don't LoC all that often, assuming that makes a difference.

((On surrogate motherhood, one of the problems I see to it is a child might be considered more as a "want" and a product/commodity than a human life of its own. I read an article recently on the "adoptive syndrome". One of the questions raised by adoptions is "how would you like being told you were a "gift" to someone else. To me

that means the child is being regarded
sure as a possession or item. That can be
rather dehumanizing to say the least. maw))

May 3, 1987

Rick Loomis
Flying Buffalo, Inc.
P. O. Box 1467
Scottsdale, Arizona 85252-1467

David Bates: I just saw your letter in
Tightbeam and just have to respond. I'm
sure I'm wasting my time, as you will no
doubt not believe anything I say, but I
will feel better by writing this.

Seatbelts: Try this -- Fat People. I am
in favor of a law requiring them to reduce
and a fine when they are overweight. It is
just common sense! Everyone knows that
overweight causes heart disease,
hypertension, lost days at work due to
sickness, and more. Anyone who refuses to
reduce is just selfish. Think of the extra
space they take up on bus seats or
airlines; the problems they cause when
builders have to design public buildings to
allow for extra-large people; the toll on
their families when a fat person dies of a
heart attack that could have been avoided.

Another point to be considered is that
their selfishness takes time away from
patients ill with things that really
need attention. Losing a little weight
could have avoided all of this. Anyone
unwilling to reduce his or her weight to
the medically proper amount is ignorant and
selfish to an extreme. People should be
randomly stopped on the street and weighed.

If they are overweight, they should be
fined. A copy of the report should be
turned over to their life insurance
company. If you can't educate a person any
other way, then hit them in the pocketbook.



In other words, if YOU can tell ME that
I have to wear a seatbelt under penalty of
law FOR MY OWN GOOD than I can tell YOU that
you cannot be overweight. Or smoke
cigarettes. Or drive faster than 55 miles
per hour. Or go skiing. (Now REALLY, what
is the sense in letting people slide down
MOUNTAINS on ICE. That's just BEGGING to
get killed or at least have a broken leg.
There are PLENTY of entertaining things to
do that are not so dangerous and won't
cause broken necks. I KNOW you think its
fun, and it's your own life if you want to
risk it, but that's a shortsighted and
selfish point of view. It's for your OWN
good. Here, why don't you play croquet?)

A final comment: I wear my seatbelt and
shoulder strap. I think it's stupid not to,
but I fully believe in anyone's right to be
stupid if he wants to be.

On Reagan: I suspect he got elected and
re-elected because a lot of people don't
agree with you. I note you claim that HE
has spent more in six years, etc. Sorry,
but Presidents don't spend. CONGRESS
spends. In almost every case, congress has
voted MORE money on every budget item than
Reagan has requested. Reagan VETOED the
latest highway bill because it was spending
TOO MUCH money. Congress overrided the
veto. WHO did what to the national debt?
Every time Reagan's administration has
tried to cut back or get rid of an agency
of some kind, the liberals and the spenders
have attacked him for "lack of compassion"
or "trying to go back to the '50's (when we
didn't spend so much money?)" or racism or
whatever. Every spending program is sacred,
nothing can be cut, and if you even try to
avoid RAISING spending, the newspapers
shout about how you are CUTTING spending.

I note with amusement that "we pay more
on the state level and the local level
cumulatively than we did before Reagan came
into office." I know the tendency is to
blame the guy at the very top, but blaming
Reagan for LOCAL taxes really takes the
cake.

I also note that you blame Reagan for
"starting the arms race again". Ahem.
Russia has never STOPPED the arms race.
When we were building up, they built up.
When we stopped building up, they continued
to build up. We used to be ahead of them.
Now they are ahead of us in most cases.
You can't blame Star Wars for the fact that
there are now more missiles and nuclear
bombs than ever before in history. The

Russians keep building them and obviously it doesn't help if WE stop. Personally, I think building a DEFENSE is a marvelous step in the right direction. Frankly, I find it amazing that the very people who took the "morally superior" position of unilateral disarmament over defending ourselves by staying even with those who wish to destroy us, are now saying that Mutually Assured Destruction is somehow "morally superior" to building a DEFENSE to keep our own people from being blown up.

I note your comments about how no one has the right to tax unborn generations. You say this 'as if this is something new that Reagan has thought up. I am 39 years old and I remember in the 7th grade reading about how OUR GRANDCHILDREN were going to have to pay off the PRESENT national debt. This is TWENTY SEVEN years ago. (Back then considerably more than 50% of all Federal spending was for Defense also.)

Actually, Reagan has done a lot of things that I don't like either. But I'll never have a President that does EVERYTHING I want, unless I get elected, and somehow I don't think that's very likely!

((What David was speaking of in terms of local taxes is that when someone abandons something, somebody else has to pick up the strings. If your neighbor's children were left on their own with their father and mother no longer providing for them, then the neighbors would have to step in to help them. In the case of state and federal governments, this is basically what has happened**Offensive weapons have often gone in the sheep's clothing of a defensive system. Nuclear weapons are thought of as "defensive" also. Words in government mean nothing as there is always some clever politician thinking up ways to bend the truth so that it will not be recognized. Reagan has done more things I dislike than I like. "Lack of compassion" is a very good tag for what I dislike about his administration. As James Watt once said, "We don't have to worry about endangered species; why, we can't even get rid of the cockroach." ana))

May 7, 1987

Leland Spiro
2809 Cueter — #264
Richardson, TX 75080

It looks good and the editor's

conscientious labors are appreciated -- the only possible criticism being that on reading some of those one-sentence references, one sometimes gets the impression of snatches of conversation overheard while running through a railway station. To paraphrase certain answers:

Marcus Silo: Sex you!

Amply Diggs: See Edgar Alexander Pope's Rape of the House of Usher.

Higga Piggledy: Okay, no Baptists in my family either!

Well, you get the general idea a one-sentence reply with no specific idea attached to it makes sense only (perhaps) one person.

About particular topics: GOR: To the reader unacquainted with the "John Norman" series, I can only say: I envy you! That author belongs in the same category as Howard Cossell: those people who never heard of him just don't know how lucky they are.

DEATH PENALTY: moral arguments seem irrelevant here. The death penalty is bad because there's always the possibility you've executed the wrong person. A classic example is the electrocution of Bruno Hauptman, alleged kidnapper of the Lindberg baby. The case against him was far from conclusive, but the defense lawyer was a drunken incompetent. The logical suspect had fled to Germany and so couldn't be tried, and the DA's office "needed" a conviction.

ISRAEL: Taras Wolansky's suggestion of a Jewish homeland Germany was naive. The Jews wanted (figuratively and literally) no part of Germany, one reason being it wasn't their original home -- which brings up another point: the Jews have been in Israel since Biblical times, so it's hard to see how they could be "taking it" (Wolansky's phrase) from the Arabs or anyone else. TB correspondents, in general, have swallowed the Palestine "Liberation" jargon without being aware that in 1948 the Jews offered to divide the country with the Arabs on a 50-50 basis. But the Arabs rejected the offer because they wanted the entire territory for themselves. Palestinian claims, then, can be summarized in a single word: greed.

Anyhow, keep up the good work.

((I think what some have been saying about Israel is that others besides the Jews lived in Israel in and before Biblical times and that the issue should be viewed from more than one vantage point to gain a

fuller perspective.**One-sentence dialogue — well, we do live in the era of the soap opera of "continuing" variety. If you don't follow the scripts from episode to episode, you have to try to piece all the connections together.**Good to hear you are enjoying IS. sas))

May 7, 1987

Tom Sadler
422 W. Maple Avenue
Adrian, MI 49221

I hope this letter doesn't get too long. If I may, I'd like to make an observation about a certain subject. I am a man, but I consider rape a very serious crime and more and more am coming to understand its violent basis. It also seems to be one of the many ways men seek to show their dominance (or self-perceived dominance) over women. There certainly should be more done to punish rapists than the usual light sentences they seem to get. The same thing should apply to child molesters as well. I have two daughters and as they grow older, the thought of their potential rape chills me as much as it does that of my wife. Perhaps one day soon, more men will grow up and understand that's one of many crimes that can't be allowed to continue.

The longer I remain in N3F the more pleased I am with my decision to join and will certainly renew my membership. I wanted to get to know others interested in science fiction and fantasy and to become exposed to as large a variety of opinions as possible. N3F is certainly fulfilling those objectives. Another aspect I like is the large number of female members, which I think is great. From my experience with women, I know they're intelligent, sensible, thought-provoking people. I've gotten correspondence going between some of the women in the club and I hope to keep up those exchanges for as long as they'll put up with me — which I hope is a long time.

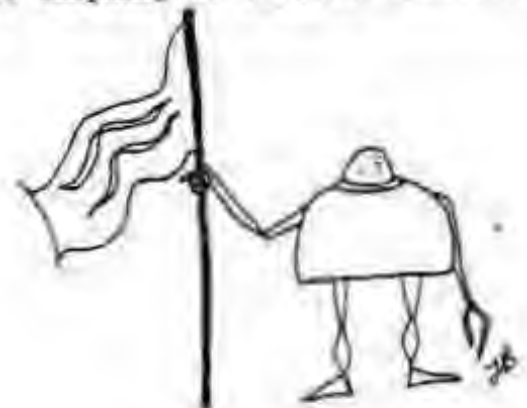
The debate on preserving the Earth versus branching out into space is a good one and there is much to be said for either side. Personally, I feel that we humans should be able to do both. If we can just stop being afraid of each other, as individuals, genders, and nations, we humans could do a world of good — or galaxy for that matter. (Well, at least the solar system.) Instead of concentrating on SDI, nuclear and biological weapons, we could focus our

efforts on better energy sources, elimination of world hunger, and quit trying to partition the Earth into little compartments and then desiring and fighting to control as many of them as we can.

The Soviet Union has plenty of land if only the people who govern it would concentrate on ways of developing all of it to its fullest potential. The same holds true of the US, Canada, and China. If the "geniuses" who work on developing nuclear and biological weapons would instead work on improved food production methods, safe and sane population maintenance and other ways of not destroying the ecology, what a wonderful place the world would be.

Picture deserts blooming, frozen tundra with year-round farms located there. Would it be possible to have huge indoor hydroponics farms in Siberia, Alaska, and Canada, all possibly heated geothermally if solar heating wouldn't be feasible? Or perhaps extensive man-made caverns well below ground. Then there's the possibility of genetically altered plants and animals that could thrive in harsh conditions with little or no sunlight. I'm sure there are other possibilities I haven't even thought of.

Conversely, many of the problems we solve here on Earth and new processes we develop could be applicable to outer space and other planets. The main thing should be finding ways of adapting to our environment instead of always working on ways to change it. Take the notion of terraforming planets — about which I'm not that familiar — there is the ultimate example of man's obsession with changing and subjugating his surroundings to suit his purposes. But, so I understand, the process of terraforming a planet is a very long one, taking decades or generations to accomplish, maybe even millennia. But why should mankind bother? Surely, if we can't find already Earthlike planets, we can find ways of adapting to whatever conditions we



encounter. Even if it means living in enclosed cities or underground. If L5 colonies are established, there's no way outer space can be terraformed and people will have to live in an enclosed wet environment. People have adapted to a variety of conditions in the past and certainly should be able to in the future.

Well, there's food for thought. Or am I just blowing hot air and being unrealistic and impractical?

To **Emily Alward**: (again), **Eileen Roy**, **Carol Kiehn-Stark**, and **Michael Peralta**: Thanks for your replies concerning atheists and Christians. Very informative.

To **Patricia Williams**: You should have gotten my letter to you before this appears in Tightbeam. Thanks for your comments. They made my day. Not that the others didn't; they all enlivened it.

To **Brian Seth**: I read "to Kill a Mockingbird", too, and liked it very much.

After listening to several news stories on All Things Considered the past couple of weeks, I understand the Soviets would prefer a conventional type war rather than a nuclear one. Their feeling is one of superiority in conventional weaponry and, I suppose, numbers of troops. Plus the fact the devastation would be nowhere near that of a nuclear war. If wars have to be fought — and I personally don't believe they do. But what do I know? -- a non-nuclear one is the way to go.

By the way, does anyone remember the movies *Dr. Strangelove* and *Fall Safe*? They were similar in some ways and very good movies to boot.

Dorothy Wethington: Another one with a bizarre sense of humor. Great! If we can get a large enough group maybe we can form our own country. We could get together and tour all the OPEC countries in solar powered or electric cars. Or maybe we could cross Garbage Pail Kids with Smurfs and turn them loose on the world. If those are "tactful" people, I hate to think what the tactless ones are like. So you like Alf, too. It's very nearly the only TV

show I watch and like — so I know it'll be taken off the air and not come back.

To everyone else: The occasional talk on religion got me to wondering: who out there has read "Behold the Man" by Michael Moorcock and what did you think of it? I read it several years ago and so my recollection of it is somewhat dimmed by time. I'll have to look it up and re-read it. It was a time travel story of sorts.

I'm really glad to know I'm not alone in my strangeness. I enjoy and appreciate all your ideas and beliefs no matter how they differ from mine. I find I learn something from every one of you. IDIC is certainly a good slogan to have and follow. Thank whatever for the diversity of opinions and the free exchange of ideas and the right to express those views.

And now I'll close this letter to allow someone else space to expound on their interests. Keep it up! Peace and happiness..

((Well, actually, a nuclear war would also be yet another "way to go."**If one put too much geothermal heat into the atmosphere in the colder northern climates, what would this do to the greenhouse effect and sea level rise? Would it help to put our coastal areas into the sea even quicker than is thought will now happen?? sas))

May 9, 1987

Michael C. Peralta
400 N. Acacia Avenue #C-26
Fullerton, CA 92631-4011

Thank you for bringing TE #149 out early. As usual, you have done an outstanding job. The wrap-around cover is beautiful, the interior art is pretty good, and the book quotes and fantasy alphabet were fun. The folksong and poems were fair (Sally's was the best), and the articles were decent. I'll respond to the editorial and art director's report first, then move on to the letters of comment.

Editorial: Sally, please define "two pages" a little more clearly. A



handwritten letter may be vastly different from a typewritten letter — and what about double-spacing and single-spacing? Please offer us a word count limit. However, I will attempt to limit the length of this letter by only commenting on the important issues raised in TR rather than trying to comment on each letter as I have foolishly done in the past.

I hope your comparison of surrogate motherhood to rape was meant as a provocative statement rather than a statement of your true beliefs. Although the wisdom of subjecting one's self to the possible emotionally debilitating effects of surrogate motherhood is questionable (as a "buyer" or "seller"), there is nothing inherently immoral about this procedure as long as all parties involved have free choice. (You may say that the child does not have free choice but no baby has ever had the freedom to choose its parents.) All the people involved in the "Baby M" case are victims, and the controversy that has ensued should warn others not to enter into such contracts lightly. When the natural mother has no objections; however, surrogate motherhood should be fully legal.

Art Director's Report: Catherine, you ask how I discovered fandom. Well, I had been a serious reader of SF since 1968 (when I was 12 years old), and in 1972 I went to the Worldcon in Los Angeles (LAGON). Since then, I have been in and out of fannish activities. What does it mean to me? Mostly, it means a lot of fun and good reading.

Letters of Comment: Here we go!

Patricia A. Williams: AIDS has come about because of overpopulation? I hope you meant this statement as a sick joke because otherwise it makes no sense at all. You seem to suggest that some disembodied force (which you call "Nature") created AIDS in order to reduce the human population. This is nonsense. Diseases don't have purposes, except for any that humanity might deliberately create to destroy an enemy. AIDS is an objective fact, like gravity or

the rings of Saturn, and we must deal with it objectively.

Lisa Jenkins: Well, I kind of like "cyberpunk", at least the two novels Neuromancer and Count Zero by William Gibson. I find them well-written, imaginative, and very convincing and realistic. (This is not meant to suggest that I don't like other kinds of SF, too.)

Taras Wolansky: This is not directed at you, but you did bring up the subject of IQ, creativity, heredity, and environment. Let me make a few comments.

1. IQ and creativity are almost meaningless terms. They cannot be reliably measured.
2. Heredity and environment are both obviously important, but human beings also have some degree of free will and can change themselves to a certain extent.

Therefore:

3. Having children and expecting them to come out the way you want them to come out is foolish at best and harmful at worst.

Down to the last page! Good bye!

((I am not sure about my stand on surrogate motherhood. I do view it as a form of emotional rape. However, I think too much is being made of a person's right to "order" another person like they would a new car or a new coat. You have to consider the child more than is being done. It seems with so many unwanted people in this world as it is that to "custom order" one you don't even go through the bonding role of carrying to term just further removes emotional contact between parent and child and is something which should be very seriously considered before it becomes accepted practice.**Page limit I want nebulous. It should be self-imposed. Fandom is an anarchy anyway and such a request will never be FULLY adhered to, so - whatever you REASONABLY feels fits within the statement.sas))

May 11, 1987

Trug
Groontland
Yagga Yagga

Dorothy Wethington: Trug have lots of pit bulls and ugliest sofa you ever seen.

Karena Kliefoch: Ug, such language! Trug thought you such nice girl before!

Elric: Trug glad he not ONLY fictional person LoC in Tightbeam!



May 11, 1987

Nikel Norwita
1010 N. 48th Street, #2052
Phoenix, AZ 85008

The only F/SI that I've read since last letter was Dorothea Dreams by Suzy McKee Charnas. I loved it. The protagonist is a sixty-year-old female sculptor who lives out in B.F.B. somewhere in the desert. I love reading about creative people, especially as I'm not creative myself. Anyway, an old friend shows up and they become lovers and she is haunted by the ghost of a court judge from the time of the French Revolution. I detest ghost stories as a rule (due to my militant rationalism) but for this novel, I'll make an exception.

Dorothy Wethington: Two more games to liven your life, both taken from personal experience:

9. Get on a pay phone at a public place (with no-one on the other end of the line) and start talking into it in a loud voice about very sensitive subjects and watch people listen in without trying to be obvious about it.

10. Go into a hardware store, accompanied by a date, and try to decide what sort of chain to purchase by wrapping them around yours or your partner's wrists.

Katherine Duncan: What happens to a lot of people, is that they find all of these good qualities (like patriotism or economic freedom) being taken over and used by an administration they detest, so as a result they tend to take ANY position just to be in opposition to that administration, even if it is one that they would normally disagree with. I know that I tend to do that, and that the longer Reagan is in power, the more left wing I tend to get.

Patricia Williams: Wasn't there an old Saturday Night Live gag about solving the problems in the Middle East by exchanging Israel and Georgia?

Marie Steiner: Is your logical problem, you are adding together the wrong numbers at the end. You are comparing what three people SPENT to what one person OWNS, when in fact those numbers should not be in the same equation.

You see, each of the three men owns \$1, the clerk owns \$2, and the owner owns \$25; $25+3+2=30$. Or to look at it another way, each of the three men spent \$9, the clerk

spent \$2, and the owner spent \$2; $27+2+3=30$. Oh dear, rereading your letter I see that I've given everybody a promotion, bellhop to clerk and clerk to owner. But, well, you can see what I mean.

Carol Klees-Stark: This whole dull/rusty knife debate is silly. I prefer chow-sugraters myself.//I am an avid Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers fan -- I didn't think anybody else knew that show existed! They do have a bit of a problem with the token black/token woman thing, but the fact that each of the characters has an individual personality (and that the black character is the computer scientist of the group!) defuses that somewhat. The characterization and over-all level of intelligence on the show is among the highest I've seen in American SF television. And a lot of the wit is very sophisticated -- I wonder if all of the children the show is supposed to be intended for really understand it?//My friend, Charlotte, just got her braces off, and she is 32.

Lisa Jenkins: I was surprised at David picking himself as a winner in the art contest, too. I thought it was in poor taste, but I guess it was in his right.//Funny, most of the scientists that I know do believe in God. That doesn't restrict them from trying to discover more about the universe however (in fact, in my own personal theology, NOT trying to find out more about the universe is a sin).//Maybe you'd have more affection for cyberpunk fiction if you were more personally experienced with alternative ways of sensing your surroundings. Umm...enough of that; I don't need charges of "contributing to the delinquency of a minor." Go talk to Lloyd, he's ALREADY in jail (oh boy, is he going to roast me for that!).//In case you missed it when I mentioned it before (this is an old letter so it's hard to tell), $6 \times 9 = 42$, when you are calculating in base 13.

Stacey Potts: I only use the phrase "sci-fi" in order to alienate other science fiction fans. I likewise Spider Robinson said, that he preferred to pronounce sci-fi so that it sounds like "skiffy," because he liked to think of himself as being one of the "skiffy people!"

Taras Wolansky: Your point about people "mixing their labor with the land" as a certification of ownership is interesting.

if I pour a can of tomato juice into the Pacific Ocean, therefore adding my labor to it, do I now own the Pacific Ocean? (Or have I merely waste my tomato juice?) ((Indeed Dorothea Dreams is a book I liked enough to do a book review on it which I sent to Lan's Lantern. Good book! sus))

May 14, 1987

David K. Rubin
15 Laverett Court
Staten Island, NY 10308

Sally A. Syrjala: I applaud your ethics in resigning the Directorate. No one responsible to a body should be on that body. That's an obvious conflict of interest. Do you think we should make it part of our by-laws?

As to the Baby M issue, perhaps, I'm a bit naive, but it strikes me as so much like a prenatal adoption that I think it should be treated as just that. We'll never know how many adoptions, which took place on paper after the birth, involved unwritten agreements before the birth, so let's be honest and get it out in the open!

Most of the questions would still be the same. How much compensation can be given to the adoptee's natural mother before it becomes baby selling? I don't even need to see the statistics to be sure that the adoptions from a rich mother to a poor family are rare, so class politics comes into this, too. So let's simplify matters and call this an adoption dispute.

((In a case of adoption, in this state the "natural" mother is counselled and gets a "grace period" after the birth of the child to change her mind. Prenatal adoption is still different than surrogate motherhood. Intent being one of the differences. One case is a fortuitous pregnancy that tries to make the best for all and the other is a custom ordered sale. ==))

May 14, 1987

Billy Ford
3617 Enslow Avenue
Richmond, VA 23222

If my name seems unfamiliar to you, don't worry, I'm a new arrival aboard the Tighthouse. So much for my grand entrance. Now onto the commentaries.

Lisa Jenkins: I have no objections to your being a Roman Catholic "by rights." I

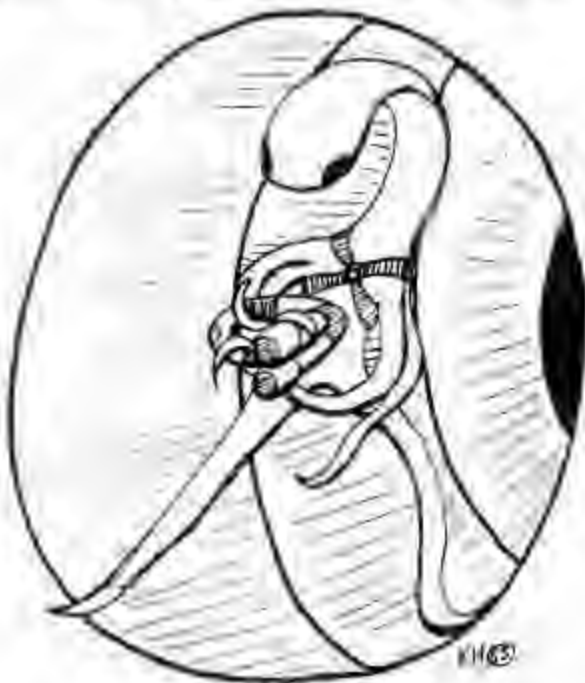
went to a Catholic school when I was a little boy and I value the Sisters' ability in teaching me how to read. However, I've rejected the religious tenets that they tried to teach me.

Not only am I a regular reader of the Bible, but I also regularly peruse the Talmud, the sayings of Confucious, the Holy Qur'an, the Satanic Bible and the X-Rated Bible. This last book I acquired from the American Atheists. Sometimes, I read passages from the Book of Mormon.

David Bates: Since you wrote your February letter concerning our illustrious President, the "Iran'gate" has slammed on his face. Of course, you gotta give Ronnie credit for knowing how to handle himself in front of a TV camera. "Tricky Dick" Nixon always had this noticeable bead of sweat on his upper lip whenever he was trying to explain things to the public concerning the Watergate caper. But Ronnie-boy just keeps on smiling! Those long years of working for Warner Brothers Studios have paid off for him.

Did you know that after Reagan was elected governor of California in 1966, his inaugural festivities were arranged by Walt Disney Studios? When discussing the 1966 California student demonstrations, he remarked "I'd like to harness their youthful energy with a strap."

Mary Meriva: I just read about Fundamentalists Anonymous in the Washington Post. The article said that telephone calls to the organization have greatly increased since the emergence of the current "Fearlygate" scandal. This is what happens when you interpret the Bible too



literally. Jim Bakker and Jessica Hahn were simply trying to emulate David and Bethshaba. Ironically, Jessica's hometown is West Babylon, New York.

To all members: Let's send copies of Harlan Ellison's "Deathbird" to all the "tele-evangelists." They might learn something.

((Welcome aboard! Just think what all those "profits" would learn if you sent Harlan himself! Now, THAT would be interesting. waw))

May 17, 1987

Carol Kless-Starts
801 East NASA Road One, #311
Webster, Texas 77598

This letter is in response to Tightbeam #149 (and the last from this address -- great living on the same street as Johnson Space Center, but one of the rare pleasures of the Texas Gulf Coast).

Dorothy Wethington: Beck, ma'am, you should come on down to the Lone Star state!

Not only do they fly the confederate flag, this is the only state in this union allowed to fly the state flag at the same height as the National flag. Many homes only fly the Confederate flag, though the average is about even with the Stars and Stripes.//A man was hit by a train in my old home town in Wisconsin. He had been walking along the rails on a viaduct above a residential neighborhood, at night; the next morning, the residents got to pick up what was left of him out of their back yards.//Are you serious about how to handle the Iranians and other terrorists, or what?

Your 'answers' would just escalate the frequency and intensity of the terrorism; remember, these people are fighting and willing to die for their god. The more unbelieving Westerners and Israelis they bring with them, the better.

Katharine Duncan: American propaganda has been unfair to the Arab image (them again, having "heroes" like Chuck Norris isn't doing much for our ideal of heroism, either). I can think of a group who should be treated like the bad guys -- they call themselves Afrikaners.//We should give those who don't believe in Soviet injustices tickets to the Gulag Archipelago (for short-term visits, of course). I do agree with what you're saying though. By underestimating (or refusing to consider) potential threats, we're putting ourselves

in greater danger. Better to be wise and wary.

Patricia Williams: Now, now. The Jews pushed the Palestinians out of their homeland. By your reasoning, you would have suggested the Saxons be shipped to the Middle East so they wouldn't protest the presence of the Normans (or any other such comparison taken from any time in history). Some of the more vocal Palestinians have just found a method of retaliation which runs counter to modern ideas for instance, that Embassies are not the territories of the countries which hold them). Their methods are deplorable, their cause is not -- it's only natural: they want to go home.

Mikel Norwitz: Try Len's THE BIRTHGRAVE. The main character and the culture she comes from are easier to consider from a SE angle.

Eileen Roy: Your letter was interesting, and amusing. Too bad I couldn't find something to reply to; but you did get me to smile.

David Bates: Reagan inherited many of Carter's blunders. Some of Ronnie's troubles in the Middle East stem from Carter's destroying the CIA. So many of the long-term "spies" were fired, that there was no one in the area to report what was going on. The blind will get burned. Granted, though, that putting the Marines in was dumb; they're trained to attack, not to hold ground indefinitely (they were sitting ducks).//Started the arms race again, David? Come on, get real! The Soviets never stopped the race, and when Carter, in an act of good will, ordered a stop to all production of the MW, the B-1, and neutron bombs, the USSR went ahead full steam with their nuclear build-up. The Russians have attack satellites in space, and have done test attacks on other Russian satellites (which then disappeared). The Russians have also used some of their ground-based lasers to blind American military recon satellites (as a test). For a long time, our "star wars" people were copying Russian manuals, because the Soviets had spent more time and money on the research than had we. The U. S. military is also disturbed because the USSR has been constructing the long-range support systems for their own star wars systems (this info is gleaned from "Aviation Week and Space Technology," which still stuns nations with its ability to spy on the Soviet and American militaries

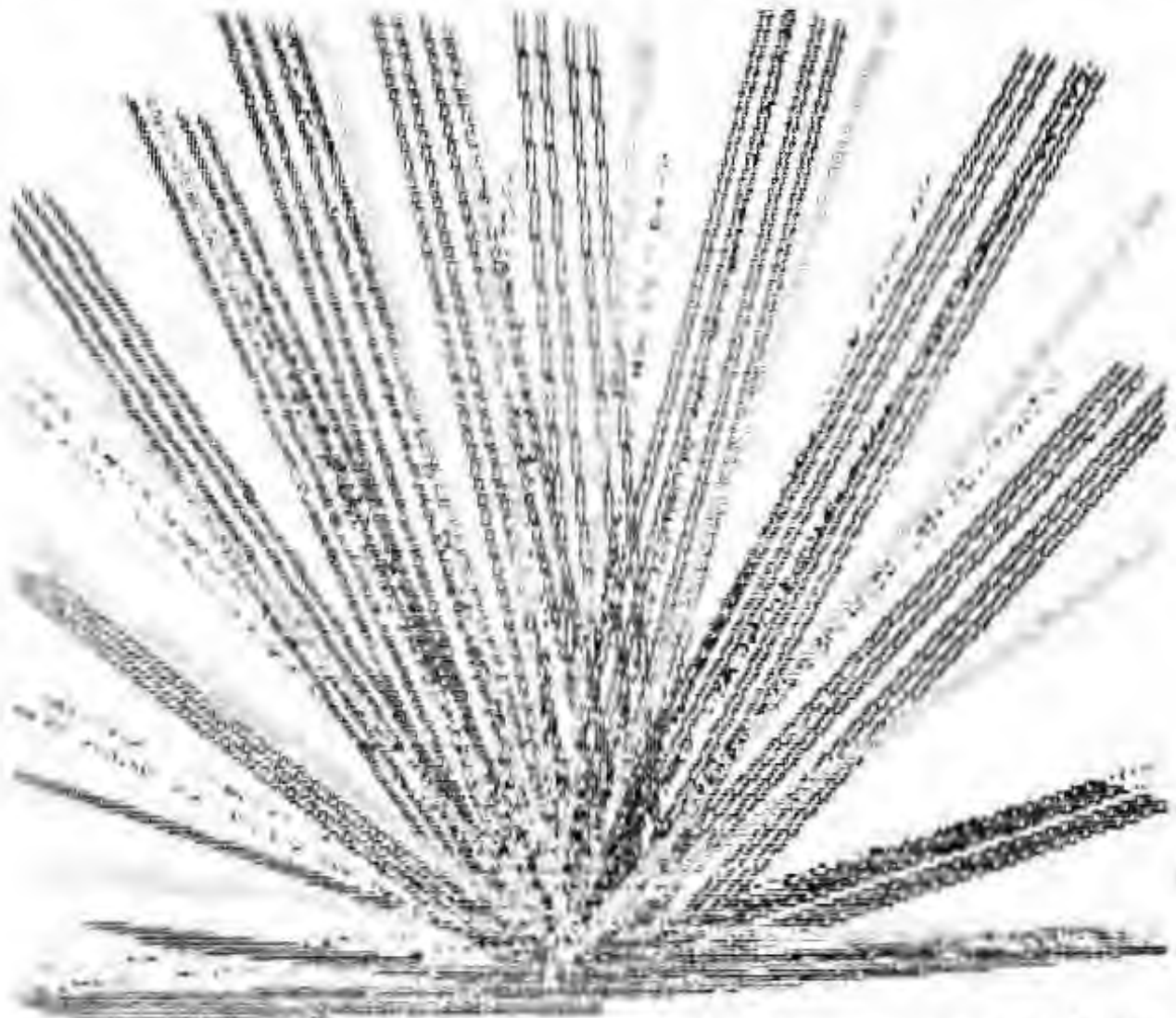
alike). My final response to you is that I think you should also watch the actions of the Soviets, rather than keeping your nose glued to what you see the US doing.

Marie Steiner: I think most of your response to Taras Wolansky Re: rape was right on the mark, but I'm still not sure castration would work to keep rapists from raping again. Rape is an aggressive assault, used as a power trip, and I'm not sure castration would keep such people from future violence.

Laura Todd: I'm a pro-spacer in favor of a green earth AND space colonies. Colonies are far more likely than terraforming.//I'd prefer to see the population held in check through non-catastrophic means. I think the prevalence of the idea of AIDS being a "blessing in disguise" is sick. Think of the people dying in Africa: most of them are ignorant of what is happening (they're told only that they have a sexually

transmitted disease, because the authorities are afraid of causing large-scale panic), and "they" are becoming predominately women and children (that was reported in a "Nightline" report on ABC).//I think the current pope is trying to send the Catholic church back into the dark ages. Most of the Catholics I know try to ignore him.//Or, if not Greenpeace (which is too radical for my tastes), support other groups like Oxfam, Amnesty International, or any of the many wonderful nature preservation groups like the World Wildlife Fund or the Audubon Society.

Susan Kennedy: You think the phone booth judgement was ridiculous (and yes, try to find a glass phonebooth -- they're all the open affairs now); there was a case where someone swallowed a razor blade and then went to court to sue the manufacturer. The lower court ruled in favor of the plaintiff, but a higher court was bright enough to bring up the "implied function"



Alien Sunrise by Lisa Jenkins AG 1987



rule. Juries show great sympathy for the "victims," and little for the faceless companies, even when the fault lies with the victim. It's easy to make non-persons pay masses of money, whereas if it were another person the plaintiff were suing...//The children in alcoholic families are usually forced to not let anyone know there is a problem in the household; friends just support with their silence.

Stacey Potts: American supremacist overtones in "Amerika"? You listened to too much of the anti-"Amerika" propaganda. That propaganda drove me to watch out of curiosity. The program was too long and did not meet your "expectations." I thought it was, if anything, showing the Soviets in a better light than the Americans. I admired the Russian leaders more than the American "heroes;" and the final conclusion I think the program tried to make was this: if we don't hold our national freedoms in careful hands, we will not be able to keep them. This is a good point to consider in this, the 200th year of our Constitution.

Sally Syrjala: I'm not interested in having children, but I still couldn't help but feel offended by your suggestion that the aliens using human, or other, creatures as predatory/parasitic hosts is ethically akin to surrogate motherhood. Surrogate mothers have the choice of whether to bear the child to term. The hosts for the alien have no other choice — once selected — than death.

I've also heard that for every publicized custody hearing where the surrogate mother changes her mind, there are many more surrogate mothers who happily carry their fetuses to term for a couple. Many of these women choose to do so for couples who, because of fertility problems, are unable to have children through the normal "channels." Until you can back up your statements (the surrogates all being lower class, for instance), temper how you state them. We are not saying only the

highly educated and wealthy should have children; the poorly educated and poor will continue to have children, too. Surrogate motherhood is just another way for those couples who can't have children (due to the woman's infertility/inability) to have children which are at least genetically connected through the father. I would only begin to consider it rape when the woman is impregnated against her will. It will be interesting to see how this topic develops in both the medical and legal fields.

Thanks, Sally, for sharing your memories of growing up with an alcoholic. When my dad got crocked, he wouldn't let us go (or stay) outside, so we had to fade into the woodwork and hope he didn't notice (or think of) us. Your story of having to sit outside at night until your father passed out echoes the same sort of desolation all ACA's remember feeling.

RE: your comment to **Patricia W.** on the death penalty, I have this say: what do we do when the prisons are filled to legal capacity, and more space is not being made fast enough to fill the demand? In Texas, the Department of Corrections is so full that a ruling has been passed by the courts: no further overstuffing of the facilities (which would violate the rights of the prisoners). So, when new criminals must be taken in, the officials are forced to release other prisoners who have not even finished their terms. I wonder who they are releasing early? I sure as hell hope not the murderers! For Texas, another prison is still years away, and not even under construction yet.

RE: your comment to **Taras W.** on the Amerindians being put into reservations from which they have still not been able to escape." The best story I heard on the psychology of the Indians being trapped on the reservations is from an Amerindian anthropologist who had a special on PBS: an Indian and a white man were walking down a beach gathering crabs and putting them in their own buckets. At the end of the day the white man's bucket was empty, but the Indian's was full. When the white man threw a crab in his bucket, it would jump out (not wanting to be eaten), but when a crab tried to jump out of the Indian's bucket, the others would pull him back, saying "Oh, no! You're not getting out of here without us!" I think one of the prime reasons most Amerindians are still on the reservations is because they don't want to lose their culture in favor of surviving outside the reservations. I've

heard that for some tribes, the smallest traditional unit of time is in days -- (imagine trying to keep appointments in the western world when your smallest measure of time is a day.

((I find that story of the two buckets rather racist. I have three nephews who live on an Indian reservation in Canada. My husband also majored in anthropology in his post graduate days and conducted digs and all that. Therefore, I think I have a bit of "feeling" for this statement. Indians simply have a different life philosophy than does the white man. Freedom to roam the land and be at union with the earth. The white man USES the land. The Indian is more inclined to live WITH it. The Indian way seems much more sensible and more practical in the long run.//I did not ask "permission" to leave the house when I wanted some peace and quiet. I simply left. I was quite capable of fighting my way out and also very capable of not being found if I didn't want to be. And there are always windows to use as escape routes as well. And Poppa did not "pass out." He simply got tired out and went to bed. There is a difference. My father had his problems and I have come to understand them and him as the years have passed. I look to the night skies filled with stars with peace. I still like to go outside in the night and just be alone with the sparkling diamonds set into the dark velvet of the sky.//I wasn't really sure how I felt about surrogate motherhood in the last issue, but hearing all the arguments in "favor" has made me rather opposed to it as of this issue. If a woman has no other way to get money and has financial obligations to meet, she might consider selling her body. This by sexual "favors" or maybe now by serving as the "baby sitter" for nine months. This can be a form of emotional rape. You show me all those wealthy high class women having babies for those lowly ones. I can imagine there are hoards of them! Why, yes, sub, we shure are reecessalll happy having all those childrin for our masters! I like people who are able to say things in a provocative enough manner to get me to thinking about a matter and I will strive my best to do things to get me and maybe even another person or two thinking about it as well.//Nuclear war is politically irrational and morally an indefensible and hideous atrocity, whoever perpetrates it. Preparation for such war is also politally irrational, and since there is no guarantee

that the preparation will lead to anything but war, the preparation itself is an atrocity and a degradation of mankind." -- A. J. Muste — ssa))

May 19, 1987

Ron Nyren
271 Carter Lane
Southington, CT 06489

David Bates and Karens: I agree with Sally's comments on seat belt laws. Such laws seem to imply that we don't know enough to buckle up by ourself. I think we have a right to freedom of choice so long as we don't hurt anyone else, and if someone is stupid enough not to wear a seat belt, that's their business. David, I don't agree with your argument that not wearing a seat belt is selfish. It seems to imply that it would be okay to fine or jail anyone who injures himself through stupidity or carelessness, just because it would "waste" the doctors' or nurses' time (when they're paid to treat people already). I think it's a great idea not to be stupid or careless, but I don't think the government should be empowered to fine us when we are (again, as long as we are only hurting ourselves.) As Lazarus Long says, "Sin lies only in hurting other people unnecessarily. All other 'sins' are invented nonsense. (Hurting yourself is not sinful -- just stupid.)" I do think that the ad campaigns for buckling up are a good idea, though, and I also support a law requiring parents to buckle their children up.

Marie Steiner: Your hotel logic puzzle is a slippery one to figure out. Here's how I see it: the three businessmen enter the hotel and pay the clerk \$10 each, which means that each one has \$10 less than he had when he came in. So attach a -10 to each businessman and a +30 to the clerk, who has gained \$30. Now the clerk gives \$3 to the bellhop, which leaves him with a +23 and the bellhop with a +5. The bellhop gives a dollar each to the businessmen -9 each, or $3 \times -9 = -27$ collectively. So to say that $27+2=29$ and to ask where the missing dollar went is to miss the fact that the 27 is a negative 27, while the 2 is positive. Instead, write $-27 + 2 = -25$, which also works, as \$25 is exactly how much the clerk gained and how much the three businessmen lost, if the bellhop were so kind as to add his \$2 to their pool of money. I hope that made sense.

May 10, 1987

Lisa Jenkins: If I couldn't sing in the choir, I probably wouldn't go to church either. I haven't yet decided whether I believe in God or not. The idea that the universe just sprang up out of nothingness for no reason at all doesn't seem to me to be any more improbable than the idea that a Being existed before it all, who one day decided to create a universe. But I think that if God exists and if He/She/It created the universe, then U/S/I would know everything, including what choices we will make. After all, everything that happens is the result of what U/S/I set in motion with the Big Bang, and surely U/S/I can calculate exactly what will happen from that. And every choice we make is based on prior experiences and physiological states, which God knows. If I decide to eat a peach, it's because I have reason to eat one -- I'm hungry, I remember liking the taste of peaches before, etc. Even apparently irrational choices are motivated by something. Every decision we make, even though we may spend much time considering it and weighing alternatives, is based on the past, going back until conception I suppose, at which point we had no control or free will. This argument seems to rule out free will. It implies that we aren't really free to make our own choices, since our personalities are shaped by environmental factors and heredity, both of which God chooses for us initially. Even if you flip a coin for every choice you need to make, God would still know whether the coin will come up heads or tails, based on the force you apply and the position of the coin on your thumb. I'm not sure I agree with not having free will, but I haven't thought of any way to refute it? Anyone?

RANDOM NOTE: When the computer asked Spock, "How do you feel?" in Star Trek IV, couldn't he have answered (quite logically), "With my sensory nerves." ((I like your response to "How do you feel?"/If you state that personality is made by environment and heredity, how do you explain that two people in the same family/environment/heredity can have such different personalities as they do? sas))

Taras Wolansky
Clay Hill Road
Kerhonkson, NY 12446

This letter addresses Tightbeam #169.

Sally: On the official debate topic, surrogate motherhood, I always thought the issue in rape was not what was put into a woman's body, but whether or not the rightful owner of that body had given her permission to have it put into her. If you forced a woman to become a surrogate mother, then and only then could you compare it to rape. Indeed, forbidding surrogate motherhood is closer to it: it also takes away a woman's right to control her own body. And so what if economic factors play a large role in who volunteers: is it humanitarianism to make it illegal for rich people to give poor people large sums of money? And don't forget some women actually enjoy being pregnant: they're the ones most likely to get into this line of work.

I like the idea that successful career women will be able to pay other women to bear their children for them. As it is, the more successful a woman is, the fewer children she is likely to have. It's as if we were trying to breed for stupidity.

By the way, Sally, IQ tests were illegal in Nazi Germany, for the same reason they are under attack today: they gave the "wrong" results; in the former case, that Jews were smarter than Aryans.

Katharine Duncan: On the TV miniseries Amerika, I found the Left attacking it because it didn't have a plausible scenario for a Soviet take-over; and the Right attacking it because no Soviet occupation -- and there have been many -- was ever so benign. And they were both right! One idiot, though, complained that the series showed the Soviets abusing psychiatry, which of course they never do. (My father, a psychiatrist, was involved in the effort to expell the Soviets from The World Congress of Psychiatrists in the late '70's. The Soviets resigned just before they were to be kicked out.)

Kris Kristofferson is not really a professional actor. He can be very effective in the right role -- I once saw him do an extraordinary job as a psycho killer -- but this rather bizarre character would have been difficult to bring to life even for the greatest of actors. On the other hand, many of the actors in supporting roles did magnificent jobs:



Christine Lahti as the storm trooper's mistress; Robert Urich as the collaborationist politician, Sam Neill as the urbane commissar of the Midwest, Mariel Hemingway as his mistress, and others whose names I can't remember.

I will say that the author of *Amerika* does know something about how the Soviets operate in the half of Europe they occupy. He does leave out the collectivization of the economy; as well as the fact that native Communists would be put in all positions of authority not occupied by Soviet officials.

But he is entirely on target when he demonstrates the impossibility of overthrowing an entrenched communist regime, without extensive assistance from outside.

Hm. I wonder what a Jimmy Carter would do with the choice of surrender or World War III.

Michael C. Peralta and Stacey Potts: There is a sense in which Marxism is "far" from all those sleazy dictatorships in which Marxism is the state religion. Let's say I take you up to the top of the World Trade Center, tell you all you have to do is extend your arms to float like a bird among the clouds, and push you off. When I am brought to trial, I point out that my doctrine has to do with floating in the clouds like a bird. There is not one word about splattered bodies on the pavement. Indeed, splattered bodies on the pavement is as "far" from floating in the clouds like a bird as anything could be.

Marxism's ignoring of human nature is part of the story. Where Lord Acton warned that "power corrupts; and absolute power corrupts absolutely", Marxism preaches dictatorship of the proletariat. Who needs checks and balances, civil or property rights: all these are merely bourgeois shams. And who is the proletariat? Not the real working class, rife with "false consciousness", but the Marxist true believers.

After that, is it any surprise that the result of Marxism is the dictatorship of the New Class.

Marxism's use of obsolete economics is another part of the story. When Marx began his magnum opus, the Labor Theory of Value was the best economics had to offer; but shortly afterward it was replaced by the Theory of Marginal Utility; which may have been the reason Marx never finished *Das Kapital*. But this is only one case in which Marxism freezes itself into economic science circa 1860, because Marxist

economics consists of scriptural exegesis, not scientific research.

Is it any surprise the result is economic stagnation and incompetence?

It's not an accident that avowedly Marxist governments turn out the way they do.

Michael, is it really so obvious that "the basic theory of fascism is evil", but that of Marxism is not? I can't help but remember that Mussolini, before he fell under Hitler's spell, was widely admired by "progressives" in this country, among them was Franklin Roosevelt. Indeed, many of the policies of the New Deal were echoes of Mussolini's corporative state. It is still echoing today, in the calls for "industrial policy" and "cooperation between government, business, and labor."

Judging from what my encyclopedia says, fascism is a very nebulous concept. As far as I can figure out, it aims at establishing government control of the economy simply by taking over the existing economic system. Thereafter the government is to represent the interests of all economic classes. Marxism, on the other hand, aims at the same centralized control via revolution, class warfare, ending in the dictatorship of the proletariat. I would say the ends of both fascism and Marxism are evil; as far as means go, however, Marxism is the more evil of the two. The crowning achievement of both is political repression and economic stagnation, but the thrashing about Marxism requires along the way causes untold human suffering.

Eileen Roy: The hero rescuing the maiden from the dragon may be a remembrance of when ancient cultures got the idea of offering a human sacrifice but not going through with it; like the famous Bible story. Your reference to "servitude to him and an early death in childbirth" is very much a late-20th-century viewpoint: for most of recorded time a single woman had a very marginal role, perhaps as a servant in another woman's household.

Polygyny is far more common than polyandry, the latter only found it seems in extremely harsh environments where having





two breadwinners is an advantage, but is not common even there. (I did meet a woman with two husbands at Donald Kingsbury's punch party at Confederation.)

A woman go "go from marriage to marriage" or have multiple spouses, but she can't increase her number of offspring this way. Men can and do. Thus men have natural selection pushing them in this direction.

You've got to be cautious as to what critics of SDI mean by SDI "working" when they say it won't. A recent Scientific American article is a case in point. SDI "works" only when it is completely impenetrable. The author shows that would be very, very hard to achieve -- but he admits coyly that a goal of less than perfection would be easier. There was an article by James Benford (a physicist like his brother, Gregory) in Far Frontiers last year, describing a public debate he had on the subject with Hans Bethe. After the debate Bethe admitted he opposed SDI not for the technical reason he had brought up during the debate, but for what he believed the Soviet reaction would be. Neat trick; according to Arkady Shevchenko the Soviet foreign policy establishment doesn't know what it's going to be doing next month, but Bethe can predict what it's going to be doing twenty years from now.

People who claim that salaries don't influence occupational choice, or that politicians' votes are not affected by the desire to be re-elected, or that physical appearance has nothing to do with choice of mate -- or that fear of punishment has no effect on crime -- had better be ready with some really hard evidence for such implausible assertions.

There was an article a couple of years ago in the Meno Bulletin written by a man who had been a prison guard for twenty-five years. Over those years he had identified prisoners who had been convicted solely on

the testimony of their victims. He asked them why they had not killed the only witness against them. Some simply could not pull the trigger. Most of them, however, gave an answer: they feared capital punishment.

Speaking of unsupported assertions, the human race is "very homogeneous in genome"? I don't think an alien would believe Wilt Chamberlain, Refrigerator Perry, and a pygmy are members of the same species! The human race has spread to environments as different as the Kalahari Desert and the Arctic Icecap, and different branches have been reproductively isolated for twenty thousand years, if not much longer.

David Bates: On Reagan -- compared to what? Jimmy Carter, who was so ineffective at getting his legislation through a Congress controlled by his own party that scholars were proposing changes in the Constitution to strengthen the Presidency; and whose policy toward Iran and Nicaragua (not to mention Afghanistan) was a foreign policy disaster, not merely a domestic political embarrassment as in the current brouhaha? Gerry Ford? Richard Nixon? Lyndon Johnson? How about John F. Kennedy, who really is responsible for igniting the arms race, as well as bringing about the overthrow of the closest thing to a decent human being that has ever led the Soviet union? JFK had campaigned on a supposed missile gap when in fact the U.S. was far ahead at that time, and once in office he built vast numbers of additional missiles, making the Soviets think we were going for a first-strike capability. Khrushchev had decided the Soviet Union had enough nuclear weapons to deter an American attack, and was concentrating on economic development. But Kennedy after the Bay of Pigs fiasco, had to show himself tough on communism, so he chose to publicly humiliate the Soviets during the missile crises; bringing about the fall of Khrushchev, and the determination of the Soviet elite that next time the U.S. will have to back down. (A lot of this came out a few years ago when there were a lot of TV documentaries and journal articles on the twentieth anniversary of JFK's death. I haven't even mentioned Viet Nam!)

I guess that uses up my allotted space. My apologies to all those who addressed comments to me that I didn't get to.

((It is after midnight and I am too sleepy to type, yet think coherently. Therefore, it is the WRONG time to be doing your LoG, but.... If you say the actions of the

Soviets can't be predicted, how come your last paragraph says how we pushed them in the '60's so they wouldn't be backed down the next time? Sounds like a contradiction of the one statement by the other. // Why are you so for intellectual and success status elitism? That is as much a "master race" stance as any that has been taken to date in this world. It was wrong then and is no more right now. sas))

May 20, 1987

Eileen Roy
3619 Fletcher Drive #B
LA, CA 90065

It's now or never for the LoC. By the way -- instead of using the words deadline or words designed to strike fear and terror into the hearts of all letter hackers -- you might want to consider just stating up front, on the table of contents page or wherever, that letters received by (day) of (month) will be printed in issue # (whatever), and letters received by (day) of (month + 1) will be printed in issue # (whatever + 1) -- and then directing all inquiries to that statement. That way your time won't be continually wasted soothing unnecessarily ruffled feathers.

Katherine: As far as Hollywood having elected Arabs as the stereotypical villains, I agree it's deplorable, but it has been done to every group -- Arabs, Nazis, Chiccos, Gays, Blacks, name it, Hollywood has stereotyped it.

Patricia: Is the Neopagan RR up yet? Where, where? But I hate to be the one to tell you. Fandom is just a bunch of weird people going ga-ga over rocket ships and Spock ears.

I have heard some Trek creative people (sorry, can't remember their names) say that Klingons metamorphasize from one form to another -- also that there are merely more than one race and species among the Klingon Empire, as there are in the Federation.

Mikel: I disagree. I think Little Shop of Horrors had just as much an underlying philosophy of life as Rocky Horror. The difference is, Rocky said that drugs, rock'n roll and perverse sex can set you free to join your peers among the stars (now, who would want to argue with that?) while LScoll said that the longing for your heart's desire will eat you up from the inside out -- a considerably darker view than Rocky.

David and others -- Re Reagan:

Kick the bum out.

Marie: As far as pornography goes, I find victimless sex play mildly interesting, the degradation and use of women as objects repulsive, and the degradation and use of men as objects perfectly okay and quite fun. I know this is not fair. Try and think of it as evening up an age-old imbalance.

Laura: We aren't the only force threatening the integrity of mother Earth. At least three or four times before in geological history, all life on Earth has nearly died out, and our atomic playthings were not responsible. (Although I'm not sure about those dinosaurs. Maybe they set off their own bombs.) If Nemesis or anyone of a number of natural catastrophes happen early, only space flight and off-Earth colonization may save us.

Juan: I disagree. I liked Dark Knight. Wasn't crazy about his world, but in a dystopian universe, only the truly mad dare to attempt heroism. And he was truly mad. I also liked Nerilka rather better than Moreta. That's what makes horse races.

Carol: I have heard (from a guy who tried to get out of the Navy by not washing for months at a time) that, yes, your nose disconnects and you don't smell yourself. I did like the method the navy used -- they staked him out and hosed him down. Wouldst it could be enforced more widely.

Cesarian sections are not safer than vaginal deliveries, they are considerably riskier, for both mother and child. Doctors use them because they cut down law suits (But I did everything I could!) and because they like to play God, not because they are better for the patients.

Lisa: Ray Bradbury had a short story in The Illuminated Man (I think) where Jesus visited every planet in turn.

Taras and Sally: Creativity is not



connected to IQ — the retarded have as many creative artists and musicians as any Mensa society — intelligence has many facets and none appear connected to any other.

Sally: I very much like what you've done with the layout and look of Tightbeam. An excellent job. Continue, please.

((The layout is thanks to Catherine. She has put a good deal of work into the zine.//Deadlines. Everyone should KNOW what they mean by now. All they have to do is look at the zine and see what letters are included and simply know that those not in this zine will be in the next. Too, I can't see all the fuss about people getting upset if a letter is right on the deadline between zines and the mails make it so that it appears in the later one instead of the earlier one — as long as it appears within a time that is as indicated on TD's policy statements. sas))

May 20, 1987

Joy Hibbert
11 Rutland Street
Hanley Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST1 5JG (0782) 271070
United Kingdom

Thanks for Tightbeam 148.

Kate Cochran: Have you never tried simply putting thoughts straight into type, rather than handwriting them first? I'm not an expert typist, but I find it quicker than writing. As for names, generally I agree with you, but it also depends on various other factors inside the individual. I spent a long time hating my name one way or another. I was christened Helen Joy Hibbert, because my parents thought I had to be given a name before I left the hospital. They called me Joy because they wanted a name that couldn't be shortened. When I was 12, I started writing to a lot of people, I had them call me Helen, and tried to get the others around me to call me that, with no success. It wasn't til I entered France and some people called me Helen that I realized that although Helen was by far the more attractive name, it wasn't mine, so I stopped trying.

(Which led to the odd result that I now answer to "Helen" only if it's spoken in a Scottish accent. The English fans who were around when I entered London have gone, but the Scots mostly remain, and they still call me Helen). Much the same result developed when I got married. I don't like my surname, and I got it from a truly obnoxious individual who I loathe and despise, but it's my name. There are those who say a woman's name is her father's, not her own, and since she's chosen to leave her father she should be called by her husband's name, but a man's name is also only his father's if you follow that line of logic. As far as I'm concerned, Hibbert is me. I was called it for 22 years before I got married, and I couldn't see the point in being called someone else. I'm shocked to find that you have to get the court's permission to take your own name back. In this country, you can choose to call yourself whatever you like, as long as it isn't for purposes of fraud. Re Crocodile Dundee; the problem I had with it is that a close friend who is very funny saw it a few weeks before hand and told me most of the best jokes. But I still found it hilarious.

Janet: As far as I was aware, all cons are open to both audio and written SF fans. Though the advertising and events tend to be slanted towards one or the other. Have you tried an AltaCon yet? Way not?

Garth: So why was your conservative Christian friend working at such a bookshop? Didn't she realize she was at risk of being made to think? Consider it from her workmates' viewpoint. Here we have a woman involved in the spiritual equivalent of a violent relationship — of course they tried to help! Wouldn't you have done the same? Re SAfrica, what is there to say about it? Surely we're all agreed that apartheid is a bad thing and ought to be stopped, and that any action that the black communities in SAfrica approve of to stop it should be taken? Perhaps that's why we don't talk about it. If your ex-friend from South Africa is a pleasant person, then she is at risk, such people get unable to take the unfairness after a while and end up under loose arrest or worse. You make



a lot of good points re sexual social policy.

Pat Williams: That is what we who are getting over it call "liberal oversensitivity". Yes, the Jews have had a bad time, not just recently, but down most of history. But this does not give them an excuse to get away with attempted genocide. (We will gently skip over the fact that the Arabs and Jews are the same race, so "anti-Semitic" is not the word you're looking for). Many of the Arab camps in Israel are little better than concentration camps. There is very little food and water, no medical supplies. Some of the inhabitants of one camp petitioned whatever the Islam equivalent of the Pope is to be allowed to commit cannibalism if things got any worse. Things got worse and most of them starved. Please do not allow your understandable enthusiasm for Jews as individuals to blind you to the fact that they have bad examples and mob nastiness the same as every one else, and that there is a tendency for the more extreme examples to go and live in Israel. I accept that Jews need a homeland ready to run to in the next batch of nastiness, but the Israelis do the image of other Jews no good at all by turning fascist at the first opportunity. If we're talking "who does

the land belong to", well, it belonged to the Palestinians (they were called Philistines then) to start with, and if we're talking atrocities, they owned the land before the Jews wiped most of them out. But comparing atrocities and talking about owning land isn't really a very constructive way of looking at the problem. Re cruelty to animals. On the whole I agree, but I've also seen some of the side effects of the search for pedigree animals, and I don't know as breeders are much better than murderers. Re Birth Control: Try to bear in mind that the 3rd world is not Europe. The 3rd World is generally Africa and Asia, and it's big. And the birth control you do provide is of poor quality generally, and tends to be things that America and Europe have already rejected as too dangerous, such as the Dalkon Shield, or ones that have not yet been fully tested (in the past, the main example of this was Depo Provera). Odd that you detest Reagan in one sentence and then parrot him in the next — "people who want 10 children can feed and take care of them too". The problem is one of the more interesting parts of "The Skeptical Feminist". While on one level, it is true to say that child rearing should be considered the same as any other hobby, and that people who choose childbearing should not expect special treatment, it is also true to say that children are the future of a nation, and of the world, and that care should be taken to ensure that they are decently treated. Even if you do not consider that it matters that children are the future, surely sheer common decency would ensure that you want to make sure that people whose hobby they are treat them properly? Try to think before you write.

Jean Lamb: Re Communism. There seems to be a great deal of ignorance on the subject, particularly in the USSR and the USA. It is highly unlikely that the Daily Worker is a communist publication. As for mailbox stuffing in British fandom last year we had a campaign to get Eduard Markov (a Russian fan, a Jewish refusenik) given an exit visa. We've just heard that he and his family are likely to get them soon. This is what I call a success, and while it was a fairly easy choice (someone who isn't actually locked up at

a time of glasnost) it's still pleasing. Especially for the Markovs. I suppose they're acceptniks now.

Lin Ward: Well, I get a lot of fannines in various fields, and Tightbear is the only place I've seen it suggested that letters not be cut. I can't see that communication will be severely hampered by cutting out the "null" parts of the letters (eg the first 6 lines of yours) or the bits that repeat something someone else has said better. This would require more care in the choosing of an editor, since there would be the opportunity for abusing the system (deliberately or otherwise). I suppose it really depends whether you see Tightbear as a forum for discussion or merely as a vanity press. Re Britain. Things were different ten years ago. We weren't ruled by a government that treated us as your 51st state, and it was easy to pretend for long periods of time that we're not an occupied country. The combination of cowardice and stupidity that American tourists showed after the Libyan incident hadn't happened yet. Things were different. And I'm not Janet, but if I was, being told I had a picturesque address would really piss me off. There is a strong tendency among American tourists to perceive Britain as a whole as a form of Disneyland, to believe that no real people live there, etc. This is particularly irritating in the major tourist towns.

Taras: Re the alleged lateness of Tightbear (and my copy wasn't posted until 6th April), surely there's some way around it. Perhaps a subscription could cover a subset of issues, rather than a number of months, so that members don't lose out if the production schedule falls apart?

Priscilla: Correct me if I'm wrong, but weren't the "Blaxploitation" movies universally showing blacks doing bloody stupid things? Isn't this somewhat different from blacks being treated the same as any other actor?

Nola: I find it particularly shocking that blacks are speaking of AIDS as God's punishment etc., because in the early days of the problem it looked very

much as if the blacks were going to get the blame — AIDS had been traced back to Haiti, and had just been shown to be a mutation of the African "Silm" disease. (To some extent, the Tory party over there, until the recent dissolution of parliament were still trying it on — trying to demand that Africa's coming into the country should have to take an AIDS test first, but not trying to demand the same of Americans or Europeans). People should know Letter-Sickle Cell disease isn't quite the same thing — it's an advantage which turns into a disadvantage if the carrier moves to a less hot country. AIDS/Silm is not an advantage under any circumstances.

Laurence: It's ok if you know the history of the candidates, but the platforms are necessary for those who have recently joined. Why do you think marriage is a good thing? "True-blue Marxist"? Aren't you getting your images crossed? Re Vietnam, surely treating the veterans as heroes would only have encouraged further wars. Soldiers should be treated as the subhumans that they must be. Why should people have to work to earn the "privilege" of living in your country. Surely being born there should be enough. But then I suppose there's no room in your country for people of principle. Re Chernobyl, it isn't in Russia. It's in the USSR. Russia is one area of it, and Chernobyl isn't in that area. The contamination in Italy wasn't nuclear, as I remember, it was chemical. (Dioxin, I think.) Re abortion: interesting point about what drives anti-abortionists. It clearly isn't respect for life, since most of them are also in favor of judicial murder and war. I am more inclined to view that they are driven by some sort of subconscious hate or fear of the fetus (which, let's face it, is a pretty disgusting sight). This would explain why they are also opposed to reproductive technology as well as abortion, when the former leads to more children, rather than less. But on the third hand, they're probably just driven by a virulent hatred of women: to them women who don't want children should be forced to have them, while those that do should suffer the consequences of natural infertility. Thanks for your comment to Paul Doerr. It makes me realize more fully what life will be like here if we have to suffer a





third term of American-worshipping Tory government. You occasionally hear old people talking about that sort of thing, but I never expected to have to go back to it. Re the Catholic Church — actually, it has the right to tell its own people what they can and cannot do. And the more truly objectionable rulings (like this one forbidding a paraplegic to marry) the better, as far as I'm concerned, because it will encourage people to see it for what it is. Re religious feeling. I would say you should trust genuine religious feeling more than organized religion. Genuine feeling is a personal thing, but as soon as religion gets organized, politicians start muscling their way in and then start doing it as a job, and having to compromise and so it snowballs. Sometimes the mere act of a religion being organized can completely change its nature, in the way that Christianity was changed from a peaceful religion of the underdog to a violent and oppressive religion of the ruling classes.

Emily: The Jehovah's Witnesses do indulge in human sacrifice when the ill child isn't taken into care fast enough. The Romans should have left Christianity alone. Then it might have died out. Re Cor, I would disagree that it's erotic

and I would also disagree that it's S&M. Erotic means it's a turn on, which it isn't. S&M means it favors sexual abuse between consenting adults, which it doesn't. For novels are political statements these days (they used to be plain S&S novels), the basis of which is that women are by nature happy only when men are abusing them, and that men are only happy when they're abusing women who are their property, and we would all be better off if we were forced into this option and never had a choice. Ok, this would be S&M if it was fantasy, but a brief flick through John Norman's sex manual "Imaginative Sex" shows that he does mean it and is trying to preach a point of view rather than sell novels. In my limited experience successful S&M (financially successful, as well as erotic) novels are those which make a point of stating that the submissive partner is one who has her own life to lead and a history of being successful (O was a successful photographer, the woman in *9 1/2 Weeks* ran an art gallery), it is solely through choice that she enters into an uneven relationship, and she can leave whenever

she wants to. I cannot see the appeal for either partner in situations such as the Cor novels, where the woman has no choice about entering into the relationship (Neither does the man, really), no life outside it, and eventually submits just to be left alone. Perhaps it would be interesting to know what people think is the most erotic scene they're read in sf. To me, it's the scene between Keral and his human lover in "The World Wreckers". Re prostitution. I always assumed that state licensing would simply free the prostitute from fear of prosecution as long as she kept the rules. It shouldn't have any effect on "willing amateurs". Re death as an outcome of sex: it's unacceptable for oneself, but quite a few men ever seem to like the idea of killing their partners. It seems to have become almost acceptable. A woman I knew was murdered last year. The police went round her friends looking for ideas as to who did it, and started off with the assumption that she went out and picked a bloke up, and "natrually" when he'd finished, he strangled her.

Interesting thoughts in Gail Gormley's article, though I think she failed to see things from anyone else's viewpoint and set up too many straw people to knock down. Aliens is a feminist film if you look at it one way: an antifeminist film if you look at it another. At first look, I enjoyed the 2nd film better than the first, mostly because in the first the suspense time scale was wrong for me. I often had time to nearly get bored before the next bit of nastiness.

Alien was a much better horror film. The characterization was poor, all that happened was that a bunch of people who shouldn't have been let out found an alien, most of them got killed because they were too stupid to do the obvious thing, and in the end the sole human survivor blasted the alien into space. The alien was seen purely as a monster. Yes, it was a better horror film. It wasn't a better sf film, because there were no questions for people to ask themselves at the end (except "is Jones infected?"). I expect a bit of something to think about from an sf film. (Though I don't always get it.)

Well, what I found odd about Ripley becoming the leader of the human group is not that she's a woman, but that in

the first film she was no brighter than the other characters (and they were all thick — they had to be or they'd have suited up and blown the airlock straight after the chestbuster scene, and then where would the film have been?) and that she may have been courageous (see "thick" above) to have been persuaded to set foot on the same planet as an alien but that doesn't alter the fact that she was fucking terrified and expected to pass out any second. Also, Ripley became leader of the humans over the prejudice of most of them. The ones who didn't despise her for being afraid disliked her for not being a marine, etc.

We may choose to believe, contrary to the current political trend, that women of the future will be the unquestioned equals of men. But this doesn't make it real, much as we'd like it to be. As such, societies in which women are the equals of men are suitable subjects for science fiction. There's also the definition of equal. Both Alien films had less women than men. Is this because (a) women are still perceived as inferior (b) women don't like violent jobs such as being in the marines (c) women don't like moronic jobs such as the one Ripley had in the first film (d) women are at home looking after the kids.

It is true that on Earth insects behave in a certain way, but that doesn't mean that the creators of Aliens had to copy that unless they wanted to. For example, they could have had a Queen Alien guarded by a large number of warrior aliens, male or female, with the killing of the queen being in the nature of a tidying up exercise rather than being the purpose of the film. Previous films about obnoxious insectoid creatures attacking people paid no regard to the creature's gender, if any. Thus: were the creators of Aliens making a deliberate choice to have the conflict between females or did they want to make the most of the being eaten alive aspect of it and decide it's easier to copy a known life form than create something new.

Look, the Colonial Marines are well trained, well equipped, killing machines. The only answer they want about the alien regards whether they're likely to see any action. What do they want brains for? If they are bright, they may eventually wonder if they are

justified in killing a woman who is, as far as they know, the last of her species just for trying to stay alive; and then where would the marine force be?

I think Gall is simplifying the question of femininity. Femininity, as currently constructed by society means: pretty, stupid, weak willed, cowardly and preferably white, blonde and small. No amount of impractically long hair will make Ripley feminine. She was the less feminine woman in the first film, too. Remember, the pretty, cowardly, blonde woman got killed. Ripley is "my type" of woman, so I'm biased, but to me she's as attractive with short hair as long. And it's not a masculine style. It's very soft and curly. A masculine style would be short enough that the curls would not be noticeable. And let's be practical -- if you were facing an enemy, would you rather have lots of gorgeous feminine hair for it to hang on to while it kills you, or not? (However, the other women have masculine styles of hair). The fact is that in our society, men have a monopoly (or had a monopoly) on practicality. Short hair, sturdy flat shoes, comfortable trousers. It is silly to say that Ripley is masculine because she has short hair. That's really only one step down from saying she should be wearing a dress, or high heels. I dare say long hair gets tangled up in that big waldo she was working with, as well.

I imagine Alan Dean Foster mentioned Ripley's daughter to make her more human, to make her loss more understandable, and to give her a basis for falling for Newt.

Remember that "scary and disturbing on a subconscious level" doesn't necessarily contradict "a turn on". Many men are turned on by a powerful woman, as long as they're sure she can't really get at them.

In this context, Ripley had to use a gun to be successful, since the alien queen doesn't listen to reason. I don't think it's fair to draw general conclusions from this.

On the one hand, you say it's unreasonable for a film containing equal women to be science fiction. On the other hand you say one of the women should have been "attractive and traditionally female." Why should a woman in an sci film dress up in the

style of her grandmother, just to please some female who doesn't recognise true beauty if she sees it? Also, bear in mind what femininity (and masculinity) are really all about. Femininity is about taking a perfectly ordinary woman or girl and teaching her to play down her human characteristics and play up those characteristics, real or otherwise which make her seem completely different from the male. This is so that a man who is afraid to see women as real people, just like him, except on the physical level, can fetishise her into an object. In a nonsexist society, there would be no masculinity or femininity since the sexes would no longer be afraid of each other. Ripley is a strong, nurturing, courageous woman who can learn from her mistakes, help those worse off than herself even when she's terrified, and has more than her fair share of natural beauty. That is, she is a fine combination of traits currently considered masculine and feminine. Why do you want her to turn into an artificial, doll-like figure? I like her as she is.

Which brings me to what I particularly liked about the film, which is Ripley's development. Character development seems an unfashionable thing at the moment, but I like it. Ripley starts off as a defeated character. She has lived through a nightmare, and no one believes her, she relives the nightmare when she sleeps, and no one cares. Her daughter has died of old age, she's alone in the world except for a cat. She's doing a drudgery job and living an appropriate life style. Then she's persuaded to go back and face the alien again. The rest of the expedition don't respect her. They don't believe her either. During the film, she learns to lead other people and be respected by them, learns in theory at least, to defend herself, learns to love again, learns that just because one robot is a swine, it doesn't mean they all are and



finally risks her life and faces her nightmare in order to save her new daughter from literally, a fate worse than death. It's tempting to believe that the 2nd film is not in fact Aliens, but "The Further Adventures of Ripley."

So what do we think about Aliens?

It was a good film because: it developed the character of Ripley; developed the nature of the alien queen; had a justifiable happy ending, or so I thought until I read Gail's "Question".

It was a bad film because: it wasn't the same as the first.

It was a feminist film because: the main characters were women, in conflict with each other instead of just being pawns in male conflict; Ripley is a fine all-round human, showing what humans could be if they weren't brainwashed according to gender.

It was an anti-feminist film because: it showed females in conflict; it showed that you can't solve a problem without force; the sole impregnated survivor of the colony was a woman.

Make what you will of it. I liked it and not for the guns (they don't do anything for me).

((Good thoughts on Alien/Aliens. It will be interesting to see if anyone else has anything to say about it.//Various letter zines both Lin and I get HAVE had discussions of editing remarks in them. Just because you don't get them doesn't mean they don't exist. Each editor has to make their own decisions based on their own situations. I prefer to let the LoCers edit the length of their own material. Two typed pages seems good. One side each page. That gives all a chance to speak in their own words without having others tell them how to say things by chopping and deleting. eas))

May 22, 1987

Susan Kennedy
RR1, Box 215
Springfield, SD 57062

Hello, everybody. School's out, and here I am again. This is my second LoC, so here goes ---

David Bates: I agree with you on air bags. It puts responsibility for the safety of the user on the manufacturer, where it should. If air bags become

required equipment. My only question is, last I heard, they were still having problems getting them to work right. Are they perfected now?

Marie Stener: Yes, venturers are too light for rapists. But as I understand it, castration would no longer be an effective preventive measure or punishment. With a science capable of changing sexes, how could it be? I understand that there is something called a penile implant that counters the effects of castration. The only difference would be that the victim wouldn't have to worry about getting pregnant. Not that the rapist would be likely to tell her that! But that leaves us with only one solution. Lock them up and throw away the key, at least until we find an effective way of treating them, or convincing them that women are not their playthings, or whatever it is they think we are.

Laura Todd: The Pope may be a royal ass and a complete fool, but not all religions are a hundred years out of date, especially on a local level. Its the local priests and ministers who deal with the everyday problems of their congregations. Sometimes I think that by the time they reach policy making levels like cardinal or pope they are out of touch with reality. The Pope, by the way, is not following the teachings of



Christ, but the outdated morals of people who came before him. My Bible says, "Judge not, lest ye be judged." I can't direct the actions of others, but I can get judgemental, and the Pope is in a position of power where he thinks he's been made a judge of what's right and wrong. Fortunately, most Catholics have a better sense of what's realistic.

Juan Crespo: Still on the subject of religion: Define embryo experimentation. Do you include test tube babies in that? If so, I disagree on that aspect. Surrogate motherhood has a lot of problems that need to be worked out. For one thing, there are a lot of people who can take children in small doses, but wouldn't want to be full time parents. Others who dearly love children, cannot have any, but what mother wants to completely give up their child? Not many! Why must an adopted child be denied the right to know his/her real mother or father? And vice versa? Surely they could be granted visiting rights; after all, divorced parents are. Right now, we're having a big to-do about a "pro-life" clinic coercing unwed mothers who come to them for help into giving up their babies. Some help!

By the way, I looked up immoral. It means contrary to conscience or public morality, or sexually impure. I don't judge the Pope's morality, and he hasn't got the right to tell me what mine should be. Therefore, I chose to ignore him as much as possible and think everyone else is entitled to decide for themselves.

Carol Klines-Stark: The subject of alcoholism also prompted me to write. My real father is a sober alcoholic, and I can't recall ever seeing him drink. But I had a stepfather in my early teens who was not only an active alcoholic, but had serious other problems as well. Like you, I had to piece my life back together after my mother threw him out, although I endured it for fewer years. When I was in high school, I was painfully shy, and the only dates I ever had were with a guy from another school, a grand total of two times. And I'm still not sure my older brother didn't put him up to it. I never had more than one friend at a time until my senior year, almost two years after the



divorce. I was sure everybody thought I was stupid, immoral, useless, disgusting, the whole smear. Nobody would want me for a friend, so I never risked being rejected. I didn't start coming out of it until I got my first job; a waitress in a local cafe. Still, wound up in counselling and in Al-Anon, the AA family group. Now, I'm married with two children, and lead a relatively normal life. I hope someday you'll be able to do the same.

On the "unclean", I kind of feel sorry for them. I don't imagine they have many friends. Of course, that doesn't mean I'd want to sit by one!

Sally: Re your comments to Carol on alcoholism. You had a similar problem to mine, only mine wasn't violence. The only problems directly connected to alcoholism are excessive drinking, medical and financial. All the rest are living problems. They exist independently of the alcoholism and are only made worse by it. Men who batter their wives, for instance, are over 90% alcoholics, because the emotional characteristics are the same. This does not mean 90% of alcoholics are batterers. I understand that percentage is about 50%. Still too high. But the battering exists as a separate problem. That's why so many alcoholics get divorced AFTER they sober up. I recently lost a close friend to an alcoholic batterer. He hadn't been physically violent, just unreasonably jealous, and verbally and psychologically abusive. She couldn't take it any more and divorced him. He quit drinking and joined AA in an effort to get her back, even went through treatment. I don't think it ever did sink in why she left, but it finally sunk in she wasn't going to take him back and was happier without him. He'd only been out of

treatment one day when he went to her apartment, stabbed her, and then killed himself. That was only four months ago, so this is a sure subject with me. The point is, he didn't abuse her because he drank. Chances are, he drank as an excuse to abuse her, at least in the beginning. And he wasn't even one of the physically violent ones. The most tragic statistic of all is that 4/5 of all batterers are also child abusers, and 1/3 of all battered women are child abusers. The kids also have at least a 50% chance of growing up to either be or marry batterers. They don't stand much of a chance, do they? My problem wasn't physical abuse, but the results were the same, only the reaction was different. I withdrew into my own little world. I lived on books, like Carol, and went horse crazy so that I could go to my cousin's as often as possible. They lived on a farm and had horses, and I think I felt safer on horseback than at home, even though I always wound up with the one that bucked.

Enough on alcoholism — and battering. Too many bitter memories.

Lisa Jenkins: Love the comment on the bible being a best selling novel in its time. Why wouldn't Christ come here? Maybe our planet needed saving worse than any of the others.

Michael C. Peralta: Freedom is not always a good thing. Depends on how you define freedom.

William Wilson Goodson, Jr.: Duces? Do you mean douches? If so, I can tell you why they're advertised when condoms aren't. They aren't a form of birth control, and don't prevent sexually related diseases. They are for cleanliness purposes only. Incidentally, they haven't been advertised all that long. They certainly weren't when I was a teenager, which was only a little over ten years ago.

Stacey Potts: Violently pro-tolerance? That sounds like a contradiction in terms to me. Tolerance means being willing to admit others are entitled to their own ideas and opinions. How can you get violent and be tolerant?

Allyson M. W. Dyar: Why won't they consider a female Dr. Who? Do you really have to ask? The word Dr. has had a male connotation ever since it was invented! Women aren't doctors, they're nurses! When are they going to wake up and smell the coffee? We can't even get Dr. Who!

Fannish Social Incompetence — is that



the practices of the "unclean," do you suppose?

Don't be ashamed of being a secretary. It's a highly skilled job. The only reason you're not paid a decent wage is that it's been a "woman's" profession for so long. We all do what we're best at. It's a shame we can't get paid for how good we are at what we do instead of on the basis of which sex traditionally held the job.

Tras Wolansky: Re your comments on Indians. The Indians that are still the reservation are there because of social conditions. But not all of them stay there, and some go back after they escape. It's true that there is pressure for them to stay on the reservation. Some of it comes from their own tribal governments. We have a case here where an Indian mother gave up her son for adoption to a white family because when she married, her husband didn't want him. Now, some seven years later, she has been pressured into renouncing the adoption, an action made legal by our own government under pressure from the tribal governments. Why? Because too many Indian children were being put out for adoption to white families OFF the reservation and out of the tribal government's control. Now they are trying to force a seven year old child to leave a family he loves and who loves him, to go to a "family" he doesn't remember and a life he knows nothing about. Yes, he has a right to his heritage, but they don't have the right to destroy his life to force it on him.

Well, that's the end of 149. Really enjoy the Fannish Alphabet. By the way, Sally, I understand the deadline system, even if it sometimes seems nobody does. Bye now.

((Alcoholics are also victims and need some understanding and sympathy. They often come from a home situation that was not at

all that favorable and they have feelings of inferiority and insecurity. Drinking makes them feel superior. Too, it is thought that such a condition might in a way be hereditary with a missing component making the body unable to tolerate alcohol.

Unhappiness only breeds more unhappiness as your friend's situation showed. //Did you ever think that the Indians might be trying to preserve a way of life that they see as being radically different from the white man's and that the white man's ways are a trap in which your soul might be lost? sas]]

May 26, 1987

Thomas Meyer
32 Macomber Avenue
Augusta, ME 04330

Greetings from the Far East. I've just spent a considerable amount of time with the membership list and an atlas, and now I think I can claim the distinction of being the most eastern Neffer in the continental U.S. If anyone else feels entitled to this spot, come and claim it, I'm nearly ready to fall off the edge. This is my first LoC. I've only been a member for four months, but it looked like fun.

I wear contacts, am tall, thin, have black hair, and like to type with my toes.

Since Catherine Mintz wanted a description of how we became involved in N3F for this ish, I'll give just that. When I was about eight, I discovered the juvenile, formula, Tom Swift-style fiction that inhabited the shelves and soon found the real SF section. I've been an avid reader ever since. I first found out about N3F at a con, not your kind, but a Latin conection, if you can understand why people would travel from all over the country for the sake of a dead language. Anyway, there I met Erin McKean, who introduced me to the world of fandom. I joined N3F and here I am.

I'm a teenfan and, though I missed the opening arguments in the teenfan controversy, I would like to say that we do have interesting ideas and without the continuous flow of new blood into N3F, even a group devoted to radical concepts can die from inbreeding and stagnation. I'd also like to start a teenfan RR to discuss the viewpoints, interesting ideas, etc. of other teenfan. Anyone interested can write to me.

Just some general thoughts about Neopaganism. I don't have any problems with it even though I'm Catholic, but it needs a better name. Although it describes the general tenets of the religion, pagan was first used by the Romans to denote anyone who was uncivilized and too out of touch to have learned about the state religion. I'm sure that most followers of neopaganism are well-informed about other religions and are not as backward as the name implies. I don't have any ideas about a new name, but maybe someone else does.

Off on another tangent, I've been thinking about the recent debate about the his/her controversy, but it's too awkward for general use, and have been considering alternate forms encompassing both genders. My best solution to this problem is "em" because it's come into common use in less literate areas as a very indefinite pronoun.

"Em just went down the road." or I just seen 'em" "Em" would forever solve the problems of pronoun usage, as it does not denote gender (M/F/N), number (S/P), or case (N/O), with "ems" serving as the possessive according to the model of "it/its." "em should give em ems book," would substitute for "He/she/it/they should give him/her/it/them his/her/its/their book." At the price of a small amount of ambiguity, the world would forever rid of the ugliness of the his/her construction.

Here's a problem I came up with last year. I'd like to give a prize for the longest solution, but that depends upon my financial situation in a few months. If I give one, it'll be something Malve-related, so send any answers to me for judging. What is the longest prime word in the English language? A prime word is one which does not contain any other words within it. Abbreviations and names don't matter, but "A" and "I" are both considered words. For example, "walking" would contain walk, a l, king, in and kin, so would not be considered a prime word, while "cot" would be. The longest one I've been able to find has five letters, but someone must be able to find one longer. I eagerly await any answers.

One last note before my comments. While I'm writing this, I'm listening to some New Age music, Kitaro's Silk Road. I'm very much interested in any borderline/experimental music, regardless of type. If anyone else has similar interests, I'd like to get in touch with em.



Dorothy Methington: You have quite interesting ideas. I don't know if I'd like to be your next door neighbor, but they seem to be fun, as long as one is able to appreciate the subtle/not-so-subtle humor involved in them. You're right about the type of shows that tend to be canned. Maybe we're just a different subspecies of humanity with a completely different mentality and sense of humor.

Karena Kliefoth: I'm against the seatbelt law, but only as a matter of principle. I'm a Libertarian, and I feel that just because I wear a seatbelt. I'm not going to force other people to wear them who choose not to. I do believe that seatbelts save lives, but people should be allowed their own choice in the matter instead of being forced to by the government.

Marie Steiner: About genius parents having genius children. Children of genius parents do tend to have higher IQ's, but there is also the phenomenon of regression toward the mean in which the average intelligence of the offspring is the average of the parents averaged again with a hundred. Utilized intelligence also must be somewhat environment based. Just because someone has the potential to become a genius doesn't mean that one will realize it.//The solution to your puzzle is that you have to subtract the two dollars instead of adding them to produce the \$25 rate. The only reason I knew this is because I've encountered your puzzle before.

Laura Todd: Expanding into space is an answer to our problems, but only to realize the immense wealth and resources stored in the asteroid belt. By using these materials and doing heavy manufacturing in space, we will be able to avoid the waste of our natural resources and stop the pollution of the environment. We don't necessarily have to pack up and move to survive, just use resources more intelligently. What we also need is good, cheap, non-polluting fusion power, but that could be in the far future

at the rate we're proceeding now with it.

Juan Crespo: Your book sounds interesting, but a little expensive. Like you, I also don't agree with the Vatican on most of its issues. (no bolt of lightning yet.) I've never heard of the Helium 3 fusion cycle, but it sounds fun.

Lisa Jenkins: You could have used "em" quite well in your discussions, especially when you began getting into the Wrath of God part. How do you know there was only one Christ? Perhaps every world has/had/will have a savior, and we alone feel blessed by God/Whatever because we don't know this.//When you got into the nussers, were you talking about Hitchiker's? I noticed that, too.//I'm glad Sally lost your letter because otherwise I would never have been able to read it, as it would have been before I joined. Have you been having trouble with temporal displacement lately? //I have been confirmed, but that was mostly done to humor my parents.//Now your third letter. You do seem a bit over represented in this ish. I think a lot about the writers controversy since it was in this state, and another point about this is that almost all of the writers chosen by the commission were nearly unpublished poets. This further illustrates the genre discrimination in that very few even "main stream" writers were included. I don't know what else has come of it though.

Michael C. Peralta: I like Stanislaw Lem too, but it's almost impossible to find anything by him around here.

Sorry, about the length, I know we were supposed to keep it under two pages, but once I got going, it was hard to stop. ((You are most likely the most down East in the Club. However, where you only reside on the ocean's edge, we reside on a hook of land that juts out into the ocean itself and are connected to the mainland by two bridges. sas))

June 3, 1987

William Wilson Goodson, Jr.
11108 Johnson-Davis Road
Huntersville, NC 28078

The recent arguments about God sending AIDS: I have an intense desire to quote Conan the Barbarian to Jimmy Swaggart.

"I've had a grisly premonition ever since King Nimed died in the Black Plague. Why did it come when he died?"

"Men say he sinned —"

"Men are fools, as always," growled

Conan. "If the plague struck all who sinned, then by God, there wouldn't be enough left to count the living! Why should the gods -- who the priests tell me are just -- slay five hundred peasants and merchants and nobles before they slew the king, if the whole pestilence was aimed at him? Were the gods smiling blindly, like swordsmen in a fog? By Mitra, if I aimed my strokes no straighter, Aquilonia would have had a new king long ago."

Of course, this might give ammo to the folks who suspect it is a germ warfare experiment gone wild.

((I have heard there are some gay folks who think AIDS is a product of the CIA developed in the Third World and aimed directly at those not liked by Ronnie Reagan. sas))

June, 1987

Victoria A. Smith
10613 Center Street
Fairfax, VA 22030

Now that I've once again graduated *ITW* & *cybernet*, I have a spare moment for the insertion of feet into an oral cavity..

Roy Tackett: A one-page limit to LoCa to TB might be self-defeating, as people would just *dig* up subsequent issues of TB with follow-up one pagers. The same goes, to a lesser extent, for lesser page limits.

Katharine Duncan: ~~congratulations~~ Congratulations on heading the Birthday Card Bureau! Many Catholic Irish in Northern Ireland want both their homes and freedom from British rule. Therein lies the rub. Arab/Middle Eastern bad stereotypes just got a reinforcement from my ex-roommate, whom I had to kick out for nonpayment of rent. In this (American) culture, the moral minority probably oppose my views, and any other divergent ones. However, we don't need internal passports ~~yet~~, just "proofs of person" to cash checks and buy wine.

Illegal immigrants may also start families earlier, before infertility has a greater chance to occur.

Mary Netiva: Disagreements with the "one interpretation of God's will" causes sects to form, anti-abortionist bombings of clinics are terrorist scare tactics to get others to avoid clinics and thus abortions.

"Kill the few to save the many." *WAVY & ALIEN -- WHAT'S IN IT FOR THEM/IV?*

SaS comments: ST IV was gambling that ST III watchers had short memories. Reflecting ST III's drama in STIV, a comedy, may have seemed inappropriate to ST



IV's producers. The novels do seem to add subplots that really can't be shown very well in the films.

Patricia Williams: On parental objections to school "propaganda" -- does that state allow home teaching? Speaking of that, I think that fanatical parents should teach their kids about AIDS and condom use, no matter what sex ed supposedly is occurring in the schools -- mine, some years ago, was a joke. If the Secretary of Diseducation and his ilk had their way, second-generation fans could possibly become an endangered species along with first-generation ones. Also, now that the virus is thought to kill up to 80 to 90% of those testing positive, infection is a near synonym for medical bankruptcy of one's family. Yes, the dealers' room no longer is the most dangerous place at a convention. Hmm., "It's against my religion to bankrupt myself, so I won't have unprotected sex with you at Blanketyblankcon." blush, blush. I indeed used to have problems with writing at length. ~~The doctor might be wishing for a recalcitrant!~~ A doctor once asked my mother, "Mrs. Smith, are you aware that your daughter is -- well, eccentric?" Mom answered, "Oh, I've always known that she's a little bit weird." I nicknamed an old worksite ___'s Polygon Pega" -- weirdness rampant!

Main Wiccan holidays (and obvious Christian /other correspondences) are: Imbolc (Candlemas/Ground Hog Day), about Feb 2. Spring Equinox (Easter/St. Patrick's Day); Beltane (Feast of the Ascension, about 40 days after Easter), about May 1st.

Summer Solstice (St. John's Day); Lammastide (probably a feast) about Aug. 1st; Fall Equinox (Michaelmas?); Samhain (All Hallows' Day/Halloween) about Oct. 31st; and winter Solstice/Yule-Christmas). Some groups treat the solstices and equinoxes as minor events. Others do not.

Certain aspects of physics are labelled



beauty, truth, color, charm, and (definitely) strangeness, and so sound like they have about as much probability of being accurate as do religious speculations.

Did you see the latest on semiconducting "high" temperature superconductors? Maybe a better space manufacturing process would make it all superconduction! Who knows, perhaps the CIA and KGB were jointly testing the viruses in Africa! A sick joke, but after the latest with Irangate, I wouldn't put it past our beloved leaders.

S&S comments to **Karena Kliefoth**: Air bags aren't in cars because concentrated monies talk in this country and it would inconvenience the holders of said money to tie it up in air bags when it could be earning interest until required to pay off insurance claims and lawsuits.

David Bates: An appeal to those who won't buckle up might go, "I didn't want to waste time buckling up; now I have to waste lots of time" and show the speaker strapped to a hospital bed.

Thank goodness that Ronnie Raygun's coming to the end of his time in office!

Between domestic and foreign blunders, it's hard to determine what he and his cohorts messed up more.

Marie Steiner: ~~unacceptable/edba/what into/what~~ If we define pornography as depiction of standard adult nonviolent sex, then I don't see that it should be banned. Violent and/or abusive pornography should be most strictly controlled. Genetics can predispose a person towards, or away from certain careers -- i.e., 4' 10" men can't expect to play basketball in the NBA, people with severe mental retardation can't be university deans, etc. However, humans possessing the necessary equipment for a career are probably influenced by their environment into choices of careers/hobbies/etc.

The logic puzzle answer: The men paid \$27, of which \$25 was kept by the inn and \$2 by the bellhop.

Laura Todd: We can "stick a patch on the Earth" and have a space program that will be, hopefully, a source of lots more "patches" maybe even possibly a fix, or we can choose to have a lot of "patches" right

now and no space program. My fear is that, no matter how many "patches" are applied, they eventually will not hold and the Earth will go downhill. I view the space program as being one of the routes most promising for a long-term "fix" of Earth's problems. If a solution eventually isn't found, a good space program hopefully will have gotten a few eggs out of the basket, maybe not to repeat the same mistakes.

Juan Crespo: I agree about Bonnie Raygun and Lt. Col. North's failed policies, but I disagree over your anti embryo experimentation and anti surrogate mother stances. Would you bar intrauterine medical procedures, i.e. blood exchanges? And how are we to improve our understanding and treatment of fetuses and babies without other experimentation?

"Surrogate motherhood" -- that term can encompass a variety of situations, for the "host mother" envisioned in Heinlein's The Moon is a Harsh Mistress (where another person's embryo is implanted in a womb) to the voluntary bearing of a child for an infertile friend. Most publicity has centered on a biological mother being hired, inseminated and giving up the baby after birth. Is this a "victimization" of a money needy, lower class woman? Or is the biomom in it for the money? Or is the biomom seeking to save her child further up the socioeconomic ladder than she could have taken it by her own efforts? Or is the biomom altruistic -- in it to help someone, with the money being incidental? The wisdom of surrogate parent contracts must be evaluated for the situation, not condemned out of hand. Admittedly, biomoms should be more rigorously screened for their willingness/ability to fulfill all contract provisions than they are at present, to help prevent more Mary Beth Whitehead situations.

The voluntary bearing of a child for an infertile friend raises additional points, most of which also can apply to the "money for baby" situation. Why do the parents want the child? Is the father willing to participate (directly or via artificial insemination)? If the father is also of suspect fertility and/or genes, is he the best person to sire the child? Or should another sire be picked? Why is the biomom giving up the child? For a better life? So that the child is out of range of her periodic temper rages? To replicate without the responsibility of chasing after the kid for the next eighteen plus years?

All of these, and more, should be carefully considered by all parties prior to initiating action.

As for myself, I could envision myself entering into such a voluntary arrangement with a couple of my acquaintance. No possibility of a husband looms on the horizon, and I doubt that my time availability and temperament won't allow me to sufficiently concentrate on marriage or raising a child. If one places a child up for adoption, worries arise about what abuser or wild-eyed ~~fundamentalist~~ nuts/etc. wind up getting the kid. From these points of view, such a voluntary arrangement would be one of the easier ways for me to reproduce. Perhaps I am reproducing in parallel universe(s), but the odds don't look too good for this one. Firstly, my job puts me in the public eye. To be pregnant and unwed is probably not good, and this may be the case for many executive and professional women. Secondly, physical (possibly genetic) indications are that it might not be a good idea.

Enough ~~YAKKING~~ ... **Carol Klees-Starks:** Early filkers united! I have grave difficulties sleeping in, and so staying up late, the first nights at cons, since my circadian is normally set for a 5 a.m. wakeup.

Lisa Jenkins: I saw a couple of Quark episodes at Disclave '83 and liked them.

Stacey Potts: Monolithic training and control of everyone, whether for "good" or "bad" purposes, is brainwashing. Is brainwashing for "good" purposes OK? ~~My brain is in the dryer right now and unavailable for comment!~~

Allyson M. W. Dyar: I hope you don't draw Ellsworth AFB in scenic South Dakota. Even the south Carolina swamps (where I'm on temporary assignment) pale in comparison.

Tarna Wolansky: "Recessive alleles" is probably why Lazarus Long, and thus his sister-clones, have "clean gene charts" in Heinlein's Time Enough for Love -- no chance for a bad reinforcement.



My eyes are blurring and realizing the need for sleep.

((It almost sucks as if you are speaking of surrogate motherhood in the same manner as communal child rearing. Personally, I don't think I could give up a child after having carried it for nine months. Too much of a bond would have been formed prior to birth.//This week I have been working on TB until I am or so and the alarm goes off at 5:30 am for the new work day. This equates to giving up sleep in favor of TB editing.//I didn't think there was that much of a stigma against "professional" women being pregnant anymore. Personal lives and professional lives are two entirely different things and this is coming to be recognized as more people balance families and careers. sas))

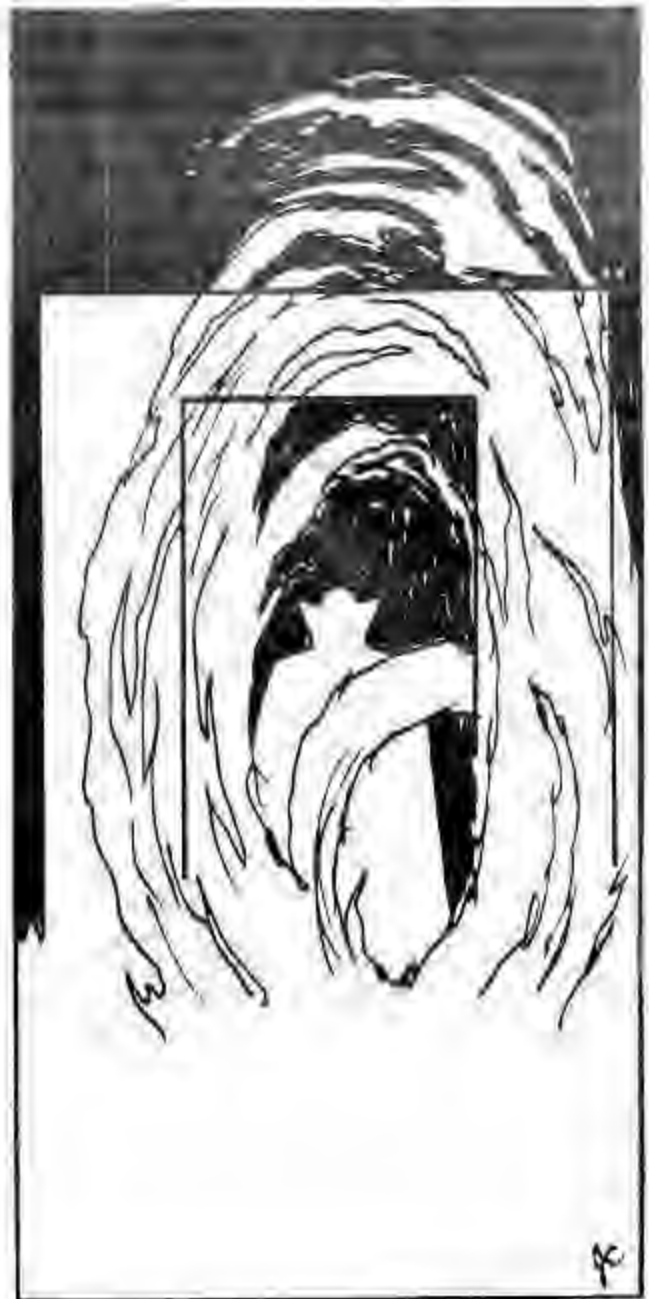
June 11, 1987

Arthur Hayes
50 Ruddington Dr. — Apt 1303
Willowdale, Ontario
CANADA M2K 2J8

No. 149 on hand. After having been away for a few years, I feel it necessary to announce my return. Even if gone for only a few years, there's a lot of "strange" names around now but am also glad to see some familiar names. I'm NOT going to comment on the other letters, unless, on rereading I find something controversial to write about. I have mellowed some so I'm not as likely to be controversial myself as I used to be. When you are involved in the official club strata, you have to be more defensive of what you feel the club should be, according to the writer. Having an official also running an official zine tends to be a conflict of interest, no matter how well intentioned one may wish to be, so I do applaud your decision.

I remember when the letterzine was bonfire and Art Rapp wanted his Bonfire back. I am not sure whether someone put the bug in my ear or whether I was the originator of the next title, but it was Hyperspace Tightbeam. I was the editor/publisher then, and some suggested the name was too long, so it became Tightbeam. I ed/pubbed TB/INFF several times. I am not going to advise or tell you how to edit the zine, except that you have to do what you feel is right with what you have and to hell with any flack.

I retired in 1984 (early retirement) and



took my time to adjust, moving to Toronto almost two years ago. I had planned on returning to school, having had only grade 9, back in the dark ages prior to the last WW, namely 1938. I had not had much to do with Toronto from '47 to '85 and it has changed. I am graduating from XII in a few days, having jumped from 9 thru 12, from last September to now. The purpose of these comments? The change, as reflected in the school I was/am going to, mainly directed to drop-outs, mature ones, like me. The composition of the school body is roughly as follows: 75% black (Caribbean and African), 25% Oriental (Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese, Chinese), 15% Hispanic and the rest a mixture of other

European extracts other than Hispanics. A real united nations, some Greeks, French, British, etc. The BEST, hardest working students, the quietest are the Orientals. The non-Hispanic whites are a "stew" covering all grades of behaviour. The Hispanics are about the same as the other whites but noisier, as a group. With plenty of individual exceptions, the blacks are having the most difficulties in the studies. I've had to help some of all colours, specially in mathematics and English. I was fortunate in that my SF writing had kept me in practice in writing and I remembered most of my math from 49(+) years ago. I have not had to do much studying to keep up and doing three years work in less than one amazes me some, honours in most of the subjects. The homework has proven difficult and so I was lucky to pick things up quickly again. The troublesome subjects should not have been difficult. I've been playing around with computers both at work and on my own, and almost failed that course at school. I spoke French before I knew English, can read it and speak it without any real accent but with a limited vocabulary. Well, I did a little better in that than computers, but not good.

So, I'm not going to try to go far in the education field, may take some night courses, computers of course. I am trying to get back in SF, but my activity will be limited, limited to limited correspondence. I certainly can not afford the postage on pubbing, no longer have my Gestetner or ditto anyhow (gave them away, worn out) and my convention attendance will be limited somewhat. Can't afford to spend a few thousand per year (1987 dollars) as I used to do.

Having reintroduced myself, I won't have to do it over again in my future letters. (I may reminisce again). There are only a few positions in the N3F that I did not have hand in at one time, (ran a "Super-bureau") but now I don't intend to do more than minac. I threw away hundreds of books and magazines (SF natch), (some I gave away to libraries) and all my correspondence files so I no longer can quote what someone said years ago. I used to play dirty that way, quoting from literally years before on current subjects. That I can't do for the time before now. The future? We shall see.

Feels good to be back.

((Feels good to have you back. Interesting you found no "controversial" subjects in TB 149! I'll look forward to hearing from you when you DO!//I have learned one thing about editing and that is that you have to do as you feel is right. You may be alone in that feeling, but you are the editor and have to go with it. aas))

June 15, 1987

Brian L. Suth
330 Ewingville Road
Trenton, NJ 08630

I wish to state my intentions to run for Director this year. I'm sure you've heard of how candidates promise to let the membership be heard, so I just wanted to say that, of course, I'll let all be heard!!! Why not! I also promise to uphold the Constitution of the N3F and try my hardest to do what I think is best for the club. Remember to vote (and hopefully for me!) and hope you for your time!

July 16, 1987

Brian L. Suth (Continued)

You all remember me now don't you! I really would like all of you to remember me when you vote. I'll finally be on the ballot! I've had some fun lately, and I expect my next LoC to be in about two weeks. Reason: I will be in Myrtle Beach, SC for approximately nine days. I just want to tell what's happening when it's happening. Actually, I just want to write from there. Now, on to the comments for TB 149:

Susan Kennedy: Six months, eh. My first LoC, (to TB, I've LoC'ed before, though) from last Feb, was (I guess) nearly two years, now.

Let's see if I remember how to do this (from D'APA) -- Re: **Max Garrone:** I really can't agree with you on the death penalty. If we put these people away, they will get on parole. C'mon. I think that some people (who really deserve it) should be put to death.

Marie Steiner: Hi! I did find your comment to **Erin McKean** quite intriguing.

Re: **Erin McKean:** Well, did you ever notice how violent cartoons are? Remember **Wylie Coyote** going off a cliff? Remember all those violent things? I personally didn't realize this until it was brought up one day.



Sally: Thanks! (For X is for Xanth!)

Dorothy Wethington: Semi-automatic weapons? Any crew member could easily assist a hijacker or lose his/her cool and do something irrational. You see, you never know who you are giving a dangerous weapon to!

Kate Duncan: I've noticed that I always (or at least used to) get TNPF & TB several days before the next ish is due out. (i.e., June TNPF comes late August ((just anxxxxx))).

About Israel: I am positive that Arabs would like the Israelis out. Just imagine Jordan, after the wars. I recently read "Uneasy Lies the Head", an autobiography by King Hussein. I found it quite interesting.

I also found out that the Jordanian Air Force was totally crushed after the war.

Well, all, I'm off!

((If the reason you don't want the death penalty abolished is parole, abolish parole in those cases. And who is it that determines who is really deserving to die? If God doesn't make that determination, I don't think mortals should inflict premature mortality on any more in the world. There are already more than enough who suffer from that condition without adding to the epidemic. sas))



June 16, 1987

May 31, 1987

Mailed: June 19, 1987

Marshall Hughes
2224 San Emilio Street
Bakersfield, CA 93304

Wree Carter
BOX 3, Box 676
Deer River, MN 56636

I was surprised to find a factual error in the article "What We Point At" by Robert Friggs which I now detail to you. Mr. Briggs refers to Messrs Spengler and Toynbee as contemporaries post 1918 whereas Spengler wrote the epic "Rise and Fall of the West" around that time, Mr. Toynbee was a babe then.

Arnold Toynbee's multivolumed work, "A Study of History" which I am proud to say I have read, all 12 volumes of it including Caveteer, began to come out after World War II, not I as Briggs says on page 69, #149.

Another point that Mr. Briggs missed was Spengler's distinction between cultures (which are alive) and civilizations (which are dead) and he stated Western C. was dead whereas Toynbee is less pessimistic thinking with "religious revival" West could be saved.

As a student of history, I thought this needed clarification.

((The pages of TB are full of nothing, if not clarification! Glad to see such close attention paid to the words within it! sas))

June 17, 1987

Brian L. Smith
330 Ewingville Road
Trenton, NJ 08638

Hey!!! It's me again! Agah!!!

I want to make a few more comments, but want to let you know that unless someone wrote to DUJr first, I am now the Fan Club BU-head. So send stuff soon!!! More details in next TNFF!!! Hopefully, no one else took it first, so send me lines, etc.!!!! (I hope!!!!)

Some more comments on TB 149:

W. W. Goodson, Jr.: I am a big fan of Piers Anthony, and his Xanth series is pretty good!! If I am Fan Club BU, I'll probably try to center at least some of it around Piers Anthony.

((With the enthusiasm you show, I hope you are able to head the bureau. Though, remember, such things are often more plain boring dog work than the glamerous thing it at first seems! sas))

Important question first: is anyone else an AUDELY fan? I've missed a number of episodes that I would like to have on tape (VHS). Will swap or pay or make a deal of some sort. Please write!!

In response to Tightbeam 149:

Katharine Duncan: Winter was mild this year, wasn't it! Well, maybe you'll luck out next year and we'll have the exceptional cold of -100+ degrees again. .

Patricia A. Williams: I work at a high school as a secretary. We do have parents who teach their kids at home because they don't approve of the school's method of teaching. We've also had parents who have come into the school and censored every single textbook their child(ren) read in the school, mark every single page or diagram they don't want the kids to see, and the kids have to be excused from class for those sections. The kids are the ultimate victims of this type of censorship, they pay the price.

If you've enjoyed Cherryh's books, I'm sure you'll enjoy the FADED SUN trilogy. The books deal with the ending of a war between two alien races and humans. One alien race (regul) has "hired" the second alien race (mrl) to do their fighting against the humans. And one human who is captured by the last few remaining mrl. This of course being a two-line synopsis of a trilogy and nowhere doing the books justice. It is one of the most popular works of Cherryh's. Read it. (An aside note: it took me three tries to get past the 50th page, before being hooked. It's now one of my all-time favorites.)

By one religious definition I recently read, all gays were considered Marxists. (This comment is repeated with all due sarcasm).

I'm sure Australia would be delighted to know someone thinks they should deal with the Palestinians.

AIDS is a serious and fatal disease, not population control.

Karens Kliefoth: I'm completely against the seat-belt law. It IS an infringement against personal freedom. The same goes



for the helmet laws, smoking policies (it is legal to refuse to hire a smoker, but smoking is legal), etc. I wear a seat-belt out of habit, that's my choice. I prefer it to REMAIN my choice, and not something I am forced to do and fined for when I refrain from doing so. Do you ever wonder what laws will come up next? Maybe something as earth-shattering as the outlawing of fishing for all the damage done to people who accidentally get hooks caught in their own flesh.

David Bates: See my above comments regarding the seat belt law. Additional: if wearing a seat belt is good common sense, then why aren't we given the benefit of making our own choices? People who wear seat belts are also out of cars, taken to emergency, and in need of severe medical treatment. I also know a few people who would have been dead had they been wearing their seat belt and NOT been thrown from the vehicle.

Marie Steiner: I've heard the $3 \times \$9 = \$27 + \$2 = \29 puzzle before. I'd like to know why it doesn't add up that way. Is it because you're dealing with the money flow in two different directions? What three people have paid, and what one has earned? If you work it all in what is subtracted from the \$30, it works out fine. Math. Grumble.

Laura Todd: AIDS is a disease and I can hardly classify it as a "blessing in disguise." I take it you've never known anyone who's died from AIDS. It's been my general experience that those people who think AIDS is a "blessing in disguise" or a "population control" or any number of various "good coming out of bad" have been in, what they consider to be a "safe zone." I can't imagine that you would be suggesting AIDS is a "blessing in disguise"

if you, or someone you knew, were dying from the disease. (Maybe we should outlaw the wearing of seat belts so more people die in auto accidents; and we can start pushing cigarettes on people so more people die of cancer..) Excuse me for snapping, but I've seen a lot of off-the-cuff comments in this issue regarding AIDS and I haven't appreciated most of them.

Lisa Jenkins (and, apparently, Tom Sadler): I fall on the borderline between atheist and agnostic, the balance being tipped by the particular subject matter. Religious holidays are celebrated according to whatever my whims are (Easter generally falling by the wayside) and Christmas is presents and I'm a greedy soul, and I love giving gifts, also. As for Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny, I love 'em. They're fun characters. I also like Jack Frost.. It's folklore, and it's fun. Just like Adderly is fun, and that's only a TV series.

Sally A. Syrjala: "Two wrongs do not make a right" has its value. But where does letting one murderer free to commit yet another murder, or two or three, make it right?

(And who says abolishing the death penalty would "allow" one murderer to commit more crimes? You can simply make the "life imprisonment" sentence just as it states. Also in some Utopian future maybe prisons could be someplace more than merely a place we lock up our mistakes and failures. Maybe we could actually start directing the attempt at a solution to the problem, not the symptom.//If you feel it should not be legal not to hire smokers, how about incompetents? It is legal not to hire someone because they are not competent to fill a job, yet incompetence is legal. I don't care being forced to wear seat belts or breathe other's people's smoke. If they want to smoke in private fine, but not where I have to also pay the consequences of their lack of common sense.//Am glad you commented on AIDS. It seems that because it is thought of as a disease of gays and drug users that people look to it as "okay" as it attacks folks with whom they disagree. Maybe we are on our way to making up death penalties for those who disagree with the majority, as well as those we feel "deserve it" for breaking other laws of the community as well. sas!!



June 21, 1987

Harriet E. Goren
72-15 37th Avenue
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Well, again. Because I've newly acquired cable TV, a VCR, and a credit card all within the last month, causing mutation into a vidiot who reads only mail order catalogues, the only place where I can concentrate deeply enough to write letters is on the subway. Which is where this one was composed. (Not typed, however — I'm not that co-ordinated.) (Yet.)

Calling Comments on Tightbeam 149:

SaS reply to Dorothy Wethington: Both Ronald Reagan and Gary Hart are experiencing exactly what you have so clearly stated about half-truths and common decency. In Hart's case, the blame is mostly on the press for violating these principles; whether or not he committed adultery doesn't seem to be the point. I don't think he lied, nor meant to look like he was sneaking around. He didn't play by the rules, that's all, which is as bad as lying or getting caught lying (or embezzling, or forgetting) in politics today. Investigative reporters hate rule-breakers.

Reagan's problems are all his own doing.

Mary Meliva: I saw a segment on "Fundamentalists Anonymous" on the news a few weeks ago. I understood it to be a kind of radical underground group for fed-up refugees of Fundamentalist sects — in fact, FA refused to give out its address for fear of reprisals.

Patricia A. Williams: As you can see, I am learning to be less shy about expressing my opinions! I promise to stop short of boorishness and insufferability.

From your description, I would guess that FSI began as MSI (Mundane Social Incompetence, which has been around since the first Neandertal first developed acne). Those unsafe subcultural intercourse habits must have been to blame — now it's too late. — But seriously, mundanes aren't all that bad, and I do come into contact with them often in my current incarnation as "passifan" (cf **Alyson M. W. Dyar**, p. 59). Seven years ago, I attended the Worldcon in Boston (my first and only con experience) and was quite overwhelmed. I decided, at the time, that such weekends felt too much like a drug addiction, fun, but also a dangerously complete and total escape from reality. Reality was enough of

a time-consuming challenge for me at the time, and since I felt myself being sucked into the hole, as it were, of fandom, I decided to pull out completely. But I was younger and wiser then. Now, being a "passifan" is one way of putting my big toe back into the water.

By the way, I've seen The Dogs of War, but The Tad of Physics hasn't come to my bookstore yet (sorry).

On a more serious topic, I hope AIDS does not turn out to be nature's rotten way of editing a surplus of humans, as you suggest. This would be interpreted by narrow-minded people as the "punishment from God" excuse which was used when AIDS was thought to be limited to homosexuals. Regarding Sally's comment, I say "was" because AIDS affects more and more heterosexuals in the U.S. each year. Last week I had a very upsetting conversation with my friend, Elaine, who just graduated from medical school and recently completed a three-month sub-internship at Bellevue Hospital. 40% of the emergency room patients she saw had AIDS or AIDS-Related Complex. Most were not homosexual men, but rather poor IV-drug users, homeless street people, or tenants of welfare hotels, men and women alike. She described her impressions of the cycle of fear and paranoia surrounding AIDS. In 1982, everyone — medical students, media, man on the street — was terrified. Gradually, between 1983-86, the fear abated, replaced by an accurate understanding of how the disease is communicated. The majority of folks both in and out of the medical community accepted the fact that casual contact didn't spread AIDS, and medical professionals became a little complacent about taking precautions, because they didn't want to offend their dying patients. Now, however, the news that three health-care workers and a dentist were infected through patient contact has Elaine and her fellow students terrified all over again. It's like a brand-new epidemic, she



says: interns all over New York are losing sleep (as if they didn't get little enough sleep already) and are all going for counseling. Her fears are probably not completely justified, but we can learn from those fears. AIDS is not a disease of other people. No one is immune, not even we who never come into contact with members of those "other" socio-economic groups. The reality is that most of my friend's patients of a few months ago who were under the age of thirty are now dead.

SaS reply to David Bates: The main difference between seat belts and air bags is that air bags put all the responsibility on the manufacturer and none on the user. This takes away a human freedom just as mandatory seat belt laws do. Right? Also, would you advocate optional inclusion of seat belts in cars, or an optional speed limit, in order to protect our freedom of choice? Yes, I agree that some laws based upon "common sense" do threaten principles of democracy. It's murky territory. But in this instance I agree with **David Bates** and **Michael C. Peralta**: A seat belt law makes the same sense as crossing at the green, not inbetween. Why sabotage ourselves in the name of principles? Also, there's no comparison here to the kind of risks **Kirk** had to take or the decisions he confronted. It's a matter of degree. A seat belt law would protect us every day, on a regular basis, as well as protecting those who can't or won't be educated about the life-saving potential of seat belts.

To randomly stop cars is not a good idea — not now, anyway. When the day comes that highway patrolmen can be trusted not to engage in illegal search and seizure, as happens to many "suspicious" looking persons (usually, in certain states, anyone young, male and black), then maybe such a cautionary measure would be truly "legal." I don't know how a seat belt law could be enforced. How is a drunk driving law enforced? It isn't easy, although it's not hard to identify those people. Maybe every car should come equipped with a visible indicator light which goes on when seat belts are in use.

Katharine Duncan and Tamas Wolansky: I agree with you both that there's no discrete right or wrong on the Palestinian issue. I also think that both pro-Israel and pro-Arab factions know neither side can logically claim the land as theirs, free and clear, but are prevented by the emotional and long-standing religious

content of the issue to let logic prevail. (Just one childhood memory of your immigrant grandparent's stories of oppression will do it.) I suspect the majority of American Jews, including non-religious ones, fall into this category — I know I do. I would not feel comfortable as an advocate for either side — heart and mind would always be in conflict.

Also, **Katharine Duncan:** Regarding your state ID's: does this mean non-residents have to pay more than Minnesotans on public transportation? I've never heard of this kind of law. Or do you have to pay a monthly fee for the discount (as on the Long Island Rail Road?)

Mikel Norwitz: I don't choose to read much fantasy either and also haven't picked up anything else by **Tanith Lee** after The Silver Metal Lover, which was great! Can anyone recommend other non-fantasy works of hers?

Susan Kennedy: In New York City, street-corner phone booths are frequently hit by cars. There's a great scene to this effect in the movie The Secret of My Success, with **Michael J. Fox** calling his mom in Iowa, when all of a sudden ...



Michael C. Feraita: I eat my words. I was confusing "The Quest for Saint Aquin" with "Behold the Man", by Michael Moorcock. Both are good stories with very different meanings. (The mind gets moldy after leaving college.) If I'm remembering correctly this time, the Moorcock story ends with God's existence disproved. Nevertheless, it does illustrate one scientist's search for answers.

Caro: Klee-Starts and SaS reply: Sally, your comment was beautifully written. My father was also an alcoholic. (I guess he still is, but he is now in a nursing home where he can't obtain alcohol. Not the best circumstances under which to quit, but it worked). Until my parents divorced, I also spent lots of time with the neighbors, and the police, after the

chins was broken once or twice, and my mother's wrist, once. My father's alcoholism was the reason I calmly packed a bag at the age of eleven and issued an ultimatum: either he goes or I go. No child should have to go through this sort of thing. I suspect many more have than will admit it. The Behavioral Science Book Service (for which I design promotional materials) recently offered a book called The Invulnerable Child, about how kids can grow up under adverse conditions and still thrive. Human beings are a very resilient



species.

(I have to say here — there's a special welcome openness about NZF and the forum of Tightbeam which makes it seem easier than usual for me to discuss topics like this. Thank you all!)

Stephen K. Metzger: I agree with you about Dune, the movie: it wasn't much more than a detailed, although accurate, illustration of the book. Often the screen image matched the one which had been in my mind's eye, a startling and enjoyable awareness. But that's not what a film should be, and Dune never reached other levels of awareness.

Lisa Jenkins: I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was nine, and he brought me a dictionary. I had no need or desire for one of my own and no one was able to convincingly explain Santa's motivation. A puppy in the stocking might have bolstered my faith.

Linda Leach: I love your illustration on page 33!

SaS reply to Stacey Potts: In my last letter to Tightbeam I enclosed a Xerox of a Newsweek article and requested that you publish a portion of it (the photo). You're right: duplicating words or images without the author's consent is illegal. I guess I should have sent in an "artist's rendering" or written description instead. I'll understand if the Xeroxed photo doesn't appear. On the other hand..if the photo is reprinted in context, in a limited-circulation publication which isn't sold for profit, do the copyright laws still apply?

Well, I think I've exceeded the "unofficial" length limitation here. Sorry..I'll be better next time, or perhaps I won't have to, if the printer gets well soon (let's hope he does!)

((On page limitation, PLEASE keep your copy to two typewritten pages. These lines are getting too long and too costly to produce. If people can't voluntarily limit their words, it might come to having to edit them down.//Too, reprinting a bunch of material having appeared in a professional publication takes away from space that could be devoted to works of the membership, as well as infringing upon copyright. Too, why don't you look before you complain. I have already sent along your photograph of a Geop! for appearance in this zine.// If you want a REALLY open fanzine forum, try an apa. People have been known to admit things there that they



hadn't yet told their families. An apa is really a small family.//I don't seriously think we as a people are in any danger of hanging ourselves on our "principles." We don't seem to have any on which we stand! As to little lights in cars, why not monitoring systems in houses to see if people are doing as they should? TVs that can't be turned off so continuous propaganda can be received, etc.?? We don't have to worry about someone invading us and taking our way of life known as freedom — We are doing quite well in giving it up of our own "free" will. Too bad we are giving up everyone else's in the bargain! When do you think it would be okay to stop cars at random to check to see if they are "legal?" There are more times than not at which I really despair at the lack of principles and understanding of human freedom inherent within this country.//Gary Hart also got what he asked for. He did lie. If you read Donna Rice's interviews you see he even told her he would divorce his wife after he was elected and nobody could do anything about it and make her (Donna) First Lady. Hart had been accused of "womanizing," not to mention failing to pay his campaign debts before he challenged the press to follow him to find out the accuracy of these things. He asked for it. Is this the character of a person you wish to inhabit the White House? No wonder we are getting what we are in elected representatives. Reagan is right about one thing: We need more people of ethical character, but I'm afraid he is not one of those I would so define. sas))



Kelly, James Patrick, and Kessel, John. Freedom Beach. Tor. New York, December, 1986, 259 pages, \$2.95 paper. ISBN 0-812-54300-9

Reviewed by Michael G. Peralta

In August of 1984 an unusual novelette entitled "Freedom Beach" appeared in The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction. The intriguing story concerns Carl, a man with unexplained gaps in his memory who awakens one day to find himself on a strange beach along with a group of similar amnesiacs. He discovers that his fellow castaways lead a pleasant, if idle, existence under the seemingly benign control of unseen "dreamers" who speak to their guests through talking statues. Only two rules hold sway in this sunny paradise: YOU MAY NOT HARM ANOTHER GUEST. YOU ARE FORBIDDEN TO WRITE! Carl also discovers that he is unable to leave. When another guest's attempt at rebellion against this surreal, Sinatra Club Med leads to tragedy, Carol vows to escape.

Unfortunately, James Patrick Kelly and John Kessel have taken this fascinating, open-ended tale and expanded it into a bland, disappointing novel. Freedom Beach takes its hero (now known as Shaun Reed) through a series of hallucinatory encounters with The Marx Brothers, Aristophanes, Raymond Chandler, Emily Bronte, and other literary and quasi-literary notables. (These episodes are intended as "therapy" by the enigmatic dreamers.) Although the authors display a certain degree of cleverness in the construction of playful dream sessions,

these whimsical fantasies add little to the book's thin story of Reed's struggle to deal with his burning, unfulfilled desire to be a great writer. Kelly and Kessel have succumbed to the ever-present temptation to write about writing, and the result is a book which is all too predictable, repetitive, and self-indulgent. Readers in search of originality should seek out the novelette, and skip the novel.



Time travel fans interested in alternative dimensions to the traditional past/future alternate realities time travel, such as karma/destiny, ought to skim through MEMORIES by Mike McQuay (Bantam/Spectra), but be warned in advance that it ought not be shared with minors, because it glorifies sex, violence, drugs, alcohol, power and other mainstream virtues. I classify the content as: 75% mundane fiction; 20% fantasy and 5% science fiction.

I consider science fiction/fantasy to be fantasy when we have to take something on faith, because the author has not seen fit to explain something by the end of the novel. The time travel in this novel is through a gene map passed to descendants, which takes the travelers into the position of being spirits in the mind of the ancestor found by following the gene map, with the help of drugs used by psychiatrists. The hosts of the time travelers are in turn "possessed", unless the travelers see fit to share control of the body with the biological owner. The novel presents all this as discoveries and observations made by bewildered travelers, so we don't know if the traveler theories are valid, until some other experience contradicts the theory. I wish that a science fiction writer, rather than a mainstream writer, had explored this new

dimension, because so much of the characters time is spent indulging in mainstream activities like playing Napoleon, experiencing the black death, messing with the minds of religious leaders, talking about sex, and playing psychiatrist.



MARTIN CAIDIN'S
Exit Earth

A Review by
R. Miller

About five weeks back, I did a letter campaign, albeit a small-one, to the

publishers and heirs of Philip Wylie and Walter to allow the books When Worlds Collide and After Worlds Collide to be revised and up-dated for republication. The family heirs weren't interested.

Being two/one of my favorite books I was somewhat discouraged, now comes Exit Earth.

It's so different it's the same! And I like it!

First, the coming cataclysm! Second the miraculous escape ploy, ... it's development and institution, and all its inherent problems!

Then from the brink of disaster, a successful escape!

The flight, the trials, the development, .. all this tells you nothing Right! So go buy it and read it! That's what it's there for!

It's more down to earth than When Worlds Collide or After .. - It's more cruel, more human, but the hopes and excitement are Sci-Fi or fantasy/adventure depending on how you class them.

oo



© '60



ZANAYEWLPPZSCLANKETMUM
ASLNOLIRREMSTURGEONHOO
STADDOLOHERMDELANYCIFYO
MONEIINSNIVENGMOPTDELDH
GGERNSBACKVINDFARMERRE
CRSSOSRWEAHSILBOORCAO
ABDOYNZANTNOGLIISONSYBC
VIENERLNLVMEKVSISHLBK
FDRAWDHALVOMISAHLEGEUL
HOCDEQZEEBOGONONOVLUHE
EBIMAKBORSTOONCPBHOYLE
YFCLAPSETBDDLLEORIRTTL
ERDOMLITTEGERRHOLDERRLER
RBRADBURYSHLVTSSEHUOCL
LCCBRDPWHWHITEOHRKBFIL
SEWISTOARRREPWOCTGSEKDS
DONALDSONSPITZMQSITTI
ELLESQTZELAZNYSPABNJAC
NSOITHEINLEINPPKYBOKYE
EONIVABLEYFABLELEGUINNER

ALDISS
ANDERSON
ASIMOV
BISHOP
BLISH
BRADBURY
BURROUGHS
CAMPBELL
CHERRYH
CLARKE
COWPER
DE CAMP
DEL REY
DELANY
DICK
DICKSON
DONALDSON
ELLISON
FARMER
FOSTER
GERNSBACK
GERROLD
HEINLEIN
HERBERT
HOWARD
HOYLE
HUBBARD
KNIGHT
LE GUIN
MC CAPFREY
MERRIL
MOORCOCK
MOORE
NIVEN
POHL
SILVERBERG
SIMAK
STURGEON
TOLKIEN
VAN VOGT

VANCE
VARLEY
VERNE
VINGE
WELLS
WHITE
ZELAZNY

and the
author's
initials

See if you can find the 47 names of SF and Fantasy hidden within.

by Andrew J. Nagel



Friday 14 October the 1966. This issue of TIGHTBEAM was originally sent to the printer on schedule, but was stopped by the publisher because it was oversize. Howard informed the directors and it took a while to consider all the options — send it back to Sally to be edited down, publish it as two issues by splitting it.

Consequently we had to publish it as a double issue. The alternative final decision was to make it a double issue with some of the work which we wanted and we would not go over budget.

A number of recent TIGHTBEAM issues have been larger than our budgetable size of fifty-three pages per member per volume allowed, and as a result that was nearly 10% of the allotment of seventy-five pages was mounting financial disaster. It would have meant spending a quarter of our treasury at the time on one issue.

N3F President, David Heath Jr., has decided to abolish the post of art director, due to policy differences between the editor and the art director.

TIGHTBEAM editor Sally A. Syrjala will be entirely responsible for TIGHTBEAM's preparation for the printer. All art should be sent to David Heath Jr. in his capacity as the head of the N3F Artist's Workshop.

When I accepted the post of art director in December David and I discussed various possible changes in TIGHTBEAM's appearance. David was eager for INFF and TIGHTBEAM to look different from each other and that was hard to do with one person doing the layout for both. David agreed that I would make the decisions about format and Sally would handle editorial matters. Since the post of art director was established by Owen K. Laurion when he was both editor and president, the question of whether the art director is subordinate to the editor, or co-equal with the editor and subordinate to the president, had never been considered. David assumed he had the right to appoint the art director and that the art director was responsible to him. Sally felt that she should appoint the

art director and that the art director was subordinate to her. By the time the basic confusion became clear, everyone was exasperated, and David decided to cut through the Gordian Knot by abolishing the art director's post, and returning to the previous arrangement where the editor does all the preparation of TIGHTBEAM for the printer.

This was such a large issue that some material was dropped to save space. All artwork that has not already been used or returned to the artists at their request will be going to David. All other material — quotations, questions, and so forth — will be going to Sally for possible future use.

It has been interesting laying out TIGHTBEAM, and I have enjoyed the experience. Many thanks to those of you who wrote to say you liked my work.

Michael C. Peralta	84
Trug	95
Mikei Horvita	96
David E. Rubin	97
Billy Ford	97
Carol Klees-Starks	98
Bon Myren	101
Taras Wolansky	102
Eileen Roy	105
Joy Hibbert	106
Susan Kennedy	112
Thomas Meyer	115
William Wilson Goodson	116
Victoria A. Smith	117
Arthur Hayes	120
Brian L. Suth	121
Marshall Hughes	123
Brian L. Suth	123
Bree Carter	123
Harriet R. Coren	125

BOOK REVIEWS

<u>Dreams on the Beach - Freedom Beach</u> reviewed by Michael C. Peralta	129
<u>Memories</u> reviewed by Al Macintyre	129
<u>Exit Earth</u> reviewed by R. Miller	130
Science Fiction and Fantasy Authors Square by Andrew J. Nagel	131
FROM THE ART DIRECTOR by Catherine Mintz	132

Artists for this issue, in order of appearance, are David Heath, Jr., Laura Seckley, David Pickett, Jeff Gaither, Ken Delfrich, Paul Brown, Marie Evans, Juan Crespo, Robert Miller III, Lisa Jenkins, William Schwan, Miles Bos, Catherine Mintz; the cover is by David Heath, Jr.; layout and graphics by Catherine Mintz.

TIGHTBEAM is published by THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION six times a year — Howard DeVore, 4708 Weddel Street, Dearborn, MI, 48092. The editor is Sally A. Syrjala, P. O. Box 149, Centerville, MA, 02632. Letters for the next issue should be in Sally's hands before August 25, 1987 in order to maintain the publishing schedule. Layout for this issue was completed on June 28, 1987.

HOT A MEMBER? You can get a membership application from Lola Ann Center, 1920 Division Street, Murphysboro, IL, 62966-2320.

All material contained in this issue is copyright in the name of the contributor. All rights revert to the contributor upon publication.

THIS IS TIGHTBEAM 150-151.
JULY-SEPTEMBER.
THE DUE DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
IS OCTOBER 25, 1987.
For more information,
see page 127.



BULK RATE
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 1304
DEARBORN, MICHIGAN



SP
Don Francon
6543 Babcock
No. Hollywood CA 91606

