

Built at Pittsburgh, Pa., wood. Ran between New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Fort Adams. Probably used by Confederate Army as a transport and sunk in May 1869 as an obstruction in Yazoo River.

GOLDEN AGE 1868



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THE NOT FOR HIRE #7

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Send letters and subs (in multiples of \$1.00)

8 January 86

to: TNFH c/o Langley  
2296 Eden Roc Lane #1  
Sacramento, CA 95825

The Not For Hire is a letterzine for Dipdom. The price is \$1.00 per issue whether you write a letter or not. Letters that run over five pages cost their writers an extra \$1.00 for each increment of five pages over the base five. Courtesy copies will be sent to everyone mentioned, so you will be expected to supply TNFH with an address list of all those you may mention who are not TNFH subbers.

There are two sets of people who will not be sent TNFH. One is the set who have made it clear that they do not want to get the zine. The other is the set for whom I have no current address. The former will be listed with a (n) following their name. The latter with a (u). So far there are more of the former than the latter. If any of the former want to change status all they have to do is ask. To change the status of the latter, all anyone has to do is give me a good address for them.

So here we are with even yet another reason for Bruce Linsey not to trust me. This is the second month in a row that I've been a week late. Don't forget to mention that when you are listing my sins, Bruce.

Not many pages this month. I started to feel guilty about the light page count until I realized that it is up to the subbers to write the letters. Silence is golden, er, expensive...or something.

In addition to the last month list, I found Bruce McIntyre's name in Gary Coughlan's letter. Since McBruce has said that he wants those issues of TNFH that mention his name, I sent him the issue. He has also asked that his name not be put on the (n) list. He only refuses to respond to anything said, he doesn't refuse to read what was said.

STEVE LAUGLEY

Dear TNFH

20 Dec 85

As you can see from the date, I got to this earlier this month than last month. Partly it was that the previous month's procrastination embarrassed me and partly it was that I am so busy in the real world just now, with no end in sight, that I knew I'd have to get to TNFH first, or possibly not at all. The real world busy-ness has to do with optimization. I recently optimized a system of programs and the results were so dramatic (a savings of about 1/3 of a million dollars a year for CSC) that I now get to attempt to optimize lots of other systems.

I truly enjoy doing just this sort of work. Solving puzzles seemed the perfect life's work when I was at Cal Tech, and lo! Too bad CSC doesn't have an employee bonus program. With my share of 1/3 of a million dollars I could take you all out to lunch, or something.

Gary Coughlan, I got lost in some of your letter. In their responses to my questions about this supposed 'child abuse' thing both Bob Olsen and Kathy Byrne said that they have never considered you to be a child abuser. The letter you quote from Kathy says for you to not ask her to confirm that you are not... A tangled set of negatives that was not an accusation, Gary. It was obviously written in pique and all it did was tell you to stop asking Kathy for support. Most importantly, it was in a private letter to you, without 'cc' (so far as I know) and has not, until you brought it out in EE, been part of a public feud. Bob's letter was not about child abuse. It was to try to get you to take a more objective look at yourself and merely used your hitting Francine as an example (albeit a poor one by your account of high spirits) of something done in anger that could cause great harm. I did not detect in either of those letters any sort of feud attack on Gary Coughlan. I think that, especially with Bob Olsen, there was a major misunderstanding that could have been dealt with (by both sides) much better than was done.

Irrespective of the above, I have seen you use the phrase "my, my, but that Francine certainly gets around, doesn't she" both in EE and NFA and it shocks me. From what you say, you are genuinely fond of the girl. Why then do you also say things that make her sound cheap to anyone who doesn't know her? I've told you privately, and now that you have brought it into TNFH, I'm telling you publically that I feel you owe Francine an apology and a retraction.

I agree with you that your feud with Caruso is secondary to the Linsey-Byrne feud. As are my feuds with Linsey, Berch and Hutton. If that single feud could be resolved, all the rest would crumble. I do believe that John Caruso's intentions of going to arbitration with Bruce Linsey (and with yourself) are to end that feud. John's statement about what was to be resolved was "anything and everything that involves Linsey, myself and my family". I'm sure that you don't question his inclusion of Kathy as part of his family. He has also said that the 'Francine letter' is to be included among the topics.

I'm not sure if you object to Caruso's speaking for Kathy in this regard. If that is the case, why do you object? So long as Kathy agrees to be bound by an arbitration, what difference can it possibly make who speaks? If at some later date, post arbitration, she were to state that she wasn't bound, that it was John's arbitration and not her arbitration, you have to know that she'd lose most if not all of her present support.

Linsey made a proposal to end the feud. I personally didn't think he was doing more than posturing to add fuel to the feud. Despite that, I sent a response for negotiation. Will his proposal go beyond that point? Perhaps he will do his negotiation in NFA. (of course he may have made a positive effort in his responses to TNFH that I missed in my skimming. If so, I'm the one who is behind hand here.) John made a different proposal to end the feud. So far as I know it was made in good faith and could even be workable. To date there seems to be no positive response from Linsey on that either. Do you have any objection to Caruso and Linsey's conducting arbitration in TNFH (and mailings to the TNFH readership) given that Kathy Byrne will be considered as

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included as a party bound by the arbitration? If you do have any such objections, I would like to see them. Perhaps we could work out some alternative that you can accept.

John Caruso, it will indeed be interesting to see Steve Hutton's reaction to your evidence that Bruce Linsey was dishonest. Although, if Hutton doesn't define telling lies as being dishonest then you may be out of luck. In his discussion with me on the subject of lies he has managed to conclude that what Linsey does is "make mistakes". So, don't hold your breath. Of course there is a chance. Hutton also says in TNEH that he takes great care to be truthful in his dealings with other people and he has stated in NFA that he can be fair to both sides in this feud. If he's telling the truth, perhaps he will examine the evidence you presented and conclude that Linsey was dishonest. By the way, my dictionary defines dishonesty as "characterized by lack of truth, honesty, or trustworthiness". From what I've seen, that fits Linsey fairly closely; for examples: witness your evidence for the first, his theft from the phone company for the second, and his dealings with Rod Walker for the third. What do you say, Hutton?

Mark Berch, I didn't read your letter until post publication and since I opened only one of the two envelopes you sent and it was the one without the checks, I was not aware of their existence until just recently. I returned both, since my new policy vis a vis courtesy copies caused me to return the \$4.00 I charged you for courtesy copies in TNEH 5.

It was nice of you to send in the copies of the MAGUS covers. It proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that you have the copy of MAGUS 31 that is the crucial issue in this discussion. Daf addressed those issues of MAGUS. She also put the little note on issue 32 about your letter. What she didn't do was write the note on the top of issue 31. That was written by myself, after she had completed the addressing. The note doesn't show in the copy you sent me because you very neatly copied only the bottom half of that cover. That was so the whole cover of issue 33, which carried no new information at all, neither change in sub status nor a note, could be copied in full, no doubt.

The message on the top of issue 31 notified you that I was crediting you with \$6.00 worth of MAGUS in return for your crediting me with \$6.00 worth of DD. Now, as I see it there are two major possibilities. (Pay attention, Hutton, there will be some logic here, and since I'm such a poor logician, you may want to attempt to correct it for yourself.)

The premises: 1) The case is not as I state it or 2) the case is as I state it. If 1) then I am a liar. If 2) then you are the liar and a thief.

Since you have shown that you possess the copy of MAGUS, and have copied the lower half of the cover in question, then it follows that you have seen the upper half of the cover and are deliberately attempting to manufacture misleading evidence. Not a very pretty syllogism. (And, lest Mark Berch decide to debate this logic rather than show the cover in question, yes, there are other possibilities. Some one else could have done the copying for Berch. He could have done the copying and not felt that the note was worth notice. I might have written the note to Berch on a copy of MAGUS sent to some third party. This whole thing could be a hoax that Mark and I worked up to manufacture interest in the feud. Some one in the post office could have painted white out all over the note. There are many many others. Invent your own.)

Chris Carrier, without a great deal of logic, DW is a Dipdom tradition. It was our "Flagship" (decried by many and supported by many in that position) zine for many years. It was our try at being taken a little more seriously than we probably deserve. Perhaps it is getting better treatment than it deserves, but the situation is one that is based in emotion and so is quite difficult to justify. It is that DW belongs to all of us, in a sense, and so we feel a responsibility for it that we might not feel toward it if we looked at it as only a listing of various rating systems, et al.

Steve Hutton, you don't have a sub to INFH, and won't unless you ask for one. I carried you as a sample/courtesy copy for the first five issues because you were in Europe and had little chance of responding prior to your return.

I can understand your upset with being called a liar. I disagree with your assessment of the situation and your self. Your writing in NFA is the basis for the low opinion I have of you.

With reference to the "mentally ill", it is too bad that you find yourself surrounded by such an unenlightened crowd. By the way, where did you get the idea that Bruce Linsey is mentally ill? Do you have anything more than your own opinion to go on? Are you qualified to form such an opinion? If not, don't you think it rather mean of you to say that about Bruce? Personally, I feel that he could use counseling, but I have never felt that he was mentally ill in the sense that you seem to be using the term.

Possibly, you are trying, through innuendo, to say that I am accusing Bruce of being "mentally ill" because I said that he could profit from professional help. If that is the case, you really ought to curb this tendency you have toward the use of innuendo, since you have taken the public position, in NFA, that the use of innuendo is not acceptable. Or, do you set lower standards for yourself than those you set for others?

And now, to some outside reading. In NFA 34, Steve Hutton makes the statement "While I haven't really taken sides in the feud, it's becoming increasingly obvious that I think one side has a much better case than the other. This doesn't keep me from treating both sides fairly, though." This was in his white pages. The zine was in four colors. By Hutton's definition: blue for his homosexual apologia; green for Chris Carrier's Feud Number stuff; red for Diplomacy and feuding; and white for everything else. The above quote was in response to some feud discussion just a few pages past a satiric article by Hutton about a fictional letter that Gary Coughlan had supposedly written to one of Kathy Byrne's children. Hutton apparently considers satiric articles about Kathy's children and discussions of the feud as not part of feuding. He's upset that I should suggest that he is a liar. (Actually, what I said was that he was either a liar or a poor reporter. Hutton made his own choice there.) Perhaps he should examine what he writes more closely, to determine just to whom it is he is telling the truth. It doesn't appear to be himself.

What brought this all on is Hutton's letter lastish and his somewhat longer response to INFH 1 in NFA 34. In NFA, Hutton attacks my logic with a flawed syllogism of his own. Using the ad hominem premise, Langley is a poor logician, he concludes that my logic is faulty. Even granting the premise, one would have to prove that no poor logician could be the source of good logic. Perhaps Hutton is up to the task.

He also attacks my definition of a lie, using 'murder' to mean 'live in California' and 'rape' to mean 'publish MAGUS' to show that using my definition of a lie (a statement made with the intention to mislead) just won't do. He asks why not use the Dictionary definition? Why not indeed? How about the definition in my Dictionary (Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary) that says to lie is "to create a false or misleading impression"? Hutton insists that there must be an objectively false statement made in order for a lie to be told, and he denies the falsity of any of his statements. He intersperses all of the quibbling over definitions and his 'logocal proof' that I use bad logic with some delightful quotes from Lewis Carroll. Funny thing, Carroll was perhaps the finest logician of his age. I don't mind being compared to him at all.

Hutton then examines his supposed intention to mislead or his deceptive approach or whatever you will by nitpicking. The original point was that Hutton put emphasis on a telephone call that never existed rather than explain what really had transpired. When I read his original statement, I was confused by it. I thought that his point about the telephone call was a valid one. I had been misled by what

Hutton had written into believing that Ken Peel's letter was based on totally false information.

Rather than address that question, Hutton discussed the much more important 'nit'; was the word 'demand', as used by Ken Peel, accurate when Linsey only 'asked'? Hutton wants to know if he can be called a poor reporter for, originally, only challenging a part of Ken Peel's statements. Hutton says NO! I say he has either missed the point (hard to credit since he states the point quite clearly when crediting it to me) or doesn't want us to understand what is really happening. From what he says, Hutton was aware that Linsey had written to Bill Quinn, asking Bill to state his position vis a vis the Linsey Poll Boycott. Why would he not have made this clear to Ken rather than say, as he did, "Whoever told you about this phone call was either mistaken or dishonest."? If Hutton is a truthful and good reporter, as he'd have us believe, why did he pick the media to question rather than clarify the message.

Hutton clearly would prefer not to be called a liar, but his methods of self justification leave too much to be desired for me to accept his position. Especially since he sees 'truth' in the sort of statement he made in NFA 34 (quoted above).

What sort of position should Hutton take to get me to understand that he is not a liar? "I utterly reject Langley's definition of 'lie'." is one approach. Telling the truth, to himself and to others, is another.

Hutton asks, will Langley retract this charge as he ought to? I might, if Hutton were to give me some reason, other than personal attacks such as those in NFA 34, to believe that he is not a liar.

Hutton fills a few pages with 'proof' that I can neither be reasoned with nor understood, and that, because I can't, arguing with me is a futile waste of time. I must say his use of ad hominem premises is consistent in his logical development. Why he would bother to argue with someone after proving the futility of such argument, I leave to those who know him better than I do to explain.

He finally admits to an error vis a vis the Linsey list of Tallman's inequities. I called Linsey a liar for calling Tallman a liar, et al. It took three months of argument in NFA and INEH 1 to get Hutton to admit that Linsey was in error. You'll note I didn't say that Hutton admitted to his own error, just Linsey's error. Linsey was wrong about Tallman, he made a mistake, but, according to Hutton, that's no reason to call Linsey a liar. Hutton is, of course, showing that 'fairness' that he credits himself with in the quote.

Amusingly, Hutton doubts that I am able to admit when I am wrong just a page before printing a letter from me in which I admit to being wrong. He also brings up the old chestnut that Mark Berch forced me to pursue through a hail of "I never said that"s. Hutton concludes that I was never clear (although he manages to clarify my position for this discussion) enough for anyone to know what I meant for sure. Then he concludes that I was wrong anyway. The question had to do with Bill Highfield's reasons for dropping out of the Hobby. I said it had to do with Bruce Linsey's letter to the NROTC. Hutton disagrees. He published a letter from Bill in the same issue of NFA. In a portion directed to Bruce Linsey, Bill said: "I am out of the hobby, you achieved your goal so please drop the subject." I'm sure Hutton can reconcile those facts. Langley can't be understood, and is wrong anyway. Highfield is probably wrong about his reasons for leaving the hobby too. In fact, Highfield has to be wrong, since he seems to agree with Langley (who can't be understood, but is wrong anyway).

Hutton also concludes from Bill's letter that Bill made it clear that there was only one letter to his commander. The sentence from Bill's letter that describes the situation was: "...the NROTC threw them out, after telling me to handle the insane idiot who was sending the letters (emphasis added) in." Pardon me, Steve Hutton, but Bill appears to be using the plural here. I know I can't think straight and can hardly be understood (actually I feel that Steve is doing himself

a disservice here. His disclaimer makes him appear less than bright enough to follow my, admittedly convoluted, lines of thought.) but how did you conclude that what Bill said clearly indicates that there was only one letter? (Perhaps it isn't me that Steve has trouble with, perhaps it is the English language. Maybe I took what he said too personally. After all, his failure to understand is a signpost that points two ways, and his failure to understand Bill does add weight to the other side of the post. The alternative is, of course, that he did understand Bill but lied to us in his conclusion about Bill's letter. Which is it, Hutton?)

In a letter to NFA 34, Mark Berch once again uses the phrase: "a typical example of Langley's publishing ethics" when referring to the now infamous VOLUNTEERS one-shot that I published in late 1983. Actually, Mark's contention that I shouldn't have published V as a one shot is fairly well taken. At least not without prior notice. Be that as it may, I'm curious if Berch has any other examples of my "typical...publishing ethics". So far, he's only cited the one (many times cited, but still only the single example) example. Can a single example be considered typical? For V to be typical, wouldn't the set of such publications, by me, have to be larger? Of course, according to Hutton, I'm a bad logician, so I might be wrong.

Linsey caught me out in an error too. I said he whirled Lisa Ventura around. I was wrong. I really should not rely on memory. The statement in question had to do with my saying that he and Alex had gone out together on little outings. Linsey denied that they had and challenged me to prove it. I cited their trip together to an amusement park to prove the accuracy of my previous statement. The outing to the amusement park was real. The whirling around was a visual impression I had taken from Alex's description of Bruce as being boisterous. I am sorry for all the pain and hurt Bruce says my error cost him (not that I expect he felt much other than glee in catching me in even yet another minor error).

Bruce says he has given Steve Hutton \$100 to send to me if I can prove this terrible libel. Steve Hutton is to act as judge. If you decide that I didn't actually libel Bruce and that he is merely making an ass of himself again, you may send the \$100 to Larry Peery as a contribution to DW, Steve. I know you will be fair, you said so in NFA 34, right?

Enough! I still haven't read either of Linsey's responses to INFH nor NFA 35. I plead real world busy right now. I barely found time to plow through NFA 34 and write the above. I will try to respond to Linsey next month, promise. (A promise to try isn't worth the paper it is written upon, but what can I do?)

Best



# DICK MARTIN

12/28/85

Dear Steve,

It's been a while since I've had the opportunity to write -- and even longer since I've managed to send you a legible, reprintable letter. Maybe we'll get lucky this time.

First, a note to you. While I understand that all "feud" mail for TNFH may get on your nerves after a while, that's the way it should be, isn't it? I mean, if you got non-feuding stuff for TNFH, then people would have a reason for getting TNFH even if they weren't interested in the feuding. That'd compromise the initial objective of the zeen, making it into a "regular" zeen, of sorts. Enough on that.

Meanwhile, a couple TNFHs, several Linsey mass mailings, an NFA, and other stuff have washed ashore, so let's get on with them.

Starting with a reply to Steve Hutton's letter in #6: Yes, Steve, I reiterated my Gary Coughlan/drunken rages charge, and I still stand by it. Simply enough, it's true. Was Coughlan drunk and very abusive the first two times I met him (why don't you tell Steve how you were going to "Get Ditter" for what he'd done to you, Coughlan, like you did with me in Chicago)? Yes. Did Coughlan write many "drunken letters" to various pubbers? Yes. Did Coughlan write to Konrad Baumeister, saying, "I often wake up drunk." Yes. Sorry if the truth offends you, Steve, but since I've had to suffer through two Coughlan drunken rages in person, I feel that I should be allowed to say so if it's relevant.

As for libel law, I admit that I know only about as much as you do. My info comes from reading about cases in the paper, where I read that opinions are not subject to libel. Also, I had the opportunity to ask a lawyer (that I saw on an unrelated matter, by the way) his opinion, and he tells me that the matter would be laughed out of court. Steve, think! This is the real world, libel. What court would waste it's time hearing a case this trivial? You need to seriously reality-warp the quote to come up with your interpretation, and I have denied that interpretation repeatedly. This is all a trumped up charge by Linsey, and you seem to buy it. I'm surprised at your gullibility.

Steve, please explain why Linsey's double dactyl printed in NFA isn't just the kind of libel you're thinking of.

By the way, I read in NFA that "it is well known" that I "have been trying to persuade the hobby that Linsey is a pedophile." Really? How's that? Just another LIE by Linsey. There's that word, Steve. Can Linsey prove this accusation? No, it's mere propoganda. What excuse will you come up with for this one, Steve?

As for stopping checks, why was the check written if it was not meant to be cashed? Certainly, there was plenty of time to see if the "services were rendered" -- long enough to get a phone bill, anyway.

Ah, now that I'm warmed up....let's shift to Gary Coughlan's ridiculous letter in #6.

My double standards regarding theft? Really? In my letter to Boardman, 'taking' was in quotes. Fancy that. Perhaps I realized that, contrary to Coughlan's fantasy, the sub balance was not 'stolen' but suspended as claimed. The return of the sub in the form of the issues published during the suspension period demonstrates this. Of course, Coughlan never was too good with reality, so his confusion here is understandable. Coughlan twists the story to match his view of what has happened, nothing more. Long on facts, short on interpretation, as usual.

Berch, meanwhile has admitted to theft (and accused Linsey, as well), and has said he would do so again if the opportunity presented itself! Excuse me if I find this pretty repulsive.

Why not have made your subbers pay for EE 18 & 19? If you were as correct as you seem to believe you were, they should have been happy to pay for the issues as usual. You attempted to buy your subbers for the price of a few issues, pure and simple, and it seems to have worked out for you just fine. By the way, why is it that several of them wrote me saying that they wrote you complaining about your treatment of me in those issues -- yet you didn't print their letters. Are these people (who may as well remain nameless, for now) lying to me? Or did you not print some replies to those issues that may have been favorable to me?

Now Gary, if you're going to blow me away, a blowhard like you can certainly do better than this.

Really, you've managed to "expose my lies and double standards" and come up with no lies and a double standard that's not a double standard. Almost makes you not worth answering. I'll compromise, and ignore the rest of your furious ramblings, and only deal with the section specifically slated for me.

Wasn't it you that said I was responsible for bringing my "smear campaign" into TNFH, first? Please, point that out. I don't know if you can "smear" someone with facts, is that possible? There was never a smear campaign against you, of any sort -- that's just another one of your fantasies of persecution.

Enough Coughlan lunacy, shifting to Linsey mass-mailing for #3 & #4.

Linsey claims that that he does his mass-mailings for two reasons. First, that \$1 per courtesy copy is too much. Yet, to send these mass mailings on his own, certainly costs more than that would. I'm curious to see the figures. Second, he doesn't "trust" Steve Langley. When a xerox of his mailing would provide proof against any funny business, this rather lame excuse doesn't hold water, either. Wonder if he'll ever tell us the real reason? Nah....

Not much else to say about the replies to #3 & 4, except that he cleverly ignored the LIES that I pointed out. Neat trick. First, you cry, "Show me the lies!" Then you blithely ignore them, when pointed out. Do you wonder why your credibility is so low?

The reply to TNFH #5 was a peach, too. Truth is in short supply, as usual.

The preamble regarding the lack of "neutrality" of TNFH led off with the usual deceptions. Linsey would have us believe that he and Walker sent letters for print to TNFH and that, for various reasons, Langley compromised his neutrality. Actually, the letters were to Langley, and he submitted them for print to TNFH -- and both had already received fairly wide distribution.

I'll skip "Case 1," as I cannot add to the travesty. As for Case 2, Linsey can apparently prove that he was on relatively good terms with Kathy both before and after the supposed "sick letter." So what? With such a notoriously up and down relationship, that's meaningless. Case 3 mentions the Highfield death threat letters again. I've heard a lot about them, but only seen a small fraction of one of them. Before anybody takes these "threats" seriously, we should ask to see them, in their entirety. I suspect that they will obviously be the angry rantings of an 18 year old -- not the cold-blooded plottings of one who would grab up his automatic rifle and "hunt humans," as Linsey would have us believe.

Case 4 is a real beaut, though. He gleefully proves that he did not ruin Bill Highfield's military career. To do so, he eagerly admits to attempting to ruin (or at least recklessly endanger) it, he just didn't succeed. (Langley is castigated for being logical. Linsey attempts to ruin Highfield's career and Highfield's career is ended, thus Linsey had some part in ending Highfield's career. Not unreasonable logic.) Bravo, Linsey, to win the battle you lose the war.

Case 5 mentions these evil "child molestor" charges which I am supposedly (though he never says where or when) throwing around. More of the same old lie. Tell it enough times, somebody's bound to believe you. (To quote the master, "Does he truly believe these lies will be forgotten just because he's ignoring them?")

Later on, we read that DW didn't plug the Linsey poll because Kathy Byrne doesn't like Bruce Linsey. Yet the simple fact is that Linsey mailed individual ballots to each subber -- rendering a plug in the (late) zeen pointless. As for the Shep Rose article being dull, well, I may be in the minority, but I think all the Shep Rose articles have been dull. I wouldn't want to waste the space in my zeen with them (but then, I printed "Sex and Potatoes," so who am I to talk?), if I had a page limit. Linsey is starting to build up steam for a full denunciation of Kathy Byrne's association with DW, on the grounds that she doesn't like him. Just you wait. Anybody want to run a pool on this?

And that should be enough for now. Hope most of you have a happy 1986!

Take care,  
Dick

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JOHN CARUSO

For TNFH

Dec. 17, 1985

Dear Bruce Linsey,

Surprised, no doubt! I'm probably the last person you thought would write to you directly, ever again. Believe me, it pains me more than you to have to do this, but in order to expediate the issues and problems between us, I can see no alternative.

I have heard that you've replied to my ombudsman call thru a 3rd party. But I haven't been given any information about it. It would be very nice if you'd send me the data, directly, from now on. Waiting for 3rd parties to pass the info to me takes too long. You can mail me anything your heart desires, with the exception of your mass mailings and your smears of others. You can hold off on those until after we agree to an ombudsman.

And speaking of ombudsman, I still await your reply to my list of 10 names. Sure, a couple of them are a bit more friendly with me than you, then again, a couple of them are less friendly with me than they are with you, at least in my opinion. At least 6 of the names appear on the OSS list and despite what Berch wrote in DD, only 6 of people get my zine.

If you feel that Sherwood is anti-Linsey, and that Sacks is unacceptable you may substitute Von Metzke and Dave Carter, tho I don't think Dave will ombudsman the situation. If none of these names are acceptable to you, may I suggest that you draw up a list of 10 names for me to review. But please, leave off the names of Coughlan, Hutton, Berch, Barno, Canadian Brown and the others who have been firmly emplantad in your corner.

In case you're wondering what topics I want to discuss- I already stated in my letter 2 months ago- ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING!

Why in print? Because that is where you smeared me, that is where the lies are, that is where everyone has had to see your rantings for well over a year. I realize that you may be uncomfortable about appearing in TNFH, tho why, I don't know. Even Coughlan considers Langley's approach fair. Be that as it may, feel free to pass my material to Hutton for him to print as well if it'll make you feel any better. All I ask, is the same thing I've asked of Steve L, that being that no comments on the material and proceeding be made until the whole thing is over. That goes for you, me, and everyone else. Call it a courtesy request, since we can't make people shut up, now can we. I can sympathize with you not wanting to go public, after all, if you are proven wrong publically, it could weigh on you heavily. I don't fear doing this publically. Do you?

As for the material sent to me via mail, until we get to the actual issues, I'm requesting that you only include the agenda material, such as selecting an ombudsman, etc. If you violate this request, we could be back to ground ZERO! No, this isn't a condition, its just that I don't want to read your "stuff" until I have to, and even then, I dread the thought of reading your attacks.

One last thing before I end this. If you intend to use a defense based on mental incapacitation (inother words, you didn't know what you were doing) please advise me now and save all of us a lot of time and effort. I only bring this up because Hutton brought up in the latest TNFH, and if that'll be your defense, its the same as admitting guilt, but saying you had no control over your actions, and I'll accept that position. If not, then we can proceed along as need be.

And for the record- I DON'T HATE YOU, like you've told everyone (well almost everyone). In fact, I feel sorry for you.

Have a Happy Holiday Season, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Take care,

PS: In case you lost a list of the 10 names, here it is again: Heinowski, Pearson, Corbin, Ditter, Rusnak, Kedter, Courtemanche, Grabar, Carter, Von Metzke

CC: TNFH, Langley

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# MELINDA HOLLEY

December 10, 1985

FOR THE NOT FOR HIRE

Dear Steve:

This is kind of a long letter so I've broken it into sections directed towards each specific individual.

## MARK BERCH

In INFH #5 you state that "Maybe you should have been there, Rod, to explain why you would say that a single line of Byrnebashing is too much, yet you don't write Langley or Byrne or Tallman and say the same thing to them. You don't see them leaving this out of their zines, do you?" Unless I'm grossly mistaken, Mark, Rod was talking about DW and DW alone. As usual you take Statement A and apply it to Points B, C, and D then claim all to be equal. Rod was talking about DW. Think you got that straight?

In INFH #5 you state that "I believe by the time your mailing came out, all but the postage and possibly the front covers was done already. But that's a minor point." The hell it is. The mailing dealing with DW's financial problems came out 10 days to 2 weeks before the fake DW was mailed out. At any time before the fake DW was mailed out, Bruce Linsey (or yourself) could have picked up the phone and called either Rod or Larry Peery to straighten out in advance any problems which could arise due to the publication of the fake DW. Neither of you did so. It was far more important to put out a fake DW with a lot of feuding rather than cooperate a little. And that's petty and pathetic.

In INFH #5 and #6, you say that Rod and Kathy brought feuding to DW because 1) DW did not plug the Runestone Poll; and 2) there was no final salute to VOD. You then go on to say "My guess (and it's only a guess) is that if it had not been for A & B above, that I would have been able to either talk Bruce out of the fake, or talked him into keeping any feud references out." Couple of interesting points here. Earlier in this same article, you stated Bruce was doing the fake "for the hell of it". Now we have a possible revenge motive. Linsey is upset that the RP and VOD weren't given the attention he felt due them so he gets even by putting out a fake DW. Let me ask you a question. Did you try to talk Linsey out of putting feud material into the fake DW or did you go along with this little "get even" scheme. And, Bruce Linsey, did you even call Rod or Larry to question why neither the RP nor VOD got mentioned in DW...or did you assume it was all Kathy Byrne's fault? According to you, Mark, we can forget that Rod was attempting to stay neutral by not plugging either poll. Both you and Bruce Linsey would have screamed bloody murder if Rod had tried to be neutral by plugging both polls. You would have charged that DW was entering the feud. According to you, Mark, we can forget that there is no such thing as "DW tradition" in covering zine closings major or otherwise. No, it's much easier to bitch out of hand, isn't it?

In INFH #5, you ask if Bruce was supposed to "sit on his fake for a minimum of 2 months, letting everything get stale...We're not saints out here." I'll agree with that. You two aren't saints. Non-cooperative twits, yes. What do you mean "get stale"? We're not talking about a loaf of bread, you know. There's not one piece in the fake DW which could not have waited for 2 months. There's no reason the fake DW could not have waited except Linsey's ego.

In INFH #6, Mark, you take nitpicking to a new height. My sincere congratulations. Let's see...Bruce Linsey didn't bring the feud to DW because he used a fake DW to publish feud material. Right? Tell me, Mark, do you stay awake at

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nights thinking up this nonsense? Linsey put out feud material, not under his name, but under DW's name and logo. Your nitpicking sounds like a desperate attempt to drag a severely tattered cloak of respectability over Linsey's deliberate irresponsibility.

One question about your letter in TNFH #6. Where did Rod say it would have been okay for you (or Larry Peery) or anyone else for that matter to put out a feud fake of DW using the DW mailing list? You ask why Linsey alone should be restricted. I think you're off on another camouflage mission. The point is that Linsey deliberately lied to Rod about how he was going to use the DW mailing list. The point is Linsey (with help) put out a fake DW full of feud material. Rod's complaints would have been the same no matter who had lied to him or who had put out a fake feud DW...and you know it.

Also in TNFH #6 you say Linsey can print "information (that's publicly known anyway) to whoever he damn pleases..." So, why Mark, didn't Linsey print information (that's publicly known anyway) to whoever he damn pleases under his own name? Why use DW...except to get even for a supposed snub. When Linsey (or anyone else) puts out something using someone else's name or logo, he's using something which doesn't belong to him. Your smokescreen of "freedom of information" is just that....a smokescreen. And a very poor one at that.

#### BRUCE LINSEY

In your reply to TNFH #3 & 4 (postmarked 10-28-85), you refer to the discussion about Steve Hutton's even-handedness. I think we can all appreciate the difficulty in publishing a zine with feud-related material without becoming involved on one side or the other. Bruce, you say Steve Hutton takes a neutral stand and treats everyone fairly and even-handedly. Unfortunately, that's simply not the truth.

Example 1 - Steve Hutton published a charge by Randolph Smyth that Jim Meinel was trying to ruin the RP to save himself (Meinel) personal embarrassment. Smyth soon apologized to Meinel. But did the apology get the same attention from Hutton as the charge? No. When I asked Hutton about it, he replied (NFA #32/33): "I chose to reprint the former (the charge) in NFA but not the latter (the apology)." Instead I noted in the NFA letter column (where I had printed Randolph's original editorial) that Randolph had apologized. Just because I have reprinted one editorial does not mean I'll reprint all subsequent editorials by the same person." Fair and even-handed? Not at all. A charge gets reprinted in its original form while the apology gets buried in the letter column as a "note".

Example #2 - In NFA #29/30 (page 70), Linsey states: "Similarly, the RP boycott is a cheap attempt to "get" me." and "In direct contrast to these attempts to destroy any project touched by Bruce Linsey.." When I pointed out to Hutton that he (Hutton) had not requested proof of these accusations from Linsey, Hutton replied (NFA #32/33): "I hope Bruce will respond to these last few paragraphs." Meanwhile, Hutton is telling John Caruso that if Caruso doesn't present Hutton with evidence of Linsey's so-called dishonesty, he'll consider Caruso dishonest. But all Hutton will say about Bruce not presenting evidence of his charges is "I hope Bruce will respond to these last few paragraphs." fair and even-handed? Don't bet on it.

Example #3 - You stated that you received condemnation from Hutton for printing the "drinking letter". Now, this so-called public condemnation was not in a letter or statement directed towards you, was it, Bruce? It was buried in replies to 2 people (one of whom was myself) who took Hutton to task for not condemning you for the "drinking letter". Hutton's so-called "public condemnation" was buried. In my personal opinion, Hutton's statement of "very scummy indeed" hardly ranks as a severe condemnation. Creampuff condemnation is a closer definition to its reality.

(11)

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Steve Hutton fair and even-handed? No, regrettably not. NFA has a double standard. I certainly don't believe when I reply in NFA that I'll get the same breaks as Linsey because I haven't.

Bruce, in your response to TNFH # 3 & 4, you state "I did not tell Rod Walker (or anyone else) that I would restrict my use of the DW mailing list to the Rune-stone ballots. Rod did say that he was sending me the list under those conditions (he wrote it across the top of the list, in fact), but I did not confirm or deny that it was my intention (I knew I was also going to use it for DW #40' and would not have lied outright to Rod on the matter). Do you just realize you just admitted deceiving Rod from the very beginning? In other words, all the time Rod is specifying that you are not to use the DW mail list for feud purposes, you knew otherwise. What exactly do you consider to be an outright lie? The fact is you had to lie to Rod because you knew he would raise nine kinds of holy hell with you if he'd known what you were doing. You had to lie to Rod because you knew you stood absolutely no chance of getting possession of the DW mail list if you told him the truth. You lied to Rod from the beginning and there's no way around it.

In your response to TNFH #5, Bruce you state that Steve Langley found the Hobby Inquirer section of the fake DW40 offensive because "...that, for once, the targets were people he likes. I think Langley's protests are best summed up by the old line about "a taste of one's own medicine"." I think Langley's protests are the same as stated by Rod Walker. The fake DW indulged in blatant feuding. Jabs were taken at people under the camouflage of coming from DW. In the Hobby Inquirer, 6 people were mentioned. Five of those six were people who have publicly disagreed with you, Bruce. (Personally, I'm sorry that Gary Coughlan wrote that piece. Personally I like Gary. But this Hobby Inquirer piece was downright trashy). As Rod told you, you put feud material out not under your name but under DW's. But than you're pretty good at commandeering other people zine's and using them for your own purposes, aren't you?

Also in your response to TNFH #5, you state TNFH is not a fair forum. You posed 3 examples: 1) Rod Walker's letter to you appearing in TNFH #5; 2) Courtesy copies not going to certain individuals mentioned in TNFH; and 3) Editorial advantage. As to #1, Steve Langley answered you in #6. I'm sure this answer won't satisfy you (seems little does except toadyism) but you have an answer. As for #2, have you considered that individuals told Langley not to send them TNFH? Did the individuals you mention receive #1? Did you check with them to see if they had asked (or not asked) Langley to take them off any future mailings? Langley publishes his sub list with each issue. One assumes that if a name is not on that list they don't want to be bothered...a point you might consider the next time you send out a mass mailing to Magnus & Rebel subbers. As for #3, you state that Caruso seems to know Walker's letter would be appearing later in the issue & Langley knew what Olsen wrote, etc. Therefore, you insinuate, collusion runs rampant at TNFH editorial office! Has it not occurred to you that Caruso's letter in TNFH was addressed to Langley (among others since it appeared in THNF) who received a "cc" of Walker's letter to you? Has it not occurred to you that since Langley received a "cc" of Walker's letter to you that it would be published in TNFH? Has it not occurred to you that Person A would mention to Person B that "I wrote a letter to TNFH and said such-and-such." and then Person B would reply "That brings up something that I want to write about."? Do these things not occur to you? Or do you always allow such paranoid tendencies to run rampant?

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MARK BERCH & BRUCE LINSEY

This refers to Berch's letter in TNFH #5 and Linsey's response to TNFH #5. Both of you have said Kathy Byrne refused to help Mark Berch with the rewrite of the Shep Rose piece appearing in the fake DW40. Both of you cite Kathy's offer in DW39 to help writers. "I am willing to help you. If you send me a rough draft, I'll make comments to help you get going. I am willing to work with you..." Now that does sound bad. "Sound bad" is the operative phrase here. If either of you had been honest enough to quote the entire paragraph, it would have been evident that Kathy was talking to people who had never submitted to DW. No one, under any circumstances, can claim you are a novice writer, Mark. My own personal opinion is, however, is that someone should have done a major rewrite on that piece. Without a doubt that was the most monotonously boring reading I've done since I waded through my high school economics textbook.

BRUCE LINSEY (again)

Probably what irked me personally about the fake DW was that you published the contest answers. Rod had told you he was asking Larry Peery to hold off giving the answers so people would have more time to work on it. As one of those people, I was really teed off at seeing the answers in the fake DW40. The inclusion of those answers wasn't necessary. But what did you care about other people's enjoyment in solving a puzzle? Obviously nothing. And I'm not the only one upset about that. Even Steve Hutton said in the last issue of NFA, "If I ever find out what scumbag gave Linsey a crossword puzzle solution to print, boy will he ever get a talking to!" Now that's a threat to make all of us shake in our boots, isn't it? Please note that Hutton isn't upset with you over printing the puzzle answers. He's just going to "lay down the law" to whoever gave you the answers. I'd be careful just the same, though, Bruce. You might get another "very scummy indeed" public condemnation from Hutton.

STEVE LANGLEY

I didn't think I'd get this in under 5 pages, Steve, but I did. About your ideas for an exchange of American and Russian students as mutual hostages, I've got a few problems with that. First, all we'd probably get would be junior KGB agents. Second, the US students would see only what the Soviets wanted them to see. And, third, there's been nothing to indicate the Soviets have a high regard for the safety of hostages or the sanctity of human life. In the Soviet system, the so-called "State" is everything and the individual comes second. I've no doubt the Soviets would sacrifice every single Russian in the US if they felt it necessary.

*Melinda Peery*

MARK BERCH  
(EX-SUBBER)

Dear Steve,

12/19/85

sub balance again on  
your not charging for  
Please refund this to me

Apparently I have a  
TNFT arising from  
courtesy copies.

You asked for another  
copy of the cover of #31. It is enclosed  
If you think I'd send you a Xerox with something  
left off, that's your problem, not mine. I would  
appreciate your either printing this Xerox, or stating  
that I had send you such a Xerox and there  
was nothing else on it. If doing this requires a sub,  
I'll deduct \$1 from my refund. I might add that #31 was not  
the "crucial issue". What you asked for was "the one  
that changed your sub from 31 to 41". That was #32  
It isn't necessary for you  
to print this note.

Mark Berch

RETURN TO:

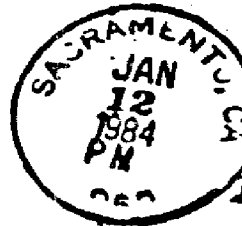
Steve Langley  
4112 Boone Lane  
Sacramento, Ca  
95821 (916) 971-4615

FIRST CLASS MAIL FIRST CLASS MAIL  
FIRST CLASS MAIL FIRST CLASS MAIL

MAGUS # 31  
January 12, 1984

Game ID	ZAT
1982 HX	2/10/84
Bourse	2/10/84
1981 HT	2/10/84
1981 KD	2/10/84

DELIVER TO:



Marle Berch  
492 Naylor Place  
Alexandria, VA  
22304

SUBSCRIPTION THROUGH ISSUE # LAST ISSUE.

The Magician, First of the Major Arcana; symbolic of the unknown, the craft of Diplomacy, and human pain and suffering.  
DIPLOMACY is a registered trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhauer and copyrighted by the Avalon Hill Game Company.

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EXHIBIT 'A'

RETURN TO:

Steve Langley  
4112 Boone Lane  
Sacramento, Ca  
95821 (916) 971-4615

FIRST CLASS MAIL FIRST CLASS MAIL  
FIRST CLASS MAIL FIRST CLASS MAIL

I AM CREDITING YOU WITH  
\$6.00 OF MAGUS IN RETURN  
FOR \$6.00 OF DD. IF THIS IS  
NOT ALL RIGHT PLEASE LET ME KNOW.



MAGUS # 31  
January 12, 1984

Game ID	ZAT
1982 HX	2/10/84
Bourse	2/10/84
1981 HT	2/10/84
1981 KD	2/10/84

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THIS IS A RECREATION OF THE MAGUS  
COVER IN QUESTION.

EXHIBIT 'B'



# CHRIS CARRIER

86/01/06

The NOT FOR HIRE Langley  
2296 Eden Roc Lane #1  
Sacramento, CA 95825

This "for print" letter in THE NOT FOR HIRE deals a number of matters.

First, I would like to thank you and Daf for a wonderful time at DafCon. It was a lot of fun, and if it is still in Sacramento, I hope to make it in time for next year.

Second, I think that what you said to Gary Coughlan in your letter to TNFH E that you're considered a good friend even though "we may disagree on some of the little shit" was very nice. I think that is a good attitude. For me, MegaDiplomacy is a big game of Diplomacy played in real life, and we should keep that in perspective. Once people start losing that perspective is when we start to have problems.

And third, to answer your question to me in TNFH E, yes, I am getting my money's worth, this zine is a bargain at twice the price, and with NFA not pubbing for several months in 1985, it would have been a very dull summer without THE NOT FOR HIRE.

I hope this answers your call for letters to TNFH without The Feud in them. I do, after all, have a side to me which is unrelated to The Feud, much as John "Hitler had the right idea" Pack has a side to him that is unrelated to stomping on gays and hookers...

Sincerely,

*Chris*

Chris Carrier  
1215 P Street 12  
Sacramento, CA 95814 USA  
1-916-441-0292  
Compuserve ID: 72157,3334  
MCI Mail ID: CCARRIER

PS -- Promise to send some no-Feud stuff to MAGUS as soon as I can.

PPS to the rest of the hobby -- anyone on the EMAIL systems in my address?

# JOHN MICHALSKI

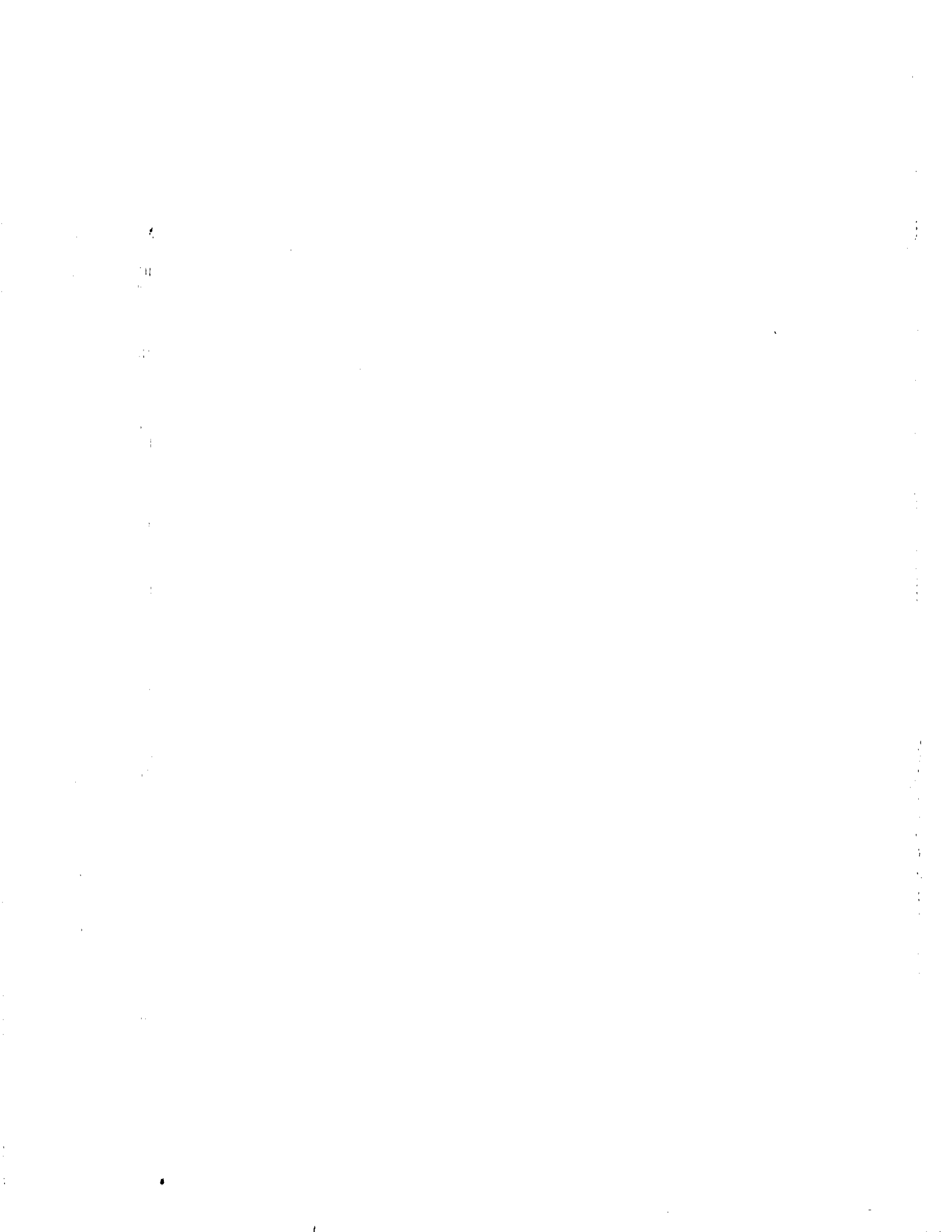
Hi Steve.

I like the idea about putting other stuff, normal stuff, into TNFH, but there is a danger even in that. For example, Scott Hanson has an admirably high proportion of European views expressed in his Pommes Mit Mays, rarely seen elsewhere in the US hobby. Yet look at the result. Whatever image Europeans have or would like to have, it is hardly improved or maintained by the blatant idiocy of recent issues. One clown praises the "democratic reforms" brought to Nicaragua by the Sandinistas; another explains his turning to pacifism; another piece tells us how cocoroc Europe felt with a barn-again wimp in the White House.

All this from fools who live perhaps three hours' drive from the nearest Soviet labor camps in Bohemia, Thuringia, or Karelia. One might hope that perhaps the European hobby represents the sweepings of backalley coffeehouses as much as the American hobby represents upper middle class college students and young adults, if the writings in Pommes are at all typical. If that hope is misplaced, then the US has made an incredible blunder in <sup>first</sup> salvaging, then defending Europe for the better part of this century.

PMM has a pleasantly unique coverage, but from the looks of recent results, perhaps arguing with the prolific east coast liberals and west coast homosexuals isn't really all that bad after all...

John Michalski.



This is being sent to:

Michael Grubb (1/0)  
Dan Stafford (1/0)  
John Michalski (1/0)  
George Graessle (2/1)  
Melinda Holley (2/1)  
Dick Martin (3/2)  
Keith Sherwood (3/2)  
Bob Olsen (4/3)  
Mark Larzelere (5/4)  
Ben Schilling (5/4)  
Alan Stewart (5/4)  
Stephen B. Dycus (5/4)  
Don Williams (6/5)  
John Caruso (11/10)  
Daniel Scott Palter (15/14)  
Ed Wrobel (17/16)  
Chris Carrier (25/24)  
Gary Coughlan (44/43)

Mark Berch (c)  
Steve Hutton (c)  
Rod Walker (c)  
Bruce Linsey (c)  
Terry Tallman (c)  
Don Ditter (c)  
Konrad Baumeister (c)  
Steve Heinowski (c)  
Al Pearson (c)  
Ken Corbin (c)  
Russ Rusnak (c)  
Steve Courtemanche (c)  
Dave Grabar (c)  
Dave Carter (c)  
Robert Sacks (c)  
Ron Can Brown (c)  
Scott Hanson (c)  
John Pack (c)

Bill Quinn (BNC)  
Larry Peery (t)

The following do not want to receive TNEH.

Mike Barno (n)  
Doug Beyerlein (n)  
John Boardman (n)  
Pat Conlon (n)  
Pete Gaughan (n)  
Randolph Smyth (n)  
Bruce McIntyre (8/7) unless mentioned

I have no current address for the following:

Jack Masters (u)  
Jim Meinel (u)  
Conrad Von Metzke (u)

Numbers following names are sub amount going in/coming out of this issue. (4/2) had four, now has two; (c) courtesy copy; (s) sample; (BNC) Boardman Number Custodian; (t) Larry Peery is the only person who has ever talked me into an all for all trade; (n) not at all; (u) no known address.