

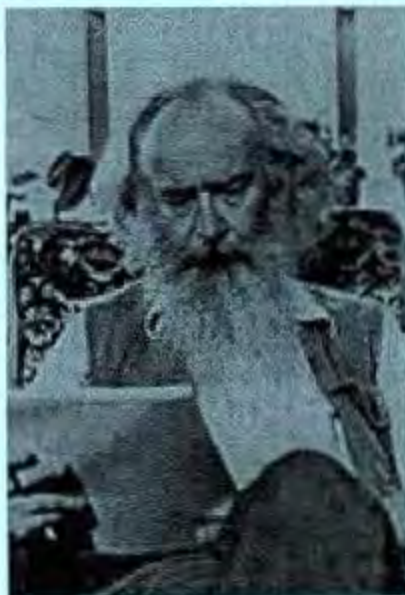
The National Fantasy Fan

Volume 2, No. 1

June 2002

... I sincerely believe that a successful national fantasy association is possible, that it could offer a needed service to every fan, and that it could be established today. The association I mean would be organized with one purpose only: to supply the fantasy fans of America — and elsewhere, if there should be any left — with those services with which they cannot supply themselves singly or in local groups. Its general policy and its every act would be in the hands of its members as a whole, and not those of its officers, nor of any other individual, or group of individuals.

—Damon Knight
1941



Those words, which are but an excerpt from an essay first published more than 60 years ago, triggered the formation of The National Fantasy Fan Federation — a group for science fiction as well as fantasy fans. In this issue (starting on p.24), we pay tribute to Damon Knight, who died on April 14, 2002.

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As you can see, the Birthday Card, Blind Services and Comics bureaus are all still open, and Renewals will need a new coordinator soon, if not right now. If you have any interest at all in any of these openings but aren't sure what's required to run them, contact Susan Van Schuyver for information.

Get involved!

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(More art, please! That means everybody; since The Fan has been running so close to the page limit the last two issues, I've used a lot of art, and need more cover pieces as well as fillers. Help!!!)

The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 1 No. 3 The Official Organ of The National Fantasy Fan Federation.

This issue was completed on May 28, 2002. The current editor is Janine G. Stinson, P.O. Box 430314, Big Pine Key, FL 33043-0314, e-mail tropicsf@earthlink.net (NEW!) - Please address all submissions and questions concerning this publication to the Editor. *All opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and do not reflect the opinions of the staff or other members of N3F except where so noted.* Publisher is the great and powerful Howard Devore. Printing graciously accomplished by Craig Boyd. **SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS AUG. 25, 2002. E-mail attachments accepted by prior arrangement only!** We publish quarterly in March, June, September and December.

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President's Message

By Susan VanSchuyver

It is almost summer as I write this and will be well into summer as you read it. I watched the series finale of "Roswell" tonight; I'm sad that the series is ending but glad that they were able to "end" it instead of just stopping without a conclusion. I love what I call "frames" in literature; that is when a story is framed with a related story at the beginning and the ending. That's what they did in "Roswell" with Liz writing in her diary — a very nice way to give a finished feeling to the series.

I have something to get off my chest. I received a letter from a member several weeks ago. It wasn't written to me; it was like an apology letter to someone who had asked about N3F. I think it was sent to me in search of an address. In the letter, the member stated that he/she had recently rejoined N3F after an absence and that the club was in dismal shape. My first thoughts after I read the letter were defensive: We may be small, but we have good officers, dependable directors, and loyal members; we have an excellent editor for the zine, a long-serving treasurer to give a sense of history, and new members who show interest and responsibility. Then I tried to let the comment go. However, that did not prove easy to do.

In my head, I know that the shape of N3F is not my responsibility. The shape of the club is each member's responsibility. If the club continues to serve the needs of the members, then it will continue. It will not thrive, however, unless everyone helps because there is just too much competition with the Internet. For a neofan, there are lots and lots of opportunities on the 'Net to become involved, actively or passively, in SF & F fandom. If N3F is to survive, we will all have to work at it — not criticize from the sidelines, but work on it.

If you want to help, I have lots of suggestions. Take over the Birthday Bureau, sign up for the Welcommittee, start a new bureau or awaken the Teaching SF Bureau, Comics Bureau, Publicity/Recruiting Bureau, or Youth Bureau. Join the

Round Robins. Promote the Correspondence Bureau. Encourage friends to join and help them to get involved. I also have an idea for a new bureau if anyone is interested. It is a version of the Editorial Services Bureau, but would just be called the Services Bureau and could address all areas of services to members challenged in various ways. If you are interested in any of these activities, write to me. My addresses are on the front inside cover.

Even after writing this article, I still feel some guilt that the National Fantasy Fan Federation is not 300 strong as it was at one time. I know that I am not the president to make that happen. I don't have the drive nor do I have the time to devote to the club to bring about a renaissance in N3F. We can work together to maintain, but to thrive and grow back to 300, we need a white knight. Until we see one riding a magnificent stallion over the hill toward us, I'll guess you'll have to settle for me on a small Shetland pony plodding along. I don't think it is time for the series finale of N3F; I think we still have stories to tell. Do you?

Until next time → magic does happen.

N3F member publishes a personalzine

Dottie's Dimensions is a personal zine by Dorothy Kurtz about space exploration attractions, science fiction events, travel, and other things. The latest issue can be downloaded for free at http://members.tripod.com/LP_web4us/index.htm.

Those without computers or wanting a paper copy can send an SASE to Dimensional Press, 219-P Berlin Rd., PMB 144, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034.

"These zines will serve as supplements, not substitutes, to standard guidebooks," Kurtz said. "Any tips that are passed from these may be of help to your travels [to] a science fiction convention or a space exploration event."

Other publications are also available. Ask about them when requesting copies of the zine.

Gone to A Better Place

Writers R.A. Lafferty, Cherry Wilder, Damon Knight and George Alec Effinger; West Coast fan Bruce Pelz; former N3F director (1960s) Nancy Rapp.

Good-bye, Martha

by Earl Kemp

[Editor's Note: Earl Kemp isn't a Neffer, but Martha was and is, and how better to be remembered than by someone whose life you touched?]

Martha Beck died peacefully in her sleep March 13, 2002 of respiratory failure. She had been suffering from this condition for some time and been anchored to an oxygen tank for much too long that considerably restricted her movements and fan activities.

Since the 1950s, she and her husband Henry Beck were fixtures within MidWest fandom and stalwarts of the Chicago fan group. Martha was a convention committee member for ChiCon III, where she ran the hospitality suite for the N3F. Throughout the last 50 years she has been the soul and spirit of fandom, making every convention or just a simple party something extraordinarily special just by her presence.

Martha was mother to us all. She adopted my family and me in the 1950s when we regularly commuted from Gary, Indiana to Chicago for reasons that had nothing to do with science fiction or fandom. We were integrated into her family. Martha and Henry became godparents to my second son, Erik. All of us and all of our children more or less grew up together.

Throughout these years, Martha has been one of the handful of people who insisted upon maintaining contact with me, wherever I was, when most others had abandoned me or long since lost track of my whereabouts, including myself. At times when I was at my very lowest in spirit and volition, Martha was always there, offering aid, comfort, and encour-

agement.

Martha took the place of her sister-in-law Sally Rand, my muse, and worked unceasingly at inspiring me toward a greatness that only she recognized. She alone has always insisted that I had something important to say and that I should be about saying it because she, at least, was waiting to read it — to hear it.

Oddly, I know that she still will. At this very moment she is seated in a plush, comfortable chair in the VIP section of the Celestial Science Fiction library surrounded by all the artifacts she ever wanted. She is breathing freely and naturally for the first time in many decades. She is free to eat her special treats and to indulge in her private pleasures and nothing can ever affect her adversely again. She is no longer burdened by the pain that regularly ripped through her or the struggles just to get through each day. She is reading over my shoulder — all of our shoulders — every moment of every day and passing her blessings along to all of us.

The Spanish have a word for it, "adios." It really doesn't mean good-bye but literally, "into God's hands, your keeping."

Martha is home, where she belongs and where she desperately wanted to be. Rejoice in her contentment and — at last — freedom from pain.



Tightbeam

Letters of Comment

Carole Pergunas

My name is Carole Pergunas and I am a member of Toronto Trek, a Science Fiction & Fantasy convention in Toronto, Canada. We have a challenge that we think might be of interest to your members.

The Toronto Trek Video Challenge: OUTWIT - OUTVIDEO - OUTALIEN

Use your ingenuity and imagination to depict the highlights from a game of INTERGALACTIC SURVIVOR on video and you could win! Videos must be less than 5 minutes long and on standard VHS. To enter, videos must be dropped off at the Con Office during the convention before noon on Sunday July 7th, and can be picked up in the Con Office shortly after Closing Ceremonies. Videos must be cued and clearly labeled with your name. We are not responsible for loss, damage or video cassettes not picked up!

Toronto Trek is a weekend long event featuring all genres of Science-Fiction and Fantasy including Film, Television, Literature, Art, Anime, Music, Models, Gaming and all Related Hobbies. See guests from Sci Fi/Fantasy shows such as "Star Trek," "Buffy," "Babylon 5," "Crusade," "Relic Hunter" or "Farscape," authors and scientists! Con dates are July 5-7, 2002, at the Regal Constellation Hotel, 900 Dixon Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Send queries to tcon@icomm.ca, visit the Web site at <http://tcon.ca>, or call (416) 410-TCON (8266).

Sarah Glasgow

Hello all you Neffers! Are you excited about the new Star Wars movie or what? I saw it twice on opening day and absolutely loved it. So far everyone I've encountered has said their favorite scene is the one where Yoda kicks some Sith booty. It is one of my favorites also. I definitely liked this movie better than Episode I (though I did like it). I can't wait to see it again. I've had mixed responses

on Anakin. I have liked the actor, Hayden Christensen, since I saw him in "Higher Ground," so I may be biased, but I thought his performance as Anakin was very well done. Any thoughts?

I loved the music. I like the Anakin/Amidala romance music, the hint of Darth Vader music, etc. It really enhanced the movie and audience enthusiasm... John Williams is amazing!

Did you all have some fun adventures waiting in line? Costumes, light sabers (yes, I brought mine), etc. We even had some guys giving out free "Yoda soda". I'm not particularly fond of waiting in line, but if I have to, what better line to be in than a Star Wars line?

I could go on and on, but must exercise patience...I'm sure the Star Wars discussion will continue. May the Force be with You!!!

Helen E. Davis

Since the picture of the Damon Knight Memorial won't appear in color in *The Fan*, Catherine Mintz suggested that I put it up on the Web for interested people to look at. I suggested putting both the picture and her piece on the World Wide Fan Party Page — a page dedicated to the idea that at 9 p.m. on June 21st, fans around the world could pause and celebrate worldwide fandom. It's not affiliated with anything, except fandom in general. The World Wide Fan Party page is located at <http://www.sff.net/people/dragonwriter/wwfp/worldwidefanparty.html>.

Ed Meskys

I especially enjoyed Rick Brooks' long, chatty letter. I, too, had sent an email to Poul Anderson whom I had known well in the early 60s when I lived in the Bay Area and the local SF club (The Little Men) often met in his home. Unfortunately my letter got there a few hours too late.

I was at the Worldcon, but as I had a huckster table I had little time for programming. I missed both N3F events. I will be in San Jose and will try to get to any N3F meeting.

I have been a Neffer off and on since 1957, and Don Franson got me to rejoin about 20 years ago. I am not very active as I have many interests. I was a director for about 2 years in the mid 1960s. I am still publishing a general-interest fanzine, NIEKAS, started in 1962. It was nominated for the fanzine Hugo 3 times and received it once, in 1967. [It is] coming out about every second year now. My most recent issue, #46, featured a series of articles about SF and fantasy stories dealing with sports, plus other articles, columns, book reviews, and letters. A sample copy is \$4.95. It is offset printed, 8.5x11, and runs over 60 pages. The next issue will feature articles on Arthurian fantasy (it is an expansion of #38 with much new material).

I have been blind since 1971 and am an officer of the National Federation of the Blind of New Hampshire, an advocacy and peer-counseling organization. Please note my NEW email address is: edmeskys@localnet.com

Catherine Mintz

I remember being surprised when K. Martin Karlson was surprised to win a Kaymar. I'm not sure but he was so obvious a choice that it may have been unanimous. Still, I bet he was less surprised than I was to be on the Honors List.

You see, I invented it and the words that appear in the citation are my own. So I flipped open my copy of *The Fan* to check on "Sixty and Still Counting" and discovered on the opposite page I was an honoree. I appreciate it very much and know the other three deserve it.

I notice some of the history of the Honors List appears to have been lost. I will fill in what I can and perhaps others can tell us more. The original purposes of the award were twofold. One, to honor people in appointed positions for outstanding work during a year. Two, to try and stem the leak of information from the discussions about who should receive a Kaymar, the lifetime award.

Informally, people were being rewarded by being told they were nominated for a Kaymar. We lost a few good people who worked very hard for a year

or two, didn't receive the recognition they had been given some cause to hope for, and then dropped out, or went on to other things, or simply spent less time volunteering.

So I proposed, and the directorate accepted the idea, that the president be able to chose two or three people to honor those not yet ready to receive a Kaymar as well as those who already had a lifetime award but continued to work hard for the club.

This was done during my first year of office, when I succeeded David Heath, who was having health problems. I'm sure of this because I know I made awards in two years. Unfortunately I do not remember to whom, other than they were obvious and thus non-controversial choices, those first awards went.

When and why the directorate chairman became involved, I don't know. Probably quite soon after I left office because, I believe, the chairman's signature, in a gesture of solidarity, went on even the first awards.

The original name was the president's Honors List. I printed certificates, had them signed, and sent them to those honored. Computer printing was fairly new at the time and they looked quite nice. Just the thing to keep people reminded their efforts had been appreciated.

At any rate, thank you to those concerned, and I hope everyone gets a small smile out of another of life's minor twists of fate. Do unto others and maybe they'll do it to you.

Susan VanSchuyver

Since I wrote a LoC for the last issue about the current television shows, I thought I would write a follow-up letter this time on the same subject.

"Roswell" has been canceled and the last show has aired. As I mentioned in my President's Message, I appreciate the way it ended — with a sense of completeness and finality without trying to wrap up or solve every single detail.

"Enterprise" has gotten off to a slow start, in my opinion. I do like it; the characters are engaging and the idea is good, but most of the plots have

been less than captivating. "Andromeda" has had a good second season; it has survived the loss of one character, Rev Bem, and one executive producer. The writing is supposed to change as a result, but so far, I haven't noticed anything drastic. I love the characters and several episodes have been excellent.

"Dark Angel" took a wayward turn this year with the "mutant of the week" storyline, but I do like Alec and I'm glad he joined the cast. The season finale was good; I hope the series is renewed. I don't like "Smallville" or "Mutant X," so I don't have any comments about them. "Charmed" continues to charm me; it has been an exciting season for the sisters. "Buffy" has had a depressing season with some detours from the Buffy mythos, but it is still good television. I have not seen "Jeremiah" or "Firestarter: Rekindled." Someone else will have to write about them.

On another more serious subject, we are losing some of the founding members of fandom. Thanks to Janine and Laura for trying to get members to write down the history of N3F and of fandom in general. It is a noble cause.

Gar Chen

Jeannette Kaerie's "The Art of Anime" in the Dec. '01 issue was enjoyable reading. It seems that some of the anime series were targeted toward either boys or girls, ages 10-14. The lads had "Speed Racer," "Eighth Man" ("Jonny Quest"?), and "Dragonball Z," while the girls had "Sailor Moon," "Cardcaptor Sakura" (heavily edited for Western audiences to not only include a new opening-title song, but created villains out of characters who were not intended as such) and manga-based short features (mini-series) like "Lain" and "Dark Angel Alita." Mature viewers had the more graphic and violent "Ninja Scrolls" and "Ghost in A Shell."

ST:TNG's "Icarus Factor" episode, where Riker fought his father Kyle in a bout of Anbo-jitsu, was influenced by anime (the ritual greeting, the circular arena and fighting blind). [*One wonders whether anime was in turn influenced by all the "kung-fu" movies made in Hong Kong over the last few dec-*

ades. -Ed.]

LaVern Loretz's review of "Are You Being Served?" was delightful. It was on PBS a long while back. [*It's had a renaissance recently, at least on Miami's PBS Channel 2, where it's now airing.* -Ed.] After returning the next season, [SPOILER ALERT! SPOILER ALERT! Read no further if you don't want to know what happens!] the Grace Brothers Dept. Store went under. To draw on their pensions, the group must work at another locale — Millstone Manor, in the country. It's a rundown old farm, so they decide to renovate the place into a country inn and begin to take paying guests.

The clash between city folk adapting to country life was hilarious. For example, when Mr. Humphries wanted fresh milk for breakfast, he was told to get it himself — fresh from the barn. Of course he didn't find it in the milk can or in bottles. Yes, moooo.

Seem to recall an interview somewhere that actor Trevor Bannister (Mr. Lucas) didn't make the transition to the new series because the BBC wouldn't permit him a flexible schedule as when he first did "AYBS." Back then, he did stage work during the week, came in to tape the episode and returned to his other job the following week. This time, the BBC refused him this flexibility and he continued his stage work while "AYBS" went on without him.

The history of N3F article satisfied curiosity a bit. Catherine Mintz's article was informative.

[*Gar added a "Do Not Quote" section with several very good ideas for promoting the club and raising some money. I'd like to send them to the directorate and will be contacting you soon for permission. Meanwhile, think about it (grin).* -Ed.]

David Heath (April 28, 2002)

It [is] amazing how long it has been since I contributed to an N3F publication in letter, writing or art. There are the usual excuses, but my life took a big turn in the early 90's and it seemed fandom became less and less a part of it. That has been sad for me. I recently renewed my membership again because N3F was a big part of my life back then, and I

wanted to re-capture some of that. I am happy to see some of the names I remember like Don Fran-son, Cat Mintz, William Center and Susan Van Schuyver ... There are those that I remember well that have moved or gone on like Owen Laurian (who got me into the club) and Stan Woolston (a great fan friend).

I was disappointed [at] the combination of the zines into *The Fan*. This is an understandable move, but [still] disappointing. I had an opportunity to say my piece earlier, but did not, so like those who don't vote in national or local elections I must live with the outcome, if grudgingly.

Being a past editor of *TNFF* and past art director for *Tightbeam* — meaning for a number of years I was responsible for the layout of both the zines — you don't know how much these zines became a part of my life, I knew Mr. Devore's address by heart and it was a monthly grind to get those zines out... I really found a great pride, as I worked on the zines, in the continuation of the volumes and numbers and the link it brought to the past.

The past is an issue, it seems. I note that the issues brought up past presidents but only went back to 1991. That overlooks a rich history of the club, and though it does note that after I got bogged down in discovering I had adult-onset diabetes and resigned in 1993, it doesn't mention I served a bout as president in the 80's and won the Kaymar award. In fact, the Kaymar isn't mentioned much in the issue I read when it discussed the N3F history. I see that members are trying to get a bit more of the history of the club and I certainly would like to help there. I was an officer through the 70's, 80's and into the 90's and certainly could help in recounting that era. [Please do; consult with Cat Mintz. -Ed.]

I think it is important to look at the history of the club and understand its ups and downs. There is an interesting comment in Vol. 1 #3 that we should remember that artists are fans as well as writers. Nothing could be truer than that and I well remember that fans like myself, Robert Miller, Cat Mintz and others were very stimulated to contribute SF art to the zines, which affected the look of the club and the enthusiasm some years back. But understanding

the history lets you understand what happened. For me (as I tell it at my Web site) it started when Owen Laurian yanked me out of comics fandom, where art is very important, and got me... to join the N3F in the mid 70's. He introduced me to a vast art wasteland that was SF fandom that needed artwork badly. It took me [from] competing with the comics-hero tracers to being able to display my love for hard, nuts-and-bolts SF in a field where you could count the consistent amateur artists on the fingers of one hand. I grew through the ranks by working with the art for the club.

I have volunteered to help with the history recollection. I remembered the columns Don used to do and they always gave me a sense of pride in being part of a club with such a rich tapestry. I have a great run of issues of *TNFF* and *Tightbeam*. I saved the issues that I had art in or was an editor on. That turned out to be a lot of issues and I have but to pull them from storage and quote from the rich history therein. Let me know if there is interest. I should also get in touch with Sarah Glasgow. I didn't invent the Art Bureau. But I spent most of my fun time there. I am curious where it is now and what I can do to help with it.

I still do art every once and a while. I was even professional for a while. But as many of you remember, I was an Army officer and didn't have a lot of time to follow the path. Now that I am approaching 50 and see my work in print every once in a while, I get nostalgic for it again. The Vol. 1 No. 3 cover featured two pieces of my art. I remember drawing them but I don't remember submitting them. Not that my memory is so gone, it is that the pieces are so old ... I have gotten out the ole rusty pens and done a few things lately. I note from the Web site that fantasy art has taken over again, if you will remember my debates with Rob Miller and others, you know I will not stand for that, what we need are more ray guns, space ships and robots. I will be happy to get some in if there is interest. I love to continue the fantasy vs. hard SF debate, but all in good fun since I am a fan of both.

The death of Damon Knight saddened me and made me think more of N3F ... I should note in this

letter that myself and some of my ole friends have gotten together and are putting out our old fanzines, there is quite revival going on, mostly in comics fanzines, but I will be putting out *No Sex* #19 soon; that will be something of a 15-year gap in publication. More information can be found at my homepage <http://pages.sbcglobal.net/dheath/Index.htm>. I also talk a bit about N3F history there and put up some sample artwork.

David Heath (May 26, 2002)



As to Vol. 1 No. 4, I am still upset over the change in the numbering system for the newsletter. I understand the reasoning and what you went through to get there as a club, but the way it turned

out makes no provision for what was done in the past. How about an issue number as an aside harkening back to prior publications. Since I was a part of that past, I do have some feeling for it. I guess I should have kept up and been part of the discussion when it was being discussed. I am surprised Don Franson let it go. What can one say? The zine still has the ole fannish look to it, but the sense of history it's lost in this numbering system. I definitely do not like it. *[For David and everyone else, here are the reasons I changed the numbering system. 1) The transition from two zines to one zine would not accommodate two numbering systems. 2) As far as I knew (and anyone who knows better can correct me), there have always been two zines pubbed by N3F. 3) Since combining TNFF and Tightbeam into one zine and renaming it The National Fantasy Fan (which was only an expansion of the acronym, and didn't change the official name in the club constitution), in effect, created a new zine, restarting the numbering seemed the correct thing to do. 4) For collectors, the change in numbering can signal the end of the double-zine era and the beginning of the single-zine era in the club's history. How long the single-zine era lasts is up to the future. I did the thing I thought best, absent any more experienced*

advice. -Ed.]

I was browsing on eBay and saw a batch of N3F fanzines. Now there was some history, I couldn't believe it — funny thing was that the seller did not mention N3F at all, but I recognized the titles. There were no bids on the batch so I went \$5 and won. When I wrote the seller he recognized me and said he was glad I got them, but was amazed how little 30-40 year old mimeo zines went for. I told him that people don't respect history any more. *[You'd be surprised at how many people do respect it; they meet annually in a little con called Ditto, and among those who attend FanHistoricons in conjunction with other cons, as well as in mailing lists on the 'Net.* -ed.] ... I received *Tightbeam* #16 (think how many issues we will have to go to get there again), November 1962, published by Don Anderson, featuring letters of comment by Don Franson and Janie Lamb. It cost 4.5 cents to mail that issue. I also got the *Kaymar Trader* issues 82, 83, 86, 87, 89, 92 and 95. KT was a great example of the mimeo zines of the 50's and 60's, and these are a legacy of the N3F since Kaymar published this zine as the publication of the Trade Bureau of the NFFF (later known as the N3F). The zines are chock full of collectables for sale, and have a long run — it was one of the activities that made Kaymar an N3F mainstay and got an award named after him. ... I also got Robert Jennings' July 1960 *The Monday Evening Ghost*, Chick Derry's May 1957 *Cry of the Nameless* 102 and 103 and Carl Horaks' 1962 *Adventure Scenè*. All mimeo zines, which most of you probably know nothing of, but which provided the basis for fanac back in the day.

I loved the cover and interior art [in Vol. 1 No. 4]. That is all I look for in a fanzine, art. Who is that David Heath guy? I seem to remember him from the 70's and 80's, is he still alive? Cat Mintz is a good choice to administer the Kaymar, she is a winner and a throwback to the recent lost era of the club. I am sorry to see Don Franson withdrawing, he provided a lot of guidance to me as my own fanac was on the rise, and he is the backbone of the club and part of its institutional memory. Glad to see Joy Beeson still at it. Man, some people are so

consistent. I almost feel like I want to be a bu head again myself, but those that are open do not interest me. One big question, what does that cartoon on page 21 say? As a cartoonist I am interested in that. [Apologies to Jack Calvert and all readers — I'm still learning scanner tricks. The spacer on the left is saying, "Look at the old-fashioned space ship." The other spacer says, "Yes, it's a retro-rocket." I love puns <grin>. -Ed]

I saw "Spiderman" and was glad they waited the two decades for the technology to catch up before

trying the movie — it is the best of the hero-movies that has been done to date. Before that, I would have gone with the first "Superman" movie. I have not seen Episode II yet for financial reasons but will and will comment. ["So many movies to see, so little dinero...hey, wait a sec, I can get it on video or DVD now!"] That's what I tell myself most of the time, and I commiserate with you on the lack-of-loot problem. -Ed.] I have talked too much for now so will go. I am glad to be back in the N3F fold. [I'm glad to get the new art; don't stop now!-Ed.]

Secretary's Report

by Dennis Davis

EXPIRED LIST — February 2002: Merf Adamson, Helen E. Davis, Sara Beth Dike, David Heath, Joseph Martino, Ruth Sacksteder. March 2002: Michael & Theresa Contos, Howard Devore, Tim & Barbara Gatewood, Bret Grandrath, Stephen Metzger, Voorheesville Library.

RENEWALS: 0103 LaVern Loretz, Jr.; 0203 Chester Mylenek; 0303 Rick & Ruth Shields; 0403 Susan K. Thode; 0404 Jacqueline Lichtenberg; 0404 Arwen Spicer; 0404 William Voharas; 0904 Michael P. Varbanov.

REINSTATED: 0303 Jerry C. Davis; 0403 Patricia Mathews; 0303 Sally Ann Syrjala; 0403 Mike Deckinger; 0503 Angela Scott Gosnell; 0504 Taras Wolansky.

NEW MEMBER: 0303 Ruth R. Davidson, 166 Michael Drive #3, Campbell, CA 95008.

Address changes/corrections:

Edmund J. Goodwin
33700 NW Norstar Ranch Rd.
Ridgefield, WA 98642-8485

Jennifer M. Mackay
PO Box 66408, Portland, OR 97290-6408

Chester Mylenek
4657 Larkins St.
Detroit, MI 48210-2358

Jacqueline Lichtenberg
4133 West Bart Dr.
Chandler, AZ 85226-2116

NOTE: n3f_info@yahoo.com is my new club e-mail address. Please make membership checks payable to WILLIAM CENTER and send them to Dennis L. Davis, N3F Secretary, 25549 Byron St., San Bernardino, CA 92404-6403.

Please contact me if you find errors, or have not found your name in this report when it should be here.

Help me serve you better by:

- 1) Checking your roster information; notify me of any changes.
- 2) Marking your membership expiration date on your dues payment envelope, or including your renewal reminder card.
- 3) Sending address corrections as soon as possible. The USPO charges me to return undeliverable zines. Thank you.



The Constitution of The National Fantasy Fan Federation

Preamble:

The activity that centers around science fiction and fantasy has grown to require organization in order that desirable objectives, beyond the achievement of single individuals, may be attained through united effort. Under this Constitution, the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) is established as an association of persons interested in promoting the progress of science fiction and fantasy, and in furthering its enjoyment by themselves and others.

Article I-Membership:

1. Membership, including any benefits created by the organization, and all rights such as voting, is gained by paying dues as set forth in the Bylaws. Dues changes may not go into effect until two (2) months after publication in the Official Organ and shall be further delayed until the completion of voting if the Official Organ receives a petition for submission as set forth in Article V, Section 1 for reversal, unless the change is the result of a vote on petition.

2. An organization may become a member of the N3F upon payment of dues as defined in Section 1 and is entitled to all rights and benefits of membership as outlined in this Constitution except that said organization may not vote or hold elective office.

3. Joint memberships are available to two persons residing in the same household. A joint membership will include The National Fantasy Fan (TNFF) and all rights such as voting and club activities. The dues shall be more than a single membership but less than a double, to be set by the Directorate.

Article II-Officers

1. A President conducts the affairs of the organi-

zation. His/her appointments, suspensions, and removals from office, whether the office concerned is elective or appointive, are subject to the review and approval of the Directorate, as are also his/her methods of procedure.

2. If, for any reason, the office of President becomes vacant, the Directorate appoints a President to complete the unexpired term. Any interim administrative duties are performed by the Chairman of the Directorate, during which time he/she may not vote in his/her capacity as Director except on motions of appointment.

3. A Directorate, composed of five members, regulates the affairs and controls the finances of the organization, and may define the duties of any office or official of the association.

4. Decisions of the Directorate are by majority of its five members except in the following instances: by unanimous vote the Directorate may refuse membership to any person; expel any member by refunding the balance of his dues; and may remove the President from office.

5. Vacancies in the Directorate, whatever the cause, are filled by majority vote of the remaining Directors. If fewer than three Directors remain, the President shall appoint one or more up to the minimum of three.

6. Any person designated as Treasurer or otherwise empowered to keep or convey the funds of the organization must be over twenty-one years of age.

7. The Treasurer shall also have free dues as long as he or she holds office.

Article III-Elections

1. The President and five members of the Directorate are decided by the membership in an annual election of those officers. Ballots for the election are to be distributed before October 10th and the elected candidates take office on the following January 1st. Any member may seek office by complying with the official requirements which are to be published in the Official Organ at least two months previous to the filing deadline.

2. No person may hold two elective offices at

the same time.

3. Each member may cast one vote for each of the five candidates of his/her choice in the election of the Directorate. The five candidates receiving the largest number of votes are elected. Ties are resolved by majority agreement of those elected candidates not included in the tie.

4. Of the candidates for President, the one receiving the largest number of votes is elected. In case of a tie, the elected Directorate chooses a President from the tied candidates.

Article IV-Official Organ

The association issues a publication of at least quarterly schedule which carries in addition to other material, a quarterly statement of the financial status of the organization, together with a listing of new members and their addresses.

Article V-Petitions & Amendments

1. Petitions of whatever purpose, endorsed by five per cent of the members or twenty-five members, whichever is less, must, within sixty days after the Directorate receives them, be submitted to the membership for decision unless the Directorate has already taken the indicated action. Petitions looking towards the revision, reversion, or setting aside of any action of the President or the Directorate must be submitted within two calendar years following such action, or such petition is invalid and without force.

2. Any motion by the Directorate approved for presentation to the membership to alter or amend the Constitution must be printed in the next TNFF, and in no event, not less than two months prior to the actual voting date, if not the result of action under Section I of this article.

3. Amendments to the Constitution shall require two thirds (2/3) of the votes cast to be approved. All other decisions by the membership shall be by a majority of the votes cast.

4. Any alteration or amendment of the Constitution will be presented to the membership for vote

exactly as it is to be entered, or the alteration or amendment is invalid and without force.

5. The power to alter or amend the Constitution is vested solely in the membership.

Bylaws of The National Fantasy Fan Federation

I. Authority

Under the authority implied in Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, the Directorate shall establish certain Bylaws to regulate the affairs of the organization, such Bylaws to be effective when approved by a majority vote of the Directorate as set forth in Article II, Section 4, of the Constitution. The secretary of the N3F shall keep a permanent record of the Bylaws, and current Bylaws shall be published in the Official Organ of the N3F not less often than once a year.

II. The Directorate

1. The Chairman of the Directorate shall report to the membership all measures passed by the Directorate. The Chairman of the Directorate shall maintain updated copies of the Bylaws, distribute them to the Directorate, President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Official Editor of The National Fantasy Fan (TNFF), at the beginning of the year and whenever changed, and turn them over to his/her successor.

2. Copies of all official Directorate correspondence shall be sent to the President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

3. Each Directorate shall adopt standing rules of procedure, which shall remain in force for the Directorate of the following year, until such time as the new Directorate shall vote to accept them or adopt new rules.

4. The number of Life or Honorary members created by Directorate vote may not exceed 1% of the total membership of the N3F. This rule shall

not operate to reduce the number of existing Life memberships at any time.

5. A Director who has not voted or participated in Directorate discussion or correspondence in any period of three consecutive months may be declared inactive by the Directorate, and may be removed by the President for this cause only, without prejudice.

III. The Secretary & Treasurer

1. The Secretary may bill the Treasury, as needed, for expenses incurred in the discharge of the office, including the purchase of supplies for new members, the sum not to exceed \$100 per year.

2. The Secretary will maintain a current membership roster, and will report new memberships, renewals, and changes of address to the President, Treasurer, Official Editor, Chairman of The Well-Committee, and such other officers as the President may direct, not less often than once a month.

3. The Treasurer will prepare a yearly report of all income to the N3F Treasury and an itemized list of expenditures. Also included in this report will be a listing of items which will require additional outlays, in the forthcoming year from the Treasury, and have been approved by the Directorate, but have not yet been paid. This report will be prepared for the first issue of TNFF to appear in the year following the year which the report covers.

IV. Elections

1. All candidates must, by the filing deadline of September 1st of each year, have paid their dues for the year in which they will hold office if elected, and agree to serve if appointed under Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution.

2. In addition to the regular candidates listed on the ballot, members may write in the name of any member in good standing as a candidate for any elective office. Any candidate so elected must submit a written statement of his willingness to serve plus the dues for the year in which he will serve, to reach the Secretary within 14 days of his notification

of election. In the event of non-compliance with the foregoing, the election will be voided and the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes for that office will be declared the winner.

3. Annual election ballots are to be sent out on postcards to each member in good standing as of September 30th. Ballots for Constitutional amendments and other membership referendums may be sent out with TNFF.

V. Publication

1. Regular publication of the N3F. The N3F has one regular publication, the Official Organ, which shall be provided free to all N3F members in good standing. The Official Organ, currently titled The National Fantasy Fan, is published in March, June, September, and December. The Editor and Publisher is appointed by the President.

a. The Publisher shall print enough copies to send to every member of the N3F as of the date of publication, plus extra copies for the President, Secretary, and head of Recruiting, and any other extra copies that the President may direct the Publisher to print.

b. In the event a Regular Publication does not appear as scheduled and the President appoints a Stand-by Editor to publish it, this Editor will be reimbursed as if he were the regular Editor if the magazine is mailed within two months after the appointment by the President.

c. The Official Organ shall contain a list of new members and renewals, as reported by the Secretary; the Constitution and Bylaws of the N3F in the June issue, and the Roster of the membership in the March and September issues.

d. Deadlines for material submitted to TNFF shall be the 25th of the month preceding the month of publication. Any deviation from this date must be announced in the previous issue.

e. No single issue of TNFF may exceed 32 pages, without Directorate approval. The Publisher will notify the Chairman of the Directorate of receipt of any issue not conforming to this page limitation, before printing.

f. Advertisements in N3F publication is free, restricted to N3F members, and are subject to space limitations in the judgment of the editor.

g. The N3F Roster, while available for membership use, is not for sale as a mailing list to anyone.

2. Others. Publications issued by subordinate Bureaus of the N3F and not sent to the entire membership shall be sent to the Secretary for information and record. In the case of N'APA that shall be construed to mean the Alliance Amateur or other official business publication and not the entire bundle. The cost will be borne by the Treasury of the N3F upon presentation of an itemized bill to the Treasurer.

3. Neffer Amateur Press Alliance. All N'APA members must be members in good standing of the N3F.

4. Exchange Agreements. The President can authorize exchange agreements with other publishers who will receive all N3F publications, and the President or other designated person will re-

ceive all their publications.

VI. Rescissions

Directorate motions in the nature of Bylaws passed prior to the original compilation and publication of these Bylaws and not included among them, are rescinded.

VII. Amendments

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made with approval of a majority of the Directorate.

VIII. Dues

Dues are \$18.00 per year, starting from the first of the month after received by the Secretary. Joint memberships for two persons residing in the same household and receiving TNFF are \$22.00 per year.

Fan Club Bureau

by Harold Marcum

I've been a bit remiss about sending in bureau reports lately due to a lot of mundane activities which I won't bore you with. I can assure you that I will be spending more time working on club duties. If you know of any local or international clubs that you would like mentioned please let me know.

AikaKone-yhdistys (The Time Machine Society), Sammonkatu 18 B 37, FIN-33540 Tampere, Finland.

Helsingin Science Fiction Seura (The Helsinki Science Fiction Society), Juna i Lijankuja 1B 29 FIN-00520 Helsinki, Finland.

Terry Prachett Discworld, The Guild of Fans and Disciples, Haltings, Farthing Hill, Horsham W. Sussex RH12 1 T5 England.

The Orlando Area Science Fiction Society, P.O. Box 940992 Maitland FL 32794.

South Florida Science Fiction Society, P.O. Box 70143, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307.

Tampa Bay Gaming Association, PO Box 523, Tampa, FL 33601.

Laurell K. Hamilton Fan Club, PO Box 190306, St. Louis, MO 63119.

Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists, PO Box 151311, Arlington, TX 76015.



TV Series Review

by LaVern Loretz, Jr.

Rating scheme: one to four asterisks, with four being the best and one or none being the worst.

"ARE YOU BEING SERVED?" BBC-TV. A comedy set in a clothing store in London, England in the 1970s. Cast listing includes character name, most noticeable trait and approximate age.

Cast

Mr. Grace (lecherous, 80): Harold Bennett
 Capt. Peacock (stuck-up, 50): Frank Thornton
 Mr. Humphries (carefree, 30): John Inman
 Mr. Grainger (crabby, 60): Arthur Brough
 Mr. Lucas (skirt-chaser, 20): Trevor Bannister
 Mr. Rhumbolt (big ears, 50): Nicholas Smith
 Mrs. Slocombe (frustrated, 50): Molly Sugden
 Miss Brahms (cute, 30): Wendy Richard
 Mr. Mash (nosy, 50): Larry Martyn

Year Three (1975)

Episode 1: "The Hand of Fate" * * *

Mr. Humphries — as in Wilburforce Claybourne Humphries — can read people's palms. He reads a customer's hand and predicts he will have an accident, and he does. Mrs. Slocombe, it seems, has a very profound Mount of Venus! Plus a very long life line and a man at her feet. Next is Capt. Peacock climbing a ladder — an opportunity, a door opens, and wearing a new hat! You scoff! As it turns out, he goes to help Mrs. Slocombe put a box on the women's storage shelf and Mr. Humphries enters, knocking him off the ladder at Mrs. Slocombe's feet with a hat on his head, as the show credits pass with cash register music playing. Mrs. Slocombe's hair is colored pinkish-purple.

There is rich characterization here. For example, several characters have unique sayings, Mr. Lucas: "Glass of water for Mr. Grainger!" Mrs. Slocombe: "I am unanimous in this!" Mr. Humphries: "I'm free!" Capt. Peacock: "Everything I say is important!"

Episode 2: "Coffee Morning" * * *

Mr. Ernest Grainger is fed up with having to sign out and in every time he needs to "spend a penny," a euphemism for use the lavatory, or go on a break. Grainger is inadvertently made the scapegoat (like that so much better than "judas.") Glass of water for Mr. Grainger! Fortunately, there is a good apple in the rotten barrel known as Grace Brothers. It's called a strong union. Unfortunately, their union boss is Mr. Mash.

Mash orders a go-slow. This episode ends fairly well, in that they convince their store boss to let them start their coffee break once they dip their biscuit (Brit for cookie) in their cup. Slocombe's hair is flat orange. Funny stuff? Well — Peacock's abbreviation speech is about all: O I C Y R 2.

Episode 3: "Up Captain Peacock" * * *

Capt. Peacock is awarded a gold badge, a key to the executive men's room and allowed to eat in the special executive dining room for 20 years of faithful service. The funniest line comes when Mr. Grainger says, "I've been here 35 years and I've never been once!" (to the executive wash room). Mr. Lucas replies, "Then you must be bursting!"

There is bad news as well. Their lunch break is put ahead an hour to 2 or 3 p.m. (Such odd working hours, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. — when does the working man get to shop? Or is that shoppe?) Other funny stuff: Mr. Lucas sells the suit of one customer to another customer — could happen to anyone, right? Peacock's privilege comes tumbling down. Slocombe's wig (aw shucks, I gave her away) is colored smoky light blue.

Episode 4: "Cold Storage" * * * *

Everyone is sick. No, not that kind (okay, some). Lucas spends the entire day with an onion under an arm and sucking carbolic soap trying to pretend he's sick. Humphries gets stuck in a yoga position. Slocombe attempts to cure her cold (or should I say flood it out) with booze. The funniest moment comes when Grainger's diarrhea (I spell things sometimes to help Janine) (You're welcome) [Well now, La Vern, I didn't think I needed that much

help! -Ed] acts up, usually just when a customer arrives. Geez, couldn't anyone suggest he get Imodium or crackers at least! Other funny parts? A middle-aged woman with no class encourages and succeeds in getting Lucas' hand down the back of her dress. Lewd actions? You'd have to see it to choose for yourself. Humphries gets Miss Brahm's to help him take a man's inside leg size. I told you the British think little is taboo when the body is concerned. Lucas fakes breaking his leg so he can go home to a new girlfriend. No chance — Mr. Grace comes along, gives his wheelchair to Lucas and sends him to hospital! They're fun, wheelchairs! Slocombe's hair this time is a shiny, light blue.

Episode 5: "Wedding Bells" *

Mrs. Slocombe thinks Mr. Grace intends to wed her. Being an opportunist, she milks her friends' gullibility to its zenith by having them wait on her. You see, they're all afraid that she'll use her sudden rise to power to fire them all. In England it's called being smarmy and crawling. Problem is, this deploring group of losers couldn't get jobs as beggars. All they know is taking measurements and gossiping — how would they survive? There really aren't

any funny parts. Slocombe's hair changes from silver to yellow with purple-blue big curls, and there's no wedding.

Episode 6: "German Week" * * *

Let me say right off the top, the British (in the 70s) did not like Germans, period.

Three stars — after that introduction?

Oh, there are slams against Germans because England, especially London, received a terrible bombing in World War II. There are funny parts, too. Translations from English to German, especially "exit" and "entrance" (Here you go, Janine), or "ausfahrt" and "einfahrt." You see what I mean? [*Certainly. From the verb "fahren," which means "to go." We used to snicker about this one in my high-school German class.* -Ed.] The German pastoral costume of leather knickers for men and women is hilarious. It's not easy, you know, pretending you can't do something before a camera on cue. Mr. Humphries' way-too-short tight pants is a roar! The women look very nice, even with Mrs. Slocombe drunk (again?!) in a yellow wig. She almost "does herself a mischief" during the dance routine at the end.

The 2002 N3F Short Story Contest

by Catherine Mintz and Elizabeth Caldwell

The N3F Short Story Contest is at least a quarter of a century old, started by Don Franson some time after he joined the club. The purpose of the contest was, and is, that the winner achieve professional publication.

Contestants are limited to novice writers. The contest is intended to encourage people who would like to write to become familiar with the expected professional standards. A professional writer is the final judge. Prize money is awarded as follows: \$50 for first place, \$30 for second, and \$20 for third.

The club assumes no responsibility for publication. As contest administrators, we are considering arranging for on-line publication for interested authors.

Submissions Guidelines

Standard professional format should be used. For contest purposes, this means the manuscript should be typed in black ink on white, 8.5 by 11 inch opaque paper (the nearest European size is acceptable if the American size is unavailable), double-spaced with one-inch margins all around the text. No more than two inked corrections per page.

The story's title and appropriate page number must be on every sheet. There should be a front sheet with only the contestant's full name, postal address, and the title of the work.

For manuscript returns, enclose a 9 by 12 inch (or European equivalent) SASE with sufficient re-

turn postage in US stamps affixed. No IRCs. Disposable manuscripts should be clearly marked as such and accompanied by a #10 SASE or European equivalent to receive notification about the story. **If SASEs of appropriate size and postage are not included, manuscripts will not be returned and notification will not be made.**

Stories must be more than 1,000 words and less than 4,000 words. **The deadline for this year's contest is Dec. 1, 2002.**

Stories should be within the genres of science fiction, fantasy or horror. The contest is for novice writers who have not had more than two stories

published at the SFWA professional rate, currently three cents a word. Manuscripts are received throughout the year but judging will not begin until after Dec. 1, 2002. Contestants may enter as many times as they wish, but each manuscript must be packaged separately.

For full details, visit <http://www.simegen.com/fandom/n3f/>, send e-mail to Elizabeth Caldwell at ladycarrieavon@hotmail.com, or write to her at 27975 Belgrave Road, Peppertown, OH 44124-4636. Mail queries without SASEs will go unanswered.

The N3F Trader

"The Youthian" — Extra copies available of Issues 1 & 2 of the N3F Youth Bureau's 1995 newsletter. Send SASE (64 cents total) to Sarah Glasgow, 424 Dayton Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95051.

A Neffer Special

FOR SALE: Almost the entire run of *Locus*, an SF news magazine, from Sept. 1994 to Feb. 2001. Writer interviews, photos, book reviews, con reps, etc. \$2 each or all for \$50 plus shipping costs. SASE for full list to Janine Stinson, PO Box 430314, Big Pine Key, FL 33043-0314.

A Neffer Special

CALLIGRAPHY BY CARLA: Fine writings of your choice for birth or wedding announcements, other occasions. Club members will be charged the standard price, 100% of which will be donated to N3F. I work fast and have been in business in calligra-

phy for 3 years. Commissions by mail are no problem. Send SASE for information and samples to Carla Hall Minor, 905 Whitney Court, Plano, TX 75023, or e-mail your request to c-minor@atbi.com.

A Neffer Special

FOR SALE: Various SF/F hardcover or trade paperback books (Mercedes Lackey/Rosemary Edghill, C.J. Cherryh, Eleanor Arnason, Octavia Butler, Michael Swanwick, others), all in good to excellent condition. Going fast! Send SASE for list & prices to Janine Stinson, PO Box 430314, Big Pine Key, FL 33043-0314.

A Neffer Special

FOR SALE — Paperback books \$5 each (*Star Wars: Specter of the Past* by Timothy Zahn/ good condition; *Star Wars: Jedi Search*, Vol. 1 in the Jedi Academy Trilogy by Kevin J. Anderson/ good condition, some scuffs and minor creases) and hardback book *Star Wars: Planet of Twi-*

light by Barbara Hambly, near-mint condition, \$10. Action Figure of Xena II Warrior Disguise from Hercules: The Legendary Journeys, still in original package, package slightly bent, \$14, 100% of paperback sales and 50% from other items to be donated to N3F. All prices include postage. Write to Sarah Glasgow, 424 Dayton Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95051.

FOR SALE: 2 counted cross stitch booklets, \$3 each. "Scary Book" features Real Musgrave dragon; "The Dragon" features dragon and castle by Teresa Wentzler. Full color reproductions of completed piece in each booklet. **ONLY** money orders or equivalent in U.S. postage accepted in payment. Send to Janine Stinson, PO Box 430314, Big Pine Key, FL 33043-0314.

The N3F Trader provides free ads for goods or services. Donate at least 50% of your item's proceeds to N3F, and it's A Neffer Special!

Correspondence Bureau Report

by Carla Minor

Greetings, fellow penpallers! Hope your spring into summer is pleasant (though the weather in the news lately speaks only of fire and flood.) Here it's been nice most of the time, cooler than usual, but still beautiful and sunny. Oddly enough, we get violent T-storms only late at night, and while they make a lot of noise, they haven't brought as much rain as you'd expect. Whatever. . .

As in the last report, we've had very little activity in the Bureau. Now that many of you are getting ready for summer vacation, why not renew your penpal friendships with the folks you've been too busy to write to during school? And if you're going

someplace for your vacation, don't forget to send a postcard or two to your pals and let them "share" the fun. I usually pack a few stamps in my bags when I travel in the US, so I can send postcards without having to buy stamps during my vacation. Don't you hate standing in line when you could be sightseeing? If you're lucky enough to visit another country, well, you'll just have to buy stamps there, but there is an added bonus. Many of my penpals also collect foreign stamps. Most times they're beautiful and more colorful than our everyday variety. Like I said, now that you probably have some spare time, get cracking and write some letters to your deserving penpals, and get them involved in this vital element of N3F!

Art Bureau Report

by Sarah Glasgow

There's not much to report this time around. Art is up on the Web site, we have a great interview in the Artist Spotlight, art abounds in the universe...

As always I look forward to hearing from any and all of you. I'd like to receive feedback on the Bureau and how you all feel it's going. I'd like comments on the flyers, art showcase (on the Web site), Spotlight, and articles. Have a great summer!

Artist Spotlight:

An Interview with David Heath

by Sarah Glasgow

Q: Where are you from?

A: "I am from Mars," is my fannish answer. But I was born in Los Angeles, California. Since I am an Army brat I traveled with my family from Hawaii to Panama. Most of my fannish career occurred while I was in the army as an Armor Officer, Kentucky, Germany, Korea and California. I have not lived in one place more than 3 years at a time.

Q: Tell me about yourself and family.

A: My father was a highly decorated Green Beret

with two tours in Viet Nam, one in Korea and three in Germany. Needless to say, he was not around much and when he was, it was a highly disciplined environment, which I was not too happy with. Being withdrawn and somewhat of an egghead, I started drawing — first characters from the daily strips, then comics, then illustrating the SF stories I began to read. This got me into fandom.

In a strange quirk I ended up in college on a ROTC scholarship and since they encouraged leadership by participating in student affairs, I ran for student office at the University of Hawaii and University of San Francisco. I drew for the university papers at both schools, more as I graduated from USF.

I almost completed my 11-year stint in the Army before I finally got married. Mary likes SF, fantasy and horror movies and so we get along well. My daughter Tiffany has actually shown some talent at drawing. She graduated high school a year ago. I am facing 50 at the end of this year (literally) [Dec. 31, 2002] and I feel I am not going there gracefully.

Q: How and when did you become interested in SF and fandom?

A: When I came to the N3F in the mid to late 70's. By then I had already started my own fanzine, *No Sex*, and had drawn for several (hundred) other fan-

zines. With N3F I became more acquainted with organized SF/F fandom. When I left home for the Army I was initially stationed at Ft. Knox, Ky. Since I didn't drink, smoke or run around, there was lots of time to go to the southern conventions, then the northern ones and the mid-western ones and so on. This culminated in me attending [the] 1984 LA-Con II WorldCon as the president of N3F.

Q: How long have you been drawing? Have you had any kind of training, schooling, or other experiences in relation to art?

A: I have been drawing since about age 8 [nearly 42 years]...I have had very little formal training. I took Drawing 101 at the University of Hawaii for one semester. Since I had ideas along harder subjects, I did not follow that up. Most of my meager talent comes from years of practicing the various techniques I wanted to use. My medium is pen and ink. I am pretty adept in the use of the technical drawing pen. In comics circles I am what is known as an inker. Comics are normally done in a team concept. A writer will conceive, a penciller will etch out the designed and the basic panels (art), there may be a strong penciller to firm things up, then the inker, the letterer and the colorist. That style is going out with the use of programs like Photoshop on computers. Some programs can take pencils and make art from that directly.

Q: What are some of your favorite things to draw and why? What is your favorite medium? What is it you find inspiring about the SF/F realm that makes you want to work in that genre?

A: Science fiction is a love and passion for me. My favorite SF is hard SF. Nuts and bolts and ray guns. I love to draw suiters (space suited figures), 'bots (robots) and ships. My fave medium is india ink on paper, I prefer stiff hard stock, but one has to control the ink flow in order to make that work.

Q: What are some of your other hobbies and interests?

A: You can learn more about me at my web-site: <http://pages.sbcglobal.net/dheath/Index.htm> . I am a long-time motorcyclist and used to ride my large touring bike to cons all over the U.S. Of course I am a big computer fiend. I have been working with

computers since 1974. I was obsessed for a while trying to increase my art skill with computers, but I never had the money to do what I wanted to. I did learn how to do my fanzine better as I got better and better systems. I love to go to SF/Fantasy movies, and right now "Lord of the Rings" and "Spiderman" are special movies for me.

Q: Is there any other information you'd like to include?

A: I am really honored that N3F would show any interest in me. I will say to newer members that when I came in the club, I think myself and a lot of other artists had this place jumping from the late '80's and into the early '90's. I would like to recapture some of that with art and story again. I look forward to hearing from anyone on this subject.

Q: Tell me about the sample of art you have provided. Why did you choose this particular work? What was the inspiration, symbolism, or ideas behind it?

A: I was always amazed that N3F publications featured more fantasy-oriented art when I first joined it and **always** wanted to place hard SF art in there. Don't get me wrong, I draw a mean dragon, and like to see that kind of stuff, but nothing beats a suiter with a ray gun on an alien landscape.



Art and Creativity

by Sarah Glasgow

I gave a talk recently about art and creativity. My personal definition of art is anything that inspires us and stimulates creativity. It can also be construed as anything that stimulates any of the five senses.

Art, in all its varied forms, can be found everywhere. We seem to take this for granted and lose sight of the beauty that is all around us. In noting this, some audience members listed various kinds of art forms that we see almost every day. I'd like to share a few of these with you: Architecture, computer/software building, martial arts, culinary arts, vehicles, painting, sculpting, dance, theater, music, writing, journaling, fashion, hairstyles, nature, pottery, computer graphics, web design, massage, quilting, crafts, scrapbooking, jewelry making, photography, model building, fencing, film, animation, science, and mathematics. You may have thought of more things not listed here. Are you involved in any of these? Sometimes we may not think of ourselves as creative when we really are.

It is important to recognize the art and beauty in our lives. It is important to develop our talents and skills and share them with others. It is no good to have a talent (creative or otherwise) if we do not use it to benefit or uplift others. It can entertain us personally for only so long; sooner or later it longs to be shared. Where would we be if builders, entertainers, teachers, scientists, doctors, artists, parents, etc. did not share their gifts with the rest of society?

It's also important to try new things. One friend told me recently that she never thought of herself as being creative. Then she decided to take a basket-weaving course and found she was pretty good at it. So she decided to try to put a scrapbook together. Then she decided if she could be creative enough to do those two things, she could be creative enough to make her own greeting cards. In the end, she found she not only could be creative, she was creative. She has given up basket weaving, but still enjoys scrapbooking and making cards. She never would have found this joy of creativity if she hadn't decided to try something new. So my challenge to

you is to think of things you'd like to try, things that interest you. Try your hand at something new. You may have great capacity for art and/or creativity that is yet untapped.

Inevitably, we will encounter others with the same or similar talents. Yet, in our quest to develop our skills, it's important not to compare ourselves with others. I know it can be difficult. It's so easy to think we are either better or worse than someone else. But if we can be glad for those who excel and learn from each other, we will not only spare ourselves negative feelings, we may actually cultivate the creative juices.

It's so vital that we respect each other's skills and the other art forms. There will be those who are involved in an art that we are not particularly interested in. Some art forms we may even dislike, and that's okay. But if we can respect the good others are trying to do and appreciate those things that enhance our lives, we will be better and more creative people. We will be able to open our eyes to the beauty and art everywhere, every day. We will find the joy in creativity.

This article deals with art and creativity in a more general sense. However, I feel that much of it applies to our work in the SF/F genre. Let the things around you be an inspiration. Try your hand at something new. If you aren't comfortable drawing dragons, a man in a space suit, or space ships, give it a go a few times. Develop your skills so you are more versatile. If you mostly work in either sci-fi or fantasy, try switching to the other. You may be surprised how much you like it. I have avoided SF work because I don't know much technically and feel like I wouldn't do it justice. But recently, as I have tried various things, I find I am less afraid to fail. I look at it as more of a challenge to design a ship or make a space suit look authentic. I'm not great at it, but it is becoming enjoyable to me. So keep at it, and if you find you have "artists block", try something completely different, or talk with someone else who works in a similar way. Don't be afraid to look at all the art and creations around you for inspiration. You will succeed. It is wonderful indeed to contribute creatively to our world.

BookReviewsBookReviews

Simon R. Green's *Hawk & Fisher* is a locked-room mystery of the sword & sorcery genre. Hawk (no first name) and his wife-partner Isobel Fisher are guard captains in the port city of Haven, where magic use is commonplace. They're retained to guard Councillor William Blackstone, a politician bent on reform. The monied-class conservatives who want to retain the status quo (and retain their business deals above and below the table) naturally oppose any reform.

At a dinner party for Blackstone hosted by the sorcerer Gaunt, Fisher and Hawk take a moment to rest while the others go upstairs to change for dinner. William Blackstone is found dead in the bathroom — locked from the inside. Before long, during a lull in the investigation, Blackstone's political advisor Edward Bowman has his throat shredded. Then the witch employed by Blackstone, by the name of Visage, suffers the same fate as Bowman. Soon afterwards, Blackstone's wife Katherine is found stabbed through the heart. So far, half the dinner guests have died. How was the first murder, in a locked room, accomplished? Gaunt's magic wards prevent teleportation. How was Katherine Blackstone stabbed? Telekinesis requires direct line of sight. Wards on the doors prevent magical tampering.

Perhaps the wineglass in the bathroom? But the content weren't poisoned when tested by magic. Blackstone himself wore an armet that negated any magic near him. Was he killed by the knife? If so, there's strangely little blood from the wound. And why were the others killed?

As the mystery unravels, doubts, suspicions and accusations surface. But wait, the second and third victims died in a different manner. Could there be a second murderer? Hawk and Fisher have until dawn to learn the truth before Gaunt's isolation spell, locking everyone in the house, wears off.

The 177-page novelette holds up well as a mystery. Motives (murky and otherwise) are examined, but it's the hidden ones that are revealing. Nearly

everyone has secrets. What politician or sorcerer doesn't? The key to the first murder is in the awareness of Blackstone's amulet and someone's ability to use a minor spell to advantage.

Through it all, the host, one dinner guest and the two guard captains survive the night. The murder/locked-room mystery had its share of surprises and was a diverting read, despite some cliches in the beginning.

— Gar Chen

I had heard Australian Greg Egan described as the 21st Century's most important SF writer, and thought it was time I read one of his books. My son Eric has read several Egan novels, and suggested I read his latest, *Schild's Ladder* (Gollancz, London, 2002, 249 pages). He warned me, however, that Egan writes "hard" SF. He was right.

In the far future, people are superhuman by our standards, with mankind almost indistinguishable from machine intelligences. For 20,000 years all phenomena in the universe have been successfully explained by the Sarumpaet Rules: Laws that underlie the constituents of matter and the geometric structure of space/time.

Cass has stumbled on a set of quantum graphs that might explain a different kind of physics. Could there be an alternative structure to the void underlying our cosmos? She travels 370 light years to Mimosa Station, a remote experimental facility, in the hope of bringing this alternative to life. Her "novo-vacuum" will start decaying the instant it is created, but still shed light on the origins of our universe. Cass' experiment, however, goes badly astray. The novo-vacuum is more stable than the vacuum around it, and a region in which the new physics holds sway begins to expand out from Mimosa, creating a new universe with different physical laws.

Six hundred years later, the main plot of the story begins. More than 2,000 inhabited systems have been lost to the expanding novo-vacuum. On the *Rindler*, a ship that has matched velocities with the encroaching border, the scientific community is

divided into two opposing groups — those who would destroy the new universe (the Preservationists), and those who would study it (the Yielders). Tchicaya comes to the *Rindler* to join the Yielders, but when Mariama — a childhood friend who once exerted a great influence on him — arrives soon after, he is shocked to discover that she plans to help the Preservationists.

A theoretical breakthrough reveals the richness of the world behind the border, and tensions between the opposing factions on the *Rindler* grow. When a splinter group responds with violent, unilateral action, Tchicaya and Mariama are forced to travel together through the border. There a new world awaits them, and all the loose ends of the story are tied together.

The imaginary physics of Schild's Ladder introduces new concepts on almost every page: Mediator, acorporeals, Quietener, the Scribe (with its Left and Right Hands), Slowdown, vendeks, Qusp, and Planck worms, to name only a few. For those interested in the novel's underlying ideas, supplementary material can be found on the Internet at www.netSPACE.net.au/~gregegan/.

— Jon D. Swartz

Mac Wheels In

TV Review by Al MacIntyre

I have been recently watching this new series & most friends get confused when I try to tell them about it. "You mean Captain Kirk & Spock & Sulu & Dr. McCoy & etc. the original characters the first time Star Trek was on TV?" No, I say, think like the Star Wars Trilogy of Trilogies ... the first we saw were in the middle of the SW history, then a later episode shown to us was earlier in the history of those people.

Well, the TV series I recently saw, that someone else saw by accident & told me about, is called "Enterprise" — which in the ST history was before the *Enterprise* of Captain Kirk. Warp drive has just been invented by humans, and we have the very first expedition of the very first star-going *En-*

terprise, when all that Star Trek technology is in its infancy & humanity is figuring out the beginnings of Alien Contact. The Vulcans had interstellar transportation long before humans & in this time period they treat humans like stupid children, which makes for some plots where humans do other than what Vulcans say, out of annoyance.

There is no Star Fleet Academy, or Federation of United Planets yet. This is Earth starting to explore our stellar neighborhood with a warp drive that is rated at Warp 5, but they're doing pretty good to get it up to 4.98.

In today's episode, Captain Archer & his Vulcan science officer (who often is in trouble with other Vulcans for joining the *Enterprise* crew), takes a shuttle pod to visit the Capital City of some planet that has internal problems. They get kidnapped by local rebels, who radio the *Enterprise* with their demands. They want 40 phase pistols like what they found on the shuttle pod. *Enterprise* only has 15 in the total inventory, because this too is a recent invention.

About the time Away Team 2 is planning a raid on where they see the shuttle pod on the ground, they get a call from the local Vulcan patrol warship, which has come to arrest the Vulcan science officer for something that happened on an earlier episode I did not see. So naturally the Vulcans will take over the investigation from the humans, and naturally the humans will continue what they are doing without telling the Vulcans, and naturally the Vulcans will not consult the humans on what they are doing.

Down on the planet, Team 2 is jumped by the Andorians (guys with blue heads and antenna that remind me of "My Favorite Martian") who have some debt to pay off for some other earlier episode I did not see. They are smart enough to have a double agent



where Away Team 1 is being held prisoner, and clever enough to be intercepting transmissions from the Vulcan warship (which is how come they knew that Team 2 was coming), but they failed to detect the Vulcan military team on a mission to attack the compound. So the Andorian rescue arrives at same time as Vulcan rescue, and pretty soon the Andorians & Vulcans are in a confrontation with the Rebels at risk of getting the upper hand again.

This plot line is choreographed like a 3 ring circus.

So, I am enjoying the "Original" Star Trek TV series & I hope now that I have tipped y'all off that this is going on, you will seek it out & also enjoy it.

Writers' Exchange Report

by Joy Beeson



The W.E. Web page has a new home: http://home.earthlink.net/beeson_n3f/. To go straight to the news and skip all the recruiting stuff, go to http://home.earthlink.net/~beeson_n3f/WEB/WEB.HTM which has no news on it at the moment — send me something to post on this page! You

may also send me a file to post in the WEB directory, with or without a link from one of the two pages already there.

W.E.B. #59 has been mailed — every last copy labeled "#53". I haven't the foggiest idea how I made that mistake. #60, now under construction, is to be the Grand Complete Membership List Issue, so if you can't remember what your write-up in #53 (the real #53) said, send me a fresh letter.

Now is a good time to join, when you can get your write-up into the main list. You can be an "unlisted" member, who asks for criticism but doesn't give any — we also have members who give criticism and don't ask for any, so it balances out.

Neffer publishes!

Joy V. Smith's audiobook, *Sugar Time*, was recently released by Hadrosaur Productions (<http://www.zianet.com/hadrosaur/>).

The book concerns the efforts of Maxwell Sweet's niece to discover how and why her uncle became ill and his two colleagues disappeared while conducting secret experiments with a working time machine in an old Victorian mansion outside Galveston, Texas. *Sugar Time* is available on CD and Cassette, featuring a full cast, music and sound effects. \$13.95 per CD or \$10.95 per cassette. Write for ordering instructions to Hadrosaur Productions, P.O. Box 8468, Las Cruces, NM 88006, or visit their Web site.

Congratulations to Joy!

Membership Drive Group is active

by Dennis L. Davis

I have been working on getting a Membership Drive going, and I have a database of former N3F members who can be contacted and asked if they might be interested in rejoining the club. I decided to call those who are working on this project The Membership Drive Group, with the following members: Harold Marcum, Valerie Mignault, Carla Hall Minor, Susan Van Schuyver and myself.

What I need is more members who are willing to write letters. There is no certain number of letters that one who joins our Membership Drive Group will have to write, and the more members we have working on this, the better. Contact me soon!



Computer Gaming Bureau

by Harold Marcum

This time I'm not going to give you cheats and codes for various computer games. Instead I want to tell you about a great place to get PC games on CD online: www.unbeatabledeals.com. They also have a postal address: UnbeatableDeals, Inc. 110 East Atlantic Ave, Suite 210, Delray Beach, FL 33444 (ph #561.330.9366). What is so cool about this company are the prices — the games cost one penny. You might say, "What's the catch? It must be a rip-off of some kind," but it's not. Shipping and handling charges are \$6.95 + .01 = \$6.96. I just bought a couple from them and I'm completely satisfied with the games. Some of you know that I've been a fireman for over 20 years so the first game I bought off them was "In The Line of Duty: Fire-fighter" and it's a great game. I'll let you know more about it the next time.

The second one, "Star Trek Deep Space Nine: The Fallen," looks to be good too. You can't go wrong on these CDs and they boot up easy.

PC Bureau Report

by Dennis Davis

The Critters (TM) Workshop is for writers of science fiction, fantasy and horror who want their work critiqued by other writers. The site has many articles on writing & criticism, links to other SF/F/H sites, and plenty of manuscripts to read. Membership is required, although free. <http://www.critters.org/>.

The Writers Free Reference site offers a nice list of places where writers can research their material for free. <http://www.writers-free-reference.com/>.

Classic Reader has the classics online and it is free. Fiction and non-fiction, short stories, plays, and poetry, there are more than 1,000 titles by more than 170 authors. Full, unabridged versions of classics whose copyrights have expired. Use the search engine or just choose from the categories: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Drama, Children, Poetry, Shake-

peare, and Short Stories. Stories are broken down by chapter and collections, by title. <http://www.classicreader.com/>.

The On-Line Books Page has over 15,000 books that you can read online. Search by author or title, or simply check out the new listings. There are news links and features (like the Banned Books On-Line page). <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/>

Lothene Experimental Archaeology concerns researching & recreating aspects of life in Scotland in the 11th Century. Links to the Women Warriors Page, a history of female soldiers, sailors, revolutionaries, etc. from 3,500 BCE to the 20th Century. <http://www.lothene.demon.co.uk/index.html>.

The Costumer's Manifesto Pattern Links, a great site that contains an enormous list of links to sewing and pattern sites for anyone who wants a vintage pattern, unusual & hard-to-find modern patterns. http://www.costumes.org/pages/pattern_links.htm#Vintage.

Thanks For Nuthin' is a cartoon strip by Brad Fitzpatrick, about what is thought, and seldom said. <http://www.thanksfornuthin.com>.

An Interesting site is The Borg Collective at <http://www.theborgcollective.com/>. Mouse around to: Fan Fiction, Fan Art, Send e-cards, Chat (requires Java), download Midi Files or Icons if you are looking for files to download, as well as surfing over to Multimedia & then subsections of Fonts, Graphics, Wallpaper, & Screen Savers. Here is the direct BorgBBS link — <http://www.borgbbs.com/> — in case chat is something you would like.

The Space.com Web site has everything from technology news, mission & launch news, information on SETI, and even an entertainment site with fun & games. <http://www.space.com/>.

Welcommittee Bureau Report

The Welcommittee consists of Dennis L. Davis, Sarah Glasgow, Valerie Mignault, Carla Hall Minor, Chester Mylenek, Cynthia Richter, David K. Robinson. Thanks to everyone for doing a good job writing letters. We have been making sure that those who join the N3F are made welcome.

Damon Knight: Founder of Wonder

by Catherine Mintz

Damon Knight is so rich a subject for discussion that even assembling a complete set of simple facts is difficult. Almost all of his major work is in print, and his novels are available electronically for less than \$1 a volume if you own a suitable device. His final book, the nonfiction Will the Real Hieronymus Bosch Please Stand Up? is available at <http://fictionwise.com>.

But it is as critic, editor, and teacher that Knight may have had his greatest impact on speculative fiction, doing everything from writing reviews (for which he won a Hugo in 1956) to being the co-founder of the Milford Writers' Conference along with his wife, Kate Wilhelm.

In 1965, Knight sent out a notice he was starting the Science Fiction Writers of America, and anyone who wished to join was asked to send \$3 for the first year's dues. He was not the first to try and organize SF writers, but he was the one who succeeded.

Lloyd Biggle, then Secretary-Treasurer of the organization, suggested they might produce a book to sell and build up the treasury. They did, and the advance they received for it was so handsome they felt they could throw a posh event to celebrate their new award and winning authors. Biggle and Knight's wives combined their talents to design an award and two locations (one in New York and the other in California) were booked. The whole affair went off in great style — except that when they tallied their bills, they found their splendid trophies and fine dinners had cost them more than the advance for the first Nebula anthology. Fortunately this did not deter them, and 37 years later, the Nebulas are still going strong as is SFWA, now the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America.

It all seems a long time ago and yet only yesterday, depending on whether you count years or familiar books. It says something that all of the Neb-

ula-winning novels are almost always in print, continuous commercial successes.

So which works were the first winners? The answer tells us a great deal. Harlan Ellison won the first short story award for "Repent, Harlequin!" Said the Ticktockman," the struggle of a nonconformist in a society where wasting time is so vile a crime that what is wasted is subtracted from the person's life span.

Roger Zelazny won the novelette award for "The Doors of His Face, the Lamps of His Mouth," a Moby Dick of a story set on Venus when it was still believed to be a water world. He then tied for novella with Brian Aldiss, who flew from England for the New York ceremony. Zelazny's winner was "He Who Shapes," about a psychiatrist who treats his patients in a virtual world and loses his own grip on reality. Aldiss' winner was "The Saliva Tree," which tells of an English farm whose people must grasp the nature of an alien menace before it grasps them.

The novel winner for that first Nebula ceremony opens thus:

"A beginning is the time for taking care that the balances are correct. This every sister of the Bene Gesserit knows. To begin your study of the life of Muad'Dib, then take care that you first place him in his time: born in the 57th year of the Padishah Emperor, Shaddam IV. And take the most special care that you locate Muad'Dib in his place: the planet Arrakis. Do not be deceived by the fact that he was born on Caladan and lived his first fifteen years there. Arrakis, the planet known as Dune, is forever his place. —From "Manual of Muad'Dib" by the Princess Irulan.

Dune — first as a single novel, then two novel series (the first written by the late Frank Herbert, the second by his son Brian Herbert and co-author Kevin J. McDonald), a David Lynch-directed movie and Sci-Fi Channel mini-series — is still going strong, and so are the organizations that Knight helped found.

(Adapted from Catherine Mintz' speech given at The Second Annual Nebula Event in Philadelphia, April 26, 2002.)

Memories of Damon

In 1941, Damon Knight's parents took him to the Worldcon in Denver. There he met some of the Futurians, and when they headed back to New York, Damon went with them with his parents' encouragement. I guess it was late in 1941 that he wrote an article about forming a national club and the N3F was born.

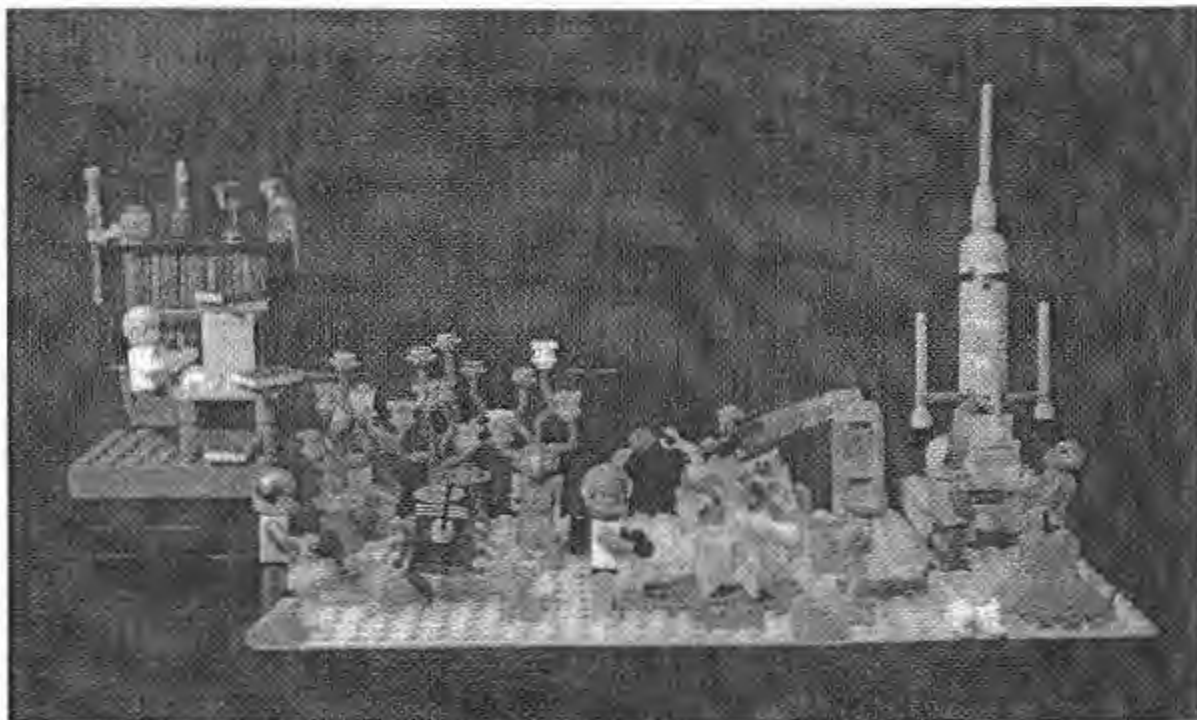
It was about 7 or 8 years ago that I sent him a gift certificate for Xmas; of course it was addressed to Kate Wilhelm his wife. It was for a \$500 Bail Bond and I included a note saying that Damon had gone out to celebrate Xmas, and his birthday, and Easter & so forth. So, would she go downtown and get him out of jail?

I helped him with several of his books in minor ways and he had a great sense of humor. I hope everyone has read his book, The Futurians.

— Howard Devore

Among the dozen or so how-to-write-fiction books I've collected, Damon Knight's Creating Short Fiction occupies an honored spot on my bookshelves. It taught me more about writing fiction than almost any other book I've read, and that means *any* fiction, not just SF.

His fiction writing career spanned half a century and included stories now considered SF classics, particularly the sly tale, "To Serve Man." As an editor, in 1966 he began the Orbit series, which became the longest-running, original-SF anthology series, with 21 volumes published between 1966



'The Dream Continues: In Memoriam of Damon Knight, founder of SFWA, instigator of the N3F, and great force for SF Fandom' is a sculpture in Lego blocks by N3F member Helen E. Davis. It depicts Knight as writer (left) and his creations. Photo and title copyright 2002 by Helen E. Davis, all rights reserved. Reprinted by permission.

and 1980.

Without Damon Knight, the N3F might never have existed. Despite what longtime N3F detractors might say, that would have been a bad thing. There are many SF fans and just-plain SF readers who still have only this club to connect them with other

fans or readers. Perhaps that's the best reason for the N3F's continued existence, and the best reason for Neffers to continue reaching out to find others who read "that sci-fi stuff." Clear ether and hot jets, Mr. Knight.

— Janine Stinson

FANZINES

by Ted White

Fanzines are a basic part of science fiction fandom, having been in existence as long as fandom itself – the past 70 years. Fanzines are a reflection of many fans' interest in the printed word and amateur publishing. The publication you are reading this in is a fanzine, but a specialized one.

All fanzines are published as a hobby and lose money. Their editors appreciate money to defray their expenses and sometimes list single-copy or subscription prices, but they appreciate even more your written response – a LoC. Feedback – better known in fandom as "egoboo" – is what fanzine publishing is all about.

Check out the fanzines below and broaden your participation in fandom.

SF COMMENTARY #77 (Bruce Gillespie, 59 Keele St., Collingwood VIC 3066, Australia; also available as .PDF files via e-mail to gando@mira.net or from the *e-fanzines* site at <http://efanzines.com/SFC/index.html>; available for "the usual" – "letters or substantial emails of comment, artistic contributions, articles, reviews, traded publications or review copies [of books]" – or subscription: "\$US30 for 5, or equivalent, airmail; please send folding money, not cheques").

SF Commentary sits at the high end of the "sercon," or serious discussion of SF, group of fanzines, a position it has occupied for many years now. In this, *SFC* is following a proud Australian tradition first established by John Bangsund in the mid-'60s with his *Australian SF Review*. Both fanzines engaged SF's literati from throughout the world, and both have offered important venues to some of the major voices in SF criticism, who in turn have written seminal pieces on some of the

most important authors to emerge in the field in the second half of the 20th century, starting with Phil Dick and Ursula LeGuin.

What's most impressive about the way Gillespie (now) and Bangsund (then) have accomplished this is that neither gave in to the academic, stuffed-shirt navel-gazing which has grown up over the past forty years around SF and all but smothered SF criticism. *SFC* maintains a civilized and literate tone throughout, but draws more upon the British tradition of letters and the ties of fannish community to accomplish its purposes. It is not by accident that Gillespie has long called his editorial in *SFC* "I Must Be Talking To My Friends."

Only a couple of years ago *SFC* celebrated its 30th anniversary with issue #76. That was a monster issue which had been more than half a decade in the making, but #77 is no slouch either, running 84 pages of small (but readably set) type, with color covers on glossy stock.

The issue opens (on page 3) with "Four Reasons for Reading Thomas M. Disch" by the late John Sladek. It is reprinted from a relatively obscure Australian book of essays about SF authors, *The Stellar Gauge*, which was published in 1980. The piece is typical Sladek and deserves the position of honor here.

Gillespie's editorial occupies the next 8 pages and covers a variety of topics, "Criticanto" offers 10 pages of thoughtful book reviews by Marc Ortlieb, Roslyn K. Gross, Ian Mond, Steve Jeffery and the editor. A 16-page letter column catches up with responses to *SFC* #s 73, 74, 75 and 76 – the oldest letters going back to 1993.

The remaining nearly-half of the issue is taken up with "Scanning in the Nineties: Part 1," all but the introductory first two pages by Colin Steele,

who wrote these reviews between 1993 and 1999. Subsequent issues will offer similar "columns" by Gillespie, Alan Stewart, Paul Ewins, Doug Barbour "and a few more." Steele's reviews are grouped by category: Reference & Non-Fiction, Australian SF, Australian Fantasy, Australian Horror, British SF, British Alternative Reality Fiction, British Fantasy, British Horror, American SF, and American Horror. The issue closes with a five-page index (in four columns of small type) - a feature which is truly useful in a fanzine of this sort.

If fanzines which talk about science fiction are your meat, *SFC* belongs at the top of your list.

TRAP DOOR #21, March 2002 (Robert Lichtman, P.O. Box 30, Glen Ellen, CA 95442; available for "the usual" - "letters, contributions both written and artistic, and accepted trades" - or \$5.00 per copy; e-mail to locs2trapdoor@yahoo.com)

Trap Door has been coming out on a quasi-annual schedule since the '80s and has, over the years, become the premier "fannish" fanzine. Editor Lichtman says his fanzine is "like a class reunion," because fans who had apparently been long vanished from fandom ("gafiated" - as in Getting Away From It All) turn up in its pages. Lichtman has, like me, spent his entire adult life as a fan, having published his first fanzine back in 1959. And by now he has honed his approach to fanzine-editing and can consistently produce one of the best fanzines coming out - if infrequently.

Lichtman had been using a basic word processor and doing manual paste-ups for years, but with #21 *Trap Door* has fully entered the DTP/computer-publishing age. And this issue presents some impressive material.

The lead article is by Chris Priest. "The Lost Years" describes what happened to his writing career when he entered into a partnership with Dave Langford to run a small software company which more or less grew like Topsy. The title says it all but the 9-page piece fills in the details entertainingly and insightfully.

That piece would stand out in most fanzines, but here it is eclipsed by Joel Nydahl's "Revisiting Ny-

dahl's Disease." Nydahl is famous in fandom for having put out the best fanzine of 1953 (*Vega*) and then totally gafiating - at the age of 15! His abrupt disappearance from fandom after publishing the superb 100-page *Vega* #13 - its first "amish" or anniversary issue - led to the term "Nydahl's Disease" to describe fans who burn themselves out in a blaze of glory. Last year both Lichtman and I contacted Nydahl (over the Internet), leading to his decision to drop in at the Philadelphia Worldcon, where I finally met him for the first time (we'd been correspondents in 1953 and I'd drawn the cover for *Vega* #5). In his piece for *Trap Door* Joel describes what happened to him in 1953 (his family had moved from a farm to an in-town home and his social life had picked up) and what happened at Philadelphia last Labor Day weekend.

But that's not all! Gordon Eklund contributes "The Katz Kontroversy: A Document," a work of fanfiction (fiction *about* fans); Ron Bennett writes about "The Real Mrs. Brown," under whom he taught at the Warwick School in Singapore for three years; Lucy Huntzinger tells "Twice-Told Tales;" Calvin Demmon writes about "An Old Boy and His Dog;" Steve Stiles describes his (brief) job illustrating the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers in "Drawing Board Blues;" I tell about "My Brief Career As An Artist;" and rich brown (who does not capitalize his name) talks about his childhood as a miscreant in "Smokes." And there are 20 pages of letters.

Trap Door is published half-size (5½ by 8½ inches), photo-copied, and uses the best artists in fandom (principally Dan Steffan and Steve Stiles, but also ATom, Harry Bell, Grant Canfield, Craig Smith, Bill Rotsler and D. West) to present a fanzine which looks as good as it reads - which is very good indeed. Highly recommended.



Round Robin Bureau Report

by Susan VanSchuyver

I know I keep saying that the Round Robins are still alive; this time I have proof. During March, April, and May, I have seen and participated in the following RR's: Time Travel (3 times), Po-

etry, Fairy and Folk Tales (2 times), Anne McCaffrey, Sci Fi Channel, DS9/ST:NG, Babylon 5, Cats in SF&F, and Dreams. This has been a slow year for RR's since 9/11, but we have people interested in new ideas like a Classic Films RR and second loops of current RR's. If you want to join, reactivate or start a robin, let me know. My addresses are on the inside front cover.

Submission Guidelines

PUBLISHING SCHEDULE: The zine will be published four times a year (quarterly) in March, June, September and December.

DEADLINES: Editorial deadlines are the 25th day of the month preceding the publication month. As an example, material intended for the March issue should be in the Editor's hands by Feb. 25. **If it doesn't get here in time, it goes in the next issue.** This change aligns the guidelines with the club constitution and bylaws.

WHAT WE PUBLISH: The zine is still the official clubzine for N3F, so it will still include all the stuff that it's always published. Added to that will be the lettercol from Tightbeam and whatever else members submit: reviews (book, movie, TV show, game, etc.), conreps, genre poetry, and other fannish texts. Art is, as ever, gratefully appreciated and if it can be sent on a disk or in e-mail, so much the better. Please send **ONLY COPIES** of your work, whether it's art or text. The page limit is still 32, so please make mailing the zine worthwhile by sending in submissions frequently and before the deadline.

FORMATS WE WILL ACCEPT: Paper copies of submissions are welcome, as are copies delivered on a disk or via e-mail. The Fan is done in MS Publisher 2000, and I can accept any electronic file that has a .txt extension. If you're not sure what that means, write and ask me.

NOT SURE WHAT TO SEND?

For articles, etc.: If you've never submitted an article to any zine, and aren't comfortable with writing an article per se, you can always write about

something in a LoC and the editor can do a bit of editing to turn it into an article. More than one article has started out that way. If you'd like to try an article, recall all that stuff you were supposed to learn in English Composition and use it. See, there's a reason you should have paid attention in English class.

For art: I can always use fillos. The front cover art will be smaller, in order to get more words in, but on occasion the editor may run an artist's showcase for a member. All members should keep in mind that N3F serves **artists and writers**. Now, get busy!



NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION (N3F) Membership Application

New Member Reinstatement Joint Membership Gift Membership

NAME (Please Print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, POSTAL CODE, COUNTRY _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

OCCUPATION _____ Male Female Birth Date _____

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Please check your current SF/F-related interests.

<input type="checkbox"/> APA's	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> artwork	<input type="checkbox"/> audio
<input type="checkbox"/> books	<input type="checkbox"/> cartooning	<input type="checkbox"/> comics	<input type="checkbox"/> computers
<input type="checkbox"/> conventions	<input type="checkbox"/> correspondence (pen pals)	<input type="checkbox"/> collecting	<input type="checkbox"/> games
<input type="checkbox"/> editing	<input type="checkbox"/> fanzines	<input type="checkbox"/> filksinging	<input type="checkbox"/> reviewing
<input type="checkbox"/> movies/television	<input type="checkbox"/> publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> reading	<input type="checkbox"/> teaching science fiction
<input type="checkbox"/> round robins (group letters)	<input type="checkbox"/> tapping	<input type="checkbox"/> writing	<input type="checkbox"/> online activities
<input type="checkbox"/> video			

Years interested in science fiction _____ SF Conventions attended _____

Read prozines and fanzines? Which? _____

SF fantasy type preferences _____

Favorite SF a/o fantasy writers _____

Which (if any) of the following would you be willing to help the club with? artwork
 corresponding publishing recruiting at conventions organizing activities

Name of sponsoring member (if any) _____

Dues are \$18 per year (\$22 for joint memberships) which includes subscriptions to the club's fanzine as well as other benefits and activities. Make checks or money orders payable to William Center, our treasurer (not N3F). All payments must be in US funds. Mail dues and application to club secretary **Dennis Davis, 25549 Byron St., San Bernardino, CA 92404-6403. Please allow at least 8 weeks for your first zine to arrive.**

*Send all address corrections and
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Coming in The Fan 2.2, September 2002:

*Election Platforms — Yes, it's that time again, so anyone who is even pondering the idea of running for a position better pay up their membership and start sharpening their wits **now**. (Election rules are in The Fan 2.1.)*

*The next editorial deadline is **August 25, 2002**. Submit early and often!*