

The National Fantasy Fan

Vol. 3 No.3

December 2003



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N'APA: OPEN

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President's Message

Ruth Davidson

Happy Belated Holidays!

I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays. We've had a few people leave us, and I think that is mostly due to the fact that we didn't have the Fan published for most of last year. Rest assured, we believe we have found a solution! Wa hoo! We have developed a Zine Bureau, headed by me. The details will be listed in the Zine Bureau Report, which you can find in this issue and every issue we publish.

Thank you Laura Hazelwood for editing this issue!

If you have a bureau idea, would like to head an open bureau, or have any questions/concerns please feel free to contact me. The open bureau's are as follows: Blind Services, N3F Historian, N'APA, and Short Story Contest.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

1: **We now have The Zine Bureau.** This is a bureau dedicated to getting the Fan published on time to the best of our ability. For more information, please read The Zine Bureau report. You can find the exact location in your table of contents.

2: **New deadline for the Fan!** To help us get the Fan out on time we've decided to have the deadline be the 15th of the preceding month. The Fan

comes out March, June, September and December, so for example the deadline for the March issue is now February 15th.

3: **For the March issue of the Fan!** Send your submissions to me. My contact info is on the inside cover.

The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 3 No. 4
The Official Organ of the National Fantasy Fan Federation.
***** Bringing Fans Together Since 1941*****

This issue was completed on _____. The editor for this issue was Laura Hazelwood, 1203 S. Market, Mt. Vernon, Missouri 65712, e-mail laurah@centurytel.net. Please address all submissions and questions to the editorial staff noted elsewhere in this issue. *All opinions herein are those of the writers and do not reflect the opinions of the staff or other members of N3F except where so noted.* Printing graciously accomplished by Craig Boyd. SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS FEB. 15, 2003. E-mail accepted by arrangement only! This zine is to be published quarterly in March, June, and December through volunteer effort.

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Find us on the World Wide Web at <http://www.simegen.com/fandom/n3f>

Cover art and internal art by Sarah Glasgow

Secretary's Report

Dennis Davis

Hi all I hope that everyone had a nice new yrs.

Drop List

EXPIRED LIST

Note that I am going to be dropping the ones that expired a while ago from the roster.

Expired June 2003 --will be dropped: Ricky Conner, Denise A. Fisk, Tim & Barbara Gatewood, Stephen Metzger

Expired July 2003 --will be dropped: Ray F. Nelson

Expired August 2003: Lisa Bosko Ocacio, Robert W. Franson, Bruce Johnstone, Robin Lancaster

Expired September 2003: Emery Kurts, Jennifer M. Mackay, Valerie Mignault, Catherine Mintz, Ralph Osborn, Cynthia Anya Richter, Dr. Jack Robins, David K. Robinson, Lucy Takeda

Expired October 2003: David Franson, Carol Klees-Stark, Sandra Morrese, Jeff Redmond, William H. Wharton

Expired November 2003: Robert Schreib, Jr.

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REIN0704 King, Patricia 1518 A Russell Street Nashville TN 37206
EXP1003 Klees-Starks, Carol 4211 6th Avenue Kenosha WI 53140-2929
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GS0704 Phillies, George 87 Park Avenue Apt 6 Worcester MA 01605-3929
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GS1204 Riddle, Dr. Ira Lee 400 Newtown Road Warminster PA 18974-5208
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REIN0704 Schaumburger, Joe 18205 SW 94th Avenue Miami FL 33157-5612
EXP1103 Schreib, Jr. Robert 44 Georgetown Drive Toms River NJ 08757-4320
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REIN1104 Swycaffer, Jefferson PO Box 15373 San Diego CA 92175-5373
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GS1204 Travis, David PO Box 1011 Clovis NM 88102-1011
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Notes

My N3F email address is: n3f_info@yahoo.com If you give my email address out to someone, give them the n3f_info@yahoo.com address.

Please send your checks to the Secretary:

Dennis L. Davis, 25549 Byron Street, San Bernardino, CA 92404-6403.

Please make checks payable to: WILLIAM CENTER

I am your N3F Secretary and all of the information is as correct as make it. Please contact me if you find a discrepancy or have not found your name in this report. Thank you.

Please help me to serve you better by doing the following:

- 1) Check your information in the roster. Notify me of any changes.
- 2) Mark exp. date on your envelope, or include your renewal reminder card.
- 3) Send address corrections as soon as possible. The USPO charges me to return undeliverable zines. Thank you

W.E. Bureau Report

Joy Beeson

Writers' Exchange, Joy Beeson, 1700 Park Avenue, Winona Lake, Indiana 46950
joybeeson@earthlink.net

Writers' Exchange Bulletin #60 is still hanging fire -- but at least I've paid enough attention to know which issue is overdue! We have a new member; write or e-mail for the address.

**TNFF Treasurer's Report -
William Center**

December 2003

Disbursements	
The Fan (Mar., Jun., Sept. 2003)- printing	315.79
Bulk Mail Permit (partial)	62.50
Web Domain Fee	35.00
Web Site Hosting Fee	45.00
Postage for NAPA archives	14.76
	<hr/>
	473.05
Beginning Balance (10/17/03)	3,856.31
Additions	+0.00
Subtractions	-473.05
	<hr/>
Ending Balance (12/17/03)	\$ 3,383.26

Send all dues, new or renewal to: Dennis Davis, 25549 Byron Street, San Bernadino, California 92404-6408. Make checks payable to William Center, not the N3F. Canadian and overseas members, please pay in US funds. William Center 12/31/03

Zine Bureau

Ruth Davidson

The Directorate and I felt that a big part of the reason why we had a difficult time finding an editor was all the work involved. It's a big job, and after discussing it we decided it was time to create The Zine Bureau. It is perfectly aligned with the current Constitution and Bylaws. Here is the run down of the job layout:

Editors: Ruth R. Davidson, Laura Hazelwood, and Bob Sabella

Review Editor: Jon D. Swartz

Art: Sarah E. Glasgow (A bit of explanation: the Art Bureau will help gather art for the Zine when needed.)

Publisher: Craig Boyd

Distributor: Harold Devore

Advisor: Janine Stinson

Laura, Bob and I will be alternating as editors between issues. If you would like to help with that, please contact me. We can each do one issue a year. This way, we lighten the load. I will announce who to send your submissions to for the next issue in each Fan. I will do so here, and in the President's Message. When in doubt, just send them to me.

Remember, without you, there isn't much of a zine. The best way you can help us is to send in your submissions on time. Art, LOC's, movie/book reviews, poetry. . . **anything that is sci-**

fi/fantasy based.

Please send your March submissions to me by February 15th. It is my turn. Thank you to Laura for editing this issue. ☺ My contact info is on the inside cover of this issue.

Cheers!

Round Robin Bureau Report By Susan VanSchuyver

Do you like to write letters? Talk about your favorite subjects like Star Trek, Battlestar Galactica, and Andre Norton? If the answer is yes, the Round Robins may be for you.

Round Robins (RR's) are packets of letters that members write on a certain subject. When you receive the packet, you read all the letters, take out your old one, write a new one to include, and send the packet on to the next person on the Route Sheet. You then drop your Robin Master (RM) a note by "snail" mail or email to let him/her know that you have sent the packet on its way.

There aren't many active RR's right now, but there are a few of us who still enjoy writing and receiving letters. If you do, too, look over the lists in this issue and make some choices. Let me know which Robins you would like to join. The waiting lists may just need one more member to start. My addresses should be on the inside front cover. My email address is svanschuyver@cox.net .

Active Round Robins

DS9/ST:NG/Voyager – Benson, Dreams – VanSchuyver , Star Trek Classic #1 – Benson, Star Trek Classic #2 – VanSchuyver, Star Wars – Benson, Time Travel – VanSchuyver, TV SF&F – VanSchuyver

There may be other active RR's, but I have not received any reports from other RM's in a very long time. *If you are the RM of an active RR not on the above list, please let me know the name and members.*

Waiting Lists

Animals in SF&F, Anne McCaffrey, Batman and Others Superheroes, Cats in SF&F, Celtic Folklore, Comics, Current Reading, Cyber Horror, Fairy & Folk Tales, Harry Potter Books & Movies, Horror, Interstellar Empires, King Arthur, Mythology, Nonfiction, Poetry, Science & Technology, Sci Fi Channe, SF&F in Films, Supernatural, The Lord of the Rings Movies & Books, Vampires



1959 KAYMAR AWARD 2003

The N3F was organized in April 1941, so the Kaymar Award is always given in April every year since 1959. This year we are a bit behind but will be back on schedule in 2004.

THIS YEAR'S WINNER IS:

Harold Marcum

Kaymar Award Winners

1959	Ray C. Higgs	1982	Owen K. Laurion
1960	Eva Firestone	1983	Sally A. Syrjala
1961	Ralph Holland	1984	K. Martin Carlson
1962	Janie Lamb	1985	Howard Devore
1963	Art Hayes	1986	Lola Ann (Andrew) Center
1964	Seth Johnson	1987	David Heath, Jr.
1965	Stan Woolston	1988	Fred Jakobcic
1966	Donald Franson	1989	William Center
1967	Alma Hill	1990	Catherine Mintz
1968	Ann Chamberlin	1991	Tim Gatewood
1969	Donald Miller	1992	Marianne Turlington
1970	Elinor Poland	1993	Sandra Morrese
1971	Gary Labowitz	1994	Lyne-Marie Masamitsu
1972	Neb Brooks	1995	Michele (Nowak) Center
1973	Elaine Wojciechowiski	1996	Craig Boyd
1974	Joanne Burger	1997	Diane (Miller) Blackwood
1975	Sheryl Birkhead	1998	Susan Van Schuyver
1976	Will Morris	1999	Jefferson Swycaffer
1977	Lynne Holdom	2000	Janine Stinson
1978	Harry Warner, Jr.	2001	Jacqueline Lichtenberg
1979	Frank Denton	2002	Dennis Davis
1980	John W. Andrews	<u>2003 Harold Marcum</u>	
1981	Edward W. Ludwig		

As always, the selection was made by a committee, consisting of previous winners who are still in the club, from nominations submitted by members. The Kaymar Award, like few other awards in fandom, is awarded only once. It is given not for talent or popularity, but for work, for the benefit of the club and its members. It is a fitting memorial to K. Martin Carlson (1904-1986), who originated, maintained and financed it for 25 years. Now it is paid for by the N3F Treasury, which is small compensation for the value of the work done by the winners over the years.

Prizes include a year's membership extension, \$10 cash and a certificate.

Any member of the N3F may nominate someone who seems worthy of the Kaymar Award. Send your nominations to the Chairman of the Kaymar Awards Committee, at any time; but at least by the end of the year, so that the names can be voted on in time for next April's

award. All names will be kept confidential. This is an honor, not a campaign, and only the winner's name will be published in TNFF.

William Center
Chairman

Kaymar Awards Committee: Art Hayes, John W. Andrews, Sally Syrjala, Howard Devore, David Heath, Jr., William Center, Catherine Mintz, Tim Gatewood, Marianne Turlington, Sandra Morrese, Michele (Nowak) Center, Craig Boyd, Diane (Miller) Blackwood, Susan Van Schuyver, Jefferson Swycaffer, Janine Stinson, Jacqueline Lichtenberg, Dennis Davis.

Online Bureau

Laura Hazelwood

In this report I would like to take you to the world of Tolkien as it has been presented on the World Wide Web. A Google search of the web for the name Tolkien turned up 2,780,000 hits.

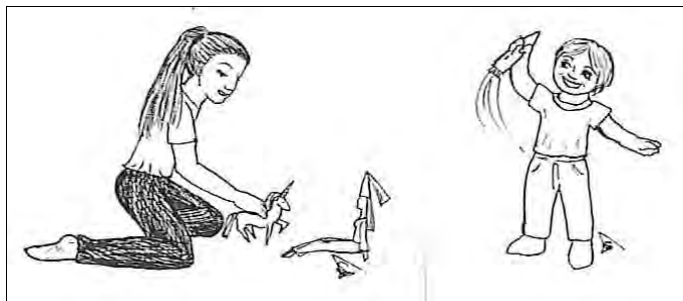
A Google search for Lord of the Rings found 6,710,000 hits. But of course, the websites are of varying degrees of usefulness in their provision of information, art, photos, and provisions for fandom.

New Line Cinema's production of the trilogy, The Lord of the Rings has no doubt been a long awaited movie event for fans of the work. My first reading of the books occurred when I was about 13 years old. I remember even saying then how awesome a movie would be! No one ever imagined a movie, a full length feature film with live actors, would be possible of so intricate a work of literature. A few attempts to translate The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings to animation left a bitter taste in the mouths of many fans, myself included.

The popularity of director Peter Jackson's interpretation of the books to film has created an explosion of interest in Tolkien, already a popular topic on the Web. New Line Cinema's official website for the films is a slick production which provides movie insights, a gallery of art, and even downloads for your desktop. It also provides a preview of the soundtrack for The Return of the King installment with the song Into the West, sung by Annie Lennox. The URL for this website is <http://www.lordoftherings.net>

The website <http://onering.virbius.com/index.php> offers a flashy index of Tolkien and LotR related material all over the web, including fandom, artwork, biography, and media links. The page is well done with information on the new Playstation 2 game, The Hobbit.

However interests in Tolkien may run, books, movies, or artwork you will find information galore on the WWW. Take a look and be amazed!



Birthday Bureau Report

By Ruth R. Davidson

Thank you all who sent out birthday cards. I hope everyone enjoyed them.

If you know of any N3F members who are ill, or having a particularly rough time for one reason or another, please let me know. We've started including such things as part of our bureau to help uplift our fellow Neffers during their trials.

Feel free to "snail" mail me at 3540 Swenson St #172 Las Vegas NV 89109 or "speed" mail me at ruthiechan@xarph.net if you would like to help out with the Bureau or have any questions. If there are any errors on the list please let me know so I can correct them.

Here is the list of birthdays for the next three months. Feel free to send anyone a birthday card. Remember, it's always nice, to get *nice* mail! ☺

January

Sarah E. Glasgow 01.15.1974
Angela K. Scott Gosnell 01.06.1974
Art Hayes 01.04.1923
Christine Haycock Moskowitz 01.07.1924
William H. Wharton 01.30.1943

February

Dorothy Kurtz 02.29.1956
Alister MacIntyre 02.08.1944
Sandra Morrese 02.16.1960
Dr. Jack Robins 02.17.????
Penina Spinka 02.05.1945
Marianne Turlington .21.1936

March

Jacqueline Lichtenberg 03.25.1942
Edmund Meskys 03.11.1936
Janine G. Stinson 03.18.????
George H. Wells 03.28.1943

Webpage Report

Laura Hazelwood

Interesting things have been going on at www.simegen.com/fandom/n3f. Much thanks i to George Phillies. N3F now has it's own domain name. Our website is still generously hosted by Simegen.com (thanks JL), and can be accessed for the time being through the URL I have just given. But you can now also arrive at our homepage by typing in www.nfff.org or www.scififan.org. If you have links to our home page you should update them with the new urls. In time, simegen.com will set their server so that our new domains are means to access our site. But for now, all of the urls listed in this report will take you to our page.

A renewed interest has taken place on the web in the last year in Bulletin Boards. Along with that interest has come a plethora of open source boards that websites may take and use as

their own. Many advantages lie in this including the ability to limit access to boards by potential spammers, creating forums specific to the needs of your group, and other customizing tools.

At one time our website had a bulletin board which was offsite. When the company that hosted that bulletin board disappeared so did our board. Howard Devore's mailing list has proven an invaluable tool in enhancing our communications through email. To add more opportunities for bureau heads, directorate members, and members to share information I have set up a bulletin board for our website. The board is located on the simegen.com server and is all ours. I hope that you will make use of it. This board will replace our news page. A link will be put to the board on our homepage or you can go directly there by typing in the url <http://www.nfff.org/cgi-bin/board/YaBB.cgi>

Games Bureau

George Phillies

Yes, there are still games. And I am launching a new zine to cover them. GAME! will be distributed by Game Table Online www.gametableonline.com early in the new year, with articles about all parts of the gaming hobby. It will be distributed electronically, with a subscription rate someplace in the range of \$1 per month for a .pdf file delivered straight to your computer.

Your BuHead and Directorate member George has been working on discount deals for N3F members. Yes, these will be honest to goodness benefits you get just by becoming a member. At this point I have 3, with an approval being worked on for a fourth.

The three are:

Clarkesworld Books <http://www.clarkesworld.com/books>
PO Box 172, Stirling, NJ 07980 books@clarkesworld.com
1-908-626-1531 (voicemail/fax)

Identify yourself as a N3F member and you will qualify for an additional 10% off already discounted paperback and hardcover books. (Signed limited editions excluded.)

N3f Members who place an online order with **Books from the Crypt** through either <http://www.booksfromthecrypt.com> or <http://www.tomfolio.com>, and who put "N3F" in the 'company' (i.e. business name) field, will receive a 15% discount.

John Betancourt (wildsidepress@yahoo.com) writes: I've set up a coupon for N3F members at the **www.wildsidepress.com** web site -- the coupon code is "N3F" (no quote marks -- just the 3 characters N3F) and it will give N3F members a 15% discount when they purchase 2 or more books. (Not valid on ebooks or movies.)

REVIEWS

Jon D. Swartz, Reviews Editor

Books

Maps: The Uncollected John Sladek edited by David Langford (Big Engine, Abingdon, UK, 2002, Collection).

Some of the pieces included in this posthumous collection were from fanzines, and other items appeared here for the first time. Gathered together were all of the author's previously uncollected solo stories, his detective puzzles, "non-fact" pieces, poems, playlets, and pseudonymous fiction, for a total of 43 such items. Also included were his 11 short collaborations with Thomas M. Disch, and five autobiographical essays. Sladek's witty, idiosyncratic fiction has been compared to the early writings of Kurt Vonnegut, but Sladek's work is unlike Vonnegut in its tendency toward the surreal. Noteworthy selections in this collection included an article on his early reading habits, "Publish and Perish" (of special relevance to ex-college professors, like myself), "The Future of John Sladek," "Love Among the Zoids" [originally published in Drumm Booklet #15], "The Lost Nose" [originally "published" in a handmade edition of one as a Christmas present for his wife-to-be Pamela], most of his short fiction collaborations with Disch, and some autobiographical essays that are of special reference interest.

Retro Review

Tik-Tok by John Sladek (Gollancz, London, 1983, Novel).

Dedicated to "decent law-abiding robots everywhere," this book was a black comedy about a robot that "blows his asimov circuits" and goes on a murderous rampage. The eponymous hero of the story began his career as a domestic robot, but through a series of assassinations, robberies, and other illegal activities ended up running for the vice-presidency of the United States. Along the way Sladek has fun with most aspects of American culture: religion, business practices, television, the art world, literature, medicine and health care, the law, and politics. Arrested just before the election for the murder of a chess opponent in Nixon Park, Tik-Tok wrote his autobiography, *Me, Robot*. This confessional book was so well-received by the public that Tik-Tok's attorney was certain he would be released from jail in time to be installed as the next Vice President. The book ended with Tik-Tok planning to wipe out all humanity, take over the world's robots, and head to the stars! *Tik-Tok* won the BSFA Award for best novel in 1983.

Mundane Review

Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper Case Closed by Patricia Cornwell (Putnam, 2002, Non-fiction)

Some reviewers liked this book very much, and some hated it. Several thought Cornwell was presumptuous to say she had solved the riddle of Jack the Ripper after so many others

had failed. Cornwell concluded the Ripper crimes were the work of a single psychopath, artist Walter Sickert, and named him early in her book. Reportedly, she spent millions of dollars on the research that led to this conclusion. Others knowledgeable of the Ripper crimes preferred older works such as *Jack the Ripper: The Final Solution* by Stephen Knight, originally published in 1976. Knight mentioned the role of Sickert, who apparently knew every principal involved in the murders, and felt he was deeply involved in the murders. But Knight concluded that the Ripper crimes were a conspiracy involving Sickert, the Royal family, and the Freemasons, and a direct result of political conditions in England at the time. Artist Joseph Sickert, Walter Sickert's illegitimate son (and the illegitimate grandson of Prince Albert Victor Edward, i.e., "Prince Eddy"), played a prominent role in Knight's book, while Cornwell states flatly that Walter Sickert was physically unable to father a child! Whatever the truth, Cornwell's writing style is entertaining and her book is a must read for those interested in this compelling mystery.

Other Book Reviews

Zero Hour by Benjamin E. Miller (Onyx, 2003, Paperback, Novel)

Zero Hour manages to bring two places of mythic heights into the plane of reality for the reader -- Antarctica and MIT. Each place has lofty ranges that can be scaled by only a select few. The rest of us have to be content to enter into their realms through the eyes, experiences and imaginations of other more fortunate souls.

This is a novel that, once picked up, was very difficult for me to put down. It has a speculative theme that is intriguing -- the formation of a hypercane. It is said that the model for this type of superhurricane exists within the confines of a computer model in residence at MIT's computer labs.

The origin of a hypercane would be in waters that exceed a temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit for a circumference of at least thirty miles. One such method for achieving this was thought to have been a hurtling asteroid that steamed the waters around it. It is theorized that the resulting storm was one that had supersonic winds of 760 mph or so that hurtled debris into the upper atmosphere. These particles blocked the sun's warming rays and caused nuclear winter to put an end to the reign of the dinosaur.

Zero Hour gets into how man might engineer such a happening without help from the skies. The agent could be underground water heated by volcanic action. If this geothermal power station somehow got out of control and managed to heat waters insulated by ice, the elements would be in place for a monster hurricane to spawn. This event would scour the earth in its path, but even more sinister would be its ability to pump debris into the upper reaches of the atmosphere and plunge us into the darkness, cold and hunger of a nuclear winter.

The central characters in Zero Hour have to find a way to stop the storm before the storm stops the world. Herculean adventures and challenges galore await our intrepid heroes as they work to cool the waters. They delve into history to bring Project Plowshare into the forefront of their efforts as power of great magnitude must be found to stop the winds.

If disaster novels are something that add spice to your reading, then Zero Hour is a book for you. It has action, adventure, speculation and a pinch of romance for good measure. Delightful reading! Reviewed by Sally A. Syrjala.

Movie Review

Imposter starring Gary Sinise (Spencer Olham), Madeleine Stowe (Maya Olham), Tony Shaloub (Nelson), and Vincent D'Onofrio (Maj. Hathaway). Directed by Garyu Fleder. Dimension Films/release date: 12/25/2001. PG-13. Available on VHS and DVD.

Spencer Olham is a weapons scientist who wanted to be an astronaut until the alien Centauri killed his father in the Centauri-Earth war, which has been raging for years as the film opens. In 2079, humans protect themselves from alien air attacks by living under electromagnetic domes.

Spencer and his wife Maya go on a camping trip to Sutton Wood. When he reports back to work, Soencer's friend Nelson asks if he'd heard about the fire in that area. Spencer shows ignorance of the event, but in a casual manner that doesn't betoken suspicion.

On the way to his office, Spencer is detained and drugged by Maj. Hathaway of the ESA (the military organization protecting the Earth from the Centauri). Coded Centauri messages partially decrypted by humans suggest that a replicant, a genetic double, of Spencer while he and Maya camped at Sutton Wood, and that Spencer the human is gone. Maj. Hathaway claims that the messages also mention the replicant being fitted with a bomb, in anticipation of Soencer's planned meeting with the Earth Chancellor at a reception.

Spencer at least thinks he knows who he is, and escapes the ESA's grip to go on the run in classic I-was-framed style. He searches for a way to clear himself, and recalls a full genetic scan in his medical records that would be proof, if used as a comparison to a current scan, that he wasn't an alien. The rest of the film's action concerns his efforts to recover the data spool containing the scan record.

The double-twist finale leaves one with more questions than answers, which in this case is a good thing. Director Gary Fleder and his team take full advantage of current technology in special effects and set designs, but never go overboard. Everything looks at least familiar, but slightly not-right due to the overall dark tones used for lighting the sets. Light and shadow are used to enrich both characterization and setting to good effect.

Imposter feels as densely detailed as Ridley Scott's "Blade Runner," and perhaps more true to its source material (the short story of the same name) by Philip K. Dick. PKD seems to have turned into a Hollywood darling – his fiction has inspired close to half a dozen movies so far (*Screamers*, *Blade Runner*, *Total Recall*, *Imposter*, *Minority Report*), with more stories rumored to be optioned by screen rights. One wonders how all this interest in drug-induced paranoia got started in Hollywood – then again, perhaps it's always been there. Certainly some directors have sought PKD's work as a proven font of intense story values which can be made into intense – and popular – film adaptations.

The overall sense of illusion, of reality playing tricks on a person, that is a hallmark of Dick's fiction is also present in this film. It's reassuring to see contemporary filmmakers paying at least a little more attention to their source material. Worth a look. Reviewed by Janine Stinson.

Fanzine Reviews

Ansible is a monthly, one-page newszine (both sides) containing information on what has happened in the world of SF and SF fandom over the last month. Both the zine and its editor/publisher, Dave Langford, have won numerous awards, including many Hugos for best fanzine and best amateur writer. Content of the fanzine is erratic, but good-humored, and invaluable for its births, deaths, publications, convention information, and lawsuits, especially in the UK. A recent issue (#196/November 2003) contained news items organized under the following headings: Whirligig World (SF personalities in the news), Constative (information on cons and other meetings), and Infinitely Improbable (awards, obits, quotes, LoCs, CoAs, etc.). Ansible is available from Langford (94 London Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AU. ISSN 0265-9816), on the Internet (Website: <http://www.ansible.co.uk>), and from Langford's agent in the U. S. (Janice Murray, Box 75684, Seattle, WA 98125-0684).

The Burroughs Newsbeat, an Edgar Rice Burroughs fanzine originally published by Kevin Hancer for 47 issues during the 1970s, was revived last year as a quarterly by James Van Hise (57754 Onaga Trail, Yucca Valley, CA 92284). A recent issue (#51) contained Van Hise's story "A Martian Tale" and a reprinted article by Burroughs, "Entertainment is Fiction's Purpose," as well as several pencil-and-ink illustrations of Tarzan.

Astonishing Trapdoor Stories (May 2003), is an all-fiction issue of Trap Door, an award-winning fanzine edited and published by Robert Lichtman. Number 22 in the series, this issue featured a wonderful fanfiction story ("Sense of Wonder") by Gordon Eklund and a "Gernsback-Style Classic Reprint" by Charles Burbee ("Invasion 1949" from the Winter 1946 issue of *The Acolyte*, edited at that time by F. Towner Laney). The artwork (by Dan Steffan) in this issue was wonderful. Lichtman's editorial paid homage to famous SF fans Harry Warner, Jr. and John Foyster, both of whom died earlier this year. Lichtman's address is P. O. Box 30, Glen Ellen, CA 95442.

Re: Reviewers & Reviewed

The Reviewed: UK author **John Thomas Sladek** worked in engineering and as a technical writer and draughtsman before becoming a free-lance author and editor in 1968. From 1966 until the mid-1980s he lived in the UK, and was a part of the "New Wave" movement there. First publication: "The Poets of Millgrove, Iowa" in *New Worlds* (November, 1966); First SF novel: *The Reproductive System* (Gollancz, 1968) [published as *Mechasm* in the United States (Ace, 1969)]; First SF collection: *The Steam-Driven Boy and Other Strangers* (Panther, 1973). Awards in SF genre: BSFA (Novel) for *Tik-Tok*, 1984; other awards. His most popular works are *The Muller-Fokker Effect* (1970), *Roderick* (1980), and *Roderick at Random* (1983). *The Best of John Sladek*, collecting many of his wittiest stories, was published in 1981. Sladek's witty, idiosyncratic fiction has been compared to the early writings of Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. **Benjamin E. Miller** - First-time author Miller is an environmental engineer whose writing shows a grasp of multiple fields. The fanzine editors -- **Dave Langford**, **James Van Hise**, and **Robert Lichtman** -- all have been involved in fandom for years. Langford, who also edited the Sladek volume reviewed here, has won many awards for his fan writing. Van Hise has written/edited many books in the SF and comics genres, including

The Fantastic Worlds of Robert E. Howard (2001). Lichtman, a former N3F member, is known in fandom for his extensive collection of fanzines; in addition to *Trap Door*, he has edited/published several other popular fanzines.

The Reviewers: **Janine G. Stinson** credits the N3F for her discovery of fandom in 1996. Once on the Internet, however, she says she “went nuts”. She now edits and publishes her own genzine, *Peregrine Nations*, which will see its ninth issue published in April 2003. Stinson edited *Tightbeam* from 1997 to 2001; and shepherded the combination of *Tightbeam* and *TNFF* into our current one publication, *The National Fantasy Fan*, in 2001. **Sally A. Syrjala** has been a member of N3F since the 1970s. She has chaired the Board of Directors, served as the National Secretary, edited *Tightbeam*, and currently serves on several N3F committees and bureaus. Both Janine and Sally are former winners of the Kaymar Award. The Reviews Editor is responsible for everything not attributed to others.

Artist Spotlight

Ruth Davidson

[Due to time constraints and mailing issues the sample art from the Artist’s Spotlight was not included in the last issue. Here it is. –Ed.]

Continued from page 21 March/June/September 2003 issue.

Ruth: Tell me about the sample art work you provided—what was the inspiration, symbolism, or ideas behind it?

Sarah Glasgow: I found this great pose in a magazine and I thought I would use it to create the fairy. I wanted the focus to be the face and so I added shading and detail to the face, leaving the body and wings plain lines. Although, I may take this piece and add color to the wings, body, and background, leaving the face black and white. I’m still playing around with ideas.



Tightbeam Letters of Comment

[Letters of Comment are your opportunity to share your opinions, ideas, and information with the club through the club publication. Take a few moments to reply to letters of comment you see here or simply write to the membership here. It is always better to have too many, than not enough LoCs. This is your publication. It is what you make of it. -Ed.]

Ruth Davidson

We live in an era of technological advancements, where we can not only dream about science fiction, but where science fiction has the very real possibility of being science fact. Space travel would be one that I would like to see, as well as being able to grow individual organs so we wouldn't have to rely on people dying or a kind soul. What got me thinking about such things was an article I read.

I was at Barnes & Noble waiting in line when I saw on the stand near the register; "NEWSWEEK: **Girl or Boy?** Now You Can Choose. But Should You? *The New Science of Sex Selection.*" I, of course, immediately picked it up and bought it. I read the article and it was rather interesting. This science started out as ways for families with genetic diseases to have healthy families. Now, though, people are using this technology to choose whether or not to have a boy or girl.

The medical community is split on this. Some say people have the right to choose while others say that gender isn't a disease. I happen to agree with the latter. Since when was gender a disease? One doctor in the article said, "Gattaca was a great movie but that's not what I am doing here." Talk about dark humor.

Right now this technology is expensive and complicated. Our technological advancements are increasing at a phenomenal rate. Therefore, eventually this procedure will become simple and affordable. When this happens, the human race will discover that preferring one gender over the other isn't the smartest thing in the world. There's a reason why nature doesn't let us choose. To do would create a gender imbalance world wide. Here's some more twisted humor for you. The buzz term for this is "family balance." Excuse me while I roll my eyes.

So, what are your thoughts on this fellow neffers? This raises moral, ethical and, for some, religious questions.

Harold Marcum

I thought that I would try something new, for me at least and try to address some general issues that impact my life. This is my first time at tryingthis, so be gentle.

Sherry is my beloved wife's name and we've been together through twenty years of interesting times. I like to wear my hair in a pony tail and before I got married I

always wore a full beard, and usually had a bandanna tied around my forehead. Think biker or mountain man and you'll have a pretty good idea of my appearance. Her parents immediately raised a stink that their daughter couldn't go out with a hippie. People in this part of the country take this kind of stuff literally so we had to skate around the relationship till we convinced them that I was the one. :-) I'm 46 now but I'm still a kid in at heart, I drink, get a rush off adrenaline, drive fast, and love loud rock music. What does this have with the N3F, not much I just thought y'all might like a tour through my psyche and see what makes me tick.

It's been a slow year but, I'm very pleased with The National Fantasy Fan. All we need now is more content. Surely some of you could bring yourself to write an article of some kind or a simple LOC. Maybe the writers among you could give out some ideas or sample chapters. I plan on seeing if Janine or whoever comes after her might be interested in publishing Game Modules made by yours truly. I've also started out a series of short stories based on my modules that I might bring together into a novel. I'm already in touch with people in the right places to get published and they're very supportive. I'll probably get enough pink slips to paper a room, but what the hell it's not about the end product, it's about the effort and what you learn along the way. We have a great bunch of members and I wish they wouldn't be so shy, send in LOC's and let us know anything that you wish to share. At the very least we'll read and maybe even write you a reply that is helpful or critical, depending on our point of view. The important thing is contact. I'm aiming this at everyone who joined this club to interact with other fans of scifi and fantasy. Your ideas and opinions won't be know if you don't make an effort. A few years back we really had a flame war with people being upset over so much space being given to Star Trek in TB and guess what there is hardly ever anything printed on that subject since then. Remember that there's only three basic stages of life; you're born, you live, and you die. Everything else is what you make of it. Take Care.

Laura Hazelwood

I went to see the last installment of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy directed by Peter Jackson. *The Return of the King* was a triumph of movie making in the fantasy genre. Not since first *Star Wars* trilogy have I been so excited about the movies.

But this LoC isn't about LotR. Undoubtedly, there are and will be many reviews of those movies in weeks and months to come. Rather, I wanted to share with you an observation that I made while considering Tolkien and the LotR movies.

When I first read the LotR books I was probably thirteen or fourteen years old. I won't tell you how long ago that has been. Let it suffice to say that such movies as we have seen released in the last three years would have been impossible to produce. But when I first read these books I remember commenting that I would love to see them made into a movie. The rich detail of the characters, the plot, and the scene, I knew even then, would make a grand romp. I won't even talk about how sad the animation version was.

Books have been movie fodder for decades with varying degrees of success. In some cases, the movies have been better than the books. One case of that can be seen with *Gone with the Wind*. While neither book nor movie is historically accurate, the movie is far more entertaining and easy to sit through than the book. One of my favorite movie adaptations is *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The book, by Harper Lee is a wonder read. The movie adaptation miraculously captures all the awe and childhood wonders of the book, carefully leaving in tact the important social

statement.

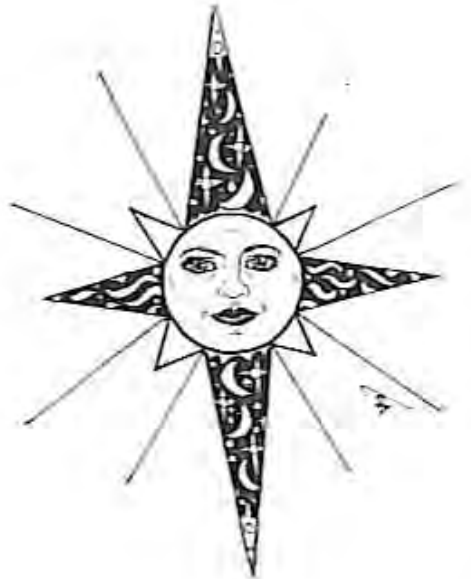
Science fiction and fantasy has likewise taken stories from between the covers to the big screen. One famous attempt that comes to mind is *Blade Runner*. *Blade Runner* is the movie adaptation of *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*, by Phillip K. Dick. The movie was a wonderful film with dark overtones and sympathetic characters. Those of you have read Dick's work know that it is at times a complicated reading. The movie was not so well received when it first came out, but now has entered something of a cult status. Personally, I found the movie easier to follow than the book.

One book that has been the subject of not one, but two adaptations is *Dune*, by Frank Herbert. The first book in the *Dune* series is very rich and filled with intrigue, vengeance, and romance. However, the first movie adaptation of the book, produced by Dino De Laurentiis and directed by David Lynch was a poor adaptation. Standing on it's own the movie is not really a bad flick but you were disappointed when you watched the movie hoping for the same eye to detail that was in the book

About four years ago, the SciFi Channel presented a new production of *Dune*. The television movie event aired over the course of several nights, and was finally released on VHS. This movie was adapted and directed by John Harrison. It was a triumph compared to the first attempt to adapt the Herbert book, but was still a far cry from being what any fan of *Dune* would consider fully satisfactory.

Taking books to the screen is both inherently dangerous and dire necessity for the genre. In a world where we get our mail instantly, our food microwaved in seconds, and our phone calls in our car, bringing new people into the light of Fantasy and Science Fiction can be no easy matter. The danger is in losing sight of the flavor, feelings, and symbolism inherent in a classic written work of art. The dire need is in bringing a world that is becoming technologically savvy and very jaded to see works of imagination that lift the spirit out of often dark reality into fantasy filled with hope, faith, and imagination. If you can't get people to take time out from their busy lives to read a book, than perhaps spurring them on to see a movie or a television show is the answer to keep our genre alive, healthy, and growing.

Books I'd like to see made into movies: *On a Pale Horse*, Piers Anthony; *The Wizard of Earthsea*, by Ursula K. LeGuin; *Number of the Beast*, Robert Heinlein; *Callahan's Crosstime Saloon*, Spider Robinson . What would you like to see, and why?



Helen Davis

Holiday Greetings to everyone! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! This card and letter will most likely arrive after the first day of Christmas, but quite hopefully before the twelfth. Which means you can put it right alongside your Twelve Drummers Drumming, Eleven Pipers Piping, Ten Lords A'leaping, Nine Ladies Dancing, Eight Maids A'milking, Seven Swans A'swimming, Six Geese A'laying, Five Golden Rings, Four Calling Birds, Three French Hens, Two Turtle Doves, and A Partridge in a Pear Tree!

So what's happened to us this year. Nothing extravagant, much significant. Janette and Elizabeth moved from Elementary School to Middle School. Now they are coping with classes which are held in different rooms, six teachers a day, and NO WALLS! Their school is one built on the open school concept – one huge room with areas for the different classes. It has been modified now, so that there are partitions and stacks of lockers acting as walls, but it is still pretty chaotic. But they are coping and, from the questions and comments they are bringing home, learning some interesting stuff. Both are working on writing stories, though Janette is pursuing it with a real passion.

Both of the girls are in Tae Kwon Do, and have earned their orange belts. Both are in band, playing the clarinet. In addition, Janette is learning that her newest doctor is best referred to as an *Evil* orthodontist. He laughs at that, and tells her that she is doing a good job with her teeth. Elizabeth is slated to learn such things next year.

Steve spent the summer working on a major project at work. And the fall. It was finally put to bed the first of December. I look forward to seeing more of him next year.

And me, well, I've been holding the fort, working on my writing, and creating with my crafts. I started substitute teaching this year, at the high school, and so far the students haven't chased me off. Give 'em time.....

Have a Merry Christmas and a Cheerful New Year!



Sarah Glasgow

<Spoiler Alert! If you haven't yet seen the Return of the King don't continue reading - unless you don't care about spoilers!> So now that we've seen the Return of the King what do you think? I personally loved this film! To me it is right up there with original Star Wars. That is really saying something since nothing compares to Star Wars! One of my sisters said "reeeeaaally?" when I told her. Yep, this movie really does it for me. The differences to the book are forgivable (except for Denethor's death. The change was not at all necessary. It would have taken just as much screen time to do it right). Most of the scenes not in the movie will be added to the extended DVD which I am looking forward to. Now the only thing that really bugs me is that Mr. Jackson didn't shoot the retaking of the Shire! I loved that part of the book - it was so fun! I was really hoping it would be on the DVD, but alas! Jackson said he didn't film it because he never really cared for that part of the book. I think he should have filmed it anyway knowing that there were probably fans out there who did like it. Well, the good thing is I can always go back to the book to re-read it! For those of you who've read the books - what did you think about the retaking of the Shire? Did you enjoy it, think it was unnecessary, was glad to learn of Saruman's fate?

One of my sisters originally didn't care for Liv Tyler in the part of Arwen. She said Arwen was the most beautiful of elves and she didn't think Liv fit the bill (I can hear you guys now murmuring in protest!). I think she is quite lovely as Arwen, and I told my sister that since we all have different ideas about beauty it would be hard to pick an actress who is the most beautiful. Besides, elves probably have a different standard of beauty than humans so that in itself should make it plausible that Liv be Arwen. I think she has a great elvish look to her. Actually, I think these films are among the few with perfect casting.

What do you think of the soundtrack(s)? I bought the soundtrack to the first movie, but after the Return of the King came out I gave it to my sister and bought the boxed set. You can purchase the music in various packaging/special edition options. I chose the boxed set with all three soundtracks and includes all of the picture cards for the three movies. I love to listen to music while painting and this is just the right kind of music to have on! :) This is one soundtrack that sounds great on its own. Some soundtracks sound great with the movie but when you listen to it by itself it's not all that great.

Time to switch gears here. Has anyone seen the Clones Wars mini cartoons on Cartoon Network? I have yet to see them, but I'm hoping they become available on DVD. I saw there are action figures now from the cartoon. I love the art for the cartoon, but am not sure how well I like the action figures. Maybe they'll grow on me. It's just a little strange - I did like the one of Yoda though. It looks pretty cool and he's in an action stance with light saber in hand.

Oh, and have any of you seen the Star Wars Unleashed figures? They are killer! I have the Obi-Wan from Attack of the Clones and Luke Skywalker from Return of the Jedi. Basically they are figures, bigger than action figures but sold in the action figure aisle, that are frozen in an action scene. For example, the Obi Wan is holding up his sword and he's standing on a rocky platform. His cape is blowing in the wind along with his hair and he's got an intense look on his face. It's like a scene out of a movie stopped in time. There are various figures. You can look them up on the Hasbro website.

I am looking forward to the Harry Potter movie due out in June. I was surprised it wasn't

going to be out in December of last year, but June is really not that far off.

Well, on the weekend of the 16th of January, my friend and I drove down to LA and went to the Medieval Times Restaurant and Tournament in Buena Park. If you haven't ever been I'd recommend you take a trip if possible! I have wanted to go to a Medieval Times ever since I was a kid living in Florida. I've always been a Medieval History kind of girl so when I saw the building that looked like a castle I knew I had to go! Well, nearly 18 years later I finally made it. I decided that for my birthday that was what I wanted to do (I turned 30 believe it or not - some of you remember me back when I was 22) instead of moping around about my age (by the way, I haven't moped a bit. It's amazing what a few good looking knights can do for a girls spirits!). The building was gorgeous! There were paintings and suits of armor everywhere. We had dinner, no utensils of course so we ate with our hands. We rooted for the black and white knight who, incidentally, threw me a carnation along with some other damsels. There was a story line too, simple, but fun. This tournament was better than any I'd seen at the Renaissance Faires. The jousting, the well choreographed fighting, the beautiful horses, the King, the announcer, the Princess - everything was absolutely terrific. The announcer certainly had fun playing off the audience. At the end of the show the remaining knight (the others were wounded) held aloft our colors and bore it round the arena. Everyone cheered because the colors were those of the American Flag. It was a great ending to a wonderful show.



Submission Guidelines

Publishing Schedule: The zine publishes four times a year (quarterly) in March, June, September, and December.

Deadlines: The 15th 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. 15. If it doesn't get here in time, it goes in the next issue. Watch for updates to this information.

What We Publish: The zine is still the official clubzine for N3F, so it includes all the stuff that it has always published. Added to that will be the letter column from *Tightbeam* and whatever else members submit: reviews (book, movie, TV show, game, etc.), conreps, genre poetry, and other fannish texts. Art is always needed; if it can be sent by disk or email please contact the editor for the appropriate format. *Please send only copies of your work, whether it is art or text.*

Formats We Will Accept: Paper copies are always welcome. Before you send disk or email files please contact the editor for that ish concerning the format which he/she can accept. Unexpected for files can be eaten by virus checkers.

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 an LoC and the editor can do a bit of editing to turn it into an article. More than one article started out that way. Bureau reports, articles, LoCs, conreps, poetry, art, are welcome and needed.

Art and Reviews: The formation of the Zine Bureau helps to spread the work about. Hopefully creating a more timely publication of *The Fan*. In order to facilitate this Art should be sent to the Art Editor, Sarah Glasgow 424 Dayton Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95051 yseult_sg@yahoo.com. Reviews should be sent to the Review Editor, Jon Swartz, 1704 Street, Georgetown, TX 78626.

Editor's Note:

*The editor would like to extend special thanks to Janine Stinson who has taken the position of advisor on the editorial staff for *The Fan*. Janine has been an invaluable member to N3F and a much prized past editor of the official organ of the club.*

The editor would also like to thank those members who came through with material to complete this publication. I look forward to seeing more and more participation on the part of club members through the zine and it's many other activities.

This was my first attempt at editing the club zine. Hopefully, in months to come I will become better at this and will be able to provide you with a slicker work. Please keep those submissions coming.

National Fantasy Fan (N3F) Membership Application

New Member Reinstatement Joint Membership Gift Membership

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Phone _____ Email _____

Occupation _____ Male _____ Female _____ Birthdate _____

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Please check your current SF/F related interests.

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 Collecting Editing Fanzines Filksinging Games
 Movies T.V. Publishing Reading Reviewing
 RoundRobins (group letters) Taping Teaching Science Fiction
 DVD/Video Writing Online Activites

Number of Years Interested in SF/F _____ SF/F Conventions attended _____

Read Prozines and Fanzines? Which ones? _____

SF/Fantasy Type Preferences _____

Favorite SF and/or Fantasy Authors _____

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 activities and benefits. Make checks or money orders payable to **William Center** (the treasurer). **All payments must be made in U.S. funds.** Mail dues and application to club secretary **Dennis Davis, 25549 Byron St., San Bernadino, CA 92404-6403.** *Please allow 8 weeks for your first zine to arrive.*

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