

The e-National Fantasy Fan

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😊 *President's Message* 😊

By Ruth R. Davidson

Greetings fellow neffers! I hope all is well with everyone.

If you haven't noticed already, Elizabeth Caldwell is our new Short Story Contest bureau head. Near the back of this issue are the contest rules and entry blank.

Now, I have a question for you all.

Would you like to see more nifty things in *the Fan*? I know I sure would! Well, the best way to do this is to send in submissions. (Hey now, I see that eye rolling. *wink*) You CAN send in Flash Fiction (original, under 1000 words), you CAN send in poetry, as well as art, LoCs, reviews, con reports and other fannish things. I would *love* to have enough material sent in so we can have *Tightbeam* as a separate publication again. I think that would be so awesome. Don't you? The catch is, we need oodles of material. But, the catch isn't a terrible one. It's FUN and NEAT to see your own submissions in the club publication. It's INTERESTING to read what other fans out there have to say. We are a unique club in that we're all about **contact**. We get a lot of bang for our buck that way. I find this amazing and exciting!

Bureau's are a great way to get involved! Talk to the bureau head of one that looks interesting to you. There are a few Bureau's that still need someone to head them. Blind Services, N'APA, and N3F Historian. If you're not sure what your responsibilities would be if you were to be the Bu Head for these, please write me and ask. I can tell you what has been done in the past, and there's always room for revision.

Do you have a Bureau idea? Tell me about it! We can talk, and see if it's something you would like to do. All of our Bureau's started out as ideas. There are a few other bureau's that aren't around anymore, I can tell you what those were to help feed your creative juices. Don't be afraid to ask. Asking doesn't make you obligated to do anything.

I hope to have my mailbox, or my email cluttered with inquiries! *big smile*

Blue Lights!

Tightbeam

Letters of Comment

Ruth R. Davidson

[In response to Laura "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."]

Really? I did not know that *Blade Runner* came from a book! Guess what I am going to be buying next time I'm at Barnes and Noble? *wink* There's actually a role playing game base on the movie (or book?). It was, weirdly enough, my first RPG, though it only lasted one session. The Game Master was less than stellar. A lot of gamers really liked the movie. I thought it was very well done. In my opinion it's best to watch it more than once because the first time around you miss a lot of subtle things. I also love the scoring.

[In response to Harold "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."]

I am of the mind that what's printed is what's being submitted. So, if you want to talk about Star Trek, go for it! If you don't want to talk about Star Trek, talk about something else! You can always get a different vein of conversation going.

[In response to Sarah "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)... "One of my sisters..." "...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?" "...Has anyone seen the Clones Wars mini cartoons on Cartoon Network?"]

I loved and hated RotK. I loved it because it was so well done, the actors did a fabulous job. I hated it because there were far too many unnecessary changes! Not only did Denethor's death make no sense but nor did the following: 1: The seeing stone was high up in the tower, I repeat, HIGH up in the tower, so how in hells bells did it get to be OUT of the tower and conveniently in the water for Pippin to find and pick up? 2: When King Theoden says, "Why should we go to Gondor's aid when they did not come for us?" What the flip!? He didn't ask for their aid so of course they didn't come! I hated how they made him seem bitter instead of noble like he was in the book. 3: The Paths of the Dead was NOT scary enough. It should have invoked the same sort of feeling that the Black Riders did in Fellowship. 4: Sam would NEVER have left Frodo's side, even if he had been told to (which he wasn't in the book). The actor played the part wonderfully, but the script was TOTALLY out of character. 5: They should have reminded the audience that Gollum "may yet have a part to play." Otherwise the ending of the quest to destroy the Ring feels a bit unsatisfactory.

I should mention that I loved Fellowship of the Ring. I thought it was as close to perfect as you are going to get. I understood that they had to make Arwen a more vital character. Otherwise the audience wouldn't understand why Aragorn

didn't go for Eowyn. The first half of Two Towers was perfect and wonderful. The second half made me want to shoot things. My biggest two biggest beefs with that movie are the elves at Helms Deep and the complete 180 on Faramir's character.

Oh, I should mention that when Sarah and I say, "One of my sisters" we're not always talking about the same one. She, Usagi and I are only 3 out of 5 girls. We also have 3 brothers.

I personally liked the retaking of the Shire. It shows how much they've all grown. It made sense that Saruman would try to reap his revenge on the Shire-folk. When I read the book at first I was like, what on earth is there left to tell? I read on, and was quite pleased.

Janine Stinson

At last, I can sit back, relax, and watch someone else rip their hair out while editing and laying out TNFF. <very large grin>

I owe much thanks to Susan Van Schuyver and Ruth Davidson, among others, for allowing me to continue editing the clubzine and make changes to its structure and publication schedule even though they knew I was /c/r/a/z/y/ ill with Meniere's disease. Looking back, I should have resigned sooner -- it might have kept the zine going out closer to its intended schedule. My apologies to the club as a whole for not realizing that earlier.

Laura Hazelwood did a fine job with the December ish under difficult circumstances. I'd like to remind all Neffers that we are but human, and do make mistakes, so please do not pillory the current editor with same, just politely offer suggestions. This ish should benefit from at least two sets of eyes having gone over the previous ish (===== eye tracks).

Despite my willingness to travel to Howard Devore's neck of Michigan for Confusion 2004, I wasn't able to attend (stupid Meniere's disease again, argh!). I'm sure Howard will keep me updated on future Michigan cons, and eventually we will meet. You are warned, sirrah.<grin>

For my two cents, I think Peter Jackson did a fine job with translating LOTR to film. The deluxe boxed set will be on my DVD shelf when it comes out so I can watch it until my eyes glaze over. Each of the movies had some faults, but they were minor compared to the overall achievement, and those who took home industry and genre awards for their efforts well deserved them. The technical advances alone made as a result of these movies' completion and release has moved the art of filmmaking further into the future. I'm all for that.

Seeing as how one of the Tor publicists keeps sending me books, I continue to review and peddle my maunderings to magazines like *Strange Horizons* (on the Web) and *The New York Review of Science Fiction*. Recent good reads include *the Kushiel trilogy* by Jacqueline Carey, the phenomenal *Lion's Blood* (and its sequel *Zulu Heart*) by Steven Barnes, and *Beyond the Hanging Wall* by Sarah Douglass.

Some years ago, a Neffer proposed a Horror bureau, and I was eager to get involved. I got one newsletter, I think, and then it disappeared. I see there's a Horror round robin on the waiting list, so I better write to Susan Van Schuyver soon!

Hope all reading this are well and prospering.

Taras Wolansky

A Few Words on Anime

I go to a lot of conventions. Not just science fiction conventions like Lunacon and Worldcon, but anime (Japanese animation) conventions like AnimeNext and Otakon. Actually, one activity led to the other: it was showings of great anime films at Worldcons that got me interested in the field.

At the time, with little or no anime officially available in the U.S., these were (sometimes crudely) fan-subtitled copies, of classics like Hayao Miyazaki's "Nausicaa" ("Warriors of the Wind"), and the stunning "Wings of Honneamise". Miyazaki, of course, is famous now, with "Princess Mononoke" garnering critical acclaim, and "Spirited Away", the Academy Award for best animated feature.

A great deal of anime is science fiction and fantasy. And as the audience became more familiar with this material, anime productions have become more and more sophisticated. For example, they will casually talk about space elevators ("beanstacks") without having to explain everything and convince the audience such a thing is possible.

A notable recent SF work is "Crest of the Stars", and its sequel, "Banner of the Stars". These concern romance, intrigue and warfare in interstellar space, with a sizeable dose of ethical ambiguity.

A notable fantasy is "The Twelve Kingdoms", about a girl transported to a sort of ancient China that never was.

A word of caution: Sturgeon's Law applies. Buy something merely because the cover looks interesting, and you will probably be disappointed.



Laura Hazelwood

A few years ago I had the good fortune to attend a Starbase 21 convention in Tulsa. In effect, it was a Star Trek convention. George Takei was the guest of honor. I must admit that I found him to be a pleasant, witty, and interesting lecturer. But he was more than that. After three hours of standing in a line to get his autograph to add to my collection, I finally reached the table where he was signing. After thanking him for his patience, he shook my hand with his sore writing hand and thanked me for mine.

This year, the ST convention in Tulsa will have Brent Spiner as its guest of honor, and I plan to make every effort in going. I've been a ST fan all my life, but it wasn't until recent years that conventions really become more than a dream in the midwest. So far, without having to travel further than 400 miles, I've managed to gather the autographs of Mark Leonard, Michael Dorn, Nichelle Nichols, and John de Lancie. Nichelle was also one of those celebrities who, while aware of her status, did not browbeat people with it. She had a question and answer period in which fans were able to ask her questions. I guess studying history at the time, spurred me to ask her what it was like for her to be filming the first broadcast interracial kiss in "Plato's Children" when outside the door the Civil Right's movement was in full swing. She complimented me on my question and told me it was the first time she'd ever been asked that. Then she first joked that it was difficult to be aware of much when you were kissing Bill Shatner. But in her calm demeanor she reflected on the impact that Martin Luther King, Jr. had on her. She talked about how she had at first balked at taking such a small role, as that of Uhura, but how she was encouraged to do so because it showed a person of color in a place of importance in the future. She's a wonderful, bright, witty person.

These days people sometimes joke about being a Trekkie. I think there are various degrees of Trekkie. At the few ST cons I've been to, I've seen people who have spent hundreds of dollars on costumes to arrive looking like authentic Borg or Klingons, or they've spent hours sewing together Federation uniforms from various periods. Not only that, but I've seen credit cards melt as if they had been blasted by phasers when collectibles are auctioned. I don't rate myself at that level of Trekkie. Poverty has a lot to do with that. But also because the things that I most enjoy about ST aren't learning how to speak Klingon, or buying a Star Trek Monopoly board. What I enjoy most is being in a room with the people who played the characters I admired growing up. Adding an autograph to my collection. Finding out, that my heroes are real people, too.

If you haven't thought about Trek in a while, dig out your VHS tapes and rewatch some old episodes. It doesn't compare to today's special effects but when you consider that many of the items found in that old show are now a part of real life and science. . . and when you consider that the message is timeless, well. . . just go have a look and see what I mean.

Sarah E. Glasgow

Ruth R. Davidson Did you ever read about the boy whose doctor accidentally cut his penis while performing a circumcision? It was so severe that after serious thought the parents and doctor decided to take the penis completely off and turn the baby boy into a "girl". They gave the boy a new girl's name, dressed "her" in girl clothes and gave her dolls. She grew up depressed, confused, and even tried to commit suicide. Finally the father told her what had happened to "her" as a child (she was in her teens and had, by the way, a male body save for the sex organs). HIS response? "That explains everything."

You can't change a person's gender without adverse effects. Trying to change a fertilized egg from one gender to another is just asking for trouble. How can person of good conscience try to change an embryo from what it naturally is? A person who would do such a thing to their child is SELFISH. They want one gender over another so they try to change it. Do they even stop to consider what is in the best interest of the child?

Harold Marcum WOW! Who knew? I love loud rock music too! 70's and 80's are my favorites. Do you like classic rock, metal, alternative? As a point of interest there are some underground metal bands with fantasy themed art on their album covers. My favorite one I've seen so far is of warrior elves on a Savatage CD.

Helen Davis How do your girls like Tae Kwon Do? The boy I take care of during the week is a green belt. It's fun to watch the kids practice. The studio we go to is StudioKicks owned by Larry Lam who was an original ninja turtle and an extra in Shanghai Noon. I've not met him, though I saw him once briefly on those rare occasions he comes in.

Laura Hazelwood I agree with your state that "taking books to the screen is both inherently dangerous and a dire necessity for the genre" of SF/F and that "if you can't get people to take time out from their busy lives to read a book, then perhaps spurring them on to see a movie or television show is the answer to keep genre alive, healthy and growing." This ins one reason I am glad that the Harry Potter books and movies are such a success. First of all, to get kids to actually want to read is a great thing in and of itself. To successfully depict the books on the big screen is a great feat (especially for fantasy, I think). I think it's helping to develop a new generation of fans. I've not read the books, but I know many people who have both before and after the movies.

I feel similarly about TLoTR – it's taking the genre to the masses leaving all the intrigue, awe, and mystery intact. But some people still just won't "get it" no matter what we do. And that's ok too. I have a roommate, my best friend, who just can't get into LoTR. She barely understands the premise. She did admit she's not been able to watch it without interruptions and I told her she really needs to watch it all the way through without distractions. (I'm talking just the first movie here!) She says she's willing if I'll watch it with her so I can explain things if necessary so that's cool. I think she'll find it

isn't as complicated as she's making it out to be.

EVERYONE I just got a fantastic book called *The Language Visible: Unraveling the Mystery of the Alphabet from A to Z* by David Sacks. This is the most interesting book I have come across in a very long time. It goes through each letter of the alphabet and shows its origins and how it has changed over time. Various other elements are also included. In fact, it is from this book that I learned that Mordor (as in the Lord of the Rings) is actually an Old English word meaning "murder". (JRR Tolkien is mentioned twice in the book.) This was the main selection in the Discovery Channel Book Club, which has the most interesting books I must say.

I was just going through my old club zines. It was fun to flip through them again. My sister Bernadette wanted to see what they looked like back in the day when there were two zines. They're in my bag now waiting for when I visit over Easter. Anyway, going through the zines was also great because I wrote down the names of the current and former members who've contributed art in the past ten years! Wow! I didn't realize there were so many. Now I have some people I can write contact regarding the Artist Showcase Zine. Maybe some of the former member artists will rejoin and participate! *smile*

Craig Boyd I forgot what a great artist you are and how you use humor in your cartoons. I enjoyed going through the old zines and reading them again — **they're classic**. I would love to see more art from you (hint hint, wink wink).

Everyone Has anyone kept up with Andromeda? I haven't seen it in ages. How's the show coming? I heard the scripts are getting better.

Helen Davis

Please excuse me while I go crazy here.

The last time we moved, I swore it would be the last ever. I was not, repeat not, ever going to go through that again. It was a stressful mess, selling one house and buying another, packing up and cleaning up with two toddlers in tow. I saw no reason to ever go through it again.

Except for a couple of facts. One is that the house we moved into actually had less floor space than the previous one, and two, toddlers become teenagers. I am in desperate need of a room of my own, as Virginia Woolf would say. I am also in need of a lock on the door to that room, and that room set within another room with a lockable door, and my friend Cat says to not forget the soundproofing.

So we are moving. Where, people ask? To Something Bigger.

I have been striving since before Christmas to get this place cleared out and cleaned up. We had house guests for Christmas, so I rented a storage locker and moved things into it. That cleared out enough space to fit the extra people in. Then I arranged to have painting done and new carpeting put in, and that meant packing up even more stuff, lots more stuff, so that the furniture could be easily moved.

Once the storage locker was pretty well filled, I rented a PODS and hired a couple of guys to move the excess furniture into it.

What's left is cleaning and handymaning. Unfortunately, part of the area which needs cleanings is the rooms of the two almost teenagers, and well....Have I told you that I have asthma, which is made worse by house dust? I do not look forward to tackling those two areas. I think the EPA should send in Biohazard Clean-up crews to deal with those areas.....

As for buying a new house. We have looked at several. The one more or less favorite is over-priced for its condition. This is brought out by the fact that it has been seven months on the market, yet in all that time the price has not yet dropped. The realtor assures us that there will be many more houses to choose from at the end of the month. She also assures us that our house will be a quick sell -- if priced right. We'll see.....

Comments on Gender selection:

The worst danger with this, I see, is to make people less satisfied with what comes naturally. First it comes possible to make a choice, then it becomes desirable to make a choice. Next it comes socially responsible to make a choice, and then the choice itself becomes an issue of social responsibility, so that one choice is considered good and another considered bad. Family planning is an illustration of this. Now while I do not condemn contraception or the limiting of family size by personal choice, (I don't deal with pregnancy very well and two kids is enough for me, thank you) I do think it is obnoxious for people other than the parents to blame the parents for not using contraception. (Or, more often, a method that worked....) And yet, it happens all the time.

Postpartum and stressed out with handling two babies, strangers would ask me, "Did you use fertility drugs?" The tone of their voice made it clear that they wanted to prove that my problems were the result of my own inappropriate choice -- rather than just lending a hand.

(The answer to that question is, Act of God. Or maybe the water in the street where I was living. Four sets of natural twins in ten years on one four block street is a bit much.....)

Taking Books to the Screen:

I am currently reading a book by Clive Barker to the girls. It's called *Abarat*, and is supposed to be a children's story. Apparently because the heroine is a fifteen year old girl. It's a very sophisticated fantasy, and the imagery is wonderful. Last night I stopped reading and asked, "Am I the only one here who thinks this would make a great movie?" And my daughters said no, they thought it would be a terrific movie.

Diana Wynne Jones was supposed to have some of her books made into movies -- though as Mike Resnick says, the business in Hollywood is Not Making Movies. I don't think they would translate as well. Her power is not so

much in imagery, but in characterization and internal dialogue. And her plots are rather more complicated than can be presented in a two-hour block. In fact, these books which require a second, third, and fourth reading to catch all the implications. Greetings to the rest of you!

Richard Brooks

First my thanks to Ruthie for the march/ June / September 2003 issue of TNFF. And for my N3F membership card. I found it amusing to find the card numbered "007." But I doubt that will inspire me to buy a trusty Baretta and go to conventions looking for New Wavers and Cutting Edgers. It is a tempting thought, though.

Really haven't done much lately. The arthritis started in my knees back in 1964 a ways before Christmas. Now I have trouble going up and down stairs and getting up from chairs. I will be 63 in about 12 days.

Been up above freezing for about two weeks. We have 20 clusters of snowdrops scattered around the front and side yards. Crocuses are coming up around the front yard. And the green grass is coming up. I always miss all the green in the wintertime.

But we lost Spotty about Memorial Day. I'd been going around calling him. I was headed up the old lane near the barn foundations. Under a tree, I saw a deer nest. For you city slickers, deer will beat down a small, almost circular, patch in the tall grass to sleep in during the day. these patches are rarely visible from very far away.

I glanced in this one and saw something brownish and flat that I couldn't identify. So I walked in and picked it up. It was Spotty. He looked so much smaller than he did when alive. And he was flattened out. It was a hellish shock. My sister Betty thinks he must have been going deaf. He'd apparently took a nap in the deer nest. And a deer laid on him. He would have been 14 in August. There were six in that litter. Now we are down to three. Marshmallow is currently by my chair yowling to be fed.

I have become a Net addict and am in nearly 50 Yahoo discussion groups, mostly sf. Keeps me busy. I've been on Social Security Disability for about 12 years now.

A new author I really like is Tamora Pierce. She writes young adult fantasy, some of the best I've read in years.

Ruth: A lot more boy than girl babies might lead to polyandry. Think of a wife with half a dozen husbands. The alternative would be a lot of men without wives. Neither alternative strikes me as healthy.

Harold: Good luck on your writing. So far, I've had about 35 stories published. And gotten a total of \$31 for them.

Laura: I was in the Air Force back in 1962. Stationed at Dow AFB in Bangor, Maine. Now Bangor International Airport. The Bangor library featured closed stacks. At that time, I subbed to lots of fanzines. Listed all the books various fans recommended and looked them up in the card catalogue. One Thursday morning (I worked second shift), I checked out the three volume Lord of the Rings. I finished the third volume's story about 6 am Saturday morning.

I Palantir, a Tolkien fanzine, speculated about a possible movie. Picture Richard Burton as Aragorn, Eddie Fisher as Legolas, Marilyn Monroe as Arwen, the four Beatles as the four Hobbits, The Rolling Stones and another group as the nine Nazguls, and I don't remember the rest.

Benchley's The Off-Islanders became The Russians Are Coming. The movie didn't follow the book very well, yet both were effective comedy. Personally, I'd Like to see Doc Smith's Lensmen books made into movies. They're the best sf I've read.

Helen: I never was in a school without walls. Don't care for the idea.

Sarah: You can't spoil the movie for me. I knew for over 40 years how it would come out.

I think Lord of the Rings was the best fantasy I ever read. I thought the Ents could have been handled better. Basically, there is one story, three volumes, and six books. I felt that there should have been 6 movies.

Gee, only thirty? As my baby sister says, "Rugrat!" I was 30 back in "71.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Interviewer: Sarah E. Glasgow

Interviewee: Bernadette "Usagi" Glasgow

Q: Where are you from?

A: I was born in Florida and raised in California.

Q: Tell me about yourself and family.

A: I'm the 7th child of 8. All my family enjoys sci fi and fantasy. I love creating things, art, writing, music, things that expressed one's self.

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

A: Hmm. . . well, since forever, it just seemed natural. All my brothers and sisters liked it, so I never thought, "Do like it or not" I just did. Kind of like you know to breathe when

you were little even though you didn't know why.

Q: How long have you been drawing?

A: Since forever.

Q: Have you any kind of training?

A: No, but I did take art in middle school and then in high school, but I dropped out after a short time.

Q: Why?

A: Both teachers had their own ideas of art. You had to draw specifically what they wanted, so I couldn't really get into a project.

Q: What are some of your favorite things to draw?

A: People, plants, trees, well, anything really, as long as I am expressing something.

POETRY

Eight HAIKU

By Ruth R. Davidson

Great science fiction
Technology yet to be
Spurs our dreams forward.

Dragons and Fairies
Dance unseen among the clouds
Their wings bring the breeze.

The trees still whisper
Telling secrets that are deep
In their magic wood.

If you've ears to hear
And eyes to see, you may see
Dreams Philosophy.

Your N3F Pres.
Keeps on writing bad haiku
What is she thinking?

Now it is your turn
Says I to the membership
Can you write haiku?

If you can not write
Haiku, please let me help you
So read on my friend.

Five syllables first
Then seven follow after
And five to end it.

For more nifty info on Haiku visit:
<http://www.tnellen.com/cybereng/28.html>

The Ballad of Barbara Ellen

By George Wells

In Scarlettown, where I was born,
A girl named Barbara Ellen
Had a nose that hung to her toes
Her job was werewolf smellin'.

Her allegies would make her sneeze
Till on her knees she's yelling.
Her allegies were werewolf fur and
Rhubarb stewed pie filling.

Poor Barb lived very all alone
No husband or man would have her
She strolled one day up to the mountain top
And got killed by molten lava.

No warning now for Scarlettown
Since Barb's death by Mount Saint Helens
Folks mate, to try a replacement make, with
Elephants, aardvarks, and felons.

Q: What is your favorite medium?

A: Marker and ink.

Q: What is it you find inspiring about the sci fi and fantasy realm that makes you want to work in that genre?

A: That anything can happen, whatever you want. There are no limitations.

Q: Bernadette, you have such a unique style, I can see various elements in your work. Describe your style for me.

A: I draw many different ways with all kinds of "styles". It's anime inspired, but not quite that. How you draw is how you are inside, I think. You can tell who drew what because their style represents them. The sort of "air" you get from the picture is the "air" you kind of get from the artist. So trying to describe my style is a bit hard. You just have to see it.

Q: What do you find intriguing about anime verses other styles of art?

A: Well, in animes, its art is realistic enough to get a sense of strong emotion that people have but nor realistic enough to believe that anything could happen. For example, lets say a teenage boy's girlfriend died saving him, you would get really strong feeling from his character; but he's so hurt and in pain over her death that he can't take the sorrow. So, in tears, he jumps to the moon and plunges it toward the earth, smashing and destroying it. Through it all, strong emotions and deep sadness everyone can feel in the scene, even though the impossible happened.

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

A: I enjoy writing, and reading. I, of course, enjoy music very much. I like old things, not stuff like from the 60's but things that are hundreds of years old; like books, jewelry, clothes, weapons, etc. They seem to have a grand story to tell. I like that.

Q: Tell me about the sample of art you provided. Why did you choose to share this particular work? What was the symbolism or idea behind it?

A: I chose this one simply because I thought it was cute. I started drawing it when I was listening to Mozart. I wasn't trying to symbolize anything really, but I tried to give of an emotion, sweet, pure, good things like that. It's just a pencil sketch, but I like it.

(Sample art shown right. You can see another sample of Usagi's art on the front cover of this issue.)



Untitled
By Ruth R. Davidson

Hear the angels voices.
Hear the darkened song,
A harsh lullaby of mourning.
My sorrow is for the unseen sun,
The bleeding heart of the man on the moon,
The falling stars,
And all that was moved out of its place.

I can barely breathe, the air is dark.
I shrink at the sound
Of the roaring lions,
And I hide from the scorpion's tail.
I fear the bottomless pit,
And the shape of the locust;
And wormwood bittered the bloody waters.

I sorrow over the death
Of two olive trees that live.
The earth is ablaze, the soil reddened
And rich with a foul stench.
Bones are left naked,
And eyes fall to the ground.
The dragon tries to rob me of my life.

I cry for all who are lost
And refuse to be found.
I am covered in lamb's blood.
I hear the sobbings of those silenced,
And the tears of the forgotten child.
I know the pain of a raped earth, and
Feel a need to quell the shadowed works of man.

The world burns in shades of red,
Blackened by the thick smoke of the pit.
A thousand eyes see me for what I am.
The clouds fail to bless the earth with rain,
And dark secrets are hidden for all to see.
I fight a continuous battle with the serpent,
Desiring to be a candle of good.

A new song is sung for he who took the book,
And before the throne was a sea of glass.
Man gave power to the dragon for gain,
And things reverted back to the days of old,
Fighting one on one, than by finger.
An ending of one's own life was desired by many,
Innocent blood crying from the dust.

Currents filter through from house to house,
And many faces are the same as the other
By those who enjoy playing god.
I voice the voice of hope,
Finding those who wish to be found.
The winds howl in defiance,
Ears deafened by whistling screams.

Many tunes are left unremembered.
Demons infest the human mind,
Creating showers of blood by our own making.
Happy tunes are sung in minor keys.
Man has gone askew by the hissings of the serpent,
Plaguig ourselves with terrible things,
And the dragon knashes its teeth at my heels.

Memories are shattered again and again,
Lies becoming truths, and reality a dream.
The dragon rejoices in the follies of man.
With augmenting tears, I speak truth,
Taking those who are found to the valley,
And on bended knee, we walk,
Guided by an unseen, but felt, hand . . .

Warning
By Sarah E. Glasgow

"There's nothing here for you." the voice said.
An echo in the halls of my mind.
Yet I stayed
Searching
"Turn back," it said
But ignored its resonance in my head.
I pressed on
Determined.
"It's too late for them," it insisted
As I stumbled over the dead crew.
I staggered and
Choked
"Now your end is near," it mourned
As I looked up to behold
The hideous breed
That was my end.
With my last thought
I cursed the voice.

Feel free to comment on a poem in the form of an LoC. I must say, George Wells The Ballad of Barbara Ellen is fabulous. I love it! —Ed]

REVIEWS

Jon D. Swartz, Reviews Editor

Books

The Chronoliths by Robert Charles Wilson. Tor Books, 2001, Novel. In 21st Century Thailand, Scotty Warden was a slacker living in a beach community of expatriates and barely able to support his wife and daughter. Then one day he and a drug-dealing friend inadvertently witnessed an impossible event: the sudden appearance of a two-hundred-foot

stone pillar in a nearby forest. Moreover, this was no ordinary artifact. Its arrival collapsed trees for a quarter mile around its base, froze ice out of the air, and emitted a burst of ionizing radiation. In addition, the pillar was composed of some unknown matter. The inscription on its base commemorated a military victory, but one that happened twenty years in the future! Later, another, larger “chronolith” arrived in the center of Bangkok—destroying the city and killing thousands. Over the next several years, society was transformed by these mysterious arrivals from its own future. Who was the warlord Kuin whose victories the chronoliths commemorated? After his wife left him, Scott wanted only to rebuild his life. But some strange loop of causality drew him back to the central mystery and his final encounter with the future. One critic described the novel itself as an artifact of future times that invites reflection on the present. The Chronoliths tied for the 2002 John W. Campbell Memorial Award for best novel, and was a finalist for the 2001 Hugo Award.

Retro Review

Reading *The Chronoliths* motivated me to read some other books by Wilson. I selected two of his earlier novels, *The Divide* and *Mysterium*. The latter book won the Philip K. Dick Award in 1995.

Mysterium (Bantam Spectra, 1994). When a scientific experiment went wrong, the small Michigan town of Two Rivers was transported into an alternate reality with dire results. The real story of the novel, however, was how ordinary citizens responded to this event. The scientists best qualified to find a way back to normalcy apparently died as a result of the experiment; but Dex Graham, a high school history teacher, and Howard Poole, a young physicist, struggled to understand what had happened and how it could be reversed. The townspeople of Two Rivers had to deal with the hostile natives in their new reality, and some of them ended up hanging from lampposts. The history of this new world apparently diverged from ours long ago, and the country was now controlled by the religiously oppressive Consolidated Republic that was currently engaged in a war with Spaniards on their western border. Two Rivers was seen by those in authority as a potential source of information, but also viewed as an embarrassment that had to be eliminated. The ending of the novel was a surprise to this reader.

The Divide (Doubleday, 1990). John Shaw, genetically designed to be the prototype for the next stage of human evolution, just wanted to be like other children. He tried to do this by creating an alternate personality for himself, the “normal” Benjamin. Later John had to face a flaw in his artificial personality as he began to devolve into two separate individuals, each facing enemies that threatened the people vital to his/their continued sanity. And when John was dying, Dr. Maxim Kyriakides, the scientist who had created and then abandoned him, sought him out. Can John be saved? And if he is, what will become of Benjamin? *The Divide* is an entertaining novel in the tradition of earlier supermen novels: Stapledon’s *Odd John*, Wylie’s *The Gladiator*, and Beresford’s *The Wonder*.

Mundane Review

Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne by Stephen E. Ambrose. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992, Non-fiction. My older son and I watched all ten episodes of the Tom Hanks/Steven Spielberg HBO miniseries “Band of Brothers” -- plus the many special features that came with the video package -- and liked it so much that we searched out a copy of the book on which the series was based. If you want to know what our parachute infantry went through during World War II, read this book. Star of the miniseries is Damien Lewis (Soames Forsythe in the recent TV series on Masterpiece Theatre), who played Richard Winters. Winters eventually became commander of Easy Company, and had been attached to the unit during its entire lifespan. *Band of Brothers* is an eye-opening book, and a book anyone interested in the history of the United States at war should read – if only to see just what the country owes its veterans. Historian Ambrose has written several excellent accounts of the United States during wartime, including *The Wild Blue* (the story of George McGovern and his B-24 bomber crew during WW II), *Citizen Soldiers* (the U. S. Army from Normandy to the surrender of Germany), and *D-Day: June 6, 1944* (the invasion of Europe by the Allies).

Other Reviews

Firefly: The Complete Series, Collector’s Edition DVD, 20th Century Fox Television, 2003. “*Take my love, take my land, take me where I cannot stand. But I don’t care; I’m still free. You can’t take the skies from me.*” Five hundred years in the future, there is a new frontier, and the crew of the Firefly-class spaceship “Serenity” is eager to stake a claim on the action. They’ll take any job, legal or illegal, to keep fuel in the tanks and food on the table. But things get complicated after they take on two passengers, a brother and sister, both wanted by the totalitarian Alliance regime. The crewmembers find themselves on the run, desperate to steer clear of Alliance ships and the flesh-eating Reavers who live on the fringes of space. The creator/writer of the series, Josh Whedon, understands science fiction. His concept of it as an extension of the western is right on target for those of us who love SF as it used to be in the pulps. The Firefly universe is messy, sometimes cruel, arbitrary, often violent, as was the American frontier. The characters are flawed and not particularly nice, but you care about them. Above all, the Firefly universe is exciting. And there’s humor in every one of the episodes. Fourteen episodes, including three that were never broadcast, are included on the DVD; two of the ones not aired may be the best the series had to offer. I’m looking forward to the Firefly movie, reportedly in the works. [I just had to say, “I couldn’t agree with you more!” I hope after the movie they are able to start up the series up again. -Ed]



Reviewed by Janine Stinson

Tomorrow Now: Envisioning the Next Fifty Years by Bruce Sterling.
New York: Random House, 2002. 305 pages. Hardback \$US24.95,
\$Can37.95.

Bruce Sterling has a well-developed ability to collect information worldwide and discern patterns within that information, then write about the potential future consequences in fictional form. This is how he made his rep in the SF sub-genre known as cyber-punk. *Distraction* was a novel about how politics could very well look in another 50-100 years. *Heavy Weather* was a novel about what the greenhouse effect could eventually do to Earth's weather, and not in the distant future. *Tomorrow Now* isn't fiction, but there are loads of ideas in it which savvy writers should steal and use as story bases. Somehow, I don't think Sterling would mind.

He uses a character from Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, Jaques, as his ethereal guide and the author of his book outline, based on Jaques' "All the world's a stage" soliloquy which contains a description of the seven ages of human beings, from birth to death. It's an effective structure, and covers just about every possible concern we as humans are facing in the next half-century and further. As he writes in the book's introduction, "My intent in writing this book is to come to terms with seven novel aspects of the twenty-first century, situations that are native to that epoch and no other."

These aspects are then presented in thematic stages, following Shakespeare's presentation in the aforementioned play. The separation points and what Sterling discusses within each point are logically selected and presented, and offer much to mentally masticate.

Never before in human history have humans possessed as much power over the world and each other as they do now; Sterling asserts this is directly tied to the technological achievements of the last two centuries. His net gathers in subjects that concern us today, among them: genetics; reproduction; education (and the Internet, of course); information as economy; how big wars have and will continue to evolve into smaller, deadlier conflicts without fronts or tangible gains but huge losses; the changing face of politics; how the rich stay that way and why; and what future humans' approach might be towards death. Of each subject and how it might manifest in the next fifty years, Sterling asks two questions: What does it mean? How does it feel? He then gives what he thinks will be likely answers, and they're fascinating ones.

Reading Sterling in his nonfiction mode is like trying to keep track of a very fast ping-pong game. By the time one concept has begun to sink into the brain, he's already fired off two or three more ideas one wants to pursue and examine. Like a book of good poetry, the verbiage here is densely packed with images, possibilities that flit like butterflies from the hand only to be found again later on the path through each chapter.

His wryly twisted sense of humor pervades every chapter in the book, and with good reason. There's a lot of really depressing what-iffing going on here, and a few laughs are required to break the tension of actually considering all this bad juju that's probably just up the pike from where we are on the time stream. But it's not all doom and gloom. Sterling does see some lights along the way, though at present and from his perspective they're dim ones.

A lot of baby boomers will still be alive in another half-century, including me. For all of us, and for the generations to come, I sincerely hope Sterling's wrong about most of what he sees and writes about for this book. Otherwise, life will come to resemble something out of a Bruce Sterling novel, and that's not something to welcome.

[Well, now you've got me interested in this book. Especially since these are subjects that I am already interested in, and because I will be living in the world that Sterling describes; and so will my children. . . -Ed]

Fanzine Reviews

Ansible 198. The January 2003 issue of *Ansible* celebrated the 25th anniversary of Dave Langford's award-winning fanzine, which he began in 1979 to replace Peter Roberts' *Checkpoint*, an earlier newsletter that had ceased publication. The January issue of *Ansible* was divided into three parts: "Galactic Medal of Honour" (news about pros and fans, including J. G. Ballard's recent refusal of state honors), "Convertite" (conventions and news of other meetings), and "Infinitely Improbable" (regular features such as R.I.P., C.o.A, Outraged Letters, and Thog's Masterclass).

Notes from Bob Peterson #92. The December 2003 issue included photos of Donald Wollheim, Stan Mullen and his wife Sophie, as well as Forrest J Ackerman. As is his usual practice in his Notes, Bob reported on his own current SF reading, an always-interesting topic.

Scientifiction: The First Fandom Report (1st Quarter, 2004 issue), edited by Jim Harmon and his wife Barbara. This issue of STF, Number 1/ New Series, featured a cover of Forrest J Ackerman at the Clevention in 1955, and contained the usual features: "The President's Message" (by current First Fandom president, Joanie Knappenberger), "Dinosaur Tracks" (LoCs, including one by Sir Arthur C. Clarke), "Harmony/Discord" (by Jim and Barbara Gratz Harmon), "Transitions" (obituaries of Hal Clement, Lloyd Arthur Eshbach, Marguerite McClure Bradbury, and Julius Schwartz), and

"Fanzine Retrospective 5" by yours truly.

Fanzine availability: Information on receiving Ansible was given in the December 2003 issue. Notes from Bob Peterson is available from Bob, whose address is given in the N3F Roster each issue. Scientifiction is available only to members of First Fandom, people who have been active SF fans for many years. Details are given at their website: (www.firstfandom.org)

Reviewers & Reviewed

Robert Charles Wilson, who lives in British Columbia, has become a very popular genre writer in the past few years. In addition to the award-winning SF novels reviewed herein, he has written *Crooked Tree* (1980) [a mainstream novel], *Memory Wire* (1987), *The Divide* (1990), *A Bridge of Years* (1991) [nominated for a PKD Award in 1992], and *The Harvest* (1992). His more recent novels include *Darwinia* (1998), *Bios* (1999), and *Blind Lake* (2003) [about a self-creating, self-modifying quantum telescope].

Stephen E. Ambrose (1936-2002), was an outstanding historian who specialized in the history of the United States at war. During his career he was founder of The Eisenhower Center, president of the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans, and recipient of a National Humanities Award.

Dave Langford (*Ansible*), Bob Peterson (*Notes from Bob Peterson*), and Jim Harmon (*Scientifiction: The First Fandom Report*) all should be well known to SF fans. Langford has won numerous awards, including many Hugos for best fanzine and best amateur writer. His latest book is *Up Through an Empty House of Stars: Reviews and Essays, 1980-2002*. Peterson, a member of both N3F and First Fandom, edited/published *The Science Fiction Index* and *The Fantasy Index* in the 1940s, and has been publishing his personal zine for years. Bob's a nominee this year for First Fandom's Hall of Fame.

Jim Harmon needs no introduction to most SF readers. He published many stories in the 1950s and 1960s, many of them in *Galaxy*. He is also known widely for his several books on old-time radio, beginning in 1967 with *The Great Radio Heroes* (expanded/revised edition published in 2001). In addition, he has published on collecting premiums, including *Radio & TV Premiums* in 1997.

Josh Whedon, creator of *Firefly*, has created other SF/fantasy TV programs such as *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer* and *Angel*. He was also one of the writers on the popular animated movie, *Toy Story*.

Bruce Sterling has a regular column in *Wired Magazine* and created and launched The Viridian Design Movement, which espouses a variety of interesting and future-looking goals. He is credited with starting the cyberpunk movement in science fiction in the 1980s with the seminal short-fiction anthology *Mirrorshades*. He's written the SF novels *Schismatrix*, *Heavy Weather*, *Islands in the Net* and *Distraction*, among others. He frequently lectures at technology and modern design conferences.

Janine G. Stinson credits the N3F for her discovery of fandom in 1996. She blames fmfzen, a Yahoo mailing list, for getting her started in publishing her own genzine *Peregrine Nations*. And she thanks her mother for not making her throw away her SF novels when she was younger.

The Reviews Editor is responsible for all other reviews.

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**The FRANSON Award 2003**  
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And the winners are *drum roll* Dun dada DUNNNN! *confetti soars through the air*

Janine Stinson, Laura Hazelwood, and George Phillies!

The Franson Award was formerly called the President's Award, but in honor of Donald Franson, God rest his soul, it has been renamed. This award started because past N3F President's have wanted to give a show of appreciation to people who may have won the Kaymar Award (which you can only win once). Thank you Janine, Laura, and George!

As a bit of interesting history, here is the list of all Franson Award winners. ☺

1991:

Ralph Calabrese,
Lyne Masamitsu,
Pamela Williams

1992: None Given

1993:

Craig Boyd,
Lyne Masamitsu,
Susan Zuege

1994:

William Center,
Diane Miller,
Amy Sisson,

Michele Nowak

1995:

Craig Boyd,
Jennifer Mackay,
Susan VanSchuyver,
Don Franson

1996:

Jeannette Marsala,
Stephanie Anderson,
Joy Beeson,
Dennis Davis

1997:

Jeannette Marsala,

Laura Hazelwood,

William Center

1998:

Don Franson,
Carla Minor,
Honorable Mentions

Craig Boyd,

Janine Stinson,
Harold Marcum,
Ginny Benson

1999:

Lyne Masamitsu,
Harold Marcum

2000: None Given

2001:

Catherine Mintz,
Helen Davis,
Laura Hazelwood,
Jacqueline Lichtenberg

2002: None Given

2003:

**Janine Stinson,
Laura Hazelwood,
George Phillies**

ONLINE BUREAU REPORT

By Laura Hazelwood

No contributions for webpage reviews this month so you'll just have to live with another one from me! This month, I'd like to point you to the Internet Movie Database. The url for this website is www.imdb.com. This website has served to solve many a family conflict over who was in what movie, when, and where. Probably the most comprehensive movie database on the Internet this website allows you to search for actors, movie titles, and movie companies. You can also do search quotes, plots, and biographies. Probably of the most interest to us in N3F are searches by genre, which include Fantasy, Sci-Fi, horror, and adventure films. I would give this website a definite thumbs up if you're looking for a movie to watch this weekend, or just want to prove to your significant other how right you are!

The EDITORIAL CABAL

By Ruth R. Davidson

Janine referred to the Zine Bureau as the Editorial Cabal. I decided that since that sounded really nifty cool, I've changed the name! Besides now people won't confuse us with being a special publications bureau. *wink wink*

Anyhoo, please send your submissions for the June issue to Bob Sabella. 24 Cedar Manor Ct. Budd Lake NJ 07828; bsabella@optonline.net. Remember to send Art to Sarah E. Glasgow (the Art Bu Head) and Jon Swartz our Review Editor.

Last report I said I would announce who the next editor was here and "in" the President's Message, when really it's going to be UNDER the President's Message as well as being mentioned here. ☺

CORRESPONDANCE BUREAU REPORT

By Carla Hall Minor

Greetings, fellow Neffers, from a largely inactive Bureau. Hope you're all busy writing to N3F penpals and keeping the lost art of letter-writing alive. At present, we've had three new participants -- give welcome to Ruth Davidson, Bernadette Glasgow, and a longtime Neffer, Rikki Winters! My computer has been cranky lately, so I apologize to them for being so slow in matching them up; my tech guru has been very preoccupied lately, but help should be forthcoming.

Spring has sprung as I write this, and at Minor Manor that means "yardening." It may be a stretch tying this to SF/F, but it's a bit like world-building! I recall reading a terrific novel about a myterious house that kept building onto itself and changing its floor plan every day. Similarly, we've added a new room, converted another, and are putting in a big patio. Who knows what else we'll do before the money runs out (as if it hasn't already!)?

I'd like to state again how much this bureau needs new writers to keep it alive. I'd like to match every new participant with at least 5 penpals, but that's become impossible. We all seem to know each other already! In a way that's nice, but it's not really furthering the purpose of the club or the Bureau. So if you want more penpals or new penpals, I need your help. Get your non-Neffer friends to become Neffer friends, and send them to me!

In the meantime, enjoy spring/Beltane/le printemps/Eostre!

ELECTION RESULTS

Election Teller: Howard Devore

34 ballots counted.

President: Ruth R. Davidson: 32, Harold Marcum: 1 Susan Van Schuyver: 1

Directors: Dennis Davis: 24, Sarah E. Glasgow: 23, Carla Hall Minor: 21, George Phillies: 19 Janine Stinson: 25

No write ins. Congratulations to the winners!

Birthday Bureau Report

By Ruth R. Davidson

Thank you Denise A. Fisk, Sally A Syrala, Ginny Benson, Sarah E. Glasgow and Cynthia Richter, who sent out birthday cards. I hope everyone enjoyed them.

Remember to please let me know if you there are any errors or if you're birthday is not listed so they can be fixed. Also, please inform me of any neffers who are ill or just need an uplifting note.

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! ☺



April birthdays:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Joy A Beeson | 04/15/1941 |
| Richard A. Brooks | 04/09/1941 |
| Elizabeth Caldwell | 04/04/1951 |
| William Center | 04/10/1953 |
| Laura M. Hazelwood | 04/18/1964 |
| John R. Jeffers III | 04/11/1940 |
| Robin Lancaster | 04/06/1958 |
| Harold Marcum | 04/04/1957 |
| Lisa Bosko Ocacio | 04/21/1963 |
| Lucy Takeda | 04/23/1954 |
| Susan K. Thode | 04/23/1947 |
| Michael P. Varbanov | 04/17/1965 |
| William Voharas | 04/24/1954 |

May birthdays:

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Jack Calvert | 05/02/1941 |
| Ruth R. Davidson | 05/28/1979 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Howard Devore | 05/26/1925 |
| Bernadette "Usagi"
Glasgow | 05/12/1988 |
| Edmund J. Goodwin | 05/14/1939 |
| LaVern Loretz, Jr. | 05/30/1948 |
| Robert Peterson | 05/30/1921 |
| Jeff Redmond | 05/10/1953 |

June birthdays:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| David Franson | 06/23/1989 |
| Stephen Metzger | 06/16/1944 |
| Ruth Sacksteder | 06/04/1944 |
| Joe Schaumburger | 06/28/1930 |
| Arwen Spicer | 06/15/1975 |
| Sally Ann Syrjala | 06/21/1948 |
| Tim Gatewood | 06/27/1959 |
| June E. Vigil-Storm | 06/13/1947 |
| Ron Yarnell | 06/26/1960 |

Round Robin Bureau Report

By Susan VanSchuyver

Good news! If you will compare the list below with the one which appeared in the last issue of The National Fantasy Fan, you'll notice that many of the Waiting List RR's are now listed under Active Round Robins. I appreciate Ruth Davidson coming forward and volunteering to be the RM on several new RR's. Harold Marcum is also working on reactivating several of the RR's that he has RMed in the past, so we are getting several RR's going again. Here is the updated list.

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.

If you are interested in joining one of the active RR's, adding your name to one of the waiting lists, or creating a new RR, let me know. My addresses are on the inside front cover.

Active Round Robins:

Batman and Other Superheroes – Marcum
Cats in SF&F – VanSchuyver
Celtic Folklore #1 – Glasgow
Comics – Davidson
DS9/ST:NG/Voyager – Benson
Dragons #1 – Marcum
Dreams – VanSchuyver
Fairy & Folk Tales – Davidson
Horror – Davidson
King Arthur – Marcum
Lackey, Mercedes – Winters
McCaffrey, Anne – VanSchuyver
Mythology – Davidson
Norton, Andre – Marcum
SciFi Channel – VanSchuyver
SF&F in Films – Davidson
Star Trek Classic #1 – Benson
Star Trek Classic #2 – VanSchuyver
Star Wars – Benson

Time Travel – VanSchuyver
TV SF&F – VanSchuyver

If you are the RM of an active RR not on the above list, please let me know the name and members.

Waiting Lists:

Current Reading
*Cyber Horror
*Harry Potter Books & Movies
Interstellar Empires
Nonfiction
Poetry
Science & Technology
Supernatural
*The Lord of the Rings Movies & Books
Vampires

*These are new ideas for RR's. If you are interested in joining, please contact me.

Youth Bureau Report

By Bernadette "Usagi" Glasgow

Hello my fellow neffers. My name is Bernadette "Usagi" Glasgow. Well after some discussion with some of the members, I've decided to start the Youth Bureau back up again. I was a member a while back and I'm so excited to be returning.

It was suggested that I write something about myself. I love reading, writing, art, and music. At some point I do

them all. I also enjoy Anime (Japanese animation) and just about anything Japan related. I think N3F is a great way to make friends and have fun. I also think a youth bureau is a great way for all the "youth" to get to know each other.

INFO

This bureau is geared towards those who are 30 and under. There will be discussions and/or articles about youth in sci fi and fantasy, young actors (in sci fi and fantasy), young writers, how youth is represented in sci fi and fantasy, and just about anything youth related etc etc. Also, after enough members are in the bureau there will be a mini publication. Well these are some ideas I have for the Youth Bureau, if you have any, contact me (We'll also do things not listed, fear not).

With your help, the Youth Bureau will be what I envision. A great way to make and be friends, talk about what's on the mind of the youth regarding sci fi and fantasy (etc) and have a great time in a nut shell.

I've come to realize that a number of bureaus seem to be lacking (and need) participants – if you are like I was, so long ago, you're just in the club hum hawing around and not taking any action. If you want to get the most out of your membership and have fun, get active in the club (and if you're under 31, you might as well start with me. *wink*)

I hope all the youth members will join my bureau and be motivated too; and if not, I'll sick my evil penguin on you!
—Love Bernadette Usagi

Teaching Sci-fi Bureau Report

By Elizabeth Caldwell

My idea of teaching scifi to teachers, educators or home schooling programs is to invite them into the World of Creative Thinking and Problem Solving.

Reading scifi is one way for teachers, educators and home schooling by parents to help children learn about their world whether it's past, present, or in the far future. They can participate in voyages to Mars or Venus or other parts of the galaxy or can benefit from understanding and appreciating the biology, paleontology, archeology and other known 'ologies that make up scifi worlds.

To teach scifi, I plan on using scifi books to illustrate my points and benefits for this program.

1. Read the older scifi books first, for example, *The Time Machine* or *Journey to the Center of the Earth*.
2. While reading book, have different color markers.
3. For each topic, mark with a different marker the following.
 - + Subject-what is the topic of this book?
 - + Protagonist-who is main good/bad guy/gal?
 - + Antagonist-who is the main bad/good guy/ gal?
 - + Dialogue-advances the plot.
 - + Problems-for whom, the bad/good guy/gal?
 - + Verbs-action
 - + Adjectives-description (use sparingly)
 - + Adverbs- the ly words (use sparingly)
4. Type out the background information. Don't set it up like a stage waiting for its characters to appear.
5. Write a paragraph with you writing a different beginning. Remember, use it as a hook, otherwise, your audience trashes the novel.
6. Write out 1 to 2 paragraphs entirely with verbs. Minimum usage of adjectives. No adverbs.
7. Characters-are they 3-D or artificial? Are they believable?
8. Write out one page of dialogue-is it believable?
9. View points in the story. Whose are they?
10. Use of "I" viewpoint.
11. What kind of scifi? Hard-factual material, plot is woven around it; soft scifi-some basic science is used here, space opera-like *Star Wars*.
12. Write a scifi short story. Include all of the above. Get author's permission and post story. Rest of class critiques and reviews it.
13. Write scifi poetry with a basic element of science in it.

Art Bureau Report

By Sarah E. Glasgow

Hello my friends. There are some new and exciting things happening with this bureau. Some are still being discussed in the Directorate, but I'm confident that I'll be able to make some definite announcements soon, possibly via the N3F yahoo-group first and again next issue. For now I am pleased to announce the *Artist Showcase Zine* to be published once a year (maybe twice if there's enough response). Basically it would be the size of *the Fan* and include nothing but art from our artists as well as a brief bio on the artists. So start drawing and drop me a line if you have questions, suggestions, comments, etc.. I'd like to have all submissions in by August. Write me for guidelines.

I want to thank all of the artists who have contributed to the club and this bureau over the years. You truly are wonderful people (not to mention talented) and I've learned a great deal from each of you. Plus your enthusiasm for art and the genre is quite contagious! I look forward to many more years in your company.

I am also looking forward to the future of this club. I believe we will weather the storm of small numbers and see a growth in the relatively near future. As for the smallness of your numbers, there is still some benefit to that. We get to know each other in an intimate way – kind of like a small town where everyone knows everyone else. We may be a "small town" of sorts, but we care about and help each other. I know that together we will not only keep this club going, but we will see it flourish. Like all of you and each bureau, my artists and I would love to be a part of making that happen.

Through all of the ups and downs of the past twelve years (since I first joined the club) there has always been N3F. Whenever I felt misunderstood by “mundanes” there was always you who understood me. Whenever there seemed like I had nothing to look forward to there was always the TNFF, Tightbeam, or a letter from a penpal. Whenever I was stressed out, I could sit and draw something to send to the zine editor. I love this club and I appreciate all of you – the contributions and sacrifices that you make to make N3F what it is. I have benefited from each of you to some degree, in some capacity and I hope I have been able to give back in some small way.

So here’s to all to the neffers: the captains, aliens, dragonriders and wizards; to all of the modern day space heroes, adventurers, bohemians, rogues, valiant knights and ladies found within this club. Here’s to you! CHEERS!

The MANGAVERSE Bureau Report

By Ruth R. Davidson

Greetings fellow neffers!

As you can see, I am now the bureau head for the MANGAVERSE. First, let me tell you a little bit about it. This bureau is for the manga lover. Manga is the Japanese word for comics. That is our main focus, though we will also deal with American comics. I am a fan of both, but you don’t have to be to participate! Anime fans (Japanese animation) are also welcome. Often manga become anime and anime become manga. Much like how nowadays American comics are becoming live action films.

I have some nifty things planned for this bureau. Read on and find out! * big happy smile*

I would like to put out a bi-monthly newsletter filled with art, comics (original), discussions of your favorite manga/comics (story lines, characters, writers, artists, etc.), con-reports, con-announcements, reviews, and more. The introductory newsletter is scheduled to come out this June. Don’t be afraid of submitting something, I find it highly unlikely that I’d reject it. Submissions are due on May 25th.

I would also like to put out a GIANT Zine of DOOM! Not only would it include art, and original comics and stories, but **FAN ART**, and **FAN FICTION** of your favorite manga and/or comic! This would be annual, at least at first. It will, at most, be semi-annual if there is enough interest. This is currently scheduled to be published around Thanksgiving time. More detailed information will be given in the next issue of TNFF and in The MANGAVERSE News and Fan-talk (that’s the current newsletter name, but that may change later).

We may have a logo contest, more info on that will also be in our bi-monthly publication.

Also, if you would like to be on the mailing list of The MANGAVERSE News and Fan-talk, but you’re not certain you would like to contribute to it, please let me know and I will add you to the mailing list. Contributors are automatically added. For more information, as well as questions, comments, suggestions, and submissions, please email me at ruthi-echan@xarph.net or “snail” mail me at 3540 Swenson St. #172 Las Vegas NV 89109.

Secretary’s Report

By Dennis Davis

These people have been dropped.

If anyone can get them to return that would be wonderful since they will be missed.

There’s still time for these folks. :-}

Please send in your renewal in the near future.

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Tim & Barbara Gatewood | 0603 |
| Robert W. Franson | 0803 |
| Bruce Johnstone | 0803 |
| Robin Lancaster | 0803 |
| Lisa Bosko Ocacio | 0803 |

WILL BE DROPPED SOON

Please send in your renewal ASAP.

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Jennifer M. Mackay | 0903 |
| Catherine Mintz | 0903 |
| Emery Kurts | 0903 |
| Valerie Mignault | 0903 |
| Ralph Osborn | 0903 |
| Lucy Takeda | 0903 |

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| David Franson | 1003 |
| Carol Klees-Starks | 1003 |
| William H. Wharton | 1003 |
| Sandra Morrese | 1103 |
| Robert Schreib, Jr. | 1103 |
| Bob & Diane Blackwood | 1203 |
| Laura A. Hazelwood | 1203 |
| Harold Marcum | 1203 |
| Robert Miller | 1203 |
| Marianne Turlington | 1203 |
| Art Hayes | 0104 |
| LaVern Loretz, Jr. | 0104 |

BUREAU HISTORY

By Ruth R. Davidson

Have you ever wondered what has been done in the past regarding Bureau's that are no longer active? Is it a lack of knowledge that stops you from Heading a Bureau? Well now's your chance to learn about what has been done in the past.

Below are descriptions of seven (7) bureau's that are currently inactive. In order for them to be active again, they need someone to head them. I hope that these descriptions will prove useful in the endeavor to have them reactivated. They have been asleep for a very long time.

NEFFER AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION:

N'APA is an excellent place to learn to publish a fanzine. If you never get beyond just pubbing for N'APA, that's alright with us. An amateur press association is a group of people who publish fanzines of their own construction, usually with just their own writing, and share them with others in the association. They send the required number of copies to the official editor, who places on copy of each zine in a bundle for each member and mails them out to all members on a specified date. Simple enough, isn't it? What do you write about? Well, what do you want to talk about? Your favorite author? Movies you've seen? Book reviews? Local fannish gatherings, convention reports? Personal events? All are fair game for writing about. There are requirements to belong to N'APA, beyond just being a member. Not dues exactly. Each member must submit at least four pages every two mailings, which are currently bi-monthly. But all that is needed is one page to start. Only 35 copies of each page are required (one for each member plus file copies) and can be mimeoed, dittoed or photocopied; and \$5 must be advanced to establish an individual postage account. That's all it takes to become a fanzine publisher. There are no standards, so publish what you want – anything that may (or may not) be of interest to the other members. The members are all friendly and helpful, and promise not to be over critical. Simply by responding to your zine they will be encouraging you to not only continue, but improve. Sounds like fun? Wait until you try it!

FILK-SINGING: *This bureau exists for those members who have come to love those songs they have heard filling the rooms and corridors of the conventions they have attended. Reports in The Fan help locate sources for obtaining these songs on tape and record (and these days CDs, etc). Reports also contain reviews of the various offerings of the field. If you have any questions about filk songs, or are trying to find particular songs you have heard, write to the Bureau Head.*

BLIND SERVICES: *Volunteers read The Fan in its entirety out loud on tape to send to our legally blind Neffers. The bureau head coordinates assignments, and basically makes sure that the needs of our blind members are met. (I'm sure with today's technology there are better ways to do this.)*

N3F HISTORIAN: *The N3F Historian works to help keep our club history preserved and accessible to the*

membership. (We are currently looking for a member willing to research and write a history of the organization for publication on our official website – www.nfff.org, and for publication in The Fan. Many of our club publications have been given to and continue to be given to Temple U. Libraries to help preserve our history. For more info please write or email me.)

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS: *Besides The Fan and N'APA, other publications are put out by and for the N3F members. In the past the N3F published indexes, fan histories, fan anthologies, fan dictionaries, and once even a professional novel. Some of the Bureau heads also put out their own fanzines and use them to operate their activities. These extra publications are usually only available by special request or to members of the activities for which they serve as organs.*

MUSIC: *Unlike filk-singing this bureau discusses modern music represented in today's science fiction and fantasy films, TV and books. Sometimes music tapes are passed for the Music Bureau's enjoyment. Original works by Neffers also have a place here.*

APA INFORMATION SERVICE: *This is an individual project that exists to introduce club members to APA's (Amateur Press Associations) in general and to introduce interested Neffers to specific APA's that have openings.*

I am sure that you have noticed that only three of these open bureau's are listed under Bureau's and Activities on page 3 of this issue. N'APA, N3F Historian, and Blind Services have been long standing traditions that I would hate to lose. The other four bureau's, filk-singing, special publications, music, and APA Information Service are bureau's that I felt were very cool. They were all successful at one point in time.

I personally would really love to see N'APA get started up again. All of these bureau's are neat, don't get me wrong, but there's something special about N'APA. Of course, the best thing that could happen is if all of them became active again. I think that would rule.

If you're thinking, "well, if she feels so strongly about it, then why doesn't she head N'APA herself?"; then I think you need to take a closer look at what I am already doing for the club. Not only am I the current President, but I am also the Webmistress, The Bureau Head of three (3) Bureau's, an Editor, Robin Master for five (5) Round Robins, and I participate in a few other bureau's. I don't want to bite off more than I can chew. If I become inundated I'll probably gafiate like others have done in the past. If that happens then I'm no use to anybody.

So, if you want to see any of these bureau's wake up and become alive again, it is UP TO YOU to revive them from their long slumber. If you wish to rise to the occasion, please email me or snail me (contact info inside front cover). I hope to hear from you soon! Blue Lights!

SPREAD THE WORD INCENTIVE

Would you like to see more people join N3F? Would you like to see more Bureaus and Activities? Would you like to see more publications? Then help SPREAD THE WORD about N3F!

All you have to do is talk to people about N3F and/or give/send a flier report back to Sarah E. Glasgow.

What should you report back you ask? 1: your name
2: name of person(s) talked to. (first name only is fine.)
3: level of interest shown
4: If they join N3F

Who should you talk to you ask?

Friends

Relatives

Acquaintances

Neighbors

Kids (people you know because of your kids i.e. teachers, coaches, etc.)

If you need an extra copy of TNFF and/or some fliers, please ask one of the Directorate members or the President.

For "spreading the word" you will receive a token of appreciation such as a bookmark, club button, or other incentive prize as a THANK YOU for your efforts. In order to receive the prize you must report back to Sarah. The results will be published in *The Fan*.

COVER ART CONTEST

Would you like to see your art on the front cover of TNFF? Well, here's your chance! Send in your Art to Sarah E. Glasgow at yseult_sg@yahoo.com or 3275 Mauricia Ave, Santa Clara CA 95051 and we shall see who wins!

Contest details:

- 1: The winner's art is placed on the front cover of the September issue of *the Fan*.
- 2: Art is due the 15th of August.
- 3: The Art Bureau Head is the judge.
- 4: All art must be sci-fi or fantasy based.

So break out the pencils and ink, and get to crackin'! Send questions to Sarah. Her contact information is given in the first paragraph. Art not chosen will be used in future issues of *the Fan*.

NIFTY NEWS!

"Thru the Cracks of Time"

1. Ongoing donations to keep talk radio show alive.
2. \$3500 is cost for 6 week sequence of radio shows.
3. Donations open to small press, writer's organization, authors or anyone who needs exposure on a talk radio show to promote and market themselves and the benefits of their books.
4. Interviews run for 1 hour or can be divided into 2 1/2 shows with authors.
5. Ask authors to write down questions to be sent to host, Lillian Cauldwell, so that author and host know the questions and answers ahead of time.
6. \$5 minimum donation for Sponsors. 1 million people listen to Voice America's programming daily/weekly.
7. Have your friends listen to show and email Voice America telling them how much they enjoyed the show.
8. Talk radio show can be copied onto a tape (provided by author) and will be re broadcasted two weeks later.

Questions? Discuss? Contact Lillian Cauldwell at lillian@authorsden.com, 734-332-4940, snail mail Lillian Cauldwell, Box 2344 Ann Arbor, MI 48106-2344.

[Lillian Cauldwell and Elizabeth Cauldwell are one and the same. -Ed]

**2004 NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION (N3F)
AMATEUR SHORT STORY CONTEST**

Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

- 1: This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, whether members of N3F or not. We define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two stories to the professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
- 2: Stories must be original, unpublished, not more than 7500 words in length, and must be science fiction and/or fantasy in the opinion of the judges.
- 3: Manuscripts should be typed on one side of a 8 1/2" x 11" white paper, double spaced, with the title on each page. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photo copies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer print outs must be legible.
- 4: Contestants may enter any number of stories, provided each is accompanied by a separate entry blank and fee. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) for the return of the story at the end of the contest. Keep a copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
- 5: Entry fees are \$2 for N3F members in good standing, \$4 for non-members. The extra \$2 is for printing and publicity, paid for by N3F funds. The basic \$2 is for judge's expenses and prizes. Members of N3F are encouraged to enter the contest, but will not receive preference in judging. Due to a long-standing agreement with the British Science Fiction Association, BSFA members pay the same fee as N3F members.
- 6: Cash prizes totaling \$50 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$25; Second \$15; Third \$10. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a choice of paperback books available.
- 7: Send all manuscripts, together with SASE's, blanks, and entry fees, to the contest manager: **Elizabeth Caldwell 685 South Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103-9332**. Checks payable to Elizabeth Caldwell. Dollar bills, or unused stamps (mint, not recycled) are acceptable. All entries must be received or post marked no later than **December 31st 2004**.
- 8: The Preliminary Judge, who will pick the 10 or 12 semi-finalists, will be a knowledgeable N3F member. The Final Judge will be a professional writer.
- 9: The N3F assumes no publishing rights or obligations. We want to encourage pro sales, not fan publication. All entries will be returned after the contest is over. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. A full report will be made to N3F soon after the first of the year.

ENTRY BLANK

(Detach or not, as you wish, but must accompany story)

Title of Story (for identification): _____

Author's Name & Address: _____

Enclosed is the entry fee of \$4 (N3F or BSFA member \$2)
I have read the rules for the 2004 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and agree to them.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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 June issue should be in the Editor's hands by May 15. *If it doesn't get here in time, it goes in the next issue.* Watch for updates for 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.), con-reports, genre poetry, flash fiction (original short stories under 1000 words), 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 issue concerning the format which he/she can accept. Unexpected format 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, con-reports, poetry, flash fiction (original short stories under 1000 words), art; are welcome and needed.

Art and Reviews: The formation of the Editorial Cabal 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 E. Glasgow 3275 Mauricia Avenue, 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:

I would like to thank everyone for their submissions. I would also like to thank Laura Hazelwood and Janine Stinson for helping me learn how to edit the zine.

This is also my first time editing, and I must say, it has been quite a learning experience. I hope to improve my editing skills in the future.

Remember this a team effort. The editor does his or her best to make the zine look nice, while the membership provides the content. *N3F is what you make of it.* ☺

National Fantasy Fan (N3F) Membership Application

New Member Reinstatement Joint Membership Gift Membership

Name (Please Print): _____ DOB (for B-day Bu) _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State, Postal Code, Country _____

Email: _____ Occupation: _____

Male: Female: Today's Date: _____ Applicant Signature: _____

Please check your current SF/F related interests.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> APA's | <input type="checkbox"/> Comics/Manga | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Fanzines | <input type="checkbox"/> Reviewing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cartooning | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Round Robins (group letters) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computers | <input type="checkbox"/> Editing | <input type="checkbox"/> Taping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conventions | <input type="checkbox"/> Filksinging | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence (penpals) | <input type="checkbox"/> Games | <input type="checkbox"/> DVD/Video |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collecting | <input type="checkbox"/> Movies/T.V. | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Science Fiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artwork | <input type="checkbox"/> Online Activites | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books | <input type="checkbox"/> Publishing | |

Which would you prefer?:

The e-Fan in .pdf format sent to your email address?

or

The Fan printed and mailed to your home address or PO Box?

How long have you been interested in Science Fiction and Fantasy?: _____

How long have you been involved in Fandom?: _____

List any other clubs you are or have been a member of: _____

List any conventions you've attended _____

What Prozines and Fanzines do you read if any?: _____

What is your favorite type of SF/F?: _____

Who are your favorite SF/F Authors: _____

Are you interested in online activities? If yes, what type?: _____

Which (if any) of the following would you be willing to help the Club with? _____

Artwork Corresponding Publishing Recruiting at Conventions Writing for club publications
 Organizing Activities Other: _____

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.