

The National Fantasy Fan

Vol. 5 No. 1
March 2005



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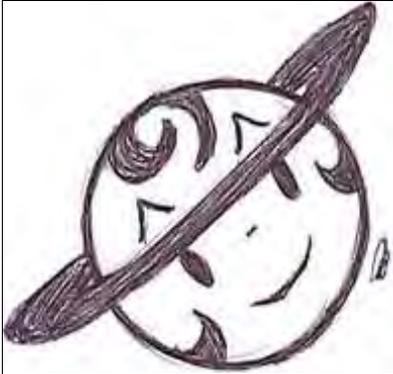
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We're slowly but surely gaining new members and we've had quite a few renewals and reinstatements! Isn't that awesome?

I do have to give you an explanation about the Locus Ads. It's been mentioned a few times, but I must say, there won't be one, at least not for a while. Life. . .happened, and by the time I was able to start ordering online and magazine ad space, their prices went up drastically! Especially for their online advertising. The Directorate and I felt it wasn't worth it. Instead we're taking that \$272 listed in the last Treasurer's Report along with \$100 more dollars and buying a half page ad in Dragon*Con's Progress Report. That report will reach *over 60,000 fans!* Isn't that just the coolest thing ever!? We hope to see new Neffers by the end of the year.

Please note some Bureau Head changes listed on page three. Also, Follow-up is a Wel-Committee subcommittee (according to Dennis it always was), and Renewals is now part of the Membership Drive. To help out with these important bureaus please contact the corresponding bureau head.

The Youth Bureau has been replaced by Future Fandom and is still headed by Usagi. Round Robins is now headed by Lorna Hansmann.

If anyone would like to design a shoppe logo for our online store currently called Ye Olde N3F Fan Shoppe, please do so and send it to me. Special thanks to Edmund J. Goodwin for donating the money to obtain www.n3fshop.com.

The NEW MEMBER HANDBOOK is now available to all Neffers. For the .PDF version please email me and ask for the download link. For the paper version please email or write me and I will send one to you. (A SASE would be nice, but is not necessary.)

Membership Cards

The membership cards expire when it is time for you to renew. When it does, with your renewal you are to receive a new card. If you have not gotten a new card, or never received one please let me know. Remember, I am only human, so please don't feel unloved if I accidentally missed you. As our numbers grow it becomes more likely that a few people will be overlooked.

Donations in the form of stamps, money, or, business card packs (Avery size: 8876 or Office Depot item # 915-922) would be greatly appreciated. Donating time to printing and sending off cards would also be nice.

*These cards are **NOT** paid for by the Treasury.*



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This issue was completed on 02/28/05. The editor for this issue was Ruth R. Davidson. The editor for the next issue is Bob Sabella 24 Cedar Manor Ct. Budd Lake NJ 07828; bsabella@optonline.net. Please send your submissions and questions to him or the Editorial Cabal bureau head. ***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.*** SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS MAY 15, 2005. 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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TIGHTBEAM – *Letters of Comment*

::Please note: The LoC by Green Rose of Altair in the Dec. '04 ish is Denise A. Fisk.::

Sarah Glasgow

Hi everyone. In writing my first piece for N'APA I came across the first letters I ever received from the N3F. They were from Michelle Nowak and Lyne Masamitsu. It was fun going over them again. There was a lot of support available when I first joined which was great since I was a newby to this kind of fandom (I'd previously been a member of only media related clubs). Everything was so new to me and the letters from the welcomittee were great. I knew I could write and ask any questions. At the time I also recieved info about the Hugo and a couple of flyers. Lyne sent me her catalog of fantasy art which I still have. The most invaluable thing to me was the member handbook which guided me through the club. I am so glad that is available again for the new neffers! I think it makes a big difference, especially to the neo fan.

Robert Sabella: I enjoyed your article A Brief History of Science Fiction. It read like an article and ended like a story. Is this a true story and how did you come across the information?

Jennet Kaerie: Glad to have you back "with new fervor". I don't see why your friend can't join the Writer's Exchange and have other people read and critique your work. Of course, I've never been in the WE so I don't know exactly how it runs and that may not be feasible.

Denise Fisk: I appreciate your comments regarding those who suffer from bipolar disorder. It is good to know (I have a friend with bipolar) and I think it's great you want to help educate people. That is a great attitude to have. I know this is a different situation, but I've taken on that attitude regarding dating a man in a wheelchair. I used to get upset over the stupid and nosey questions people would ask me, but now I just think of it as one more person to help educate (of course if something is totally inappropriate I will not answer them). I think people are genuinely surprised when they learn

that my boyfriend can do/has done most things that everyone else does. He drives, is a supervisor at work, opens doors for me, rides on rollercoasters, took modified tae kwon do, and frequently comes up the flight of stairs it takes to get to my apartment for dinner. All of this is done without any assistance whatsoever. He has full upper body strength and mental capacity. To me he is simply a man who can't walk. I have never thought of him as a cripple or invalid. I've known people who could walk who were more handicapped than my boyfriend because of unresolved issues they have. Being handicapped is all relative to me. And we all have various ache's and pains that may hinder our activity to some degree. Anyway, I didn't mean to get on such a roll about this...

Rick Brooks: Thanks for the cute snal joke. I've read a little about the English letter Thorn. It's all quite facinating. I will have to pull out my history of the alphabet book sometime.

=====
Lauren Clough

Jennet: Welcome, sort of newbie neffer. ☺ I was a member for about 8 years or so in the 90s, then dropped out for a while. But I'm baa-aack! I definitely believe that you get out of something what you put into it.

As far as your writer friend's reluctance to join N3F just because you are already a member of the Writer's Exchange, are you *sure* that's the reason? She could pick other people off the list to exchange manuscripts with. She doesn't have to share her stuff with you unless she wants to. I don't know how it works now, but years ago, WE members sent in brief bios, which were compiled into a list, which was mailed to all WE members. Each member could choose from the list, based on the bio, someone he or she thought might have compatible interests to critique his or her stories.

Sarah: I, too, enjoy the N3F Forum. Its participation seems to go in cycles, though. Still, I check in periodically to see if there has

been any activity.

Ok, there's you, Ruth, Usagi....just how many sisters do you have? I need a scorecard to keep this all straight. ☺

Green Rose of Altair (Denise?): Since I know people with bipolar disorder, both personally and professionally, I really appreciated your candor in discussing your own illness. I know someone who feels he must keep it secret at all costs, and as a result, people think he is rather weird. I find this very sad. ☹

=====

Ruth R. Davidson

I just finished reading Dune with our N3F Bookworms group. I can't believe it took me so long to read it! It was an awesome book. Currently I'm reading The Big Book of Amber.

Jennett: Oh yeah, thanks, fer makin' me look like a hard arsed bistache. Uh huh. :wink: Anyway, as you see, your word search was in last ish, and I was wrong, it wasn't too big. I just thought it was at first. AND I'm not gonna get mad if you ramble on and on and on in an LoC. Just don't be boring. :wink, grin: Now, if you start writing novels or short story length LoC's, then I'll have to insist that you join N'APA. So there. Ha. :innocent:

Regarding your friend, maybe her issue is with the dues. Have you tried offering her an N3F membership as a gift? I don't know of any other groups that I would trust. Try asking Penina Spinka. OH! And warn your friend that posting things up online, even on a forum or yahoogroup is often considered published by most publishing companies. It's not secure anyway, any ol' person could read it and steal your work. (Yes, I'm paranoid.)

Sarah: In Singapore they now have a reality TV show based on conception. The person who conceives first, wins. They devised it because they are vastly under populated and will soon be unable to support their economic system or have enough people in their military.

Denise: Thank you for your comments. What annoys me the most is when people assume that those with bipolar or any other bio-

logical/psychological problem are simply nut cases and look down on them for needing medication. Ticks me off.

My husband's mother is bipolar AND has ADD, and if she's not on her meds, dear lord, she is impossible to deal with.

My husband has ADD, I have a few friends with it and I've dealt with children who had it. It really ticks me off to no end when people say that it's not real and that people who think they have it are just lazy or are lazy parents who drug their kids. Grrrrr . . .

Too many people are misinformed when it comes to these disorders. An awesome book about ADD (it also talks a bit about bipolar) is Healing ADD by Dr. Daniel G. Amen. It talks about the 6 different types and we now have the technology to see the activity in the brain. It's called a SPECT scan. They inject you with a radioactive isotope that clings to your blood cells. When it travels to the brain, using this new imaging, you can see the activity of the brain instead of like in an MRI where you just see the anatomy

The prefrontal cortex is the part of the brain that deals with organization, impulse, concentration, attention span, etc., etc..

When a normal person concentrates the activity in the prefrontal cortex *increases*. When someone with ADD tries to concentrate the activity in the prefrontal cortex *decreases*. This is why stimulate medication works.

If your brain doesn't work right, you won't work right. You wouldn't tell a person who needs glasses to "try harder" to see. You'd give them glasses and that'd be it! It's the thing.

Though there are people who will use their disorder (be it bipolar, ADD, Dyslexia, or what have you) as an excuse to act badly or do poorly. Those sorts of people are incredibly frustrating. It's because of people like them that my husband generally doesn't tell others about his ADD.

There's a lot more information and specifics about the disorder in Healing ADD, including various types of treatment and what is mistaken for ADD. I highly recommend it to

anyone wanting to know the right of things on the subject.

Dr. Amen has also written a few other books on the brain and other disorders. You can visit his website at www.amenclinic.com.

Anyway, I feel for ya, and I certainly understand your desire to education people! Props to you!

Rick: I haven't read anything by Phyllis A. Whitney. Is there a title you'd recommend?

Janine: You need t'stop writing reviews on good books. You keep making me wanna read what you review! I've got enough books on my list of things to read. Bad woman. :wink:

Jon: I loved Firefly. I have all 14 eps on DVD. Did you know that they're making a Firefly movie? It's supposed to come out this year or next. Either way, not soon enough. I hope that after the movie they'll get an offer to make a series out of it!

Carla: I will admit that I have a difficult time following through on sending thank you notes. I never sent any for the gifts people gave me for my wedding or for my baby showers. I still feel bad about it. I don't know why I couldn't just buckle down and write the darned things. The sad part is, I really did and still appreciate everything that those people did for me. I didn't return a single gift.

If it's my immediate family it's easy because next time I'm talking to them on the phone I can just say, "oh yeah, thanks for . . ."

I am working on this flaw of mine. So, I would like to think there's hope for me yet.

=====
Denise A. Fisk

Everybody: In the last issue, my e-mail address mistakenly was used in lieu of my name! So I just wanted to clear that up and let you know that I am the author of the essay on bipolar disease. Hope to hear from you about that since it's an important issue. Most importantly, we've got to shed the bigotry (yes, it still exists in these modern times, believe it or not) that is sometimes associated with mental illness. Thanks.

Sarah: Thanks for your nice com-

ments on my movie review of "Arthur!" Glad you shared my opinions on some key elements. Yes, Arthur and his companions would have been around 30 when they were released from their training and became warriors. However, no way could Ray Winstone, as much charm as he put into his character, could be 30. He just has too many years on him to be believable as a young warrior. I wondered how the producers explained his older age? Maybe he got started in the "warrior training program" at a later age! Or somehow joined Arthur's regiment along the way.

You also made a good point about France being actually under-populated. How very true. However, I think this applies more to the native French rather than the Muslim and other ethnic immigrants who come to this country. I believe that many do become citizens, unless citizenship for foreigners is banned. Some immigrants, though not all, have large families. So maybe that might infuse France with a larger population in the future. Anyway, on a "60 Minutes" segment a few years ago, they talked with folks in Italy who were concerned about the low marriage rate, and subsequently, the low birth rate. "Who will take care of us in our old age?" was a common concern shared among the people interviewed. The U.S. seems to be going this way as well. In many cases, fewer adults are marrying, and if they do, some have either one child or no children at all. (Of course, many married folks have several children; I just wanted to make this distinction.) So we will face the same concerns as the Italians when we all get older. I'm sure other countries suffer from this same problem, but I don't know which ones off-hand.

Janine: I enjoyed your book reviews. Especially the novel from Andre Norton. That sounds like a very interesting book. Some of her novels are ageless, and she seems to cleverly side-step any future technology issues by being evasive, or by having her books be more character-driven, rather than concentrate on technology.

Rick: How are you feeling these days?

Hope all is well with you and yours. So you've lived in your house for over 51 years? Cool! My dad has owned his home for almost that amount of time. Hard to believe that. Time sure goes by fast, I guess.

Carla: Oh! I agree with you 100% about the importance of writing notes thanking the person for the gift, the service performed or whatever. I discontinued giving presents to my nieces. So did my dad. They rarely wrote notes acknowledging the gifts. That courtesy is also sadly lacking in our current society. I even think that overall politeness is disappearing. I do get so tired of some cars not letting me walk across the street even though I have the legal right. The drivers are just so impatient and want to get to their destination quickly. I also get weary of folks who bump into me and don't even so much as say "pardon me." What is with these people?? I was taught good manners, with the expectation that other people have those same skills as well. Not anymore!

Robert: Thanks for your wonderful article on the history of sci-fi! Wow. I sure learned a lot. I didn't know about Vito or the Thursday Night Group. What a wonderful way to get together and exchange ideas. Do you know if the Thursday Night Group has been resurrected and currently exists in any New York City sci-fi bookstore? I would certainly be interested in finding out!

=====
Rick Brooks

Had a bad scare a couple weeks back. I'd tested positive for prostate cancer. Then I came down with the flu and, at the same time, had a bladder infection. So I had some of the symptoms of prostate cancer.

Fortunately, it turned out to be a false alarm.

Last week, my blood pressure medications finally seemed to take hold and I got down into the normal range.

Good news is that I've signed a contract with Filament Books to publish a batch of my short stories online as 2 ebooks. Two of my short stories were already scheduled to be published

in the first issue of the online Planetary Stories.

And finally I've sent off 2 short stories requested by a fellow I met online who lives in Finland. He heard I wrote pulpish stories.

Looks like things may be going well. But now I've got to buckle down and write some more.

Jennet: Word searches are fun to make. I like filling in the extra letters to almost make one of the desired names. I actually sold one crossword puzzle years ago. They paid \$5 and wanted all rights.

I didn't send them any more.

Sarah: I'm in about 50 Yahoo discussion groups, including the N3F one.

The ebook community one gave me the lead to have my short stories published. The one on fiction mags is where I mentioned that I wrote neo-pulp stories.

1000 words a minute means moving right down the page. I understood that President Kennedy could read 10,000 words a minute. Though I can't see how.

Denise: Mental illness is often considered something shameful. I have some trouble with depression. Considering I've had arthritis for over 40 years, it isn't surprising.

But it does tend to isolate me from others.

Incidentally my alternate email address should be: rabrook@gmail.com

The netscape address is erratic and I don't check it very often.

A rather weird "A Brief History of SF." I've given up tv instead of reading.

I don't care for classifying Roger Zelazny as "New Wave." After all, Roger's stories had both character and plot. Something that New Wave writers, such as JG Ballard lacked.

Raining today. Supposed to turn to snow. (I trust you'll pardon the four-letter word.) I hope the roads don't turn to ice.



Torcon '03 -- Worldcon 61

By Taras Wolansky

Torcon 3, the 61st Worldcon, was held August 28 through September 1, 2003, at the Metro Toronto Convention Center and, a few blocks away, the Fairmont Royal York and Crowne Plaza. Guests of Honor: George R.R. Martin, author; Frank Kelly Freas, artist; Mike Glyer, fan; and "GoHst of Honour" Robert Robison.

I have a vague recollection of a family visit to Toronto, during my childhood, but for all practical purposes this was my first visit. Drivers were a bit more polite than in New York (no surprise), but the air smelled worse (big surprise). Jobs done by Hispanics in New York are carried out by immigrants from Eastern Europe.

Like a lot of northern cities, Toronto is gradually turning into a space colony, with a proliferating web of sky bridges and spacious tunnels, filled with shops, connecting the downtown buildings. If you came in by train, you could attend the entire convention without going outside once. Exploring the most cavernous stretch of the system, overlooking the rail yards with their double-decker passenger trains, I was dive-bombed by a confused bird and gazed upon a thirty foot black curtain, concealing ... what?

{Real Science}

The reality of scientific research vs. the theory was the subject of "Does the Scientific Method Make Science Work", Friday morning, with a panel of SF/fantasy writing scientists: Ken Wharton, James Killus, Kenn Bates and, arriving late, Catherine Asaro. Bates, whose research interests are "all over the map", but mostly physics, thought he could represent the "small science" point of view; while laser physicist Wharton claimed a background in "big science". Bates thought that researchers have

more independence in small science, because you can usually find the money later, while in big science you have to take what you can get.

When you experiment, said Wharton, "cool things happen"; *then* you come up with a hypothesis. The eventual published scientific paper merely reverses the sequence of events. Similarly, it's often said that Mercury's anomalous orbit around the Sun is one of the things Einstein was trying to explain with Relativity. In fact, said Wharton, Einstein was not an astronomer and didn't know there was a problem with the orbit of Mercury.

continued on page 22



REVIEWS

Jon D. Swartz, Reviews Editor

Books

An Earthly Crown by Kate Elliot (DAW, 1993)

"Here I am a barbarian, because men understand me not." – Ovis.

What makes a barbarian? Who are the barbarians? These questions seem to be the underlining theme in this story. Humans now travel the stars, but we have been conquered by the Chapalii, a chameleon species whose technology is far superior to our own. A quiet revolution is beginning and information that is vital to the movement is on a planet called Rhui, an interdicted planet to protect our primitive humanoid cousins. Charles, the only human Lord in the Chapalii Empire, leads the expedition. He not only needs the information located on Rhui (that shouldn't be there to begin with) but also his only heir, his sister, Tess, a superb linguist who has been living with the Jaran people for some time. On Rhui, all the Jaran tribes have been united under Ilya Bakhtian, Tess's husband, to conquer the khaja lands to protect the Jaran tribes. Both sides refer to the other as barbarians. Charles and company view both sides as having barbaric tendencies, and then one wonders, is that how the Chapalii view their human underlings? This book would be lacking if there were only politics and intrigue; it also has the question of morality, and the consequences to choices. You feel for the characters involved.

On the cover it says "Book One" but really it's Book Two. The first one was called Jaran, and I recommend that you read it before reading this one, though it's not necessary. Jaran is more of a prequel and tells the story of how Tess came to be on Rhui, and how she discovered the information vital to the rebellion.

I've never read C. J. Cherryh, but my husband has, as well as these books, and he says it reminds him of Cherryh, only better. We give four thumbs up to both books. Reviewed by Ruth R. Davidson.

Dragon Prince by Melanie Rawn
(DAW, 1988)

For some reason I initially had a difficult time writing this review. Not because the story was bad; it was quite good – a page-turner, but because it was a different story in feel.

Rohan, Prince of the Desert, has a vision to unite all the warring Princedoms with a common law. To protect his land from others who would take advantage of his position, he married a Sunrunner instead of a Princess from another Princedom. Sunrunners create fire, and they also travel and talk to one another using light as their mode of mental transportation. Rohan is doubly blessed that he and Sioned, his Sunrunner wife, love one another and share the same goals; as well as having the support of his people and a few other Princedoms. Their biggest obstacle is the High Prince who is Rohan's opposite in goals and passions.

The dragons are a big deal as well, only that vein is more subtle.

My description doesn't seem to do this story justice. I am almost making it sound like any other story, but it's not. It's written very well and keeps your interest. The characters are believable and you care about what happens to them. I especially recommend this book to anyone who likes fantasy stories. It is well worth the read. Reviewed by Ruth R. Davidson.

Quicksilver by Neal Stephenson
(William Morrow, 2003)

In this, the first volume of his "Baroque Cycle," Stephenson begins his most ambitious work to date. The novel, divided into three books, opens in 1713 with the ageless Enoch Root seeking Daniel Waterhouse on the campus of what passes for MIT in eighteenth-century Massachusetts. Daniel is key to resolving an explosive scientific battle between Isaac Newton and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz over the development of calculus. As Daniel returns to London aboard the *Minerva*, readers

are catapulted back half a century to recall his years at Cambridge with young Isaac. Daniel is a perfect historical witness. Privy to Robert Hooke's early drawings of microscope images and with associates among the English nobility, religious radicals, and the Royal Society, he also befriends Samuel Pepys, risks drinking a cup of coffee, and enjoys a lecture on Belgian waffles and cleavage – all before the year 1700!

Quicksilver has been described by a genre critic as “a massive, exuberant and wildly ambitious historical novel” and it is also Stephenson's eagerly awaited prequel to *Cryptonomicon* -- his pyrotechnic reworking of the 20th Century, from World War II codebreaking and disinformation to the latest issues of Internet data privacy. *Quicksilver* won the 2004 Arthur C. Clarke Award. At the end of this fascinating volume on the origins of the scientific revolution in the 18th Century, this reader was left with more questions than answers; but I suppose such a condition is common after finishing the first installment of trilogies of such scope.

Retro SF Reviews

Stephenson has written several other novels, some of which have won major awards. Reviews of two of his award-winning books are presented below.

Cryptonomicon by Neal Stephenson
(Avon, 1999)

This novel moves back and forth between two time periods, World War II and the present. Both the historical and contemporary sequences focus on encryption: code-breaking in World War II and data encryption in the modern period. The principal protagonists of the 1940s are mathematicians Alan Mathison Turing and Rudolf (Rudy) von Hacklheber; U. S. Navy Captain Lawrence Pritchard Waterhouse, mathematics prodigy and cryptanalyst extraordinaire (who invents the first digital computer); morphine-addicted Marine Raider Robert

(Bobby) Shaftoe; Lieutenant Goto Dengo, a mining engineer in the Japanese army; and Captain Günter Bischoff, a German U-boat commander. Waterhouse and Shaftoe are part of an Allied group trying to break the Axis communication codes, at the same time keeping the enemy from knowing that their codes have been broken. Main characters in the present include Waterhouse's grandson, computer wizard Randall Lawrence (Randy) Waterhouse; Randy's business partner Avi Halaby; and America (Amy) Shaftoe, Bobby's tough granddaughter and Randy's girlfriend. A key character in both time periods is the mysterious and seemingly ageless Enoch Root (whose task is secret guidance based on secret knowledge). In the present Waterhouse, Halaby, and their associates are attempting to set up an offshore data haven in Southeast Asia, free of governmental interference; and, at the same time, they are trying to create the world's first proper digital currency.

In an interview in *Locus* Stephenson described this novel as follows: “Some of the characters have been going along and they've discovered a little crack in the sidewalk, it splits wide open, they fall through it, and they're in this whole universe that they didn't imagine. It happens to them in different ways.” The book includes an appendix, “The Solitaire Encryption Algorithm” by Bruce Schneier, explaining an algorithm (based on a deck of cards) that is part of the plot. *Cryptonomicon*, a tour de force of mathematical/computer fiction, was short-listed for many awards and won the 2000 Locus Award for best SF novel. I enjoyed every page.

The Diamond Age by Neal Stephenson
(Bantam, 1995)

Sub-titled *A Young Lady's Illustrated Primer*, this novel describes a future interactive technology world in which all the important people are formed into “phyles,” some past-oriented, and living in very different ways from each other: Ashanti, Zulus, Boers, Han Chinese, etc. The most successful phyle is the

New Atlanteans, who read the *Times*, practice sexual morality, are uptight, formal, repressed, and above all hypocritical. The underclass heroine Nell obtains a copy of the interactive *Primer*, intended for the four-year-old granddaughter of the Equity Lord of the New Atlantic phyle. The stories in the *Primer* “educate” Nell by telling her stories about what is moral and what is necessary for success in life. Besides the theme of education, the main one of the book, other themes espoused are intelligence, culture, and the moral of nanotechnology (on which these themes rest). In the end the Chinese succeed, Nell succeeds, and the New Atlanteans succeed. Left behind, so far behind that they hardly make an appearance, are the political systems of the 20th Century.

The Diamond Age won the 1996 Hugo and Locus Awards for best novel, but I found it almost unreadable.

Classic Retro SF Reviews

The War Against The Rull, by A. E. van Vogt (Orb, 1999)

Advertised as the “first complete edition” of this novel, the two stories in the book are “The War Against the Rull” and “The First Rull.” The original stories that made up “The War Against the Rull” were “Repetition,” “Cooperate or Else,” “The Second Solution,” “The Rull,” “The Green Forest,” and “The Sound.” All were published between 1940 and 1950 in *Astounding Science Fiction*. Despite several reviews that have stated otherwise, popular *Astounding* artist Hubert Rogers is the cover artist (the cover reprinted here originally was his cover for the October 1948 issue of *Astounding*, and illustrated Part One of van Vogt’s popular serial, “The Players of Null-A”). These stories are van Vogt at his Golden Age best!

Lest Darkness Falls by L. Sprague de Camp (Ballantine, 1974)

While at my son’s a few weeks ago, baby-sitting our granddaughter, I was looking for something to read while she was taking her nap. I perused my son’s bookshelves and

spied this paperback edition of *Lest Darkness Falls*, a SF novel I hadn’t read in many years. It took only a couple of pages to get me hooked again on the story of Martin Padway, an American archeologist who finds himself transported back to ancient Rome -- with its Gauls, Vandals, Greeks, etc., and their multitude of languages, customs, and religions – in the 6th Century just before the Dark Ages. When I got home that afternoon, I located my copy of this well-written novel and ended up reading all of it again. This time I even read it with an historical dictionary/atlas at my side so I could better follow the events in the story. This 65-year-old time travel novel was still a good read in 2004. Of particular interest were De Camp’s ideas on what it would have taken to prevent the Dark Ages from coming about. A shorter version of the novel originally appeared in the December 1939 issue of *Unknown*, the short-lived companion magazine to *Astounding*.

Mystery Review

Cast, In Order of Disappearance; So Much Blood; Star Trap; and An Amateur Corpse
by Simon Brett (New York: Wings Books, 1993)

These novels were the first four “Charles Paris” mysteries, originally published in England from 1975 to 1978. The Wings omnibus volume presents them in reverse order, but the dates on the copyright page give the true order of publication, and this is the sequence in which they should be read. Paris is an aging professional actor who spends more time “resting” than performing. When he does secure the odd performing part, usually despite the non-efforts of his agent, he invariably finds himself caught up in mysteries that he feels compelled to solve. Handicapping him in his professional work and in his amateur detecting are his taste for Bells scotch whisky, his penchant for young women, his estrangement from his long-suffering wife Frances for whom he still feels many “undefined emotions,” and his

feelings of guilt about his behavior toward his wife and their grown daughter who has married and made him a grandfather. All four of these books are satiric looks at the entertainment industry in England, as well as quite clever mysteries. Especially amusing are 1) the excerpts from critical reviews of Paris' previous acting performances, interspersed throughout the books; and 2) the scenes in which Paris attempts to obtain information by assuming the guise of Detective-Sergeant McWhirter of Scotland Yard. All of the mysteries in this omnibus collection are worth reading – as are all the rest of the novels in the series, now numbering nearly 20 titles.

Mundane Media Review

The West Wing: The Complete Second Season (Warner Home Video, 2004)

The new West Wing season has begun, and promises to be as good as usual, with Jimmy Smits and Alan Alda perhaps opposing each other for the presidency. I recently watched all the episodes of the multiple award-winning second season on a DVD given to me as a birthday present. What writing and acting! My older son once asked me how *The West Wing* writers could come up with such complicated yet realistic scripts every week. I didn't have an answer, but I agreed that the writing is consistently great. Of special interest to N3F members should be the occasional episodes with SF elements. Commentaries on selected episodes are revealing and fascinating, and the deleted scenes and gag reel included are quite entertaining.

Fanzine Reviews

December 2004 issue (#209) of *Ansible* by Dave Langford. This issue was divided into the following sections: The Scone of Stone (information on SF personalities), Connotive (information on SF societies and conventions), and Infinitely Improbable (miscellaneous information). Of special interest from the last section was the following quote in his Dept. of Stu-

pefying Similies, from a 1963 story in the English prozine *Science Fantasy*: "The boiling upsurge of questions and ideas whirled around in Harding's head like particles being accelerated in a cyclotron, until he felt like a man both blind and deaf searching for a needle in a lightless, soundless chamber, and forced to wear feather pillows for gloves."

December 2004 issue (#93) of *Notes from Bob Peterson*. Bob's Christmas issue of his long-time personalzine. This issue contained a group picture of early fans, and reported on his latest activities: his recent move, books he has read, trips he and his wife have taken, and his TV watching.

December 2004 issue (#23) of *Trap Door* by Robert Lichtman. Highlights of this issue included "What I Did On My Christmas Vacation" by Carol Carr, "Grand Master" by Bob Silverberg, and "I Thought I Had A Pumpkin Bomb" by John Hertz. Letter writers included, among others, Joel Nydahl, Ron Bennett, Noreen Shaw, Harry Warner, Jr., Ray Nelson, Earl Kemp, Dick Lupoff, Ted White, Ben Indick, Rich Brown, and yours truly. *Trap Door* is consistently excellent!

Forthcoming SF Books

February 2005:

Banks, L. A., *The Bitten*

(novel, St. Martin's Griffin)

Carol Berg, *The Soul Weaver*

(novel, Penguin/Roc)

Isabelle Carmody, *Night Gate*

(YA novel, Random House)

C. J. Cherryh, *Destroyer* (novel, DAW)

L. Sprague de Camp, *Years in the Making*
(collection, NESFA Press)

Cory Doctorow, *Someone Comes to Town,
Someone Leaves Town* (novel, Tor)

Jude Fisher, *The Rose of the World*
(novel, DAW)

Larry Niven & Jerry Pournelle, *Burning Tower*
(novel, Pocket)

Steph Swainston, *The Year of Our War*
(novel, HarperCollins/Eos)

Kim Wilkins, *The Autumn Castle*
(novel, Warner Aspect)

March 2005:

Gregory Benford, *The Sunborn*
(novel, Warner Aspect)

Orson Scott Card, *Shadow of the Giant*
(novel, Tor)

Arthur C. Clarke & Stephen Baxter, *Sunstorm*
(novel, Ballantine Del Rey)

Jon Courtenay Grimwood, *Pashazade*
(novel, Bantam Spectra)

Amanda Hemingway, *The Greenstone Grail*
(novel, Ballantine Del Rey)

Mercedes Lackey, *Sanctuary* (novel, DAW)

Tanith Lee, *Metallic Love*
(novel, Bantam Spectra)

Richard K. Morgan, *Market Forces*
(novel, Ballantine Del Rey)

Sharon Shinn, *Mystic and Rider* (novel, Ace)

Lisa Tuttle, *The Mysteries*
(novel, Bantam Spectra)

April 2005:

Diane Duane, *Wizards at War*
(YA novel, Harcourt)

Diana Wynne Jones, *Conrad's Fate*
(YA novel, HarperCollins/Greenwillow)

Gwyneth Jones, *Bold as Love*
(novel, Night Shade Books)

Julian May, *Ironcrown Moon* (novel, Ace)

William F. Nolan, *Wild Galaxy*
(collection, Golden Gryphon Press)

Robert Reed, *The Well of Stars* (novel, Tor)

Kristine Kathryn Rusch, *Buried Deep*
(novel, Penguin/Roc)

Robert J. Sawyer, *Mindscan* (novel, Tor)

Jack Williamson, *The Stonehenge Gate*
(novel, Tor)

Robert Charles Wilson, *Spin* (novel, Tor)

Re Reviewers and Reviewed

Simon Brett is a pseudonym of British author Anthony Lee. In addition to the "Charles Paris" mysteries reviewed here, he has also written

the "Mrs. Pargenter" (six novels) and "The Fethering" (five novels) mystery series as well as several outstanding standalone novels, including *Singled Out* and *A Shock to the System*. The latter was made into a movie in 1990 starring Michael Caine. Lee is a former member of London's theater world -- writing his Charles Paris mysteries from an insider's experiences in this milieu -- and a former chairman of the British Crime Writers' Association. His comments on the BBC (the "Beeb") in his books are especially humorous.

Ruth R. Davidson is our current President (2003-2004). She also takes part in many other N3F bureaus and activities. Ruth enjoys spending time with her family which includes, not only her husband and daughter, but also her pet rats and cats. She has a wide variety of interests; music, art, writing, anime, and gaming are among them. Her personal website is www.ruthiechan.net.

L. Sprague de Camp (1907 - 2000) published more than 100 books over a period of 60+ years, many of them SF/fantasy. He collaborated with Fletcher Pratt in a number of very popular stories, including the "Harold Shea" and "Gavaghan's Bar" series. Alone he authored a number of SF/fantasy novels in addition to *Lest Darkness Fall: The Glory That Was, Divide and Rule*, and *Rogue Queen*, to name only some of his classics in the genre. He also wrote a number of nonfiction books, including popular critical biographies of Robert Howard and H. P. Lovecraft. His *Science Fiction Handbook*, originally published in 1953, was one of the first critical looks at the field. An autobiography, *Time & Chance*, was edited by his wife Catherine and appeared in 1996.

Dave Langford is a long-time UK science fiction fan and professional author. His fanzine *Ansible* has won many awards, including several Hugos. It is available in both electronic and print forms. His latest book is *He Do the Time Police in Different Voices*, a short story collection that brings together many of his SF

parodies and pastiches. Langford lives in Reading, England with his wife Hazel and his library of 25,000+ books.

Robert Lichtman, a former member of N3F, is known in fandom today principally for his extensive collection of fanzines. In addition to *Trap Door* he has edited and/or published several other popular genre fanzines, including *Fanorama* (1998), a collection of Walt Willis' fan columns from *Nebula SF*.

Bob Peterson is a member of both N3F and First Fandom. He has published his fanzine, *Notes from Bob Peterson*, for many years. In the 1940s he produced *The Science Fiction Index* and *The Fantasy Index*, compilations of magazine story listings. His long and remarkable fannish career was rewarded in 2004 with his induction into First Fandom's Hall of Fame.

Neal Stephenson is an award-winning SF author. His most successful book to date has been *Cryptonomicon*, published in 1999. His Baroque Cycle of novels, all published during 2003-2004, consists of *Quicksilver*, *The Confusion*, and *System of the World*. He has described himself as coming "from a clan of rootless, itinerant hard-science and engineering professors."

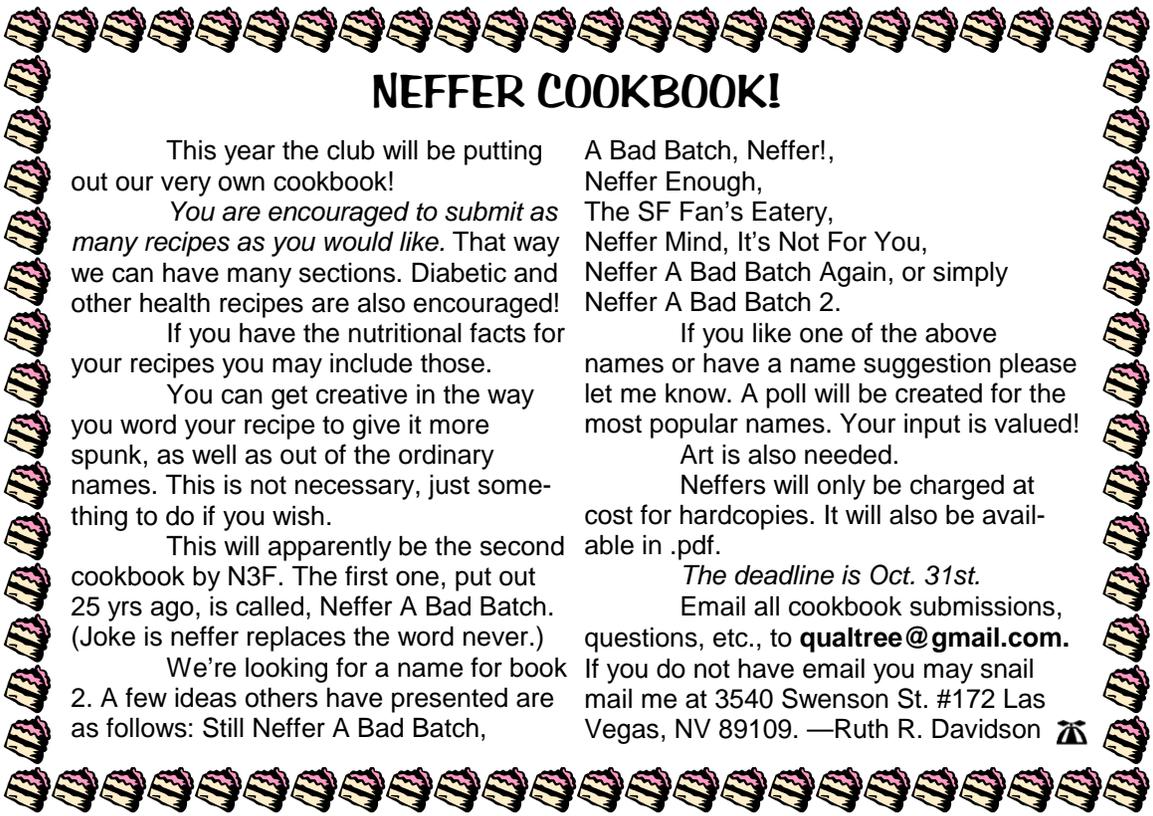
A. E. van Vogt (1912 - 2000) should need no introduction to long-time SF readers. At one time he was the most popular SF writer in America, and perhaps in the world. His many classic novels included *Slan*, *The Book of Ptath*, *The World of Null-A*, *The Weapon Makers*, *The House That Stood Still*, *The Voyage of the Space Beagle*, and *Empire of the Atom*. Unfortunately, he became involved with L. Ron Hubbard's Dianetics in the early 1950s and only returned to science fiction writing in the late 1960s. He was a member of First Fandom, and was named a SFWA Grand Master in 1995.

The Reviews Editor is responsible for everything in this column not attributed to

someone else.

Note: N3F members are invited to submit reviews, either electronically or by snail mail, for publication in this column. If you send a review by e-mail and don't hear back within a reasonable length of time, please write me. Some Internet providers cannot (or will not) communicate with each other. My two addresses: jon_swartz@hotmail.com and 1704 Vine Street, Georgetown, TX 78626.





NEFFER COOKBOOK!

This year the club will be putting out our very own cookbook!

You are encouraged to submit as many recipes as you would like. That way we can have many sections. Diabetic and other health recipes are also encouraged!

If you have the nutritional facts for your recipes you may include those.

You can get creative in the way you word your recipe to give it more spunk, as well as out of the ordinary names. This is not necessary, just something to do if you wish.

This will apparently be the second cookbook by N3F. The first one, put out 25 yrs ago, is called, Neffer A Bad Batch. (Joke is neffer replaces the word never.)

We're looking for a name for book 2. A few ideas others have presented are as follows: Still Neffer A Bad Batch,

A Bad Batch, Neffer!,
Neffer Enough,
The SF Fan's Eatery,
Neffer Mind, It's Not For You,
Neffer A Bad Batch Again, or simply
Neffer A Bad Batch 2.

If you like one of the above names or have a name suggestion please let me know. A poll will be created for the most popular names. Your input is valued!

Art is also needed.

Neffers will only be charged at cost for hardcopies. It will also be available in .pdf.

The deadline is Oct. 31st.

Email all cookbook submissions, questions, etc., to qualtree@gmail.com. If you do not have email you may snail mail me at 3540 Swenson St. #172 Las Vegas, NV 89109. —Ruth R. Davidson 🍷

Avon Periodical's Pulp Magazine--Comic Book Experiment

By Jon D. Swartz

Early in 1950 -- at the suggestion of his printer -- Joseph Meyers, publisher of Avon Periodicals, asked his editor to put together a new science fiction pulp magazine to be titled Out Of This World Adventures (OOTWA). What made this venture new, and the proposed magazine different from the other pulps of that time, was the "plus" that was later advertised on the magazine's cover: "32 Pages of Fantasy Stories Illustrated in Full Color." The original plan called for this 132-page (counting covers) SF magazine to be published on a bi-monthly schedule, although only two issues, dated July and December 1950, ever saw print. Science fiction pioneer Donald A. Wollheim was the editor chosen to carry out this publishing experiment. Wollheim wrote in his first edi-

torial for this new magazine that it "will carry its readers out of this world' both in story and picture."

Moreover, apparently this SF magazine with comics in the middle was only part of a larger plan that called for three new Avon pulps with comic book inserts. In addition to OOTWA, Pioneer Western, and Sparkling Love/Sparkling Love Stories were published. I have not seen copies of these latter two titles, but reference sources report that only one issue of Pioneer Western (dated December 1950); and two issues of the last title: Sparkling Love (dated June 1950), and a slightly retitled Sparkling Love Stories (dated July 1950) were published. One Internet source has reported that Sparkling Love [reprinted in 1953 by Real-

istic] had a photo cover. It is obvious from these statistics that Avon's innovation of including comic inserts in pulp magazines was not a big success.

On the other hand, I still remember the thrill I experienced when I picked up the first issue of OOTWA at the newsstand where I worked on Saturdays. I was 15 at the time, and had given up reading/collecting SF comic books for the SF magazines. At the time Galaxy, The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction, Other Worlds, and other new titles were appearing; and Astounding and Amazing were still going strong. I had been reading and collecting Astounding for a couple of years, and loved the writing of its regular contributors: Isaac Asimov, Clifford D. Simak, Robert Heinlein, Lewis Padgett (Henry Kuttner & C. L. Moore), L. Sprague de Camp, Hal Clement, Poul Anderson, Theodore Sturgeon, Will Stewart (Jack Williamson), and A. E. van Vogt. Van Vogt was a particular favorite of mine, and of most of my SF-reading friends. Still, I recall vacillating for some time over whether or not to buy this first issue of OOTWA, despite the fact that it included a story by van Vogt. In the early 1950s my funds were limited, and I was buying several other SF titles on a regular basis. Others I was reading on a semi-regular basis at the newsstand.

Contents of OOTWA

July 1950 Issue:

The first issue had an imposing lineup of authors. In addition to van Vogt, stories by A. Bertram Chandler, Lester Del Rey, Ray Cummings, William Tenn, Lloyd Williams, Mack Reynolds, and Kris Neville were included. Cummings' story, "The Planet Smashers," the longest story in the issue, was featured on the cover; but van Vogt (as "A. E. Vogt"), Del Rey, Chandler also were listed. I recognized several of these authors from my reading of Astounding and other SF magazines. While OOTWA #1 probably did not contain some of the best work of these authors, their stories nonetheless made for entertaining reading.

The "special story section, illustrated in full color," had stories by John Michel, Edward Bellin, W. Malcolm White (2-page text story), and Gardner Fox. The illustrators of these stories were Joe Kubert and John Giunta. Bellin was one of Michel's many pseudonyms. At the time Michel was a close friend of Wollheim's. The unsigned cover showed a monstrous Martian from Ray Cummins' story, "The Planet Smashers." This particular grey-skinned creature was depicted wearing a grey helmet and with a young blonde woman in a low-cut red dress in its clutches. Notable stories from the first issue included "The Planet Smashers" and van Vogt's "Letter from the Stars". In the first, a novelette, Cummings wrote of a war between pleasure-loving Venusians and warlike Martians who attempt to blow up Venus. In the second, a short story, van Vogt told of correspondence between an Earthman and an alien who planned to conquer Earth.

December 1950 Issue:

The second issue carried over only one author from the first, A. Bertram Chandler. His story, "Raiders of the Solar Frontier," the longest in the issue, was featured on the cover. Other stories included were by Bryce Walton, Walt Sheldon, Basil Wells, J. Harvey Haggard, Len J. Moffatt, and John & Dorothy de Courcy. Walton, Sheldon, and Wells were listed on the cover. At the time I had read only Chandler (from my regular reading of Astounding), but I had heard of some of the others.

The section of comics again offered stories by John Michel, under his own name and his Bellin pseudonym (this issue as E. J. Bellin). The other authors were again W. Malcolm White (2-page text story) and Gardner Fox. Three separate Internet sources I consulted stated that W. Malcolm White was in fact Wollheim, but this particular name does not appear in any "official" list of Wollheim pseudonyms. The illustrators again included Joe Kubert and John Giunta; a third art contributor was A. H. Johnston.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of

this issue was the "Mail from Planet Terra" department with letters from readers who commented on the first issue. While one teenaged reader from Minnesota liked the comics ("I just love your illustrated section"), the consensus seemed to be that such comics were not necessary to a SF magazine. One letter writer summarized this point of view with the following: "A reputation for good stories will sell far more copies than 'Hey, Kids! They got funnies in the middle'." This reaction is a bit strange when one realizes the importance comic strips played in the careers of many SF writers. Moreover, only a few years later the comics fandom explosion occurred; and the leaders involved were adults, not children. I myself was a charter member of the executive board of the Academy of Comic-Book Fans and Collectors, and I believe some other current and former members of N3F also were members of the Academy. The driving force behind comics fandom was Dr. Jerry Bails, a university professor; and other responsible adults were active participants who went on to careers in comics, SF, and related areas. Early members of comics fandom with SF ties included Buck & Juanita Coulson, Ron Goulart, Don Glut, Jim Harmon, Gordon Love, Richard Lupoff, Chris Steinbrunner, Roy Thomas, Don & Maggie Thompson, and Ted White, among others.

The unsigned cover of the second issue showed a woman who has been stabbed lying on the ground. She was dressed in a brightly colored blue bikini and bra, and next to her was a many-legged creature of some kind. Another woman, similarly dressed (but in a red bra and bikini, was standing over her. A man, naked to the waist except for a sash with a lightning bolt on it, was kneeling by the stabbed woman. Incongruously, the man was wearing a space helmet, while neither of the women was so equipped.

Notable stories from the second issue were Chandler's "Raiders of the Solar Frontier" and Moffatt's "Alpha Centauri Curtain Call." In the first, described as a "complete novel," a battle between spider-like alien invaders dis-

guised as humans and the inhabitants of a prison planet was described. In the second, a clever satire, a vaudeville performer told of performing before hostile aliens and literally "knocking them dead."

Another Internet source reported that the comics section in OOTWA #1 was the Avon comic book *Out of This World* #1 (June 1950), while the section in #2 was the same as the comic book *Strange Worlds* #1 (November 1952). Tuck reported that the Canadian issues of OOTWA were published in November 1950 and April 1951, and that the comic section in #2 was different from the one included in the second issue of the United States version of the magazine. I have no firsthand knowledge of any of these assertions.

Conclusions

While not a financial success at the time it was published, *Out of This World Adventures* has nevertheless become a collectible and copies of the two issues published now demand high prices. The magazine originally sold for 25¢, but in recent years copies in good condition have been priced as high as \$100.00 each. In contrast, most SF pulps from the same period sell for significantly less, with copies in good condition usually priced in the \$10.00 - \$25.00 range.

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Weird Fiction Magazines. Westport Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1985.



Writers' Exchange

Head: Joy Beeson
1700 Park Avenue
Winona Lake, Indiana 46590
joybeeson@earthlink.net

25 October 2003: The 2004 Beeson Banner is three-fifths printed -- can the 2002 Writer's Exchange Bulletin be far behind?

The W.E. web page < http://home.earthlink.net/~beeson_n3f/WEB/WEB.HTM > has been updated since my previous report. All W.E. members are welcome to send messages to be posted on this page, and may use unlinked pages on the W.E. site to exchange manuscripts.

The Writers' Exchange Bouncing Robin remains active.

Presumably, exchanges among members are going as briskly as ever -- since exchanges don't go through me, I have no way to tell.

The protocol at Writers' Exchange is that I send each member a list of all the members, with addresses and a brief description of each member: what sort of things he can and cannot critique, any variations from the default rules, etc. Then a member who wants comments selects a member from the list and sends the manuscript and a polite request. (Unless the member's description says that he requires notice, in which case you send just the request.)



Artist's Bureau

Head: Sarah Glasgow

The letters to the former n3f artists were sent in January. I have since received three replies. Two have rejoined and will be participating in the artzine! I would like to welcome back Lyne Masamitsu and Linda Hardy. I can't tell you how thrilled we are

to have you back with us!

For those of you who would like to participate in the artzine, but do not have access to the internet, please write to me so I can keep you posted on the updates. We frequently have updates on the forums at www.nfff.org for those with internet access.

On the forums there are 2 votes for the 11x17 size folded and 3 votes for the legal size folded. At this point I have made the decision, despite the votes, to make the size 11x17 folded. This is due to having several 8 1/2x11 pieces of art versus having only 2 smaller pieces. I hope this does not upset anyone. It just makes more sense to me to make the zine be the size of the majority of the art submitted. The size can be adjusted later if need be though I doubt we'll need to.

We are still in need of a title for our artzine. Suggestions have been posted on the forums. To pick a name or suggest your own please visit the Artist's Bureau section of the forums. Now for the guidelines:

The Artzine Guidelines

Deadline: July 15, 2005

Art must be:

*Sci-fi/fantasy related

fit an 8 1/2x11 page

*B/w copies (send no originals)

*FAN ART accepted

*cartoons accepted

*keep it PG-13

(no nudity, slash, or extreme violence)

Please also send a 1-2 paragraph bio of yourself to be included in the zine.

You may send your work via snail mail, email, or other method that we discuss.

*Half size horizontal works acceptable. They will be put on a page with another half size piece with a dividing line. If you have smaller works or comic strips to contribute that is okay, just let me know so we can work out the layout



Birthday Card Bureau

Head: Denise A. Fisk

Greetings From Your Birthday Bureau Head!

I recently took over this bureau and so far, I'm having a lot of fun. I appreciate your notes that some of you have sent to me, and most of all, the cards and stickers you've also mailed. Every little bit helps, believe me. Thanks!

Next, I want to thank everybody in this group who have been consistently sending birthday greetings to your fellow Neffers. I really do appreciate your efforts. I also want to thank David K. Robinson for recently agreeing to send cards all year long. Thanks, David, you're the greatest!

In conclusion, if any of you have new addresses, please send those to me, either via e-mail or snail mail. My e-mail address is: greenroseofaltair@yahoo.com. I want to keep my Birthday Roster as up-to-date as possible. I don't want to miss anybody's special day.

N'APA Returns!

Official Editor: Lauren R. Clough

By the time you read this, the first of the revived N'APA-zines, #189, should be in the hands of its latest members. We are still looking for returning members and new members, amateur writers or professionals. The rules and regulations are simple:

1. Every other month (January, March, May, July, September, and November), write a fanzine and send it to the Official Editor by the 15th of the prior month (e.g., for January, send it so it arrives by December 15).

2. At a minimum, you must submit at least two pages at least every other issue. Of course, more pages every issue are encouraged.

3. The contents of your zine are left to your imagination. You can write about your life. You can write about your activities in fandom. You can (in fact are encouraged to) write comments to others regarding their zines from the previous issue. You are also welcome (encouraged!) to include original artwork

(including cartoons). Please, do not include material copyrighted by someone else, unless it is brief excerpts or included with permission of the author/copyright holder. It's probably safer to include an article or story done by a friend or relative than something that has been professionally published.

4. The N'APA-zine will be published in two formats: .pdf, which will be distributed by email, and in hard copy, which will be distributed by snail mail. Eventually, the zine should also be available on a secure web site, so only Neffers can access samples. If you are considering joining but want to see a copy of a zine first, e- or snail-mail me for a sample copy.

5. If you choose the snail mail version, we ask that you maintain an account to offset the cost of copying and mailing the zine. You would send \$5 (or more) to the Official Editor (currently me), who will keep track of each person's account. Each issue, the OE will send an accounting of how much was used for copying and mailing and the current balance of your account.

6. The use of pen names, alternate snail mail addresses (perhaps PO Boxes), or email accounts devoted to N3F are suggested, but not required. These are to protect you from spam and other nastiness that might be out there. It is possible that copies of the zine could be sent to persons serving time in prisons.

7. N'APA once had a cap of 25 participants, in order to make it easier to read and respond to everyone. (I think the highest participation I saw at one time was 14.) What do you all think? Should we retain the 25-member limit?

In looking over some of the zines I published over the years, I have gathered that the individual zines appeared in the greater zine in the order in which they arrived to the OE. Meaning the first one in got the coveted first spot. I think I could continue to do that.

Another thing I noticed is that we tended to copy onto both sides of the paper, to cut down on paper and postage costs. Electronic zines won't matter, but I'll still copy that way for the snail mail zines. For copying and

the staple binding, I'll go to the local Staples.

Construct or compile or edit a personal fanzine and send it to me by April 15, 2005. I will compile them into one document and get them to you by May 1, 2005, making it a May 2005 issue, which will be #190.

You can send your material by snail mail to: Lauren Clough 104 2nd St., Apt. 4 Turners Falls, MA 01376-1337

Or you can send your material by email (please put N'APA in the subject line - or otherwise indicate that it is legitimate N3F business, and not spam) to: lothlorien2004@excite.com

I can accept Microsoft Word, Lotus WordPro, and .pdf attachments. I'll scan all hard copies. Any other questions? Feel free to email or snail mail me.

Make sure you let me know whether you want to receive your N'APA-zine by email or snail mail.

The MANGAVERSE

Head/Editor: Ruth R. Davidson



The MANGAVERSE vol. 2 no. 1 is out! Can you believe it? Already! Boy does time fly.

The MANGAVERSE is a fanzine for fans of manga, anime, and other comics (which we just call comics for short). There's a lot of SF/F present in these genres.

The MANGAVERSE is published bi-monthly starting in February in .PDF format.

Hardcopies are available at cost – \$1 each or \$6 for the whole year. Email or snail mail me (info under President_ if you would like to be on the mailing list. Be sure to indicate which version you want. You may submit any fannish material related to manga, anime, or comics. You will retain your copyright.

Sarah Glasgow won the logo contest. She received one year free N3F membership, \$15 cash, and a certificate featuring the logo. Her logo is featured with this report.

You can also visit us on the web at www.mangaverse.org or www.themangaverse.org for updates and back issues.



CORRESPONDENCE

Head: Carla Hall Minor

Happy Winter, folks! As I write this, Valentine's Day is behind us. I had a busy and exhausting one, delivering singing Valentines all over the Dallas area with my chorus. But we had fun, as I hope all of you did. It's time to continue our discussion about the importance of showing our gratitude to people in our lives who deserve to be remembered. We remind our loved ones of how we feel on Valentine's Day; why not do the same for people who help us out in so many ways every day? I had to flip a coin for this report's topic; should I write about the history of chocolate or thank you notes from history? A hard decision to make on Valentine's Day, but I decided against whimsy (this time) and decided on the latter. As I did my research, I found all sorts of thank-you notes from famous people and from everyday folks, too. All of them had real impact, as you'll see. Here are a few excerpts:

Mr. Henry Ford; Detroit, Mich.

Dear Sir: While I still have got breath in my lungs I will tell you what a dandy car you make. I have drove Fords exclusively when I could get away with one. For sustained speed and freedom from trouble the Ford has got every other car skinned, and even if my business hasn't been strictly legal it don't hurt anything to tell you what a fine car you got in the V8. Yours truly; Clyde Champion Barrow

Some people question this letter's

authenticity, but it's on display at the Henry Ford museum. I like to think it's genuine (it probably is). See, even criminals can write thank-you notes! Clyde doesn't actually say thank-you, but he's certainly expressing his appreciation for the Ford company's craftsmanship.

Another note is a very touching thank-you from a mother to Dr. Jonas Salk, the scientist who developed the polio vaccine, thus keeping millions safe from this crippling, sometimes fatal disease.

Dear Dr. Salk -- . . . When I realize that my young daughter and another child as yet unborn will never suffer from polio, I am more grateful than words can express to you and all the others who have made this possible.

I found tons of letters from figures from history; Abraham Lincoln personally wrote letters of condolence and thanks to families whose sons gave their lives to defend the Union in the Civil War, and Jackie Kennedy thanked LBJ for his kindness following the assassination of JFK. I wish I had room to print all of them here, but they're longish.

Guys, Valentine's Day may be gone, but here's a tip for next year. One man not only sends flowers to his wife, but also to her mother! Why? He wants to thank his mother-in-law for bringing his wife into the world and raising her to be a wonderful woman. Wow! What mother wouldn't appreciate a thank-you like that? I'm sure the man's wife was impressed as well. So, gents, if you're in the doghouse, keep your mother-in-law and thank-you's in mind!

All thank-you notes are pleasant to receive, and some are truly thank-yous to cherish. The thing to remember is that when we write them, we often don't know which of those two it will be. Whichever, thank-you notes need to be written for whoever makes us feel grateful at any time of year. It's probably easy to recall this around Valentine's Day, but our loved ones may not be the only ones who deserve our appreciation on this day or any other.

I wish there were a day or a week set aside for expressing gratitude in letter form. Thanksgiving doesn't really address that sort of

thanks. It's more a time to recall American history, turkey banquets, and family get-togethers. We give thanks for all sorts of things at Thanksgiving, but how many of us think of actually writing thank-you letters then? Many people ignore that requisite of good manners and head into the holiday season without a second thought. I know good Neffers don't do that! All the same, perhaps we should all set aside a time (convenient for you as an individual) to make a list of people who deserve our thanks, and what we'll be thanking them for. Then write those letters and give yourself a standing ovation for simply doing what's right. And who knows, your letter could go down in history!



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Cont'd from pg. 9 Torcon '03 -- Worldcon 61

Conversely, you may be reluctant to believe the results of your experiment if they're unexpected, said Asaro. For example, one of her father's experiments turned up the now-famous iridium anomaly that is now supposed to mark the asteroid impact that killed the dinosaurs. However, he was using a new method and hesitated to put too much faith in his findings. He was right to be cautious: her Ph.D. was delayed, she said, when she saw a "funny squiggle" in a line drawn by a faulty program she had written.

An audience member asked the panel about challenges to science's claims of objectivity, like Thomas Kuhn's notion of paradigm changes, and what some academics call the social construction of science. "What facts you pay attention to is arbitrary," said Killus, but not the facts themselves. For example, there was a flurry of research in chlorine photochemistry, right after World War I, when a great many soldiers got up close and personal with chlorine.

Facts are not arbitrary, but the hypotheses offered to explain the facts are another matter. Confronted with new data showing that the expansion of the Universe is accelerating, instead of slowing down, as everybody thought everybody jumped on the "dark energy" explanation, giving short shrift to the

alternate explanation, that physical constants may change over time.

In the end, scientists will accept the explanation that best accounts for the experimental data. For example, quantum mechanics sounds totally crazy, said Asaro, but it works extremely well.

{Watch This Space}

Noon Friday, an exceptionally well-qualified panel discussed the "Hazards of Space"; or, "whether we should just give up and colonize Australia or something", Geoffrey Landis explicated. The panelists were: the aforementioned Landis, who said he was an SF writer, and NASA scientist "in my spare time"; space activist John Strickland; retired space scientist David Stephenson; engineering consultant Hugh S. Gregory; and software engineer Henry Spencer, who is working on Canada's space telescope project.

No doubt thinking of the Columbia space shuttle tragedy, Landis said, all failures are obvious -- in retrospect! If "failure is not an option" is your policy, then the result will be bureaucracy and bloated costs. The space shuttle is the safest launch system ever built, with only two failures in a hundred launches; he would have accepted a higher rate. "If 'failure is not an option', you've failed already, before you've done anything." But Strickland thought it was what he described as the cheap shuttle design that led to huge running costs, as well as inherently risky design features, like no escape capsule and solid fuel rockets that can't be throttled. Landis later referred to the shuttle as a 1976 design, based on a 1973 concept.

Space is not "dangerous", said Stephenson, just "unforgiving". Space is a "stable, predictable environment", Spencer agreed. Of the two Soyuz spacecraft and two shuttles lost, only one was lost in space (a Soyuz); and Apollo I was a training accident on the ground.

But even so, Spencer continued, "where is the flight-test phase" for the shuttle? We're putting billion dollar cargoes, and pas-

sengers, or a test vehicle? With aircraft, it's typical to have thousands of flights before operational status is granted. The combination of a vertical take-off and a horizontal landing, noted Stephenson, creates a "dead zone" in which the shuttle cannot make a quick emergency landing if it gets into trouble.

Once you do get into space, you still have to contend with cosmic rays, said Stephenson. The best defense is a layer of water, he explained, perhaps mixed with organic material, like comet ice. As that's hard to get, his modest proposal was that spacecraft be slathered with, um, "used" water!

{The Music of the Cylinders}

Friday afternoon, it was time for a certain rueful nostalgia, about one of yesterday's tomorrows: "O'Neill: Long Lost Dream?" (The huge rotating space colony cylinders, not the playwright.) The panelists were: Keith Henson, first President of the L5 Society, and John Strickland, a member since 1975; Mike Brotherton, an astronomer with a novel on the way, who noted he took a course in space colonies in the mid-1980s; Donald Simmons of the Canadian Space Society; rocket scientists Gerry (G. David) Nordley and Geoffrey Landis.

To make building O'Neill colonies economical, said Henson, the cost of moving mass to orbit would have to fall ten thousand-fold. He recommended Alexis Gilliland's "Rosinante" series for its depiction of space colonies. However, "I no longer think that space colonies will be built at all." If the promise of nanotechnology is realized, he believes, we will go straight to interstellar travel. Some time later, Landis made a comment that was addressed to Nordley, but serves as a response to Henson as well: "You seem to be under the misapprehension that the interstellar explorers will be biological."

Landis described O'Neill colonies as a cool but dumb idea, like downtown New York times a hundred. Instead of colonies like rotating inner tubes, he suggested hollowing out a

couple of rocks, attaching them with tethers, and spinning them to simulate the desired strength of gravity. On the other hand, Nordley reminded us that one of the reasons for building space stations in the first place is zero G.

Simmons, who is a Japanese animation buff as well as a space activist, said that the "Gundam" series, about generations of war in space, makes the point that a space colony can't be defended. To the contrary, said Landis: a large enough space colony is very robust. You might decide to plug a hole after a thousand years, for example. (This reminded me of Larry Niven's Ringworld.) From the floor, I asked him just how big a colony he was thinking of, and how small a hole, but I didn't get a clear answer.

An audience member made some reference to "when we're all dead". "Speak for yourself," said Henson. He intends to hold a party in 250,000 years, at the far side of the galaxy. Why wait so long, Brotherton asked. From the audience: "He has to stop for party goods!"

{Enemies of the State}

Later Friday afternoon a thin crowd, including last year's winner, Donald Kingsbury, watched Terry Pratchett accept the Libertarian Futurist Society's Prometheus Award for his novel, *Night Watch*. Before the ceremony there had been laughter about the tiny camera, perched on a huge tripod, that was recording the event.

American fans had taken him shooting, said Pratchett, a skill about as useful to a modern Englishman as surfing is to an Eskimo. In England, he explained, only criminals are allowed to have guns. This is literally true, he continued. When a law was passed banning all handguns, the Olympic pistol team turned in its guns, but criminals didn't.

"Meddlers, interferers, statisticians" was how Pratchett described the British government. All politicians will claim to be libertarians and define the term differently each time.

The Hall of Fame award went to Robert A. Heinlein's poignant early story, "Requiem", about how dying tycoon D.D. Harriman, after a lifetime spent promoting space flight (see "The Man Who Sold the Moon"), finally reached the Moon himself.

To be continued in the June issue. 

Short Story Contest RESULTS!

Final Judge: Jefferson Swycaffer

The 2004-2005 National Fantasy Fan Federation Amateur Short Story Contest is over.

The First Place Winner is Jeff Redmond for "The Temple at Twilight," a vigorous swords-and-no-sorcery story of bloody battle between the King's Soldiers and a horde of pitiless bandits.

The Second Place Winner is Darren Moore, for "The Most Daunting Task," in which a sword-wielding warrior must come to an accommodation with magic, which he hates.

The Third Place Winner is Dr. Charles E. Berkoff, for "The Metamorphosis: The Old Man Who Became a Tennis Superstar," in which the protagonist is given the gift...or curse...of overnight sports success.

Honorable Mention goes to Edmund J. Goodwin, for "Money, Honey!" an endearing little bedroom scene between a prostitute and her procurer, in which nothing is quite what one expects.

In all, ten stories were received, including two from Tom Feller and four more from the prolific Darren Moore. Every single one of these stories was entertaining, thoughtful, engaging, gripping, and a heck of a good yarn. It was a pleasure to read them, and I think that we may very well see these writers lose their "amateur status" in the years to come.

Thank you to each and every author, and special thanks to Elizabeth Caldwell for organizing the contest; it couldn't have succeeded without you!



Secretary's Report: Date: 02/16/2005

Dennis Davis

Drop List

I am dropping these people from the roster, if some one could write them and see if they could get them to come back that would be good, I emailed them myself.

Priscilla Johnson 0804 and Susan K. Thode 0804

EXPIRED LIST

October 2004: Angela K. Scott Gosnell 1004; John R. Jeffers III 1004

November 2004: Carla Hall Minor 1104

December 2004: Dr. Ira Lee Riddle 1204

January 2005: Denise A. Fisk 0105; Jeff Redmond 0105; Cynthia Ashe Richter 0105; David K. Robinson 0105; an dRon Yarnell 0105

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084 GS0506 Wolansky Taras 100 Montgomery Street #24-H Jersey City NJ 07302-3721
085 EXP0105 Yarnell Ron RR1 Box 170 Athol KS 66932

Please check your expiration date carefully. If you believe there is an error, please contact the N3F secretary, Dennis L. Davis, 25549 Byron Street, San Bernardino, CA 92404-6403.
Email: <n3f_info@yahoo.com> Notify me of any address changes ASAP. Send checks to the same address. Please make checks payable to: WILLIAM CENTER. Thank you. You can also pay with paypal using the above email address.

Legend: GS=member in good standing; GSJ=good standing joint members;
EXP=expired; LIFE=lifetime membership; NEW=first time membership; NEWJ=new joint members; RN=renewal; REIN=reinstatement * =time to renew!

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RN 0606 Robert Sabella 24 Cedar Manor Court Budd Lake NJ 07828
RN 0306 Sally Ann Syrjala PO Box 149 Centerville MA 02632-0149

Reinstated:

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REIN 0206 Howard Devore 4705 Weddell Street Dearborn Heights MI 48125-3033
REIN 0206 Kathryn A. Drexel 9 Rogers Street Plymouth NH 03264-1207
REIN 0206 Linda Leach Hardy 20190 Milburn Livonia MI 48152
REIN 0206 Lyne M. Masamitsu 1611-A South Melrose Drive, Apt.#4 Vista CA 92083-5497
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GS 1105 Dorothy Kurtz 230 Kings Highway East, #188 Haddonfield NJ 08033

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.



N3F TRADER SELLING

12" Queen Amidala doll, from Episode 1. Wearing the "Royal Elegance of Queen Amidala" aka the red outfit. Also comes wearing the headpiece. The doll has never been removed from the package and is in excellent condition, although, the box is a little beat up.

Asking for \$25, but will take the best offer.
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95123; yseult_sg@yahoo.com

— Sarah E. Glasgow

Custom mailing labels. I can make address labels using your photos, art, and even N3F logos! For details and samples please

email me or write me or visit my website www.ruthiechan.net for more info. Part of the profits go to N3F.—Ruth R. Davidson

From **Ye Olde N3F Fan Shoppe** mugs, mouse-pad, t-shirts, magnets, wall-clock, note cards, totes and other N3F items yet to come are available located at www.n3fshop.com. For a hardcopy catalog please write to Ruth R. Davidson at 3540 Swenson St. Apt 172, Las Vegas NV 89109. Make checks and money orders payable to Ruth R. Davidson (NOT N3F).

All profits go to the club to aid in publicity. Most items are in *color*.



~*~*~ The 2005 FRANSON AWARD! ~*~*~

The winners are – **drum roll** – Doot doodoo DOO!

Jon Swartz and David Speakman!

Thank you for all the efforts you made last year!

The Franson Award is given by the President to Neffers for notable efforts made for the club. It was created so that the President could acknowledge members who may have won the Kaymar Award, which you can only win once.



2005 Election Results

For President:

Ruth R. Davidson, 39 votes.
Write ins: Susan Van Schuyver, 1 vote;
Patricia Winters, 1 vote.

For Directorate:

Dennis Davis, 39 votes;
Sarah Glasgow, 36 votes;
Carla Hall Minor, 37 votes;
George Phillies, 35 votes;
Janine Stinson, 37 votes.
No write ins.



Congratulations to the winners!



2005 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 2005**.
- 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:** _____



A NOTE of EXPLANATION RE: ISSUE NUMBERING

The March issue of The Fan should have been labeled Vol. 3 No. 4; it was labeled as Vol. 4. No. 1. No corrections will be made in future issues. You just need to be aware so you don't think you are missing an issue. Apologies for any confusion this may cause.



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 289 Tradewinds Dr. #8 San Jose, CA 95123; yseult_sg@yahoo.com. Reviews should be sent to the Review Editor, Jon Swartz, 1704 Street, Georgetown, TX 78626.*



The National Fantasy Fan (N3F) Membership Application

New Member
 Reinstatement
 Joint Membership
 Gift Membership

Name (Please Print): _____ Today's Date: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____
 Postal Code: _____ Country: _____ Phone: _____
 Email: _____ Occupation: _____
 Male: _____ Female: _____ Birthdate (for the Birthday Bureau): _____

Please check your current SF/F related interests.

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

- Which would you prefer?:
 A: *The e-Fan* in .PDF format sent to your **valid** email address? _____
 B: *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(s): _____
- Name of Sponsoring Member (if any): _____
- How did you hear of us? _____

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.

You can also sign up online at <http://nfff.org>



*Send all address corrections
and undeliverable copies to:*

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

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