

The National Fantasy Fan



Kari

Vol. 5 No. 4

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William Center,

From the Right Honorable Ruth R. Davidson

This is my last President's message, and that feels mighty strange. I'll help out our next President as best as I can. It's only right.

By the time you read this I will no longer be living in Las Vegas, but with my mother, a fellow neffer, Janet Glasgow. My new address will be 434 Bird St. Yuba City CA 95991.

As I write this, I'll be gone from Glitter City in less than two weeks, so I really don't have time to type this up, yet I still feel kinda bad about skimping on my last address to you all as President. Well, anything else I'd like to say will just have to go into an LoC. *wink*

Thank you everyone for your support in my endeavors to move N3F forward. I will still be a Neffer of course, and still do the website with David Speakman (who did an awesome job modifying the paypal payment system to reflect our new dues policy), and the MANGAVERSE and such for everyone.

It has been a wonderful learning experience and pleasure to serve you all in this facet of science fiction and fantasy fandom.

May your Holidays be delightful.

Ad Astra!

The Official Organ of the National Fantasy Fan Federation.

This issue was completed on 12/03/05. The editor for this issue was Christopher J. Garcia. The editor for the next issue is Ruth Davidson 434 Bird St. Yuba City CA 95991; ruthiechan@xarph.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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FRANSON AWARDS

And the winners are...
WILLIAM CENTER
CHRIS GARCIA
AND EDMUND J. GOODWIN

Thank you for supporting N3F!

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 wanted to give a show of appreciation to people who may have won the Kaymar Award, which you can only win once.



FINDING N3F'S HISTORY

Jon Swartz and I have been working on N3F's history so it can be made available to anyone interested. If you have any old zines and materials that you could contribute please contact Jon Swartz at 1704 Vine St., Georgetown, TX 78626 or jon_swartz@hotmail.com Be sure to speak with him before sending him any materials. If you need reimbursement for shipping just ask and it can be arranged. Feel free to send this message to any former neffers. Any help we can get on this would be fantastic. Thank you!

N3F Bureau Reports

ART Bureau Report

From Sarah Glasgow

Hi everyone! Well, the artzine is taking a little longer than anticipated, but there is definite progress! Expect it to be done in the next 2 months or so. With the holidays approaching progress may be slow. I will keep you posted. Thank you all who have participated - this is going to be terrific! Such wonderful talent, different styles of art, various subject matter, fan art - a real treat in variety.

Dennis Davis has offered to help make the artzine available electronically. There is a small chance I can do that myself with my room mate's new scanner - however, I am pretty much a technology idiot so we will see. Thanks goes to Dennis Davis, Ruth Davidson, you artists and everyone else who have offered their support, talents, suggestions, and assistance is making this artzine! I'll be giving a big thanks later when the zine is done, but I figure a little acknowledgement along the way is also in order. <smiles>

The Artist Spotlight will be returning next issue so please keep a look out for that. I love to recognize, and learn more about, our artists.

I would love for the Art Article to come back too. If any of you have ideas for this or are willing to write one up your! self please do let me know. I am a little swamped with the holidays, artzine, a family project, and a spring wedding to plan. Perhaps later next year I will be able to write one up, but in the mean time I will have to rely more on you good folks to fill in if you are so inclined!

Artists, please send extra filler art to me when you can so I can forward them on to the appropriate editors when there is a shortage of art. Sometimes they ask me for art on short notice due to a lack of submissions and it would be great to have art in my files to send to them at that time. Technically all art should be sent to me anyway

since I'm the art editor now, though there are times when it is completely appropriate to send art directly to the The Fan editor. Thanks everyone!

BirthDay Bureau Report

By Denise Fisk

David K. Robinson: Thanks for your note and funds to send an updated N3F birthday list to you. Sorry it has taken me so long to answer. My older sister passed away fairly recently, so I've been directing my energies towards dealing with grief, and also sorting through some of her stuff. Believe me, I've not forgotten you. Please be patient, and I'll mail you the list soon.

Others: Thanks again for sending fellow N3F members birthday cards! I appreciate any and all of your efforts.

I also want to wish everybody a wonderful and peaceful holiday season, however you celebrate it! The greatest gift! that you can give to someone special is to let them know how much you love and appreciate them. Alas, this world has too little love in it, but we can let individual family members/friends know how much they mean to us. Blessings to all in the New Year!

And Now: The Bookworm Bureau Report!

By David Speakman

N3FBookworms Reading Group Wants YOU!!

Hello my fellow book lovers. If you do not know yet, the N3F Bookworms is our version of "Oprah's Book Club" - if Oprah flew in a space ship or suddenly started wielding a magic wand. The concept of Bookworms is that we all read the same book - a few pre-designated chapters a week, then talk about it in email with each other. Currently, in the past, we read Frank Herbert's Dune, currently we are reading C.S. Lewis' "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."

N3Fer Big Hearted Howard DeVour is immortalized in the Fan Gallery by Chas Boston-Baden wearing a giant wooden propeller beanie!

Our goal is to read (or re-read) some of the great classics of SF/F and talk about them. Where new readers can talk about concepts with veteran fans. We also plan to alternate genres between Fantasy and Science Fiction. The best part: You are invited to join. All you need is access to email and a willingness to read. And since the books we choose are classics, you can probably check them out from your local library free of charge. You can't beat that!

To join in on our little group, send me an email: david@speakman.com

N'APA reactivates and is looking for new victims

After years of deep slumber, the N3F Amateur Press Association (N'APA) was recently jarred from its nap by a small group of Neffers clamoring for its return.

Although the group is full of very talented people, apparently those folks were all busy doing thoughtful and important things because somehow, despite my dubious qualifications and penchant for typos, I have been wrangled by Madam Prez to lead this little gang of miscreants.

And guess what? You are invited to join the gang. The basic goals of the group are to work on and teach each other how to publish fanzines. No previous fanzine experience is necessary. Really. We're all here to work together, learn from one another and fix each other's mistakes before they get set in print for all eternity. And, yes, it is fun. So, join if you want - otherwise we'll be in control of everything. Bwaha ha ha. (That was meant as a scary Lovecraftian laugh, by the way.)

The gist: We all try our hardest to develop our own zine (or a few pages of what may become a zine). Those are sent to the bureau head (me for now-until the next coup). The poor soul will cobble them together in an anthology format. The little monster of creative goodness will then be sent via mail or email to all the members of the N'APA to allow us to share them with each other, so we can read everyone's hard work - and then give CONSTRUCTIVE advice on how to make things better. ... and LOADS of praise for all of the good things.

Here are the goals set for the first few months of 2006:

1. Put out a call for members in the December ish of The Fan. (That's what this report is) Now, I'm not expecting any miracles, but who knows. We may get some newbies.
2. Set as a firm deadline, January 31, 2006 for submission of zine product for the first new issue of our little cobbled-together monstrosity. Hopefully it will be educational, entertaining and not too embarrassing.

3. Set February 15 as the mailing (emailing) date for N'APA Vol. 2005, No. One. It will be available in PDF, print and a password-protected online edition for N'APA members.
4. Set April 30, 2006 as the firm deadline for submissions for unleashing our second little monster on the world.



The National Fantasy Fan Federation is one of the three oldest Science Fiction and Fantasy-based groups still active. The other two, the Los Angeles Science Fiction Society and the Fantasy Amateur Press Association, are both older, but both have had fewer members than the N3F over the years.

Reviews

Jon D. Swartz, Reviews Editor

Science Fiction Quotations: From the Inner Mind to the Outer Limits,
edited by Gary Westfahl (Yale University Press, 2005)

Are you an "underliner"? Almost everyone underlines important information in textbooks. Do you also underline quotes in the novels you read? I do. It took me a while to feel comfortable writing or underlining in novels, even though I was fine with marking up a textbook. Novels seemed sacred to me - important to keep them clean and in good condition. And then I was reading the Lord of the Rings trilogy and found myself wanting to be able to find certain passages again. What I started out doing was using brackets around the significant passages. Next I started leaving in very small slips of paper to mark the places. I graduated to underlining and writing in the novels. I also write down quotes from movies and television shows and lines from songs. So you can imagine that I was interested when I learned about a new book called Science Fiction Quotations: From the Inner Mind to the Outer Limits.

Science Fiction Quotations is broken down into categories such as these from A: Actions, Aliens, Alien Worlds, Ambition and Hope, Animals, Apocalypse, The Arts, and Astronauts and Space Travelers. The last two categories are Index of Authors and Index of Titles. Just glancing through these pages (p. 423-461), all the authors that I am familiar with are listed and I recognized most of the titles. I'm sure the book does not contain all the passages that have been important to you in all the books you have read. How could it? And I imagine that there are quotes that you are not familiar with-that is certainly the case for me.

The first thing I did was look for the Lord of the Rings quote and found it on page 74. The passage begins like this: "The brave things in the old tales and songs, Mr. Frodo: adventures, as I used to call them." It was included! I felt supported and that made the book even more interesting to me.

I hardly ever recommend books because people's tastes are so different, but if you like quotes from SF novels, short stories, and television programs, you could love this book. I do.

Reviewed by Susan VanSchuyver

Chronicles of Er-Da, Book Three by Jeffrey Redmond (iUniverse, Inc., 2005)

Another recent work by an N3F member, the third book in a series of "moralistic and sociological tales of action, adventure, romance, and survivalism." Presented as a collection of archaic documents and other manuscripts known as the Er-Dan Chronicles, this short fiction

collection tells of adventures in a far away time and place a millennium from now.

Er-Da is an ancient name for Earth, and the novel is a continuation of the author's short stories, one of which ("The Temple at Twilight") won first place in our club's 2004 Short Story Contest.

Book Three tells the story of several interesting characters in vignettes that have lessons for us here on Earth today. A fourth volume is promised.

Retro Science Fiction Reviews

"Early Avon Science Fiction Paperbacks"

Avon SF paperbacks were some of my favorite books when I was growing up in the 1940s. They were popular with me and with my SF-reading friends for several reasons: they were relatively cheap (little more than the comic books we had been buying for years), they were plentiful in my hometown and in nearby Austin, and they featured striking covers and the kind of SF we liked to read. My friends and I more or less ignored the several A. Merritt novels published by Avon, considering them pure fantasy; but we read (and did not fully understand) the three C. S. Lewis SF/fantasy novels that were more religious tracts than stories. On the other hand, the Avons we loved and kept for years (and which I still have) were the books by recognized writers of SF such as those who wrote/edited the five books briefly reviewed below:

The Girl With the Hungry Eyes, edited by Donald A. Wollheim (Avon 184, 1949)

This early collection consists of stories by Fritz Leiber, Jr. (the title story), William Tenn's "*Venus and the Seven Sexes*," Stephen Grendon's (August Derleth) "*Mrs. Manifold*," P. Schuyler Miller's "*Daydream*," Frank Belknap Long's "*Maturity Night*," and Manly Wade Wellman's "*Come Into My Parlor*." This was a famous PBO collection in its day, and the name of Tenn's story raised some eyebrows among parents. Cover art was by Ann Cantor.

Gladiator by Philip Wylie (Avon 216, 1949)

One of the early superman novels, *Gladiator* told the story of Hugo Danner,

a superhuman male who received his powers from one of his scientist father's experiments. I loved this paperback reprint when I first read it as a teenager, and even liked it when I reread it as an adult. The book was made into a motion picture in the late 1930s, and reprinted recently as a hardback in the Bison Frontiers of Imagination series. Jerry Siegel, co-creator of *Superman*, credited it as one of the inspirations for his and Joe Shuster's famous comic character.

The Green Girl by Jack Williamson (Avon Fantasy Novel 2, 1950)

A book some of my friends owned, and which I coveted but didn't own/read until many years later. The story is set in the year 1999 (!), and is about the youthful Melvin Drake who for years has dreamed of a beautiful green-skinned girl. Now the sun has gone out, and he must meet a series of crises with the girl of his dreams at his side. The cover of this PBO compares Williamson work to that of A. Merritt, which isn't surprising since Avon had published most of Merritt's novels by the time this book appeared.

Into Plutonian Depths by Stanton A. Coblentz (Avon Fantasy Novel 281,1950)

This book has one of the greatest GGA covers in SF's Golden Age. The cover -- depicting a scantily clothed woman leading a ragged man through a cavern as they are pursued by aliens (presumably Plutonians) -- has been reproduced in just about every book on paperbacks published since the 1950s. "Complete and unabridged," the paperback is "an exciting science-fiction novel of a world with three sexes on a faraway planet!"

They don't write them like that anymore.

The Princess of the Atom by Ray Cummings (Avon Fantasy Novel 1, 1950)

Cummings was never a favorite of mine, but this book's cover is famous with SF fans and those who write about paperbacks from the early days. It shows a miniature blonde woman in an off-the-shoulder golden dress (described on the cover as "an atomic beauty") standing by a microscope while a male scientist's normal-sized face looks down at her. The plot of the story is just about what you'd expect from the title, and was a bit disappointing when I recently reread the book.

Media Review

The Iron Giant (DVD Special Edition), 1999/Directed by Brad Bird Starring Jennifer Aniston as Annie Hughes; Harry Connick Jr. as Dean McCoppin; Vin Diesel as The Iron Giant; and Eli Marienthal as Hogarth; with Cloris Leachman, Christopher McDonald, John Mahoney, and M. Emmet Walsh.

This animated movie is one of my granddaughter's favorites, and she watches it over and over, usually with her Iron Giant toy (complete with a tiny Hogarth sitting on its shoulder) beside her. Although not yet three years of age, she knows all the scenes and the order in which they appear.

This reworking of Ted Hughes's 1968 novella was mostly unseen by moviegoers when it came out in 1999, but it is an excellent movie. Like the book, the film takes place in 1957 during the height of The Cold War. The Soviet Union satellite, Sputnik, flies over America as the movie begins. Down below the country is filled with paranoia. What else may the Russians have launched? [I remember clearly my college roommate and I standing outside our apartment watching Sputnik fly over and thinking exactly the same thing.] Then, one stormy night off the coast of Maine, a huge object falls from the sky. A frightened sailor sees it and swears that it is a giant made of metal. The townsfolk, however, know the sailor is prone to drink, and most ignore his warning. Hogarth Hughes, a young boy who lives close to a Maine woods, discovers and befriends the robot. The robot becomes his best friend, and Hogarth tries to hide the massive figure from his mother and others.

He is aided by Dean, the local beatnik artist who owns a scrap yard; but soon a government agent (Christopher McDonald) arrives and trouble begins. The movie is not your usual kid's show. For one thing, the star is a giant metal man with massive offensive weapons. Voiced by Vin Diesel, the giant - who was injured in his fall to earth and has lost his memory -- denies he is "a gun" and only wants to be like Superman. He is a very sympathetic robot, his caring nature shown by the human emotions he shows in his eyes and mouth (and in the body language he exhibits, some of which is reminiscent of that shown by Boris Karloff in his role as the Frankenstein monster in the movies of the 1930s).

The movie addresses the need to search for a peaceful solution to our problems. It doesn't preach but instead shows how the most unexpected obstacles can be overcome. Also, it reminds us that things alien to us are not always hostile. Perhaps best of all, the movie examines these and other issues in the guise of an entertaining story that should hold the attention of most children and many adults.

The animation is first-rate, and the voices are very good, especially Marienthal as Hogarth and Diesel as The Iron Giant. Finally, the popular music from the 1950s heard in the background throughout the movie is great.

Mundane Reviews

Evan Hunter died recently, ending the long run of novels by Hunter that have appeared since the early 1950s. Born Salvatore A. Lombino, Hunter later legally changed his name after attending Evander Childs High School and Hunter College (from which he

graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1950), and placed in-jokes in his novels related to his several names. I laughed aloud every time I read one, and hoped that other readers would also "catch" his joke.

He also wrote SF; his first novel was *Find the Feathered Serpent* (1952) in the Winston Juvenile Series. Two of his final "Ed McBain 87th Precinct novels" are looked at briefly below. The novels in this series are excellent examples of "police procedural" detective novels.

Fat Ollie's Book (Simon & Schuster, 2003) by Ed McBain. In this novel in the series, police detective Fat Ollie Weeks of the 88th Precinct is the main character. He has written a book but, while on the way to make a copy of his manuscript at a local Kinko's, gets a call to report in to investigate a murder. When he eventually makes it back to his car, he finds that his manuscript has been stolen. Suddenly, Weeks has two simultaneous cases, a homicide and the theft of his manuscript. Joined by Steve Carella (whose life Weeks once saved) and Bert Kling of the neighboring 87th Precinct, Detective First Grade Oliver Wendall Weeks investigates both crimes with all the gluttony, crudeness, and racism for which he is famous, frequently impersonating the late W. C. Fields as he does so. (Weeks has been described by author McBain as "an equal opportunity bigot"). In his favor, however, is the fact that the theft of his manuscript has filled him with a renewed passion for detective work.

Highlights of the novel are excerpts from Weeks' book, Report to the Commissioner, which he wrote following advice in an article on how to write a best seller! *The Frumious Bandersnatch* (Simon & Schuster, 2004) by Ed McBain In this novel in the 87th Precinct series, the contemporary music scene provides the background for a crime: the kidnapping of a rising rock star, Tamar Valparaiso. References to Lewis Carroll and his famous works are scattered throughout the book. Detective Steve Carella is the star of this 87th Precinct novel, which is appropriate since he was the principal character in so many of the previous stories. The crime investigated turns out to be a complicated one and the several characters McBain has created are quite interesting. This is the next-to-last book in the popular series that totalled over 50 titles. The final volume, just published, is titled Fiddlers. It is apparently McBain's (and therefore, Hunter's) final novel.

Fanzine Reviews

The View from Entropy Hall #36 (August 20, 2005), edited/published by Ed Meskys, RR #2, Box 63, 322 Whittier Hwy, Center Harbor, NH 03226-9708.

The latest issue of N3F member Meskys' famous fanzine contains the usual

interesting features for which this publication has been justifiably praised. There are extended LOCs in the "Entropy Letters" section, and Ed has written some excellent comments on other fanzines.

File 770 #145 (October 2005), edited/published by Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016.

This issue of Mike's award-winning personalzine has a lot about his 3-year-old daughter. Having a 3-year-old granddaughter, I can certainly understand this emphasis. While all ages of a loved one can be memorable, the age of three is maybe the most special. So many developments take place during this year in a child's life.

The Fanivore (LoCs) section has communications from some of fandom's biggest BNFs, including Jan Stinson and Chris Garcia. Members of N3F should recognize these names.

Current & Forthcoming SF/Fantasy Books

November 2005:

Kage Baker, *The Children of the Company* (novel, Tor)
Greg Bear, *Quantico* (novel, Harper/Collins UK)
Karen Haber, *Crossing Infinity* (novel, ibooks)
James Patrick Kelly, *Burn* (novel, Tachyon Publications)
Jack McDevitt, *Seeker* (novel, Ace)
Fiona Patton, *The Silver Lake* (novel, DAW)
Kit Reed, *Bronze* (novel, Night Shade Books)
Karen Traviss, *The World Before* (novel, HarperCollins/Eos)
Martha Wells, *The Gate of Gods* (novel, HarperCollins/Eos)
John C. Wright, *Orphans of Chaos* (novel, Tor)

December 2005:

Catherine Asaro, *The Final Key* (novel, Tor)
Elizabeth Bear, *Worldwired* (novel, Bantam Spectra)
James Gunn, *Gift from the Stars* (novel, BenBella Books)
Cecelia Holland, *The Serpent Dreamer* (novel, Tor/Forge)
Dean Koontz, *Forever Odd* (novel, Harper Collins UK)
Frederik Pohl, *Platinum Pohl* (collection, Tor)
Mike Resnick, *Starship: Mutiny* (novel, Prometheus/Pyr)
Richard Paul Russo, *The Rosetta Codex* (novel, Ace)

Robert Silverberg, *In the Beginning* (collection, Subterranean Press)
Steven Utley, *Where or When* (collection, PS Publishing)

January 2006:

R. Scott Bakker, *The Thousandfold Thought* (novel, Overlook Press)
Sara Douglas, *The Crippled Angel* (novel, Tor)
Jennifer Fallon, *Wolfblade* (novel, Tor)
Terry Goodkind, *Phantom* (novel, Tor)
Joel Lane, *The Lost District* (collection, Night Shade Books)
Michael Moorcock, *The Vengeance of Rome* (novel, Jonathan Cape)
Walter Mosley, *The Wave* (novel, Warner Aspect)
Larry Niven, *The Draco Tavern* (novel, Tor)
Justina Robson, *Living Next Door to the God of Love* (novel, Bantam Spectra)
Nick Sagan, *Everfree* (novel, Penguin/Putnam)

Re: Reviewers & Reviewed

Brad Bird started training as an animator at age 14. As a writer his filmography includes *Jack-Jack Attack* (2005), *The Incredibles* (2004), *The Iron Giant* (1999) [screen story], *Amazing Stories: Book Two* (1992), *Family Dog* TV Series (1992) [also creator], and **batteries not included* (1987).

Stanton Arthur Coblenz (1896-1982) was a novelist and poet who began his career in the early 1920s -- after completing his work on a master's degree in English literature - with book reviews and a slim volume of poems titled *The Thinker and Other Poems* (1923). He began publishing SF with *The Sunken World* (in the pulp magazine *Amazing Quarterly* in 1928), published in book form in 1949. During his lifetime he also published more than a score of non-fiction works, including *From Arrow to A-Bomb: The Psychological History of War* (1953).

Ray Cummings (1887-1957), at one time described as "the dean of fantasy writers," was a former assistant to Thomas A. Edison and was therefore considered to be well grounded in science. His stories often did not show this grounding, hence the use of "fantasy" in his honorary title, as opposed to "science fiction".

Ed McBain (1926-2005) was also Salvatore A. Lombino (his birth name), Evan Hunter (his legal name), Ezra Hannon, Curt Cannon, Richard Marsten, and perhaps even other

bylines of which I am unfamiliar. I do know that I enjoyed just about every novel he wrote, from *The Blackboard Jungle* (1954) to *Fat Ollie's Book*, the last of his works I read, just before writing this brief bio. He also wrote the screenplay for Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* (1963), and several SF stories early in his career. He was the first American to receive the Diamond Dagger, the British Crime Writers Association's highest award. In 1986 he was named a Grand Master by the Mystery Writers of America.

Edmund (Ed) Meskys has been a SF fan and collector since the 1950s, and has been/is a member of a number of SF/fantasy clubs and organizations including N3F, Metrofen, ESFA, SAPS, N'APA, and IPSO. Although he suffers from vision problems, he remains active in fandom and currently publishes his fanzine in both print and online formats.

Jeffrey (Jeff) Redmond is a member of N3F and several other associations, including the World Science Fiction Society. He recently was accepted for affiliate membership in the SFWA, and this year became a member of The Fan's Editorial Cabal, editing the Fall 2005 issue.

Susan VanSchuyver, a longtime member of N3F, has in the past been club Directorate Chair, President, and Bureau Head for Birthdays, Teaching SF, and Round Robins. She is also a past Kaymar recipient. Professionally, she is currently academic administrator at a community college. She reports that, in addition to being a SF fan and reader, she also likes poetry and cats.

Jack Williamson was born April 29, 1908, in Bisbee, Arizona Territory. John Stewart Williamson began writing SF in the 1920s, using the Jack Williamson byline on most of his work but also writing as Will Stewart and Nils O. Sonderlund. His first published SF story was "The Metal Man" in *Amazing* (December, 1928), and his first novel in book form was *The Legion of Space* (Fantasy Press, 1947). Williamson has received many genre awards over his career, including First Fandom Hall of Fame, 1968; SFWA Grand Master, 1975; World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement, 1994; Stoker Award for Life Achievement, 1998; and Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame Award, 1996. In addition to his genre awards, an annual Williamson Lectureship has been established in his honor on the campus of Eastern New Mexico University where he taught for many years. Williamson has had a career writing SF of nearly 80 years (longer than any other SF author to date), and has even been credited with publishing the very first story identified as "science fiction." His *The Humanoids* (1949), a classic novel of intelligent robots who serve their masters too well, is often

regarded as his best work. Williamson's autobiographical book, *Wonder's Child: My Life in Science Fiction*, originally appeared in 1984 and was updated in 2005.

Donald A. Wollheim (1914-1990) was a SF fan, editor, author, and publisher. He wrote under several pseudonyms, but most frequently as David Grinnell and Martin Pearson. Wollheim is credited with editing the first book anthology of magazine SF, *The Pocket Book of Science Fiction* (1943), and the first book collection of SF novels, the *Viking Portable Novels of Science* (1945). He received many awards in the genre, including posthumous induction in 2002 into the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame. His editing career began in 1941 with the low-budget, short-lived SF pulp magazines *Cosmic Stories* and *Stirring Science Stories*. He later was on the editorial staff of

Avon Publishing, and while there edited several titles, including *Avon Fantasy Readers* (1947-1952), *Avon Science-Fiction Readers* (1951-1952), and *Out of This World Adventures* (1950). After leaving Avon, he became editor-in-chief of Ace Books, and served as the publisher's SF editor for nearly 20 years. During this period he is credited with introducing the Ace Doubles format and discovering many new SF writers, including Philip K. Dick and Ursula K. Le Guin. In 1971 he left Ace Books and established DAW Books, the first major publisher specializing exclusively in SF. Wollheim's personal and insightful vision of the SF genre, *The Universe Makers*, was published in 1972.

Philip Gordon Wylie (1902-1971) was at one time one of my favorite writers. I read his SF, his fishing stories in *The Saturday Evening Post*, his mainstream novels (e.g., *Finnley Wren*), and even his non-fiction pop psychology books (he was a disciple of Carl Jung). During the 1930s-1940s, Wylie was a very popular, though controversial, American author. In his non-fiction *Generation of Vipers* (1942) he coined the term "Momism" to describe American motherhood. A critic once described him as that rare phenomenon: a writer who loves to write.

Note: Club members are invited to submit reviews, either electronically or by snail mail. If you send a review by e-mail and don't hear from me within a reasonable length of time, please write. It has become apparent that some Internet providers do not communicate with each other. My two addresses are as follows:

jon_swartz@hotmail.com

and

1704 Vine Street,
Georgetown, TX

Noreascon 4, 2004 -- Worldcon 62

By Taras Wolansky.

Noreascon 4, the 62nd Worldcon, was held September 2 through 6, 2004, at the Hynes Convention Center and nearby hotels in Boston's Back Bay. Pro Guests of Honor: authors Terry Pratchett and William Tenn; Fan Guests of Honor: Jack Speer and Peter Weston.

Walking from my hotel to the convention center, Wednesday night, for the first time in my life I felt the need of a flashlight on the streets of a major city. The intentionally old fashioned street lights, coupled with very heavy foliage, made walking the smaller streets at night a bit dicey. Not that walking in the daytime was free of hazards of its own: busy intersections without traffic lights; sudden eruptions into residential streets of fast traffic from the superhighway running underneath.

{Camelot -- Not!}

Friday afternoon, the subject was an alternate history of considerable local interest, when a panel asked, "Kennedy Survives Dallas--Then What?" The participants were: Mitchell Freedman, who has written an alternate history in which *Bobby* Kennedy hasn't been assassinated; fan editor and reviewer Joseph T. Major, whose degree is in history; Mike Resnick, editor of several anthologies of alternate history stories, who said Barry Malzberg should have been there, having written eleven books about the JFK assassination. The moderator, youthful *Analog* SF writer Shane Tourtellot, noted that of all the panelists he is the one who "cannot *possibly* answer the question", where was he on November 22nd, 1963.

JFK was a tax cutter, an aggressive interventionist in foreign policy elected because of an alleged "missile gap", said Resnick. "If he were alive today, his name would be George Bush, not John Kerry." True, Bobby Kennedy had gone from working with Joe McCarthy, to "left of Al Sharpton", said Freedman a little hyperbolically; but his brother Jack, an ardent Cold Warrior, was unlikely to have pulled out of Vietnam by 1965, as Oliver Stone and others have imagined. For Nixon and Kennedy and their generation, "who lost China" was the issue that formed them. It's hard to recapture the "CIA mystique" of the early 1960s, said Major; JFK was really into covert action. "He died at the right time ... became an icon." Like Lincoln died before Reconstruction, noted Tourtellot. Based on effectiveness, not ideology, Resnick summed up, Kennedy was "singularly unimpressive as a President."

In those days, the press was much more under the thumb of powerful politicians than today, explained Resnick. Thus, Kennedy's "woman-a-day" habit and the pain pills he took and the fact he was sometimes unable to walk were all kept from the public. (The political preferences of the press were also a factor, I suspect, as with Clinton in 1992.)

If he hadn't been killed, would JFK have been re-elected in 1964, an audience member asked: "No!" other voices in the audience immediately answered. A failed assassination attempt would have helped, yet another audience member speculated. Barry Goldwater, the Republican candidate that year (in our history) could not win, said Resnick flatly. Yet Kennedy's scandals might have *lost* him the election, suggested Tourtellot. (At least two very serious corruption investigations were aborted when JFK was assassinated, according to an ABC documentary.) True, JFK's fear of losing Texas in 1964 was why he was in Dallas that November, said Freedman. But Goldwater was the Paul Wellstone of his day: the Kennedys built him up to

keep New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller from the nomination. On the other hand, Tourtellot thought JFK's medical issues could have cost him the election, had they been revealed. And in the aftermath of an assassination attempt, they might have been.

Would JFK have gotten the historic civil rights legislation, pushed through by Lyndon Johnson in the wake of the assassination, wondered Freedman. "Never!" said Resnick.

From the audience: Is there any reason to think Kennedy's Vietnam War would have been any different from Lyndon Johnson's? In a news conference shortly before his death, said Freedman, JFK looked toward escalating if things didn't go so well in Vietnam; so things would likely have worked out the same way.

{Small Steps to the Stars}

Sunday afternoon, a well-qualified panel asked the question, Will the President's new initiative on manned space travel get us "To Mars?" Physicist and SF writer Gregory Benford has served on NASA panels, and written *Martian Race*, a novel about Martian exploration. Geoffrey Landis, another SF-writing scientist, said he works on both real and fictional Mars exploration. Les Johnson manages NASA's In-Space Propulsion Project in Huntsville. Space activist Ian R. Strock is the Vice President of the Lunar Resources Company, and edits *Artemis* magazine. The moderator was science writer Jeff Hecht, a correspondent for *New Scientist* magazine. (The brilliant back lighting tended to silhouette the panelists, sometimes making it hard to tell who said what.) Benford, who has a sequel to *Martian Race* in the works, advocated the build-up of an infrastructure on Mars -- reactors, comsats -- to support human exploration. Johnson also advocated robotic missions to Mars but, it seemed, more as an end in themselves than as a stepping-stone for people. Strock, long an advocate of a permanent return to Moon (with Mars afterward), said he was excited by the Presidential space initiative. "Anything that keeps people looking up is good!"

A decade earlier, Hecht noted, George H.W. Bush's manned exploration proposal, with specific budgets and timetables, was dead on arrival in Congress. This time around, George W. Bush had learned from his father's mistakes and avoided specifics. Landis admitted that this plan was not getting the kind of push John F. Kennedy's plan got, four decades ago. However, he felt it served as an "explicit instruction to NASA" that they were allowed to think about human exploration again. "Not perhaps a giant leap for mankind, but at least a small step in the right direction." Johnson offered an "insider's point of view": he was seeing "wholesale cancellation of contracts" as NASA reoriented itself internally. Within NASA, "this is being taken very seriously."

Benford pointed out that the dichotomy between manned and unmanned exploration is a false one, citing a proposal by Landis, in which astronauts in orbit around Mars would use telepresence to operate robots on the surface. While "the telepresence technology is not there yet", Landis said, this approach would cut the costs by a factor of ten: no lander, no habitat, no space suits, no ascent vehicle.

Human exploration of Mars means biological contamination, Johnson cautioned. Landis admitted that it would be nice to resolve the issue of native Martian life, before we send people there to cloud the evidence.

Due to the length of the voyage, just getting to Mars carries an "element of risk", said Landis.

The effects of long-term exposure to high-energy cosmic rays are unknown, for example. Benford wondered if it was time to "bite the bullet" and develop a nuclear thermal rocket to cut the transit time. "Not if we want to go *now*," said Landis. The public's fear of anything nuclear is too great, added Strock. Ironically, a cold nuclear reactor is safer -- that is, less radioactive -- than the 50-watt isotope systems we're launching now, said Landis.

What about multinational efforts, asked a member of the audience. It words best, said Landis, when one country leads and others contribute. A project "where every nation is a bottleneck" is likely to fail.

{Lonely Planet}

Also Sunday afternoon, a panel considered "The Fermi Paradox: Where Is Everyone?". A half century ago, physicist Enrico Fermi wondered, given the age of the Milky Way galaxy, why aren't we hip deep in elder races? The panelists were: engineer turned SF writer G. David Nordley, SF-writing physicist John G. Cramer, engineer turned *Analog* editor Stanley Schmidt; the moderator was astronomer turned SMOF Mark L. Olson.

As often seems to be the case with science panels, the small room was standing room only. Except, with people overflowing into the hallway, there was no more standing room, either: the panelists moved their table back to free up space in the front for people to sit on the floor. Even so, one fellow ended up sitting right at the edge of the panelists' table.

Cramer had described himself as one-half the "Alternate View" column in *Analog*. (He alternates with Jeffrey Kooistra.) "The first half or the (Noreascon from page 21)Schmidt asked playfully. Cramer: "The better half!"

Schmidt thought there was no *one* explanation for the Fermi paradox, referring us to an article by David Brin which covers various explanations; e.g., the alien races are around, but we don't see them. "Maybe there are a few dozen, scattered about the galaxy." There could be, say, 150 thousand stay-at-home civilizations in the Milky Way, said Nordley, with none of them closer than 400 light years: they haven't heard our signals yet. Or: we have the ill luck to be in an "accidental void" of civilizations. Or: "we're in an unusual place to look for intelligent life", so they haven't found us.

Calling on the "punctuated equilibrium" theory of evolution popularized by Stephen Jay Gould, Cramer suggested that the Earth might have suffered catastrophes at an "optimum rate" to promote the evolution of intelligence. Thus, *we* may be the galaxy's "elder race". Cramer referred us to *Rare Earth*, a recent book which suggest we have had a run of luck: plate tectonics; a large moon to prevent tilting of the Earth's axis; no "hot Jupiters" to disrupt the Earth's orbit. ("Hot Jupiters" are gas giants, recently detected around other stars, that form some distance from their primaries and then drift inward.)

"We're far from being a latecomer in the game," said Olson. The early generation of star systems lacked the heavy elements they need to form earthlike planets. Then again, Nordley pointed out, there were lots of supernovas, creating heavy elements early in the history of the Universe, within a billion years of the first stars.

Among explanations for the Fermi Paradox, said Schmidt, "my scary one", described in his essay, "The Fermi Plague", is that, due to technology and population (Continued On Pg. 24) (Noreascon from Page 21) growth, an individual or a small group can wipe out civilization.

Tightbeams Letters of comment

From Denise R. Fish

To All: As most of you you know, I'm bipolar. I'm also a writer, and feel called to write articles about this disease, whether sharing my personal struggles, or sharing the information, such as new meds, cognitive behavior models, etc. My motivation is to educate the public about mental health. Alas, there are still many stereotypes out there, which is quite unfortunate. So I want to correct those misperceptions. To that end, I wrote an essay and e-mailed it to healthyplace.com. One of the editors e-mailed me recently, saying my article has been accepted for publication. Yeah! I am so excited about this! However, it won't be published 'til fall. When that happens, I'll give you all the link, so you can read it for yourself. And, of course, feedback is always welcome!

I recommend that you all go see "The Island!" (Though by the time this issue comes out, it will be on video/DVD.) It is a very smart, futuristic thriller with compelling characters. Ewan MacGregor and Scarlett Johanson do an excellent job of playing characters in a futuristic society, though this society does have rather strict rules. Sean Bean plays the bad director of this world, even though his character has some rather interesting "twists and turns," to use an old cliché! There were too many car crashes for my taste, but overall, I'd give this film an A+!

Jeff: I was really moved by your article on the late, great Andre Norton. Well done. I discovered her wonderul books when I was a teen, just like millions of others. I believe that Mercedes Lackey also found Norton's books at a young age. Did you know that Lackey and Norton collaberated on some stories, including the Dragon series? Sorry -- I forgot the specific titles! I can't say what my favorite book is, though I did enjoy some of her "Witch World" novels. What is your favorite novel and/or series? As you said so well, she imbued each world with its own characteristics, minus the violence. Wish more modern authors could do the same thing! I'm rather tired of buying a book, only to find out the author advances the plot via very unnecessary violence. Some is okay if it's part of the protagonist's world and there's a logical reason, but otherwise, NO WAY!

Thanks again, Jeff, for writing this article. As you stated at the end, "we will certainly miss you, dear friend."

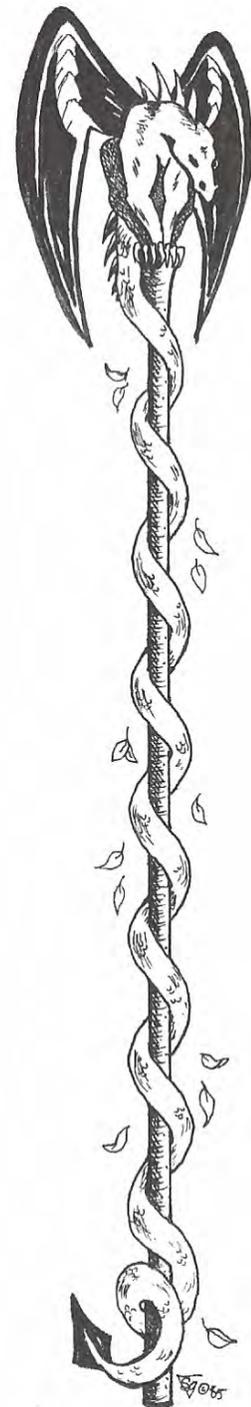
Jon: I like how you mix sci-fi books reviews along with mysteries and other genres. Also enjoy the bios of the various reviewers, as well as the authors.

Rick: Glad you've recovered from the strokes. Do you have to see your doctor each month just to check up on how you're doing? I am so sorry to hear that your arthritis flared up recently. That's got to be a real bummer. Especially since you seem to be so active.

My dad also has arthritis. It's curtailed his activities somewhat, but he manages to push through the pain sometimes and go walking, run errands, get together with friends, family, etc. However, he has to be really careful, lest it flares up even more, thereby causing him more pain. Ouch. So your cats are 16 years old? Neat! My cat, Captain Jack, was 17, and relatively healthy up to that point. However, she developed renal failure last summer, and we had to have the vet put her to sleep. I grieved over her death for a long time. She was like family, and spunky to boot! She'd wait for me to come home at night and feed her yummy cat food. If I was late, boy, did I hear about it!

Ruthie: Thanks for sharing your husband's struggle with ADD two issues back. That has got to be so frustrating! If I may ask, is he on any medication? And is ADD passed down to the kids? I don't know much about this condition, so I wanted to ask you, so that I can be more informed. I also didn't know that many folks are very ignorant about ADD, and will sometimes make hurtful, ignorant comments. They need to keep quiet 'till they educate themselves about this disease! Then, if asked to share by the person with ADD, then they can have something intelligent to say. My goodness! Though society has some a long way regarding learning about various ailments, there also is a lot of ignorance out there!

Sarah: I'm definitely with you about the necessity of writing thank-you notes! Too bad your two friends didn't respond when you sent them presents. My nieces, Rebecca and Amber, were very lax about sending notes to us for presents received. This went on for years. Apparently, their mom never taught them this skill. Why? Sharon's own mother didn't train her! (Sharon is my sister-in-law, and mom to Rebecca and Amber.)



Now that's rather rude. Sharon's mom certainly taught her daughters manners for other situations, but not sending cards to acknowledging presents. I never did figure out why. So my dad, myself and other relatives stopped sending them gifts. At first, I felt really guilty about this, but I quickly got over it! If folks, whether relatives or friends, can't be bothered to write notes thanking the sender, then I won't waste the time sending presents!



Recalling Jules Verne's colorful villains, Nordley agreed that "advanced technology can put a great deal of power in the hands of a megalomaniac." Such a threat might also come from outside the Earth, said Olson, in the form of "'Berserkers' of one sort or another" (referring to the artificially intelligent warships imagined by Fred Saberhagen). "It only takes *one* self-replicating probe to infest the galaxy!" Even if civilizations escape destruction from without and from within, an audience member pointed out that it's hard to maintain habitability of a planet for billions of years, long enough for intelligent life to evolve. Earth itself is destined to become uninhabitable. Judging from the history of the Earth, agreed Olson, single-celled life arises quickly, but multi-cellular life slowly.

An audience member asked about Charles Pellegrino's concept of a paranoid galaxy, in which the inability to defend against missiles traveling at nearly the speed of light leads the first space faring civilization to destroy every other civilization as a potential threat. We're still here, said Nordley. (On the other hand, we only recently became detectable. Earlier, I had pointed out that, at some artificial frequencies, Earth is brighter than the Sun.) Cramer thought that a relativistic missile attack on a planet of another sun might be a detectable event, because of the amount of energy involved.

In any case, all these possibilities encourage us to spread the human race to other planets, said Olson.

{Literature of Ideas}

Later Sunday afternoon, the subject was "Philosophy and SF", with SF writer Paul Levinson, Chairman of Fordham University's Communications Department, fanzine editor and one-time philosophy student John F. Hertz, and NESFA Press editor Jim Mann.

"For me, writing SF is like writing philosophy," said Levinson, though Plato and Kant might not agree. Mann noted the Platonic influence in John Wright's *The Golden Age* but complained that it seemed as if all philosophy-based science fiction stops at the ancients.

Because SF writers stopped studying at Philosophy 101, wondered Hertz. Or was it because they think there's nothing there; that philosophy is, in Heinlein's phrase, "cotton candy" without substance. That authors don't want to annoy their readers with stuff they don't know is also a factor, Hertz added, but Levinson thought the premise, that philosophy in SF is all classical, is false. For example, Gregory Benford's "Foundation" sequel has Voltaire; Levinson's detective hero, "Phil D'Amato", talks about Karl Popper; cyberpunk is influenced by Kierkegaard. "Science fiction is rotten with Spengler," I commented from the floor. Spengler imagined that cultures are born, grow old, and die like people do. Mann gave James Blish as an example; I added A.E. Van Vogt.

Ancient philosophers thought of history as the history of decline, from a lost Golden Age to an imperfect present, I suggested. Thus, they are diametrically opposed to science fiction's fundamental ideas. Levinson thought this is a good characterization of Plato, but not of Aristotle, who was more open to the idea of progress.

An audience member reminded us of *bad* philosophy in SF; for example, Robert J. Sawyer's *Calculating God*. (Nodding heads all around.) Another person complained about what he referred to as "rigged experiments"; for example, Heinlein's *Starship Troopers*.

{Mutant Science}

Early Monday afternoon, "The Abuse of Biology in SF" was the subject. the panelists were: biochemist turned medical writer W.A. Thomasson, ecologist Samuel Scheiner, epidemiologist Perianne Lurie, and bioinformatic researcher Ronald Taylor.

Taylor's favorite "really, really silly" SF biology is humans mating with aliens and producing hybrid offspring, a common *Star Trek* theme. (Later, an audience member said *Star Trek* came up with a scientific explanation; but Scheiner said the explanation is silly, too.) Lurie also drew on the *Star Trek* mother lode: in one episode, a human being was reverse-evolved -- into a spider!

TV shows are too easy, said Scheiner. Let's look at Frank Herbert's classic SF novel, *Dune*, which gives us a kind of perpetual motion: sandworms eat their own young. (If the young act as food collectors for their parent, I don't see the problem here: they fatten up, and most get eaten. There's a frog that survives this way, I seem to recall.)

"Rob Sawyer thinks he's an expert on evolution, and he gets it all wrong!" said Lurie. In a recent trilogy, he features a torrid affair between a human woman and a Neanderthal male: in reality, they wouldn't be attracted. "Some people find *sheep* attractive," I interjected from the floor. (Laughter.)

"Except for its basic premise ... a very well-written book," Scheiner faintly praised *Darwin's Radio* by Greg Bear. Bear does a very good job of describing the sociology of the biological research community, but his notion of quantum jumps in human evolution doesn't work. Evolutionary rules apply to all species; there is no special set of rules for humans. Scheiner has had long discussions with Bear about this; Bear sincerely believes his hypothesis, he noted wonderingly.

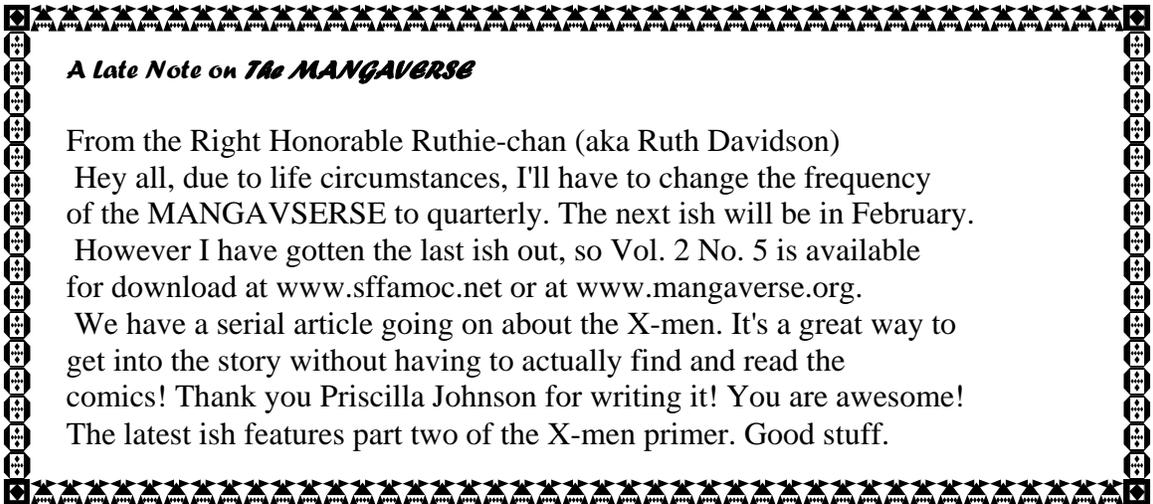
Alien species in SF are often too human in nature, said Thomasson, or lightly altered non-human species, like the lions in C.J. Cherryh's "Chanur" novels. (The title, *Pride of Chanur*, is a giveaway: they look like lions, and they act like lions.) "Truly alien" creatures, Lurie noted, are

"hard to sympathize with." Joan Slonczewski is a microbiologist by profession, said Scheiner, and the biology is very good in her novels about intelligent bacteria -- but they "talk and act just like people!"

Earlier, Thomasson had listed the idea of human organ trafficking as an example of something the science fiction field as a whole is not getting right. In the near future, organ transplants from living people will be supplanted by organs grown in the lab. He remembered a particularly silly book in which rich people addicted to dangerous pursuits hire someone to follow them around to provide spare parts. He was probably thinking of Michael G. Coney's *The Jaws That Bite, the Claws That Catch* (1975) with its absurd image of a "spare parts person" with borrowed parts replaced by metal, clanking after his employer. (What if the rich person injures the same part again?) But an audience member pointed out that Larry Niven, perhaps the most prominent offender in this area, dealt with cloning of organs replacing organ transplantation, in his early novel, *A Gift From Earth*.

Scheiner asked for examples of good use of biology in SF. Taylor nominated biologist (and *Analog* reviewer) Thomas Easton's "extrapolating biological engineering into the future." "The 'roachsters'?" I asked. "Cockroaches with wheels -- be afraid!" said Lurie. She nominated Nancy Kress' *Beggars in Spain* (1993), for its children genetically engineered to not need sleep. Also, on TV, *Babylon 5* "did some good stuff and then got it wrong anyway." She recalled a particular episode in which an alien boy is treated against his parents' wishes, a violation of medical ethics. (This is probably an unjust criticism: medical ethics vary, in different times and places. In any case, the doctor's arrogance doesn't help his patient, in the end.) Furthermore, doctors on sci-fi TV shows can do everything themselves. In real life, you call in specialists. Paul McAuley has a master's in algology, said Scheiner, and his *The Secret of Life* (2001) gets possible Martian life "exactly right!". He also "gets the psychology and sociology of science exactly right." (Continued on Page 31) On the other hand, while the sterile caste in Vonda McIntyre's *Dreamsnake* (1978) is OK, the three sexes is not: "evolutionarily it ain't gonna happen!"

Poul Anderson's training was in physics, not biology, but he often dealt with it. Thomasson praised his



A Late Note on The MANGAVERSE

From the Right Honorable Ruthie-chan (aka Ruth Davidson)

Hey all, due to life circumstances, I'll have to change the frequency of the MANGAVERSE to quarterly. The next ish will be in February.

However I have gotten the last ish out, so Vol. 2 No. 5 is available for download at www.sffamoc.net or at www.mangaverse.org.

We have a serial article going on about the X-men. It's a great way to get into the story without having to actually find and read the comics! Thank you Priscilla Johnson for writing it! You are awesome!

The latest ish features part two of the X-men primer. Good stuff.

N3F Directorate Elections

Platforms:

I would like to serve N3F again as a Directorate member. I think I've done so 3 times before, more or less. Mainly I'd just like to be part of the decision making process and think that as before, a major focus should be on drumming up new members and reinstating our "lost sheep."

-Carla Minor

My platform: I would like to continue serving the N3F as a directorate member.

-Janine Stinson

If you really want me, I will agree to serve.

-George Phillis

I hope to continue to serve the N3F as one of your Directors, so I am again a candidate for the Directorate, Please do vote.

-Denny Davis

I am running again for director. I will do my best to support the club and fulfill the duties of a directorate member. Thank you.

In a strange bit of coincidence, current N3F Directorate Member Sarah Glasgow lives only three doors down from one of the locations where Chris Garcia shot two of the four short films he shot over the last two years.

BALLOT

FOR PRESIDENT (select one):

Write in: _____

FOR DIRECTORATE (select up to five):

Dennis Davis _____

Sarah E. Glasgow _____

Janine Stinson _____

George Phillies _____

Carla Minor _____

Write in: _____

(You may photocopy this ballot before filling it out.)

Please send your ballots to the Election Teller before Christmas Day.

Jennett Kaerie - N3F Elections 434 Bird St. Yuba City CA 95991.

Your Name Printed: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



NEFFY AWARDS - 2006-

-official call for nominations-

It's time to speak up and honor the best of 2005.
(Or not-so-best.)

All current N3F members are asked to provide up to three nominations for the 2006 N3F Awards for Speculative Fiction. Due to popular demand, we have added a couple of new categories and eliminated a few other less-popular categories.

New this year: We split the very popular Author, TV and Film into Science Fiction and Fantasy categories. Which is SF and which is F? You decide.

Also New this year: The Skiffy Award. Our Official way to take the Powers That Be to task for doing fans wrong. Whether it is the cancellation of a favorite TV show, that horrid sequel that never should have been done, or just plain bad SF/F - here the fans get to tell the pros where they went wrong in hopes that it never happens again

All works (or new issues or episodes or established works) must have been first published, presented, aired or released in the United States between January 1 and December 31, 2005.

Nominations Due by January 31 may be sent via email to david@speakman.com, or mailed to the bureau chair at: David Speakman, 501-83 Moorpark Way, Mountain View CA 94041.

The Categories (please nominate up to three in each)

-PROFESSIONAL AWARDS -

- Best Artist*
- Best Animation: Film or TV*
- Best Graphic Fiction (comic or novel)*
- Best Science Fiction Film*
- Best Fantasy Film (includes supernatural horror)*
- Best Science Fiction Television*
- Best Fantasy Television (includes supernatural horror)*
- Best New SF/F Game (Video, Board, RPG)*
- Best Pro Web Site*
- Best Pro Zine*



- Best SF Author with new book or story
- Best Fantasy Author new book or story (includes supernatural horror)
- Best Book Reprint (First published 1985 or earlier)
- Best Classic Video (New DVD for film or TV first aired or released in 1985 or earlier)
- SKIFFY Award - for the worst professional act or work in SF/F in print, TV, film or the Internet.

FAN AWARDS:

- Fan of the Year
- Fan Artist
- Fanzine: Print
- Fanzine: Electronic
- Fan (Amateur) Author
- Fan Web Site

The bureau will eliminate categories that do not get a sufficient number of nominations.

Those ineligible for awards include last year's individual winners and the members of the Neffy Bureau. They are:
 Neffy Bureau Members: David Speakman (Davodd), Ruth Davidson, Dennis Davis, Sarah E. Glasgow and Amy Davidson.
 Last year's individual winners that may otherwise be nominated this year: Donato Giancola (Pro Artist), C. J. Cherryh (author), Locus Online (Pro website), Heinlein (Reprint), Stargate: SG1 (TV), Ansible (fanzine), Fanac Fan History Project (fan website), Janine Stinson (fan of the year). The complete list is available here: <http://www.nfff.org/neffys/indexa.html>

2006 Neffy Calendar:

December 2005: Call for nominations for the awards. (This notice

January 31, 2006: Deadline for nomination submission.



-2006 Neffy Calendar-

- December 2005: Call for nominations for the awards. (This notice)
 - January 31, 2006: Deadline for nomination submission.
 - March 2006: Award Ballots to be mailed in or current to the March edition of the e-fan. Only valid N3F members may vote.
 - May 15, 2006: Deadline for ballots to be submitted.
 - May 27, 2006: Neffy Awards to be announced at BayCon in San Jose.
(<http://www.baycon.org/2006>)
-

(From Page 26)

He also "gets the psychology and sociology of science exactly right." On the other hand, while the sterile caste in Vonda McIntyre's *Dreamsnake* (1978) is OK, the three sexes is not: "evolutionarily it ain't gonna happen!"

Poul Anderson's training was in physics, not biology, but he often dealt with it. Thomasson praised his novel, *Fire Time* (1974), for its description of mixing, incompatible ecologies on a colonized alien planet.

{Miscellaneous}

In the fan exhibit section, I leafed through a binder containing convention materials from 1939 through 1949. On one page, I came upon the following: "NOTICE -- This item -- a printed copy of Heinlein's speech at Denvention signed by him and (in Cyrillic characters) by Virginia Heinlein -- was stolen on September 3, 1992, while on display at Magicon. Only one copy so signed exists. Please notify Bruce Pelz if you hear of it."

Thursday evening, "First Night Noreascon", featured a theremin demo, two blackjack tables, conjuring, belly dancing, caricatures, balloon animals, juggling lessons, blindfold sculpting, and other festive activities. An election was underway for "First Citizen of Fanitopia": early returns showed Heinlein leading with 28 votes, followed by Shelley (presumably Mary) with 23, with Verne at 13, and (E.E.) "Doc" Smith and (H.G.) Wells in the cellar with 10.

Friday evening, a bathrobe-clad Bob Eggleton as "The Dude" (from *The Big Lebowski*), time-traveled us to 1954 for the Retro Hugo Awards, with Guest of Honor interviews interspersed. When Peter Weston interviewed Jack Speer, for example, Speer had some trouble with Weston's British accent, to the audience's amusement. Like Speer, William Tenn was already active in the SF world by 1954. Dressed in waistcoat and bow tie, as if impersonating Freud, he commented on *Astounding* editor John W. Campbell's award for best professional editor of 1953. "I'm glad he won. He was entitled. He would have told us himself he was entitled!"

Ironically, the Guest of Honor at the 1954 convention that didn't give Hugo Awards was none other than John W. Campbell.

Later, Weston interviewed Terry Pratchett (probably the reason for the large audience). Weston, who crafts the Hugo rockets, made Pratchett a modest proposal: "I've got Hugos, you've got lots of money -- we could get together on this ..." Failing that, Weston proposed

that Pratchett write a science fiction novel, but Pratchett was reluctant.

The unexpected star of the "real" Hugos, Saturday night, turned out to be ubiquitous fan Erwin "Filthy Pierre" Strauss. Dave Kyle, about to announce First Fandom's "Big Heart" Award for service to the SF community, invited Strauss to play an introductory fanfare on his mouth accordion: a theme from *Star Wars*, to the audience's delight. When Kyle announced that Strauss had actually won the award, the audience gave him a standing ovation. And a second standing ovation when, not long afterward, Strauss was given a Special Committee Award from the people running the convention, who obviously had not known the other award was coming.

Later, Robert Silverberg spoke on the history of the Hugo Award. This is a subject on which he is uniquely qualified, he explained. He is the only person to attend *every* Hugo ceremony, starting with the very first one.

About to present the award for Best Dramatic Presentation -- Short Form, Melinda Snodgrass expressed her appreciation as a TV writer, that the award had recently been split into long and short, so that TV shows didn't have to compete with *The Lord of the Rings*. And then *The Lord of the Rings* stole the award anyway, for a short film starring Gollum shown on MTV!

Monday morning, David Gerrold's comic rant against "tuckerization" (putting fans' names on characters in a book): "Why should I give some asshole immortality ... My books will be read for thousands of years ..." An audience member asked the meaning of a word he had used.

Gerrold: "What, 'asshole'?"

This time, the "Internet Lounge" turned out to be just a half dozen computers next to the information desk. But it seemed to work out OK: strict time limits were enforced if anybody was waiting. However, by the time I thought to log on and take care of some business, I discovered that the best hotels for next year's Worldcon in Glasgow were already taken.

The "pocket program", which might just about fit in a pocket if you folded it in half lengthwise, had plenty of space for maps. Unfortunately, they were poor maps: a major ballroom was simply missing, and in most cases you had to guess if that odd-shaped little room in the plan was a closet or a restroom.--Taras Wolansky.

Your Editor's Little Fannish Fiction Piece

by Chris Garcia

Long afternoons spent reading fanzines with titles like *Great Things* and *WasteBasket* lead to long weekends going to panels with titles like *What to Do When Earth is Invaded* and *Why Don't Science Fiction Novels Win the Pulitzer?* which lead to longer months working on the con-committees for conventions called things like **ConTraption** and **SuperDundreCon** which lead to long years putting together the collection of your complete fan writers called *Here, You Take It* which leads to a burn-out called *GAFIA* which leads to a quiet return, years later, started by a long afternoon reading old fanzines.

**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 ½" 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 \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50; Second \$30; Third \$20. 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.

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 2005 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 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.

- Which would you prefer?:

- APA's
- Art
- Cartooning
- Computers
- Conventions
- Correspondence (penpals)
- Collecting

- 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 www.n3f.org



*Send all address corrections
and undeliverable copies to:*

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