



The National Fantasy Fan Federation

TNFF Vol. 71, No. 4  
Tightbeam #263  
December 2012



# 2012 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

## Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.

2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judges.

3. Manuscripts should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible. Email attachments of Word documents are also acceptable.

4. Contestants can enter any number of stories, provided that each is accompanied by a separate entry blank and fee. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss; we are not responsible for lost manuscripts. Stories will not be returned without an SASE.

5. The entry fee is \$3 per story for N3F members in good standing, and \$5 for non-members. The extra \$2 is for printing and publicity, which will be paid for using N3F funds. The basic \$3 is for judging expenses and prizes. While N3F members are encouraged to enter the contest, members will not receive any

preference in judging. Because of a long-standing agreement with the British Science Fiction Association, BSFA members can pay the same fee as N3F members.

6. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.

7. Send all manuscripts, accompanied by SASEs, entry forms, and fees to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; [n3f.story.contest@gmail.com](mailto:n3f.story.contest@gmail.com). Make checks payable to William Center. Well-concealed American cash (dollar bills is also acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2012. Email entries will be accepted, but no guarantee of email receipt can be made.

8. The judge is a published science fiction professional. All comments and critiques are solely the judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructively critical and polite.

9. The N3F assumes no publishing rights or obligations. We want to encourage professional sales, not fan publication. All entries will be returned after the contest is over, if accompanied by an SASE. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made in March 2013.

Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2012. Good luck

(Detach or photocopy. Must accompany all entries.) Mail to: **Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373**

Title of story (for identification): \_\_\_\_\_

Author's name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

Author's email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Author's age: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is the entry fee of \$5 (for N3F or BSFA members, the fee is \$3). I have read the above rules for the 2012 N3F

Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Letter from the Editor



As we wrap up the final issue of 2012, my first year as Official Editor of N3F, and look forward to 2013 I must say, I have learned a few things. The most primary being that member want their zines—often and on time. As we enter into the new year, I will strive to meet both.

This issue brings a new artist to the cover of TNFF—K. Cherdrumchai, an international fan from Thailand. Going by the pen name of “Pandabaka,” she is popular in the manga fan circles and ion Deviant

Art . I am pleased to showcase her talent here.

Since the turn of the century, the December issue traditionally is the one that announces the officers for the forthcoming year. Additionally, December is the Call for Nominations for the Neffy Awards—honoring Print and Media in SF/F and fandom. The nomination rules and ballot are in this issue.

This issue marks the final time that TNFF and Tightbeam will be combined as a single pub. Starting in 2013, I will split the two zines (more details on this in the bureau reports) as TB becomes a full genzine

Speaking of Tightbeam, this issue marks the debut of two debuts: Jeff Redmond is giving us an abridged PG-rated sneak peek at “Androdess,” of which a more adult version will appear a forthcoming Nova SF. Wesley Kawato, also new to the pages of TB, has a piece of fanfic that bridges the gap in the Doctor Who universe between the 8th and 9th Doctors.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as I did putting it together.

Keep getting your geek on,  
David Speakman

## ART CREDITS

Paul Hanley:

30

David Heath, Jr.:

16, 17

Pandabaka:

1, 3, 14

David Rubin:

21

David Reynolds:

23, 25, 26, 28

David Speakman:

3, 4, 5, 6, 29

XKCD:

4, 5, 29, 33



Cover Art: “Don’t Hurt Me Anymore”

By Pandabaka

## COPYRIGHT NOTICE

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# 2012 Officers

## PRESIDENT

Dennis Davis

## DIRECTORATE

Sarah E Harder, Chair

Heath Row

David Speakman

Jon D. Swartz

Holly Wilson

## TREASURER

William Center

## SECRETARY

Dennis Davis

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### Birthday Cards

R-Laurraine Tutihasi

### Con Coordinator

Heath Row

### Game Design

George Phillies

### Kaymar Award

William Center

### Mangaverse

Ruth Davidson

### Membership Cards

Dennis Davis

### Membership Drive

Dennis Davis

### N3F Bookworms

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### N'APA

Jean Lamb

### HISTORIAN

Jon D Swartz

### WEBMISTRESS

Ruth Davidson

### Neffy Awards

David Speakman

### Round Robins

Patricia King

### Short Story Contest

Jefferson Swycaffer

### Welcommittee

Cynthia Richter

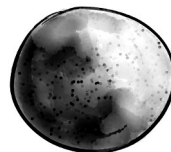
### Open (Contact President)

Blind Services, Computer

Gaming, Future Fandom,

Teaching Science Fiction,

The Writer's Exchange.



**The National Fantasy Fan** (Bonfire), Vol. LXXI, No. 4, December 2012, ISSN 2169-3595. Published Quarterly by The National Fantasy Fan Federation. A one-year subscription is \$18 in the United States and its possessions, payable in advance in U.S. funds. This issue was started on November 24, 2012 and completed on November 25, 2012. The editor was David Speakman. The editor of the next issue is, again, David Speakman. Submissions may be emailed to him at cabal@n3fmail.com or via U.S. mail at: David Speakman, PO Box 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. All opinions herein are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other members of N3F except where so noted. **Submission deadline for the next issue is February 15, 2013.** This non-commercial zine is published through volunteer effort.



# THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN

The Official Organ of the National Fantasy Fan Federation

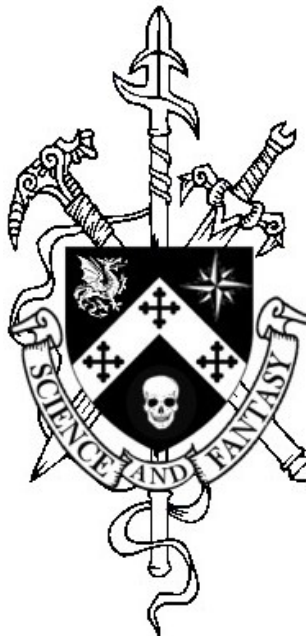
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by Jeffrey Redmond
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*The Doctor's Dilemma*  
by Wesley Kawato  
(Setting: Doctor Who)
- 31—The History of Tightbeam  
Donald Franson  
(reprint)



## Editorial Cabal

### EDITOR

David Speakman

### PAST-EDITORS

Ruth Davidson (2003-2008)  
Heath Row (2009-2011)

### ART EDITOR

Sarah E. Harder

### REVIEWS EDITOR

Heath Row

### FICTION EDITOR

Jeff Redmond

### PUBLISHER

Craig Boyd

### DISTRIBUTOR

David Speakman

### SUBMISSIONS

*All submissions are to be  
sent to the editorial cabal via  
email at:*

***cabal@n3fmail.com***

*unless otherwise noted.*

### NEXT ISSUES:

***TNFF Extra—January 2013  
Tightbeam—February 2013  
TNFF—March 2013  
N3F Annual—April 2013***

# Letters of comment

**2012.09.29**

**Lloyd Penney, Etobicoke ON**

Dear David and Neffers,

Thank you all for The National Fantasy Fan Vol. 71, No. 3/Tightbeam 262, and I will try to say my thanks for this issue with some commentary of value.

More interesting art from José Sánchez. I imagine some will complain about a flying saucer on the front cover, but that's certainly not new in science fiction.

The Mayans were wrong? I suspect the Mayans are somewhere having a good laugh at our expense, or perhaps there's a small pictograph at the end of the Mayan calendar that simply states "Start again from the beginning."

I hope steampunk will be more than a fad...it certainly seems to have some staying power, and it is attracting more and more people. I see this on Facebook, which plays host to must be thousands of steampunk groups and projects. We recently had a second Victorian tea, and it was another popular event...now, we're looking to see how it can evolve in something more people may be interested in. It hasn't jumped the shark...yet...

I go to so few movies...I have some interest in seeing *Looper*, and perhaps *Cloud Atlas*, and definitely the first *Hobbit* movie.

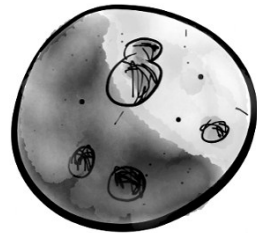
What's left of our youth is quickly chipped away as people whose work we've known and enjoyed pass away. Such as it is with Ray Bradbury, Joe Kubert, Harry Harrison, and this day, as I type, I found that Michael O'Hare, who played Babylon 5's

first on-air commander, Jeffrey Sinclair, has passed away at the age of 60. These are reminders of our own age and mortality, so I recommend that we enjoy ourselves just as much as possible in whatever amount of time we have left to us.

Many thanks for the issue, and I look forward to future ones.

*[[I agree, efanzines.com is an essential stop for anyone interested in zines. As for the diversity of fandom—that's the spice that makes us interesting.*

*I, too, am enjoying the current steampunk fad—though I was a fan back when it was still called Victorian SF.— ed.]]*



**2012.09.30**

**R-Lauraine Tutihasi**

I was disappointed that there were no reviews in the latest issue of the N3F zine. At least one of my unpublished reviews was written and submitted over a year ago. Should I go ahead and publish them elsewhere?

*[[Not unless you really want to. I had to take a bye last issue because of being overextended but still have that review on hand for the next section — which should be in this very issue. — Heath Row ]]*

## Directorate Report:

# Jack Robins granted Life membership

The third quarter of the N3F was rather busy as four motions passed: three regarding memberships, including a proposed constitutional amendment, and a separation of powers issue.

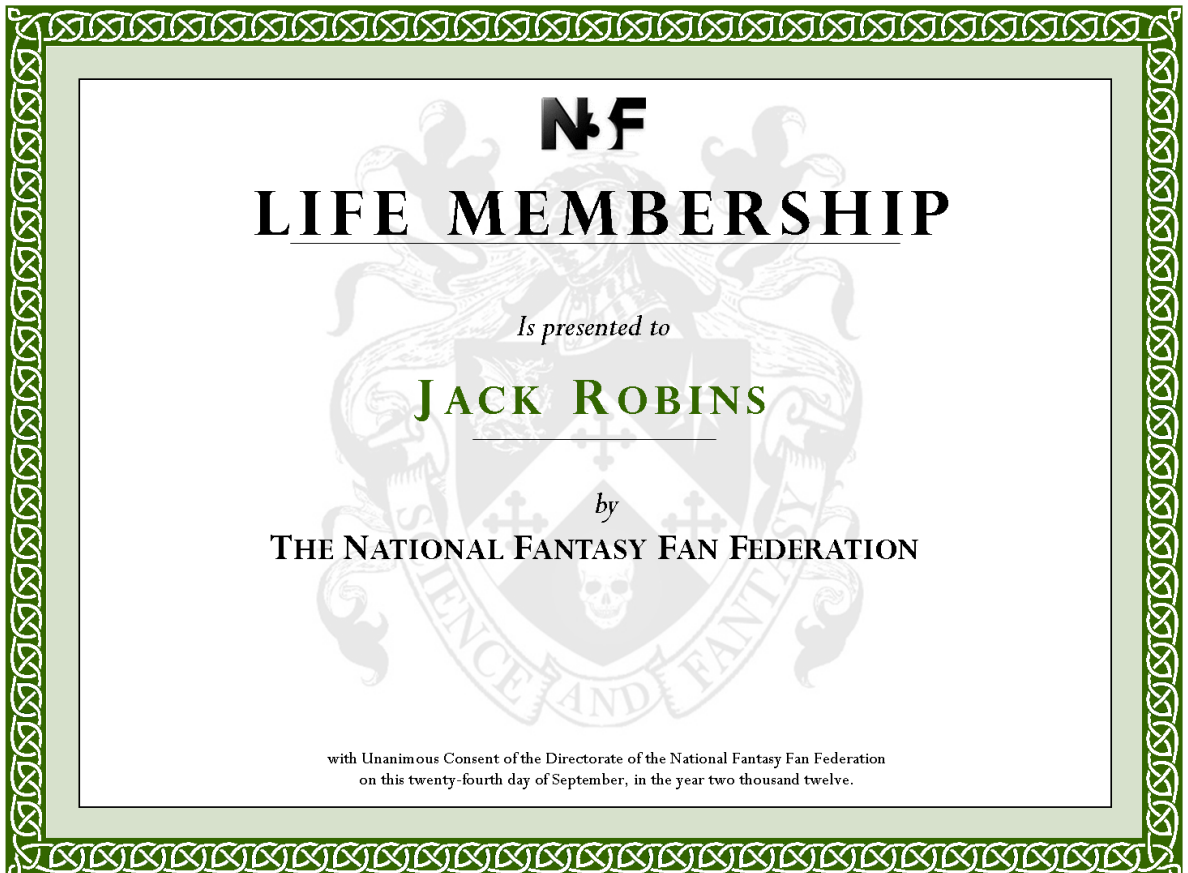
All motions are listed in a box on the following page.

Perhaps the most celebratory news to come out of the directorate is that of granting our first Life Membership in decades to longtime N3F member,

Jack Robins on September 25, 2012.

"I am overwhelmed at being elected a life member. At 93 and 1/2 years of age, I am not sure how much life I have left, but I will enjoy all," Jack said upon hearing of the award.

Jack also recently was named to the First Fandom Hall of Fame (who proudly self-proclaim themselves as "The dinosaurs of science fiction fandom.") - *David Speakman*



# Directorate Motions

PASSED: July 10, 2012

**Motion 2012-04:** Speakman;; Amended: Row

The President shall not hold the office of Secretary or Treasurer, except on a temporary basis not to exceed 4 weeks - due to vacancy or emergency. If the president fails to appoint a replacement within three weeks of an office vacancy of either the Secretary or Treasurer, the Directorate shall move on its own to appoint a replacement for the vacant office.

YEA: Speakman, Row, Wilson, Harder

No Vote: Swartz

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PASSED: September 25, 2012

**Motion 2012-05:** Speakman (Via suggestion by member, Ruth Davidson)

Amend Bylaws in the appropriate place(s) to include:

1. The following activities are reserved solely to paid members: holding elected office; holding the office of Secretary, Treasurer, Publisher or Official Editor; voting for elected office; receiving printed copies of club publications paid for by the treasury.
2. Members of the general public may fully participate in all N3F activities except for those reserved solely to paid members.

YEA: Speakman, Row, Wilson, Harder

No Vote: Swartz

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PASSED: September 24, 2012

**Motion 2012-06:** Speakman

.PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT to bring constitution in line with current practice.

Membership ratification vote: Sept. 2013.

Current Language

Article 1 - Membership:

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

Proposed Amendment: (Changes in ***bold italic***)

Article 1 - Membership:

3. ***Household*** memberships are available to persons residing in the same household ***but eligible to receive only one print copy of the Official Organ. A household*** membership will include ***membership in*** The National Fantasy Fan Federation (TNFF) and all rights such as voting and club activities ***for each paid member of the household included in the membership.*** The dues shall be ***one single membership at full price with each additional individual household membership dues added, as set in the Bylaws***

YEA: Speakman, Swartz, Wilson, Harder

No Vote: Row, Harder

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PASSED: September 24, 2012

**Motion 2012-07:** Speakman

1. Update Life Membership rules to allow the appointment of 5 memberships or 1 percent of the total membership of the N3F, whichever number is greater.
2. Grant Life Membership to Jack Robins.

YEA: Speakman, Row, Wilson, Harder, Swartz



*[Below are the amended Bylaws with changes set out in bold italics]]*

## **The Bylaws of the National Fantasy Fan Federation**

### I. Authority

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

### II. The Directorate

1. The Chairman of the Directorate shall report to the membership all measures passed by the Directorate. The Chairman of the Directorate shall maintain updated copies of the Bylaws, distribute them to the Directorate, President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Official Editor of The National Fantasy Fan (TNFF), at the beginning of the year and whenever changed, and turn them over to his/her successor.
2. Copies of all official Directorate correspondence shall be sent to the President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
3. Each Directorate shall adopt standing rules of procedure, which shall remain in force for the Directorate of the following year, until such time as the new Directorate shall vote to accept them or adopt new rules.
4. A Director who has not voted or participated in Directorate discussion or correspondence in any period of three consecutive months may be declared inactive by the Directorate, and may be removed by the President for this cause only, without prejudice.

### III. The Secretary & Treasurer

1. The Secretary may bill the Treasury, as needed, for expenses incurred in the discharge of the office, including the purchase of supplies for new members, the sum not to exceed \$100 per year.
2. The Secretary will maintain a current membership roster, and will report new memberships, renewals, and changes of address to the President, Treasurer, Official Editor, Chairman of The Welcommittee, and such other officers as the President may direct, not less often than once a month.
3. The Treasurer will prepare a yearly report of all income to the N3F Treasury and an itemized list of expenditures. Also included in this report will be a listing of items which will require additional outlays, in the forthcoming year from the Treasury, and have been approved by the Directorate, but have not yet been paid. This report will be prepared for the first issue of TNFF to appear in the year following the year which the report covers.
4. ***The President shall not hold the office of Secretary or Treasurer, except on a temporary basis not to exceed 4 weeks - due to vacancy or emergency. If the president fails to appoint a replacement within three weeks of an office vacancy of either the Secretary or Treasurer, the Directorate shall move on its own to appoint a replacement for the vacant office.***

### IV. Elections

1. All candidates must, by the filing deadline of August 15 of each year, have paid their dues for the year in which they will hold office if elected, and agree to serve if appointed under Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution.
2. In addition to the regular candidates listed on the ballot, members may write in the name of any member in good standing as a candidate for any elective office. Any candidate so elected must submit a written statement of his willingness to serve plus the dues for the year in which he will serve, to

*(Continued on page 10)*

reach the Secretary within 14 days of his notification of election. In the event of non-compliance with the foregoing, the election will be voided and the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes for that office will be declared the winner.

3. Annual election platforms are to be printed in the September issue of TNFF. The election ballot will either be printed in the September issue of The Fan or mailed to members separately. Members may submit either a photocopy of the election ballot or vote from an email account previously registered with the secretary rather than the ballot itself. Each paper ballot shall include space for the N3F member to write their name in print, provide their signature and also the date the ballot was completed. Ballots for Constitutional amendments and other membership referendums may also be sent out with TNFF.

#### V. Publication

1. Regular publication of the N3F. The N3F has one regular publication, the Official Organ , which shall be provided free to all N3F members in good standing. The Official Organ, currently titled The National Fantasy Fan, is published in March, June, September, and December. The Editor and Publisher is appointed by the President.
  - a. The Publisher shall print enough copies to send to every member of the N3F as of the date of publication, plus extra copies for the President, Secretary, and head of Recruiting, and any other extra copies that the President may direct the Publisher to print.
  - b. In the event a Regular Publication does not appear as scheduled and the President appoints a Stand-by Editor to publish it, this Editor will be reimbursed as if he were the regular Editor if the magazine is mailed within two months after the appointment by the President.
  - c. The Official Organ shall contain a list of new members and renewals, as reported by the Secretary; the Constitution and Bylaws of the N3F in the

June issue, and the Roster of the membership in the March and September issues.

- d. Deadlines for material submitted to TNFF shall be the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication. Any deviation from this date must be announced in the previous issue.
- e. No single issue of TNFF may exceed 36 pages, without Directorate approval. The Publisher will notify the Chairman of the Directorate of receipt of any issue not conforming to this page limitation, before printing.
- f. Advertisements in N3F publication is free, restricted to N3F members, and are subject to space limitations in the judgment of the editor.
- g. The N3F Roster, while available for membership use, is not for sale as a mailing list to anyone.

2. Others. Publications issued by subordinate Bureaus of the N3F and not sent to the entire membership shall be sent to the Secretary for information and record. In the case of N'APA that shall be construed to mean the Alliance Amateur or other official business publication and not the entire bundle. The cost will be borne by the Treasury of the N3F upon presentation of an itemized bill to the Treasurer.
3. Neffer Amateur Press Alliance. All N'APA members must be members in good standing of the N3F.
4. Exchange Agreements. The President can authorize exchange agreements with other publishers who will receive all N3F publications, and the President or other designated person will receive all their publications.

#### VI. Rescissions

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

#### VII. Amendments

(Continued on page 11)

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

VIII. Dues

1. Membership dues are payable annually and include receiving one copy of the Official Organ (paper or electronic). Individual memberships are \$18 per year. Additional memberships at the same household address, with no additional copies of the Official Organ, are \$4 per year per person.
2. The number of Life or Honorary members created by Directorate vote may not exceed **5 memberships or 1 percent of the total membership of the N3F, whichever number is greater.** This rule shall not operate to reduce the number of existing Life memberships at any time

IX. Member Benefits

1. *The following membership benefits are reserved solely to dues-paying members ("paid members"): holding, running for, or being appointed to any elected office; holding the office of Secretary, Treasurer, Publisher or Official Editor; voting for elected office; receiving printed copies of club publications paid for by the treasury; and representing the organization in any official capacity.*
2. *Life Members appointed by the Directorate are granted the same membership benefits as Paid Members, regardless of whether they pay dues or not.*
3. *Members of the general public may fully participate in all N3F activities except for those reserved solely to paid members.*

(As amended: September 25, 2012:  
[Harder, Row, Speakman, Swartz, Wilson])

# Upcoming Genre Movie Releases

**JANUARY 2013**

- 11** Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters—Fantasy Action Comedy (Wide)
- 18** Mama—Horror (Wide)
- 25** The Conjuring - Horror (Wide)

**FEBRUARY 2013**

- 1** Bullet to the Head—comic adpt. (Wide)
- 1** Warm Bodies—zombie romance (Wide)
- 13** Escape from Planet Earth—animated (Wide)
- 22** I, Frankenstein—action horror (Wide)

**MARCH 2013**

- 1** Elysium—science fiction (Wide)

**8** Oz: The Great and Powerful—Fantasy (Wide)

- 15** Carrie (2013) Horror (Wide)
- 22** The Croods—animated (Wide)
- 22** Jack the Giant Killer—fantasy adventure (Wide)
- 29** The Host—Horror (Wide)

**APRIL 2013**

- 5** The Brass Teapot—fantasy
- 5** Jurassic Park #D (Re-release)
- 12** Evil Dead—Horror Remake
- 12** Oblivion—Science Fiction

**MAY 2013**

- 3** Iron Man 3—Superhero
- 3** Kiss of the Damned—Vampire
- 10** About Time—Science Fiction
- 17** Star Trek: Into Darkness—

Space opera  
**24** Epic—Animated Fantasy

**JUNE 2013**

- 7** After Earth—science fiction
- 7** Now You See Me—Fantasy Thriller
- 14** The End fo the World—Comedy Science fiction
- 14** Man of Steel—Superhero
- 21** Monsters University—Animated fantasy
- 21** World War Z—Science fiction horror
- 28** Kick Ass 2—Superhero

**JULY 2013**

- 3** Despicable Me 2 —Animated fantasy

# N3FFUS

## National Fantasy Fan Federation Speculative Fiction Awards

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Neffy Award Bureau shall coordinate the annual NFFF Speculative Fiction Awards (Neffy Awards) to promote the goals of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F, NFFF).

### **RULES:**

1. All entries for and winner of the NFFF Speculative Fiction Award must have appeared for the first time in the United States or had significant original content published in the previous calendar year. If both a copyright and publication date exist, the publication (cover issue date) will take precedence.

2. Any fan may nominate works or cast official ballots for the awards.

3. A call for nominations will be in two forms: Publication in the December issue of N3F's publication, "TNFF." In addition, the Neffy Awards Bureau will send out an email via the official NFFF email list during the month of December. All member nomination entries will be due by January 31, of the following year. Nomination may either be by email or by postal service (with postmark of January 31 or earlier).

4. Nominations: Each member shall be allowed five nominations in each category. Duplicate nomina-

tions by the same member shall be counted as one vote. Nominations for nonsense, ineligible candidates or "no award" shall be disregarded. Nomination votes shall be tallied by the Neffy Awards Bureau in time for publication of an official Neffy Awards Ballot in the March issue of "TNFF". The Bureau also will mail an electronic version of the ballot to the N3F mail list and post it on the organization's web site.

5. The Ballot: In each category, the five nominees with the most nominations shall be listed on the ballot. In a case of a tie for the fifth slot on the ballot, all nominees with that number of votes shall be listed on the ballot. If a category does not get at least three nominees, no award will be given in that category that year. Voting ballots will be due by May 20 via email or postal service (postmarked May 20 or earlier). Each member shall be allowed one vote in each category. Write-in votes will be disregarded.

6. Results will be announced on the Saturday before Memorial Day on the NFFF web site, email list and the September issue of "The Fan." In addition, the Neffy Award Bureau may choose to announce the awards

at a speculative fiction fan convention which is held during Memorial Day weekend.

7. The Award. The Neffy Award is one of honor and recognition. Each winner will be presented (or mailed) a printed certificate denoting the individual achievement. A list of all winners will be permanently displayed on the N3F web site.

8. Those not eligible: Members of the Neffy Award Bureau, members of their immediate family, close associates or closely-affiliated works of bureau members are not eligible for an award or nomination.

### **PROFESSIONAL AWARDS:**

· Achievement in art – Artist. A speculative fiction work of art first published or shown within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. "Best Artist")

· Achievement in Animated Film . An animated work of speculative fiction made for the cinema first released in the United States within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. "Best Animated Film ")

· Achievement in live Action Fantasy Film. A speculative fiction motion picture first released within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a.

“Best Fantasy Movie”)

- Achievement in live Action SF Film. A speculative fiction motion picture first released within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. “Best SF Movie”)

- Achievement in live Action Fantastic Horror Film. A speculative fiction motion picture first released within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. “Best Dark Fantasy Movie”)

- Achievement in Live Action SF Television. A speculative fiction made-for television film or serialized television program first broadcast within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. “Best SF TV”)

- Achievement in Live Action Television. A speculative fiction made-for television film or serialized television program first broadcast within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a.

“Best Fantasy TV”)

- Achievement in Live Action Television. A speculative fiction made-for television film or serialized television program first broadcast within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. “Best Dark Fantasy TV”)

- Achievement in writing - Fantasy Fiction. A speculative fiction story first published within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. “Best Fantasy Author”)

- Achievement in writing Fantastic Horror. A speculative fiction story first published within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. “Best Horror Author”)

- Achievement in writing - Science Fiction or Archive. A work of journalism, archiving or other non-fiction documentation of speculative fiction, fans or related fields first

appearing within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. “Best SF Author ”)

## FAN AWARDS:

- Fan Artist - An amateur (fewer than three professionally sold works) speculative fiction art first published in fanzines or fan web sites within the previous calendar year.

- Fanzine: Print or Electronic- An amateur speculative fiction-oriented publication with at least one issue first appearing within the previous calendar year.

- Fan Writer – An amateur (fewer than three professionally sold works) speculative fiction story first published in fanzines or fan web sites within the previous calendar year.

Below is a list of eligible movies and TV shows. For books, please refer to Locus Magazine’s [LIST](#); for fanzines, please refer to [eFanzines.com](#).

## 2012 Movies

### SF Film

- Battleship
- Chronicle
- The Hunger Games
- John Carter
- Lockout
- Looper
- Men in Black 3
- Prometheus
- Seeking a Friend for the End of the World
- Total Recall (2012)

### Fantasy Film

- The Amazing Spider-Man
- The Avengers
- The Dark Knight Rises
- Dark Shadows
- Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance
- The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey
- Journey 2: The Mysterious Island
- Life of Pi
- Mirror Mirror
- The Odd Life of Timothy Green
- Ruby Sparks
- Ted
- Wrath of the Titans

### Animated Film

- Brave

- Frankenweenie
- Hotel Transylvania
- Ice Age: Continental Drift
- The Lorax
- Madagascar 3
- ParaNorman
- Rise of the Guardians
- Wreck-It Ralph

### Horror Film

- Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter
- Cloud Atlas
- Iron Sky
- The Possession
- Snow White and the Huntsman
- The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2
- Underworld Awakening

- The Cabin in the Woods
- **2012 TV SF TV**
- Archer
- Beauty and the Beast
- Chuck
- Doctor Who
- Eureka
- Fringe
- Futurama
- The Neighbors
- Red Dwarf
- Revolution
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars
- Terra Nova
- Tron:Uprising
- **Fantasy TV**

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

- |                      |                    |                       |                         |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Arrow              | • Haven            | • The Secret Circle   | • Alcatraz              |
| • Being Human (UK)   | • Lost Girl        | • Teen Wolf           | • American Horror Story |
| • Being Human (U.S.) | • Merlin           | • Touch               | • Awake                 |
| • A Gifted Man       | • Misfits          | • The Vampire Diaries | • Bedlam                |
| • Grimm              | • Once Upon a Time | • Warehouse 13        | • Death Valley          |
|                      | • Sanctuary        |                       | • Last Resort           |
|                      | • Saving Hope      |                       | • The River             |

#### Horror TV

- 666 Park Avenue

# Club News...

## 2012 Election Results

By Heath Row

Fifteen ballots were cast by the voting deadline. Those voting were: Redmond, Wells, Kawato, Chen, Feller, King, Row, Speakman, Nelson, Phillies, Marcum, Robins, Tutihasi, Brooks, Swycaffer, with the following Results:

#### **PRESIDENT (vote for 1)**

SPEAKMAN—15 votes

(No write-in votes)

#### **DIRECTORATE (vote fore 5)**

SWARTZ—15 votes

WILSON—15 votes

DAVIDSON—14 votes

#### **Directorate Write-ins**

PHILLIES—2 votes

HARDER—2 votes

KAWATO—1 vote

REDMOND—1 vote

SWYCAFFER—1 vote

MARCUM—1 vote

FELLER—1 vote

KING—1 vote

ROW—1 vote

Because there were two vacancies, the top two highest write-in vote getters are elected if they accept the vote and submit statements to the TNFF saying they are willing to serve, The top-two write-ins were Sarah Harder and George Phillies; their statements are as follows:

GEORGE PHILLIES: "I am willing to serve" - dated November 25, 2012.

SARAH HARDER: "I am willing to serve. Thank you for your write-in votes." - dated November 25, 2012.





# 2012 NEFFY NOMINATIONS BALLOT

Return ballots to PO Box 1925, Mountain View CA 94042 or vote by email: [neffys@n3fmail.com](mailto:neffys@n3fmail.com)

## PRO AWARDS

### Best Professional Artist

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Animated Movie

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Fantasy Movie

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Best SF Movie

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Horror Movie

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Fantasy TV

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Best SF Movie

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Horror Movie

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Fantasy Author

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Best SF Author

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Horror Author

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## FAN AWARDS

### Best Fan Artist

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Fan Writer

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Best Fanzine

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Vote in as many or as few categories as you like. Skip any categories that are unfamiliar to you.**

**DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS:  
January 31, 2013**





# Bureau Reports

## Games Bureau— George Phillies

Wesley Kawato writes:

Avalon Hill's old railroad game "1830" has been re-released by Mayfair Games. The new version has some very good new variant rules. Mayfair also released a game called "1853" which uses the same game system as "1830".

Fantasy Flight Games is working on a new version of 'Merchants of Venus', an old Avalon Hill game. A second game company also claims to own the copyright for this game, and now this mess will perhaps be resolved in the courts.

'March Madness', another old Avalon Hill game, is now being sold by Game Cabinet, a company in Britain. Game Cabinet recently bought the rights to 'Wrasslin', Avalon Hill's simulation of professional wrestling. Game Cabinet does not market in America.

Mayfair Games recently released 'Nippon Rails'. They made some rules changes that made the game less cutthroat. In the original version one of the victory cities was on the island of Hokkaido, but there were only three routes into Hokkaido. There was a real problem in a four or five player game. The new edition has five routes into Hokkaido.

One last bit of information about my game "Hoops". I have an artist working on a set of professional looking cards but he has run into problems. The design project is stalled."

Wesley reports that he is now working on a railroad game covering the same terrain as 1830. He is also publishing his SF magazine, Nova SF.

## Birthday Bureau— R-Laurraine Tutihasi

The Birthday Bureau sent out twelve cards

## Round Robins Bureau— Patricia Williams-King

Here is a list of the ACTIVE RR's in November:

- (1) Cats in SF, Fantasy and Folklore.
- (2) Worldwide Folklore.
- (6) Star Trek: DS9 & TNG.
- (7) Dreams.
- (8) Mysticism & Religion.
- (9) Celtic Folklore and other folktales.
- (13) Syfy Channel.
- (15) Star Trek: Classic.
- (19-A) Current Reading.
- (23) Doctor Who.
- (26-A) Comix, Fantasy, SF in Films.
- (29) Science and Technology in society.
- (30) Thieves' World.
- (31) Women SF & Fantasy writers.
- (38) The Hunger Games

## Editorial Cabal (Pub. Bureau)— David Speakman, Heath Row

**SPEAKMAN:** New Editorial Calendar: As of 2013, I am re-splitting the TNFF and Tightbeam into two separate pubs as well as adding in 4 "special" publications—for a grand total of 12 publications a year, under the following Calendar: TNFF: March, June, September, December; Tightbeam: February, May, August, November; Special pubs/TNFF extras: January, April, July, October.

**ROW:** I'm making a commitment to the club right here, right now: Finally launch the new member kit CD-R, a Joy Beeson chapbook, and a Patsy King chapbook in 2013. (As long as Joy and Patsy are still on board.)

## 2012 N3F OFFICERS

### President:

Dennis Davis  
25549 Byron St.  
San Bernardino, CA 92404  
n3f\_info@yahoo.com

### Directorate:

Sarah E. Harder, Chair  
1574 Notre Dame Ave  
Belmont, CA 94002  
artistsbureau@yahoo.com

Heath Row  
4367 Globe Ave  
Culver City, CA 90230  
kalel@well.com

David Speakman  
501 Moorpark Way #83  
Mountain View, CA 94041  
davodd@gmail.com

Jon D. Swartz  
12115 Missel Thrush Court  
Austin, TX 78750  
jon\_swartz@hotmail.com

Holly Wilson  
243 Nassau Avenue #2  
Brooklyn NY 11222  
hollychrome@gmail.com

### Secretary:

(see President)

### Treasurer:

William Center  
captbilly@frontier.com

### 2012 Election Teller

Heath Row  
(See Directorate)

## BUREAUS

### Artists Bureau

Sarah Harder  
(see Directorate)

### Birthday Cards

R-Laurraine Tutihasi  
P.O. Box 5323  
Oracle, AZ 85623-5323  
laurraine@mac.com

### Convention Coordinator

Heath Row  
(see Directorate)

### Gaming

George Phillies  
48 Hancock Hill Drive  
Worcester, MA 01609  
phillies@4liberty.net

### Historian

Jon D Swartz  
(see Directorate)

### Kaymar Award

William Center  
(see Treasurer)

### Mangaverse

Ruth Davidson  
4807 Capay Drive #2  
San Jose, CA 95118  
qualtree@ruthiechan.net

### Membership Cards & Drive

Dennis Davis  
(see President)

### N3F Bookworms

Heath Row  
(see Directorate)

### N'APA

Jean Lamb  
4846 Derby Place  
Klamath Falls OR 97603  
tlambs1138@charter.net

### Neffy Awards

David Speakman  
(see Directorate)

### Round Robins

Patricia King,  
510 Village Court  
Nashville, TN 3720

### Short Story Contest

Jefferson Swycaffer  
P. O. Box 15373  
San Diego, CA 92175  
abontides@cox.net

### Webmistress

Ruth Davidson  
(see Election Teller)

### Welcommittee

Heath Row  
(see Directorate)

Cynthia Richter  
1740 Ocean Ave. #11B  
Brooklyn, NY 11230



# National Fantasy Fan Federation Application

*(Former Members get 1 year Free![exp 12/31/2012])*

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ FORMER MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ Joint Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Membership

Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Postal Code, Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Male: \_\_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Interests. Please select any and all of the following that you're interested in or would like to get involved in

\_\_\_\_\_ APAs (amateur press associations)

\_\_\_\_\_ Art

\_\_\_\_\_ Audio

\_\_\_\_\_ Blogging

\_\_\_\_\_ Books

\_\_\_\_\_ Cartooning, cartoons, and animation

\_\_\_\_\_ Collecting

\_\_\_\_\_ Comic books

\_\_\_\_\_ Computers and technology

\_\_\_\_\_ Conventions and clubs

\_\_\_\_\_ Correspondence

\_\_\_\_\_ Costuming

\_\_\_\_\_ DVDs and videos

\_\_\_\_\_ Editing

\_\_\_\_\_ Fanzines

\_\_\_\_\_ Filk singing

\_\_\_\_\_ Games and video games

\_\_\_\_\_ Movies

\_\_\_\_\_ Online activities

\_\_\_\_\_ Publishing

\_\_\_\_\_ Reading and book clubs

\_\_\_\_\_ Reviewing

\_\_\_\_\_ Role-playing games

\_\_\_\_\_ Round robins (group letters)

\_\_\_\_\_ Taping

\_\_\_\_\_ Teaching science fiction

\_\_\_\_\_ Television

\_\_\_\_\_ Writing

Which would you prefer?

\_\_\_\_\_ A PDF of The Fan emailed to you \_\_\_\_\_ The clubzine printed and mailed to you \_\_\_\_\_ Both

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Recruiting at conventions \_\_\_\_\_ Writing for club publications

\_\_\_\_\_ Organizing activities \_\_\_\_\_ Corresponding \_\_\_\_\_ Publishing

\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsoring Member (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Regular 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 Bernardino, CA 92404-6403. Please allow at least eight weeks for your first clubzine to arrive. You can also sign up online at <http://n3f.org>



# Tightbeam

DECEMBER 2012 | #263



# RE: THE REVIEW SECTION

Unless otherwise indicated, the reviews editor compiles and writes the review section. Members of the N3F are invited and encouraged to submit reviews, preferably by email, although postal mail will be accepted. If you send a review by email and do not hear back within a reasonable length of time, please write to check on its status. Publishers: We are especially interested in receiving new books to consider for review. Heath Row, P.O. Box 372, Culver City, CA 90232; kalel@well.com.

**Editor:** Heath Row (HR). **Contributor:** R-Laurraine Tutihasi (RLT).

## Books

***Alien in the Family***, by Gini Koch (DAW, 2011)

This is part of the author's Alien series of novels, but it's definitely not necessary to have read any of the two previous books. The book is a light read, being a somewhat humorous tale, seemingly written with tongue firmly in cheek. In the series' universe, aliens from Alpha Centauri have come to Earth to live among us. They look human but have slightly different anatomy, certain psychic abilities, and superhuman strength. There are also other alien races in the Centauri system that don't look human.

Katherine "Kitty" Katt is in love with one of the men from Alpha Centauri and plans to wed Jeff Martini. She's not very good at organizing or planning but fortunately has friends who are. While all the planning is going on, there is an alien invasion by those aliens not friendly with the humanoids from Alpha Centauri. As members of a sort of Earth defense force, Kitty and her friends must tackle that problem without forgetting about the wedding plans.

This is a highly entertaining book and is recommended for anyone looking for light reading. (RLT)

***Courts of the Fey***, edited by Martin H. Greenberg and Russell Davis (DAW, 2011)

This is an anthology of a dozen stories about the fey. The stories vary in quality from just passable to very good. Fortunately, there are more good ones than not. Bear in mind, this is just my opinion. Reader reactions may vary.

My favorites were "An Answer from the North" by Sarah A. Hoyt, "The Song of the Wind" by Paul Crilley, "Mushroom Clouds and Fairy Rings" by J. A. Pitts, "Hunting the Unicorn" by Jane Lindskold, and "Anne" by Michelle Sagara.

Hoyt's fairly lengthy story is a touching account of two factions of fey who couldn't live together without destroying one another. "The Song of the Wind" is a touching, poetic piece. The story by J. A. Pitts is a touching post-holocaust story. "Hunting the Unicorn" is about the fey overcoming their natural competitiveness. And "Anne" is a very good and touching story hinging on the childlessness of the fey.

There was only one story that I felt was sub-par. That was

Ron Thurman's "First Ball... Last Call," which was about the end of times.

Other stories include "Gallow's Rescue" by Lilith Saintcrow, "Goodhouse Keeping" by Mary Robinette Kowal, "Beauty" by Jenifer Ruth, "Pennyroyal" by Kerrie Hughes, "Unlocked Gate" by Dean Wesley-Smith, and "The Green Man" by Amber Benson.

Taken together, the book will provide entertainment for readers who like shorter fiction about the fey. (RLT)

***Man Plus***, by Frederik Pohl (Orb, 2011)

This book was originally published in 1976, but it isn't dated. The story takes place in a future in which the Earth is on the brink of a devastating war. The United States has a program to modify a human to survive in the Martian environment. The first man to be so modified comes to a sad end. After studying that failure, changes are made in the program and a second man undergoes similar modifications. The characters are depicted very well and Pohl gives much background information for the main players. Man Plus is ready for the trip to Mars. There are unmodified people on the trip as well, and they construct a human-friendly habitat and start planting food crops therein.

I found this book very interesting. The book is as relevant today as it was when it was written, as we continue to tackle problems that might make the colonization of Mars something to be considered seriously. Pohl also considers the larger question of what makes humans what we are. Back in its day, this book won a Nebula Award. Pohl has considered hard science, and he has done a good job of writing the novel to make it interesting to read. (RLT)

***Shadow Valley***, by Steven Barnes (Del Rey, 2009)

I found this book confusing and difficult to get into, mostly because of the strange names the characters have. It takes place in Africa in the early days of the human race. The characters have names such as Frog and Fire Ant. It doesn't help that some characters have more than one name. I had to reread the beginning after I finished the book.

There are apparently three types of humans existing at the same time. We mostly follow the Ibandi, who migrate in two groups after the eruption of Father Mountain (Kilimanjaro). Their enemies, the Mk\*tk, are a larger and more ruthless people; they frequently kidnap members of the Ibandi group and assimilate them -- or try to. Later, we meet another group called the Vokka who have tamed dogs.

It's an interesting story, but I can't really say I enjoyed it. It's a look into the lives of a very different culture. This is a sequel to a book titled Great Sky Woman. Possibly, this book would have made more sense if I'd read the other one first, but I believe it makes a book weaker to depend on the reader having read a previous book. It reminds me a bit of Robert Silverberg's A Time of Changes, which also explores a different culture. (RLT)

# ANDROIDESS

Jeffrey Redmond

*On the Terran Colony of the Erdan planet, Third Quadrant, Codex 1335. Translated from original text in Earth year 3012. Subject and content not officially approved by Imperium Board of Censors. Caution is advised!*

## 1

ALO-RA-12 was one of three female companion androids on the Terran Colony base, and she took her duties very seriously. She had been programmed to take her duties seriously. These defined her identity, and established her role in the Galaxy. Being an android she never got tired, never got sick, never had a headache, never said no, and never got older.

ALO-RA-12 was known as 'Alora' to her clients, the miners who lived and worked on the base. She was sitting with Gregor, an older miner from Earth with dirty clothes and a dirty mind. He had thick, coarse hands, and a gray beard, which added to his rough and tough personality.

Gregor finished his dark and strong brewed beverage, and glanced at his wrist-watch. "Hey, it's a' gettin' close to 2100 hours, Alora," he stated.

Alora, lovely as always, inhaled her synth tonic as they sat and talked in a dark booth at the rear of the miner's main bar. "Ready to go back to your place, then?" she asked.

"Yeah. Since I got to wake up at 0600 tomorrow, I want to give the two of us a little time to enjoy the night together, y'know?"

"Gregor, you are impressive," she said with a laugh. Her programming clearly indicated the need for the laugh. After an evening spent listening to this male complain about his job, flirt,

worry about his wife back on Earth, and flirt, she always gave good companionship to complete her assignment.

Alora always thought of the carefully scheduled weekly liaisons she shared with the two dozen male human miners as 'assignments', just as if she'd been posted to Technical Support or Operations. She had enough human-looking characteristics satisfy their needs for realism.

ALO-RA-12 had not chosen to be a companion android. She had an analytical memory and the standard Imperium programming. Her designers, though, had given her highly attractive feminine features, along with primary programming that filled her memory with the usual trivialities of human male-female interaction. She had arrived on the base, not as a technical adjunct to the small mining crew, but as a sophisticated fantasy mate for their entertainment.

Gregor slid his hands around Alora's waist and drew her close. "C'mere," he told her.

"I am here, Gregor," she replied. She kissed the drunken male, and the evening's activities progressed in the usual, predetermined fashion. Just as all her evening's activities did.

## 2

One hundred Earth years after Alora had the liaison with Gregor, she sat, as usual, on her stool in the miners' main tavern. Now there were a lot more miners, perhaps a hundred in all. Her time was very much in demand, as were the companionship of the two new companion androids. It was now 1700 hours. The overhead lights which an-

*(Continued on page 24)*

nounced a change of shift were just beginning to flash. By 1800 she would hook up with one of a dozen male human miners, and begin her night shift.

"Things are going to get a lot tougher for you, round here, Android."

Alora swiveled on her bar stool and saw something she'd never encountered before. A female human. "You're an Earth female, aren't you?" This female did not share Alora's abundance of characteristics. Her bleached hair was short and spare rather than long and lustrous. Her body was somewhat withered. Her lips were dry and cracked. Nevertheless, she was a human female - a woman. "I did not think Terran females were permitted on this base." Alora said.

"That rule's been changed, Android. And that's what I came to tell you. The males are going to have their wives and girlfriends staying with them from now on. That means that they won't have any more need of you."

Alora wrinkled her brow in confusion. "I am just a technician, like any of the other androids. I provide the work that I have been programmed to provide. It is true that when I first came here, over a hundred Earth years ago, I was disappointed that I was not programmed in technical repair procedures, or something more scientific. But, I do serve an important function. I am necessary."

The strange Earth female laughed in Alora's face. "You're needed? Android, females have made that claim for centuries. But it's a lie. Any human male with a good wife doesn't need the likes of you."

"What do you mean?" Alora asked. The Earth female didn't respond, but instead started to laugh again. This time so fiercely that Alora thought she was going to rupture an internal organ.

In the Earth days that followed, Alora saw many more human females. That first strange Ter-

ran woman had spoken the truth. Wives and girlfriends were being space shuttled to the base in larger numbers. They wore dresses and robes, jewelry, and gowns of all colors. Many of the males who had regularly spent time with her, stopped doing so. Even males who'd told her that they cared for her, simply stopped asking for her companionship. This surprised Alora, because she'd been programmed to understand that 'caring for' was a very important human emotion and need.

Nevertheless, Alora took some comfort in the fact that some males, even several of the ones with live females at home, still continued to request her time. Some of them even told her that they still cared about her.

## **E**

In any activity involving commodities of finite quantity, factors of supply and demand play an extremely important role. That's why, a hundred Earth years after the living females moved to The Colony, Alora found herself busier than she'd ever been before. There were two bases on the Erdan planet now, with a total population of almost a thousand humans. And there simply weren't enough living females to go around. The other two companion androids had been transferred to the newer, larger Base-2. And Alora now had her original duties to fulfill, with one lonely male after another.

For the next hundred Earth years, she simply worked as much as her self-recharging battery power enabled her. But the base population kept increasing, and eventually Alora realized that she needed assistance. She went to the Base Commander and asked if it would be possible for him to requisition one or two new companion androids. After several more years, he agreed to her request. He asked her to meet the new arrivals when the delivery shuttle reached their station.



MAR-ANA-1 and SHAR-ONA-1 arrived on a clearer day at 1300 hours. They were nothing like what Alora had expected. In fact, her time-tested programming almost blanked out when she saw them. Whereas Alora had a larger full-figured shape, these two were smaller, with slender hips and waists. Alora's reddish hair was long and straight. MAR-ANA-1 and SHAR-ONA-1 had no hair anywhere at all. Their excessive makeup was applied savagely, they walked way too provocatively. Worst of all, their behavior seemed to be much too crude.

"You are the new companion androids?" she asked them.

"Yes," SHAR-ONA-1 replied.

"Hello there," MAR-ANA-1 said. "So, this is the Earth Base on Planet Erda."

"Yes," SHAR-ONA-1 added as she fluttered overly long eyelashes. "It looks exactly as my programming says it is supposed to be!"

"What are you two supposed to be?" Alora asked.

"I do not know what you mean."

"I mean, you do not look like companion androids to me. You are not softly and naturally nice."

"'Nice' is a matter of opinion," SHAR-ONA-1 replied. "A human male's opinion."

As Alora soon learned, the new arrivals were correct. The younger miners were wild about MAR-ANA-1 and SHAR-ONA-1. The 'new female companions' were really in demand. Now, when a young male wanted an android, he asked for MAR-ANA-1 or SHAR-ONA-1 first, and only settled for Alora as a last resort.

At first, Alora was pleased that MAR-ANA-1 and SHAR-ONA-1 had taken over a good portion of her work load. Several Earth years later, when a few more MAR-ANA-2 to 6 s and SHAR-ONA-2 to 6 s were sent to the base, she became a little concerned. The average ages of her usual clients were rising rapidly. She enjoyed working with older hu-

*(Continued on page 26)*



man males, but realized that, in time, the old males always died off. Thus she might eventually become completely obsolete.

## 4

Another hundred Earth years later, Alora still performed her companionship services for the miners of the first

base, now known as Terran Base-1. She was the original historic model of the female androids, and was now regarded by the thousands of miners, technicians, and their

wives more as an iconic artifact than as a pure object of any importance. Males and female humans now requested her as a companion for silly costume parties and re-enactments of early Terran Colony events.

Occasionally, she was still requested to serve in her original capacity, usually for very young miners with what human psychologists called a 'mother complex.' Most of the time, however, she had no appropriate assignments, and was just told to do basic tasks by Base-1 Management.

Among other menial duties, she was asked to sweep floors, pick up trash, and clear tables at the newly improved cafeteria.

Her speech, mannerisms and style of behavior were simply archaic. She'd gone to the base commanders several times over the previous centuries to request reprogramming, but her electronic brain was outdated. It was less expensive for Base Com-

mand to requisition a new android, then it was to upgrade a model of her vintage. So, she took the assignments that were given to her, whether menial or meaningful, and completed them to the best of her abilities.

On one Earth day, she was called into the new base commander's office. "Yes sir, how can I serve you?" she asked.

"Well, Alora . . . Alora, it's hard to me to say this to you. I-um-I have to keep reminding myself that

you're an android. You've been around so long and you look so -- so human, that I find myself afraid that I'm going to hurt your feelings. But, of course, you have no feelings, per se."

The Terran male

ran his hand through his thick, blond hair, then stood and began to pace back and forth behind his desk.

"It's like this, Alora. Things have changed back on Earth. Morals -- uh -- morality has been changing for years now. The pendulum has swung toward a more conservative philosophy. Now, the new government of the Imperium has come into power. And . . ." The male paused and a pained yet compassionate expression formed on his lightly bearded face.

"Sir? What are you trying to tell me, sir?" Alora asked.

"Android number ALO-RA-12, I have just been informed by Earth Command that as of 0900 hours tomorrow morning, all companion androids are to be decommissioned. According to the orders I have received, the use of companion androids has been officially outlawed. The existence of androids programmed for the purpose of mere companionship,





according to the new government, "an affront to both gods and humans."

"Decommissioned? You mean reprogrammed?"

"No. The newer companion androids could be reprogrammed, but, even with some cosmetic changes, their physical appearance would be a constant reminder of -- of -- well, it's like this--the new government has decided to disassemble all companion androids, to avoid trouble."

"You're going to destroy us?" Alora asked. The Commander sat down behind his desk, visibly relaxed, and smiled at Alora.

"Well, there's good news, Alora. I've made a few inquiries on your behalf. I told them of your work with the other sections of the base, and a few other nice things. I told them how long you've been here, and -- and you've been exempted. I can't do anything for the others, but you yourself won't be disassembled."

A concerned, human-like expression formed on Alora's pretty face. "So, what will happen to me, sir? I mean, will I continue to do my work for the Base-1 Management or . . ."

"No. No, Alora, you're to be reassigned to field work. Working outside the facility. You're going to help in the refining and processing of mineral ore on the far side of Base-3, near the mountain range."

## S

A few Earth days later, Alora assumed her new role and began her new duties. The mountain range was many kilometers from Terran Base-3, which, in turn, was many more kilometers from Base-1. So she was further from her 'home' than she'd ever been in her existence. She was expected to spend her days and nights out in the open, and to avoid contact with all but a few of the work-clothed human males. They would communi-

cate with her only through simple gestures.

But they really didn't have very much to communicate, as her job was quite simple. She was to load rocks and minerals into a cart and push that cart from the mining site to a processing bin, several kilometers closer to the ore station.

When she unloaded the rocks into the processing bin, she was then to proceed back to the mining site for another load and repeat the process, over and over, for the entire day. The other robotic workers performing these tasks were neuter, mini brained, metallic creatures, with absolutely no human features or discernible personalities.

She was ludicrously out of place on the open Erdan surface. Those few humans who passed her as she worked, smiled at the long-haired, female android. She still wore some lipstick and make-up, but still needed no spacesuits, as she pushed her cart full of rocks aback and forth along the tracks.

Alora functioned as expected for one hundred days. On the next day, she pushed a cart of rocks to the processing bin, then walked back to the mining site as usual. At that point, instead of loading up another pile of rocks, she continued to walk past the site, toward the base by the mountain range.

The two miners present at the time began to follow her in their surface buggy. Alora turned around to look at them, then continued to walk at a faster pace. The males accelerated their vehicle, reached the female android, then left the buggy to grab hold of her arms. Alora roughly knocked them both to the ground, ran away quickly and jumped out of view. She hid behind some rock formations until they finally gave up and went away.

The miners, clad in their clumsy work suits, did not bother to climb the rocks to pursue her any further then. Instead they returned to the bug-

*(Continued on page 28)*

(Continued from page 27)

gy and drove back in the direction of their base. A few Earth hours later, still hidden behind the large rock formations, Alora saw three buggies moving toward her position. The buggies circled for several Earth hours, but eventually turned around and drove away, completely out of her view.

She began to walk again, further and further away from the human bases. Since she did not ever need to rest, and had a nearly unlimited power supply, she just continued to walk for many Earth days. Alora never looked back.

## 6

Two Earth months later, Alora reached a natural cave. She entered the cave, and pushed several dozen large rocks in front of the opening, to make it difficult for any humans to enter. She then set an internal timer to revive herself in a thousand Earth years, and shut herself completely down.

## 7

One thousand Earth years later, Alora awoke on schedule. She was functioning normally and removed the rocks from the cave entrance. She then began to walk back toward the bases. But one Earth month later, she was ready to shut herself off again. All trace of



the Terran Colony on Erda had disappeared. There was no one to serve, and nothing for her to do.

She decided to give herself one more Earth month, and continued to walk across the Erdan planet's surface. She searched for anything or anyone that required the services of a former companion android. Eventually, she reached a structure that looked vaguely like a base. It was small and basic, nothing like the enormous human structures which had existed before. Nevertheless, it did appear fit for human habitation. She knocked on what appeared to be a doorway.

The face of an Earth male emerged from behind a protected portal, and stared at her in surprise. Several moments later, she was ushered inside the structure by a few more Terran males. They were all bald and clean shaven, tall and slender, and spoke quite softly. "Who or what are you?" the male who was their captain asked. His accent and dialect were strange, but Alora understood the language, perfectly.

"She must be an alien," their first officer said. "I'll bet she's an android, from the bases of the ancients, before the war," their second officer added.

"That is correct. I am called Alora," she replied. "I don't believe it," their third officer expressed. "Nothing could survive on this planet alone for so many centuries." "But here she is, nevertheless," the captain pointed out. Alora quickly examined all the mining gear that

(Continued from page 28)

the males were cleaning. The equipment looked even nastier than the laser drills the males had used in her day. Each was quite large, and fitted with oversized power packs. She wondered just how far a human male could travel with all that weight to drag along.

Their captain spoke again, "Gentlemen, we may now have access to ancient Earth and Erdan technology. Scientific knowledge that has been lost for centuries, because of the Intra-Galactic War."

"No. That's simply not possible. Everything on this planet was destroyed," the first officer said.

"Why? Why is it not possible?" she asked.

"Do you know anything about Erdan terrain navigation, Alora?" the captain questioned.

"Yes, a large amount, in fact."

"What about ore finding techniques? And mining transport procedures? Can you help us in those areas?" the first officer queried.

"Most definitely," she answered. "I know that I can be of great help to you."

"Terrific!" the second officer exclaimed.

"This android is an unbelievable find!" the third officer added. Alora smiled to herself. She'd found a very worthy assignment, and something personally fulfilling, at long last.

*Jeffrey Redmond is an N3F member and a member of the SFWA for many years. Best known for his Erda series, the universe of this story, of SF novels, many of his works are available in print and electronic versions via Amazon.com.*



# THE DOCTOR'S DILEMMA

Fan Fic DOCTOR WHO

By Wesley Kawato

"Oh no!" shouted the 8th doctor as he stood at the TARDIS's control console, and stared at the view screen. The screen showed a jumble of asteroids where the planet Gallifrey should have been.

Minutes ago he'd gotten a distress signal from the High Council, something about Daleks attacking the Home World. He'd arrived too late. If only he hadn't hesitated a few minutes before he set the time jump coordinates.

An asteroid hit the TARDIS, knocking the Doctor to the floor. A circuit shorted out, and the control console reverted back to the hexagonal shape it had assumed during his 7th regeneration. White roundels now covered all of the walls.

The Doctor got himself up off the floor and wept, "This is the last time, Lord! I don't want to live anymore."

He pulled out a razor blade from a pocket and slit his wrist. Blood flowed and he fell to the floor. For a moment white haze covered his body.

The 9th Doctor picked himself off the TARDIS's floor, still holding the razor blade in one hand. Five more cuts and he'd be out of regenerations.

A tough-looking teenaged girl stood before him. "Professor, don't do it. You're not alone."

He dropped the razor blade back into his pocket. "Ace, what are you doing here? You left me years ago."

He reached out to hug Ace and grabbed only air. The Doctor realized he was hallucinating.

"You know where to find me," said Ace. "I'll fight



for you."

"But Ace wasn't in time, Lord. So how could she understand?"

The Second Romana appeared before him. He immediately recognized the young woman.

"You're not in time, Lord. Someone needs to avenge the destruction of Gallifrey."

The Doctor hugged Romana and grabbed only air.

"You're not really here," he said. "You went back to Gallifrey after you left me. You died with the others."

Romana vanished, and a teen-aged girl appeared before him. She wore a 1960's mini-skirt.

"Grandfather, I'm still alive. I wasn't on Gallifrey when the Daleks attacked."

"Susan!" shouted the Doctor. He didn't try to hug her because he

knew she wasn't really there.

Susan vanished, but a weight had been lifted off his soul. He wasn't alone, and knew he could go on with his life. The Doctor took out the razor blade, and tossed it into a nearby waste basket.

He gazed at the clothes he was wearing, and walked out of the control room. In the wardrobe room he'd get himself a new outfit, and start a new life.

*Wesley Kawato, an N3F member, is also the editor/publisher of Nova SF. This is his first fanfic to appear in our pages.*

# The History of Tightbeam

By Donald Franson

In the beginning, N3F did not have a letterzine. The fledgling club could hardly afford to publish one zine, let alone two; and letter, if any, appeared in *Bonfire*, or *The National Fantasy Fan*, its successor.

In 1949, Art Rapp, the editor of *Spacewarp*, a popular fanzine, decided to put out a letterzine for the N3F, calling it *Postwarp*. This was available on subscription, at 10 cents a copy (the usual price in those days) which paid for itself. It contained letters on all subjects, but mainly discussed the N3F, and not being official, could be free to criticize (as continues to this day, even when edited by the President). When Art left, others took up *Postwarp*, with varying success, continuing to 1960, when Alan J. Lewis (not to be confused with Albert J. Lewis) has problems and *Postwarp* did not appear regularly or on time.

By now the zine was financed by the N3F, and the officers, understandably, wanted it to appear before they paid for it. Lewis, on the other hand, could not promise anything and claimed he needed the money in advance. This impasse went on for some time, and caused various new rules to be made, to no avail, so they decided to go around the delinquent editor by doing another letterzine, letting him delay *Postwarp* as long as he pleased. So, in a sense, *Postwarp* and *Tightbeam* (which was not quite the name of the new zine) were not related.

Walter Coslet volunteered to do the first issue, and named it *Hyperspace Tightbeam*. Another reliable, Art Hayes, did the next and Marion Zimmer Bradley (no less) edited the third issue, and

promptly renamed it *Tightbeam*, a more sensible name which described the activity, that of serving as a medium for inter-member communication. So the first few editors rotated, setting a precedent, though sometimes it was more efficient to have a semi-permanent editor, who could control the contents of the issue to fit the pages allowed.

But, as you know, no job in N3F is permanently occupied, so we have alternated between long-time and one-issue editors. It always works out, somehow, and *Tightbeam* has gotten to its 200th issue without a break or great changes in content. With that number, I can't even begin to summarize the editors we've had, you will have to wait for the complete checklist of N3F publications I will finish Real Soon Now. Suffice it to say that *Tightbeam* is always enjoyable, at least from my viewpoint, one whose favorite reading matters is letters, whether in fanzines or prozines.

Now we are about to lose our current editor, and a replacement must be found. (Note the neutrality of that word, "replacement." A "pinch-hitter" is better, and a "substitute" not as good.) If you think you can do an issue or so, why not volunteer? Just think; you can have your own fanzine without paying for it! Where is there an opportunity like this? Doing a letterzine, with other material to stimulate the letters, can be easy or hard. And it can be fun!

***The above history is a reprint from 1996. It was written by Donald Franson on June 24, 1996, for special anniversary Issue #200 of Tightbeam.***



## ***National Fantasy Fan Federation***

C/O David Speakman  
PO BOX 1925  
MOUNTAIN VIEW CA 94042

**ADDRESS AND RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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<http://www.n3f.org>