



The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 79 Number 8 August 2020

Elections

I have just renewed my membership and would like to nominate myself for re-election to the N3F Directorate. My platform is: support the President, promote club growth, maintain a steady, supportive, and fun environment for all members, resolve disputes amicably, keep it friendly at all times, and make sure that everyone has a jolly good time!

...Jefferson Swycaffer

If elected, I will serve.

...George Phillies

Letters of Comment

Editor,

In light of my earlier note to you re: comic strips, I wanted to let you know how thoroughly I enjoyed the article about Prince Valiant. I had no idea about the lengthy run of that comic strip or its rich background. Thank you so much for publishing the article, and thank you to Dr. Swartz for researching and writing it.

Angela Myers

Editor:

Thanks much for the [sample] June issue of TNFF, on paper. I didn't expect it! I'm considering the \$6 electronic membership in order to support your efforts, but I'm not interested in voting in the Neffys, standing for office, or voting for officers. Can I pay via Paypal? [Ed: Yes.]

I noticed a number of letters that mention the article from an earlier issue on the comic strip Alley Oop. We happen to own the original art for one of the strips. It was a gift

from an old housemate; I thought it might have been a wedding gift, but my wife Suzanne (aka Suzle) insists it's not. It's the May 3, 1950 entry and does not feature the title character, but still is the only such artwork we own. Given the source, we treasure it.

Jon Swartz recounts the career of Gene Autrey, and his science fiction connection. By either a coincidence or synchronicity, the newspaper strip Crankshaft ran a week-long story in which Crankshaft's grandchildren take the family to their movie theater and show them The Phantom Empire. I've never seen either the serial or feature versions of this, and would have liked more description and analysis from Jon. [Ed.: Serial is on YouTube.]

Thanks again for the paper, my favorite way to get a fanzine.

Yours,
Jerry Kaufman

Hi George,
I hope you are staying safe and healthy.

With your agreement, we (FANAC.org) have been putting many of the N3F publications on our website as you send them to us. We have also been scanning older issues as well. I just scanned about a dozen issues of Tightbeam from the 60s and early 70s, including the three I edited. They will go online soon. I have quite a few other N3F pubs that I will eventually get online as well.

I noticed that you have some N3F publications at N3F.org that we do not have. Rather than duplicating the work, is

Continued on Page 2, Top Right



Note new order of material
Important business (Neffys, Elections); Editorial
Fun News: Conventions, Contests — Sercon — Bureau Reports



Your Volunteer Team

Directors:

Heath Row— kalel@well.com (Chair)
 Judy Carroll - BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Jefferson Swycaffer - aboutides@gmail.com
 John Thiel - kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 R-Laurraine Tutihasi - lauraine@mac.com

Officers

President George Phillies - phillies@4liberty.net
 Treasurer David Speakman - davodd@gmail.com

Editorial Cabal

Editor, TNFF George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Contributing Artists: Jose A. Sanchez, Angela K. Walker
 N'APA Collator Jefferson Swycaffer aboutides@gmail.com
 Editors, Tightbeam George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net,
 Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Editor, Ionisphere John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 Editor, Eldritch Science George Phillies
 Editor, Mangaverse Jessi Silver jessi@s1e1.com
 Editor, Films Fantastic Eric Jamborsky mrsolo1@comcast.net
 Editor, Origin John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 Editor, The N3F Review of Books: George Phillies
 Keeper of the URLs David Speakman davodd@gmail.com
 Host of the Web Site David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Bureau Heads

Anime/Comics Kevin Trainor wombat.soho@gmail.com
 Artists Bureau Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@gmail.com
 Birthday Cards R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com;
 Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@gmail.com
 Book Review Bureau G. Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Convention Calendar: Heath Row kalel@well.com
 Club Directory Heath Row kalel@well.com
 Correspondence Bureau Judy Carroll
 BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Election Teller Jon Swartz. jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Fandom History/Research Bureau John Thiel kinethiel@
 mymetronet.net; Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau John Thiel
 kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 FanZine Review Editor Justin Busch
 Film Bureau Eric Jamborsky mrsolo1@comcast.net
 Forwarder Jeffrey Redmond
 Franking Service George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Games Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Gourmet Bureau Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@gmail.com
 Historian Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 History and Research Bureau John Thiel kinethiel@
 mymetronet.net; Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Information Technology David Speakman davodd@gmail
 Lord High Proofreader Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Lady High Proofreader Jean Lamb
 Membership Recruitment Kevin Trainor wombat.soho
 @gmail.com, John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net,
 Jeffrey Redmond redmondjeff@hotmail.com

Continued Next Column, Middle

it OK to just download them and put them on our website? Of course, we will give source credit for these issues. To reciprocate, you are welcome to copy any N3F issues we have and use them on your site. We would like source credit as well.

I hope this is an agreeable way to get more zines online for both of us. Looking forward to hearing from you.
 Joe Siclari

[Ed: Naturally, we were entirely agreeable, and sent along a disk with a full set of our zines.]

Dear Neffers:

Thank you for the June National Fantasy Fan...this will be pretty quick, because my time is a little tight these days. Nonetheless, here goes with a few remarks.

The Neffys are on, and I am pleased to be on the ballot.

Your Volunteer Team

Neffy Awards Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Pro Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Round Robins Patricia Williams-King, 335 Forrest Park
 Road, Apt # 75 Madison, TN 37115.
 Short Story Contest J. Swycaffer aboutides@gmail.com
 Social Media David Speakman, George Phillies
 Video Bureau: Cathode Ray the anonymous
 Welcommittee: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Writers Exchange: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

WANTED! PDF Generator

Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with TNFF via paper mail are \$18; memberships with TNFF via email are \$6. All other zines are email only. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. Pay online at N3F.org. Our PayPal contact is treasurer@n3f.org Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

The National Fantasy Fan (originally Bonfire), Vol. LXXIX Number 8, August 2020, ISSN 2169-3595. Published monthly by The National Fantasy Fan Federation.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE: All material in this issue, unless expressly noted otherwise, is contributed for one-time use only in this publication in its various print and electronic forms including fair use in electronic archival libraries. All other copyrights are retained by the contributor. Other use of any portion of this publication in any medium requires the express permission of the current (at time reproduction is to be made) President and Directorate of N3F and the original copyright holder.

No matter what, thank you for your votes, and let's see what happens. Also, Bob Madle turned 100 on June 2, and I turned 61 on that day, too.

Good to see membership rising. In this pandemic, I guess we have a need to reduce our isolation by finding places online where we can belong. It's always been that, but these days, even more so.

The letter column, and it is a fairly good zine this time... As you say, the Worldcon has been embraced by so many parts of the world. A Saudi Arabian bid? Amazing. Yet, as you say, their human rights record is terrible, and there are many people from around the world who may not be admitted to that country for the Worldcon. Given the choice between Jeddah and Chicago, the choice is an easy one to make. I have been to a number of Chicago Worldcons, but to be honest, my interests and finances have changed so much, I doubt we will be going.

Gene Autry in a N3F zine? I didn't know anything about his involvement in a science fiction serial. I wonder if this could be redone as a weird west/steampunk adventure? (There's a name I haven't seen in a very long time...Pat Buttram.)

Right now, we are self-isolating as we have done for the past three months, and we are also dealing with the cancellations of so many events we were looking forward to. Still Yvonne is busy making masks for people, and I am writing locs and editing novels and novellas for friends. So many are sitting at home bored, and our lives really haven't changed all that much.

With that, many thanks for this issue, and seeing the deadline is in two days, good luck to all of us on the Neffys ballot, and I hope the news comes out soon. Take care, stay safe, and see you next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

Hi George;

Interesting to read about the FantiSci Publishing story contest, altho if I were an aspiring author I believe I would rather submit my material to the N3F story contest, where you have a chance to win genuine prize money, along with recognition and possible future promotion of your fiction thru publication in Eldritch Science and maybe the upcoming N3F fiction anthology, rather than "a percentage of the proceeds from sales of the [FantiSci] anthology. [And] A copy of the book." Of course, that's just my own opinion. I write almost no fiction at all, so this is all just a curiosity topic so far

as I'm concerned.

On a slightly related topic, I was interested in the comments the head of the Writers' Exchange Bureau offered concerning naming stories. She mentioned that she has always had trouble coming up with titles for stories. I find this remarkable, mainly because I've never had any trouble at all coming up with titles for my articles, or regular magazine column, or for the rare & occasional bit of fiction I might write.

There are many authors who are adamant about the titles of their fiction and some will almost fight to the death to make sure that their title is used and is not altered in any way by any editor anywhere, anytime. The only professional writer that I can think of offhand who had trouble coming up with titles for his stuff was Gerald Kersh, who often asked the editor to come up with a title after he turned a story or novel in. One time when the editor asked him back for some suggested titles, Kersh came up with a list of twenty seven or so, then admitted that he had no preference for any of them.

Back in Ye Olden Days when I actually thot about maybe trying my hand at writing short stories and novels, I came up with a long list of unique titles that were odd, unusual, thot provoking, that I figured would be so interesting they might kick-start me into actually trying to think up stories and put them down on paper. It did not happen. I still have a partial list of those titles. Here are a few I will cheerfully toss out to any wannabe author out there in need of a good title to wow the jaded editors---

Satan's Sweater Girl, or; The Riddle of the Unresonating Roentgen Rays

The Somnolent Snow Leopard, or; The Helium Lottery at Rakevyck

The Duplicate Diaries At the Library of Lycanthropy, or; The Meteor Strike at Chillington Point

Zilla the Animal Queen; or, The Dancing Rabbit Diva

The Chocolate Queen's Bottled Banshee; or, The Fatal Glass of Absinthe

I thot Jon Swartz did a good job with a capsule history of the Prince Valiant comic strip. I have come to appreciate the Fantagraphic reprint series of the strip, even tho I thot Tony Revola's Pacific Comics Club did a much better job with their reprint effort. Unfortunately Tony ran out of buckos to keep the series going after three gorgeous trade paperbacks (an unfortunately common problem with the

Pacific Comics Club), so Fantagraphics picked up the baton and ran with it all the way thru the end of the Hal Foster years and even beyond. Prince Valiant is a series that deserves to remain in print forever. Every time I reread one of the collected volumes I find brand new insights and story points I missed the first few times around.

Wow, I had forgotten how long and involved the constitution of the N3F actually was! More details there than I want to worry about.

Incidentally, I keep hoping you will put out issues of Eldritch Science more frequently. I realize there is a problem getting material to fill the issues. I suggest adding a letter column to help spur interest among the general membership. I'm not sure how many members realize that this zine even exists, let alone that it is primarily open for longer stories. A letter column might help. You might also consider reprinting classic, public domain material that might be of interest to modern readers, preferably stuff not easily accessible these days.

Haven't gotten around to looking over the new Tighthead yet. I'll try to get to that sometime tomorrow.

---Bob Jennings

Editor:

The CoronaVirus has seriously affected my magazine business. I used to get most of my sales at science fiction club meetings and conventions. Most clubs have stopped meeting. Then the LosCon convention got postponed from November 2020 to November 2021. As a result I've postponed publication of Nova Science Fiction #36 to 2021.

Yours truly,
Wesley Kawato

Editor:

Congratulations to Lloyd Penney on winning a well-deserved Neffy. I very much appreciated his honesty upon being nominated: He said what anyone in the running for an award thinks but too often refuses to admit, that they hope to win.

I was also glad to see the N3F Constitution and By-laws, which I had never read. I note that changes to the Bylaws may be made by majority vote of the Directorate. I would suggest a revision to VIII.1.A. As it

stands, it says that Regular Member dues cover the cost of one print copy of all publications. This, obviously, is not done, nor would it be sustainable if it were done. Much though it pains me, as a fan of print publications, to say so, I suggest removing the relevant clause, and a similar one in IX.1.

The film *Prince Valiant*, mentioned briefly in Jon Swartz's SerCon column, is rather fun, though decidedly uneven. Probably the most interesting aspect of it is the climax, where Valiant takes on the villainous Sir Brack in an all-out swordfight. This is surprisingly brutal. You really get the feel of two desperate men facing exhaustion but each forcing himself to batter away at his opponent. Oddly enough, Valiant's sword starts 'singing', even though nothing in the film so much as mentioned this armorial trait. Only regular readers of the strip would understand what is happening.

On TNFF, June 2020, Jon Swartz continues to remind us of intriguing oddities, this time Gene Autry and his link to SF. When I was a kid, a local TV station ran serial episodes on Saturday mornings. It was then that I saw at least some of *The Phantom Empire*. I don't recall finding it especially gripping, and I'm sure the singing seemed like so much padding.

—Justin E. A. Busch

SerCon

Don Winslow and Frank V. Martinek
by
Jon D. Swartz, Ph. D.
N3F Historian

Don Winslow of the Navy was an American newspaper comic strip distributed by the Bell Syndicate from 1934 to 1955. The title character was a spy-chasing Lieutenant Commander in United States Naval Intelligence. The comic strip led to appearances of the character in other media, including hardcover books, big little books, a radio serial, movie serials, and comic book appearances that began in 1937.

Newspaper Comic Strips

The idea for *Don Winslow* was conceived by Lieutenant Commander Frank V. Martinek, USNR, himself a veteran of World War I Naval Intelligence, after Admiral W. T. Cluverius complained to him about the difficulties of recruiting in the midwestern United States. Ruminating on

the challenge, Martinek decided that a comic strip that focused on Naval tradition and courage would both educate and fascinate America's youth. He had previously used the character of Don Winslow in some novels he had written, so he already had the main concept in mind. While Martinek's writing gave the strip an air of authenticity, he brought in others to do the art, including Naval Lieutenant Leon Beroth as art director and Carl Hammond to handle layouts and background research.

As Martinek explained their working setup, he was the strip's creator and producer, with Beroth the art director and Hammond the layout and research man. By the end of the 1930s, Hammond was also doing the writing. Ed Moore and Ken Ernst later followed as principal artists on the strip.

The newspaper strip debuted on March 5, 1934. A Sunday page was added in 1935, as well as a companion top-per titled *Bos'n Hal, Sea Scout*, about the adventures of an extremely clean-cut lad who specialized in going on treasure hunts in remote spots. Martinek supervised the daily features' "general tone and direction," sending the typewritten continuity to Beroth every week for illustrations. From 1934 to 1952, Beroth was the leading artist on the features. Ken Ernst, later famous for *Mary Worth*, assisted or ghosted the art between 1940 and 1942. With Don leaving his nurse girlfriend Mercedes Colby behind in December, 1941 to go fight the Japanese, the World War II period saw the height of *Don Winslow's* popularity. The strip continued for a full decade after the war ended, however, coming to a close on Saturday, July 30 1955.

Although created primarily as a Navy recruitment tool, the strip received high marks from critic Coulton Waugh for "excellent suspense, and ingenious, spine-joggling situations." Popular culture historian Ron Goulart credits *Don Winslow* with "intrigue, spy chasing, beautiful women, and villains with names like Dr. Centaur, the Crocodile, Dr. Q, and the Scorpion." Other villains Winslow encountered over the years were the Duchess, Owl-eyes, Dr. Thor, and the Dwarf. The Scorpion, the villain who showed up most often in the stories, was described as "the leader of an international gang of plotters."

Comic Books

Following up on the success of the comic strip, reprints of the feature in comic book form appeared from various publishers. Merwil, a small publisher, offered Don Winslow reprints for two issues in 1937 in a pulp/comic book format with a stapled spine. In 1936, the strip was reprinted in *Popular Comics*, and then in 1938 in

Crackajack Funnies – both times alongside other established newspaper features. In addition, Dell Publishers also had Don Winslow in two issues of their *Four Color Comics*, a series which spotlighted a different character with each issue. Winslow also appeared in an issue of Dell's *Super Book of Comics*; and Dell's 1938 one-shot, *Famous Feature Stories*, reprinted Don Winslow stories, as did Whitman's 1938 one-shot, *Mammoth Comics*.

Fawcett Publications released their *Don Winslow of the Navy* comic book with all original stories beginning in 1943. The cover of the first issue had Fawcett's main superhero, Captain Marvel, introducing Don Winslow to readers. This comic book title lasted until 1948, then was revived in 1951 (bringing the total run to 69 issues). Winslow was revived again for a brief time starting in 1955 in reprints published by Charlton Comics. Charlton reprinted Fawcett's stories for four issues in Winslow's own book and then continued them in the back pages of some of their other titles, such as *Fightin' Navy*. Stories featuring Winslow were reprinted more recently in comic book format by AC Comics.

Big Little Books

There were six Don Winslow BLBs, plus a Don Winslow penny book, issued during 1935 – 1946, all published by Whitman. These books were very popular with young people, and were published in the following order: *Don Winslow, U. S. N.* (1935); *Don Winslow of the Navy vs. the Scorpion Gang* (1938); *Don Winslow of the Navy and the Great War Plot* (1940); *Don Winslow, Navy*



Intelligence Ace (1942); *Don Winslow of the Navy and the Secret Enemy Base* (1943); and *Don Winslow and the Giant Girl Spy* (1946). Martinek was credited as author and Leon Beroth as artist on all six BLBs. The 1942 publication had the See 'Em Move “flip-it” feature.

The penny book was titled *Don Winslow, U. S. Navy, and the Missing Admiral* (1938) and was issued in several different formats. Martinek was credited as author, but there was no artist credit given.

Radio Series

The *Don Winslow of the Navy* radio program began on the NBC Blue Network on October 19, 1937, but ran for only two seasons. The program was resurrected on October 5, 1942, in an effort to support the World War II war effort. The program was sponsored by Kellogg's cereals and Iodent Toothpaste during its first run, and by Post Toasties and Red Goose Shoes during its second run. The first run starred Bob Guilbert as Winslow and Edward Davison as Red Pennington, Winslow's sidekick. The 1942 --1943 run starred Raymond Edward Johnson as Winslow and John Gibson as Red. Nurse Mercedes Colby, Winslow's girlfriend, was played by Betty Lou Gerson, Gertrude Warner, and Lenore Kingston.

During the second run many premiums were offered, including membership in Don Winslow's Squadron of Peace. This club offered members a membership card, a manual, and a badge. The theme song of the 1942 --1943 run was “Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean.” At least three episodes of the 1942 --1943 series are available today, including the audition show.

Movie Serials/Television

Don Winslow of the Navy hit the screen in 1941, produced by Universal Pictures. This 12-chapter serial was such a hit, a spin-off titled *Don Winslow of the Coast Guard* followed the next year. Both serials starred Don Terry as Commander Don Winslow and Walter Sande as Lieutenant Red Pennington. Claire Dodd was Mercedes Colby in the first serial; Elyse Knox took the part in the 1942 production. Mercedes was the daughter of Winslow's commanding officer, Admiral Colby. Kurt Katch was Winslow's nemesis, The Scorpion, in the 1941 serial; Nestor Paiva played the part in the follow up serial.

Both serials were released for showing on television in 1949.

Hardcover Books

Martinek wrote a series of books for boys about his char-

acter during the 1930s --1940s, and some of these titles were later reprinted. The stated purpose of these books was to aid in Navy recruitment. Some of these early titles were *Don Winslow, U.S.N., in Ceylon* (1934); *Lieutenant Commander Don Winslow* (1935); *Don Winslow, Face to Face with the Scorpion* (1940); *Don Winslow Breaks the Spy Net* (1941); and *Don Winslow Saves the Secret Formula* (1941).

Don Winslow and the Scorpion's Stronghold was published in 1946, as one of the titles in the Whitman Juvenile Fiction Series. Martinek was credited as author, and Erwin L. Hess as artist.

Merchandise

Through the years Don Winslow merchandise has included rings, badges, periscopes, guide books, , certificates, coins, codes, rubber stamps, watches, buttons, pins, photos, kits, catapult bombers, decoders, signs, salt & pepper sets, tattoo transfers, and letterheads. Many of these were premiums related to his Squadron of Peace and League for Defense clubs. The rarest of all Don Winslow collectibles is the much sought-after Golden Torpedo Decoder. This Post Toasties premium was offered in 1942, and came in two pieces with a wood top, cardboard side, and metal fin. Less than ten examples of this item are known to exist today. Its estimated value in good condition is \$2,200.00.

A Don Winslow figure was part of the Chicago Tribune set of 73 six-inch statuettes sold in the late 1940s, and Winslow was also part of the Pep Comic Pin series offered by the *Superman* radio program during 1945-1947.

Frank V. Martinek

Martinek (1895 – 1971) was a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy during World War I and later served in the Naval Reserve and worked as a G-Man. He was also a business executive and a former reporter. Dubbed “The Jules Verne of the Comics” by *Modern Mechanix Magazine* in 1936, Martinek created the character of Don Winslow to star in a series of novels during the 1930s and 1940s. These books led to the comic strip, which led to appearances of the character in other media.

Some Conclusions

Don Winslow was conceived of as a recruiting tool for the Navy both before and during World War II, although there is no way to measure the character's effectiveness in doing so. Radio authority Jim Harmon once wrote: “Some inner part of every man and boy responded –

whether on a bleak Atlantic coast, in a prairie heartland, or a desert town – when the call to the sea, the call to adventure, rang out in the ship's bells that opened each radio episode of *Don Winslow of the Navy* in the thirties and forties.”

Popular culture historian Ron Goulart had a slightly different slant on the matter when, in answering the question of whether or not Don Winslow had influenced Navy recruiting, he wrote: “The passage of the Selective Service Act . . . and the entry of the United States into World War II took care of inspiring sufficient young men into the Navy.” Whatever the actual case, *Don Winslow of the Navy* -- whether on radio, in the newspapers, in books, or in the movies -- was an important part of American popular culture during the 1930s --1950s.

Sources

Cline, William C. *In the Nick of Time*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1984.

Gifford, Denis. *The International Book of Comics*. NY: Crescent Books, 1984.

Goulart, Ron (ed.). *The Encyclopedia of American Comics*. NY: Facts On File, 1990.

Harmon, Jim. *Radio and TV Premiums*. Iola, WI: Krause Publications, 1997.

Lowery, Lawrence F. *The Golden Age of Big Little Books*. Danville, CA: Educational Research and Applications LLC, 2007.

Swartz, Jon D. & Robert C. Reinehr. *Handbook of Old-Time Radio*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1993.

Waugh, Coulton. *The Comics*. NY: Luna Press, 1974.

Note: In addition to the above, several Internet sites were consulted.

News from FANAC.org

About the user survey that we sent out last week. So far, we have 135 responses, including some good suggestions in the open text fields. Since we would like to hear from more of you, we'll keep the survey open for one more week, until Saturday, August 15. You have good ideas, and we'd like to hear them. You can answer the survey at <https://us5.list-manage.com/survey?u=462126ad98a8c6356c94cb61e&id=b0e62114be>.

We now have working agreements with the Science Fiction Foundation in the UK and with the First Fandom organization to archive their publications on FANAC.org. You can see the first issues we've uploaded of Foundation, the Journal of the Science Fiction Foundation at <http://fanac.org/fanzines/Foundation/>.

Thirdly, and a bit self-indulgently, we'd like to tell you that Edie Stern and Joe Siclari have been announced as the Fan Guests of Honor at the 80th World Science Fiction Convention in Chicago, Chicon 8, in 2022. For convention info, go to Chicon.org.

Initial Insights from the survey:

You access our three sites equally for research, nostalgia, and pleasure reading with an understandable bit of ego-scanning.

There were several suggestions for making material easier to find. Those who use our existing shortcuts (People Cross-Reference on FANAC.org and the Playlists on YouTube) like them. We plan to make those more prominent. We will be looking for other ways for you to access material more directly. I hope you will find the changes in Convention Pubs and Category pages helpful as we implement them.

On FANAC.org, more than half of you come for fanzines. That's good because we spend so much effort to save them. Also gratifying is that about a third of you are using our Photo Galleries.

The write-in comments included a couple of requests for more international material. We are heavily US-centric for a couple of reasons. 1) Fandom has its largest history in the USA, and 2) most of our contributors so far have been from the US. However, we have been getting more participation from Australia, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. Some contributions have also come from Germany, Poland, Sweden and other countries. We need your help to expand those areas. We've started putting country designations on the fanzine index pages.

We also saw requests for more info on the Fanzine Index pages, more links between FANAC.org and Fancyclopedia 3, and more short pieces or excerpts on our YouTube channel.

Fanhistorically yours,

Joe Siclari
jsiclari@fanac.org

Directorate Acts

The Directorate is now considering rules for our Facebook groups and posting on them. Thanks to the hard work of Heath Row, there is a current draft of the rules, as seen below. Please send your comments to Heath Row kalel@well.com

- 1) Please Post on Topic: This is a science fiction and fantasy fan club. Off-topic posts will be deleted. If an off-topic poster persists, they will be removed.
- 2) Be Courteous, Kind, and Polite: We're all in this together. Let's treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural, but politeness is required. You can like what you like, and I can like what I like.
- 3) No Hate Speech or Bullying: Make sure everyone feels safe. Bullying of any kind isn't allowed, and degrading comments about things like race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender or identity will not be tolerated. We have no tolerance for harassment of any kind. That also means that trolling or inciting other members in any form is not allowed. Comment on opinions, not people.
- 4) Credit Artists for Their Work: Online, it's easy to share stuff you find. When you share artwork that's not your own, please include the name of the artist—and link to where you found it—whenever possible.
- 5) No Promotions or Spam: Give more than you take from this group. Excessive self-promotion, spam, and irrelevant links aren't allowed. We ask that you limit posts promoting your own projects and commercial work to once a week.
- 6) No Porn: This group is family friendly and All Ages. If you want to share something a little sexy, risqué, blue, or otherwise not PG-rated, take it to N3F Adult. That means no bad language, sexual comments or posts; and no X-rated or suggestive posts or comments.
- 7) Fake Profiles Are Prohibited: We only want genuine people in here; no sock puppets. If you cannot contribute without having to hide behind a phony profile, then this group is not for you. We will remove people found to have fake profiles.

Bureau Reports

Anime/Comics Bureau

Jessi Silver reports that she and her husband recently

purchased a house, so she is more than a bit busy. Man-gaverse is therefore delayed.

Artists Bureau

Thanks to Jose Sanchez and Angela K. Walker, Tightbeam is full of beautiful artwork. BuHead Cedar Sanderson has just been interviewed by Tamara Wilhite; the review will soon be seen in one of our zines.

Birthday Cards

R-Laurraine Tutihasi writes: Birthday cards sent in July: 9.

Book Review Bureau

George Phillis continues to bring out a monthly issue of the N3F Review of Books, full of reviews, Prose Bono on good writing, LitCrit, and interviews.

Convention Calendar

Send news to Heath Row kalel@well.com Until then, note FaceBook Cons Cancellation and CouchCon.

Heath Row writes: I'm done with the Q1'20 con calendar listing orgs... Will move on this week to the Q2'20 con calendar listing before I move on to compiling a Q4'20 calendar (Oct-Dec) for sending to you in September or so -- if anything's happening. I skipped this quarter's calendar given the quarantine, but now enough stuff is moving online that it might be worth looking into again.

Club Directory

Heath Row reports that he is at work on a club directory. If you are aware of any clubs, whether they are meeting during the plague or not, please send him information at kalel@well.com

Correspondence Bureau

Judy Carroll continues her search for pairs of correspondents. If you would like to be paired for someone for correspondence, write her at BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

Election Teller

Once again, Jon Swartz will be counting our election ballots.

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

John Thiel's bimonthly zine Ionisphere features reviews

and other fannish material. He writes: Tamara Wilhite is becoming one of our regular contributors and adds interviews to our publication. Heath Row now backs us but I haven't heard much from him on the subject of the bureau, I reckon he's busy with all that other work he does. What with the interviews, our zine is one of the important parts of the bureau's activities.

FanZine Review Bureau

Chief Reviewer Justin Busch just put his first issue of Fanfaronade into the latest Tightbeam. Send him your fanzines at 308 Prince Street #422, St. Paul, MN 55101 -1454.

Film Bureau

BuHead/Editor Eric Jamborsky mrsolo1@comcast.net has moved Films Fantastic to a bimonthly/quarterly model, with the next issue expected soon.

Franking Service

The Fanzine Forwarding Service, the original purpose of the N3F, continues to forward fanzines to the membership. We hope you are enjoying the fanzines you receive.

Games Bureau

Wesley Kawato reports that his board game group is not meeting, but his game store is again open.

Gourmet Bureau

Cedar Sanderson's column *Eat This While You Read That* continues to give us recipes from famous writers, editors, artists, and other sf/fnal types.

Historian

Jon Swartz maintains our growing club archives and contributes to fannish history.

History and Research Bureau

John Thiel continues to bring out an issue of Origin every month, now with more contributors. John Thiel writes: We're getting along real well and I continue to send out my bureau bulletin to the others in the bureau. Members can see from the August ORIGIN that we're doing pretty well at interaction.

Information Technology

David Speakman maintains our list of passwords and covers our WordPress and PHPList sites. George Phillies just updated the N3F.org web site to include our recent zines.

Lord High Proofreader

Jon Swartz finds many errors that would otherwise creep into Tightbeam and The National Fantasy Fan.

Lady High Proofreader

Jean Lamb proofreads for The N3F Review of Books, whenever scheduling lets her receive the material in advance.

Membership Recruitment

John Thiel Writes: I'm continuing to have interdepartmental correspondence about recruitment with the other bureau members, and continuing my attempt to establish some correspondence on the subject of bureaus with the other bureaus.

We recently mailed sample issues of TNFF, Tightbeam, and the N3F Review to an extended list of fanzine editors, partly to interest them, partly to cancel false claims that we are inactive. Efforts to plant a full set of our zines in the WOOF distribution at the electronic New Zealand WorldCon were, alas, not successful.

N'APA

Some years ago, N'APA had shrunk to two contributors exchanging email. Under the leadership of Jefferson Swycaffer, N'APA now has regular bimonthly publication with a respectable number of contributors.

Neffy Awards Bureau

George Phillies reports that Neffy Awards for the last year have been made, and the Award certificates will be issued. The experiment of curating several entry nominations had much-appreciated support, but the outcomes did not encourage expanding the effort. Correspondence with members indicates that some revision of the balloting process is desired.

Pro Bureau

Prose Bono, with ideas for improving your writing, now appears every month in The N3F Review of Books.

Round Robins

Patricia Williams-King writes Hi George, Here is a list of Slow, Lost ...or late RR's. You may want to stick in your next TNFF zine ;

6 Star Trek: DS9 & TNG. # of members 2

#7 DREAMS. # of members 2

#16-A Star Wars Old and New Films. # of members 2

#17 Time Travel. # of members 2

37 Jim Butcher/The Dresden Files. # of members 2

#39-A Terry Pratchett/Disc World. # of members 2.

#40 High Technology in the Ancient World. # of members 2.

Here is a short list of possible RR's that might be used in future RR lists.

#1 LGBTQ Characters in SF & F.

#2 Our WONDERFUL LGBTQ Pro Writers David Gerrold, C.J. Cherryh, Mary Renault....

#3 Astronomy and the Fate of the Cosmos.

#4 Jack Chalkers amazing WELLWORLD Series Featuring Nathan Brazil & Mavera Chang.. THERE are TWO!

#5 Favorite Cat Stories.

#6 Erin Hunter's WARRIORS Clan Cat books. (They are promoted as Children's books --but they are WAY too GOOD for just Children! Try one!)

Patricia Williams-King, 335 Forrest Park Road, Apt # 75 Madison, TN 37115.

Short Story Contest

Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com is running our yearly Short Story Contest, no entrance fees, but cash prizes. See the next page for details.

Social Media

The N3F has two Facebook groups, N3F and N3F Adult, an N3F Facebook page, and a mewe.com N3F page. The Directorate is currently discussing extended rules for proper behavior on the N3F Groups.

Video Bureau

Heath Row, writing at [facebook.com/groups/n3flist/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/n3flist/), has created a poll: If the N3F were to hold occasional Watch Parties of public domain science fiction, fantasy, and related films -- N3F Fan Flicks -- what time and day of the week would work best for you?

The poll is a list of choices.

Video columns from the anonymous Cathode Ray now appear in Tightbeam.

Welcommittee

The purpose of the Welcommittee is to welcome new members to the club. A letter is sent, by email or postal mail, to new members informing them of club activities they may be interested in joining. Those members with email addresses are also sent as attachments the current TNFF and other publications the N3F has to offer.

If you have questions about the club or are interested in helping, please contact Judy Carroll at BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

Writers Exchange Bureau

Welcome to the Writers Exchange! I think it would be fun, exciting, and informative if our writers would actively participate in the monthly Writers Exchange article. We could get to know one another and help with writing questions and problems.

I would like to see a lot of our writers frequently contributing.

Since I don't give up easily, when it's something I really care about, I am going to continue requesting input from our N3F writers. I know there are a lot of you out there.

Last month's question was - Do you find it easy to come up with a title for your work, be it an article, short story, novel, screenplay, or whatever? For answers, await the forthcoming issue of The N3F Review of Books.

Send your answers to Judy Carroll at BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

If you are a new writer, a professional writer, or someone who dreams of being a writer - this is the place for you. If you love reading unpublished work and find it exciting to do so, this place is also for you.

The Writers Exchange is for anyone interested in writing. If you have a story you would like read and commented on, or if you just want the excitement of reading unpublished work, then the Writers Exchange is here for you. Published or unpublished - all are welcome. You may join as a writer, a reader or both.

If interested, please contact: Judy Carroll. BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

2020 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

Now and then, it has been suggested to open the N3F Amateur Short Story Contest to professional writers, writers who have had one or two sales. I've never favored this. It is my opinion that we want new blood. We want to reward the new kids on the block. To be blunt, we want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals -- but who have a story to tell. I want stories from guys nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will. Those who are already successful don't need the encouragement of our little contest. If they were to enter the contest, the danger is that they'd win, every time, and crowd out the promising newcomer.

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 judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper 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.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at abontides@gmail.com. No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. There are no entry fees.
7. 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.
8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; abontides@gmail.com. Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2020.
9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.
10. Stories will also be reviewed by the Editor of the N3F Fiction zine Eldritch Science; authors of suitable tales will be invited to submit their tales for publication in our zine. This review and invitation will only occur after contest winners have been announced, so it can have no effect on the contest outcome.
11. The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2021. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered if they did not win previously. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2020. Good luck!

Please supply on a separate page the following information as your entry form.

Title of story (for identification):

Author's name and address:

Author's email address:

I have read the above rules for the 2021 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature:

Date: _____



Elections

Letters of Comment by Angela Myers, Jerry Kaufman, Joe Siclari, Lloyd Penney, Bob Jennings, Wesley Kawato, and Justin E. A. Busch

Sercon

Don Winslow and Frank V. Martinek, News from FANAC.org

Directorate Acts

Bureau Reports

Anime/Comics Bureau, Artists Bureau, Birthday Cards, Book Review Bureau, Convention Calendar, Club Directory, Election Teller, Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau, Fanzine Review Bureau, Film Bureau, Franking Service, Games Bureau, Gourmet Bureau, Historian, History and Research bureau, Information Technology, Lord High Proofreader, Lady High Proofreader, Membership Recruitment, N'APA, Neffy Awards Bureau, Pro Bureau, Round Robins, Short Story Contest, Social Media, Video Bureau, Welcomittee, Writers Exchange Bureau

N3F TNFF
c/o George Phillips
48 Hancock Hill Drive
Worcester MA 01609