

The National Fantasy Fan

Vol. 4, No. 4

December 2004



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☺ **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** ☺

By Ruth R. Davidson

Seasons Greetings Neffers!

I hope this message finds everyone doing well. Life has been. . . interesting, and as a result I've had to put a few fannish doings on the back burner, the main one being the **Locus** ad. I also had to start it all over again since my daughter decided to help me color it in. ::oops:: So we're just now beginning to get the ball rolling on that.

There's a new logo design up on our cafepress shop. The URL for that is www.cafepress.com/n3f. At some point I would like to get a domain name for it so it'll be easier to remember. Something like, www.n3fshop.com. If anyone would like to donate the \$8.95 for it. . . ::wink::

We've had quite a few reinstatements and even a few NEW members! Isn't that awesome? Things seem to be moving a long quite nicely. I still have high hopes that eventually **Tightbeam** and **TNFF** will be separate publications again. Our website, www.nfff.org, has been re-done with the help of David Speakman. He's done a lot to help improve it. Check it out! If you don't have a computer, go down to your local library to take a look. I think you'll be pleased with the results!

The only major change is that next year the Election Ballots will be inside **The Fan** instead of mailed out separately. That'll cut down on time and cost. It'll also help ensure that everyone gets one and has enough time to get it in to the Election Teller.

There are a few Bureau Head changes. Judy Carroll, returning Neffer, is now Head of the WelCommittee and Followup is now one of its Subcommittees. Renewals are now a part of the Membership Drive. Remember if you have a Bureau idea please let me know. If you wish to restart an old Bureau contact me.

The New Member Handbook is back in business! If you'd a hard copy ask me for one. Same with the electronic version. There is also a public version available on the web. Welp, I think that's it for now. I hope everyone has a Happy Holiday!

The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 4 No. 3
The Official Organ of the National Fantasy Fan Federation.

This issue was completed Dec 1, 2004, edited by Bob Sabella. The editor for the next issue is Ruth R. Davidson (see president). Please send your submissions and questions to her. *All opinions herein are those of the writers and do not reflect the opinions of the staff or other members of N3F except where so noted.* Printing graciously accomplished by Craig Boyd. SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS Feb 15, 2005. E-mail accepted by arrangement only! This zine is to be published quarterly in March, June, September, and December through volunteer effort.

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REVIEWS

Jon D. Swartz, Reviews Editor

Books

Moon of Three Rings

by André Norton (Ace, 1966); reviewed by Janine Stinson.

Last year, I took this book off the shelf and revisited it for the first time in more than 20 years. In fact, I can't remember the last time I read it, but I've had my own copy for at least two decades. With books of this age (and older), there's always the chance they won't stand the test of time, that their story lines or characters will be stale or so surpassed by reality as to make their what-if points unbelievable. *Moon* does not have this problem. Norton was smart enough to set this story of changes—physical, emotional, cultural—in a science fictional universe which contains a planet whose humanoid populations are either caught in or returned to a feudal existence comparable to that which Earth's Europeans once knew. Though she also peppers the novel with convenient devices which avoid technical explanations—mind-lock to prevent spacers from revealing advanced technology, and other psychological barriers to keep those on port call out of trouble, along with "beamers" and a distinct lack of description of shipboard life—these devices are also now part of the generally accepted canon of science fictional elements. Some folks call them tropes these days, but I have a semantic problem with that word which doesn't require explication here.

In this novel, there are the Free Traders and the Combines, once at odds and now tolerating each other as they go about their commercial enterprises. On the planet Yiktor, assistant cargomaster Krip Vorlund and a shipmate check out the "beast show" offered by a Thassa woman, a Singer called Maelen. As with all complex (and therefore interesting) characters, Krip and Maelen have their own desti-

nies to fulfill, and a joined path which takes them both to unexpected places and events. Maelen, as a Thassa, is capable of using the Yiktoran moon Sotrath in its sometimes tri-ringed state to draw power down and perform body swaps. The Thassa are also capable of mind reading and thought transference, but their culture and religion restricts their use of these powers on moral grounds. Vorlund falls into a trap that's part of an off-world plot, and Maelen feels bound to help him because he assisted her in rescuing an animal—a barsk—from a cruel beast seller.

The barsk is the closest alien creature to an Earth wolf that I have come across in any novel. It has the same intelligence and general physical attributes as a wolf, but does not appear to live or hunt in packs. Norton makes the barsk come alive for the reader in the easiest way possible—by having Vorlund inhabit its body—but not as a game. She complicates the story at nearly every turn, and that's what keeps the pages flipping. Any writer just starting out could learn a lot from dissecting this novel; heck, any experienced writer could probably learn from it as well.

This is one of the novels that sucked me into SF when I was in junior-high school, and I'm glad it is as good now as it was then, and that I can now appreciate it in a different way. When I was a kid, it was a really cool story. Today, I can see the structure and the character development and the plot points as well, and this only enriches my appreciation of the book.

The Story of the Stone

by Barry Hughart (Doubleday, 1988); reviewed by Ruth R. Davidson

This book is quite the page turner. The story is about Master Li, an anti-Neo-Confucian, and his

apprentice Number Ten Ox, who is from peasant stock and very loyal to Master Li. When it comes to peasants, Ox is often called on for his expertise. Master Li says a few times in the book, "I wish I were 90 again," so he is ancient, yet spry of mind and body; his age is never revealed. With his quick thinking and vast amounts of knowledge, Master Li and Number Ten Ox embark on a journey that starts out as a simple murder and theft case. They gain the help of Moon Boy, a beautiful sound expert who has a few impulsive flaws and Grief of Dawn, a girl with no memory of her past, who is the only person who can keep Moon Boy in line.

The story takes place in a China that never was. Heaven, Hell, Souls, C'hi, Life, Death, and the Stone, with a bit of Taoism and possibly other Chinese beliefs and myths are all pieces of the story, the elements that make it rich and fun to read. The entire story flows smoothly, like a gentle waterfall from a small stream. The stories told, to help unfold the mystery of what is really going on, are delightful. Some lines will at least make you smile, if not laugh aloud. I am tempted to repeat one or two here, but I'm afraid I'll ruin the joy of reading them in context.

I highly recommend this novel. It's a fantastic world to visit. If you die reading this book, at least you will not have died in boredom.

Harmon's Galaxy

by Jim Harmon (Holicong, PA: Cosmos Books, 2004)

Harmon's first collection of his short science fiction is a good one. Included are thirteen stories that originally appeared, for the most part, in the 1950s and 1960s in **Galaxy** (hence the title of the book) when H. L. Gold was editor of both **Galaxy** and **Worlds of IF** and these prozines arguably were the two finest SF magazines being published at the time. I remembered reading several of these stories in magazine form, including "Mindsnake"

(originally the cover story for an issue of **IF**), and "The Place Where Chicago Was," both of which have been anthologized and both of which cry to be expanded into novellas or novels. In particular, "Mindsnake" has more elements than the usual SF novel, and is reminiscent of A. E. van Vogt at his best. Other stories included originally from **Galaxy** are "Charity Case," "Name Your Symptom," "No Substitutions," and "The Spicy Sound of Success."

Richard A. Lupoff provides an entertaining introduction to the book, but the real pluses are the Afterwords Harmon wrote for each story. These brief essays tell how the stories came to be written, give multiple insights into Harmon's career, and comment on his relations with Gold and other SF writers, some of whom provided input into the stories. These Harmon "co-authors" included professionals such as Isaac Asimov, Theodore Sturgeon, and Robert Bloch and prominent fans like Redd Boggs and Ron Haydock. This reviewer hopes there will be another Harmon SF collection published in the near future. He certainly has written other stories worthy of being preserved between hard covers.

Retro Book Reviews

The Great Radio Heroes

by Jim Harmon (Doubleday, 1967) [Revised, expanded edition published by McFarland in 2001]

Although promoted by Doubleday as a nostalgic look back at all the heroes of the Golden Age of Radio, this early book by Harmon had quite a lot of science fiction in it. Remembered with affection were such SF characters as Buck Rogers, Superman, both of whom had long-running radio programs, Batman and Robin. In addition, programs that often had SF/fantasy elements in their storylines were described and discussed: *Jack Armstrong*, *Tom Mix*, *I Love a Mystery*, *Inner Sanctum*, *The Haunting Hour*, *The Sealed Book*, *Escape*, *The Hermit's Cave*, *Lights Out*, and *Suspense*.

Radio Mystery and Adventure and Its Appearances

in Film, Television and Other Media
by Jim Harmon (McFarland, 1992). [Paperback edition published in 2003]

In a more recent look at radio mystery/adventure programs, Harmon wrote of the popular mystery/adventure characters on radio during its Golden Age: *Jimmie Allen, Captain Midnight, Sergeant Preston, Dick Tracy, The Green Hornet, Jack Armstrong, Little Orphan Annie, The Lone Ranger, The Shadow, Sherlock Holmes, Sky King, Superman, and Tom Mix*. Another chapter was devoted to "I Love a Mystery," a favorite adventure program of many radio listeners and a particular favorite of mine. Many of the plots of ILAM had SF/fantasy elements. In each chapter of this book Harmon relates how the characters in these programs were multi-media heroes, appearing in serials, feature films, books, magazines, comics, and on radio and television. In addition, information on the premiums offered by the radio and TV versions of the programs was provided.

Classic Author Re-visited

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and Other Stories
by Robert Louis Stevenson (Armed Services Edition #885, 1944)

It is very instructive to read stories that you have seen presented in other media, and/or which you first read many years ago in their original forms. Such was the case with a couple of the stories in this collection of Stevenson tales in an edition given away to our servicemen during World War II. In addition to the title story, the other selections included are "A Lodging for the Night," "The Sire De Maletroit's Door," "The Pavilion on the Links," "Markheim," "Olalla," "The Body Snatcher," and "The Suicide Club." As a youngster I had read about the problems Jekyll had with Hyde several times, including the Classics Comics comic book version in the 1940s. And I had seen the wonderful Boris Karloff/Bela Lugosi/Henry Daniell movie, *The Body Snatcher*, based on the Stevenson short story many times, most recently only a

month or so ago. The original versions of these stories are very different from the ones Hollywood saw fit to film (and re-film), which is not to say I didn't enjoy the movie versions. But the stories as Stevenson wrote them are marvelous in their own ways, and I recommend that everyone re-read them (or read them in their original forms for the first time). As just one example, the neglected story "Olalla" is a wonderful moralistic fantasy in which the heroine of the title suffers for the sins of her vampire-like relatives.

Mystery Book Review

The Mysterious Mr. Quin
by Agatha Christie (Dell, 1952)

This is a collection of twelve stories of semi-real invention that involves the mysterious Mr. Harley Quin. The stories were originally published in 1930. The dark, saturnine Quin suddenly appears (and then, just as suddenly, disappears) whenever Mr. Satterthwaite—the elderly main character of the stories—finds himself in a human drama of some kind. Mr. Satterthwaite, a wealthy art collector without any family himself, has spent his life closely observing other people. He is elderly and bumbling, but inquisitive. Quin acts as a catalyst when he is with him, and the mild-mannered Satterthwaite finds that his memories and perceptions of past events become sharper and more accurate. Quin explains this ability as using the passage of time to get a better perspective on the past. Because of his new ability, Satterthwaite becomes an excellent detective and solves murders and other mysteries, usually in high society or in the world of art. In the stories Quin is often represented as a harlequin (Harley Quin). While today a harlequin is most often pictured as a clown in a distinctive costume, the term originally was associated with creatures that have magical abilities. While these stories are not as well known as many others by Christie, critics have said that they contain some of the best of her pure writing. They are still well worth reading.

Movie Review

Event Horizon (DVD, Paramount Pictures, 1997, starring Lawrence Fishburne, Sam Neill, Kathleen Quinlan, and Joely Richardson/directed by Paul Anderson).

In the year 2047 a signal is received from Event Horizon, a research space ship that had vanished without a trace seven years earlier. The United States Aerospace Command responds with a rescue ship containing its captain (Lawrence Fishburne), the missing ship's designer (Sam Neill), and an elite crew (including Kathleen Quinlan and Joely Richardson) Their mission is to find and salvage the state-of-the-art spacecraft; but they end up having to salvage their own lives, if they can. For me this was a very disappointing film. I had looked forward to seeing it because both Fishburne and Neill have starred in other films I enjoyed very much. Unfortunately, the story here quickly changes from a SF film into a horror flick, and seems like just another version of *Alien*. Plus, there's too much blood and gore for my taste. For those who like this sort of thing, however, the DVD has several special features, including the theatrical trailer.

Magazine Review

Paperback Parade: The Magazine for Paperback Readers & Collectors
#62, August 2004 issue; edited/published by Gary Lovisi.

The annual SF issue of this fanzine featured my article, "Science Fiction in the Dell Paperbacks," illustrated with 14 covers of early Dell paperbacks. Other articles of interest to SF fans included "Vampirella: Vampiress From The Stars" by Christopher Geraghty, and "Collectable Science Fiction Magazines" by Jonathan White. The cover reprinted the cover of *Thirty Seconds Over New York*, a paperback by Robert Buchard originally published in the 1970s. The 30+ year-old-cover of this book showed a plane about to crash into the Twin Towers

in New York!

Recent and Forthcoming SF/Fantasy Books

November 2004:

John Barnes, *Gaudeamus* (Tor)
Jacqueline Carey, *Banewrecker* (Tor)
Alan Dean Foster, *Sliding Scales* (Del Rey)
Steven Gould, *Reflex* (Tor)
Jonathan Lethem, *Men and Cartoons* (collection, Doubleday)
Jane Lindskold, *Wolf Captured* (Tor)
Jack McDevitt, *Polaris* (Ace)
Sean Russell, *The Shadow Roads* (Eos)
Karen Traviss, *Crossing the Line* (Eos)
Gene Wolfe, *The Wizard* (Tor)

December 2004:

Catherine Asaro, *Schism* (Tor)
Kage Baker, *The Life of the World to Come* (Tor)
K.J. Bishop, *The Etched City* (Bantam Spectra)
Mark Budz, *Crache* (Bantam Spectra)
Albert E. Cowdrey, *Crux* (Tor)
David Gemmell, *Ironhand's Daughter* (Del Rey)
Dean Koontz, *Life Expectancy* (Bantam)
Christopher Moore, *The Stupidest Angel* (Morrow)
Spider Robinson, *Very Bad Deaths* (Baen)
Elizabeth Ann Scarborough, *Cleopatra 7.2* (Ace)
Allen Steele, *Coyote Rising* (Ace)

January 2005:

Ben Bova, *Powersat* (Forge)
Sara Douglass, *The Wounded Hawk* (Tor)
David Gerrold, *Alternate Gerrolds* (collection, Bella Books)
Terry Goodkind, *Chainfire* (Tor)
Laurell K. Hamilton, *A Stroke of Midnight* (Ballantine)
Alastair Reynolds, *Diamond Dogs, Turquoise Days* (Ace)
Justina Robson, *Natural History* (Bantam Spectra)
Harry Turtledove, *Homeward Bound* (Del Rey)
Peter Watts, *Behemoth, Book Two: Seppuku* (Tor)
Clive Woodall, *One for Sorrow, Two for Joy* (Ace)

Reviewers & Reviewed

Agatha Christie (1890-1976), one of the best-selling authors in the history of the world, she herself led a life that involved at least one actual mystery. In 1926 she was in the news when she inexplicably disappeared and was feared kidnapped, or dead. She was subsequently found in a resort hotel, using the name of her husband's mistress and claiming to have no memory of what had happened. The official explanation was that she suffered from amnesia brought on by stress, and her later autobiography didn't even mention the incident. At the time, however, the publicity generated by her disappearance made her books best sellers. She was created a Dame of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II in 1971. Christie's most popular series detectives are the elderly amateur Miss Jane Marple and the Belgian professional Hercule Poirot.

Ruth R. Davidson is our current President. She also takes part in many other N3F bureaus and activities. She enjoys spending time with her family which includes, not only her husband and daughter, but also her pet rats and a cat. She has a wide variety of interests; music, art, writing, anime, and gaming are among them. Her personal website is <http://potato.xarph.net/~ruthiechan>.

Jim Harmon was a popular SF writer in the late 1950s and early 1960s, principally for the different **Galaxy** publications. He is better known today for his old-time radio (OTR) books, including the recently published *It's That Time Again 2!: More New Stories of Old-Time Radio* (BearManor Media, 2004), which he edited. The Reviews Editor has a short story in this collection of OTR characters in new adventures, and therefore recommends this book highly! Others with SF ties who were contributors to *ITTA2!* are Richard Lupoff, William F. Nolan, Mel Gilden, and Barbara Gratz (Harmon). Until recently, Jim and his wife Barbara were editors of *First Fandom's Scientifiction: The First Fandom Report*.

Gary Lovisi, in addition to his work on *Paperback Parade*, is the founder of Gryphon Books and of an annual paperback/pulp fiction convention in NYC. Gryphon Books has reprinted a wide variety of SF stories. Lovisi also has written several mystery novels and is the editor of *Hardboiled* magazine, which publishes current crime and suspense fiction.

André Norton, a popular SF/fantasy writer for almost 60 years, should need no introduction to N3F members. She has won many genre awards over the years, including multiple lifetime achievement awards. Born Alice Mary Norton in 1912 in Cleveland, Ohio, she will celebrate her 93rd birthday this coming February.

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) was a Scottish novelist, poet, playwright, and essayist. Sickly most of his life, he still managed to travel widely and write of his experiences. He is known principally today for his adventure novels *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, *The Black Arrow*, and *The Master of Ballantrae*, all of which have been made into movies. In addition to his SF/fantasy stories mentioned herein, his other genre works included *Island Nights' Entertainment* (1893), *Tales and Fantasies* (1905), *The Waif Woman* (1916), and *When the Devil Was Well* (1921).

Janine Stinson, a frequent reviewer for this column, credits the N3F for her discovery of fandom in 1996. She edited *Tightbeam* from 1997 to 2001, and shepherded the combination of *Tightbeam* and *TNFF* into this current publication. She now edits and publishes her own genzine, *Peregrine Nations*.

The Reviews Editor is responsible for everything in this column not attributed to someone else. Members are invited to submit reviews, either electronically or by snail mail, for publication in this column. If you send a review via e-mail, and don't hear back within a reasonable length of time, please mail me your review. Addresses are: jon_swartz@hotmail.com and 1704 Vine Street, Georgetown, TX 78626.

N'APA RETURNS

Lauren Clough

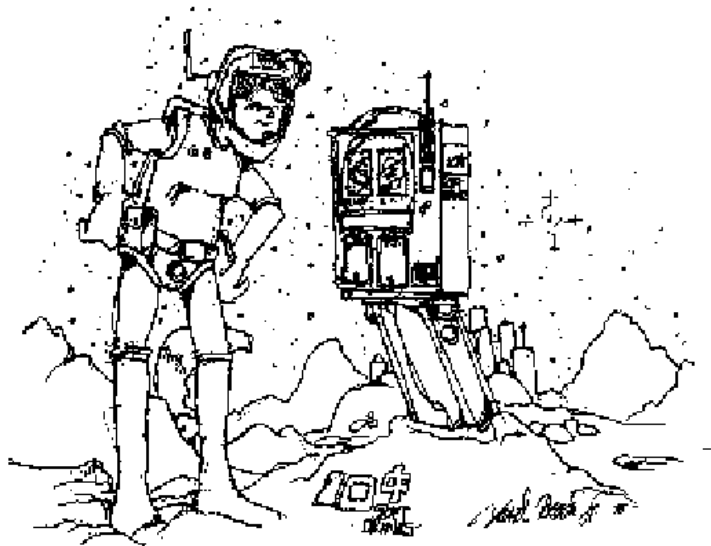
We are reviving Neffer Amateur Press Alliance (N'APA). We are looking for returning members and new members, amateur writers or professionals. The rules and regulations are simple:

1. Every other month (January, March, May, July, September, and November), write a fanzine and send it to the Official Editor by the 15th of the prior month (e.g., for January, send it so it arrives by December 15). This will ensure that the N'APA-zine will come out in the months that the Fan does not.
2. You must submit a minimum of two pages at least every other issue. Of course, more pages every issue are encouraged.
3. The contents of your zine are left to your imagination. You can write about your life. You can write about your activities in fandom. You can (in fact are encouraged to) write comments to others regarding their zines from the previous issue. You are also welcome (encouraged!) to include original artwork (including cartoons). Please, do not include material copyrighted by someone else, unless it is brief excerpts or included with permission of the author/copyright holder. It's probably safer to include an article or story done by a friend or relative than something that has been professionally published.
4. The N'APA-zine will be published in two formats: .pdf, which will be distributed by email, and in hard copy, which will be distributed by snail mail. Eventually, the zine should also be available on a secure web site, so only Neffers can access samples.
5. If you choose the snail mail version, we ask that you maintain an account to offset the cost of copying and mailing the zine. You would send \$5 to the Official Editor, who will keep track of each person's account.
6. The use of pen names, alternate snail mail addresses (perhaps PO Boxes), or email accounts devoted to N3F are suggested, but not required. These are to protect you from spam and other nastiness that might be out there.
7. N'APA once had a cap of 25 participants, in order to make it easier to read and respond to everyone. I don't think I ever saw the membership above 10 or 12, though. What do you all think? Should we retain the 25-member limit?

Okay...so who's game?

(continued on page 16)

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Secretary's Report

Denny Davis

EXPIRED LIST

July 2004

Patricia King
Ruth Sacksteder
Rick & Ruth Shields

August 2004

Michael & Theresa Contos
Priscilla Johnson
Susan K. Thode

September 2004

Joy A Beeson
Kathryn A. Drexel
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027 GS0505 Hazelwood, Laura A. / 1203 South Market / Mt. Vernon, MO 65712-2015
 029 GS1004 Jeffers III, John R. / 1110 Tate School Road / Huntingdon, TN 38344-6814
 030 EXP0804 Johnson, Priscilla / 3418 38th Street / Sacramento, CA 95817
 032 EXP0704 King, Patricia / 1518 A Russell Street / Nashville, TN 37206
 033 GS0905 Klees-Starks, Carol / 4211 6th Avenue / Kenosha, WI 53140-2929
 034 GS0305 Kurts, Emery / 1305 West Roby Avenue / Porterville, CA 93257-4343
 035 GS1105 Kurtz PMB 144, Dorothy / 219 Berlin Rd. Ste. P / Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-3529
 037 GS0605 Lichtenberg, Jacqueline / 4133 West Bart Drive / Chandler, AZ 85226-2116
 038 RN0905 Loretz, Jr., LaVern / 8223 Indian Hill Road / Manlius, NY 13104-9705
 039 GS0620 Lowrey, Mike / 1847 North 2nd Street / Milwaukee, WI 53212-3760
 040 GS0907 MacIntyre, Alister / 5184 Normandy Court / Evansville, IN 47715-2619
 041 GS0905 Mackay-Galicia, Jennifer M. / 15852 NW West Union Rd. #132 / Portland, OR 97229
 042 GS0406 Marcum, Harold / PO Box 286 / Kermit, WV 25674-0286
 098 NEW1005 McAbee, K. G. / PO Box 277 / Pacolet, SC 29372
 043 RN1205 Meskys, Edmund / RR 2 Box 63, 322 Whittier Hwy. / Center Harbor, NH 03226-9708
 044 GS0805 Mignault, Valerie / 62 Brown Avenue / Centredale, RI 02911-1404
 046 *GS1104 Minor, Carla Hall / 905 Whitney Court / Plano, TX 75023-6573
 049 RN1105 Moskowitz, Christine Haycock / 361 Roseville Avenue / Newark, NJ 07107-1721
 095 GS0705 Nelson, Aurora / 3082 Paseo Granada / Pleasanton, CA 94566
 052 EXP0904 Peterson, Robert / 585 So. Alton Way, #9-C / Denver, CO 80247
 053 GS0805 Phillis, George / 87 Park Avenue Apt 6, Worcester, MA 01605-3929
 054 GS0105 Redmond, Jeff / 1335 Beechwood NE / Grand Rapids, MI 49505-3830
 055 GS0105 Richter, Cynthia Ashe / 1740 Ocean Avenue #11B / Brooklyn, NY 11230-5454
 056 *GS1204 Riddle, Dr. Ira Lee / 400 Newtown Road / Warminster, PA 18974-5208
 057 RN0905 Robins, Dr. Jack / 223 Lake Meryl Drive / West Palm Beach, FL 33411-3392
 058 GS0105 Robinson, David K. / 88235 Hwy 9 #5 / Lineville, AL 36266-6944
 059 GS10/04 Robinson, John / P. O. Box 33 / Schenectady, NY 12301-0033
 062 GS0605 Sabella, Robert / 24 Cedar Manor Court / Budd Lake, NJ 07828
 063 EXP0704 Sacksteder, Ruth / PO Box 12593 / Berkeley, CA 94712-3593
 064 GS0705 Schaumburger, Joe / 18205 SW 94th Avenue / Miami, FL 33157-5612
 066 EXP0704 Shields, Rick & Ruth / 1410 West McDowell Road / Jackson, MS 39204-5147
 096 REIN0905 Speakman, David / 501-83 Moorpark Way / Mountain View, CA 94041
 068 EXP0904 Spinka, Penina / 10401 W. Bolivar Drive / Sun City, AZ 85351
 069 GS0905 Stinson, Janine G. / P.O. Box 248 / Eastlake, MI 49626-0248
 070 RN1005 Swartz, Jon D. / 1704 Vine Street / Georgetown, TX 78626-7228
 071 RN1105 Swycaffer, Jefferson / PO Box 15373 / San Diego, CA 92175-5373
 072 GS0305 Syrjala, Sally Ann / PO Box 149 / Centerville, MA / 02632-0149
 073 GS0505 Takeda, Lucy / 47 Barcelona Circle / Fairfield, CA 94533-2810
 074 EXP0804 Thode, Susan K. / 1925 Westchester Road #212 / Waterloo, IA 50701-4522
 075 *GS1204 Travis, David / PO Box 1011 / Clovis, NM 88102-1011
 076 GS0306 Turlington, Marianne / 1240 East Elton Avenue / Mesa, AZ 85204-2735
 077 GS0705 Van Schuyver, Susan / 1921 Churchill Way / Oklahoma City, OK 73120-1149
 078 GS0906 Varbanov, Michael P. / 2C Astor Ridge Drive / Amherst, NY 14228-2769
 079 GS0705 Vigil-Storm, June E. / 9765 Alburtis Ave, Apt. 147 / Santa Fe Springs, CA 0670-6258
 080 GS0505 Voharas, William / 7471 East 29th Place, APT 2004 / Denver, CO 80238-0000
 097 REIN0805 Walker, Keith A. / 6 Vine Street / Lancaster, Lancs. LA1 4UF UK

081 RN1105 Wells, George H. / 8 South Dorado Circle Apt 2B / Hauppauge, NY 11788-4638
 082 GS0505 Wharton, William H. / 11 Laurel Drive / Oakdale, CT 06370-1727
 083 EXP0904 Winters, Rikki / 3535 East Thunderbird Road / Phoenix, AZ 85032
 084 GS0506 Wolansky, Taras / 100 Montgomery Street #24-H / Jersey City, NJ 07302-3721
 084 GS0105 Yarnell, Ron / RR1 Box 170 / Athol, KS 66932

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

Please check your expiration date carefully. If you believe there is an error, please contact the N3F secretary, Dennis L. Davis, 25549 Byron Street, San Bernardino, CA 92404-6403. Email: <n3f_info@yahoo.com> Notify me of any address changes ASAP. Thank you.

Report Date: 10/31/2004

Renewals

RN 0606 Ruth R. Davidson / 3540 Swenson St #172 / Las Vegas, NV 89109
 RN 0905 LaVern Loretz, Jr. / 8223 Indian Hill Road / Manlius, NY 13104-9705
 RN 1205 Edmund Meskys / RR 2 Box 63 / 322 Whittier Hwy / Center Harbor, NH 03226-9708
 RN 1105 Christine Haycock Moskowitz / 361 Roseville Avenue / Newark, NJ 07107-1721
 RN 0905 Dr. Jack Robins / 223 Lake Meryl Drive / West Palm Beach, FL 33411-3392
 RN 1005 Jon D. Swartz / 1704 Vine Street / Georgetown, TX 78626-7228
 RN 1105 Jefferson Swycaffer / PO Box 15373 / San Diego, CA 92175-5373
 RN 1105 George H. Wells / 8 South Dorado Circle Apt 2B / Hauppauge, NY 11788-4638

Reinstated

REIN 1005 John W Andrews / PO Box 5681 / Santa Rosa, CA 95402-5681
 REIN 0805 Ginny Benson / 1265 Dyer Road / Tawas City, MI 48763-9572
 REIN 1105 Lauren R. Clough / 104 Second Street, Apt. 1 / Turner Falls, MA 01376-1337
 REIN 1005 Edmund J. Goodwin / 33700 NW Norstar Ranch Road / Ridgefield, WA 98642-8485
 REIN 1105 Corey Grey / 5659 Surrey Lane / San Bernardino, CA 92407-2428
 REIN 0905 David Speakman / 501-83 Moorpark Way / Mountain View, CA 94041
 REIN 0805 Keith A. Walker / 6 Vine Street / Lancaster, Lancs. LA1 4UF UK

New members

NEW 1005 K. G. McAbee / PO Box 277 / Pacolet, SC 29372

Address changes/corrections

LIFE Forrest J Ackerman / 4511 Russell Ave / Hollywood, CA 90027
 GSJ 1104 Craig & Sherry Boyd / PO Box 17088 / Little Rock, AR 72217-7088
 GS 1205 Elizabeth Caldwell / 685 South Zeeb Road / Ann Arbor, MI 48103-9332
 GS 0105 Denise A. Fisk / greenroseofaltair@yahoo.com
 EXP 0904 Sarah E. Glasgow / 289 Tradewinds Dr. #8 / San Jose, CA 95123

GSJ 0904 GlasgowJennett Kaerie and Janet / 434 Bird St., Yuba City, CA 95991
REIN 1105 Corey Grey / 5659 Surrey Lane / San Bernardino, CA 92407-2428
EXP 0804 Priscilla Johnson / 3418 38th Street / Sacramento, CA 95817
GS 1105 Dorothy Kurtz / PMB 144 219 Berlin Rd. Ste. P / Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-3529
GS 0905 Jennifer M. Mackay-Galicia / 15852 NW West Union Rd. #132 / Portland, OR 97229
GS 0705 Aurora Nelson / 3082 Paseo Granada / Pleasanton, CA 94566
EXP 0904 Robert Peterson / 585 So. Alton Way, #9-C / Denver, CO 80247

Notes

My N3F email address is: n3f_info@yahoo.com

Please send your checks to the Secretary:

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

Please make checks payable to: WILLIAM CENTER

I am your N3F Secretary and all of the information is as correct as make it. Please contact me if you find a discrepancy or have not found your name in this report. Thank you.

Please help me to serve you better by doing the following:

- 1) Check your information in the roster. Notify me of any changes.
- 2) Mark exp. date on your envelope, or include your renewal reminder card.
- 3) Send address corrections as soon as possible. The USPO charges me to return undeliverable zines.

CORRESPONDENCE BUREAU REPORT

Carla Minor

Greetings all and happy fall! Once again, I have to report extremely limited activity or participation in this Bureau. Until we get some new members who want penpals, the situation is likely to stay the same. But we're still here and have plenty to say!

The response to my last BuReport has been very enthusiastic; most penpals have agreed with me that writing thank-you notes is fast becoming a lost art, and that it's a good idea to remind people how important they are. This time of year it's particularly important. And since you've asked, the title of the book that inspired me to discuss thank-you notes is **The Art of Thank You: Crafting Notes of Gratitude** by Connie Leas. Many of the ideas I put before you for consideration come from this book, but a few are my own.

I first have to rant about the limp excuses people give for not writing thank-you notes. There really is no excuse, of course, but these people can't even be creative about it. They simply say they're too busy, or that "Aunt Hilda knows I'm grateful", and some excuse themselves by shrugging and saying they were never taught to write thank-you notes, so why should they learn now? This last excuse is the absolute lamest, and some even compound it when they offer that excuse for not teaching their own children to write thank-yous. Do they want their children to grow into callous boors, unwelcome and disliked wherever they go? Clearly they don't think gratitude matters. Well then, let me point out a fact I discovered in the aforementioned book.

Even the most loving grandparents have been known to stop sending gifts to grandkids who don't respond with a handwritten thank-you note sent by snail mail. If the child does not appreciate a gift enough to send a real thank-you, then why should a relative bother to give any more? I say more power to the grandparents and shame on parents who don't teach their kids the proper way to say thanks.

Why are thank-you notes so important? Connie Leas says, "Just as the giver of a gift feels as much joy as the recipient, so the sender of a thank-you note shares in the happiness of the recipient. When we acknowledge someone else's generosity, we stimulate and express our own. We complete the circle of giving and receiving, a circle that spiritually enriches everyone within it." In other words, when you send a thank-you note, not only are you doing what's simply right, you remind everyone that not only are they generous, but that you, too, are generous. Pat yourself on the back for every thank-you note you send.

This time of year, may I suggest that for Thanksgiving, everyone write a few words of gratitude to a friend or family member who deserves it? We usually give thanks to a deity for giving us our homes, health, family, etc. How often do we remember to thank the mere mortals who make these blessings realities? When you go home after having a great Thanksgiving (or Christmas) dinner with your grandparents or other family, you should sit down and write a thank-you note, put a stamp on it, and send it snail mail, even if it's only going across town. Believe me, the person who gets it will love you for it, and you will be invited back next year! (Besides, it's a lot of hard work putting together a memorable Thanksgiving feast.)

In my next report, I plan to talk about thank-you notes that changed the world. In the meantime, I thank you for reading this report!

GAMES BUREAU REPORT

George Phillies

DECEMBER 2004

2-5 Anaheim, CA GenCon www.gencon.com; Albany, NY First Annual NY State ASL Championship
Joe Leoce asl726@aol.com
30-3 Edinburgh, UK Hogmanaycon Tanya Fox, tanyafoxgal@hotmail.com

JANUARY 2005

22-23 Oxford, UK OxCon The Mitre, High Street, Oxford Richard Huzzey, diplo@herald.ox.ac.uk
<http://come.to/oxcon>
27-30 Hunt Valley, MD WAM III, www.boardgamers.org

FEBRUARY 2005

18-19 Leavenworth, KS. Spring Maneuvers. Stephen Allie, stephen.allie@leavenworth.army.mil
24-27 Billericay, Essex, UK Ramsdencon, shilly@compuserve.com

MARCH 2005

11-13 East Retford, Notts, UK, Consummation Too? Consummation@yahoogroups.co.uk
18-20 Jefferson Barracks, MO. Barracks Battles '05. www.bhmga.org; Shrewsbury, MA Havoc XXI,

havoc.battlegroupboston.org

31-3 Kennford, Exeter, UK Baycon, rob@baycon.co.uk, <http://www.baycon.co.uk>

JULY 1005

UK Manorcon, <http://devel.diplom.org/manorcon>

The MANGAVERSE Report

By Ruth R. Davidson

Heya fellow Neffers! By the time you see this report the 4th issue of The MANGAVERSE will be out! Can you believe it'll be four issues old already? I find this rather spiffy.

The winner of The MANGAVERSE Logo Contest will be announced in the March issue of the Fan, though if you get the The MANGAVERSE: News & Fan-talk, you'll know about it much sooner than that. You can also find out who won at www.mangaverse.org.

YES! We now have a domain of our own! Isn't that spiffy? It was an awesome deal, especially since I only wanted to forward it to the proper address. I'm totally stoked by finally having one. Yes, I know, it's kinda silly to be so happy about it, but that's me for you. LOL! (That's Laughs Out Loud in net-speak.)

Remember, all Fen of manga, anime and comics are welcome to participate. Feel free to contact me any time. Info underneath President.

N'APA Report (continued)

I was active in N'APA several years ago, and enjoyed it immensely. Then Real Life got in the way and I dropped out of N3F altogether. Now I can hardly wait to get this zine started again....I would have the deadline tomorrow, if I had my druthers....However, I need to give everyone time to read this announcement and to collect their thoughts and put them down on paper, so here's the plan....

Construct or compile or edit a personal fanzine and send it to me by February 15, 2005. I will compile them into one document and get them to you by March 1, 2005, making it a March 2005 issue.

You can send your material by snail mail to:

Lauren Clough / 104 2nd St., Apt. 4 / Turners Falls, MA 01376-1337

Or you can send your material by email (put N'APA an the subject) to: lothlorien2004@excite.com

I can accept Microsoft Word, Lotus WordPro, and .pdf attachments. I'll try to scan all hard copies (though please keep in mind that my scanner loves to read "due" as "clue," and vice versa...I'll do my best to edit).

Any other questions? Feel free to email or snail mail me. Be sure you let me know whether you want to receive your N'APA-zine by email or snail mail.

N3F Speculative Fiction Awards Bureau Report

by David Speakman, Neffy Awards Bureau

After getting organized in late summer, the members of the bureau have started a web site: www.nfff.org/neffys which has a detailed set of rules as well as a partial list of eligible candidates. We also set a timeline for the awards:

1. December: Call for nominations (due January 31, 2005) - [A printer-friendly plain text nomination form is available on the Neffy Awards web site]
2. March: Awards Ballots (due by May 20)
3. May, Saturday before Memorial Day: Awards Announced

All entries for and winner of the NFFF Speculative Fiction Award must have appeared for the first time or had significant original SF/F content published in the previous calendar year. If both a copyright and publication date exist, the publication (cover issue date) will take precedence. Only N3F members in good standing may nominate works.

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. No person is eligible to win an award in the same category in consecutive years or more than three times in a 10-year period.

Call for nominations for the 2005 Neffy Awards:

Nominate up to 5 candidates in each of the following categories. (If you are unfamiliar with a category, then skip it and only nominate in areas in which you are a fan.) Of particular note, we have 2 categories for reprints or reissues of works that are more than 20 years old but continue to be in print (books) or re-released as a collector's edition (DVD movie). A partial list of qualifying candidates for each category is located at the following web site: <http://www.nfff.org/neffys/2004-eligible.htm> (yes, you may nominate candidates that are not on the list "qualified" list).

Professional Awards:

- Achievement in art - Artist. (Nominate 5) A speculative fiction work of art first published or shown within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. "Best Artist")
- Achievement in graphic fiction - Animation. (Nominate 5) An animated work of speculative fiction made for the cinema or television and first released or broadcast within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. "Best Animation")
- Achievement in graphic fiction - Graphic Fiction. (Nominate 5) A speculative fiction comic book series or graphic novel first published within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. "Best Comic")
- Achievement in motion pictures - Film. (Nominate 5) A speculative fiction motion picture first released within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. "Best Movie")
- Achievement in motion pictures - Television. (Nominate 5) A speculative fiction made-for television film or serialized television program first broadcast within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. "Best TV")
- Achievement in new media - Game. (Nominate 5) A speculative fiction-oriented non-video game first published within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. "Best Game")
- Achievement in new media - Video Game. (Nominate up to 5) A speculative fiction-oriented video game first published within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. "Best Video Game")

- Achievement in new media - Internet. (Nominate up to 5) A professional web site with significant new content focusing on speculative fiction-related topics within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. "Best Web Site")
- Achievement in writing - Fiction. (Nominate up to 5) A speculative fiction story first published within the previous calendar year. (a.k.a. "Best Author")
- Achievement in writing - Non Fiction or Archive. (Nominate up to 5) 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 Reference ")
- Best Re-issue - Print. (Nominate up to 5) A speculative fiction story that has been re-published after a period of at least 20 years from its first publication. (a.k.a. "Best Reprint")
- Best Re-issue - Video. (Nominate up to 5) A speculative fiction film or video that has been re-released in theatres, or re-issued in a new video format or edition after a period of at least 20 years from its first theatrical release or television broadcast. (a.k.a. "Best Collector's Edition")

Fan Awards: (Except for Fan of the Year, fewer than three professionally sold works)

- Fan of the Year - (Nominate up to 5) An individual who exemplifies the N3F spirit and should be considered a living role model for other fans. This person does not have to be a member of the N3F.
- Fan Artist - (Nominate up to 5) An amateur speculative fiction art first published in fanzines or fan web sites within the previous calendar year.
- Fanzine - (Nominate up to 5) An amateur speculative fiction-oriented publication first appearing within the previous calendar year.
- Fan Author - (Nominate up to 5) An amateur speculative fiction story first published in fanzines or fan web sites within the previous calendar year.
- Fan Gamer - (Nominate up to 5) An amateur author of a speculative fiction game or game module first published within the previous calendar year.
- Fan Web Site - (Nominate up to 5) An amateur web site with significant new content focusing on speculative fiction-related topics within the previous calendar year.

Nominations may be emailed to the bureau head at: davodd@gmail.com or via U.S. mail to: Neffy Nominations, 501-83 Moorpark Way, Mountain View, CA 94041. Nominations must be emailed or postmarked by January 31, 2005. One nomination ballot per member, all nomination ballots must be signed to verify N3F membership. All nomination ballots will be kept secret, known only to the bureau members and will be destroyed June 1, 2005.



Treasurer's Report

William Center

Receipts

New members dues (includes reinstatements)	\$80.00
Renewal dues	\$151.00
Total	\$231.00

Disbursements

The Fan (Sep. 2004) - Printing	\$175.59
The Fan (Sep. 2004) - Mailing	\$51.70
Web Site Hosting Fee	\$20.00
New Member Handbook - Printing	\$30.00
PayPal service charge	\$4.54
Locus Magazine Ad Fee	\$272.00
Total	\$553.83

Beginning Balance (8/15/04)	\$3,362.12
Additions +	\$231.00
Subtractions -	\$553.83
Ending Balance (11/15/04)	\$3,039.29

Send all dues, new or renewal to:
Dennis Davis
25549 Byron Street
San Bernadino, CA 92404-6408

Make checks payable to William
Center, not the N3F.

Canadian and overseas members,
please pay in US funds.



Art Bureau Report

Sarah Glasgow

I am happy to announce (if you haven't discovered it already) that we now have our own "artists" section on the N3F forums. I personally enjoy being in contact with other artists and sharing ideas, encouragement, and techniques. I learn a lot, hopefully help others, and enjoy the camaraderie. Plus, it helps keep me motivated to work on my art daily. I know there are a number of talented artists in N3F, and some are even a part of this bureau, so log on and join in! Outside the club I have found other artists who desire this kind of contact, almost like a community of sorts. So I am glad to be able to provide this for our club. Of course, non-neffers are welcome on the forums so feel free to invite your friends. Anyway, I previously suggested an RR but no one expressed interest. I think the forums will actually suit us better because there's no waiting for snail mail (thus, we'd keep up the enthusiasm), and all the tips we exchange would be there for ready reference.

Please check it out. I think you will have a lot of fun and that it will be worthwhile. I am eager to unite as artists and learn from each other. Beginning, amateur, and professional artists are all welcome of course!

The artzine is temporarily put on hold. My financial situation has prevented me from getting things done (such as the mailings) in a timely manner. Please note, this hold is temporary and artists should please continue to work on their art. The artzine will still be printed sometime next year. More info will be forthcoming in the nextish, but check emails and/or forums for possible updates.



Harry Potter Word Search

Jennett Kaerie

Find the following Harry Potter terms and names in the grid below:

ARAGOG / BASKILISK / BOGGART / CHAMBER OF SECRETS / DEPARTMENT OF MYSTER-
 IES / DRAGON / DUMBLEDORE / DURSLEY / FAWKES / FORBIDDEN FOREST / GOBLET OF
 FIRE / GRIMAUD PLACE / HAGRID / HARRY / HERMIONE / LORD VOLDEMORT / MALFOY /
 MARAUDERS MAP / MCGONAGALL / MOONY / NAGINI / ORDER OF THE PHOENIX / PAD-
 FOOT / PATRONUS / PHILOSOPHERS / STONE* / PRISONER OF AZKABAN / PRONGS / PROPH-
 ECY / QUIDDITCH / RON / SCAR / SNAPE / THE ONLY ONE HE EVER FEARED / THESTRAL /
 TOM RIDDLE / TRELAWNEY / UNICORNS BLOOD / WAND / WHOMPING WILLOW / WIZARD
 CHESS / WORM TAIL

U	N	I	K	O	R	N	S	B	L	U	D	P	H	I	L	L	Y	C	H	E	E	S	E	H	E	R	M	O	I	N	E	
D	J	T	U	D	R	O	E	R	I	T	R	O	M	O	V	L	O	V	P	R	O	L	O	A	H	S	T	R	M	O	D	
W	S	S	T	E	R	C	E	S	F	O	R	E	B	M	A	H	C	F	L	U	F	F	Y	G	R	D	E	D	T	R	T	
E	E	N	C	P	R	O	P	H	D	U	M	B	L	E	C	H	O	R	E	S	G	N	O	R	P	L	H	E	F	K	O	
R	I	A	G	A	W	P	I	E	C	A	L	P	D	L	U	A	M	I	R	G	I	C	U	I	A	A	O	R	O	A	M	
T	R	P	M	Z	D	E	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T	O	F	M	I	S	E	R	Y	G	D	T	N	N	O	R	Z	F	
S	E	E	T	X	S	S	E	H	C	D	R	A	Z	I	W	N	O	G	C	R	M	W	J	X	R	O	P	F	B	E	I	
N	T	R	E	L	A	W	N	E	Y	U	U	V	T	E	L	A	H	W	D	A	O	D	F	I	O	D	Y	T	I	W	D	
O	S	H	Z	P	I	R	O	S	N	M	E	R	H	O	Y	E	V	E	R	S	O	M	O	N	N	C	O	H	D	O	D	
I	Y	W	E	T	R	A	G	G	O	B	F	A	S	R	P	F	D	A	B	O	N	U	A	E	U	M	P	E	D	L	L	
T	M	I	V	O	D	Q	U	I	T	L	N	B	F	E	L	V	U	I	L	G	Y	B	R	O	S	R	H	B	E	L	E	
E	F	Z	L	B	N	O	F	E	D	E	R	O	D	N	E	D	Q	B	R	V	E	Q	B	H	O	G	C	I	N	I	C	
R	O	E	M	U	D	L	R	O	B	B	O	T	F	H	E	Y	S	M	I	L	V	U	N	P	T	O	T	R	F	W	M	
C	T	N	W	E	L	I	Y	T	V	O	G	N	E	R	X	N	R	Q	Y	R	I	A	H	E	E	B	I	D	O	G	A	
E	N	M	A	W	L	U	P	O	L	R	A	L	S	D	I	R	A	G	G	I	N	U	E	S	H	R	L	D	Y	R	N	H
S	E	Y	R	R	A	H	W	M	N	E	R	M	P	O	W	H	O	M	P	Z	C	Y	I	T	H	Z	D	R	E	I	N	
F	N	O	B	A	S	K	R	R	Q	E	A	Y	C	T	Z	G	B	L	E	Y	M	Q	D	F	E	Y	I	D	S	P	W	
O	T	R	Z	C	H	E	O	I	U	P	H	I	L	O	S	O	P	H	E	R	S	S	T	O	N	E	U	O	T	M	O	
R	R	E	I	S	U	B	P	D	A	I	N	E	H	C	H	B	S	E	K	W	A	F	M	R	O	M	Q	N	E	O	R	
E	A	V	F	M	B	P	E	D	R	U	D	O	E	B	A	L	I	S	S	K	U	E	Q	E	P	X	D	M	A	H	M	
B	P	E	L	I	A	R	T	L	A	L	O	R	D	V	O	L	D	E	M	O	R	T	N	D	H	O	A	C	R	M	T	
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Tightbeam

Jennet Kaerie

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Greetings and salutations! I'm kinda a newbie Nef-fer and kinda not. I joined a few years back when I was what? 15? 16? The only thing I had done with N3F was submit some art, and since you only get out of this club what you put into it, it was pretty 'whatever' for me, so after my one year was up, I hadn't bothered to rejoin. (This club isn't exactly super exciting when all that happens for you is getting the zine every so often.)

So I have rejoined with new fervor! I'm having quite a bit of fun with our lovely forums, and I even made a word search for you all (which the Pres. says is too big and to make smaller ones from now on).

Making the word search was a great deal more fun than I had anticipated, though I'm having a hard time thinking of a new theme. I like Sci Fi, but Fantasy is my passion, and aside from the many Star Trek novels I read when I was in middle school, I don't really do Sci Fi. Nevertheless, I don't think that I should stick to doing only Fantasy word searches just because that's what I prefer—that's not fair. So I was thinking I'd do SciFi authors, so if any of you have an author you want to see in the word search, please email the name to me. (Did I mention that I love fantasy?) If you could send your author's name to me by the 25th of January, that'd be great. You can send me up to five authors. Please put them in the order you'd most like to see on the search - I might not be able to stick in all that I get. (Remember, Sci/Fi authors only!)

Anyhoo, the main reason I rejoined was for the Writer's Exchange. Aah... Brutal honesty. Nothing beats it. Except for drums. (Sorry, bad humor.) I've got a minor problem though, and I'm hoping that maybe someone would be able to help me out. I've

got a friend who writes Sci/Fi, Fantasy, but her creative writing class teacher wants the students to stay clear of that field for some B.S. nonsense I can't even remember. (Yes, it was that stupid.) So she needs someplace to get good critiques. I've told her twice now about our Writer's Exchange—even gave her our website—but I don't think she wants to join our Exchange because I've joined it, which, I figure, is probably because that might make it harder for us to be brutally honest with each other because we're friends. At Baycon this year, they had listed other places to get critiques, but because I knew I'd be going to N3F for mine (and because I'm a brainless git) I hadn't written them down. I don't suppose that anyone would know of someplace—maybe online—that my friend can get her critiques? She and I would greatly appreciate any information you might have about it. :)

Anyhoo, I could rant about random stuff all day, but then the Pres. would get mad at me for taking up too much space (sharp inhalation of breath as a feeling of dread settles). It'd be a month before I could recover. *wink* JK, Ruthie-chan. ;)

It's good to be back! Woo-Hoo!!

Sarah Glasgow

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Galactic Greetings! First of all I want to mention how much I am enjoying the new forums section on our website. It's wonderful to have discussions on things and have a record of all that has been said on the subject(s). If you haven't checked it out I'd highly suggest it. Wouldn't hurt just to see what it's about. I never had any experience on forums until a number of months ago when Ruth said I should check out her personal forum from her website. It was fun though I ended up not

getting back on after a while. I am now rediscovering how fun they can be on our website, especially when we all have the love of sf/f in common!

I thought the David Heath Jr. memorial in last issue was wonderful. Thanks everyone for contributing in various ways. It was fun to see his art again too. I hadn't seen "A Martian" (page 10 last ish) before which I thought was great.

Denise: I like what you said to Ruth about her having kids being her business and people should not be rude about it. You mentioned population problems. In some countries, they have underpopulation problems. France, for instance, has such a high abortion rate that not enough children are being born to support the country in the future. They are forced to take in a larger number of immigrants just to ensure that things will be kept going. This will inevitably change the face of France forever. I personally don't believe the population problems are due to too many children being born. More births are stopped today through abortion than any other time in history. I believe this is a complex issue, but part of the problem stems from various countries not taking care of their own. For example, would we have so many thousands of illegals coming into our country (hence adding to the population problem in the US) if their country were free, provided good education and job opportunities? No. There'd be no reason for them to leave other than the joys of traveling to see the world. They'd have everything they needed to sustain themselves and their families. They'd be happy and independent and our population problems would diminish.

Regarding your review of *King Arthur*. I agree with your assessment of the film. I think it is worth watching, but probably not one I'll add to my collection. I love Ray Winstone in this movie! You are right that he stole the show. I loved him in the 80's Robin of Sherwood British TV series as Wil Scarlet. It was nice to see him on the big screen. In fact, if I ever did decide to own this film it will be because of him. The love scene between Guinevere and Arthur seemed very misplaced. It was as if they

Just threw it in there because that's what they thought the audience expected. I didn't care for it. I didn't mind Arthur was pushing 40 because this whole movie was a different take on the legend. I think he was actually supposed to be just over 30 though because wasn't he a teenager when he was taken to serve in the army? I also liked the leader of the Saxon army. I thought he was great.

Richard: 1000 words a minute? Wow! That's pretty impressive. I wish I could read like that. There are so many books that I'd finally get read.

Ruth: You forgot to mention that Usagi's nickname from mom, "Honey Bunny", was later shortened to "Bunny" by everyone else. She loved bunny rabbits which is why she got the name in the first place. Her family still calls her Bunny. Usagi is Japanese for Bunny. In this way she has kept her family nickname.

I ended up having mixed feelings regarding *Black Sun Rising*. After reading it I was not quite satisfied. It was still interesting, but not "right" - don't want to give the ending away. I decided to donate the book after reading it since it's not one I'd ever read again.

Ginny: I'm afraid I don't currently get cable—or even basic channels at this point. So no, I haven't seen or heard of *Stargate: Atlantis*. What is the premise? What is the deal with the Wraiths you don't like?

Jon: Thanks for the great reviews. I was especially interested in the Connie Willis books. Seems like she does a lot with the mind and time travel (or an odd combination of both). Plus, we got to learn something about you! I didn't know you are a psychologist. That's a very interesting field. I loved my college psych classes and have done some reading on my own on the subject from time to time. Thanks for including the forthcoming books. :)

Janine: Thanks for your book reviews too. They made me want to go out and buy the books!

Green Rose of Altair

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Hello Fellow Neffers. I would like to share something with you that's very near and dear to my heart. Something that I've struggled with for years. That's because I'm bipolar. I was correctly diagnosed two years ago, when I was hospitalized, by the unit psychiatrist. I owe him a huge debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. He literally saved my life. My regular family doctor had been prescribing anti-depressants for years, with little results. I'd still have mood swings, and then depression would usually follow. She and I were both puzzled as to why the anti-depressants didn't work. Then, when in the hospital, I was given the current meds: lithium and neurontin, both mood stabilizers.

Currently, 2.5 million Americans have bipolar disorder, women slightly more than men. Some of the symptoms of the manic state of bipolar disease include (but are not limited to) racing thoughts, pressured speech, increased activity, the ability to stay up for several nights in a row without feeling tired, irritability, lack of good judgment (for instance, going on shopping sprees when one doesn't have the money) and unrealistic beliefs in one's abilities and powers. Symptoms of the depressive side of bipolar disorder include loss of interest or pleasure in activities once enjoyed, a distinctly low or irritable mood, change in appetite and sleep patterns, fatigue, and thoughts of suicide. Alas, many people with bipolar disorder go untreated, and commit suicide as a result. Very sad.

It's been a real struggle for me in managing my disease at times. Some meds have not worked, so I've had to try a bunch of them 'till something clicked. This getting the meds right can be really frustrating, to say the least. However, I'm working closely with my shrink 'till something clicks. Even though I'm on various meds, I still experience depression now and then, though not as severe before my first hospitalization. And when I've have bad days, I wonder "why me? When will this end?"

I recently had a second hospitalization in August because I had a bad reaction to one of my meds, and also had a manic episode. I was in there for almost two weeks, but received excellent care. Now that I'm home, the challenge has been to start all over again. I must admit it's been hard. I've had some days where I've just been really depressed, and wondering if the depression would ever end (it does). I also had to put my beloved cat, Captain Jack, 17 years old, to sleep about a month before my second breakdown. That was so hard to do, and I didn't think that I could survive the pain. However, I've been journaling about all of this pain and loss, and believe me, it has helped tremendously.

I've also had the help and support of family and friends, and I don't know what I'd do without them. It's especially important for bipolar folks to get support, whether through family/friends, church, or a bipolar support group. I attend one bipolar support group twice a month, and it's been a lifesaver. Being amongst folks who know what I'm going through is wonderful—and it makes me feel like I'm not alone. One awful symptom of bipolar is isolation. The person often feels lonely, like nobody else knows what they are going through. So they oftentimes do not seek support, which is very crucial to their recovery.

What I've come to realize is that my goal is to speak out about this disease, and write about it, especially because I want to educate folks about the facts. Many people still do not know about bipolar disease. Or, if they do, they're not educated about the facts enough. They think that the raving bum on the street with torn clothes is the typical mentally ill person. Wrong! While it may be true that the poor soul yells on the street (because he's often mentally ill and not on the correct medications), he is not indicative of the typical bipolar person. Hollywood and some novels love to make fun of street people and other mentally ill folks. They don't care about the facts! The truth is that the majority of bipolar folks work, travel, write, have family and friends... In short, they lead active lives.

It's important for the bipolar person to engage in activities that are enjoyable. My saving grace is N3F, running the Birthday Bureau, hanging out with friends and walking. Oops! Can't forget reading books! When my mind is racing, or I'm depressed, picking up a good book is a very helpful tool. Of course, the majority of those novels are sci-fi—what else?! I'm currently reading a *Star Trek* novel with Sulu as captain of the *Excelsior*, and it's very interesting so far.

Thanks for letting me discuss an important subject. I will be very interested in what you have to say.

Rick Brooks

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Denise: My mother was the youngest of 11 kids (born in 1911, too). She always wanted a big family. She was pregnant 7 times, but only carried three of us to term. So statistically speaking, I'm

Sally Syrjala sent the following sfnal joke:

Once there was a mad scientist who worked by himself in his laboratory. He was so lonely that one day he decided to clone himself. Everything worked perfectly, except that the clone had a very foul mouth. The scientist worked with the clone, but, alas, he could not make the clone clean up his language. He got so tired of the clone's language that one day he pushed him off the end of a cliff.

A policeman rushed up to him, and yelled, "You're under arrest! You're under arrest!"

"What for?" the mad scientist asked.

And the policeman's answer was: "For making an obscene clone fall."

not here.

Sarah: Last issue was the X in Xmas actually being a greek chi. This time I'd like to pick on what appears to be a y in ye olde tea shoppe. Actually it is the old English letter Thorn which stood for th.

Ruth: Have you read anything by Phyllis A. Whitney? I read that she was born in Japan and her middle name is Ayame, Japanese for Iris.

Ginny: Good to see you again.

To all: My blood pressure slowly dropped for 7 weeks. Got down into the Pre-hypertension range. Then back up, back down, then up for the past three weeks. I seem to be stuck in hypertension.

I seem to have taken two of one kind of pill one morning over a month ago.

We have lived in this house for most of 51 years. Finally had to have the roof redone.

The cats don't like the noise.

I can't sleep in mornings any more.



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A Brief History of Science Fiction

Robert Sabella

Vito Marchese was born in the small fishing village of Porta Canôn in the province of Calabria in southern Italy. He loved his native soil, but was barely able to feed his family on the meager wages he earned as a carpenter. Wanting to make a better life for his family, he emigrated to America in 1896, bringing with him his wife Josephine and his children Antonio and Vincenzo.

After passing through Ellis Island, where Vito resisted efforts to "Americanise" his name, he and his family settled in West New York, New Jersey, a bustling town filled mostly with other immigrants from his beautiful Italia.

Vito had always loved books, and he found them much more plentiful in America than they had been in Calabria. So after working six months as

a carpenter, he took out a bank loan to buy the lease on a small bookshop.

It was a quaint little shop, nestled between a cigar store and a laundry, beneath the apartment where Vito lived with his family. The store had glass fronts and a small recessed entranceway. Inside the door a narrow aisle led between two walls packed from ceiling to floor with musty hardcover books. All their spines faced outward, showing titles by such great writers of antiquity as Dante, Boccaccio and Shakespeare, as well as such recent writers as Dickens, Tolstoy, and the American Twain.

But Vito's greatest love was the wondrous adventures of the Frenchman Jules Verne and the Englishman H.G. Wells. Their books were not crowded onto the high shelves, but in a beautiful teak book-

shelf Vito had built himself. It stood at the rear of the store, next to the counter. Its sides were decorated with gargoyles and demons, created with loving care by Vito's own calloused hands.

Nearly every customer who entered Vito's store was eventually attracted to the handmade bookshelf in the back. While they ran their fingers over the beautiful wood, Vito described all the universal truths contained in those books. How technology was shaping the future of humanity, making a better world for all people just as America was making a better life for so many paisanos.

The fervor of Vito's words moved many customers to buy a book from the shelf. The majority soon returned to buy more from it.

For twenty years Vito tended his bookshop. Always the long shelves reaching from ceiling to floor were filled with books, and customers frequently bought those items. But the little handmade shelf beside the counter provided the most sales. Vito could barely keep it full. As fast as he placed new books on it, another customer bought them. H.G. Wells. Jules Verne. Edgar Allan Poe. H. Rider Haggard. Frank Reade, Jr.

In 1912, Vito began stocking a cheap pulp magazine called **All-Story Weekly** on the little shelf. He had fallen in love with the magazine because of a serial called **Under the Moons of Mars** by a writer with the unlikely name of Normal Bean. The color! The exotic adventure! The wonder of it all!

Since Mr. Wells no longer wrote his wondrous stories, Vito encouraged his steady customers to buy **All-Story Weekly**. What wonders its pages contained! More adventures by Edgar Rice Burroughs, the writer behind Normal Bean. An exciting saga of the future called **Darkness and Dawn** by George Allan England. A catastrophe thriller called **The Second Deluge** by Garrett P. Serviss.

And then, in 1918, an eerie thriller excited Vito nearly as much as Burroughs' otherworldly adven-

tures had. It was called "The Moon Pool," by A. Merritt. It sent as many chills up Vito's spine the second and third times he read it as it had the first time. And soon thereafter came the sequel **The Conquest of the Moon Pool**.

In the 1920s, more magazines began printing the exciting fiction that excited Vito so loved. **Argosy-All Story**, a merging of his two favorite pulp magazines. **Weird Tales**, which published only Vito's favorite type of fiction. **Amazing Stories** printed exciting new adventures set in the far reaches of time and space. Writers such as E.E. Smith, Jack Williamson, and Edmond Hamilton became Vito's new favorites.

The fiction even had a name now. Scientifiction at first, soon afterwards changed to science fiction. Vito gushed his love to all his customers, many of whom fell under his spell. He sold more and more books and magazines, and attracted more and more regular customers.

Thursday nights became a regular meeting night at Vito's. Lovers of science fiction, all from the old country or sons of immigrants. They arrived around seven p.m., each bringing an offering for the group. A bottle of wine. A loaf of hard-crust bread. Salami. Mozzarella. Little pastries. Thursday nights became veritable feasts of culinary delights and soaring imaginations. Truly this was how life was meant to be lived.

Until that black day in Fall, 1929, when numerous lives crashed along with the stock market. Many of Vito's customers no longer had the money to afford books and magazines. Vito tried to keep the bookshop alive, but his income dwindled while his expenses remained high. The stress was too much for a sixty-year old heart to take. One night, while cleaning up his shop for the night, Vito had a heart attack. He died quietly two days later.

One of Vito's most faithful Thursday night participants had been fortunate enough not to be broken by the stock market crash. He knew a lot about selling

short, and somehow emerged from the stock market crash with considerably more money than he had previously. Enough money to quit working for the rest of his life. He would not be happy sitting idly at home though. So Adamo Micili bought Vito's bookshop from his creditors, and in 1930 re-opened it as *Adamo's Books*. The shop changed little from its former appearance. Still two ceiling-to-floor shelves lined the single aisle. And still Vito's hand-made bookshelf stood next to the counter, holding all the newest science fiction books and magazines.

The Thursday night gatherings continued as well. The only difference was that now Adamo provided all the refreshments. The nature of the group changed drastically too. Adults were too busy feeding their families to spend time on frivolities. In their place youngsters were drawn to Adamo's group. Their love of reading and sense of wonder soon burst into various activities. They wrote letters to their favorite magazines. One of them even produced a newsletter discussing recent events in science fiction. Which big name writers had published what new stories. What new magazines had emerged. What new editors had taken over the reigns of which old magazines.

In 1935, the Thursday night group gave themselves a name, the West New York Science Fictioneers. A year later it became merely the Science Fictioneers. They began the practice of inviting guest speakers to their meetings. Frank R. Paul came. So did F. Orlin Tremaine. John W. Campbell, Jr. came and dropped the bombshell that he was taking over the editorial reins of **Astounding**. The group was ecstatic. Campbell, under both his own name and that of Don A. Stuart, was one of the two best science fiction writers of the decade. The other was Stanley G. Weinbaum.

The Science Fictioneers' newsletter evolved into a fanzine, through which they contacted other local fans. Apparently a feud was taking place between two groups on both sides of the Hudson River. The Science Fictioneers declined to take sides in the feud. Hence they were fortunate enough to be

invited to attend the first World Science Fiction Convention in 1939. Frank R Paul was the Guest of Honor, and nearly ever major science fiction professional on the East Coast attended.

Their enthusiasm raised to a fever pitch, the Science Fictioneers continued inviting guest speakers to their meetings. Over the next few years they met the phenomenal A.E. Van Vogt, the debonair L. Sprague de Camp, the stately Robert A. Heinlein, the brash Isaac Asimov, the outspoken Lester del Rey.

Several wrote stories of their own, all of which they sent to John W. Campbell, Jr. He did not buy any of them, but did send long, detailed letters explaining why, and also how the stories could be improved. Most of the Science Fictioneers gave up their writing ambitions, but others persisted. Two were eventually published in semi-professional magazines edited by New York City fans Frederik Pohl and Donald A. Wollheim.

Then came World War 2. Along with many of the leading science fiction writers, the Science Fictioneers went off to war. Several never returned. Others were so disillusioned by war that they lost their sense of wonder entirely. Others matured and, in the rush to make careers for themselves, no longer had time for fannish activities.

But others continued to come. **Astounding** lost some of its excitement after the war, but that joy was soon renewed in such new magazines as **The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction** and **Galaxy**. New York fan Donald Wollheim began editing a major line of mass market paperback science fiction called **Ace Books**. So did Ian Ballantine with Ballantine Books. The 1950s were filled with an incredible variety of science fiction. Important books appeared by writers such as Theodore Sturgeon, Arthur C. Clarke, and John Wyndham. New writers appeared, many in back-to-back Ace Doubles. Philip K. Dick. Robert Silverberg. Walter M. Miller, Jr. James Blish. Jack Vance. Most of them made trips to West New York to speak to the

Science Fictioneers.

Then came the 1960s, an exciting time for the entire country. The Beatles' British pop music surpassed Elvis Presley's rock and roll in popularity. The Vietnam War divided the entire country, including the science fiction field.

And the "New Wave" came. The Science Fictioneers argued bitterly over it. Old-timers, including Adamo himself, thought it too pretentious, not wondrous enough. The youngsters in the group considered it better. "Now we have wonder and excitement side-by-side with characterization and eternal themes," one college student insisted. He was an English major, an area of study the old-timers could not understand. Twenty years ago their group had taken Physics and Engineering. English and science fiction? They seemed as incompatible as oil and water.

But still most of the group agreed on the talents of several new science fiction writers, and invited them to address the group. The shy Roger Zelasny ("He's a damned poet!" one member cried with joy). The outgoing Harlan Ellison. The bright Samuel R. Delany. The classy Robert Silverberg. The wise Ursula K Le Guin.

As the 1960s evolved into the 1970s, the excitement of the previous decade waned. The Vietnam War ended in defeat for America. The president of the United States was forced out of office, causing several Science Fictioneers to wonder how many prior scoundrels had escaped scot-free. But science fiction thrived, and the changes of the New Wave merged into the traditions of previous decades. Talented new writers kept visiting the Thursday Night group. George R.R. Martin. John Varley. Michael Bishop. C.J. Cherryh. Greg Benford. Gene Wolfe. There seemed to be no end in sight.

Until one fateful day in 1981 when one of the Science Fictioneers received a phone call from another

one. Adamo Miceli was dead. Word spread through the group rapidly, indeed through all of science fiction fandom. His son inherited the bookshop, but he wanted nothing to do with it. Unlike his father, Marco wanted nothing to do with books. He was an investment counselor, and a very successful one indeed. He put *Adamo's Books* up for sale. Several Science Fictioneers tried to pool their money to buy the shop, but the asking price was too high. They watched sadly as a developer bought it, and turned it into part of a strip of yuppie stores.

For several months they tried meeting at other locations. A local library. A church basement. But it was not the same, and gradually members drifted away.

Finally, only two members remained, meeting regularly in the living room of one of them. Both knew it was time to disband

"We have outlived our purpose," one said. "A bookstore devoted to science fiction is unnecessary when science fiction has been thoroughly absorbed by the mainstream."

"True," said the other. "Every book chain sells science fiction now."

"And what purpose is a group devoted to fanzines and visits from professional writer? Everybody discusses science fiction now. Our uniqueness is gone."

They sighed as the last meeting of the Science Fictioneers ended. Neither wanted the aging mimeo, so one of them dropped it off at a junkyard on his way home. When he reached his townhouse, he picked up a book to read. A new horror novel. But two pages into it, he got bored and turned on the television instead. Maybe something good was showing on **The Sci-Fi Channel**.

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National Fantasy Fan (N3F) Membership Application

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Name (Please Print): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Postal Code, Country: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Occupation: _____ Male: Female: Birthdate: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Please check your current SF/F related interests:

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> APAs | <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Artwork | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books | <input type="checkbox"/> Comics | <input type="checkbox"/> Computers | <input type="checkbox"/> Conventions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cartooning | <input type="checkbox"/> Editing | <input type="checkbox"/> Fanzines | <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collecting | <input type="checkbox"/> Games | <input type="checkbox"/> Publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Filksinging |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Movies | <input type="checkbox"/> Television | <input type="checkbox"/> Reviewing | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Round Robins | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Taping | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching SF |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (group letters) | <input type="checkbox"/> DVD/Video | <input type="checkbox"/> Online activities | |

Which would you prefer?:

The e-Fan in .pdf format sent to your email address? Or The Fan printed and mailed to you

How long have you been interested in science fiction and fantasy?: _____

How long have you been involved in fandom?: _____

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

List any conventions you've attended: _____

What prozines and fanzines do you read, if any?: _____

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

Who are your favorite SF/F authors: _____

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

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

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artwork | <input type="checkbox"/> Recruiting at Conventions | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing for club publications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Corresponding | <input type="checkbox"/> Publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Name of Sponsoring Member (if any): _____

Dues are \$18 per year (\$22 for Joint Memberships) which includes subscriptions to the club's fanzine as well as other activities and benefits. Make checks or money orders payable to William Center (the treasurer). **All payments must be made in U.S. funds.** Mail dues and application to club secretary Dennis Davis, 25549 Byron St., San Bernadino, CA 92404-6403.

Please allow 8 weeks for your first zine to arrive.

*Send all address corrections
And undeliverable copies to:*

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

