



The National **82** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 82 Number 2

February 2023

Short Story Contest Results

Results of the 2022 National Fantasy Fan Federation Amateur Short Story Contest!

The First Prize goes to “From Invention Springs Necessity” by Sean Jones. This is a “Dungeons and Dragons” style crypt crawl, with a locked chamber and a truly frightening adversary. There seems to be no hope for our intrepid band of adventurers. The solution is inventive and unexpected!

The Second Prize goes to “After the Siege” by Clint Stevenson. This is a military fantasy, with a small army trapped in a fortress by a larger army. Surrender is out of the question...or is it? How do you win when winning is impossible?

The Third Prize goes to “Book of Memories” by A.C. Cargill. A haunting little fable of remembering...and forgetting. What really matters: truth or our emotional attachment to it? Is remembering the same as reliving...or relieving?

The Honorable Mention goes to “The Candlestick Maker” by Guy Lillian. Here we have a Frankensteinian fable...or fairy tale...wherein a brilliant scientist tries to create perfection. The result is, inescapably, a tragedy.

There were fifty-five entries this year, the most in decades! The entries came to us from Sweden, Britain, Pakistan, Canada, and dozens of U.S. states. About a third of the stories were classical fantasy; about a third were avante-garde fantasy, of the “magical realism” school; and the remaining third were classical science fiction.

Late in the year, one of the contestants wrote to ask that her stories be withdrawn from consideration for the contest. This, of course, was sad to hear...but the reason for it is delightful: the author had sold a number of stories professionally, and was no longer eligible for our “amateur” short story contest! I hope that many more of our contestants succeed and make a name for themselves, moving onward and upward in a challenging and competitive literary world!

The stories were all -- every single one! -- clever and inventive and imaginative. The art of creativity is strong in this collection, and the ideas are stunningly original and novel. The presentation is good throughout all the entries, with a lot of very polished prose and very fluent dialogue. The emotional tones ran the gamut from horror, tragedy, and sorrow to laughter, love, hope, and redemption. The stories are about fascinating protagonists in astonishing circumstances. The classical “Sense of Wonder” is rich in all of these stories, and it is reas-

suring for those of us who love to read that the future is assured a rich, vibrant, and energetic cadre of writers who will sit with us and tell us stories. It is an honor to select the winners of this contest, but for those who did not win a prize, take heart: your stories are beloved, and you are all triumphant in your creativity. ... Jefferson Swycaffer

Director's Viewpoint — Judy Carroll

Several years ago I joined the N3F. Some of my family members were involved, and since I like science fiction, I thought I would give it a try. It was fantastic! I was involved in several bureaus, Round Robin, Correspondence and Writers Exchange, plus others. I had a grand time, but my life rolled in a different direction and I gradually faded from the N3F.

I rejoined in June, 2015 and have been active ever since. This time, one of the first things I noticed was the lack of member participation in many of the bureaus. Most of the bureaus still exist, but they are not “seen” very often. There might be a small paragraph here or a word or two there in a Letter of Comment in TNFF.

I think, perhaps, today we are so used to cell phones, computers, Zoom meetings etc. that we don't stop to think about the fulfillment the past had for us. I'm not saying we should go back to the “dark ages” when TV was in black and white and a computer took up the space of a small house. I suggest we mentally and physically relax and think of all the peaceful and fulfilling times we have had getting where we are today. (Note: I said peaceful and fulfilling times. Not all our disappointments and rough times.)

What has this got to do with the Director's Viewpoint? Well, this Director would like to have feedback from our members. I would like to know what we can do to make your N3F experience as fulfilling and pleasant as a walk on a spring day or the satisfaction of a good book.

If you have an idea for a new bureau, let me know. If you think of something you feel we can improve on, let me know. If you think we are doing a good job, let me know..

I will take your concerns to the N3F President and the Directors.

You can send your thoughts to me by email or postal mail.

Judy Carroll - blueshadows2012@gmail.com
or Judy Carroll - 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT.

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 Continued Next Column, Middle

N3F Laureate Awards

We asked for opinions on N3F Laureate Award categories. None were received. We will therefore stay with last year's categories, which were:

Best Fan Writer
 Best Fan Artist
 Best Fan Editor
 Best Fan Web Site
 Best Non-N3F Fan Publication (electronic publication is allowed)
 Best N3F Fanzine

Your Volunteer Team

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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 Kevin Trainor, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049. Pay online at N3F.org. Our PayPal contact is treasurer@n3f.org Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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 George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609, phillies@4liberty.net The submission deadline for each issue is the 15th of the month.

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Best Novel (over 100,000 words)
 Best Shorter Work (under 100,000 words) or Anthology
 Best Animation (anime/cartoon)
 Best Manga/Comic Book/Graphic Novel
 Best Book Editor
 Best Pro Artist, cover or otherwise
 Best Television Show, Film, or Video
 Best Literary-Critical Work
 Best Historical Work
 Best None of the Above

Please send your nominations to George Phillis, phillies @4liberty.net, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609 by next month. You may nominate up to two entries in each category. "None of the Above" is intended for excellent fannish actions or objects that do not fit in any of the other categories.

Ray Nelson Remembrance

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.,
 N3F Historian

Radell Faraday Nelson was born on October 3, 1931 in Schenectady, New York, the son of Walter Hughes Nelson and Marie Reed Nelson. He briefly attended The University of Chicago, studying theology, and then married Perdita Lilly, a fellow science fiction (SF) fan, and his second wife.

Ray was a SF fan as a teenager, living in Cadillac, Michigan, who published cartoons at an early age. He later became a professional author and wrote several books, including his first novel, *The Ganymede Takeover* in 1967 (co-authored with Philip K. Dick). Other Nelson SF novels were *The Ecolog*, *Then Beggars Could Ride*, and *TimeQuest*; he also wrote an historical mystery, *Dog-Headed Death*. He was presented a Philip K. Dick Award, Special Citation, in 1982, for his novel *The Prometheus Man*. In addition, he wrote four "sex" novels under a pseudonym.

He is known by many today for his 1963 short story "Eight O'Clock in the Morning," which was later used by John Carpenter as the basis for the 1988 movie *They Live*.

He married Kirsten Enge in 1957 in Paris, France -- where their son, Walter Trygve Nelson, was born in 1958. While living in Paris he met many of the icons of *The Beat Generation*.

Ray belonged to several genre organizations, including the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F), the Golden Gate Futurians, the Detroit S-Fantasy League, SAPS, Little Men, ISSFS; and he believed he was the last surviving member of Claude Degler's famed Cosmic Circle. For years he was a member of the Carboniferous Amateur Press Alliance (CAPA), and spoke of the other members, including yours truly, as "his people." The titles he used for his CAPA contributions included "Beret," "Cafe Boheme," "L'il Poo," "Ray Nelson's Existential Eye," and "Raven," among others.

Ray published the fanzines *Universe* and *Stupefying Stories* (1950), and wrote and did cartoons for many other fanzines over the years.

He is credited in SF fandom with originating the beanie with a propeller on top as a fan symbol.

His son Walter, a professional web designer, created a website on the Internet that describes his father and his work. This site is still active.

Ray used several pseudonyms in his work, including R. Faraday Nelson, Ray Faraday Nelson, Frank Amitage, Jeffrey Lord, R. F. Nelson, California Ray, and the Old Beatnik.

When he died on November 29, 2022, he was living in El Cerrito, California with his fourth wife, Dr. Helene Knox, a Fulbright scholar and poet. During his later years, Ray also wrote a lot of poetry.

His last publications appeared in First Fandom's 2022 annual, *First Fanthology*.

Ray was a member of First Fandom, and was voted into the First Fandom Hall of Fame in 2019.

In 2006 he rejoined the N3F.

He will be missed by all who knew him.

Birthday Bureau

Only one card needed in January 2023. — Denise Fisk

Postal Mail Round Robin

The Worldwide Folklore RR should be starting soon. The RM had a setback and will be contacting members shortly.

If you have any questions about this RR, or wish to join, please contact me by email, if possible, or by postal mail. My email and postal address are at the bottom of this article. If anyone is interested in starting a new RR, please contact me. I will put the information in the next TNFF as "seeking more members."

New RR Seeking Members.

Xena and Other Strong Women in Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror and the Apocalypse. If interested, please contact me.

Netflix Streaming Round Robins

Yea!!!! I have a member who would like to go on a new adventure and join the Netflix Streaming RR. Of the 3 choices available he has chosen - Travelers. We need at least one more member to join us, before we can start this experiment.

I have Netflix Streaming. I am curious as to whether N3F members, who also have this, would like to try a new version of the Round Robin. We need at least two members plus the Robin Master. I will be the RM for this experiment. The Netflix Streaming Round Robins would work like this (I hope).

1 - A member chooses the series he/she wishes to watch. Following are three series to choose from:

Travelers - 3 seasons - series completed

Stranger Things - 4 seasons - on-going

Raising Dion - 2 seasons -on-going

2 - When they have decided which series they wish to watch they contact me and I will tell them whether there are enough members to begin the RR

3- When there are 2 members, and the Robin Master, the RR will begin.

4 - The Robin Master (RM) will email the Netflix Streaming Round Robin (NSRR) members with a schedule. Right now, I am thinking, one or two episodes a week. (The members will help decide the weekly frequency.)

5 - Once the required episodes for that week have been viewed, that member will email each member in that RR with their comments. At the top of the email the episodes viewed should be listed.

6 - Repeat steps 4 & 5 each week until the series ends. Please contact me if you are willing to try this experiment..

Contact: Judy Carroll, 971 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660 OR Email : blueshadows2012@gmail.com

Welcome to the Writers Exchange!

This month I am asking readers what they want to read in the Writers Exchange. What are you looking for? Do you want interviews with N3F authors? Do you have science fiction, fantasy or horror authors you would like to learn about? Do you have something you would like to contribute or talk about? Please let me know what would interest you.

Following is the reading prompt from last month's article. Feel free to contribute, if you like.

A six year old family member and I like to do the following: One of us picks three items, people, or animals.. Let me make it clearer. The six year old said, cat, tree, broom. I have to make up a story using those three words. After telling my story, I give her three things, such as butterfly, haunted house and old lady. Then she tells me a story. It's a lot of fun. We have been doing it for about two years now.

Here is your writing exercise. Below are three sets of words. Pick one of the sets and write a brief story using these words.

Set 1 - bird, tree, fireplace.

Set 2 - fish, snow, wagon

Set 3 - dog, rain, collar

Your stories will be in the Writers Exchange for March. The above writing exercise is not as difficult as you may think.

If you have a story you would like read, please contact me, and I will check with our readers to see who is available. I will contact you with the name and email address of your reader. Please do not contact a reader unless I have assigned that reader to you. Occasionally we get several short stories at the same time and I don't want any of our readers getting "reading overload." 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 OR if you prefer postal mail, Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

Welcommittee

We would like to welcome four new members to the N3F, Jean-Paul Garnier, Krystal Rains, A.C. Cargill and Jeff Copeland. May your stay be long and enjoyable.

The following members have renewed their memberships: Wesley Kawato, Michael McLain, and Matthew Weintendor.

Being active is the most fulfilling way to enjoy being a member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Please read the current TNFF for a list of the many activities and bureaus you can join. If you find a bureau or activity you are interested in, please contact the head of the bureau or activity for more information. 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. When possible, those members with email addresses are also sent attachments to the current TNFF and other publications the N3F has to offer.:

If you have questions about the N3F or are interested in helping with the Welcommittee, please contact:

Judy Carroll at BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
or 975 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

Some people are getting interested in the bureau, probably due to George Phillies. I've been getting work for Ionisphere and more attention. Presently it involves coordination between fans and pros, so it is doing that coordination, but there is no visible presence of it in IO, and I am trying to alter the presentation accordingly, so that our work will show.—John Thiel

History and Research Bureau

It may have been noticed that I am trying to make this bureau into a friendlier one, so that it will have more of a club spirit. The bureau was originally intended to be friendly to newcomers and to educate them in what things were all about. History is similarly educational, and research is a gathering and dissemination of information, also instructive. We want to mix in with the N3F more.—John Thiel

N3F Tape and Video Bureaus

Consulting with Cathode Ray and referring to back issues of the Tape Bureau's now-defunct newsletter Replay, we've decided to offer a series of online programming through the N3F Tape and Video bureaus. There will be three programming tracks available, focusing on old-time radio; sf, fantasy, and horror movies; and other assorted fandom-related films and videos. All events will be held online. Check the N3F Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/n3flist>) for event listings as available. Or stop by the N3F Theatre (<https://tinyurl.com/N3F-Theatre>) at the times below to join in on a given event.

We welcome Neffers' ideas for future listening sessions and screenings. [Feel free to comment on Facebook or email](#)

Heath Row at kalel@well.com with requests and recommendations.

Third Thursday Old-Time Radio

All Third Thursday listening sessions will be held at 4 p.m. PT

Feb. 16, 2023: Dimension X—"Courtesy" (7/26/1951) and "Vital Factor" (8/16/1951)

March 16, 2023: Dimension X—"First Contact (9/8/1951) and "Nightfall" (9/29/1951)

April 20, 2023: X Minus One—"Cold Equations" (8/25/1955) and "Requiem" (10/27/1955)

May 18, 2023: X Minus One—"Marionettes Inc." (12/21/1955) and "The Sense of Wonder" (4/24/1956)

June 15, 2023: 2000 Plus—"When Worlds Met" (5/3/1950) and "The Robot Killer" (1950)

July 20, 2023: Arch Oboler's Plays—"The Truth" (1/13/1940) and "Rocket from Manhattan" (9/29/1945)

Aug. 17, 2023: Suspense—"Donovan's Brain, Part 1" (5/18/1944) and "Donovan's Brain, Part 2" (5/25/1944)

Sept. 21, 2023: CBS Radio Workshop—"Brave New World, Part 1" (1/27/1956) and "Brave New World, Part 2" (2/3/1956)

First Friday Shorts and Sundries

All First Friday screenings will be held at 4 p.m. PT.

March 3, 2023: About an hour program featuring nine sf-oriented animated shorts.

April 7, 2023: Three fan films—"Faans," "The Genie," and "Ghostbastards"

May 5, 2023: About an hour program of sf Super 8 reels

June 2, 2023: About an hour program of Mike Jittlov animations, short films, and ephemera

July 7, 2023: About an hour program of undead-related Super 8 reels

Aug. 4, 2023: William Shatner's Star Trek Memories

Sept. 1, 2023: About an hour program of fantasy and horror Super 8 reels

Second Saturday Film Screenings

All Second Saturday screenings will be held at 7 p.m. PT

March 11, 2023: The Lost World (1925)

April 8, 2023: Frankenstein (1910), The Magic Cloak of Oz (1914), and The Portrait (1915)

May 13, 2023: Things to Come (1936)

June 10, 2023: The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1920)

July 8, 2023: Lost Continent (1951)

Aug. 12, 2023: Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1920)

Sept. 9, 2023: Unknown World (1951)

Screening and listening sessions might be featured on the N3F Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/n3flist>) as events. All will occur in the N3F Theatre (<https://tinyurl.com/N3F-Theatre>).

Correspondence Bureau

Want to make new friends?

Want to discuss the latest book by your favorite author?

Want to debate the merits of soft science fiction vs hard science fiction?

Then you have come to the right place.

If You wish to join you need to do the following:

1. Send me your name and either email address OR postal address,
2. If you wish to correspond with a member already listed with the Correspondence Bureau include their name.
3. If you have a postal address and wish to correspond with someone listed "by email" let me know and I will contact them. I will let you know their reply.

Depending on your preference you will receive an email or postal mail with the contact information of the person or persons you wish to contact, and they will receive your contact information.

Following are the names, and interests of members seeking correspondence:

Jeffrey Redmond - by Email

I am an old Star Trek of the original television show days. I enjoy both Fantasy and Science Fiction. My favorite author is me with my Chronicles of Erda fantasy fiction books. My hobbies include reading, writing, watching TV, and meeting with friends. I have books and memorabilia collections, and try to keep up with my cat

John Thiel - by Email

I am interested in things I haven't seen much that have something about them that gives me a feeling of looking for more about them. Magazines which have interested me have been The Readers Digest, Future Science Fiction, Space Stories, Jack and Jill Magazine, Startling Stories and Thrilling Wonder Stories, Arizona Highways and others; Television shows that have interested me have been Tales of Tomorrow, The Sid Caesar show, Roy Rogers, Sky King, Masterpiece Theater; interesting books have been the mysteries of Mary Roberts Rinehart, Groff Conklin's anthologies, Tales of the Supernatural, the writings of Sigmund Freud, the life of Françoise Villon, The Big Push by Mickey Spillane, Theodore Sturgeon's books, Leo Margules' anthologies, Peyton Place; Movies of interest were the Voyages of Ulysses, The Life of Omar Khayyam, The House of Wax, Kiss Me Deadly; comics of interest were Dick Tracy, Little Orphan Annie, King Aroo; radio shows, Sky King, Boston Blackie, Marty Faye. Interesting places, Venice, California, the Florida Everglades, Valparaiso, Indian

Steve Confrey - By Email - New Member

Favorite genres: science fiction and fantasy, also some true crime and historical fiction. I particularly enjoy military and post-apocalyptic science fiction (but not of the "retired Navy SEAL who just happens to own a ranch in Montana bugs out amid a rampaging zombie horde that's totally not a proxy for societal undesirables" variety of apocalypse).

Favorite authors: Like many others, I cut my teeth on Robert Heinlein, Ray Bradbury, and Isaac Asimov. I also enjoy Robert E. Howard, Octavia Butler, Andre Norton, Anne McCaffrey, and Frederik Pohl. Among writers who are still alive and active today, I like Harry Turtledove, Larry Niven, Robert Sawyer, David Weber, and S. M. Stirling.

Movies and TV shows: Star Trek , Babylon 5, Star Wars, Doctor Who, Aliens, Blade Runner, Conan the Barbarian (1980).

I do like to write, but haven't worked up the nerve to publish something. Maybe getting more involved here will help me get to that point (I hope!)

Outside of fandom, I am active in my local astronomy club. I edit their newsletter and occasionally do outreach activities. I also volunteer at my church. Most of all, my wife, two kids (ages 16 and 12), and a fluctuating menagerie of house pets.

Collections: I had a pretty sizable collection of books, games, and memorabilia that unfortunately was a casualty of the 2019 Missouri River flooding. I am currently rebuilding. My home office is heavily inspired by Forry Ackerman's Ackermansion, but at a much smaller scale (for the time being)

Mick Taylor - By Postal Mail - New Member

I am a somewhat marginal fan in that although I have been reading Science Fiction and Fantasy all my life, I have never been to a convention and it's been quite a while since I did a zine.

I love the old weird pulp writers - H.P. Lovecraft, Clark Ashton Smith, Robert E. Howard and that era. Of the more modern authors I enjoy Tim Powers, James Blaylock, Paolo Bacigalupi, William Gibson. I do like discovering new authors too.

Apart from reading, I also like to collect paper stuff - stamps, covers, QSL cards, that sort of thing. For work, I manage an IT department at a teaching hospital in Portland, Oregon.

Judy Carroll - By Email and Postal Mail

My favorite genres are Science Fiction and Murder Mysteries.

My favorite authors are Shirley Jackson, Ray Bradbury, Dean Koontz, and Julie E. Czerneda.

I like to write short stories and poems.

I love being around young children. Their laughter, happiness, and excitement are contagious.

Send email requests to : Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com Send postal mail requests to: Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

Letters of Comment

Dear Neffers:

I can't believe I've let this go for three issues...actually, I can, given what I have been doing with editorial work. I edited another D.J. Holmes' Empire Rising book, plus I am learning all about managing Amazing Stories. Add to that going in to my occasional office job, and it has been crazy time. Time to get caught up. I have the November, December and January issues of The National Fantasy Fan.

Vol. 81, No. 11... I have been to Las Vegas for a Corflu convention many years ago, so an N3F convention there would be some fun. I only wish I could make it there, knowing I simply can't, but have it someplace more can afford to be there.

There's quite the range of hotels that aren't super expensive. Ah, the Plaza was where Corflu was, too, way back in 2008.

I seem to remember seeing some of the old Jet comics a long time ago, but I never really did collect comics.

Vol. 81, No. 12... yes, election time. We have all lost busy members of our fandom, and some true characters. I am going to make the assumption that the elections went well, seeing I haven't gotten to the January issue just yet.

New Year's? I make no resolutions, because I am more than likely to break them within days. Who needs that stress and guilt? Not me. My new responsibilities make me just say that I will continue on with what I have, and see if I can get it done.

And there I am on page 7. There is a lot of work to do, and a lot to learn, but I would like to think that we are doing what we can with what we have. Our Kickstarter did not work, so the next issue has been postponed. Yet, we are publishing brand new fiction on the Amazing Stories website, and as editor-in-chief, it is my job to keep looking at our submissions website, find stories for me and our team of slush readers to have a look at, and make sure we have an excellent story to put on the website every week. And there I am again, right after, my loc for the October issue. Life has certainly become interesting.

Buck Rogers on the radio...I have never heard any of that, but I suspect I would go to the massive OTR website to get the episodes, as well as the Buck Rogers website. I wish there was some sort of return to radio drama, but it seems completely gone.

Vol. 82, No. 1...yes, looks like the election went off without a hitch, and the candidates with the experience were voted in to get more experience. Looks like Heath Row is keeping exceedingly busy with the N3F and LASFS. Hey, Heath, I remember getting fanzines from Los Angeles long ago...have you thought of starting up a LASFS fanzine? Looks like you have lots to do right now, but another fanzine would be great, another anachronism in today's fandom.

I must get my Wayback Machine humming once again to see who I might vote for in the upcoming FAAn Awards. There's always something these days to take my attentions away from these things, but I do plan to vote.

My eyes are rapidly closing beyond my control to keep them open, so I think I must wrap up this loc before I fall asleep at the keyboard. I will try my best to be a better correspondent in this New Year, and we will see you again later on in it.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Editor;

While I have no problem with John Coker shilling for FAAn award votes for the First Fandom annual in the January TNFF, it would have been rather more in the spirit if he had specified that the 'Special Publication' category was just one among seven and encouraging his supporters to vote for his efforts as part of an entire ballot (and, of course, to actually read and contemplate the award procedure). I'll inevitably have more to say about this in the February issue (#62) of This Here... I should also point out that the voting period does not end "soon" - ballots are accepted until March 10.

As is also the case, I feel bound to correct the statement that work, or individuals get "nominated". The FAAns are a free vote with the only stricture being that work should be first

published in the prior calendar year which, in the 'Special Publication' category, includes compilations of older material. The Incomplete Register is published as a voters' guide and not as a list of "eligible" work - a descriptor I do try to avoid, preferring "qualifying". I will, however, continue to thank faneds and organizations, including N3F, who help with awareness, as long as they get it right...

Nic Farey

Editor::

This is a letter of comment on the January 2023 issue of The National Fantasy Fan. It's always a joy to receive The Fan in my mailbox, and I remain glad that it's mailed in print to members. What an awesome benefit of membership.

Thank you for updating the election results for the directorate. Congratulations, again, on your re-election as president, and to the five Neffers who were elected or re-elected to the directorate—including myself! I look forward to seeing who steps forward as chair and what business we undertake in the year to come.

In This Here... #61, there's an interesting exchange between Bob Jennings and Nic Farey about the N3F, and Jennings offers some advice that's of use even to us Neffers: "If you think the club isn't functioning properly, then get involved and do something to make it better..." Hear! Hear! The N3F is what we make it, and it's good to see members engaged in fandom outside our halls and walls.

In the spirit of exploring more of what the N3F has to offer I entered the short story contest for the first time this year, after drawing on the support of the Writers Exchange Bureau. While I did not win—I'm sure I fell far short—Jefferson Swycaffer's feedback was helpful, as was the input of the Writers Exchange. I enjoyed the experience and will consider taking advantage of both as I continue to explore writing fiction. As in previous issues, the bureau's prompt-driven writing exercise this month is intriguing, and I shall see what I can make of it.

Angela K. Scott's piece of art, "Sight of the Unicorn," was intriguing, especially because the unicorn wasn't the primary focus of the artwork—and that alluring redhead wasn't actually looking at the mythical beast! Regardless, it's a wonderful study in color, which reproduced relatively well for printing. Wait a minute... hold the phone! While the tear almost gets lost in the printed edition, the colors in the PDF—and the meaning of the piece—are much more clear. How delightful. The tear adds a layer of meaning I missed initially.

Personally, I think Judy Carroll's idea for the Netflix Streaming Round Robin is an excellent innovation. I've emailed her separately, and I'd like to raise my hand to watch Travelers. I've never seen the program before, but the description I read online sounds promising. Not only does the show focus on time travel, but it seems to build on some of the ideas explored in Quantum Leap. At least there's more people involved in the, well... travel. (On that note, I recently read Tim Powers' short story "Salvage and Demolition." Now there's a story about time travel!)

The Correspondence Bureau also seems to be promising, with a handful of participants now stepping up, including new members Steve Comfrey, whom I've also recently

encountered through the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (Hi, Steve!), and Mick Taylor, whose name is familiar to me from the early- to mid-2010s—including the old Babylon 5 and time travel round robins! Good to see you're still kicking around, Mr. Taylor; perhaps I can interest you in the Travelers email round robin? Also, building on my remark about Powers above, I've sent you some commentary I published in a recent apazine via email.

Finally, Jon D. Swartz's "Science Fiction on Radio: Flash Gordon" showcased an old-time radio show that might also be worth exploring together. Are there any Neffers who'd be interested in an OTR email round robin in which we listen to the same OTR shows and share comments? There's a number of episodes we could choose from available for free online at <https://tinyurl.com/Flash-OTR>. The comic strip continues to this day, with Sundays by Jim Keefe available via Comics Kingdom at <https://comicskingdom.com/flash-gordon>.

And an idea for The Fan: While each issue offers a lot of opportunities for members to get involved, I'd welcome more examples of the resulting activity—similar to Carroll's publication of Neffers' writing in response to prompts. Given the increasing options for round robins, it might be fun and helpful to publish some of the resulting discussion in an edited form—to share that content with other members... and perhaps draw even more people into the conversation. I know that if an OTR round robin kicks off, I'd readily offer whatever I wrote for others.

Gosh, it's fun to be a fan. Putting it on a tight beam,
Heath Row

Justin, We Hardly Knew You

By John Hertz



Justin Edwin Anton Busch (1959-2022) left for After-Fandom in October 2022, on the first day of Corflu XXXIX (a fanziners' convention usually held in the Spring, most recently Oct. 21-23, 2022). He had been living in St. Paul, Minn., and was a member of Stipple-Apa. His own fanzines were Far Journeys and Dreams Renewed. Active in the National Fantasy Fan

Federation, Busch contributed a monthly fanzine review column titled “Fanfaronade” to FanActivity Gazette and edited Films Fantastic. The First Fandom organization had just given him a Merit Award, which it does not present often.

He had two books published by McFarland, *The Utopian Vision of H.G. Wells* (2009) and *Self and Society in the Films of Robert Wise* (2010). Wise directed *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (1951) and the first *Star Trek* movie (1979). The publisher and titles might suggest academia: A good inference; Busch had a Ph.D. in philosophy from Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada).

He was also a composer. A 2008 audio compact disc from TraumSpiel includes Busch’s “Destiny and Desire,” “Consent,” “Meditations,” and “Obsessions,” as well as works by Anton Rubinstein (1829-1894). Its notes say that Busch’s

compositions ... have been performed internationally ... a chamber opera, two sinfoniettas ... six string quartets ... works for choral ensembles, and dozens of songs and piano solos. Several dance and theatre groups have commissioned him to create new music for their productions. He is a past prizewinner of composition contests held by the Anchorage Flute Society and *Zeitgeist*, a St. Paul, Minnesota, new music ensemble... [Wine columns in two separate independent magazines ... writings on music, film, and philosophical topics [in] *The Clarinet* (U.S.), *Wagner* (U.K.), *CineAction* (Canada [“The Centre Cannot Hold: Betrayals in Alfred Hitchcock’s *Topaz*”, #66, 2005]), and *Aspekt* (Slovakia)... [fiction in *Hooligan Follies* and *Challenging Destiny* [“In the Sight of Eternity”, #12, April 2001].

About himself, Busch wrote (William Breiding’s *Portable Storage 5*, pp. 6-7):

I’ve been fascinated by the fact of print for pretty nearly as long as I have memories... [pleasure in the tactility of books... Before I was ten I’d read *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, *Lord of the Rings*, *Catch-22*, *The Scarlet Letter*, and *War of the Worlds*... I read Sam Moskowitz’s *The Immortal Storm* before 1974. I didn’t know about Harry Warner’s fan history books until years later. I attended *Discon II* [the 32nd World Science Fiction Convention]... Practically every SF book or story before *Star Wars* is obscure to modern fans. The idea of doing [Dreams Renewed] as miniature pamphlets was inspired by Jack Speer’s fanzine *A*, although I needed a bit more space than [his] 1×1.5 inch size.

About his use of “Fanfaronade”, he wrote in the November 2021 *Fanactivity Gazette*:

So far as I can ascertain, the first person to use the title was Jeff Wanshel ... three issues ... #1, dated 1960; #2, dated April 1961; #3, dated July 1961... Terry Carr attached it to a single column, “Fanzine Fanfaronade,” in the April 1964 issue of *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*... Carol Kennedy’s column, “Fanfaronade” ... ran in *Mnsth’s clubzine Rune* from issue 51 (1978) to issue 61 (1980)... In ... *Rune* 61 [she wrote,] “I prefer to live in a world in which people draw the lines they think are beautiful, rather than a world in which everyone draws the lines I think are beautiful.” Further comment would be otiose.

Here are some of his notes on fanzines:

Banana Wings

Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer, 59 Shirley Road, Croydon CR0 7ES, England, U.K. “Fanfaronade” 17, *FanActivity Gazette* (December 2021)

[Each issue begins with a widely ranging article, “Roadrunner”, by Mark Plummer... [smoothly and engagingly written... [A] similarly expansive essay by Claire Brialey... [Readers supply, in the guise of letters, their own essays, some quite extensive ... edited [but] given plenty of room to develop their ideas, arguments, memories, and associations... The result, as so often is the case with extensive lettercols like this, is greater than the sum of its parts

Beam

Nic Farey and Ulrika O’Brien; Farey, 2657 Rungsted St., Las Vegas, NV 89142; fancynic@gmail.com; O’Brien, 418 Hazel Ave. N., Kent, WA 98030; ulrika.obrien@gmail.com. Available at <https://efanzines.com>. “Fanfaronade” 25, *FanActivity Gazette* (September 2022)

[Another of the worthy successors to Bill Bowers’s renowned *Outworlds*: a substantial zine ... presenting an extensive mix of personal, fannish, and SerCon essays, capped ... with a zestful lettercol ... art and photographs ([which] would, in decades past, [have] been a bountiful harvest of fillos from a wide range of artists)... What appears to be the conclusion [of an essay by O’Brien in *Beam* #16] is nothing of the sort; general discussion of scientific principles and their application suddenly, seamlessly, becomes a deeply personal account of the process necessary for *Beam* itself to exist... [depicted beautifully and with unexpected touches of humor... “Be ready to change your mind... You can practice ... by regularly considering ideas you disagree with.”

Christian*New Age Quarterly

Catherine Groves, P.O. Box 276, Clifton, NJ 07015. Four issues “and plenty of extras” for US\$12.50. “Fanfaronade” 22, *FanActivity Gazette* (May 2022)

[A] zine, edited by one person for decades, with what appears to be a limited focus... [But] despite the specificity of the zine’s remit, and the often personal foundation of the articles, it somehow manages to provide (that is, its editor insists upon) essays upon a wide range of often unexpected topics [and] critical yet generous letters of comment...

Tommyworld

Tommy Ferguson, 85125 Haypark Ave, Belfast BT7 3FG, Northern Ireland, U.K; <http://tommyworld.net>. “Fanfaronade” 11, *Nameless News* (June 2021); “Fanfaronade” 14, *FanActivity Gazette* (September 2021); “Fanfaronade” 18, *FanActivity Gazette* (January 2022)

In just four pages [*Tommyworld* #84 (May 2021)] the heartfelt tributes to [Paul] Campbell [1949-2021] bring him to life vividly and touchingly. If you care about fan history, and you should, you will enjoy... This [#87] is normally a two-pager; it says much for its loyal audience that the lettercol issue this time around needs four pages, and could easily have *been*

four pages longer still (seven letters; eleven WAHFs)... . [The whole lettercol is so energetic... . [This is a publication well worth investigating... . Ferguson ... revealed that he “has a tattoo of Lenin on his person” (he didn’t say where)... . Chatty, pleasant, and very fannish: if you’re a fan of fannishness, pluck this one.

Vanamonde

John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St. #409, Los Angeles, CA 90057. “Fanfaronade” 14, FanActivity Gazette (September 2021); “Fanfaronade” 19, FanActivity Gazette (February 2022); “Fanfaronade” 25, FanActivity Gazette (September 2022)

[A] ... cabinet of wonders, with Hertz as the cheerful proprietor... . [A] terse but informative account of the high points... . [One of the most efficient writers in fandom... . Hertz is ... aware of context, and takes ... pleasure in making ... connections... . [Genial, amusing, and educational... . [Ranges over topics fannish and mundane, usually several per issue, in his urbane and often witty prose.

Requiescat in pace.

End notes: Singing “Johnny, we hardly knew you” about Justin is due to Jerry Kaufman. Corflu = mimeograph correction fluid, once indispensable; First Fandom = those active at least as early as 1936, or maybe the first World Science Fiction Convention in 1939, also a club in their honor founded in 1953; fillos = fill-in illustrations (or other drawings); lettercol = letter column; Mnstf = The Minnesota Science Fiction Society; stf (pronounced “stef”) from Hugo Gernsback’s word “scientifiction”; SerCon = serious and constructive (sometimes a compliment); Stipple-Apa, an amateur press association based in Minneapolis and St. Paul; WAHF = we also heard from (correspondents whose letters weren’t printed).

This memorial appreciation previously appeared in slightly different form in File 770 (Nov. 25, 2022) and Vanamonde #1520 and is reproduced with permission.

SerCon

Science Fiction on Radio: Dimension X By Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D. N3F Historian

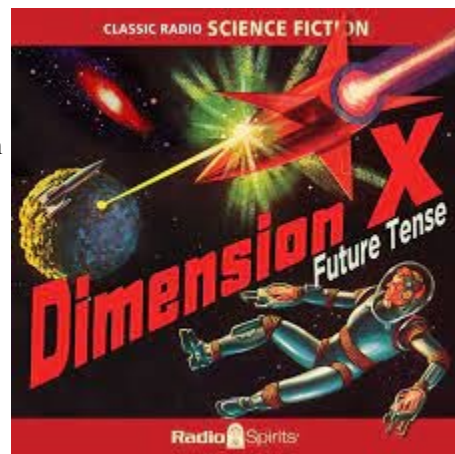
Dimension X is considered to be the first important adult science fiction (SF) program on national radio. Before Dimension X, only one other adult-oriented SF radio show had appeared, Two Thousand Plus (Mutual, 1950 – 1952). Dimension X had a decided advantage, however, as well-known SF writers such as Ray Bradbury (10 programs) and Robert Heinlein (7 programs) were involved.

With these writers’ famous stories featured, Dimension X had almost instant credibility with fans. Radio was an excellent medium for SF in the 1950s. It was easy to visit

other planets or travel in a space ship in your imagination. It wasn't so easy to bring to life on TV in the 1950s.

The NBC program was sponsored for at least one season by Wheaties, but for the most part Dimension X was sustained.

Dimension X first aired on April 8, 1950, and completed its run on September 29, 1951 -- including a five-month hiatus in the middle. There were 50 episodes during the run of the program. Since some of the programs were re-broadcast during the run, however, there were really only 45 different stories broadcast.



Episodes

- 01 The Outer Limit (Graham Doar)
- 02 With Folded Hands (Jack Williamson)
- 03 Report On The Barnhouse Effect (Kurt Vonnegut)
- 04 No Contact (George Lefferts & Ernest Kinoy)
- 05 Knock (Fredric Brown)
- 06 Almost Human (Robert Bloch)
- 07 The Lost Race (Murray Leinster)
- 08 To The Future (Ray Bradbury)
- 09 The Embassy (Donald Wollheim)
- 10 The Green Hills Of Earth (Robert Heinlein)
- 11 There Will Come Soft Rains/Zero Hour (Bradbury)
- 12 Destination Moon (Heinlein)
- 13 A Logic Named Joe (Leinster)
- 14 Mars Is Heaven (Bradbury)
- 15 The Man In The Moon (Lefferts)
- 16 Beyond Infinity (Villiers Gerson)
- 17 The Potters Of Firsk (Jack Vance)
- 18 Perigi’s Wonderful Dolls (Lefferts)
- 19 The Castaways (Kinoy & Lefferts)
- 20 The Martian Chronicles (Bradbury)
- 21 The Parade (Lefferts)
- 22 The Roads Must Roll (Heinlein)
- 23 The Outer Limit (Doar)
- 24 Hello Tomorrow (Lefferts)
- 25 Dr. Grimshaw’s Sanatorium (Fletcher Pratt)
- 26 And The Moon Be Still As Bright (Bradbury)
- 27 No Contact (Lefferts & Kinoy)
- 28 The Professor Was A Thief (L. Ron Hubbard)
- 29 Shanghaied (Kinoy)
- 30 Competition (E. Mayne Hull)
- 31 Universe (Heinlein)
- 32 The Green Hills Of Earth (Heinlein)
- 33 Mars Is Heaven (Bradbury)
- 34 The Martian Death March (Kinoy)
- 35 The Last Objective (Paul Carter)
- 36 Nightmare (Stephen Vincent Benet)
- 37 Pebble In The Sky (Isaac Asimov)

- 38 Child's Play (William Tenn)
- 39 Time And Time Again (H. Beam Piper)
- 40 Dwellers In Silence (Bradbury)
- 41 Courtesy (Clifford Simak)
- 42 Universe (Heinlein)
- 43 The Veldt (Bradbury)
- 44 The Vital Factor (Nelson Bond)
- 45 Untitled Story (Frank M. Robinson)
- 46 Marionettes, Inc. (Bradbury)
- 47 First Contact (Leinster)
- 48 The Kaleidoscope (Bradbury)
- 49 Requiem (Heinlein)
- 50 Nightfall (Asimov)

DIMENSION



Opening: "Adventures in time and space told in future tense."

Closing: "You have just heard another adventure into the unknown world of the future, the world of Dimension X. Be sure to be with us next week

for another Dimension X. Dimension X is produced by Van Woodward, with music by Albert Buhrmann. Fred Collins speaking. This is NBC, the National Broadcasting Company."

Actors who worked regularly on the show included Joe De Santis, Wendell Holmes, Santos Ortega, Joseph Julian, Jan Miner, Roger De Koven, John Gibson, Ralph Bell, John Larkin, Les Damon, and Mason Adams. The program was usually directed by Fred Weihe or Edward King. The narrator was Norman Rose.

Ernest Kinoy and George Lefferts

NBC staff writers Kinoy and Lefferts were responsible for adapting most of the original Dimension X stories into radio scripts, and even provided some original scripts of their own.

Kinoy (1925 – 2014) was a writer, screenwriter, and playwright who won Emmy Awards for his work in television. Lefferts (born 1921) is a writer/producer/director whose productions have won six Emmy Awards and two Golden Globes.

First Program

The first program aired was a story by Graham Doar, a writer who wrote little SF, but whose story "The Outer Limit" was very popular, and was broadcast on other radio shows – and even a TV program!

The popularity of this story was thought by some to be because it had originally been published in The Saturday Evening Post, a prestigious "slick" magazine and not in one



of the "pulp" SF magazines. Also, the timeliness of the plot for a 1950 audience was emphasized.

Aired on April 8, 1950, the cast included Joseph Julian, Wendell Holmes, and Joe De Santis. The plot: An experimental rocket plane disappears for ten hours despite having only ten minutes of fuel left. The pilot tells a story of alien contact that warned him the earth would be destroyed if it goes ahead with experiments involving atomic weapons.

The pilot's superiors feel he is suffering from fatigue due to his experience, but he takes a space ship and holds it hostage unless all atomic tests are stopped. His superiors agree, but after the pilot is taken from the ship we learn that the tests are going ahead as planned.

Some Concluding Comments

Some of my best memories as a young SF fan were Dimension X broadcasts. My friend Charlie and I often listened together, and we didn't speak at all while the programs were on; we just listened intently.

Sources

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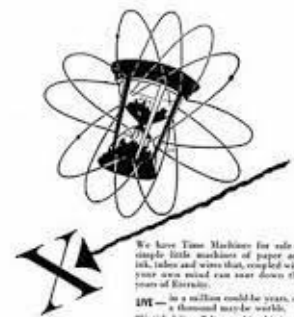
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Note: In addition to the above, several Internet sites were also consulted, including Fancyclopedia 3, ISFDB, and Wikipedia.



We have Time Machines for sale—single little machines of paper and ink, tubes and wires that, coupled with your own mind, can tear down the doors of Eternity.

LIVE — in a million could be yours, as a free Dimension X every Thursday a real Astonishing each month

"Untitled Story" featured in this issue, will be dramatized on the Dimension X program and will be heard over the new NBC radio network on Thursday, August 23rd. Both N.B.C. and Astounding will appreciate your comments.

For the best in science fiction... a free Dimension X every Thursday a real Astonishing each month

DIMENSION X: Consult your newspaper for the time on your local N.B.C. radio station.

NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, NEW YORK, N. Y.

2023 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, 2023.
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 2024. 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, 2023. 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 2023 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature/Date: _____

Mail to: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373 ; or email abontides@gmail.com



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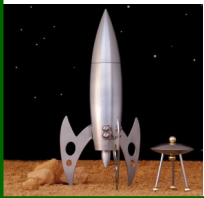
Birthday Bureau — Postal Mail Round Robin — Welcome to the Writers Exchange!
Welcommittee — Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau — History and Research Bureau
N3F Tape and Video Bureaus — Correspondence Bureau

Letters of Comment
Lloyd Penney — Nic Farey — Heath Row

Justin, We Hardly Knew You

SerCon
Science Fiction on Radio: Dimension X

2023 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest



N3F TNFF
c/o George Phillips
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