

The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellae — Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 77 Number 4

April 2018

Neffy Nominations

The list of Neffy nominations has been generated. **Please send letters of comment to Tightbeam FabFicBks@aol.com or here at TNFF phillies@4liberty.net, or join the APA at N'APA.** The ballot will appear in our issue after next.

For the 2017 National Fantasy Fan Federation Speculative Fiction Awards, the nominees are

Best novel

L.E. Modesitt—Assassin's Price
Chris Nuttall—The Zero Equation
Cedar Sanderson—Tanager's Fledglings
Ryk Spoor—Princess Holy Aura

Best shorter work

And Then There Were N-One--Sarah Pinsker
The Secret Life of Bots--Suzanne Palmer.
In the Shade of the Pixie Tree--Rodello Santos
Utopia LOL--Jamie Wahls

Best book editor

Toni Weisskopf—Baen
Sheila Gilbert—Daw

Best fanzine

Ionisphere
MT Void
Tightbeam

Best Blog

The Bar bar.baen.com
MadGeniusClub.com
The ChrisHanger chrishanger.wordpress.com

Films

Thor: Ragnarok
Guardians of the Galaxy 2

Best TV show

Legends of Tomorrow
Supergirl

Best anime

The Ancient Magus Bride
Devilman: Crybaby
The Eccentric Family
Kino's Journey

Best graphic art publication

Hawkeye
Jean Grey
Shade the Changing Girl

We Thank Greg Hullender and RocketStackRank for supplying short fiction links (for more on them, see page 9)

<http://www.rocketstackrank.com/2017/03/And-Then-There-Were-N-One-Sarah-Pinsker.html>

<http://www.rocketstackrank.com/2017/09/The-Secret-Life-of-Bots-Suzanne-Palmer.html>

<http://www.rocketstackrank.com/2017/03/In-the-Shade-of-the-Pixie-Tree-Rodello-Santos.html>

<http://www.rocketstackrank.com/2017/06/Utopia-LOL-Jamie-Wahls.html>

For anime, Kevin Trainor and our new anime/comic bureau acknowledge Jessi Silver, who did the "Shiny New Anime" panel at Detour last weekend and who posts reviews on her website s1e1.com

News

We have a request for a Steampunk Bureau, by someone who cannot at this time be BuHead. Please contact our President at phillies@4liberty.net if you are interested in participating.



This issue is divided among News, Zines, Blogs, Club Activities,
Letters of Comment, Sercon, and Reviews
Please update your member form at <http://n3f.org/join/membership-form/>



Directorate:

David Speakman—davodd@gmail Chair
 Judy Carroll - AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com
 Jefferson Swycaffer - abontides@gmail.com
 John Thiel - kinethiel@comcast.net
 R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com

President

George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Treasurer

David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Editorial Cabal:

Editor, TNFF: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Art Editor, TNFF: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@yahoo.com
 Editor, Tightbeam: Bob Jennings FabFicBks@aol.com
 Editor, Ionisphere: John Thiel kinethiel@comcast.net
 Editor, Eldritch Science: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Editor, Mangaverse To be announced
 Editor, Origins: John Thiel kinethiel@comcast.net
 Keeper of the URLs: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com
 Host of the Web Site: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

Bureau Heads

Anime/Comics: Kevin Trainor wombat.soch@gmail.com
 Artists Bureau: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@yahoo.com
 Birthday Cards: R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com;
 Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com
 Book Review Bureau: G Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Fandom Introductory Bureau: John Thiel kinethiel@comcast.net
 Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau: John Thiel kinethiel@comcast.net
 Franking Service: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Games Bureau: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Gourmet Bureau: Cedar Sanderson cedarlili@gmail.com
 Historian: Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Information Technology: David Speakman davodd@gmail
 Lord High Proofreader: Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Membership Recruitment: Kevin Trainor wombat.soch@gmail.com, John Thiel kinethiel@comcast.net, Jeffrey Redmond redmondjeff@hotmail.com
 N'APA: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Round Robins: Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com;
 Patricia Williams-King 755 Glen View Drive, Nashville, TN 37206
 Short Story Contest: Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com
 Video Schedule: David Speakman davodd@gmail.com
 Welcommittee: Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com
 Robert J. Hansen <rjh@sixdemonbag.org>
 Writers Exchange : J. Carroll autumnseas8012@yahoo.com

Many New Volunteers are needed: Electronic Publication Support, Convention Hospitality, Outreach, Correspondence, Films.. Support the N3F. Volunteer Now!

Zines

Tightbeam #285, is out and should have been received via email by our members. If you have not yet received this all-pixel format club fanzine, please contact Prez George Phillies and he will email you a copy right away.

Issue #285 has an analysis of the SF writings of Iain M. Banks, a look at the fiction and movies from writer Erle Stanley Gardner, a reprint of a classic fantasy story from yesteryear, plus a wide assortment of book, film, and fanzine reviews.

I want to take this opportunity to again invite our members to send in their letters of comment, and also consider sending along articles, reviews, commentary, and artwork. Tightbeam is your fanzine, and I invite all our members to participate in the publication.

In addition, as editor I am always on the look-out for classic stories of science fiction/fantasy from the past (preferably fiction published pre-1935) that has been neglected, or overlooked, fiction that can be reprinted in the pages of Tightbeam for the enjoyment of today's readers.

Issue #286 should be finished and ready for distribution to our members by the end of April.

Blogs

Life Member Jacqueline Lichtenberg calls to our attention: Here is another link to an item that may be of interest to N3F readers:
<http://aliendjinnromances.blogspot.com/2018/02/theme-worldbuilding-integration-part-18.html> on Creating a Galactic

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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 N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. Pay online at N3F.org . Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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History. Top of the blog is aliendjinnromances.blogspot.com -- click in any time and you will find different posts by others.

Club News

New, Renewed, & Reinstated Members & Info Updates

Renewed:

#119 Thomas McGovern - Electronic Voting - Exp 3/31/19
 #210 Steve Fahnstalk - Electronic Voting - Exp 3/31/2019
 #211 Lynne Taylor Fahnstalk - Household Voting - Exp 3/31/2019

Reinstated:

#14 Tom Feller - Regular Voting - Exp 5/31/2019

Expired/Expiring Renew Now!!

Expired in February
 #201 Katriena Knights

Expired in March
 #16 - Patsy Williams-King
 #49 - Kent McDaniel
 #204 - Michael Simon

Expiring in April
 #4 - Diane Blackwood
 #5 - Bob Blackwood
 #212 - Jay Hardy
 #213 - Anne Guglik

Member Status Changes

#210 Steve Fahnstalk - from Regular to Electronic Voting - Exp 3/31/2019

Treasury

\$2,936.68 (Feb. 28, 2018)
 + 16.00 PayPal Dues
 + 0.00 Cash Dues
 + 18.00 Check Dues
 + 0.00 Money Order Dues
 - 1.21 PayPal Fees
 - 0.00 Banking Fee
 - 0.00 Postage

 \$2,969.47 (March 31, 2018)

Writers Exchange

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.

We welcome Mike Watson and Ray Nelson to the Writers Exchange. These gentleman have offered their services as readers as well as writers.

The Year -2018.
 The Place - Your Mind.
 The Task - Writing.
 The Reason - Because you want to.
 The Real Reason - Because you need to.

The following are quotes from writers who have recently left us for new adventures.

"It is good to have an end to journey toward, but it is the journey that matters in the end." Ursula K. Le Guin

Brian Aldiss, 92 August 18, 1925 - August 19, 2017
 "It is comparatively easy to become a writer; staying a writer, resisting formulaic work, generating one's own creativity – that's a much tougher matter."

Aldiss won two Hugo awards: in 1962 for the Hothouse series; and in 1987 for Trillion Year Spree. He also won a Nebula award in 1965 for The Saliva Tree: And Other Strange Growths.

Michael Bond, 91 January 13, 1926 - June 27, 2017
 "If you really want something in this world, you'll never get it by sitting down and waiting. But if you go out and do things there's no knowing where you'll end up." —The Tales of Olga Da Polga

Bond wrote the Paddington Bear series of books for children. Also, for children, the Olga da Polga (guinea pig) and Monsieur Pamplemousse book series.

Richard Adams, 96 May 9, 1920 - December 24, 2016
 "The thinker dies, but his thoughts are beyond the reach of destruction. Men are mortal; but ideas are immortal."

Adams first and most enduring work is Watership Down, published in 1972. For this work he won a Carnegie Medal in 1972 and a Guardian Children's Fiction Prize in 1973.

Sue Grafton, 77 April 24, 1940 - December 28, 2017
 "Ideas are easy. It's the execution of ideas that really separates the sheep from the goats."

Grafton is best known for her "alphabet mysteries. The first book in the series, A Is For Alibi was published in 1982. The last book published was Y Is For Yesterday. Unfortunately, she died before starting the final book in the series, Z Is For Zebra.

Ursula K. Le Guin, 88 October 21, 1929 - January 22, 2018

"Shoot for the top, always. You know you'll never make it, but what's the fun if you don't shoot for the top?"

Her most famous works are the Earthsea series and *The Left Hand of Darkness*.

Le Guin won dozens of annual "year's best" literary awards. For novels alone she won five Locus, four Nebula, two Hugo, and one World Fantasy Award. (*The Dispossessed* won the Locus, Nebula, and Hugo.)

"A writer is a person who cares what words mean, what they say, how they say it. Writers know words are their way towards truth and freedom, and so they use them with care, with thought, with fear, with delight. By using words well they strengthen their souls. Story-tellers and poets spend their lives learning that skill and art of using words well. And their words make the souls of their readers stronger, brighter, deeper."

— Ursula K. Le Guin

Welcommittee

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

If you would like to help welcome new members to this wonderful club please contact
Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.co

Round Robins

What is a Round Robin?

Round Robins are discussion lists. They are a way of connecting with people who have similar interests. Traditional round robins are sent through the mail. Each round robin consists of a packet of letters from its members - which is mailed from member to member. As each member gets the packet, they read all the letters, then remove their own previous letter, write a new one, and send the packet on to the next member.

The N3F offers two kinds of Round Robins; traditional - where members send letters in the mail, and electronic - where members send letters by email. Both kinds are fun and informative and a good way to meet other members and to discuss topics of mutual interest.

NOTE: If you wish to join a Postal Round Robin contact - Patricia Williams-King, 755 Glen View Drive, Nashville, TN 37206

Electronic Round Robins

We need at least 3 members to start an ERR. Following is

the list of current ERR and the number of members in each one:

Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror in TV, Movies and Books - 3 members

Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Artists - 2 members - ONLY 1 MORE MEMBER NEEDED

Writers and Their Works - Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror - 1 member

Japanese Anime - 1 member

Fairy Tales and Folklore - 2 members—ONLY ONE MORE MEMBER NEEDED

The following Round Robins have 0 members each.

The Marvel Universe

DC Superheroes and Villains

Cartoons and Cartooning

Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Video Games

Comics and Graphic Novels

A Round Robin needs at least 3 members to start rounding.

Please help these members by joining one of the above Round Robins.

NOTE: As of this writing the Bookworms ERR is looking for a new Bureau Head. If interested, please contact George Phillis Phillies@4liberty.net In this ERR the members read and discuss books from a list selected by the Bureau Head of the Bookworms reading club.

If you see an ERR you would like to join please contact
Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Membership Recruitment

John Thiel writes: I am contacting former NFFF members and asking if they care to rejoin. Jeffery Redmond continues to advertise the NFFF at his multitudinous sites. Kevin Trainor runs the recruitment due to seniority. We are all staying with it, I think I can say.—John Thiel

Patricia Williams-King adds: "I'm sending out more of the Zines you sent me. And I also took some to the Sherlock Holmes meeting the other day...I managed to give away quite a few there."

If any of the rest of you want some TNFF back issues to distribute, you have but to ask phillies@4liberty.net to send you a bunch.

We currently have one life member, six household members, 18 electronic members, 34 regular members, and 164 public (non-dues-paying) members, for a total of 59 dues-paying members and 223 members of all classes. We also send the N3F zines to seven zine archives.

That's a considerable increase from the last time we reported this number.

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

Our activity as a bureau continues to center around Ioni-sphere, which as you can see is recording and making advances. Our advance in the May issue has been an interview with an editor, Sheila Williams, editor of Asimov's. Also we interviewed Steve Davidson about his magnificent funds campaign for the revival of a print Amazing Stories. I'm pleased to say here that the funds drive was successful and met the goals that were set for it. We at the bureau are always looking for the points of greatest fan activity, and that was one we discovered. Readers without internet are advised to contact our ground adjutant, John Polselli at 2801 Mayfair Avenue, Henderson, Nevada 89074, if you are not already in contact. He sees for us net people what's happening off the net, and of course coordinates with it. —John Thiel, bureau head.

Fandom Introduction Bureau

This is a new one, and still a ways from being set up. I had one fellow agree that he'd like to be on it, but the catch is he isn't any longer in the NFFF, and I am renewing my attempts to get him to rejoin. He's a constant researcher, and we intend to do a lot of researching of fandom and science fiction in the bureau, so that we can present things we glean through such research to the membership. I said we'd be teaching people about fandom, a bit of hubris since I have no credentials for being a teacher, but now it's "conveying such information as we find" and, of course, referencing its sources. I think at this point in the progress of fannish knowledge information should be backed for further checking. —John Thiel, bureau head.

Letters of Comment

Dear Neffers:

Thank you for Volume 77, No. 3 of The National Fantasy Fan. Just a fast look shows me a new zine called Origin, and I think that's something I'd be interested in. It would be good to see a zine describing not only the origins of the N3F, but also fandom as a whole. I see so many people not knowing where fandom comes from, but only enjoying themselves without thought as to where all of this came from.

You've got so many bureaus, so I wonder if you have one that might offer introduction to the steampunk fan, or perhaps a Round Robin on steampunk. It is where I am having my fun these days, so I had to wonder. I will say that many new steampunk fans are general SF fans who have been looking for something different, as I was.

My loc... we are still looking at trying some of the recipes listed. As far as selling our steampunk wares, we have had one of our craft shows, but there are still two more to come, the anime convention, and several steampunk events within the province of Ontario.

We are still hoping for some warm weather soon; it is spring, but only on the calendar. One of those afore-mentioned craft shows is next weekend in the Toronto suburb of Pickering, and we are looking forward to that. Then comes some warm weather, and you won't catch us inside.

I think that's it for this issue, and I hope there will be more to respond to the next time.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

Hi again;

Everyone has their own way of doing fanzines, and of doing book reviews. I may have mentioned this before (several times, probably), but I feel that reviewing a book should be more than mentioning the title, three high points of plot, a mention of the author's previous work, and a closing sentence. That is not a book review; it's a blurb from the back cover of the dust jacket or the inside front page of a paperback edition.

A book review should tell the reader something about the book, including how well it is written, including how consistent and relevant the plot is. It should mention if there are inconsistencies, discuss characterization (or the lack thereof) at least briefly, hopefully deliver a little background information about the style and what type of book it might be, and the reviewer should clearly state whether s/he likes or dislikes the book, and why (particularly if the reviewer didn't like the book).

Readers prefer book reviews that provide information and opinion that is substantial enough to give them a real feel for what the book is all about, including how well it is written and whether the plot reaches some kind of logical conclusion. There are literally thousands of different new books in the SF/fantasy/horror genres being turned out these days, and readers both want and appreciate book reviews that provide substantive information so they can make an intelligent decision on how to allocate their time and money. Thoughtful, detailed, comprehensive book reviews are the most appreciated, and those are the type I want to run in Tightbeam.

---Bob Jennings
Editor, Tightbeam

SerCon

N3F Founding Members:

Joe Fortier

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian

Oakland, California science fiction (SF) fan, Joseph J. Fortier (born 1923), was known in fandom as 2J4. He once stated that he had started reading SF in 1933, and then was intro-

duced to SF fandom by Harry Warner, Jr. in 1938.

Fortier published the fanzine *Starlight* with fellow SF fans Tom Wright and James Bush. He also published the fanzine *Mercury*, and worked on other popular fanzines of the day, including *The Comet* and *Dawn*.

A very active fan, he was also a member of several other SF organizations, including the Illini Fantasy Fictioneers, the Golden Gate Fantasy Progress, the Science Fiction League, and New Fandom.

At the Denvention in 1941, he presented the San Francisco bid for the 1942 Worldcon. Unfortunately, the 1942 – 1944 Worldcons were not held because of World War II.

Fortier's photo appears (with his friend Tom Wright) on page 172 of Harry Warner's fan history of the 1940s, *All Our Yesterdays*, published by Advent in 1969.

For an early short biography of Fortier, see *Who's Who in Fandom 1940*, page 6.

Of course, Fortier was a charter member of The National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) in 1941. In addition, he was a member of one of the early N3F advisory boards.

Sources: *All Our Yesterdays*, *Who's Who in Fandom 1940*, ISFDB, *Fancylopedia 3*, and other Internet sites.

Neglected Genre Authors:

Mindret Lord

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

Mindret Lord (1903-1955), born Mindred Loeb, used several pseudonyms during his professional writing career. In addition to Mindret Lord, the pseudonym under which he wrote most of his fiction, other names he used were Mildret Lord, Mildred Lord, Gladys Lord, Mindred Lord, and Garland Lord (a joint pseudonym of Lord and wife Isabel Garland). Some reference sources report that Lord was related to the rich and prominent Loeb family of Chicago.

Early Life

Lord's early life is shadowy, and one claim that he was a nephew of the poet Rabindranath Tagore seems to be untrue. But in the late 1920s he "made the social scene" when he began a long love affair with Marguerite Namara (1888-1974) -- a rich and famous diva, friend of Isadora Duncan, and occasional film actress. Namara, who had once co-starred with Valentino, and the younger Lord lived it up in Europe for several years. Around the mid-1930s, however, Namara separated from Lord and married another man. Lord later married Isabel Garland, daughter of Pulitzer Prize winning author Hamlin Garland. Isabel and Lord co-wrote several stories together, sometimes

using the pseudonym of Garland Lord (see below).

Writing Career

Lord began earning his living as a writer in the 1930s, churning out pulp fiction for a decade. In this first stage of his professional writing career, he also contributed sketches to at least one Broadway play, "New Faces of 1936" -- that ran from May 19, 1936 until November 7, 1936.

At the end of WWII, Lord began a new career as a Hollywood writer, earning eight credits between 1946 and 1955. He often worked on films produced by W. Lee Wilder, brother of writer-director Billy Wilder. In the 1946 film noir, *Strange Impersonation*, Lord's own name was inserted into the film's images. In the story, actress Brenda Marshall works as a research scientist for the Wilmott Institute, which was "founded by Mindret L. (i. e., Lord) Wilmott in 1903." This is a prominent inscription on the wall just behind Marshall as she gives a speech in the movie.

Lord's first three Hollywood writing projects were low-budget movies for Republic Studios, followed by a rise to higher class with his next two scripts for the bigger and more prestigious Paramount Studios. There followed a four-year hiatus, 1950-1953, in which he earned no film credits at all.

His film career picked up again with two minor, low-paid assignments for television and United Artists, followed by the biggest and most prestigious film he ever wrote or co-wrote: "The Virgin Queen" (Fox, 1955), a color film starring Bette Davis and Richard Todd. Ironically, in that year of his biggest screen-writing credit, just three days before Christmas, Lord took his own life.

Genre Writing

Black Mask:
"The Tattooed Tramp" [August, 1939 issue]

Dime Mystery:
"Give Me Your Soul" [4/34]

Horror Stories:
"Satan Takes a Bride" [8-9/36]
"Beauty Born in Hell" [8-9/39]

Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction [11/53]
"Dr. Jacobus Melifolore's Last Patient"

The Other Worlds: 25 Modern Stories of Mystery and Imagination (1941)
"A Problem for Biographers" [original story]

Startling Mystery Magazine:
"The Dinner Cooked in Hell" [1940]

Terror Tales:
"Prince of Pain" [3/1935]

Weird Tales:

- “Naked Lady” [9/34]
- “First Night” [7/41]
- “The Mystery of Uncle Alfred” [11/41]
- “Lil” [3/43]
- “Lost Vacation” [5/43]

Stories in “Slick” Magazines

- Liberty Magazine [January 31, 1942]
- “Unconsidered Trifles”

The New Yorker

- “So Bright! So Beautiful!” [July 25, 1942]
- “Lorenzo” [July 24, 1943]

Garland Lord Mysteries

- Murder with Love (Morrow, 1943)
- Murder, Plain and Fancy (Doubleday, 1943)
- Murder’s Little Helper (Doubleday, 1941)
- She Never Grew Old (Doubleday, 1941)
- Note: Garland Lord was Lord and Isabel Garland’s joint pseudonym.

Filmography

- Strange Impersonation (1946)
- The Glass Alibi (1946)
- Yankee Fakir (1947) (story)
- The Sainted Sisters (1948) (adaptation)
- Alias Nick Beal (1949) (genre story with Ray Milland as a disciple of the devil) (aka The Contact Man/UK)
- “The Lone Wolf” (2 TV episodes, 1954) (aka “Streets of Danger”/syndication title)
- “The Blue Lantern Story” (1954)
- “The Werewolf Story” (1954)
- The Virgin Queen (1955)
- The Big Bluff (1955) (story) (as by Mindred Lord) (aka Worthy Deceivers)

Reprints of Lord’s Stories

I’ve been able to locate the following reprints of Lord’s stories. Usually it is more helpful to identify reprints of stories since magazines in which the stories originally were published are difficult to locate – and quite expensive when they are located.

- “The Dinner Cooked in Hell” [reprinted in The Pulps, 1970]
- “Dr. Jacobus Meliflore’s Last Patient” [reprinted in Zacherly’s Vulture Stew, 1960]
- “The Experts” [reprinted in Third Mystery Companion, 1945]
- “Naked Lady” [reprinted in The Other Worlds, 1941/Avon Ghost Reader, 1946/reprinted in Playboy, May 1955/ eprinted in Far Below and Other Horrors, 1985]

Conclusions

What can be concluded at this late date about the life and writing career of Lord? To begin, he was one of the several pulp writers who successfully made the jump to the higher paying Hollywood film market. Others who fit this description included Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler, Frank Gruber, and Cornell Woolrich – to name only some of the more famous ones. Lord has been described by an authority on pulp fiction as “one of the most polished writers in the field” with copy that “oozed urbanity.” This assessment seems to have been borne out by Lord’s later success in writing for the movies.

What can be deduced at this time about his death? Suicides always present a problem, especially for those who come later and try to explain them. There is still much speculation about the death of popular mystery author Norbert Davis. Poor health frequently is cited as a cause. As a psychologist who worked with potential suicides, I doubt this explanation applied to Lord -- but one never knows.

Selected Bibliography

- Gruber, Frank. The Pulp Jungle. Los Angeles: Sherbourne-Press, 1967.
- Jones, Robert Kenneth. The Shudder Pulps. West Linn, Oregon: FAX Collector’s Editions, 1975.
- Moss, Robert (ed.). Raymond Chandler: A Literary Reference. NY: Carroll & Graf, 2002.
- Stong, Phil (ed.). The Other Worlds. Garden City, NY: Garden City Publishing Company, 1942.
- Note: Several Internet sites were also consulted, including Fancypedia 3, Wikipedia, IMDB, and ISFDB.

Reviews

The Deadly Mantis

...Review by George Phillies

The Deadly Mantis is a 1950s giant insect film. The giant insect is a preying mantis considerably larger than a C-47./ In fact, it eats a C-47, or at least gets through the crunchy aluminum outside to the tasty inside. The monster starts near the north pole and heads south. As it does, it encounters US air defenses, highly accurately portrayed. Indeed, at a guess a fair part of the film was lifted from Air Force press footage, or from the CBS Sunday evening TV show *Air Power with Walter Cronkite*. The last two episodes of that show covered our period air defenses and a simulation of an incoming Russian attack.

This time, the air defenses encounter a giant flying insect, against which we send rocket-armed fighter aircraft, anti-aircraft guns, radar tracking (the bug cheats; it flies low), and

the Civilian Air Observer Corps, which was the humans with binoculars backup for radar. (It sort of worked, too).

At first you do not see the bug. You hear it. A weather station is collapsed; a C47 loses control and flies into the ground. There are mysterious trails in the snow. The creature loses a toe nail..not exactly, and five feet long. The Air Force summons scientific consultants. When the bug attacks an Eskimo village, you get to see the bug for the first time. Perhaps they should have postponed showing the creature.

There is a major air defense effort. You get to see period tech with plotting boards and telephones and teletypes. The creature encounters Navy jets and Air Force jets and...well, unlike Japanese kaiju it is somewhat vulnerable to human weapons. Yes, period air-to-air missiles were not very effective. There is an attractive young lady as a romantic interest. It's a classic, well-done, in which the creature actually obeys laws of nature, at least sort of.

Volcanosaurus

...review by George Phillis

Volcanosaurus is the other extreme as a film. 'saurus' is deceptive. It's not a big reptile. You really do not get to see the creature until close to the end, when it does show up. It might have been Cthulhu's stunt double, except too ugly and large. The tentacles are several miles long.

We have a town near a volcano. There is a secret government team on the volcano, which starts being partly active. There are the romantic leads, the woman being a geologist. There is the almost teenage younger sister of the male leader, and her boyfriend, who at least gets to propose to girlfriend. The sister apparently aced Screaming 101 and uses this as the artistic response to many challenges. There is the grandfather, off his meds, telling people that odd things are happening. He is right. He and the cute, resourceful, diner manageress are trapped in a building and spend much of the film trying to escape, which has some novel creative constraints related to the building having dropped into a pothole and flooding with carbon dioxide gas.

The volcano becomes more and more active if not for normal reasons. There is a positive ending, unless you are the volcanosaurus. Lots of tropes are used to exhaustion.

The D-Day Landing Has Failed

...review by George Phillis

D-Day Landing Has Failed by Ralph Brandt is an indie-published novel. The plot is clever. Much of the war background is well done. The fate of General Montgomery is particularly good. The author has an enthusiastic confidence in the ability of heavy bombers in period to destroy rail lines. It's good alternative history, if you overlook minor editing issues.

The book alas shows flaws of which indie published novels

are sometimes accused. As is actually not generally the case, for once an editor/proof reader would have helped; the flaws were readily corrected. Plurals are not formed with apostrophes. Conversations need at least 'he said', 'she said', so readers can tell which character is talking. There were a few historical issues. The UK superheavy conventional bomb is the Tall Boy, not the Long Tom

Take the Star Road

...review by Cedar Sanderson

I picked Take the Star Road, by Peter Grant, to read for this review because I love science fiction that harks back to the age of exploration, that celebrates humanity's hunger for the stars, and most of all, tells a good story. I was rewarded with everything I had hoped for in this book.

The story opens with young Steve Maxwell, stranded half-way between Earth and the stars, on an orbital platform. He's barely making it, taking whatever scutwork he can, and hoping for an opening on a ship. One night after work he comes to the rescue of his boss, and that leads to the opportunity he's been waiting for.

Grant's details are spot-on. Just enough about the ships, the physics of interstellar travel, and planetary trade to give you a well-developed universe, but balanced with enough story to keep you reading. I did find it was a touch stilted in places, and it would have been nice to have more tell and less show with incidents like Operation Sweet Tooth, but for a first novel it was remarkably well done. Not only the hero, Steve, grows through the book, but so do Grant's writing skills. I am very much looking forward to the sequel.

The supporting characters are as well developed as Steve, and the sub-plot about the Tongs had me intrigued. Some reviewers compare Grant's writing to Heinlein, and I see a lot of Honor Harrington in the story, like a slimmed-down Weber book. Which is exciting, as On Basilisk Station is a great story. I don't think it's too much alike, though, just reminiscent of great Space Opera, with an optimistic take on the future of humanity. If you are seeking Human Wave reading, this book will fit your tastes.

I had the pleasure of meeting Peter Grant and his lovely wife at LibertyCon, and he's a fascinating person to talk to, which comes across in his writing. There is wit, depth, and a perspective to his writing that kept me from wanting to put down the book. All too often recently I have allowed life to interrupt me and derail me from finishing a book, but this one had my imagination going enough to keep me coming back until I was done.

About RocketStackRank

They review vast amounts of published short fiction, in a usefully formulaic way. They say of themselves: If you look at one of our reviews, there's actually a great deal of into packed into it. Take a look at this one for "All Sys

tems Red," by Martha Wells.

<http://www.rocketstackrank.com/2017/05/All-Systems-Red-Martha-Wells.html>

The subgenre is SF Thriller, and it's part of the "Murderbot" series. (The link takes you to a page to help you find others in the series.) Then there's a spoiler-free "blurb" which gives some idea of what the story is about. The blurbs are also useful at the end of the year when you're looking for things to nominate and trying to remember what the stories you already read were actually about.

The word count lets people know which category to nominate this work in, and the time estimate is just computed from the word count.

The rating is obvious, and the pitch "Thrilling, Thoughtful, Touching" is a little cheesy, but it's important for Twitter.

The "info line" (in this case, a link to articles on Tor about the story, the artist, the author, etc.) is extra stuff that doesn't spoil the story. This is where I'll tell people if the story can't be enjoyed without reading something else first, for example.

Even the basic publication line has useful links. Click on the title and it'll take you to a free online excerpt from the story. Click the author's name, and it'll show you all of her stories that RSR has ever reviewed. Click on "bio" and you'll get the author's web page.

If you click on the thumbnail image of the cover, you get a larger image plus a link to the artist's home page. And the link "find this story" under the thumbnail of the cover picture will take you to the Goodreads page, from which people can find options to buy.

Click the "mini-review" link to flip over the review text and go to the bottom, where there are links to help find other reviews of the story, interview with the author, etc.

Compare that with the info for an Analog story, "Nexus," by Michael Flynn.

<http://www.rocketstackrank.com/2017/02/Nexus-Michael-F-Flynn.html>

Click on "find this issue" under the thumbnail of the Analog cover. This takes you to a page with information about ways to buy or borrow that issue of the magazine.

It's possible that that's not enough info, though. Neil Clarke wrote a piece in October 2015 called "The Sad Truth about Short Fiction Reviews" to explain why Clarkesworld doesn't run any. I wrote a response to it [rocketstackrank.com/2015/10/getting-more-from-short-fiction-reviews.html](http://www.rocketstackrank.com/2015/10/getting-more-from-short-fiction-reviews.html). The essence of it is that I think people want to see reviews for two reasons: 1) they want advice on which stories to read and 2) they've already read the piece, and they want to see what other people thought about it. (I hadn't thought of the third use: to remember a story you know you read.) RSR is designed to implement the ideas in that article,

which is rather different from the reviews that most people write (which, I agree with Neil, are largely useless). The important question to answer is whether our approach really fits with what you want in your own publications.

--Greg

Gourmet Bureau

So... a frittata. I've done them many times, along with quiche, and egg pie. There are a lot of similarities, but the frittata is simplest, being basically baked scrambled eggs. I started out by frying up about a half a pound of bacon in a 12" cast iron skillet, and by walking out in the yard and gathering 'weeds.'

I reserved four pieces (one for each of us) of bacon and chopped up the other pieces (there were three) to put in with the frittata. I minced the herbs using the herb scissors I'd wound up with when I ordered a pair of kitchen shears (they were a two-pack). They did a really nice job on the wild onions, which are similar in shape to chives, and the cress sort of got stuck in them. Oh, well. If you run a paring knife down in between the blades it cleans them out.

I whisked together six large eggs, about 1/4 cup half and half, and some salt. I could have left out the salt, the bacon grease was salty enough! I then stirred in the chopped bacon, chopped herbs, and poured the whole thing into the still-hot cast iron skillet. I then slid that into the oven, which had been preheated to 350F and baked it for about 15 minutes.

While the frittata was baking, I spread soft butter thinly on slices of bread – homemade would be best, but I haven't had time to bake! – and laid them out on a cookie sheet. I then sprinkled parmesan cheese on them and turned the oven to broil on high once the frittata looked nearly done (It gets puffed up when cooked through). I put the toast on the rack above the frittata and broiled it for about a minute, keeping a very close eye on it and turning the pan around once for even browning.

Wild Wintercress, still frozen in the early spring sunlight. A common yard weed, I collected this from an area the dog isn't allowed in!

Wild Onion bears a close resemblance to chives, but it's easy to find in the yard at this time of the year because it starts growing long before the grass.

Editor aside: So that's what it is. I had thought it might be chives, but it did not seem chivey in the leaf. Well, better I eat it than the groundhog, which hopefully the fox will eat.

Games Bureau

If you are one of those fine people who buys wargaming magazines with enclosed game, plays the game a few times, and then moves on to the next game, you may be looking for more magazines. In that case, note the new zine + wargame zine Yaah! from Flying Pig Enterprises, FlyingPig.Com. It's a new game magazine on the standard format/

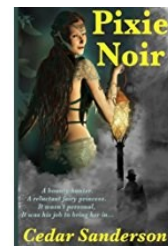
Lest you not have enough to read.

Le Petite Castaway Island by Paco Jones
 365 Days Hunted by Nancy Isaak
 The Harbinger - Volume Two by Keegan Kennedy
 No Middle Ground (Spineward Sectors: Middleton's Pride Book 1) by Caleb Wachter
 Price: Free!
 Sleepless Flame by Odin Oxthorn
 Sunrise Sapling by Hayden Pearton
 The Harbinger - Volume One by Keegan Kennedy
 Game Masters v2.0 - Level Up: Six litRPG and Gamelit Novels by Fiddlehead Press
 Survival Instincts: A Dystopian Novel by May Dawney
 Requisition by Ani Fox
 The Betrothed and Shattered Destiny Bundle by Odette C. Bell
 A Future Pastime by Raymond Boudreau
 Carrie Hatchett, Space Adventurer Books 1 - 3 by J.J. Green
 The Portal in the Forest Compendium by Matt Dymerski
 Daughter of Time Trilogy: Reader, Writer, Maker by Erec Stebbins
 Crimson Son 3: Ashes by Russ Linton
 Dark Dimensions by J.A. Duxbury
 deal Insurgent by Stephanie Barr
 Time Scripts by Marshall Vickery
 Earth's Survivors Life Stories: Candace and Mike by Dell Sweet
 Mark Fletcher - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow by Bernie Hanvey
 Rat Pirates by Lazette Gifford
 The Distant Kingdoms Volume Eight: Imperial Rising by David A Petersen
 Science Fiction, Fantasy, & Horror Collection Volume 1 by Kristie Lynn Higgins
 Price: Free!
 Legends of Raifor by C.H. Ashton
 Typhoon Time by Ron S. Friedman
 Emergence (Malevolence Series Book 2) by F. R. Donaldson
 Malevolence (Malevolence Series Book 1) by F. R. Donaldson
 Against Three Lands by George Phillies
 Field of Orbs - Volume One "Battle for Innocence" by Gregg Mattson
 Late-K Lunacy by Ted Bernard
 The Screenside Trilogy Boxed Set, Chronicles of a Stolen World 1-3 by J. A. Hailey
 The Galathea Chronicles by J.J. Green
 Blackhawk Files by A. Nation
 She Is the End by A.C. Weston
 Freedom & Necessity by Steven Brust & Emma Bull
 Celestial Blight by Valentino Mori
 Anjo da Morte: Uma História de Amor (Edição Portuguesa) (Portuguese Edition) by Anna Erishkigal
 Seven Stones: The Complete Series by Dave Higgins
 Humanity by Levi Shipley
 Wolfsbane: The Wolf Within by Bethany Shay Porteous
 The Unicorns and Dragons Boxed Set by Lisa Mangum
 The Rising by R.M. Donaldson Price: Free!
 Quarlo's Curse by GJ Kelly

The Unified God by Aneeka Richins
 The Right Hand of Lilith: Consul by TH Christensen
 Sunrise Sapling by Hayden Pearton
 Cycle de Shaedra (Tomes 1 et 2) by Marina Fernández de Retana
 Eolyn (Book One of The Silver Web) by Karin Rita Gastreich
 Once Upon a Mouse by J. A. Zarifian
 Fell Beasts and Fair - A Noblebright Fantasy Anthology by CJ Brightley (editor), Terri Bruce, W.R. Gingell, Kelly A. Harmon, Beth Powers, Charles D. Shell, & April Steenburgh
 Maldene Volume Two by Mark Anthony Tierno
 Maldene Volume One by Mark Anthony Tierno
 Looking for Dei by David A. Willson
 Shattered Dreams by Ulf Lehmann
 Dark Dimensions by J.A. Duxbury
 Theater of Deception by Celina Summers
 Dezirah Volume 3 by Jacey K Dew
 Spiritborne (Book One of the Spirits' War Trilogy) by K.V. Wilson
 Undeniable Vengeance by Giacomo Giammatteo
 A Promise of Vengeance by Giacomo Giammatteo
 Greetings From Sunny Aluna by Eric Lahti
 Princess Diana and Rods of the Ark by M. See
 Chapter Fourteen by Douglas Grant
 Tears of a Heart by Chase Blackwood
 Earth's Survivors Life Stories: Candace and Mike by Dell Sweet
 Time's Bloodied Gold by L.J. Hutton
 Daring & Defiant by Kaitlyn Davis
 Flight of the Vessel by Robert Clifton Storey, Jr
 Science Fiction, Fantasy, & Horror Collection Volume 1 by Kristie Lynn Higgins
 Price: Free!
 Legends of Raifor by C.H. Ashton
 Vestal by Charlee Jacob
 Sword of the Crown by Paul J Bennett
 Juryokine: Exile of Heroes by Adam Bolander
 Ranger of Path by Jorden Leonard Price: Free!

Small Ads Are Free to Members ...submit yours to the editor

Pixie Noir by Cedar Sanderson
<https://smile.amazon.com/Pixie-Noir-Cedar-Sanderson/dp/0615920438>



"The unlikely love child of Monster Hunter International and the Princess Bride, this book ... is unalloyed fun all the way." -Sarah A. Hoyt, author of Darkship Thieves

Against Three Lands by George Phillies
<https://smile.amazon.com/Against-Three-Lands-Thousand-Isles/dp/1980327475>



"...George Phillies is good at creating new and different universes. In truth, George deserves to be known far better than he is..." ... Chris Nuttall

2018 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, 2018.
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.

101 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. Royalties will be divided evenly among all contest writers once publishing costs are covered. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made, March 2018. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2018. 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 2018 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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Short Story Contest

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