

The e-National Fantasy Fan

Vol. 4, No. 2

June 2004



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Short Story Contest

Elizabeth Caldwell

The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 4 No. 2
The Official Organ of the National Fantasy Fan Federation.

This issue was completed May 21st, edited by Bob Sabella. The editor for the next issue is Ruth R. Davidson (see president). Please send your submissions and questions to her . ***All opinions herein are those of the writers and do not reflect the opinions of the staff or other members of N3F except where so noted.*** Printing graciously accomplished by Craig Boyd. SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS August 15, 2004. E-mail accepted by arrangement only! This zine is to be published quarterly in March, June, September, and December through volunteer effort.

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☺PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE☺

By Ruth R. Davidson

Galactic Greetings fellow Neffers!

Life is certainly interesting. I've been kept busy busy. Not only with my various N3F duties, but with being a wife, a mom, and a mama-cat to a three week old kitten I found on my door step a few weeks ago. He's doing fine, I'm glad to report, though I have to keep him away from my pet rats. They don't like poor Kittyrat (what we named the cat), and will smack and bite him. *squinches eyes* Thank goodness for fun fannish things! What would I do with all my time without N3F? (Oh yeah, house cleaning.)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

1: **Membership cards:** A while back I sent out Membership Cards to the entire membership. If you did not receive one you may not have renewed. If you have yet to renew please do so ASAP. If you have renewed, or feel that I missed you, please let me know, and tell me when you renewed so I can adjust the expiration date accordingly.

2: **The e-Fan:** We now have an electronic form of *The Fan* called *The e-Fan*. YAY! For more information on that please take a look at our official announcement on the subject.

3: **Spread the Word:** I would like to direct your attention to the Spread the Word Incentive. I feel it is really important for all of us to work together to increase our membership. If you are a teacher, or involved with school activities, maybe you could encourage some of the youth to join up. All of our members are wonderful, but I feel we need more young (and new) blood to help N3F's future. Maybe you could encourage a former member to rejoin. We miss them.

Tightbeam

Sarah Glasgow

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Hello! Thanks everyone in the Editorial Cabal, Directorate, and otherwise who've helped get zines out this year! How wonderful and how fun it is to be writing my third LoC this year.

By the time you read this the *Harry Potter* movie will most likely be out. I have been looking forward to this movie, though recently someone spoiled part of the movie for me. Two ladies and myself were talking, one of whom has read all the Potter books. The other lady asked her a question, I asked the first lady not to say anything that would spoil the movie, but she did anyway! I won't say what it was since some of you may not have read the books, but I was annoyed to say the least. She could have at least informed me that she was going to say something to give the movie away so that I could choose to walk away! Hmph! But I'm sure I'll still enjoy the movie even if I won't be altogether surprised. I've been tempted to read the books, but I have so many books that I want to read that they aren't yet on the top of the list.

I'm currently reading *Black Sun Rising* by C.S. Friedman. Excellent book and I'm only on chapter 3. In fact, the prologue was even intriguing! In some books I've just read the Prologue because I had to in order to get to the "good stuff". In this one the Prologue is the good stuff! She has a mastery of words and language. I love her style of writing. Oddly enough, I've had this book for over ten years and never "got around" to reading it before.

Helen Davis: Have you moved into your new home yet? Moving is a hassle. My room mates and I have to move this summer. Our landlady's brother is moving here from China and gets the place. This will be our third move in 3 years. I'm not looking forward to it, though I do like looking at houses. I agree with and appreciate your comments on gender selection. I think I'll leave it at that for now.

Janine Stinson: How wonderful to be sent books by Tor publicists. I should like to read some of the books you mentioned. Have you by chance printed your reviews of these in the zine? Which would you recommend? I'm thinking *Lion's Blood* since that was the only one you included an adjective for ("phenomenal").

Laura Hazelwood: I consider myself a Trekkie also, but like you it's more about the people and stories - oh, and collecting autographs! (I collect autographs from various shows and movies.) I think it would be fun to speak Klingon, but if I were to learn another language, I'd just as soon learn something that I could actually use to communicate with others. Even with the original *Star Wars*, my all-time favorite, my collection (which is far greater than my *Star Trek* collection) has been chosen carefully and I don't go around dressed like Princess Leia (though if people want to that's cool by me). But with both, the autographs are what I like best.

Taras Wolansky: I am happy to learn of your interest in anime. Yep, a great deal of it is SF/F. Have you considered getting involved in the Mangaverse bureau? I know there are at least a few fans of anime in this club. Ruth Davidson and Bernadette Glasgow ("Usagi") are my sisters and are totally into it. Have you seen the *Escaflowne* mini-series? Even my mom is a fan of it. It's very good.

Richard Brooks: Wow! You read the *LOTR* trilogy in three days? Amazing. I took a whole year. Granted, I was reading non-fiction books also during that time. I like to have a novel and non-fiction book going at the same time. Or at least alternate, read one, then the other. Anyway, interesting scenario regarding who would play the characters a few decades ago. I can see Richard Burton more as one of the Kings, or Boromir, than as Aragorn.

Carla Hall Minor

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I have many pet peeves, but very few that I feel strongly enough about to rant over. However, I can be silent no longer! This one really, really makes me angry.

Every week I go grocery shopping at the Super Wal-Mart - an enormous edifice with a parking lot the size of a continent. The parking lot has numerous corrals where customers are asked to leave their shopping carts after they've been used. This is so the Wal-Mart employees can easily stack them together and return them to the store for someone else to use. Simple enough premise. So, why is it that every time I drive through the parking lot looking for a space, I see abandoned shopping carts blocking them? The cart corrals are only a few steps away from wherever you park, and they're never so full that there's no room to leave your shopping cart there.

Am I right in the following ideas about those people who leave their carts lying about to deny a space to a customer who drives a car like they do?

Are they so lazy that they lack the will to return their cart as they should? Or are they so arrogant and inconsiderate that they feel they have the right to leave their cart wherever they please and damn to the rest of us? Perhaps they're fitness-minded, feeling that the Wal-Mart employees don't get enough exercise and would benefit from chasing down errant carts left scattered away from the corral. Do they abandon their cart out there for the benefit of folks like me, who free the space by taking their cart back to the store myself as I go in? Maybe I need the exercise, but maybe not. What are they, psychic?

I see some of them rising to defend their actions. "I have x number of children, and I can't leave them in the car for the five minutes or less it takes to put my cart where it belongs!" Well, their concern for their kids is laudable, but if they're old enough to go shopping with Mom, they can probably survive comfortably in that SUV for those few minutes. If the child is a helpless infant, they can put him in the cart on the way to the corral and then carry him back to the car. Parents are usually capable of practical common sense; they find solutions for all kinds of situations each day. Putting a cart away isn't much of a situation, and it doesn't take a genius to find a solution regarding how to work it around kids. Parents shouldn't use them as an excuse for not doing what they should.

Once I went shopping and found a woman driver about to pull away from a parking space where she'd thoughtlessly left her cart. As I happened to be returning my cart at the time, I collected hers too and took it to the corral. I shot her a hard glare as I did so, hoping she'd take the hint. Instead, she rolled down her window and thanked me very prettily for doing her a good turn on such a hot day. She had to speak up, of course, to be heard over her car's roaring AC. Are people now using the climate as an excuse? It was a beautiful June afternoon; there was no tornado bearing down on the Wal-Mart and no bolt of lightning poised to strike her if she returned her cart.

Folks, if you've read this far, you're probably convinced I'm a petty bitch. You're probably correct. But I try to be a courteous petty bitch. And no, I really don't believe these people are lazy, arrogant, fitness-obsessed, or lack common sense. They're not afraid of the weather, either.

They're just plain rude.

Richard Brooks

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The big news is I have finally gotten a new computer. Got tired of the problems I've had with all the used ones and saved my pennies.

My first computer I had to put together myself. The Healthkit cost over \$1800 and had only 48K (yes only 46,000 bytes) of memory. It also had one floppy 8" disk drive. This Dell computer cost over \$400 and has 128MB memory. It has a CD drive. I hope to get it set up tomorrow. But just in case, I'll get out a few letters tonight.

April was very dry up here. Usually in the last two weeks of the college softball season, we have several games rescheduled due to rainouts. This year we had one.

The first two weeks of May have tried to make up for April. We had a batch of logs harvested out of our woods early in May. The logs are still setting out in front of the woods. Too wet to go back and get them.

What's left of our farm is one-half mile deep. Down the middle is a hill. A watershed hill. Which means the north half of the farm has water flowing off to the northwest. The south half has drainage off to the south. There is a swampy area in both low spots.

Ruth: I said last ish that there should have been more *Lord of the Ring* movies to get everything in. Denethor's death was a stupid change. My mother was the youngest of 7 sisters and also had 5 brothers. She was born in 1911.

Janine: Yes, *Lord of the Rings* was a very good set of films. It could have been better, but I'm thankful for what we got.

A friend told me of a film he watched that had aliens looking for stuff to mine to make transistors and integrated circuits out of. For those of you who don't know transistors are made of mostly silicon. Silicon comes from sand. Such as the deserts of the world are full of.

Taras: I first saw Anime in Fort Wayne about 20 years ago. Rose Hille founded a Dr. Who group down there

(about 60 miles) before any of the area tv stations carried *Dr. Who*.

Rose also liked anime. Ken Shiro is the one I remember her showing us. Turned down as too violent, by some anime groups. We had a Tri-State Japanese student that tried to guide us through anime. He admitted that he didn't understand some of it.

Laura: *Star Trek* really changed fandom. I started going to cons in 1960. Close to 90 percent male until after *Star Trek*.

One of my fond memories is chatting with Mark Leonard at a late night GRAS party at a con. Mark had then been a Romulan commander and Spock's father once and he was already a cult figure. Since I was not in any awe of him, we had a long chat. He seemed a bit bemused by his becoming a fan favorite.

Sarah: As I understand it, the choice of gender comes before the egg is fertilized. It is possible to separate the sperm so that one batch will cause mostly males and the other mostly females. But it has been a long time since I read on this.

My sister saw the first *Harry Potter* movie. Then she read the books.

My favorite bits about alphabets. The X in X'mas is actually the Greek letter chi, Christ's initial in Greek. In Yee Olde Tea Shoppe, that is not a y but the Old English letter thorn which stood for th.

I see your sister is nicknamed "Usagi" Isn't that Sailor Moon? Years ago, I saw some *Sailor Moon* comics advertised at 25 cents each. I'd never heard of *Sailor Moon*, so I did a web search.

Gee, Sailor Moon inspired a hell of a lot of pornographic sites.

Helen: I was 12 when we last moved. At 63, I don't intend to do so again.

My mother was pregnant 7 times. She carried three of us to term. She weighed less just before I was born than she did when I was conceived. Morning sickness racked her up in her first 6 pregnancies. The last, in 1948, there were medications that controlled her morning sickness.

The violets are about done blooming but the lilac bushes are now mostly in bloom. I go by one on the northwest corner of the house a lot.

Back in 1970, Mother told Father that lilac needed trimming. He took out his trusty chain saw and trimmed it off about 6 inches above the ground.

Seemed to have helped it as it seems in better shape even now.

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Janine Stinson: I think you're enjoying your resignations as editor a little too much. Heehee. *wink* Though I now have a new appreciation for those in the editing field.

I think the *Lord of the Rings* movies deserved all of the awards they received. I just strongly feel that the last half of *The Two Towers* and the whole of *The Return of the King* could have been truer to the books and still be just as well-made and directed.

Richard Brooks: I agree there should have been six movies. A lot of people have told me that if you hadn't read the books the movies were hard to follow.

I'm sorry about your dog. I felt a bit guilty for laughing at the imagery of a dog flattened by a sleeping deer. *hugs* Condolences. I know how difficult it can be to lose a beloved pet, even when you're "prepared" for it.

I can't imagine cleaning up after more than one husband. *laughs*

Sarah E. Glasgow: I should clarify, they don't change the gender of the fetus. The egg and sperm are artificially inseminated *outside* of the womb in a laboratory. Multiplies actually so that you get to choose which fetus (at a very young age) you want to bring to term. The technology was first developed to detect things like down syndrome, so you wouldn't have to bring to term a retarded child. The other fetuses that don't get chosen are either destroyed or used for testing purposes. (I assume, since in the article they say that very few are actually destroyed so, logically, I came to that conclusion.)

I do agree though that it is selfish to choose and will bring sexism and gender imbalance, which is already happening in other countries, to our society.

Helen Davis: It also really ticks me off when people are rude about children to parents. A lady at church had triplets NATURALLY. I've decided to never vent my frustrations regarding my 13 month old daughter to anyone except to trusted family members. Why? Because people rudely say "that's what you get for having kids." Excuse me? Oh, that makes me SO MAD. (Usually I'm also frustrated with other things, not just my daughter.) Just because I'm having a hard day or week doesn't mean I love or want my daughter any less. It just means that I'm having a hard time right now and was just venting. That's all.

It's also popular to only have one or two children these days. I still want five. People say to me, "That'll change (or that'll change after the first one)," "Are you stupid or somethin'?" "Oh god!" (in an almost disgusted tone, so now I'll never mention it again to my Father In-law). Well, I haven't changed my mind. I believe there's a GOOD REASON why we normally only have one child at a time! You gotta work up to it. So yeah, I understand. I also completely agree with you on the gender selection issue.

Laura Hazelwood: I saw Nichelle Nichols at a con once. She was AWESOME. When I got her autograph she personally handed me the newly-autographed photo, smiled at me, and said, "There you go." I smiled back and said, "Thank you." "You're very welcome," she replied. She was so gracious and personable. I still smile every time I think about it..

After that awesome experience, getting Merina Sertis' autograph was such a downer. She kept her head down and signed as if she were an assembly line machine

Taras Wolansky: The only anime you listed I have yet to see are *Banner of the Stars* and *The Twelve Kingdoms*. I'm glad anime has gotten so popular. More titles, better subtitles and now manga is printed in the USA in right to left reading format! *big smile* Now I can see the art the way it was supposed to be seen. In some instances it also really matters. Especially if you're supposed to notice that someone's not wearing a wedding ring. But when the art is flipped it looks like the right hand. This happened while reading *Silent Mobious*. And yes Sturgeon's Law definitely applies.

Also avoid any anime with girls tied up on the covers. They're almost always hentai (Japanese word for perverted and/or pornographic). Unless you like being disturbed. . . ew.

The American version of *Macross Plus* called *Robotech* was my intro to anime. I was 6 or 7. Then I got into *Sailor Moon* in high school. I was flipping through channels when I paused long enough to see a rose thrown as if it were a dart, and there was *Tuxedo Mask*. I thought that was so sexy I was hooked. Now I go to anime-cons whenever I can. *grin*

Everyone: Do you remember the old 80's show *Starman*? I just finished watching all 22 episodes, and I am happy to report that I enjoy it just as much now as I did when I was a kid. I was thinking, man, they could have done a lot with this. Scott has alien powers that he has yet to really comprehend and grow into. Ah well. Maybe someone will be brave and do a remake! *grin* I'm just pleased at how much I enjoy it now that I'm an adult. I find that usually the things that I liked as a child (especially with TV) I can see why I liked it then, but I don't really enjoy it now. If you have them on tape, or know someone who does, go watch them again. It's so much fun. I hope they eventually come out on DVD, with nifty extras and stuff.

Janine Stinson

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First, I'd like to thank Ruth Davidson for selecting me as one of the 2003 Franson Award recipients. It was a pleasant surprise to receive it in 1998; I thought I'd reached the pinnacle of Neffer awardees when I was voted the Kaymar in 2000 (and I still have Don Franson's congrats letter). It's an honor and a pleasure to receive the Franson Award again.

Second, congratulations to those who were re-elected. With the revitalization of the clubzine begun, the next election should be on schedule and all the required electoral items should be published in a timely manner. The June ish of TNFF should have the requirements included, and the platforms will probably run in the September ish. Ballots are supposed to be mailed out before Oct. 10. Those interested in running for any of the elected offices are urged to get platforms written *now*. <g> Send them to Ruth Davidson.

Third, I'd be interested to know how many Neffers were in N'APA when it was still active, and how many Neffers total (previous N'APAs and non-N'APAs) would be interested in participating in N'APA now. Of those wishing to join, I'd like to know how many would be willing to join an electronic N'APA, and how many prefer the print N'APA. I'm *not* volunteering to re-start N'APA, I'm collecting information at this point. It's possible I may volunteer as the re-start OE (official editor) later on, but I can't promise it. I think it's best to find out how much interest there is in N'APA first. Please write or e-mail me directly (my info is in the club officers listing).

Nice to see poetry in TNFF again. That was an interesting variety in the March ish, Ruth, nice job. Your haiku were fun; I've dabbled in the form a bit myself, but not in an sfnal way -- yet. <g> George, I hope you send in some more filkish work!

The "new" horror RR has made its first round, I'm pleased to note, and I hope the other RRs are moving along as well. Best wishes to everyone, and write more LoCs!



REVIEWS

Jon D. Swartz, Reviews Editor

Starlight 2

edited by Patrick Nielsen Hayden (Tor, 2002); reviewed by Janine Stinson.

Robert Charles Wilson starts off this anthology with “Divided by Infinity,” an interesting and novel take on the old curiosity shop. This time it’s a bookstore with a knack for stocking books that were never written, at least not according to the main character’s memory. Memory is a very malleable thing, though, as that character learns, and the future is never as we imagine it. This volume has more than a few stories that deal with the nature of time. “Divided by Infinity” is one, as are “Lock Down” (M. Shayne Bell), “Mrs. Mabb” (Susanna Clarke), “A Game of Consequences” (Dave Langford), and “Story of Your Life” (Ted Chiang). Alternate history made an appearance in Carter Scholz’s “The Amount to Carry.” My favorite story is Esther M. Friesner’s “Brown Dust,” because I usually root for the underdog and Friesner has a habit of doing the same thing in her stories. In this one, she takes on Brazil’s dirty little secret of hordes of orphaned children in its major cities being murdered just to keep them out of the way of tourists’ view. Yes, this really does happen. Friesner invents an even darker purpose for this insidious form of class oppression. She makes the hero a small boy who sees past the walls of his own poverty, which allows him to destroy the sociopath who preys on the children. It’s a strong, affecting story. Raphael Carter won the James Tiptree Jr. Award for his “Congenital Agnesis of Gender Ideation” that deals with aspects of gender in characterizations within the context of a science fiction story. “Ideations” concerns a study of certain people who are purportedly missing the ability to discern a person’s sex based on their facial features. It also involves the question of whether or not such recognition abilities are hardwired into us at birth, or learned after birth. Carter’s use of the scientific report motif gives the story a solid foundation upon which these ideas can be explored. This is a fine story and certainly worthy of winning the Tiptree. Original short story anthologies aren’t usually easy sells with publishers. But the *Starlight* series has already proven itself and will be around at least a few more years if its current track record is any indication; *Starlight 3* has already been published. Editor Hayden’s ability to attract stories from both established writers and newcomers is this anthology’s biggest selling point.

Moonfall

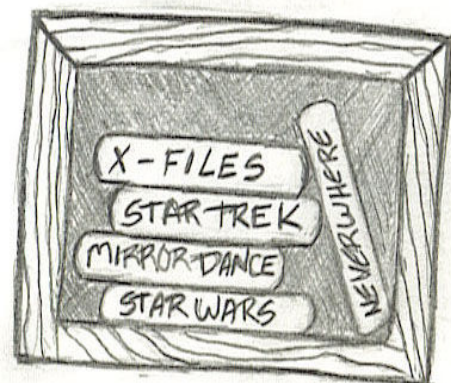
by Jack McDevitt (HarperCollins, 1998); reviewed by Janine Stinson.

It was just a coincidence that this book came out during the same time period that Hollywood made and released a rash of comet/asteroid disaster films. McDevitt’s book, however, has more than a comet. *Moonfall* is a near-future SF tale set in 2024. Humanity has succeeded in establishing a permanent colony on the Moon, an orbiting space station, and is set to send its first manned mission to Mars. Then a comet shows up. No, it doesn’t hit the Earth. It hits the Moon. McDevitt cleverly avoids the obvious, and the physics of the impact are wonderfully brought to life through the characters’ eyes and McDevitt’s thankfully well-informed prose. I could see everything that happened in my mind’s eye, and he provides some awe-inspiring scenes for one’s mental movie screen. The book features a vice-president as the reluctant hero, and a group of characters around him who are neither stupid nor shallow. These are folks I’d like to know better. *Moonfall* is a great read, a good beach book for end-of-summer doldrums, or the depths of winter’s chill. Read it anytime.

Diplomatic Immunity

by Lois McMaster Bujold (Baen Books, 2002)

A rich Komarran merchant fleet has been impounded at Graf Station in distant Quaddiespace, after a bloody incident on the station docks involving a security officer from the convoy’s Barrayaran military escort. Lord Miles Vorkosigan—the resourceful, short-stature hero with the brittle bones—and his wife, Lady Ekaterin, have other things on their minds, such as getting home in time to attend the long-awaited births (ex-utero) of their first two children. But when duty calls in the voice of Barrayar’s Emperor Gregor Vorbarra, the emperor’s youngest Imperial Auditor (a special troubleshooter who speaks for the Emperor) has no choice but to answer. Miles is charged with investigating the impounding of an allied merchant fleet and the seizure of Barrayaran personnel. Naturally, this seemingly straightforward crime leads him to mass murder, kidnapping, hijacking, biological warfare, etc. Along the way he also runs into an old friend (the hermaphrodite Bel Thorne) who just happens to be portmaster at the space station. This novel was a finalist for the 2004 Nebula Award for best novel. A bonus at the end of the book is a chronology of the entire series, detailing Miles’ trouble from ages 17 to 32. The other books in this popular series are *The Warrior’s Apprentice*, *The Vor Game*, *Cetaganda*, *Borders of Infinity*, *Brothers in Arms*, *Mirror Dance*, *Memory*, *Komarr*, and *A Civil Campaign*.



RETRO BOOK REVIEWS

Reading *Diplomatic Immunity* led me to re-read two previous books in the series, ones I first read years ago. Brief reviews of these award-winning books follow.

The Vor Game

by Bujold (Baen Books, 1990)

This novel is the witty story of how smart-alec Miles Vorkosigan manages to graduate from the Service Academy, but is arrested after his first assignment, a posting at Kyril Island where he predicted and combated the local weather and his commanding officer's homicidal moods. Then he had to find a way to rejoin his Dendaril Mercenaries as Admiral Naismith and attempt to rescue his childhood friend, the Emperor Gregor. Miles finally managed to combine his two different lives. *The Vor Game* won the 1991 Hugo Award for best novel.

Mirror Dance

by Bujold (Baen Books, 1994)

Lord Miles Vorkosigan is third in line to the Barrayaran throne. His clone twin Mark—grown from tissue stolen from Miles when he was a child—was raised for only one purpose: to become Miles by murdering and then replacing him. Escaping Barrayaran surveillance, Mark assumed Miles' identity and took his Dendarii Mercenaries on a raid to rescue 50 doomed clones on the planet Bharaputra. The clones were rescued, but Miles was "killed" and his body lost. Mark eventually realized that without Miles he was nothing and tried to find Miles, dead or alive. The conclusion of the story found Miles and Lord Mark on Barrayar with their parents and both making plans for the future. *Mirror Dance* won the 1995 Hugo Award for best novel.

Reviewing a Classic

Green Thoughts and Other Strange Tales

by John Collier (Armed Services Edition # 871, 1943)

I recently acquired a copy of John Collier's short story collection, which was a thin paperback original given to American military personnel during World War II. It contains 24 short stories: "Green Thoughts," "The Touch of Nutmeg Makes It," "De Mortuis," "Wet Saturday," "Little Memento," "Mary," "Midnight Blue," "Back for Christmas," "Evening Primrose," "The Frog Prince," "Rope Enough," "The Chaser," "The Devil, George, and Rosie," "Half-way to Hell," "Possession of Angela Bradshaw," "The Right Side," "Another American Tragedy," "Bird of Prey," "Thus I Refute Beelzy," "Night! Youth! And the Moon!" "Variation on a Theme," "Old Acquaintance," "Ah, the University!," and "Hell Hath No Fury." Other masters of the fantastic and humorous short story, such as Roald Dahl, Lord Dunsany, and Saki (H. H. Munro), are often compared to Collier; but he really has no peer.

MUNDANE BOOK REVIEWS

Norbert Davis published three *Doan & Carstairs* detective novels in the 1940s. All have been reprinted recently by The Rue Morgue Press, Lyons/Boulder, Colorado

The Mouse in the Mountain (2001/originally published in 1943) is set in the fictional town of Los Altos, Mexico, where short, chubby, alcoholic LA private eye Doan has gone to convince a missing fugitive to stay put. Accompanying Doan is Carstairs, his gigantic Great Dane (fullname: Dougal's Laird Carstairs), which he won in a crap game. Carstairs doesn't approve of Doan's drinking, and usually proves to be an even better sleuth than Doan. The cast of characters who turn up in Los Altos is unusual indeed, and Doan and Carstairs have a hard time sorting them out.

Sally's in the Alley (2002/originally published in 1943), the second novel in the series, takes place in California and Nevada. Doan has been persuaded by government agents to discover the location of a valuable ore deposit from an old desert rat that doesn't trust the government. He and Carstairs have to deal with another cast of odd characters before Carstairs finally gets his man. A critic once wrote that this novel contains one of the funniest chapters even written in a detective story. If the critic was referring to Chapter Seven, I agree.

Oh, Murderer Mine (2003/originally published in 1946), the final novel in the series (and the most farcical), involves Doan and Carstairs with Heloise of Hollywood, a beauty maven on the wrong side of fifty, who is afraid some young hussy will steal her 26-year-old hunk of a husband, known in the popular magazines as "Handsome Lover Boy." When bodies start falling, Doan and Carstairs must again sort things out and come up with the murderer.

MOVIE REVIEW

Troy

Reviewed by Denise Fisk

Troy, as directed by Wolfgang Peterson ("Das Boot"), promised to be a spectacular epic in its previews, and overall it doesn't disappoint. We're treated to clashing armies against a sparkling sea, women and men desperately in love against all odds, the fickleness of gods and goddesses, who view humanity as mere chess pieces, and the arrogance of the Trojans, whose walls have never been breached before.

Eric Bana is very believable as Prince Hector, playing the role as a man who knows acutely the cost of being a prince when defending his younger brother's honor, and also his city of Troy. He also wants to seek an end to the costly war – a solution that all could possibly benefit from. Bana's Hector is a very classically noble, long-suffering man who wears the weight of his kingdom on his shoulders like Atlas does the world.

Sean Bean makes a very practical, believable Odysseus. He's not above playing both ends against the middle, and has a jolly good time in doing so. His overall desire is to have his name linked to those that would go down in history – and he gets his wish.

I wasn't too impressed with the role of most women in this film. Helen (Diane Kruger) virtually disappears after the first half -- where's the so-called "great romance" gone? Though Hector's wife (the statuesque Saffron Burrows) has some good scenes, she is also removed to the background! I would think these pivotal women -- especially Helen -- would have more to say and do. Typically, when history or screenplays are written by men, the ladies sometimes get "short shrift," as in this movie. More's the pity, since a good share of *Troy's* audience are women.

I did like Brisias (Rose Byrne). She's more than a match for Achilles, not afraid to show him a bit of spunk and bravery early on in their relationship. Not only is she a priestess, but she's also a member of the royal family, and she doesn't forget that, even when captured by Achilles' men.

Orlando Bloom was a real light-weight and rather dull as Paris. I just didn't find him believable. An actor with more meaty roles behind him would be more realistic as Paris, like Welsh actor Ioan Gruffudd. Bloom played Paris as more of a petulant kid who wants to bring toys home from where he's visited -- even if they're stolen like Helen -- and he doesn't understand the consequences of his actions, nor how many lives will be paid for his folly. This is a prince who would one day be king of a great nation? I don't think so! There also just wasn't much chemistry between Bloom's Paris and Kruger's Helen. Some sparks, yes, but not enough to ignite a whole war!

Brad Pitt was excellent as the cold, aloof, battle-mad Achilles. I did see "Brad Pitt The Actor" sometimes, but I also was convinced that "he really IS Achilles" as well. Sometimes Achilles could be a bit over-the-top, as in all the foolish chances he took during battle, but overall, wow! He packs quite a punch. He also broke down a few times towards the end of the movie, so we got a better glimpse into what drove him to be such a daredevil, and take chances with his life. Brisias helped to open the door to his heart; I just wish we could've seen more of their romance. However, war was more on the producers' minds, not romance, alas. Getting back to Brad Pitt, I think he must've read his Homer, because he played his character as if he knew Achilles so well.

The battle scenes were magnificent, though overly long in places. The movie really could've used more editing in this regard: less fighting and more interpersonal relationships. I also had a problem with the lighting. Too much beige and browns in many of the outdoor scenes. Having more color would definitely enhance this film more. Both Trojan and Greek men were known for their vanity, so adding some color to their armor, like gold bordering, would have indeed broken up the monotony.

Overall, I'd rate this movie a B+. Great care was taken to remain as faithful to Homer as possible, yet taking some liberties. This isn't high art, but it will surely go down as one of Hollywood's grander big-screen epics.

FANZINE REVIEWS

Fantastic Collectibles Magazine #145. Ray F. Bowman's adzine, published since 1979, usually also contains LoCs and articles, and even fiction on occasion. This issue's cover is a reproduction of the cover of *The Saturday Evening Post Fantasy Stories* (Avon #389). Featured is the first part of a science fiction story, "The Gray Zone," by Jacob Hart. This issue also contains a page of LoCs, and many pages of ads. [*Fantastic Collectibles Magazine* is available by subscription from Ray Bowman, the editor/publisher, at Box 167, Carmel, Indiana 46082. Bowman will probably send a sample issue on request.]

Ansible 201 (April 2004) contains genre news divided into the following three main sections: "The Sources of the Nile" (people in the news), "Conchobar" (convention information), and "Infinitely Improbable" (all other information). A consistently wonderful (and amusing) source of current information on SF from Dave Langford. [Information on receiving *Ansible* was provided last issue.]

The August Derleth Society Newsletter (Volume 24, Issue 4, 2003), devoted to the prolific Wisconsin author, is published by the August Derleth Society and edited by Kay Price. The current issue consists of detailed information on The Walden West Festival 2003. Many photographs of the Festival are included. One of Derleth's short stories,

"The Deserted Garden" [originally published in 1929 in *Weird Tales*], is reprinted. As usual, photos of Derleth are feature(including one of his Eighth Grade Graduation from the Sauk City St. Aloysius Catholic School). [The *August Derleth Newsletter* is available to members of the Society. Write about membership to Box 481, Sauk City, Wisconsin.]

REVIEWERS AND REVIEWEES

Ray Bowman, long-time genre book and magazine dealer, has also written several aids for the SF/F/H reader and collector, including indexes to *Planet Stories*, *Famous Fantastic Mysteries*, and the *Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*.

Lois McMaster Bujold, the daughter of a scientist-engineer father, has reported that she began reading SF at age nine. Most of her writing is part of a series of well-written, exciting, and often humorous space operas featuring Miles Vorkosigan, a physically handicapped military genius, and other members of his family. The Vorkosigans are part of an elite military caste from a planet that regressed into feudalism after being separated from galactic civilization. *Diplomatic Immunity* is the tenth book in the series. Bujold has won many genre awards: Nebula (Novel) for *Falling Free* (1988); Nebula (Novella) for "The Mountains of Mourning" (1989); Hugo (Novella) for "The Mountains of Mourning" (1990); Hugo (Novel) for *The Vor Game* (1991); Hugo (Novel) for *Barrayar* (1992); Hugo (Novel) for *Mirror Dance* (1995); Sapphire Award for *A Civil Campaign*, 1999; Mythopoeic Award (Adult Literature) for *The Curse of Chalion*, 2002.

John Collier (1901- 1980), novelist, poet, playwright, screenwriter, historian, and short story writer, was privately educated. He is as readable today as he was when he was writing in the 1930s. His sophisticated comic fantasy short stories, reprinted many times, continue to amaze and delight new generations of readers. While he did not write much science fiction per se, his work has been reprinted in several SF anthologies, including Donald A. Wollheim's *The Pocket Book of Science-Fiction*, generally regarded as the first significant SF anthology. Collier began his writing career as an 18-year-old poet. In 1930 he turned to prose, publishing the SF and fantasy novels *His Monkey Wife*, *Tom's A-Cold*, and *No Traveller Returns*. He also wrote *Defy the Foul Fiend* (1934), a coming-of-age novel full of sardonic humor. It is for his classic short stories, however, that Collier is mainly remembered today, fantastic stories that combine elements of satire, the grotesque, science fantasy, and the supernatural. He was awarded the International Fantasy Award for his short story collection, *Fancies and Goodnights*, in 1952.

Norbert (Bert) Davis (1909-1949) earned a law degree from Stanford, but never practiced law. Instead, he became a pulp fiction mystery writer. In addition to mysteries, he wrote western, love, and adventure stories. His 100+ published stories appeared in the leading pulps of the day, including *Black Mask*, where the best of his wacky but hard-boiled detective stories were published. While Doan and Carstairs were probably his best and funniest characters, other notable private detective creations of Davis were Max Latin and "Bail-Bond" Dodd. Davis died, apparently by his own hand, at age 40.

August Derleth (1909-1971) corresponded with H. P. Lovecraft as a teenager, and subsequently spent much of his life in projects aimed at preserving Lovecraft's memory. He and Donald Wandrei formed Arkham House in 1939 in order to bring out a volume of HPL's work. The result was *The Outsider and Others* (1939). Derleth's literary reputation was built almost equally upon four elements: his regionalist fiction; his poetry; his detective fiction; and his SF/F/H writing and editing, much of which paid tribute to Lovecraft. The BFA award for best novel is named in his honor.

Dave Langford has received many Hugos for best fanzine and best amateur writer. He has also published professionally, with a story in the *Starlight 2* anthology that is reviewed herein. His short story "Different Kinds of Darkness" won a Hugo Award in 2001.

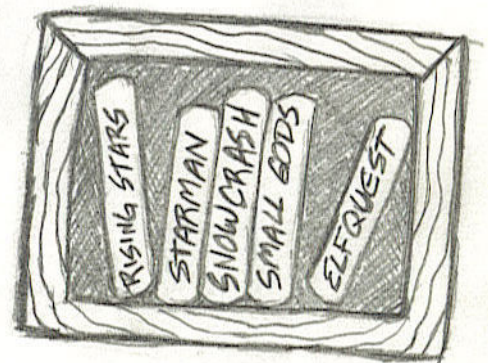
Jack McDevitt is a former English teacher and naval officer. He published his first novel, *The Hercules Text*, in 1991. Since then he has written many books and stories chronicling the human condition, most recently the novels *Chindi* (2002) and *Omega* (2003). At DeepSouthcon 2000 he was presented the Phoenix Award for his body of work.

Patrick Nielsen Hayden is a book editor and anthologist at Tor. He is married to Theresa Nielsen Hayden, also an editor at Tor.

Janine G. Stinson is a longtime N3F member and a current member of the Directorate. She has served as editor of both *Tightbeam* and *The Fan*, and won the Kaymar Award in 2000. She also appeared on the N3F list of Honors List/President's Awards for 1998.

The Reviews Editor is responsible for all material not attributed to someone else.

N3F members are invited to submit reviews of books, movies, and radio/TV programs to the Reviews Editor, either electronically or at 1704 Vine Street, Georgetown, TX 78626.



1959 KAYMAR AWARD 2004

The N3F was organized in April 1941, so the Kaymar Award has been presented in April every year since 1959. The 2004 winner is

GINNY BENSON

for all of the hard work she has put in over the years with the Round Robins, Birthday Cards, and many other club activities.

KAYMAR AWARD WINNERS

1959	Ray C. Higgs	1982	Owen K. Laurion
1960	Eva Firestone	1983	Sally A. Syrjala
1961	Ralph Holland	1984	K. Martin Carlson
1962	Janie Lamb	1985	Howard Devore
1963	Art Hayes	1986	Lola Ann (Andrew) Center
1964	Seth Johnson	1987	David Heath, Jr.
1965	Stan Woolston	1988	Fred Jakobic
1966	Donald Franson	1989	William Center
1967	Alma Hill	1990	Catherine Mintz
1968	Ann Chamberlin	1991	Tim Gatewood
1969	Donald Miller	1992	Marianne Turlington
1970	Elinor Poland	1993	Sandra Morrese
1971	Gary Labowitz	1994	Lyne-Marie Masamitsu
1972	Neb Brooks	1995	Michele (Nowak) Center
1973	Elaine Wojciechowski	1996	Craig Boyd
1974	Joanne Burger	1997	Diane (Miller) Blackwood
1975	Sheryl Birkhead	1998	Susan Van Schuyver
1976	Will Morris	1999	Jefferson Swycaffer
1977	Lynne Holdom	2000	Janine Stinson
1978	Harry Warner, Jr.	2001	Jacqueline Lichtenberg
1979	Frank Denton	2002	Dennis Davis
1980	John W. Andrews	2003	Harold Marcum
1981	Edward W. Ludwig	2004	<u>Ginny Benson</u>

As always, the selection was made by a committee, consisting of previous winners who are still in the club, from nominations submitted by members. Prizes include a year's membership extension, \$10 cash and a certificate.

The Kaymar Award, like few other awards in fandom, is awarded only once. It is given not for talent or popularity, but for work for the benefit of the club and its members. It is a fitting memorial to K. Martin Carlson (1904-1986), who originated, maintained and financed it for 25 years. Now it is paid for by the N3F Treasury, which is small compensation for the value of the work done by the winners over the years.

Any member of the N3F may nominate someone who seems worthy of the Kaymar Award. Send your nominations to the Chairman of the Kaymar Awards Committee at any time; but at least by the end of the year, so that the names can be voted on in time for next April's award. All names will be kept confidential. This is an honor, not a campaign, and only the winner's name will be published in TNFF.

William Center, Chairman

Kaymar Awards Committee: Art Hayes, John W. Andrews, Sally Syrjala, Howard Devore, David Heath, Jr., William Center, Catherine Mintz, Tim Gatewood, Marianne Turlington, Sandra Morrese, Michele (Nowak) Center, Craig Boyd, Diane (Miller) Blackwood, Susan Van Schuyver, Jefferson Swycaffer, Janine Stinson, Jacqueline Lichtenberg, Dennis Davis, Harold Marcum

ART BUREAU REPORT

Sarah Glasgow

Happy Summer! I can't believe the year is half over! Crazy. That means there are only three months left until the art submissions are due for the ArtZine (previously called the Artist Showcase Zine). The guidelines are as follows: The due date is the last day of August. Feel free to send any recent or past works-it doesn't matter which (or heck, you

could send both <g>). You may contribute up to 3 pieces of work (more if they are small pieces and can fit 2-4 on a page. However, we would like to fill up most of the Artzine with full page works). The work must be SF/F related and done in either pen and ink or another medium that will copy well. The maximum size is 6x7 (anything larger will have to be reduced to fit). Please send copies or email only, no originals. Include your name; the title; and medium of the work; and a short, one to two paragraph bio of yourself. Please write or email if you have questions. My email is yseult_sg@yahoo.com. Oh, and I would love suggestions for the name of the Artzine if you have any!

I am currently in the process of composing a letter to send to all former neffers who've contributed art to the clubzine within the past ten years. There are over 30 artists! I didn't realize there were so many. That's terrific and hopefully some of them will choose to rejoin our numbers. I'll be letting them know of the various things we're doing including the Artzine. Depending on how this goes, we may extend the deadline for the Artzine. I will let you know if this happens. In the meantime we'll keep it as it is which would be very helpful to me so I can get started on my end.

Also, don't forget to send in art for the cover contest! See the ad in this zine for info.

ROUND ROBIN BUREAU REPORT

Susan Van Schuyver

Round Robins (RR's) are packets of letters that members write on a certain subject. When you receive the packet, you read all the letters, take out your old one, write and include a new one, and send the packet on to the next person on the Route Sheet. You then drop your Robin Master (RM) a note by "snail" mail or email to let him/her know that you have sent the packet on its way.

We have gotten several Round Robins going again this spring after some time off, and we have started some new ones. If you are interesting in joining one of the active RR's, adding your name to one of the waiting lists, or creating a new RR, let me know. My addresses are listed somewhere in this issue

Active Round Robins

Batman and Other Superheroes—Marcum
Cats in SF&F – VanSchuyver
Celtic Folklore #1 – Glasgow
Comics – Davidson
DS9/ST:NG/Voyager – Benson
Dragons #1 – Marcum
Dreams – VanSchuyver
Fairy & Folk Tales – Davidson
Horror – Davidson
King Arthur – Marcum
Lackey, Mercedes – Winters

McCaffrey, Anne – VanSchuyver
Mythology – Davidson
Norton, Andre – Marcum
SciFi Channel – VanSchuyver
SF&F in Films – Davidson
Star Trek Classic #1 – Benson
Star Trek Classic #2 – VanSchuyver
Star Wars – Benson
Time Travel – VanSchuyver
TV SF&F – VanSchuyver

If you are the RM of an active RR not on the above list, please let me know the name and members.

Waiting Lists

Current Reading / *Cyber Horror / *Harry Potter Books & Movies / Interstellar Empires / Nonfiction / Poetry / Science & Technology / Supernatural / *The Lord of the Rings Movies & Books / Vampires

*These are new ideas for RR's. If you are interested in joining, please contact me.

ONLINE BUREAU REPORT

Laura Hazelwood

Every time I walk into a book store and find my way to the science fiction/fantasy aisles my first inclination is to look for books by authors that I have already. It seems natural that those who have already managed to tickle my rather finicky tastes should be able to do so again. In most cases this is very true. However, after reading the fifteenth book in a series by an author who is apparently running out of original ideas, even the most beloved of writers will slip from first place in my top ten-o-meter.

In a day and age when buying a new paperback book cost as much as \$8.00, I have found myself growing ever more cautious in plunking down my hard earned change. How can I, and you, get a closer look at the works of authors unfamiliar to us before we part with our cash? I took my frustration and tight wallet to the Internet.

My first stop was the SF Site (<http://www.sfsite.com/map3.htm>). This awesome webpage houses reviews, author book lists, excerpts (my personal favorite when looking for a book to buy), interviews with authors, and finally fan sites. If

you don't know what you're looking for this is the place to begin your research. I recommend stopping off here, before ever setting foot inside Borders or Barnes & Nobles. You will save yourself some disappointment if you know your authors. This website will even fill you in on book release dates!

Are you still not quite sure what you're after? Well, my next stop on the scifi/fantasy hunt was the Ultimate Science Fiction Web Guide (<http://www.magicdragon.com/UltimateSF/SF-Index.html>). This website boasts a listing of over six thousand authors, three thousand of which include links on the Internet as well as partial listings of publications. I was a little frustrated to find some links were outdated, but all and all this website is an excellent resource.

Well, I've saved the best for last. Fantastic Fiction (<http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/>) lists over five thousand authors and bibliographies and over one hundred thousand books. The site is slick and easily navigable. You can look for new books by your favorite authors or browse the listings of new releases. This site is HIGHLY recommended!! Happy book hunting! Enjoy your summer!

Ruth Davidson has also been surfing the web and wanted to share her insights and discoveries:

Ever heard of the World Ice Art Championships? Check it out, they're making plans for next year's event! <http://icealaska.com>. They have ice sculpting contests, and the art is beautiful. The art ranges from delicate to historic to just massive. Here's a sample of their art that I got permission to use.

On an unrelated note: I did a google search for Donald Franson. All sorts of stuff came up! For the curious, I recommend you try it too.



BIRTHDAY BUREAU REPORT

By Ruth R. Davidson

Thank you Ginny Benson, Denise A. Fisk, Sally A Syrala, Bernadette "Usagi" Glasgow, and David K. Robinson. Please let me know if you there are any errors or if your birthday is not listed. Also, please inform me of any nephews who are ill or who need an uplifting note. Donations in the form of stamps and cards are always welcome.

Here is the list of birthdays for the next three months. Feel free to send anyone a birthday card. Remember, it's always nice to get *nice* mail!

July birthdays:

Valerie Mignault 07/28/1966
George Phillies 07/23/????
Cynthia Anya Richter 07/14/1940

August birthdays:

Dennis Davis 08/21/1953
Emery Kurts 08/19/1949
Robert Miller 08/28/1949
Ralph Osborn 08/03/1939
Rick Shields 08/03/1957
Taras Wolansky 08/04/????
Robert Sabella 08/06/1948

September birthdays:

John W Andrews 09/05/????
Ginny Benson 09/23/1936
Craig Boyd 09/23/????
Ricky Conner 09/07/1958
Theresa Contos 09/6/1952
Priscilla Johnson 09/13/1960
Carol Klees-Starks 09/26/1961
David K. Robinson 09/03/1968
Tom Feller 09/21/1954

YOUTH BUREAU REPORT

Bernadette "Usagi" Glasgow

I'm glad I'm able to head the Youth Bureau. I hope all the youth (anyone 30 and under) will be inspired to participate.

I'm hoping to put out a publication by August. We only need 5 more participants to make it worthwhile. There will be discussions and/or articles about youth in scifi and fantasy, young actors (in sf&f), young writers, how youth is represented in scifi and fantasy, and just about anything youth related.

I'm excited about the upcoming Harry Potter movie *The Prisoner of Azkaban*. It's the current most popular movie with youth as the main characters. I would love to discuss it with you.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the bureau I would love to hear them. Please contact me at twistedusagi@goosemoose.com or at 434 Bird St., Yuba City, CA 95991. --deepest affections, Usagi

THE MANGAVERSE REPORT

By Ruth R. Davidson

Heya peeps!

By the time you read this, the first issue of the *The MANGAVERSE: News & Fan-talk* will have been published. It is offered in .PDF format (you will need to download Adobe Acrobat Reader – which is free – to read .pdf files), and it will be sent to your email address. It is also available, upon request, in printed form mailed to your regular "snail mail" address. This option will cost \$5 a year (6 issues) to help off-set printing and shipping costs.

The *MANGAVERSE's GIANT Fanzine of DOOM*, currently scheduled for publication around Thanksgiving, will also be published in .PDF format. Pricing for the printed version may cost upwards of \$20 dollars depending on how thick it is. More information on this fanzine publication will be in *The MANGAVERSE*.

We are having a logo contest. Color logos are accepted. The winning logo will be used in *The MANGAVERSE*, as well as on The Mangaverse website. The url is: <http://potato.xarph.net/~ruthiechan/mangaverse.html>. Bare in mind that this site is in its infancy. More detailed information on the contest will be in *The MANGAVERSE: News & Fan-talk*.

To be added to The MANGAVERSE mailing list please contact me at ruthiechan@xarph.net. Questions, comments, suggestions, and submissions are welcome.

Remember, anime fans, and american comic fans, are also welcome to participate along with the mangalover. Submissions for the TMV: New & Fan-talk are due on the 25th of the preceding month. For example; submissions for the August ish are due on July 25th. All fannish things pertaining to comics, manga, and anime are welcome. The only thing I will not accept is hentai (pornographic) material.

With that said, all sorts of fun and nifty things are happening. So contact me and join in the fun! I hope to hear from you soon!

COVER ART CONTEST

Would you like to see your art on the front cover of TNFF? Well, here is your chance! Send your Art to Sarah E. Glasgow at yseult_sg@yahoo.com or 3275 Mauricia Ave, Santa Clara CA 95051 and we shall see who wins!

Contest details:

- 1: The winner's art is placed on the front cover of the September issue of *The Fan*.
- 2: Art is due the 15th of August.
- 3: The Art Bureau Head is the judge.
- 4: All art must be sci-fi or fantasy based.

So break out the pencils and ink, and get to crackin'! Send questions to Sarah. Art not chosen will be used in future issues of the Fan.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Publishing Schedule: The zine publishes four times a year (quarterly) in March June, September, and December.

Deadlines: The 15th day of the month preceding the publication month. As an example, material intended for the June issue should be in the Editor's hands by May 15. *If it doesn't get here in time, it goes in the next issue.* Watch for updates for this information.

What We Publish: The zine is still the official clubzine for N3F, so it includes all the stuff that it has always published. Added to that will be the letter column *Tightbeam* and whatever else members submit: reviews (book, movie, TV show, game, etc.), con-reports, genre poetry, flash fiction (original short stories under 1000 words), and other fannish texts. Art is always needed; if it can be sent by disk or email please contact the editor for the appropriate format. *Please send only copies of your work, whether it is art or text.* Note: *All submissions for The Fan will be included in The e-Fan.*

Formats We Will Accept: Paper copies are always welcome. Before you send disk or email files please contact the editor for that issue concerning the format which he/she can accept. Unexpected format files can be eaten by virus checkers.

Not Sure What to Send? If you have never submitted an article to any zine, and aren't comfortable with writing an article per se, you can always write about something in a LoC and the editor can do a bit of editing to turn it into an article. More than one article started out that way. Bureau reports, articles, LoCs, con-reports, poetry, flash fiction (original short stories under 1000 words), art are all needed.

Art and Reviews: The formation of the Editorial Cabal helps to spread the work about, hopefully creating a more timely publication of The Fan. In order to facilitate this *Art should be sent to the Art Editor, Sarah E. Glasgow 3275 Mauricia Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95051 yseult_sg@yahoo.com.* *Reviews should be sent to the Review Editor, Jon Swartz, 1704 Street, Georgetown, TX 78626.*

ELECTRONIC FORM OF THE FAN

By Ruth R. Davidson

We are now offering *The Fan* in electronic format called *The e-Fan*. *The e-Fan* will be sent to your email address, and will be published in .PDF format. You will need to download Adobe Acrobat Reader in order to open and read .PDF files. This is a free download, available to anyone with a computer.

You now have the CHOICE to receive either *The e-Fan*, or *The Fan*. If you would prefer to receive *The e-Fan* please email me at ruthiechan@xarph.net and you will start seeing it in your email inbox instead of in your snail mail box as soon as possible.

All submissions given for *The Fan*, will also be published in *The e-Fan*. They are essentially the same publication, only one is paper, and one is electronic.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me. Blue Lights!

2004 NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION (N3F) AMATEUR SHORT STORY CONTEST

Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

- 1: This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, whether members of N3F or not. We define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
- 2: Stories must be original, unpublished, not more than 7500 words in length, and must be science fiction and/or fantasy in the opinion of the judges.
- 3: Manuscripts should be typed on one side of a 8 ½" x 11" white paper, double spaced, with the title on each page. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photo copies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer print outs must be legible.
- 4: Contestants may enter any number of stories, provided each is accompanied by a separate entry blank and fee. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) for the return of the story at the end of the contest. Keep a copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
- 5: Entry fees are \$2 for N3F members in good standing, \$4 for non-members. The extra \$2 is for printing and publicity, paid for by N3F funds. The basic \$2 is for judge's expenses and prizes. Members of N3F are encouraged to enter the contest, but will not receive preference in judging. Due to a long-standing agreement with the British Science Fiction Association, BSFA members pay the same fee as N3F members.
- 6: Cash prizes totaling \$50 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$25; Second \$15; Third \$10. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a choice of paperback books available.
- 7: Send all manuscripts, together with SASEs, blanks, and entry fees, to the contest manager: **Elizabeth Caldwell 685 South Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103-9332**. Checks payable to Elizabeth Caldwell. Dollar bills, or unused stamps (mint, not recycled) are acceptable. All entries must be received or post-marked no later than **December 31, 2004**.
- 8: The Preliminary Judge, who will pick the 10 or 12 semi-finalists, will be a knowledgeable N3F member. The Final Judge will be a professional writer.
- 9: The N3F assumes no publishing rights or obligations. We want to encourage pro sales, not fan publication. All entries will be returned after the contest is over. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. A full report will be made to N3F soon after the first of the year.

ENTRY BLANK

(Detach or not, as you wish, but must accompany story)

Title of Story (for identification purposes): _____
Author's Name & Address: _____

Enclosed is the entry fee of \$4 (N3F or BSFA member \$2)
I have read the rules for the 2004 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and agree to them.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

SPREAD THE WORD INCENTIVE

Would you like to see more people join N3F? Would you like to see more Bureaus and Activities? Would you like to see more publications? Then help SPREAD THE WORD about N3F!

All you have to do is talk to people about N3F and/or give/send a flier report back to Sarah E. Glasgow.

What should you report back you ask?

- 1: your name
- 2: name of person(s) talked to. (first name only is fine.)
- 3: level of interest shown
- 4: If they join N3F

Who should you talk to you ask?

Friends Relatives

Acquaintances Neighbors

People you know because of your kids i.e. teachers, coaches, etc.

If you need an extra copy of TNFF and/or some fliers, please ask one of the Directorate members or the President.

For "spreading the word" you will receive a token of appreciation such as a bookmark, club button, or other incentive prize as a THANK YOU for your efforts. In order to receive the prize you must report back to Sarah. The results will be published in The Fan.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION

Preamble:

The activity that centers around science fiction and fantasy has grown to require organization in order that desirable objectives, beyond the achievement of single individuals, may be attained through united effort. Under this Constitution, the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) is established as an association of persons interested in promoting the progress of science fiction and fantasy, and in furthering its enjoyment by themselves and others.

Article 1. Membership

1. Membership, including any benefits created by the organization, and all rights such as voting, is gained by paying dues as set forth in the Bylaws. Dues changes may not go into effect until two (2) months after publication in the Official Organ and shall be further delayed until the completion of voting if the Official Organ receives a petition for submission as set forth in Article V, Section 1 for reversal, unless the change is the result of a vote on petition.
2. An organization may become a member of the N3F upon payment of dues as defined in Section 1 and is entitled to all rights and benefits of membership as outlined in this Constitution except that said organization may not vote or hold elective office.
3. Joint memberships are available to two persons residing in the same household. A joint membership will include The National Fantasy Fan Federation (TNFF) and all rights such as voting and club activities. The dues shall be more than a single membership but less than a double, to be set by the Directorate.

Article II. Officers

1. A President conducts the affairs of the organization. His/her appointments, suspensions, and removals from office, whether the office concerned is elective or appointive, are subject to the review and approval of the Directorate, as are also his/her methods of procedure.
2. If, for any reason, the office of President becomes vacant, the Directorate appoints a President to complete the unexpired term. Any interim administrative duties are performed by the Chairman of the Directorate, during which time he/she may not vote in his/her capacity as Director except on motions of appointment.
3. A Directorate, composed of five members, regulates the affairs and controls the finances of the organization, and may define the duties of any office or official of the association.

4. Decisions of the Directorate are by majority of its five members except in the following instances: by unanimous vote the Directorate may refuse membership to any person; expel any member by refunding the balance of his dues; and may remove the President from office.
5. Vacancies in the Directorate, whatever the cause, are filled by majority vote of the remaining Directors. If fewer than three Directors remain, the President shall appoint one or more up to the minimum of three.
6. Any person designated as Treasurer or otherwise empowered to keep or convey the funds of the organization must be over twenty-one years of age.
7. The Treasurer shall also have free dues as long as he or she holds office.

Article III. Elections

1. The President and five members of the Directorate are decided by the membership in an annual election of those officers. Ballots for the election are to be distributed before October 10th and the elected candidates take office on the following January 1st. Any member may seek office by complying with the official requirements which are to be published in the Official Organ at least two months previous to the filing deadline.
2. No person may hold two elective offices at the same time.
3. Each member may cast one vote for each of the five candidates of his/her choice in the election of the Directorate. The five candidates receiving the largest number of votes are elected. Ties are resolved by majority agreement of those elected candidates not included in the tie.
4. Of the candidates for President, the one receiving the largest number of votes is elected. In case of a tie, the elected Directorate chooses a President from the tied candidates.

Article IV: Official Organ

The association issues a publication of at least quarterly schedule which carries in addition to other material, a quarterly statement of the financial status of the organization, together with a listing of new members and their addresses.

Article V: Petitions & Amendments

1. Petitions of whatever purpose, endorsed by five per cent of the members or twenty-five members, whichever is less, must, within sixty days after the Directorate receives them, be submitted to the membership for decision unless the Directorate has already taken the indicated action. Petitions looking towards the revision, reversion, or setting aside of any action of the President or the Directorate must be submitted within two calendar years following such action, or such petition is invalid and without force.
2. Any motion by the Directorate approved for presentation to the membership to alter or amend the Constitution must be printed in the next TNFF, and in no event, not less than two months prior to the actual voting date, if not the result of action under Section I of this article.
3. Amendments to the Constitution shall require two thirds (2/3) of the votes cast to be approved. All other decisions by the membership shall be by a majority of the votes cast.
4. Any alteration or amendment of the Constitution will be presented to the membership for vote exactly as it is to be entered, or the alteration or amendment is invalid and without force.

5. The power to alter or amend the Constitution is vested solely in the membership.

Bylaws of The National Fantasy Fan Federation

I. Authority

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

II. The Directorate

1. The Chairman of the Directorate shall report to the membership all measures passed by the Directorate. The Chairman of the Directorate shall maintain updated copies of the Bylaws, distribute them to the Directorate, President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Official Editor of The National Fantasy Fan (TNFF), at the beginning of the year and whenever changed, and turn them over to his/her successor.
2. Copies of all official Directorate correspondence shall be sent to the President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
3. Each Directorate shall adopt standing rules of procedure, which shall remain in force for the Directorate of the following year, until such time as the new Directorate shall vote to accept them or adopt new rules.
4. The number of Life or Honorary members created by Directorate vote may not exceed 1% of the total membership of the N3F. This rule shall not operate to reduce the number of existing Life memberships at any time.
5. A Director who has not voted or participated in Directorate discussion or correspondence in any period of three consecutive months may be declared inactive by the Directorate, and may be removed by the President for this cause only, without prejudice.

III. The Secretary & Treasurer

1. The Secretary may bill the Treasury, as needed, for expenses incurred in the discharge of the office, including the purchase of supplies for new members, the sum not to exceed \$100 per year.
2. The Secretary will maintain a current membership roster, and will report new memberships, renewals, and changes of address to the President, Treasurer, Official Editor, Chairman of The Welcommittee, and such other officers as the President may direct, not less often than once a month.
3. The Treasurer will prepare a yearly report of all income to the N3F Treasury and an itemized list of expenditures. Also included in this report will be a listing of items which will require additional outlays, in the forthcoming year from the Treasury, and have been approved by the Directorate, but have not yet been paid. This report will be prepared for the first issue of TNFF to appear in the year following the year which the report covers

IV. Elections

1. All candidates must, by the filing deadline of September 1st of each year, have paid their dues for the year in which they will hold office if elected, and agree to serve if appointed under Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution.
2. In addition to the regular candidates listed on the ballot, members may write in the name of any member in good standing as a candidate for any elective office. Any candidate so elected must submit a written statement of his willingness to serve plus the dues for the year in which he will serve, to reach the Secretary within 14 days of his notification of election. In the event of non-compliance with the foregoing, the election will be voided and the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes for that office will be declared the winner.
3. Annual election ballots are to be sent out on postcards to each member in good standing as of September 30th. Ballots for Constitutional amendments and other membership referendums may be sent out with TNFF.

V. Publication

1. *Regular publication of the N3F.* The N3F has one regular publication, the Official Organ , which shall be provided free to all N3F members in good standing. The Official Organ, currently titled The National Fantasy Fan, is published in March, June, September, and December. The Editor and Publisher is appointed by the President.

a. The Publisher shall print enough copies to send to every member of the N3F as of the date of publication, plus extra copies for the President, Secretary, and head of Recruiting, and any other extra copies that the President may direct the Publisher to print.

b. In the event a Regular Publication does not appear as scheduled and the President appoints a Stand-by Editor to publish it, this Editor will be reimbursed as if he were the regular Editor if the magazine is mailed within two months after the appointment by the President.

c. The Official Organ shall contain a list of new members and renewals, as reported by the Secretary; the Constitution and Bylaws of the N3F in the June issue, and the Roster of the membership in the March and September issues.

d. Deadlines for material submitted to TNFF shall be the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication. Any deviation from this date must be announced in the previous issue.

e. No single issue of TNFF may exceed 32 pages, without Directorate approval. The Publisher will notify the Chairman of the Directorate of receipt of any issue not conforming to this page limitation, before printing.

f. Advertisements in N3F publication is free, restricted to N3F members, and are subject to space limitations in the judgment of the editor.

g. The N3F Roster, while available for membership use, is not for sale as a mailing list to anyone.

2. *Others.* Publications issued by subordinate Bureaus of the N3F and not sent to the entire membership shall be sent to the Secretary for information and record. In the case of N'APA that shall be construed to mean the Alliance Amateur or other official business publication and not the entire bundle. The cost will be borne by the Treasury of the N3F upon presentation of an itemized bill to the Treasurer.

3. *Naffer Amateur Press Alliance.* All N'APA members must be members in good standing of the N3F.

4. *Exchange Agreements.* The President can authorize exchange agreements with other publishers who will receive all N3F publications, and the President or other designated person will receive all their publications.

VI. Rescissions

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

VII. Amendments

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

VIII. Dues

Dues are \$18.00 per year, starting from the first of the month after received by the Secretary. Joint memberships for two persons residing in the same household and receiving TNFF are \$22.00 per year.

National Fantasy Fan (N3F) Membership Application

New Member Reinstatement Joint Membership Gift Membership

Name (Please Print): _____ DOB (for B-day Bu) _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
City, State, Postal Code, Country: _____
Email: _____ Occupation: _____
Male: Female: Today's Date: _____ Applicant Signature: _____

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> APA's | <input type="checkbox"/> Comics/Manga | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Fanzines | <input type="checkbox"/> Reviewing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cartooning | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Round Robins (group letters) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computers | <input type="checkbox"/> Editing | <input type="checkbox"/> Taping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conventions | <input type="checkbox"/> Filksinging | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence (penpals) | <input type="checkbox"/> Games | <input type="checkbox"/> DVD/Video |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collecting | <input type="checkbox"/> Movies/T.V. | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Science Fiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artwork | <input type="checkbox"/> Online Activites | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books | <input type="checkbox"/> Publishing | |

Please check your current SF/F related interests.

Which would you prefer?:

The e-Fan in .pdf format sent to your email address?

or

The Fan printed and mailed to your home address or PO Box?

How long have you been interested in Science Fiction and Fantasy?: _____

How long have you been involved in Fandom?: _____

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

List any conventions you've attended: _____

What Prozines and Fanzines do you read if any?: _____

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

Who are your favorite SF/F Authors: _____

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

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

Artwork Corresponding Publishing Recruiting at Conventions Writing for club publications
 Organizing Activities Other: _____

Name of Sponsoring Member (if any): _____

Dues are \$18 per year (\$22 for Joint Memberships) which includes subscriptions to the club's fanzine as well as other activities and benefits. Make checks or money orders payable to William Center (the treasurer). All payments must be made in U.S. funds. Mail dues and application to club secretary Dennis Davis, 25549 Byron St., San Bernadino, CA 92404-6403. Please allow 8 weeks for your first zine to arrive.