

# THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN

Volume 5, Number 3

September 2005



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Neffers, Most of my message this time around consists of announcements (see below). The domain N3F.org now belongs to us! So you can just type that in, and BOOM, you get to our website. For more details on the website see my Webmistress' Report. :)

Ruth R. Davidson:

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS!

1: I will NOT be running for President again this year. It was a very hard decision, I had originally planned to do it for one more year. I hope to be your President again in the future. I've really enjoyed the challenges and experiences I've gained. There's much I have learned that I doubt I would've learned elsewhere.

2: Help us obtain N3F's History! If you have old zines don't throw them out! Send them to our Historian Jon Swartz (contact info under Reviews Editor)! We're trying to create as comprehensive a history as possible of N3F to be readily available

to anyone interested. If you can, please help us in this very important endeavor to preserve our History!

3: Bureau Heads Needed! Blind Services - we have one Neffer who is blind (Art Hayes) who hasn't been able to read our zine for 2 years. You simply read TNFF in its entirety on a tape and send to him. Membership Cards & Convention Coordinator also need replacements. Please send your inquiries to me (info under President).

4: Ye Old N3F Shoppe Mistress is now under Webmistress. ----- The MANGAVERSE Report Despite the lack of reports, The MANGAVERSE fanzine is still going stro -- er, well, more like late, but hey, real life happens.

If all goes well, Vol. 2. No. 4 will be out by the time you read this. You can download it for free at [www.mangaverse.org](http://www.mangaverse.org), or if you want the hardcopy version you can just write me (info under President) and send \$1 per ish. Previous ishes are also available.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 5 No. 3 September 2005 The Official Organ of the National Fantasy Fan Federation.**

This issue was completed on 09/10/05. The editor for this issue was Jeffrey Redmond. The editor for the next issue is Rev Christopher J. Garcia 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View CA 94043; [garcia@computerhistory.org](mailto:garcia@computerhistory.org). Please send your submissions and questions to him or the Editorial Cabal bureau head. **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.** SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS: NOV 15, 2005. E-mail accepted by arrangement only! This zine is to be published quarterly in March, June, September, and December through hardworking volunteer effort.

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## **WEBMISTRESS Report**

We have finally obtained N3F.org! w0000000t! I was looking at whois info for a local SF/F org, and on a whim I decided to look up n3f.org only to find it was available! I snagged it then and there so it's OURS! YEAH! I've also put in more info about N3F, and eventually, with the help of our Historian, Jon Swartz, more of our history will be up for public consumption. N3fshop.com now has new art by Lyne Masamitsu! She no longer had her original of the "dragon on a saucer" that she did for us oh so long ago. To make up for it, she created a new 3D version and it's FANTASTIC! I can't wait for the extra money to buy a t-shirt with her new logo, and maybe even a mug! :D ----

## **NEFFER COOKBOOK**

Ruth R. Davidson

Hey all, the Neffer Cookbook deadline has been extended for October 31st of 2006! (Next year) So keep an eye out during the holiday's for your favorite recipes!

## **EDITORIAL CABAL Report**

We have two new editors! Huzzah! Jeff Redmond (who actually did the editing job for the ish you're reading now) for the September issue, and Chris Garcia for the December issue. Thank you so much Chris and Jeff! Chris Garcia is the next editor, so please send your submissions to him. 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View CA 94043 garcia@computerhistory.org . Submission deadline is November 15th. You can see all the editorial assignments under N3F Officers: Editorial Cabal.

## **TIGHTBEAM**

Ruth R. Davidson:

Hey all. Did anyone else notice that there were more additions than subtractions in the last Treasurer's Report? That made me grin proudly. While waiting bored somewhere I did the word search and I noticed a few things.

I found two words that weren't in the list: scifi-fan and sciencefiction. I also noticed two instances of publisher and fantasy!

A personal note: I've been working on the website for a local SF org called Vegas Science Fiction Association (VSFA). Currently the URL is <http://garlic.xarph.net/~vsfa>.

Sarah: Regarding what you said about art, I agree with you 100%! Regarding ritalin. Those quick fix cases tend to be the doctor not doing their job. Personal example: To get out of all of my absences so I could graduate high school I went to the doctor to get a note that would excuse them. He would ask me questions like, "what happens when you try to get up, when you go through out the day, etc." My answer, always, was, I just fall asleep (in class, or sit up in bed and flop back down). He decided I had narcolepsy (at the time I had no idea what that was).

If he had done a serious examination, he would have discovered that I was a lying fool. Similar things happen in regards to ADD. A teacher sees one or two "signs" and tells the parents, who go the doctor who in turn doesn't do enough back ground check and put the child on a drug. While this still happens sometimes, it's not as prevelant as more information is readily available and awareness spreads.

Rick: I hope you are doing better. \*hugs\* Wow! You joined N3F in 1960? If you ever wanna clean out your "attic" I'm sure you'd have some gold mines for our Historian who's putting together the club's history. ::hint hint nudge nudge::

Susan: 10 years? Already? Wow! I missed the memorial, but I'm sure it was beautiful. Robert: You've got me thinking about buying your book. Bad man! I have enough to read! LOL!

### Sarah Glasgow Letter of Comment:

Please forgive the lack of personal comments this time around. I misplaced the last ish of The Fan and thus don't have your letters in front of me for comment. I saw Batman recently - it was so awesome! It is my favorite Batman movie to date. Spoilers head: I thought the casting was excellent and I loved it that (even though I don't care for Katie Holmes that much) the lead woman was smart, intelligent, and didn't sleep with Bruce or anyone else. I thought she was classy all the way. I liked it that they showed how Bruce was trained and where he got all his gadgets, etc. They got me at the end though because I didn't expect Boz to be Bruce's trainer & mentor. But it made sense and tied the movie together nicely. I liked how the relationship between Bruce and Alfred was portrayed. Of course, Michael Cain is a good actor. I also liked Morgan Freeman's character, and it was good to see Rutger Hauer on the big screen again. Well, I've finally broken down and am reading the Harry Potter books. Scott, my boyfriend, brought books 3-5 over. (I'm not bothering with 1&2.) I'm almost halfway through the third book. Three of my sisters, my mom, brother-in-law, boyfriend, and a friend have all read the books so between all of them I guess it was only a matter of time before one of them got me to start reading them! Ha ha. It is fun though and saves me from having to decide what novel to read next. I'm hoping to get through the 4th book before the movie comes out this fall.

Jennett Kaerie:

Greetings all ye. I must say, it's quite amazing - the range of topics people discuss in the LoC. From health (or lack of) to thank you notes! Spectacular!! :)

JEFF REDMOND: I found your article on Andre Norton to be most gracious and affectionate. I think it's awesome that she lived so long and wrote as long as she lived. I admire tht kind of dedication - and obvious love of the craft! I must confess though, I've never read one of her books.

When I was in high school, I went through a phase where I didn't want to read anything that was popular - an inverse rebellion of what is good. Disheartening, I know. My cure for this ailment was when I read the Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings, which - if you'll believe - I had not realized was popular when I picked it up. Right after I finished the Return of the King, previews for the first movie came out and I soon began to realize that I had fallen in love with something immensely popular. Hence, I was cured.

I've currently started reading a book called Conduct Under Fire, which is the true story of 4 American Doctors who were taken Prisoner by the Japanese in WWII. Not sf/f, I know, but still a worthy read. Anyway, once I finish it, I shall surely check out an Andre Norton book, and it seems to me like the best place to start is Witch World. :)

SARAH: I enjoyed your word search! Nothing quite like skimming through a bunch of letters only to not find what you're looking for! Fantastic!! The art in this last ish was very neat as well. I hope Linda Hardy continues to submit in future. Her style is unique and fun!

SUSAN: What's the Murrah Bombing? I've never heard of it.

JOY BEESON: Congrats on the Kaymar award! I know how hard you work on the Writer's Exchange, and we all appreciate your efforts. We'd be walking in circles - and backwards, no less - without you. The Kaymar award is well deserved.

Dear People:

Getting this in the (e)mail a bit earlier than usual. My car has been in the repair shop for over a week and I want to leave the phone line open. Ebooks show mixed progress. So far, only one of four books online. Don't know yet how many sold, but I made over \$19 for the month of March. Since I'd only made \$31 for my fiction writing since 1962, this is a boost. All nine cats doing okay. Though Fatty, one of our old cats, cannot retract some of her claws. Just a few days ago, I came across an Easter card from 1995 showing a cute little bunny. Inside it was signed Andre. I exchanged letters with her for about 40 years. She always added cards for the holidays and some little goodies at Christmas. I'll miss no more new books (I think there is still one left to publish) from her. But even more, I miss the letters. She'd chat about her cats and daily happenings. Sometimes about writing. But I don't think she ever mentioned a work in progress by title. Been having trouble with arthritis. For several weeks my right hip bothered. Had trouble sleeping and I'd be drenched with sweat each time I pulled myself up out of bed. So I finally spent several nights and days sleeping in a stuffed chair in the kitchen which Betty moved there to have a place to sit and read while waiting on the

cooking. The arthritis in my hip quit complaining after that. But soon after that, the joint at the back of my right big toe began to bother. It doesn't sound like much, but it was almost impossible to find a comfortable position. Been taking hot baths and soaking it. Which seems to help. But leaves me sweaty after each bath. And don't mention pain killers. For years, I thought they were a vicious hoax. I have never found any pain killers that work for me. Got a comic reprint that had several including the first Sailor Moon with other Sailors. Sailor moon meets Sailor Mercury. And Sailor Moon takes out an evil teacher by cutting her in half with a razor sharp frisbee. Not the sort of thing you'd find in older American Comics. But probably quite popular with school kids. Sarah: My mother was the youngest of 11 kids. Brooks is a common last name. But Colpus is a rare one. My grandfather, Walter Colpus was supposed to be the only Colpus in the army of Queen Victoria. My Uncle Jack Hood Colpus ditto in the US Army. Most of the Yahoo groups I belong too aren't very active. Still takes a while to work through them. Susan: All the fuss about Arab terrorists and people have forgotten the Oklahoma City bombing was by right wing Michigan terrorists. (My mother was a Michigander.) Robert: Nice to see EE Smith on your list of influential people in SF. It is largely forgotten how his Skylark of Space suddenly opened the starlanes to sf. Yes, I realize that Hamilton did it first. But in Weird Tales where it didn't have much impact on sf readers.

## Round Robin Bureau Report

By Lorna Hansmann

Hello Everyone!! I am very excited to be the Round Robin Bureau head. It is such a great thing to be involved with. You get to meet new, fun people and get to talk about a topic you all enjoy. You can't get much better than that! I have to say I always look forward to mine coming.

For any new members let me explain what Round Robins are. Actually let me quote Susan VanSchuyver, the former Bureau head since she explained it well in her June 2004 report. "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 a new one to include, 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."

So there you have it. It is lots of fun and I hope that those who have not yet participated may join in. All you have to do is write/email me and, if there is enough people who want to write about that subject, I'll put you on a list (if not then on a waiting list). Nice and easy, so don't be shy!

A new idea has come to my attention. Anyone interested in Bouncing RR's? They are like Round Robins except it is an email list with a specific topic. So lets

say

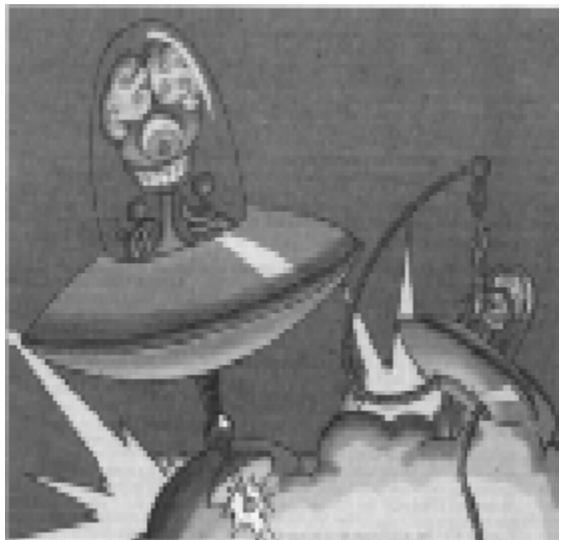
there are four people on the list for the topic of "dreams."

Instead of just emailing one person, I email them all at the same time! Then they respond to everyone at the same time. So instead of rounding it bounces. (I stole this explanation from the President J)

Apparently the writer's exchange has one and it works out really well. So for those of you who are like my hubby and prefer typing to actual writing, this is a great way for you to get involved too. Let me know what you think. Okay, onto the list we have so far.

Now you can add your name to an active list if there aren't too many people. I can also split a list if it is getting really crowded or put your name on a waiting list until more people are interested.

And if anyone has any ideas for a Round Robin, those are more than welcome.



## Active Round Robins\_

Cats in SF&F- VanSchuyver  
Celtic Folklore-Glasgow  
Comics-Davidson  
Dreams-VanSchuyver  
Fairy and Folk Tales-Davidson  
Horror-Davidson  
Mercedes Lackey-Winters  
Anne McCaffrey-VanSchuyver  
Mythology-Davidson  
Sci Fi Channel-VanSchuyver  
SF&F in Films-Davidson  
Star Trek Classics #1-Benson  
Star Trek Classics #2-VanSchuyver  
Star Wars-Benson  
Time Travel-VanSchuyver  
TV SF&F-VanSchuyver

## Other Ideas for Round Robins\_

Batman and other super heroes  
Babylon 5  
Current Reading  
Cyber Horror  
Harry Potter Books & Movies  
Interstellar Empires  
Nonfiction Poetry  
Science and Technology  
Supernatural  
The Lord of the Rings Books and Movies  
Vampires

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

It has been a real honor for me to be a part of the N3F organization, and now to help with the editing of this issue of The Fan.

Thanks for all your time, patience, and assistance Ruth. I'll be sure to continue to contribute all I can.

{:-) Jeff Redmond  
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## **Call For Elections with an apology**

From Janine Stinson:

"As the Editorial Cabal advisor, I humbly apologize to the N3F membership for neglecting my duties in the spring of 2005. I should have reminded the March and June TNFF editors of the publication requirements for the autumn elections (call for elections, candidacy requirements, platforms, etc.). There is no excuse for my failing to do so. I just forgot. I'm sorry, and I will do my best to ensure that it doesn't happen again."

From Ruth R. Davidson:

"I as President all give my apologies and so does the rest of the Directorate. Many excuses could be given, since we're all busy with our lives outside of N3F, however, that feels wrong. Please accept our apologies." Any Neffer in good standing can run for President or the Directorate.

To run your dues must be paid up through the entirety of your term. Please read the Constitution & Bylaws (at the end of this issue), so you will know what your responsibilities as the President or Directorate member will be.

The current Directorate is planning on running again, but that shouldn't stop you from running if you would like to. There is currently no one running for President. If you have questions about that position please ask your current President.

Please expect the platforms and ballot in about two months time. When you get your ballot please send it to the election teller as soon as possible so we can have the new Officers take their place in the beginning of next year.

## Reviews

Jon D. Swartz, Reviews Editor

### Book Review

*Escape to Malmillard* by K. G. McAbee  
(Mundania Press, 2004)

This novel is a coming-of-age story combined with a quest for power and magic. During his quest the teenaged Lord Ereka must overcome many obstacles, including his social-climbing aunt and the shapeshifting Lord Dain and his henchmen. In addition, Ereka's aunt has also forced his former tutor in magic to help track him down. Helping Ereka escape are his new tutor, Magister Andru, and three new friends: Commander DiaViaVandryn and two of her captains, Ursyn and Vlad. This type of fantasy is not really my cup of tea, but I found it very well written and quite entertaining nonetheless. The author begins several of her chapters with quotes from the fictitious *The Annals of Malmillard* and replies to these quotes from the *Unexpurgated Addenda to the Annals*, supposedly written hundreds of years after the original document. The replies in the *Addenda* to the original writings are hilarious. This is another excellent book by Gail McAbee, a new N3F member who writes very well indeed. This book is the first in a proposed series about Ereka and his companions.

### Retro Book Reviews

I've been collecting and reading the old Century/Merit paperback books that were published in Chicago over half a century ago, mainly as background material for an article I'm writing for *Paperback Parade*. Three of these old pulp SF paperbacks are the subject

of this issue's brief retro reviews.

*Time Trap* by Rog Phillips (Century Book No. 116, 1949)

This was Phillips' first SF novel in book form, and arguably the first science fiction paperback original (PBO) ever published. Since its publication it has been known for its cover more than for the plot of the story that involves the Varg Thrott, the race of humans from Earth's past that seek to occupy the United States in the present (the late 1940s). Most modern critics rave about Malcolm Smith's GGA on the cover, a three-eyed blonde holding a weapon that looks like a large flashlight. The book, published in mass-market format, originally sold for 25¢ and the protagonist is named Ray Bradley!

*Operation Interstellar* by George O. Smith  
(Century Publications/Merit Books No. B-10, 1950)

I bought a copy of this vintage SF paperback to aid in the article I was researching/writing, and to me, owning a copy of any book usually leads to reading it. This book was no exception. *Operation Interstellar* is an excellent example of an entertaining space opera from science fiction's Golden Age. It tells the story of Paul Grayson, who attempts to criss-cross the galaxy with radio beacons "from star to star and bit by bit." Merit Books were Century's digest-sized paperbacks but, like their mass-market paperbacks, this one also sold for 25¢.

*The Green Man* by Harold M. Sherman (Century Publications/Merit Books 104, 1946)

If you like to read SF from the genre's early Golden Age, this book is for you. The plot involves an alien Green Man trying to bring peace to Earth. It is old-time SF as it appeared in the pulp magazines of the 1930s and 1940s, when most of the authors who wrote it also wrote in many other genres: westerns, love stories, mysteries, spy stories, air adventures, jungle tales, etc. Few of these early SF authors had degrees in the sciences; in fact, few of them had even attended college. *The Green Man* and its sequel originally appeared in *Amazing*. This digest paperback, "complete and unabridged," also sold for 25¢.

### Mundane Review

*The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown (Doubleday, 2003)

**While in Paris on business, Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon receives an urgent late-night phone call. The chief curator of the Louvre had been murdered inside the museum. Near his naked body, police found a baffling cipher written in blood. While working to solve the riddle, Langdon discovers that it leads to clues hidden in the works of Da Vinci -- clues visible for all to see -- yet ingeniously disguised by the painter. Langdon joins forces with a French cryptologist, Sophie Neveu (the curator's granddaughter), and learns the late curator was a member of the Priory of Sion, a 1,000-year-old secret society whose members included Sir Isaac Newton,**

**Botticelli, Gallileo, Victor Hugo, Jean Cocteau, and Da Vinci, among others. Others involved in a centuries-old religious conspiracy are members of the Opus Dei, a conservative Catholic organization. In a race through Paris, London, and beyond, Langdon and Neveu match wits with a faceless antagonist who seems to anticipate their every move. Unless Langdon and Neveu can decipher the labyrinthine puzzle in time, the Priory's ancient secret -- and an important historical truth -- will be lost forever.**

The novel is a sequel to Brown's earlier very successful novel *Angels & Demons*. *The Da Vinci Code* is another bestseller that has gained legions of fans around the world. The obsessed fan can even take a special tour in Paris during which all the key locations in the storyline are pointed out. On the other hand, the book also has many detractors. Some literary critics decried Brown's lecture mode of writing. Other critics said they found significant flaws in the research upon which the novel is based. The debate reached such a fever pitch that the Vatican even appointed a Cardinal responsible for refuting the book's claims. As is often the case, however, the controversy only increased the book's popularity and produced a whole host of imitators. In addition, several books and videos purporting either to defend or to refute Brown's plot and historical background have appeared.

Columbia Pictures are now adapting Brown's novel for a film.

## Retro Mundane Reviews

*The Fiction Factory* by Quentin Reynolds (Random House, 1955)

My older son gave me this book for Father's Day this year. I owned a copy years ago, but it disappeared during one of my many moves. Like *The Pulp Jungle*, reviewed below, this is the sort of book I love to read: a non-fiction book about writing fiction. It is the story of Street & Smith during the first 100 years of this publishing company, sub-titled *From Pulp Row to Quality Street*. In the 1930s-1940s Street & Smith published many popular pulp characters including The Shadow, Doc Savage, The Avenger, Nick Carter, and Bill Barnes. Of particular interest to the members of N3F is that Street & Smith published *Astounding Stories of Super Science*, later *Astounding Science Fiction*, and today's *Analog Science Fiction and Fact*. The last chapter of the book is devoted to this outstanding SF magazine, arguably the most influential ever published.

*The Pulp Jungle* by Frank Gruber (Sherbourne Press, 1967)

I've read this book several times over the years, and it still fascinates me. It is the autobiography of a very successful writer of the 1940s-1950s who had an extremely difficult time getting started. The story of Gruber's early years and the hundreds of rejections his stories received could bring tears to the eyes of the most jaded reader. He wrote some science fiction and fantasy, but mainly mysteries and westerns. Gruber didn't think highly of most pseudoscience writers (his term for science fiction), but he was a friend of early SF fan and writer (later SF agent and comic book editor) Mort Weisinger. Gruber knew most of the pulp writers of the 1930s, and relates entertaining (but not very flattering) anecdotes of thinly disguised SF writers such as Edmond Hamilton and L. Ron Hubbard. Mystery writer Steve

Fisher was probably Gruber's best friend among these fascinating men, but he was also a friend of the unbelievably prolific Max Brand (Frederick "Heinie" Faust). Gruber's experiences with *Black Mask* (the now-defunct pulp magazine that has become famous for its stories and authors) and his time writing in Hollywood are highlights of a book that can be read for information and entertainment over and over.

## Media Review

*Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow* (Paramount Pictures, 2004/Written and Directed by Kerry Conran/Starring Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow, and Angelina Jolie)

I grew up watching the Saturday movie serials and other adventure films of the 1930s-1940s, so it should come as no surprise that this is my kind of movie. To me, the fact that most of it is computer-generated just makes it better than the movies and movie serials I remember.

In 1939, an intrepid reporter (Polly Perkins, played by Paltrow) in New York City is covering a story of famous scientists suddenly disappearing around the world. After a meeting in a movie house (showing *The Wizard of Oz*) with a stranger -- who claims he's "the only one left" and leaves Polly with just a name (Doctor Totenkopf) and a blueprint -- the city is attacked by giant robots. The day is saved, however, when Sky Captain (Law) and his Flying Legion enter the fray. Joe Sullivan, the Sky Captain, is dressed a lot like radio's Captain Midnight as he was visually represented in both big little books and in the annual Secret Squadron membership booklets that were sent to those of us who mailed in our Ovaltine seals and ten cents in coin or stamps. Polly is the Sky Captain's ex-boyfriend and they don't really trust each other, but they team up to find out what's going on. They fly around the world in

search of Totenkopf (translated as either “Head of Death” or “Death’s Head” according to what I remember from my college German classes), aided along the way by Dex (Giovanni Ribisi), Sky Captain’s right-hand man and a technical genius, and the Captain’s old-time friend, Captain Francesca “Franky” Cook (Jolie) and her all-female amphibious squadron. In flashbacks, Totenkopf, the brilliant scientist who is bent on creating a utopia as he destroys the old world, is “played” by Sir Lawrence Olivier.

**Of course, it takes the right frame of mind to watch and appreciate such a film. As homage to the old adventure serials of the 1930s-1940s, the storyline contains a few cliches and is missing quite a bit of backstory. It’s these kinds of things, however, that the viewer has to suspend his disbelief over and just let his imagination take control. Helping the viewer do this are the special effects, which are magnificent. All in all, this is definitely my kind of movie!**

### Retro Media Review

***I Love A Mystery* (“The Fear That Creeps Like a Cat”), with Fred Foy, Les Tremayne, and Frank Bresee/produced and directed by Jim Harmon (1996)**

Jim Harmon, old-time radio authority, produced this “audio novel” based on a never-broadcast show of radio legend Carlton Morse. Alexander Archer is missing. Is he dead? Before paying out a million dollars, his insurance company wants proof of his demise. Jack, Doc, and Reggie are hired to find the truth. The trail starts

in Seattle where the boys meet up with Richard Cooper, who claims to know a man who has information regarding Archer’s whereabouts. Beautiful women and evil men lead the boys to Castle Island. Inside the castle is terror. Outside the castle is death. It takes 20 episodes to tell this thrilling story, and some old-time radio greats are involved in telling it.

A graphic novel of this story, titled “The Fear That Crept Like a Cat,” was published by Moonstone in 2004.

### Fanzine Review

*Pablo Lennis*, edited/published by John Thiel (30 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Lafayette, IN 47904)

*PL 210*, the May 2005 issue of *Pablo Lennis*, arrived in my mailbox unsolicited. The editor wrote on the cover of his zine that he was sending copies to addresses on the N3F website, so the club’s website presence again is a plus. Contents of this 210<sup>th</sup> issue of Thiel’s long-running zine include fiction, poetry, an article, reviews, serial chapters, and LOCs. Illustrations grace almost every page. The cover art by Latvian Kneissen is in full color and is outstanding. It sells for \$2.00, but is also available for the usual reasons (see address above).

*Ansible*, edited/published by Dave Langford (94 London Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AU, England)

The July 2005 *Ansible* (#216) maintains the high quality of the previous 215 issues. This issue of the award-winning newsletter is divided into five sections: Creatures of Apogee (SF personalities in the news), Concubitant (cons, meetings, events), Infinitely Improbable (RIPs, Fandunery, Awards, CoAs, etc.), Geeks’ Corner (subs, back issues, more cons), and Endnotes. The email address is <http://ansible.co.uk> for those who wish to communicate electronically.

## Retro Fanzine Review

1948 *Fantasy Annual*, edited by Redd Boggs, published by F. J. Ackerman, Los Angeles, CA, Summer 1949.

**Financed by The Fantasy Foundation, this 120-page one-shot reference work attempted to report on all the important fan activity of the year 1948, including the results of a poll to determine the most popular fans, fanzines, prozines, stories, authors, and books published by the SF/fantasy specialty presses. A. E. van Vogt was voted the most popular SF author, with Bradbury coming in second. Robert Heinlein was eighth. The top story, “. . . And Searching Mind,” was by Jack Williamson. The top fanzine of the year was *The Fanzient*, edited by Don Day for the Portland Science Fantasy Society. Redd Boggs, a very active fan of the late 1940s who edited/published the fanzines *Sky Hook* and *Chronoscope*, was named best fan, best fan writer, best fan critic, best fan fictionist, and top fan journalist of 1948. His willingness to edit this massive annual undoubtedly contributed to his popularity.**

**My thanks to long-time N3F member, Robert (Bob) Peterson, who sent me a copy of this early fanzine.**

## Current and Forthcoming SF/Fantasy Books

August 2005

Brian Aldiss, *Sanity and the Lady* (novel, PS Publishing)

Clive Barker, *The Scarlet Gospels* (collection, HarperCollins UK)

Richard Bowes, *Streetcar Dreams* (collection, PS Publishing)

Jacqueline Carey, *Godslayer* (novel, Tor)

Kate Elliott, *In the Ruins* (novel, DAW)

Jeffrey Ford, *The Girl in the Glass* (novel, HarperCollins/Morrow)

Joe Haldeman, *Old Twentieth* (novel, Ace)

Amanda Hemingway, *The Traitor's Sword* (novel, HarperCollins/Voyager)

Ken MacLeod, *Leaving the World* (novel, Time Warner UK/Orbit)

Gene Wolfe, *Starwater Strains* (collection, Tor)

September 2005

Judith Berman, *Bear Daughter* (novel, Ace)

Terry Brooks, *High Druid of Shannara: Straken* (novel, Ballantine Del Rey)

Robert Buettner, *Orphan's Destiny* (novel, Warner Aspect)

Diana Gabaldon, *A Breath of Snow and Ashes* (novel, Delacorte)

Neil Gaiman, *The Anansi Boys* (novel, HarperCollins/Morrow)

Robin Hobb, *Shaman's Crossing* (novel, HarperCollins/Eos)

China Miéville, *Looking for Jake* (collection, Ballantine Del Rey)

Kit Reed, *The Dogs of Truth* (novel, Tor)

S. M. Stirling, *The Protector's War* (novel, Penguin/Roc)

Ian Watson, *Butterflies of Memory* (collection, PS Publishing)

October 2005

Melvin Burgess, *Bloodsong* (YA novel, Andersen Press)

Ramsey Campbell, *Secret Stories* (novel, PS Publishing)

Jonathan Carroll, *Glass Soup* (novel, Tor)

Gwyneth Jones, *Bold as Love* (novel, Night Shade Books)

Robert Jordan, *Knife of Dreams* (novel, Tor)

Ian R. MacLeod, *Past Magic* (collection, PS Publishing)

Julian May, *Sorcerer's Moon* (novel, HarperCollins/Voyager)

Richard K. Morgan, *Woken Furies* (novel, Ballantine Del Rey)

Susan Palwick, *The Necessary Beggar* (novel, Tor)

Susan Palwick, *The Necessary Beggar* (novel, Tor)

Alastair Reynolds, *Pushing Ice* (novel, Orion/Gollancz)

Re Reviewers & Reviewed

**Redd Boggs [1921-1996],** a BNF of the 1940s and 1950s, is credited with raising the levels of fan writing and fanzine production by his examples in these areas. His fanzine *Skyhook* published both fannish and critical material, including the early criticism of James Blish. Boggs' main form of writing was the personal essay. He was a prominent member of N3F in the 1940s (contributing 50+ manuscripts to the Manuscript Bureau). He joined FAPA in 1947, and that became his main outlet for writing. He was also a member of First Fandom. Boggs' personal fanzine, *Spirochete*, lasted for 76 issues.

Dan Brown was recently named one of the World's 100 Most Influential People by *Time Magazine*, and his novels have been translated and published in 40+ languages around the world. He is the son of a Presidential Award winning math professor and a professional sacred musician, and reports he grew up surrounded by the paradoxical philosophies of science and religion. The science vs. religion question permeates his novels, most of which involve his popular protagonist, Harvard professor Robert Langdon.

**Frank Gruber (1904-1969)** wrote extensively in the mystery and western fields and in almost every other field as well, including science fiction/fantasy. He published over 50 books during his lifetime, created three TV series, and sold hundreds of screenplays and TV scripts. He also published under the

**pseudonyms of Stephen Acre, Charles K. Boston, and John K. Vedder.**

**Jim Harmon,** a popular SF writer in the 1950s-1960s, is better known today for his best-selling books on old-time radio. He currently edits, and contributes stories to, *It's That Time Again* -- a series of books of original stories about characters in Golden Age radio programs, published by BearManor Media in Boalsburg, PA. From 2000 to 2004 he and his wife Barbara were editors of *Scientifiction: The First Fandom Report*.

**Dave Langford,** a BNF for years, recently published a new collection of his nonfiction works: *The SEX Column and other misprints*. This new book collects his columns and major features (no book reviews) for *SFX Magazine* from mid-1995 to early 2005.

K. G. McAbee is an award-winning author of SF and fantasy stories. Gail began writing in 1997, and joined N3F late in 2004. She edited and contributed chapters to *Port Nowhere*, a book reviewed in the last issue of *The Fan*.

**Rog Phillips (1909-1965)** was a pseudonym of Roger Phillips Graham, a very popular science fiction and fantasy writer of the 1940s-1950s. He wrote under scores of pseudonyms and house names. Phillips was known in fandom for his long-running column, "The Club House," that appeared in *Amazing* and other SF prozines edited and/or published by Raymond Palmer.

**Quentin James Reynolds (1902-1965)** was a successful journalist and prolific book author during his lifetime. His most famous book was his biography of the gentleman bank robber Willie Sutton (*I, Willie Sutton*, 1953). Reynolds also wrote several other popular books, including a series of juveniles for Random House's Landmark Books. At one time Reynolds was famous for his quote: "The scientists split the atom; now the atom is splitting us."

**Harold M. Sherman (1898-1987)** wrote many books during his lifetime, mainly juvenile sports novels. I read scores of them as a young boy. He also wrote the original story and subsequent screenplay of *The Adventures of Mark Twain*, produced by Warner Brothers in 1944 (filmed in 1942, starring Fredric March), and the original story for *Are We Civilized* in 1943. In addition, Sherman wrote a dramatization of the life of *Jane Addams of Hull House*. Somewhat more relevant to the field of SF, he was interested in psychic research most of his life and even worked with the famous parapsychologist Joseph B. Rhine of Duke University.

**George O. Smith (1911- 1981)** began dabbling in radio at an early age, and worked in the medium for most of his life. He began writing SF in the 1940s, principally for John W. Campbell's *As-*

*tounding Science Fiction*. After he moved to Philadelphia in 1946, Smith was an active participant in local fan gatherings and attended several Worldcons. In the early 1950s he had a book review column in *Space Science Fiction*. In addition to *Operation Interstellar*, his SF books included *The Fourth "R"* (Ballantine, 1959), *Hellflower* (Abelard, 1953), *Highways in Hiding* (Gnome, 1956), *Troubled Star* (Avalon, 1957), *Fire in the Heavens* (Avalon, 1958), *Lost in Space* (Avalon, 1959), and *The Path of Unreason* (Gnome, 1959). During SF's Golden Age Smith was usually thought of as a member of the genre's second tier of writers, yet most of his stories had a sound scientific base. He once stated that science had caught up with science fiction.

**Malcolm Smith (1912-1966)** originally worked as a display artist. He later became an illustrator, and in 1940 submitted a number of paintings to *Amazing Stories*, which subsequently were accepted by Ziff-Davis, the magazine's publisher in Chicago. Smith began doing freelance work for the company, and when it expanded its line of magazines, joined its art department and soon became art director of the Ziff-Davis pulps. His first SF magazine cover art was for the January 1942 issue of *Amazing*. In 1948 he set up his

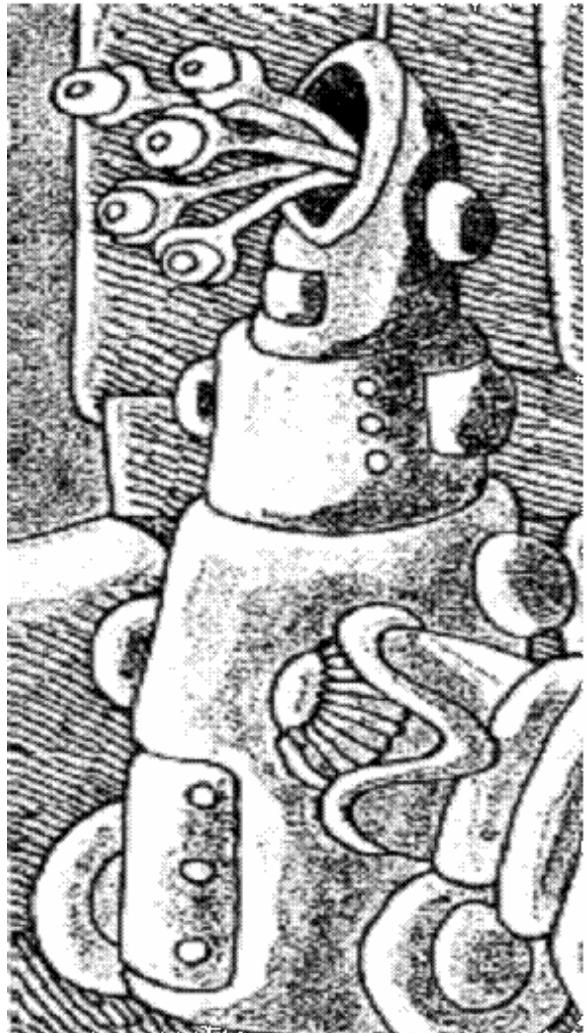
for paperback and hardcover books of the time, including the striking cover art for Welles' *Invasion from Mars Interplanetary Stories*, a popular Dell anthology published in 1949. He did several dust jackets for Shasta Publishers in the 1940s and 1950s. He was *Amazing's* regular artist before taking over as Art Director for *Other Worlds*, where he was hired by editor/publisher Ray Palmer to do most of that magazine's astronomical cover paintings.

John Thiel started his first fanzine when he was 12 and organized the Junior International Science Fiction Club when he was 14. All of his fiction has been published in fanzines. In addition to *Pablo Lennis*, he has published *Caveat Emptor*, *The International Youngfan*, *The Rebel*, *Ionisphere*, *The Rivet*, and *APA-H*. He also writes poetry. At one time he contributed plots to the N3F Story Bureau Stockpile. I first heard of Thiel when I came into possession of his one-shot zine *An Index to Popular American Fanzines* that listed/described many of the fanzines of the late 1970s.

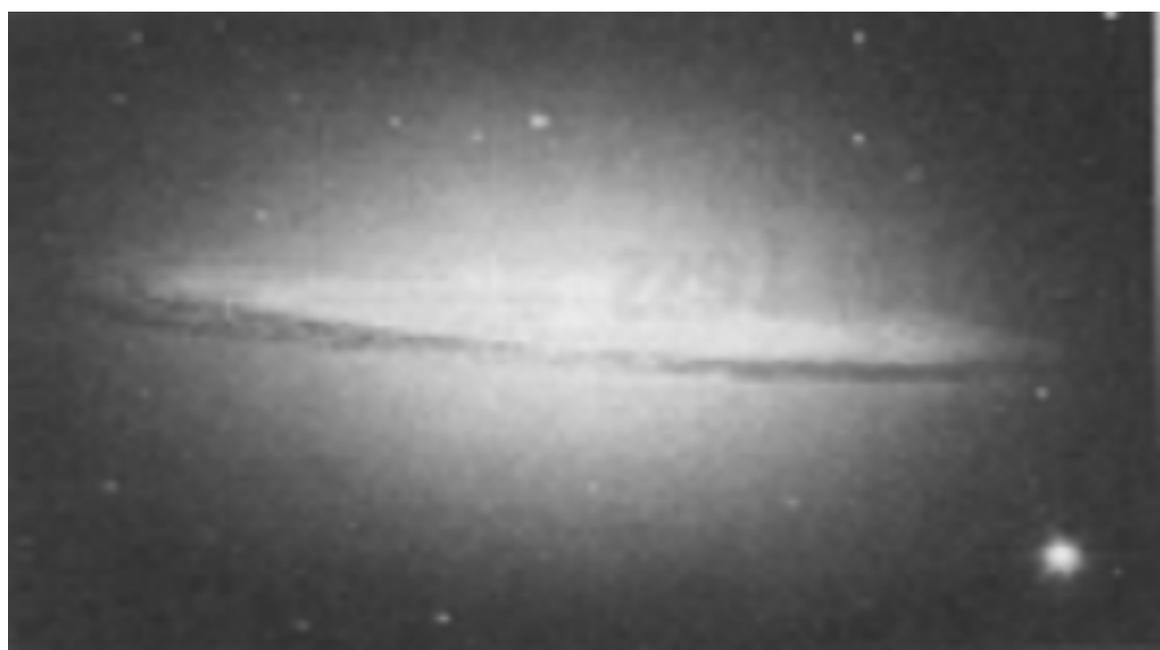
Note: The perceptive reader will notice that everything in this issue is the work of the Reviews Editor. Please help him correct this unfortunate situation. Club members are invited to submit reviews, either electronically or

by snail mail. If you send a review by e-mail and don't hear from me within a reasonable length of time, please write, as some Internet providers do not communicate with each other. The two addresses are as follows:

jon\_swartz@hotmail.com and 1704 Vine Street, Georgetown, TX 78626.



Never  
Underestimate  
The Power Of  
Stupid People  
In Large  
Groups.



Jeffrey Redmond

## ALIEN TELESCOPE

In Hat Creek California Astronomer Michael Davis checked his computer. One of the antennas on the state\_of\_the\_art radio telescope being built in the valley outside his office was picking up an unusual pulse from beyond the Earth, A signal from another intelligent civilization? Not today. It was the Rosetta Satellite, en route to study a comet.

Hopeful moments followed by disappointments are Par for the course for researchers at the SETI institute, the privately funded successor to the now defunct government project dedicated to searching for alien life.

This time, however, the scientists hope things might be different. In May, the first telescope designed specifically for te such a search began scanning the skies. When it is completed, the telescope will be so powerful that it will be able to look at more stars in a year or two than we have in the past 45 years.

"The absence of a signal so far is not particularly compelling," said Davis, an adjunct professor emeritus at Cornell University who recently joined SETI. "We could have a billion intelligent cultures with radio waves buzzing around them ... but we

haven't had the capability to detect them."

Denounced a decade ago as a misguided effort to find "little green men" and cut off from government funding, SETI, which stands for search for extraterrestrial intelligence, has found a new following among Silicon Valley titans and techies. They have infused the institute with money and unconventional technical ideas, bringing a new respect and energy.

"To use hardware and software to find the meaning of life, it's interesting to them philosophically and technically," said Seth Shostak, a senior astronomer at SETI, which is based in Mountain View, Calif.

Microsoft Corporation's Paul Allen said that when he was young he would go every week to the libray with his mother and pick up science fiction books that would make him dream of "crazy ideas." Allen, who has helped fund the Experience Fiction Museum in Seattle and Space Ship One, the first privately financed manned spacecraft, said it was man's first walk on the moon in 1969 that made him believe technology could turn his ideas into reality.

"The sheer knowledge that another civilization exists that would be an amazing thing," Allen said.

Backers hardly regard their project as some frivolous exercise. Alan Bagley, who spent nearly 40 years as an engineer at Hewlett-Packard, said that he joined SETI's board because "the real long shot is that there's no one else out there."

The design for the new telescope arose from marathons brainstorming sessions among the institute's astronomers, University of California at Berkeley scientists, and some of the tech industry's most respected big thinkers.

The Allen Telescope Array; named after its most generous donor, Paul Allen, will be made up of 350 or more silver aluminum dishes spread over 90 acres.

While a large telescope might cost \$200 million to build, Davis said, the SETI one, will cost about \$35 million and will by some measures be even more powerful and sophisticated.

The search for extraterrestrial intelligence is a lesson in patience.

SETI astronomers begin with lists of planets ranked by how hospitable they might be to life as we know it.

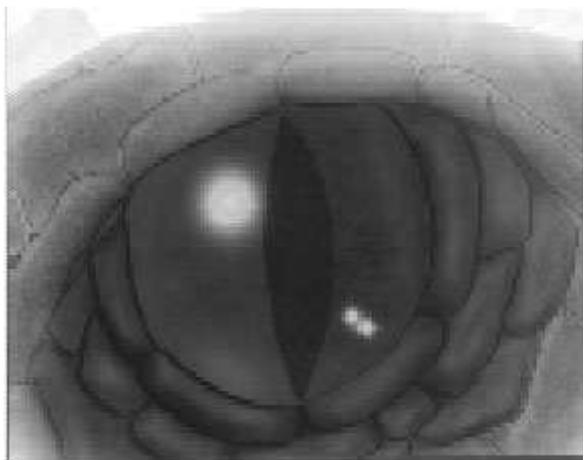
A number of criteria are factored in, such as their age, and how close they are to sun-like stars, whether they have the potential to hold liquid water.

Astronomers then go to each, of these "hab stars," or habitable environment stars, one by one and scan them for transmissions across all frequencies.,

Until the Allen Telescope Array, the search for alien life, was conducted on a part-time basis. Scientists would usually borrow time on telescopes, record the data and then analyze it for months using computer systems. If some out-of-the-ordinary signals were detected, astronomers often had to wait for another turn to gather more data, a time-consuming process.

Now SETI can scan places 24 hours a day, seven days a week and run analysis in real time.

Since 1960, when an astronomer named Francis Drake pointed a telescope at nearby stars and listened for extraterrestrial signals, SETI scientists have analyzed 1,000 stars. Over the next two decades, the Allen Telescope Array hopes to study 1 million more.



## Torcon '03 -- Worldcon 61

Contd from TNFF vol 5 no 1

### {Heinlein Men and Heinlein Women}

"They told me I wouldn't have to make a speech. I'm very glad of that, and so are you."-- Michael Flynn, accepting the Heinlein Award. The Heinlein Society dinner, Friday evening, proved to be a nostalgic but rather cheerful event. Among the worthies present were Larry and Marilyn Niven, Joe and Gay Haldeman, Spider and Jeanne Robinson, Stan Schmidt, and Charles N. Brown.

Joe Haldeman remembered his first meeting with Robert A. Heinlein, at a convention. *The Forever War* had recently been published, to much acclaim, and to the accusation -- false, Haldeman insisted -- that it was a rebuke to Heinlein's *Starship Troopers*. So it was an especially sweet moment for Haldeman when Heinlein walked across a large room to tell him how much he liked the younger man's novel.

By the magic of kinescope, we were able to listen to Heinlein himself, on the night when he and Arthur C. Clarke and Walter Cronkite celebrated Man's first mission to the Moon. The bleary-eyed but elated Heinlein, in a gravelly tenor with a Midwestern tang, said it was the most important day in the history of the human race since we learned to talk. In a flight of fancy, Clarke imagined it might lead to an end to war; Heinlein differed politely.

Cronkite made some comment about how much the astronauts' heart rates had gone up. "Not as much as ours did!" Clarke chortled. He praised the Heinlein-scripted movie, *Destination Moon* (1950), for its depiction of how the astronauts had to lighten their ship for take-off, just as was happening on the Moon at that moment. Returning the compliment, Heinlein lauded Clarke for inventing the communications satellite, in a 1945 article. "Tell them how much money you made for it!" Heinlein teased. Clarke, who had ne-

glected to patent the idea, admitted the article had earned him a grand total of fifty dollars. Reflecting on America's victory in the race to the Moon, Clarke noted that the launching of Sputnik had been compared to Pearl Harbor; and the parallel was more apt than immediately realized, when we remember how that contest turned out in the end.

Someone mentioned the future of the human race in outer space. Let's include the other half of the human race, Heinlein urged, with a twinkle in his eye. Save money by sending four or five women instead of three big men! (Much applause in 2003 Toronto.) Cronkite, taken aback, haltingly raised objections, which Heinlein gleefully knocked down. Clarke had said a legless man could fly in space, Heinlein concluded, but why a man at all? (More applause in 2003 Toronto.)

### {Let's Hear It For World Domination}

A very interesting bunch of SF writers turned out, Saturday morning, to discuss "Globalization and Anti-Americanism". Expatriate American Harry Harrison, spry but old, his speech difficult to understand; Australian Justine Larbalestier, self-styled "pro-American"; Mike Moscoe, a U.S. government employee for 30 years; Russell Blackford, another Aussie; and, last but certainly not least, Paul Levinson, chairman of the Fordham University Communications Department, author of nine books, and "vehemently pro-American".

Larbalestier said that, having lived for three years in the U.S., she found every city different, raising the question of just what does it mean to say the world is becoming more like America. Harrison described himself as very pro "settlers" (I think he meant "Founders"),

and thinks the U.S. Constitution is the best document ever written. He agreed that "there is no single America." But an audience member commented that, from the outside, America looks like one thing.

Levinson addressed the charge of cultural dominance. What with the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, exactly who was dominating whom? "Soviet kids wanted to put on jeans"; in what sense were they being dominated?

Some things are worth globalizing. America "invented vertical mobility" in socio-economic status, said Harrison. "The rest of the world does not have" it, even today. "Globalization is a good thing," said Blackford, what with "mobility of labor, products, capital". On the negative side of the ledger is the ability to evade labor laws. All in all, "societies are more heterogeneous than ever." The anti-globalization movements have lost their fight anyway, said Harrison. They should concentrate on fixing those negatives. Besides, the example of Denmark, where he has lived for years, shows that a national culture can remain vibrant, for all that the Danes take eight years of English in school.

"Stomp your modem," said Moscoe, if you want to stop globalization. In response to a question from the floor about Indian and Chinese programmers taking our jobs, he said that in the 1960s we complained about cheap labor in Japan and South Korea. And Hollywood complains about unfair Canadian competition, said an audience member.

An academic in the audience raised the issue of what she called the cultural imperialism of the English language. At international conferences, English is preferred; and English language writers are privileged as far as an international publication is concerned. (Earlier, Blackford had noted that he is an Australian writer who is published in America.) "If Ireland couldn't be wiped out by the English language," said Harrison, "I'm not worried about Japan!"

The issue of government subsidies as a method

of preserving local cultures came up. Government subsidy means government control, said Levinson. "I would be completely happy" if there were no more subsidies to creative people.

A self-styled libertarian in the audience said he opposes globalization, not in the free market sense, but in the growth of supra-national organizations like the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund. Moscoe and Harrison liked the trend toward world government; Levinson didn't, because "strong governments are a danger to liberty." Blackford called it a "non-issue", as we're not heading for global government, anyway.

Someone had praised the "democratic" nature of the U.N. I pointed out that the U.N. does not represent the people of the world, but the governments: mostly gangs of thugs who shot their way to power.

### **{Rich and Stranger}**

Saturday afternoon, a very knowledgeable, though perhaps not entirely unbiased group convened for something more like a group lecture than a panel on one of science fiction's most famous novels, under the title, "Heinlein, Stranger than Stranger, Four Decades after the Hugo". A last-minute deletion from the participants was Bill Patterson, editor of the *Heinlein Journal*, and co-author of *The Martian Named Smith* (2001), a critical study of *Stranger in a Strange Land*. Patterson had been unable to cross the Canadian border without a birth certificate, Robert James told us.

James, a teacher and writer, claimed to be the "world's foremost authority on Leslyn," Heinlein's first, that is, second wife and, for

better or worse, the finder of the only surviving manuscript of *For Us, the Living*, Heinlein's long-lost first novel. Engineer and author Deb Houdek-Rule maintains a website dedicated to Heinlein; sitting next to her, Geo Rule said gallantly, "I advise Heinlein women for all you single men out there!" Notable fan writer Joseph Major was preparing a book on Heinlein's highly regarded young adult novels. Fran Van Cleave of the Libertarian Futurist Society said nobody ever told her she couldn't be a Heinlein woman, so she went ahead. Brad Lyau, formerly a historian, said Heinlein's Future History cycle of stories had inspired his choice of a profession.

James took up the story of how *Stranger in a Strange Land* came to be written. The germ of the idea was planted in the late 1940s when Heinlein and editor John W. Campbell discussed Heinlein's story in the famous "predicted issue" of *Astounding Science Fiction* magazine. A fan had written a letter to the magazine giving the contents of the issue one year in the future. Campbell, enjoying the joke, determined to see that it came true.

Heinlein's story in the imaginary issue was called "Gulf", but what was it about? Heinlein's wife, Virginia, suggested a story about a boy raised by Martians. Ultimately Heinlein decided to go with a different story -- one that, if anything, has proved to be even more controversial -- but a version of *Stranger* was written in 1952-53, with reporter Ben Caxton as the viewpoint character. By 1960, the point of view had shifted to another character, best-selling author and curmudgeon Jubal Harshaw. According to Virginia Heinlein: "Don't tell anybody, but Jubal Harshaw is Mark Twain!"

Due to its racy subject matter, the novel was hard to sell; but the huge success of *Peyton Place* had opened the way for sexual frankness in popular literature, and eventually *Stranger* proved to be a best-seller. For better or worse, this convinced Heinlein that, from now on, he could write pretty much what he wanted to write.

With Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, and B.F. Skinner's *Walden Two*, *Stranger in a Strange Land* became required reading for the 1960s "counterculture", though the link to hippie mass-murderer Charles Manson is bogus.

Geo Rule had mentioned that the publisher had forced Heinlein to shorten the book by 60,000 words. Now that the uncut version has been published, we can compare the two, said Major, and while there are things that may be said for both, in his opinion the publisher had made Heinlein cut too much.

Major also discussed Heinlein's use of archetypal characters; for example, Kettle Belly in "Gulf" eventually gave rise to *Stranger's* Jubal Harshaw. If you look at Anthony Boucher's famous *roman-a-clef* of the science fiction world, *Rocket to the Morgue* (1942), Deb Houdek-Rule later added, you will find that the main characters are based on Heinlein and his circle -- and the character based on Heinlein sounds very much like Jubal Harshaw.

A sufficiently selective reading of Heinlein can give you almost any Heinlein you want. For example, *Stranger* is "a Mark Twain satire, and a deeply religious story, at the same time," said Van Cleave. Houdek-Rule had received emails from teenage girls, who were not impressed by the sex, but by the ceremony of "water sharing". "Thou art God" is from Ralph Waldo Emerson, said James, among other connections to Walt Whitman and the 19th century New England Transcendentalists. Occult elements were probably influenced by Heinlein's wife, Leslyn. From the audience, James Branch Cabell's *Jurgen* was also named as an influence, especially

on the supernatural elements in *Stranger*.

### {Well-Lost?}

Late Saturday afternoon, before several hundred people, the subject was unpublished Heinlein, especially the long-lost first novel, and the title of the panel was: "Heinlein: Lost, Strayed, Misplaced, and Found Again". The panelists were: David Silver, treasurer of the Heinlein Society; Robert James, who is helping research Bill Patterson's forthcoming Heinlein biography; Art Dula, Heinlein's copyright attorney; Eleanor Wood, founder of the Spectrum Literary Agency and Heinlein's agent for the last ten years of his life; and Spider Robinson, as a writer, "just one of Heinlein's children".

Of course, most of the audience was there to hear about the first novel, *For Us, the Living*. James described how he followed a trail leading through a fragmentary Heinlein biography by Leon Stover, which mentioned the manuscript in the hands of Heinlein's old friend, Adm. Cal Rainey, and which was eventually found in somebody's garage. It's a "wonderful book", James said. Dula concurred; he had expected a lousy, amateurish book, but "I was just stunned by it ... I can see the roots of the other novels descending right into this book." In particular, said Wood, the novel's sexual themes were something Heinlein couldn't take up again for a quarter of a century, until *Stranger in a Strange Land*.

However, Robinson, the only fiction writer present, described the rediscovered novel as a thinly disguised series of lectures, like some works by H. G. Wells. At some point, Robinson speculated, Heinlein found that the fiction was more fun than the lectures. He began sending stories to the SF magazines shortly afterward.

Based on the descriptions of the book's story, I asked about its relationship to one of Heinlein's best early novels, *Beyond This Horizon* (1942). I got the impression that the question made some of the panelists uneasy, as the relationship is strong.

"It's astonishing how much of the book was re-used," said James, in *Beyond* or others; another possible reason why the book was never published.

According to a letter from Heinlein to his editor, John W. Campbell, *For Us the Living* was "an essay for myself on what I wanted to write", rather than a novel. James called it "the blueprint for the rest of his career."

Curiously, the subject of whether Heinlein would have wanted the book published at all never came up, as far as I can recall. However, at another convention, David Silver got a little testy when I suggested Heinlein's burning the only copy he had in his possession was good reason to suppose he wanted it destroyed.

### {No Alternative}

Does alternate history comprise an ever larger part of science fiction; or are the science fiction shelves in the bookstores increasingly occupied by the form of fantasy known as alternate history? Sunday afternoon, a panel asked, "Does Alternate History need a Science Fiction Element?" Most of the panelists approached the question as practitioners. Robert Silverberg, who said that "a lot of my fiction, over the centuries" has been alternate history. Hard SF writer Charles Stross, who has written some a.h. as well. Mark Rayner, who has written a.h. short stories. Scott Mackay, in whose a.h., the Catholic Church is run by aliens. (I think I saw something like that, on "South Park".) Alexis Gilliland, whose seven novels are not a.h., but is interested in the subject. "Everybody writes alternate history," said Gilliland. Compare histories written by Serbs and by Croats: "only the place names

are similar!"

In an alternate history, said Silverberg, the Lincoln assassination might simply fail; or, a time traveler gives Lincoln an invulnerable shield -- "and it could go either way." (Laughter.) In a short story, he explained, the rule is that "one thing happens." In an SF short story, that would be "one *unusual* thing happens." Thus, it would seem that "a really short alternate history story should not drag in *two* futuristic assumptions." On the other hand, "it can be fun" to throw in, not two but fifty things!

A different kind of alternate history is not about small changes that have far-reaching effects, said Stross, but instead involves "macro-counterfactuals". For example, in S.M. Stirling's *The Peshawar Lancers*, meteors wipe out Europe and America, leaving a very different British Empire behind. He also commented on science fiction "futures which are now alternate history," like George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Should we go on reading such works: "It depends on how well it's written," said an audience member, to laughter and applause.

Stross had earlier wondered about the problem of whether the readers know enough real history to get where the a.h. story diverges from reality. Silverberg said that his story, "Trips", began in an alternate, and passed through our history on the way, but nobody caught it.

Realistically, the "cascade of events" from any alteration of history will be so great, said Gilliland, that "you might as well be writing an imaginary history." He wondered if alternate history is fake, in the sense that, realistically there would be no familiar characters -- but the readers want familiar characters! This touches on why people read a.h. in the first place, said Stross. It's "improvisation on a known theme," said an audience member, aptly. SF readers are smart enough to get something out of it, Silverberg added.

Somebody asked why the alternate histories are "always worse" than ours; e.g., we lost

World War II. It's more fun that way, the panelists agreed, with more conflict. From the audience, Joseph Major commented on writers' failure to properly research the histories they're playing with. Yet the histories themselves disagree, said Silverberg (recalling Gilliland's earlier comment about Serbian history vs. Croatian history).

An audience member complained about a recent spate of stories that throw together incongruous people, for example, Emily Dickinson and Daniel Boone. (Esther Friesner's "Jane's Fighting Ships", in which Jane Austen and Davy Crockett fight Napoleon, may have been meant.) "There's no telling what will please somebody," Silverberg chuckled. He had "Pizarro and Socrates debate the nature of kingship ... [and] you people gave me a Hugo for it!" ("Enter a Soldier. Later: Enter Another": Pizarro and Socrates are AI simulations.)

### {Miscellaneous}

Thursday afternoon in the convention center, I asked the girl at the con's information desk on what floor were the kaffeeklatsches. "This one!" she said brightly. Which answer left me very perplexed, until additional conversation revealed she thought she was in the Royal York Hotel, several blocks away from the convention center.

"... And my beautiful assistant -- well, you'll do!" (Boos, hisses.) Thursday night, the Chichen Itza in 2012 party demonstrated the ancient Mesoamerican ice cream ritual, taught to the Mayans by the ancient astronauts. (It involves liquid nitrogen.) "You've gotta put a little *heart* into your work!"

explained the "chief priest". I suggested chopping up and mixing in the red chocolate hearts found about the room.

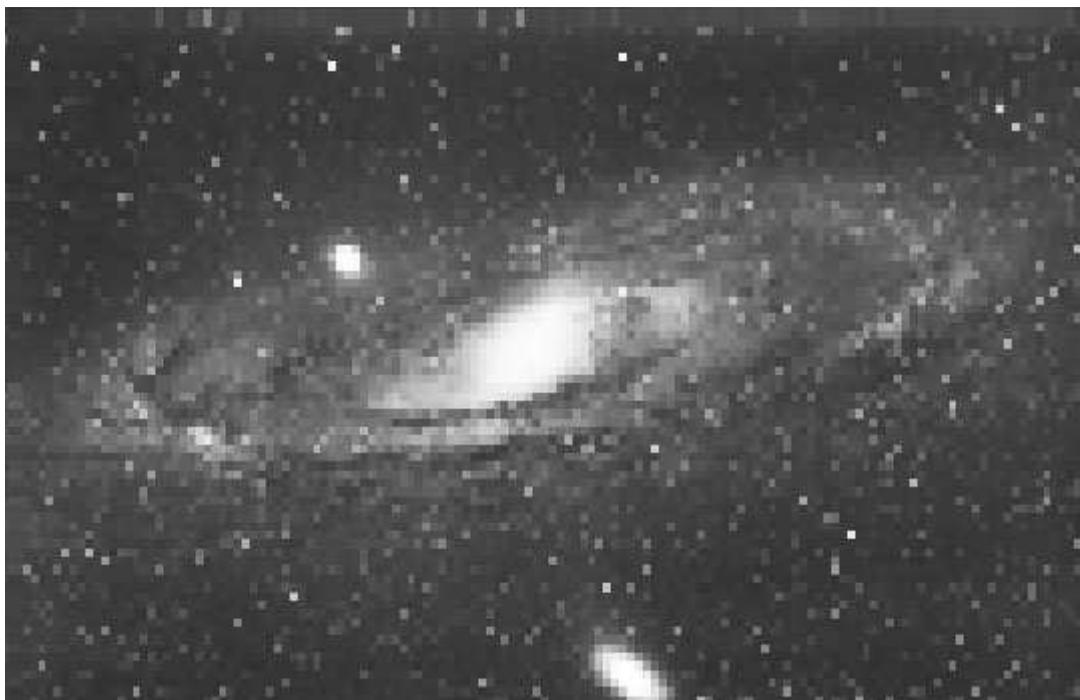
Saturday and Sunday nights, to reach the con suite you had to run a gauntlet of poisonous fumes from the smoking con suite. They had to leave the door ajar, they explained, or it would lock. I proposed taping the lock open, but this suggestion was not received favorably.

Accepting the Short Dramatic Hugo for "Conversations With Dead People", Saturday night, "Buffy" writer Jane Espenson explained that as an SF reader she'd learned the difference between the Hugo and the Nebula long ago. A book that wins the Nebula is good for you, but you won't like it; a book that wins the Hugo, you will! She also pointed out the eerie synchronicity of her co-writer, Drew Goddard, winning a share of the Hugo rocket: he is the grandson of Robert Goddard.

A very surprised, white bearded Rusty Hevelin, accepting the Moskowitz Archive Award (for SF collecting): "Thanks to First Fandom for even considering me -- because I refuse to join!"

Robert Sawyer, accepting the Novel Hugo for *Hominids*: "First, I'd like to thank J.K. Rowling for being late delivering the fifth book!" He continued in a sentimental vein, "I wish my mother could see this, but ... but ..." --growing emotional - - "it's over a hundred dollars for a day pass to this con!!!"

Noreascon IV chair to Torcon III chair, at the closing ceremonies: "You are Number 61. I am the new Number 62!" Triumphant response: "I am not a number. *I am a free man!*"--Taras Wolansky.



While looking something else up, I came upon this:

<http://www.sfra.org/>

Their mission:

"The Science Fiction Research Association (SFRA) is the oldest professional organization for the study of science fiction and fantasy literature and film.

Founded in 1970, the SFRA was organized to improve classroom teaching; to encourage and assist scholarship; and to evaluate and publicize new books and magazines dealing with fantastic literature and film, teaching methods and materials, and allied media performances.

Among the membership are people from many countries—students, teachers, professors, librarians, futurologists, readers, authors, booksellers, editors, publishers, archivists, and scholars in many disciplines.

Academic affiliation is not a requirement for membership.

This website provides information to prospective members, current members and the general public, including membership information, calls for papers, notable achievements in the field, schedules for upcoming conferences and other relevant announcements.

It also contains an online archive of the SFRA Review, as well as other documents and materials related to the association."

This is spiffy, since there are still teachers who think that if it's Sci-fi (or fantasy) it doesn't count. The hell? Talk about backwater thinking! ERK!

SFRA gives me hope and the warm fuzzies.

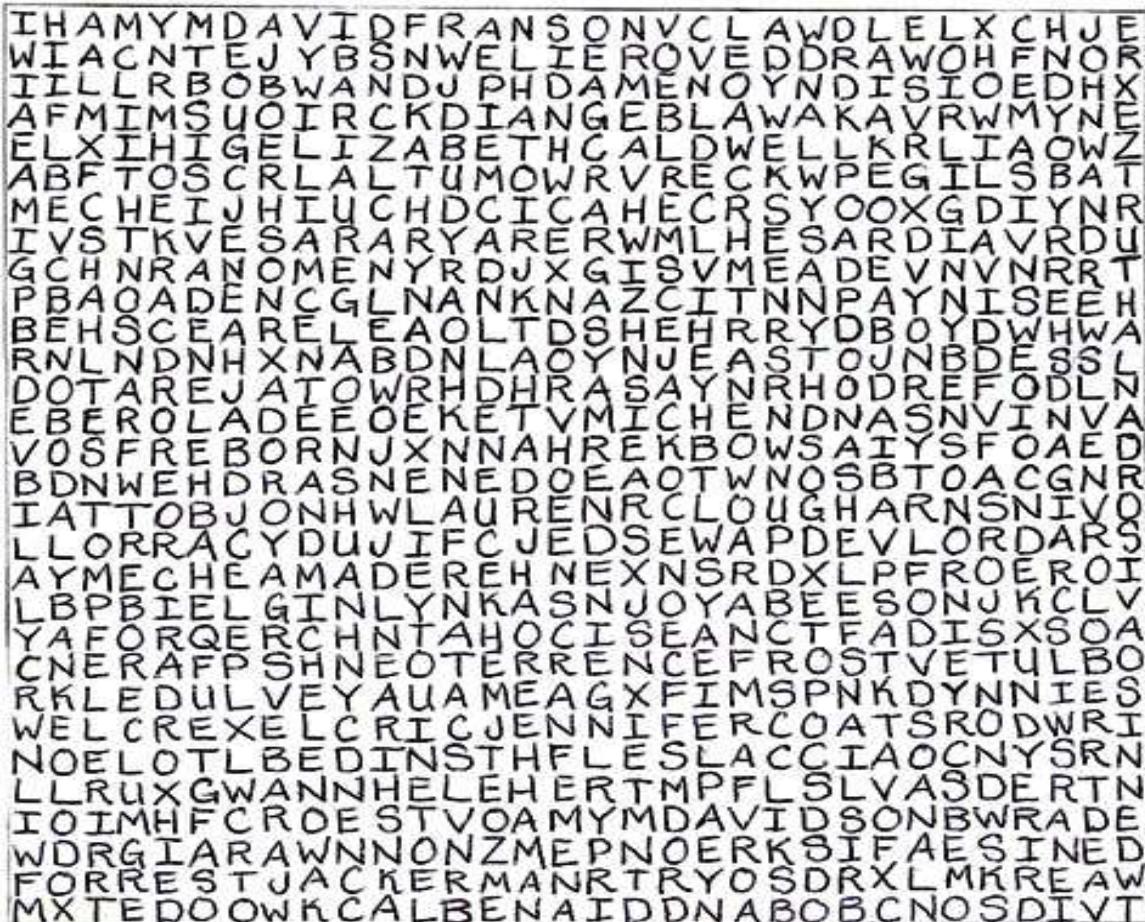
But I'm involved in enough stuff. . . o.O

- Ruth Davidson



Hullo Fabulous Neffers! I thought it would be fun and interesting to do a series of word searches using the names of the members. I hope you all agree and that no one thinks this is lame. I've used the first 25 names on the roster list to start and will continue to work down the roster. Don't worry though, I'll be keeping my eyes out for new members whose names fall under the parts of the roster I've already covered. Everyone will be included. ;) As you can see, the alphabetical order goes by first name first. Have fun finding yourself!

Word List: Amy M Davidson, Bob and Diane Blackwood, Craig and Sherry Boyd, David Franson, Denise A Fisk, Dennis Davis, Elizabeth Caldwell, Forrest J Ackerman, Gar Chen, Ginny Benson, Helen E Davis, Howard Devore, Jennifer Coats, John W Andrews, Joy A Beeson, Judy Carroll, Kathryn A Drexel, Lauren R Clough, Michael and Theresa Contos, Richard A Brooks, Robert W Franson, Ruth and Robert Davidson, Terrence Frost, Tom P Feller, William Center, and Michelle Nowak



# 2006 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 the 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 1/2" 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 \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50; Second \$30; Third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a choice of paperback books available.

7: Send all manuscripts, together with SASE's, 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<sup>st</sup>, 2005**.

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): \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

Send to: Jennett Kaerie, Election Teller, 434 Bird St, Yuba City CA 95991

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# 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 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 is 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 Wel-

committee, 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 printed in the September issue of TNFF. Members may submit a photocopy of the election ballot rather than the ballot itself. Each ballot shall include space for the N3F member to write their name in print, provide their signature and also the date the ballot was completed. Ballots for Constitutional amendments and other membership referendums may also 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 36 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. Other 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. Neffer 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

Membership dues are payable annually and include receiving one copy of the Official Organ (paper or electronic). Individual memberships are \$18 per year. Additional memberships at the same household address, with no additional copies of the Official Organ, are \$4 per year per person.

# The National Fantasy Fan (N3F) Membership Application

New Member    Reinstatement    Joint Membership    Gift Membership

Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Male: \_\_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate (for the Birthday Bureau): \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Please check your current SF/F related interests.

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

- Which would you prefer?:

A: *The e-Fan* in .PDF format sent to your **valid** email address? \_\_\_\_\_

B: *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(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- Name of Sponsoring Member (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

- How did you hear of us? \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

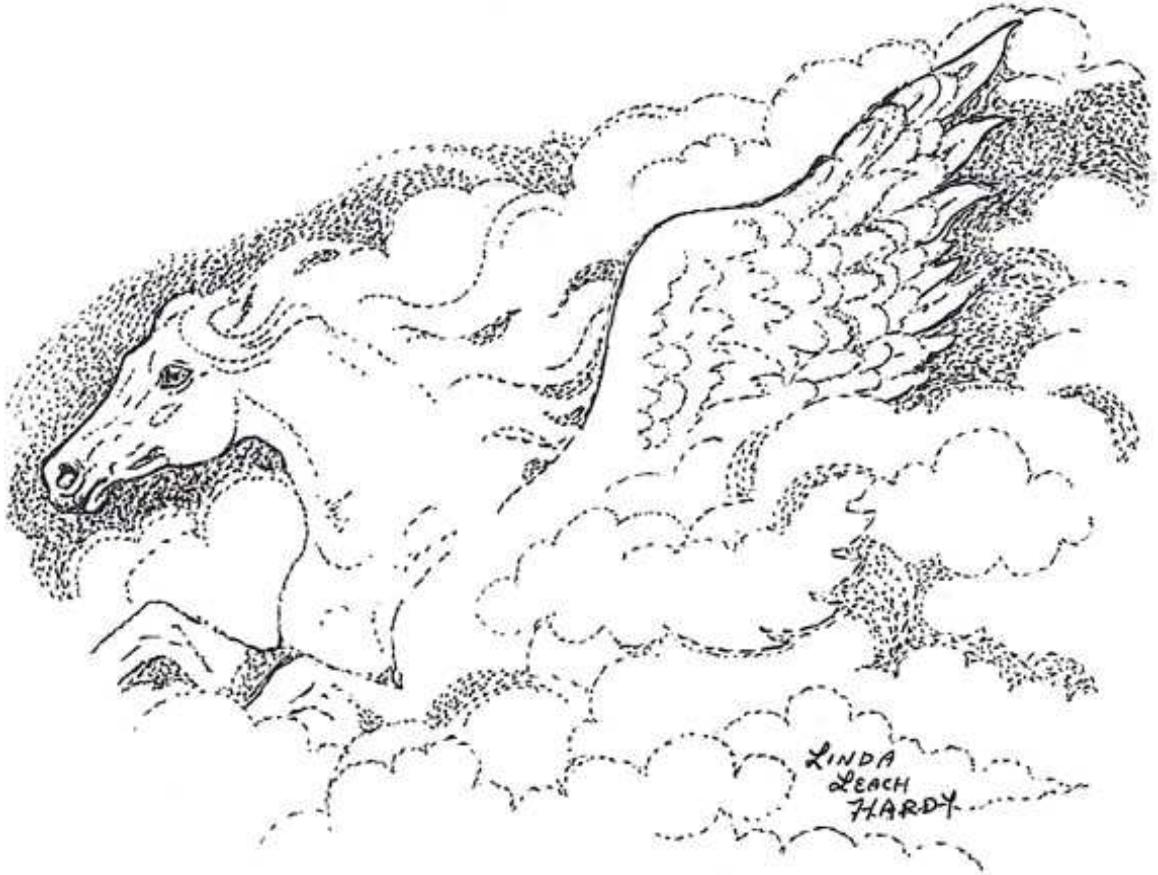
You can also sign up online at <http://n3f.org>



*Send all address corrections  
and undeliverable copies to:*

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

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