

# **THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN**

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT! PAGE 6!\*\*\***



**VOLUME 8 NUMBER 1 MARCH 2008**

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## The Eye Candy Providers

Sarah E. Harder, Cover  
 Icanhazcheezburger.com, Pg. 8  
 Lorna Hansmann, Pg. 10  
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 Patsy King, Pg. 21

*All else is clipart.*

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## The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 8 No. 1 March 2008 The Official Organ of the National Fantasy Fan Federation.

\* This issue was completed on 04/10/08. The editor for this issue was Ruth R. Davidson. The editor for the next issue is **TBA**. Please send your submissions and questions to Sally Syrala, N3F President & the Editorial Cabal bureau head (of course). ***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.***

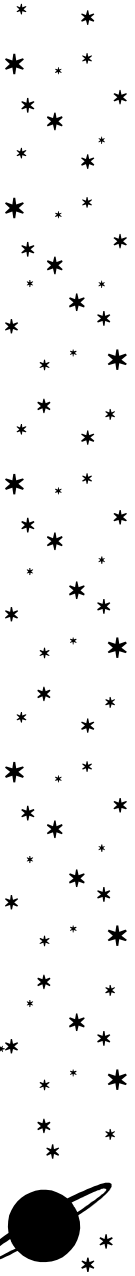
\* **SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS: May 15, 2008.** E-mail accepted by arrangement only! This zine is to be published quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

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# N3F 2008 OFFICERS



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**EDITORS NEEDED ASAP!**  
**Talk to Sally A. Syrjala**

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Sarah E. Harder,  
Directorate Vice Chairman

MARCH  
OPEN

**IMPORTANT  
ANNOUNCEMENT!  
PAGE 6!**

yseult\_sg@yahoo.com

JUNE  
OPEN

Susan Van Schuyver,

SEPTEMBER  
OPEN

**PERSONAL INFO  
REMOVED, What  
you see is used with  
permission!**

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DECEMBER  
OPEN

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*See Directorate*

**SECRETARY:**  
Dennis Davis,  
*See Directorate*

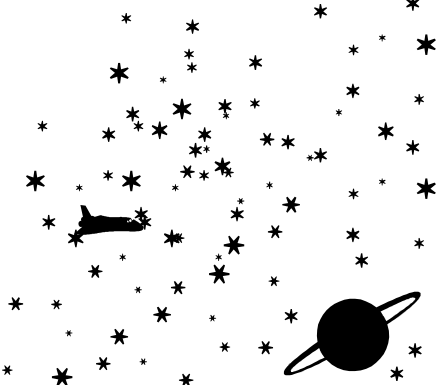
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# BUREAUS and Activities

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**BIRTHDAY CARDS:**

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**COMPUTER GAMING:**

OPEN

**CONVENTION  
COORDINATOR:**

OPEN

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

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*See Directorate*

**E-MAIL DIRECTORY:**

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*See Directorate*

**FAN CLUBS:**

OPEN

**FUTURE FANDOM:**

OPEN

**GAMING:**

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**KAYMAR AWARDS:**

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*See Treasurer*

**MEMBERSHIP CARDS:**

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*See Directorate*

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:**

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*See Reviews Editor*

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*See N3F Bookworms*

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**TEACHING SCIENCE  
FICTION: OPEN****THE MANGAVERSE:**

Ruth R. Davidson,  
*See Election Teller*

**WEBMISTRESS:**

Ruth R. Davidson,  
*See Election Teller*

**WELCOMMITTEE &  
SUBCOMMITTEES:**

Cynthia Richter,

**OR**

David K. Robinson,

**WRITER'S EXCHANGE:**

Joy Beeson,

## President's Message

Happy Spring!

It is an honor to be able to write this message as President of the N3F. I had thought that my active days with the Club were in the past. Nevertheless, as someone once said, "Never say never." While my election came as a surprise to me and I had not thought of a platform or formed concrete thoughts about where I thought the direction of the Club should go, I do know that I want it to be one of growth to mirror nature's seasonal growth about to begin.

However, that growth cannot happen without the input and interest of the members. One person or a small group of people are not the ones who will ultimately determine the direction the Club takes. It is the members who will make that decision by their contribution or lack thereof.

One area I would very much like to see people take an active interest in is the bureaus. Please think how you can help one of the bureaus to become more than it currently is. Can you volunteer to head an inactive bureau? Is there anyone who would like to try their hand at editing a zine? How about sending a letter of comment? Are you able to bring in a new member? Would you like to join a bureau and contribute your talents to bringing something new and different to it? Are there new bureaus that should be formed? Why did you join and have things been as you thought they would be? If not, how could things be done to change your opinion? If things are to your liking, what are those things?

There is a directorate and there is a president

who have been voted to lead the Club, but the future and the level of life that is infused into it are what the members add to the mix.

What do you see as being the focus the Club should take? How should outreach to new members be made? If you are either happy or unhappy with the Club, what makes you feel this way? What can be done to make the Club more in line with your interests?

Please let me and the directorate know what you are thinking. Where do you want to see things go? Without input, direction takes place in a vacuum and doesn't reflect the interests of the members. Unhappiness then exists on all fronts and that is not in the best interest of the Club.

I would very much like to hear from you and know how you think you can help with things. Please make comments and suggestions and offer to help make our family of fans be more cohesive and more in tune with what you are looking to see happen. In short, how can we be all that we can be?

The email addresses of the officers and directorate are listed in the zines so that you can easily reach us with your opinions and your offers of help.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sally A. Syrjala  
President, N3F

## Here ye, Here ye!

# An Important Announcement comes from your Editor!

And the crux of this announcement is that I can no longer edit. I thought I could handle it on a regular basis, but alas, as you can see from the tardiness of this issue that I was full of unintended lies. In fact, I did not even get the chance to really start on it until the very last day of March. . . Another indicator of this lack of time is that I am effectively using the same template, as evidenced by the first few pages. . . Merciful heavens. I mean normally I try to be different with each ish, but that just en't happen this time around. I know, it's full of suckitude.

I have many reasons for no longer having the time to edit, a big reason is that my husband feels it takes up too much of my time (probably right) and that I'm biting off more than I can chew (probably right). So, to avoid marital strife and stress, I must resign. I love editing, I have a lot of fun with it, I've learned a lot, and it's sad to me that it's currently a burden more than a joy.

With that said, **PLEASE, consider becoming an editor!** You don't necessarily need any experience just an idea of basic formatting and the proper programs and to be willing to remind people to send in their reports and such. I was completely inexperienced when I first started editing many moons ago, but with the use of help files and Janine Stinson I got the hang of it fairly quickly. I also find this knowledge to be useful in other areas as well!

Here is the official announcement from Denny and Sally.

“The Club is in need of someone who is willing and able to be one of our Editors of The Fan. Basic Requirements are MS Publisher 98 or above, the ability to create PDFfiles, and email access. *[Though a different program is possible. For more info on that please read the editor's guide, obtained from Denny, and then ask me questions. –Ed]*

In addition they need to be able to remind people to submit things, and it is imperative that they communicate with the rest of the Editorial Cabal and the N3F President.

Anyone interested should first email me at so that I can send them a PDF file that further outlines the requirements for the Editor of The Fan. *[Not as horrible as it sounds. –Ed]*

Then if they are willing and able to be one of the Editors of The Fan, they should email the N3F President Sally Syrjala at Ssyrjala@aol.com”

Until the time we find a new editor please **send all regular submissions to our President Sally**. She will hold unto them for the next Editor. Art still goes to Sarah Harder our art editor and reviews to Jon Swartz. I will still be the Editorial Cabal Advisor as I can spare some time to help out new editors, and of course I am still the Online Editor.

Thank you very much if you actually read this whole thing. It is appreciated.

Your former Editor, currently many other club things,

Ruth R. Davidson

## VIGNETTES FROM N3F HISTORY

By Jon D. Swartz, N3F Historian and Leonard J. Moffatt, *Directory* Editor

*1950 Fan Directory*,  
edited by Leonard J. Moffatt  
Lilliputian Press, Garden Grove, CA

The *Directory* was sponsored jointly by The Fantasy Foundation and the N3F. In this publication the Fantasy Foundation was represented by Forrest J Ackerman and the N3F by Roy Lavender. The Fantasy Foundation, introduced by Ackerman at Pacificon I in 1946, was a literary project with a goal of having a duplicate library of SF/F/H magazines and books, one for the use of current fan researchers and one preserved for the future. All those involved in the *Directory* were members of the N3F at the time, and Ackerman remains a lifetime member today.

The *Directory* was divided into two main sections. The first section was subdivided into countries and states, with fans listed in alphabetical order. The second section, a cross-index, listed all the fan surnames in alphabetical order with country or state, and the page numbers on which their entries appeared. There was also a two-page listing of abbreviations used in the *Directory*, ranging from AAFA (American Amateur Press Association) to YF (Young Fandom). The entries were in the following order: Name, Address, Phone Number, Sex, Birthday, and Fan Organizations. The *Directory* was 40 pages in length, plus stiff paper covers.

In addition to the United States, fans from several other countries were represented: Australia, Canada, Canal Zone, England, France, Ire-

land, and Scotland. There were 404 SF fans listed in the *Directory*, of which only 51 were female.

In a "Publisher's Preface" by Stan Woolston, who printed the *Directory* with a hand-fed letterpress in his back yard, it was stated that Janie Lamb of Ezekiel, Tennessee would receive the information slips from which the *Directory* was formed and keep them as a nucleus for a future larger list. The slips were mimeographed forms distributed to fanzine editors to send out with their zines and club publications. Lamb was also to form a bureau that would serve as a center for fan addresses and other data, answer queries, etc. Woolston explained that 24 slips received too late for inclusion under the proper geographical heading were included in an Addendum.

All information printed in the *Directory* came from returned forms, with nothing deleted or added. It is assumed that some well-known fans had little or no interest in the project and therefore did not complete the slips.

The *Directory* sold for 25¢ a copy. Despite the modest cost, many NFFF members (as the N3F was called at the time) did not buy it. Today, when available, copies sell in the \$50.00 to \$75.00 range.



## The Power Of Nothing

By Jack Robins

One of the many legends from the days of the Manhattan Project (when the atomic bomb was being developed) was this: Neils Bohr, a world famous scientist, was moving into the shack to which he had been assigned. A reporter noticed that Neils was nailing a horseshoe above his entranceway. "Do you really believe in this stuff?" the reporter asked Neils. "Absolutely not!" Neils said indignantly. "Then why are you putting it up?" "Because it works!"

What reminds me of the horseshoe is Homeopathy, a field of medicine originated in the 18th century by a German physician, Samuel Hahnemann. He theorized that if a substance produces a particularly bad symptom on the body, then a heavily diluted portion of that same substance could cure the symptom. To illustrate this, let's take Syrup of Ipecac. I don't know if it dissolves in water, but to describe the process, let us say it does. Syrup of Ipecac is used to induce vomiting and is particularly useful if someone took in something which might be poisonous or toxic; the Syrup would cause the individual to vomit it up and may well save his life. To obtain a workable Homeopathic solution, you would take one ounce of the Ipecac and mix it with 9 ounces of water. Then you would shake it up vigorously and bang the hell out of it. Then take one ounce of this new solution, which is 1/10th the strength of the original and add 9 ounces of water and do the same. This is now called, Syrup of Ipecac 2C. You take one ounce of this, which is now 1/100th the strength of the original, dilute it with 9 ounces of water and again mix it vigorously and bang it to hell. Now it is 1/1000th the strength of the original. This is called 3C. You continue

until you have 6C, which is the minimum "useful" strength in Homeopathy. You can go up to 30C which is probably the maximum. The more dilute the solution, the "stronger" is its effect. But what kind of solution have you got? In a 6C dilution you have a solution 1/ millionth the strength of the original. You are lucky if you have even a molecule of the original. And if you go up to 30C, do you have anything but water? And then, for the remedy to be effective, you are allowed only a few drops of this solution. A few drops? After all this work? I would want to drink a pint, after all, there is nothing there but water. And if I understand what Hahnemann says, those few drops of the 6C solution should alleviate the symptom of nausea.

Hahnemann practiced on himself and his friends. Over the years, (over centuries, in fact) a pharmacopeia of over 3,000 of these diluted materials has been developed which includes remedies for all kinds of conditions. What you find in the Health Food Store are tiny bottles containing about 100 extremely small balls, each much smaller than a grain of rice, so small, you could hardly hold them with your fingers. And you are not allowed to take more than 3 or 4 of the tiny balls and you are not allowed to handle them with your fingers (because you might "contaminate" them).

Chemists have analyzed some of these homeopathic remedies and found nothing but the material used to dilute them. Investigators, used to testing drugs, get a group of people to try to use "double blind" studies to see whether a homeopathic remedy would cure a particular



condition, but what they get are variable and inconsistent results.

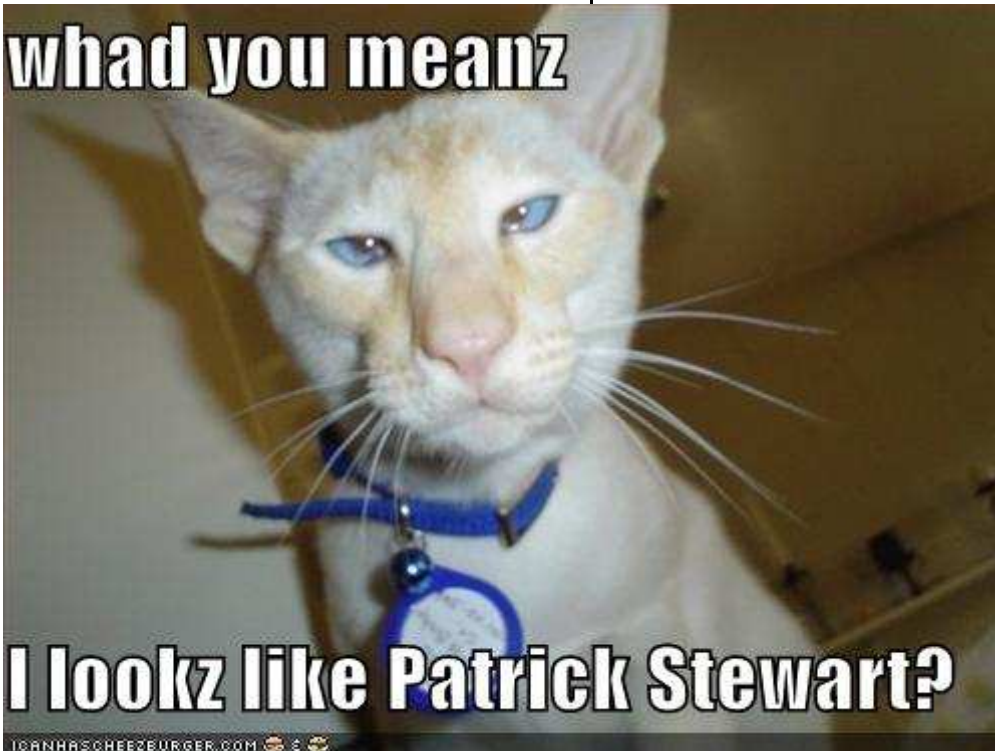
My daughter has become a maven on homeopathic medications and when her children develop colds or other conditions, she has them take various homeopathic remedies. Miraculously, the cold or other symptom disappears by the next day. Her children call her Dr. Mom. After my wife broke her ankle and was in pain, my daughter recommended a number of homeopathic remedies which miraculously helped. She once recommended to my wife and me that we use a homeopathic ointment, Calendula, for skin conditions: rashes, burns, cuts and even pimples. I had flat growths

which appeared overnight on my face. My skin specialist said, "Let them grow and when they are large enough I will cut them off and send them for a biopsy analysis". He had no other remedy. The Calendula ointment diminished the size and number and kept the growths under control. Nothing else worked for me.

So people ask me, "Do you really believe in homeopathic remedies?"

As a retired chemist, I must say, "Absolutely not!"

"So why do you take them?"  
"Because they work!"



## REVIEWS

By Jon D. Swartz, Reviews Editor

### Book Reviews

*The Contested Earth and Other SF Stories*  
by Jim Harmon  
Shreveport, LA: Ramble House, 2007

Harmon wrote several short stories back in the 1960s that were published in *Galaxy Science Fiction*, *Science Fiction Quarterly*, *Spaceway*, *If*, *Venture*, and other great old SF magazines. A baker's dozen of these stories were collected and published in 2004 as *Harmon's Galaxy* and reviewed in these pages. But *The Contested Earth* was Harmon's only SF novel -- and this is the first time it's been available to the public. It's a hard science novel of the near future when the human race must come to terms with total sterilization. While other SF writers -- Brian Aldiss, Nancy Kress, P. D. James, Margaret Atwood -- dealt with the topic of human infertility years later, Harmon tackled the subject back in the 1950s.

In addition to the novel, there are seven short stories, all written with the distinctive Harmon style. Some of these are quite recent, and one ("Who Calls a Ghost Town Home") is published here for the first time. One of my favorite old stories of Harmon's, "Break a Leg," is included. I loved it when I first read it back in the 1950s in *Galaxy*, and loved it again when I re-read it here.

Both hardback and paperback editions of *The Contested Earth* are available from the publisher. The author has copies of the paperback edition for sale at \$20.00 per copy, postage included (write Jim Harmon at 634 South Orchard Drive, Burbank, CA 91506-2905.)

### *Next*

by Michael Crichton  
NY: Harper, 2007

This is another best-selling science fiction thriller by a science fiction author who doesn't write SF. Like most of his other "techno-thrillers," this one will also adapt well to the big screen. I predict a blockbuster motion picture based on this novel within the next couple of years. The story involves the use/misuse of human tissues, mainly genes, on a host of characters, some of whom the reader will find sympathetic -- but most not so sympathetic. Crichton has several serious points to make in this novel and, in an Author's Note at the end of the book, includes recommendations for sensible gene use in the future. He also includes an excellent bibliography of books on the subject. The paperback edition of this novel is currently on the newsstands and sells for \$9.99.

### Fanzine Review

*Notes from Bob Peterson #97* (Dec. 2007)  
by Robert (Bob) Peterson

This annual issue of Bob's *Notes* had some very sad news. Bob's wife of 52+ years died June 16th and was buried in Springfield, Illinois in the family plot bought by his grandfather back in the 1920s. Though not a SF fan, she accompanied Bob to many cons, including some out of the country. She was also active in the social meetings of the Colorado Fantasy Society. My sincerest condolences to you on your loss, Bob.

On a much happier note Bob has con-

tinued his science fiction book reading and old movie watching. In addition, he is re-reading his collection of *Startling Stories*, one of the better early SF magazines. Apparently he has an almost complete run of this fondly remembered pulp.

I'm looking forward to the landmark issue #100 of Bob's *Notes*, and hope to review it in these pages.

### Re Reviewers & Reviewed

Michael Crichton, who graduated from both Harvard University and Harvard Medical School, has written several SF books marketed as techno-thrillers: *The*

*Andromeda Strain* (1969), *Congo* (1980), *Sphere* (1987), *Jurassic Park* (1990), *The Lost World* (1995), *Prey* (2002), and *State of Fear* (2004). He also wrote the screenplays for *Westworld*

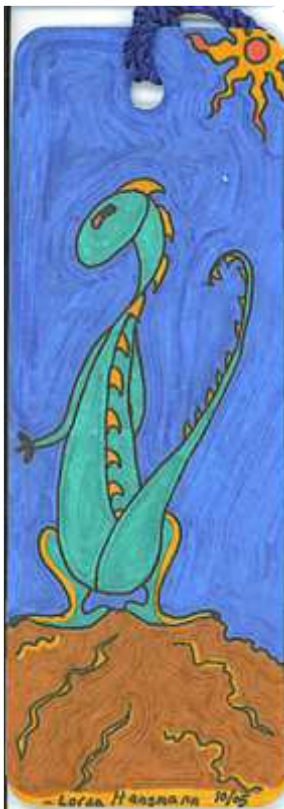
(1975) and *Twister* (1996). Crichton has sold over 100 million books. In addition, he created the TV series *ER*. His publicist reports that he is the

only person to have had -- at the same time -- the number one book, the number one movie, and the number one television show in the United States.

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 from Golden Age radio programs. Jim is a member of First Fandom; and, from 2000 to 2004, he and his wife Barbara were editors of *Scientifiction: The First Fandom Report*.

Robert (Bob) Peterson is a member of both N3F and First Fandom. He has published his fanzine, *Notes from Bob Peterson*, for many years. In the 1940s he produced *The Science Fiction Index* and *The Fantasy Index*, compilations of magazine story listings. His long and remarkable fannish career was rewarded in 2004 with his induction into First Fandom's Hall of Fame.

Note : Unless otherwise indicated, the Reviews Editor writes everything in this column. Other N3F members are invited to submit reviews, preferably electronically. If you are not on the Internet and can only send your review by snail mail, I'll consider it but its publication probably will be delayed. If you send a review by e-mail and do not hear from me within a reasonable length of time, please write. It has become apparent that some Internet providers do not communicate with each other. My two addresses are as follows: jon\_swartz@hotmail.com and 11600 Starview Trail, Austin, TX 78750.



## The Computer In Our Lives

By Jack Robins

Each year we read about new developments especially in the making of smaller and smaller computers. Have you heard of the VeriChip? It is the size and shape of a grain of rice. The device, implanted in animals or humans, emits a radio signal which can be used to determine where the person or animal is. They embed that or a similar chip in whales and other creatures to find out where they go and somehow trace out the life cycle or some other information of use to animal lovers. But now they want to embed

it in humans. For example: Alzheimer patients. My wife is recovering from a broken ankle in a rehab center. The aides warn her not to keep any bottles of drugs or vitamins in sight because some of the patients with, or on the verge of, Alzheimer's wander around forgetting their room number and go into any room and, upon seeing the bottle of drugs, will pick it up and eat the contents as if it were candy. Wouldn't it be nice to implant a VeriChip in an Alzheimer patient so that the nurses at the desk can find out where the patient is at any time?

The chip sends out a number, sort of like a bar code number. If you have an embedded chip and have an accident, the emergency people can enter the number in an Internet data base and find out what medications you are on

(even if you are unconscious) and decide upon the treatment that could save your life. And there is talk about using the chip to track prison inmates, sex offenders, illegal aliens, soldiers and police officers.



It all sounds good. But don't go running for the chip right away. Aside from the possibility that you may be losing your personal freedom, there is evidence that the implanted chips have caused malignant tumors in lab animals.

Some day a family will have to decide: Is it better to implant a chip to know where an Alzheimer patient has wandered off to or would it be better to make sure that he or she does not get a chip that could cause cancer?

# BUREAU & Activity REPORTS

## Artist's Bureau Report

Sarah Harder

I apologize for the delay in the artzine. It's coming along slowly but should be done in a few months. I'll keep everyone posted. I'm still accepting art articles to include so feel free to contact me if you're interested in writing something (or just send it to me).

Getting the artzine done is my main goal right now so there's not much else to report on. There's still no Birthday Card Bureau head which is why you haven't received any birthday cards yet (from the contest) this year. Once someone volunteers (you perhaps?) I'll forward those on. I'll see about getting some of the cards on the website for your viewing pleasure.

## Correspondence Bureau

Sarah Harder

There's nothing to report as there's been no one requesting penpals. I think some people connect with others through various neffer activities and start corresponding that way, which is great. I'm still here for you though if you'd like to get connected with a penpal with some similar interests. I have a new form and can send it to you via email.

I've enjoyed having several penpals over the years. I requested my first penpal when I was eleven through a Star Wars fan club. I've appreciated my first few penpals who wrote to me even though I was a kid and they were adults. I don't think there were many eleven years olds wanting fannish connection! I've lost touch with a couple due to multiple moves

## Treasurer's Report

William Center

### Receipts

Renewal dues	336.00
Short Story Contest	20.00
	356.00

### Disbursements

Printing December 2007 TNFF	156.62
Mailing December 2007 TNFF	59.00
Short Story Contest Prizes	100.00
Postage	20.00
Money Order Charge	25.00
Foreign Currency Conversion Charge	0.17
PayPal service charge	5.04
	365.83

Beginning Balance (11/15/07)	\$ 3,791.17
Additions	+ 356.00
Subtractions	- 365.83
	\$ 3,781.34

Ending Balance (2/15/08) \$ 3,781.34

Send all dues, new or renewal to: Dennis Davis, 25549 Byron Street, San Bernadino, CA 92404-6408. Make checks payable to **William Center**, not the N3F. Canadian and overseas members, please pay in U. S. funds.

## WebMistress & the MANGAVERSE

By Ruth R. Davidson

Hopefully by the time you are all reading this we will have our forums back. It'll be the only fannish activity we do that will be available to the rest of fandom. The name will be some-

thing that does not feature N3F. We will be merely the hosts. I was thinking something like S4F – Science Fiction Fantasy Fans Forum. If ya'll balk at it, please give me your ideas.

N3F.org has been updated. If I missed something or if I need to add something please let me know. I would like to have more banner art. If you refresh N3F.org over and over again, you'll notice a difference in the top banner title. More banners would be really awesome. Please submit them to me so they can be added.

Also, it would be really great to have other pieces of art for items in the store. Not everyone wants things that prominently feature "N3F" in bold letters. We need variety! So please help me out with those as well!

Because of time constraints in my life, I am seriously considering including making The MANGAVERSE bureau a part of the forums once they are up.

## **Round Robin Report**

By Lorna Hansmann

Hello friends!!!

My apologies for not sending in a report for the last 2...3? zines. I am determined to send one in this time especially since the editor of this ish emailed me and told me of my total failure (sobs uncontrollably). Of course it was done in a nice way, whip and all =c)

Alright time to be serious.....well as close as we can get. We haven't had very much going on with RRs lately in the sense of more people wanting to participate. I do hope that you will email me and ask me any questions that you may have. We do have a new one for the waiting list though. It is Silverwing, for those who don't know it is a fantasy series about small bats (thanks for that info Patricia).

So if you enjoy that series and you would like to converse with others about it please contact me. We only need three people to start a round and I already have one for this RR.

Note to all Round Robin Masters (RMs). If you could please email me all the RRs you are RMs for that would be fabulous. I want to make sure my book matches up with everyone else's info. I will be hunting you if you don't =c)

Alright onto the definition of an RR and the lists. This definition is not of my own making so kudos to Susan VanSchuyver who gave it to me:

"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."

## **Active Rounds and there RMs**

Cats- Susan Van Schuyver  
 Celtic Folklore- Priscilla Johnson  
 CJ Cherryh- Janine Stinson  
 Comics- Ruth Davidson  
 Dragons- Harold Marcum  
 Dreams- Susan Van Schuyver  
 Dogs and Wolves in Sci & F- Janine Stinson  
 Fairy and Folk Tales- Ruth Davidson  
 Harry Potter Books and Movies- Denny Davis  
 Horror- Janine Stinson  
 Mercedes Lackey- Rikki Winters  
 Anne McCaffrey- Susan VanSchuyver  
 Mythology- Ruth Davidson  
 Sci-fi Channel- Susan VanSchuyver

SF & F Films- Ruth Davidson  
Star Trek- Ginny Benson  
Star Trek classics 2- Susan VanSchuyver  
Star Trek Next Generation- Ginny Benson  
Star Wars- Ginny Benson  
Time Travel- Susan VanSchuyver  
TV Sci & F- Susan VanSchuyver  
Vampires- Harold Marcum

### Waiting list

Batman and other super heroes  
Babylon 5  
Beauty and the Beast  
Current Reading  
Cyber Horror  
Interstellar Empires  
Nonfiction  
Poetry  
Science and Technology  
Supernatural  
Tarzan  
The Lord of the Rings Books and  
Movies

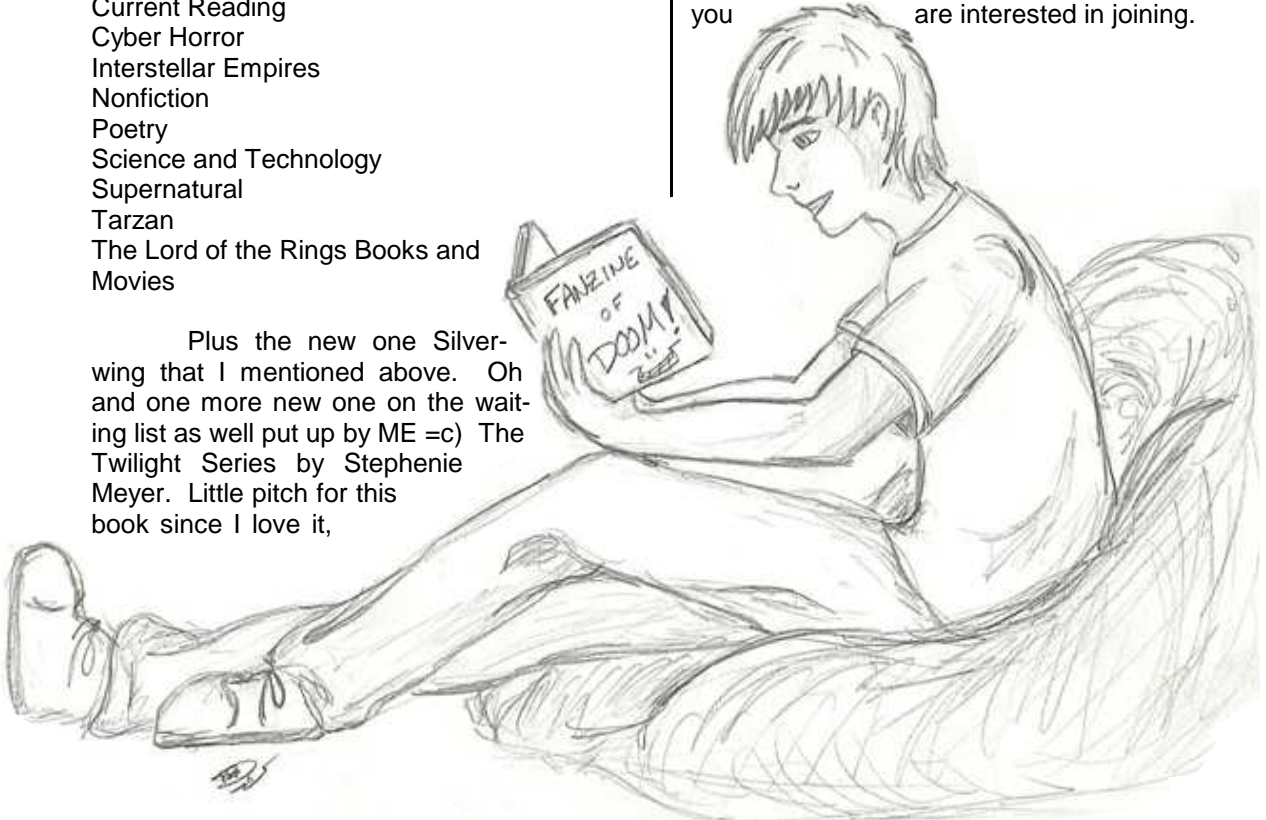
Plus the new one Silverwing that I mentioned above. Oh and one more new one on the waiting list as well put up by ME =c) The Twilight Series by Stephenie Meyer. Little pitch for this book since I love it,

here goes. It ROCKS you should read it when you can. It is a young adult book but really is great for the older generation. A page turner. Okay I'm done now. Hope you all are doing well and may you all enjoy your holidays. Thanksgiving....turkey.....yams.....yummmmm.

### **N'APA**

R-Laurraine Tutihasi

We will be reviving it as a largely electronic APA. There may be provisions made for people not on computers. Please let me know if you are interested in joining.



# lightbeam - Letters of Comment

Sarah Harder

Ruth R. Davidson I don't understand the idea that you have to be a part of a certain club or do certain things to be considered a fan. If fans get together, such as the Vegas club you belonged to, isn't that part of what fandom is? I know fandom has a long, rich history which has continued to the present day through conventions and other activities. I do consider them to be the foundation of current fandom. However, to say that any offshoots isn't real fandom is to deny the beginnings of fandom when fen got together to share their interests and create outlets for their interests and talents. I think that folks should try to learn about the history of fandom even as they engage in their own fannish activity outside the norm. However, some folks simply don't know about it. I engaged in neofan activity as a teen, never knowing that there was so much more out there. Even after I joined N3F I had no idea how expansive fandom was until a local neffer invited me to go with her to a convention. That was the beginning of understanding the roots of fandom and it's modern day traditions.

*[Irony is it's sometimes the supposed Fan Historians that shun any sort of fannish activity that's not their own. I remember saying that even manga and anime and comics have a place in fandom if they have a science fiction or fantasy theme in them but I was flat out told by old fans that no, such genres have nothing to do with science fiction! Say what? What about Crest of the Stars? That's 100% science fiction! There are many others. So yeah, it makes no sense to me, but oh well. I'll just enjoy science fiction and fantasy my way. -Ed]*

David Rubin

I've started a new stamp collection. With more than a dozen stamps & stamp blocks in my collection, I'm officially a philatelist. What makes mine different is the specialty. While many collectors specialize in things like things in nature or particular countries or stamps on stamps, my specialty is fantasy on stamps. I've got superhero stamps and Star Wars stamps and Harry potter stamps and Lord of the Rings stamps and Disney stamps and several other such stamps. My only problem is the Disney's. They are so popular and so non-controversial that just about every country in the world has printed some at some time or other. I could spend thousands just on them, so I try to avoid them unless they're US stamps or extra special, like Winnie the Pooh stamps. Any other such collectors? Anybody want to join me?

There's a new TV show about an immortal on Monday nights. Supposedly it's a curse. He'll be immortal till he meets his true love, then he'll live out a normal life. It could be the best show about immortals since Moon Light (now canceled). Frankly, I think TV takes it too easy on immortals. There are a lot of things that could be asked of this subject. How long does his memory last? Would an immortal boy remarry an immortal girl that he forgot he married a hundred years ago? How many descendants would he have? Would he get married and then find out that his new wife is his great great great granddaughter? How much would his personality change over time? Could a Spanish Inquisitor eventually become a Jew over time and then himself be persecuted



by the Nazis? Would he remain sane over time?

Would anybody like to join an immortality round robin? How about it, Lorna?

*Ruth R. Davidson*

At the store I saw this dude wearing a t-shirt that had a rancher style hat with a propeller on top, and it said something about a geek ranch. I was like duuuuuude, so I told the fellow, I LOVE YOUR SHIRT! He looked at me surprised smiled and we made eye contact, nodded and smiled knowing smiles for a good five seconds. That was awesome.

Hm, I'm in San Jose now, maybe, when I learn how to drive (lessons started April 5th) I'll go that one gathering that happens in the Pruneyard, and now my fannish memory fails me. I can't remember the name of the group. Ah well. Chris Garcia would know. Though, alas, time would also have to allow me to attend meets. Afterall, it's mostly time that prevents me from editing our zine anymore. \*sadness\* Speaking of which, I'm more than willing to help someone learn the ropes of editing! It's not that hard if you put your mind and effort to it. Ouch, how cliché sounding. \*sigh\* Till next zine. . .

## 2007 Short Story Contest RESULTS

**Jefferson Swycaffer, Final Judge**

The 2007 National Fantasy Fan Federation Short Story Contest has concluded. **The winners are:**

First Place: Michael Simon, for "*Machines*," a dystopian high-tech not-so-distant future where men make war against machines...although it isn't always easy to tell which is which.

Second Place: Adrian Simmons, for "*Bronze and Glassteel*," an interstellar "first contact" story, where a colonizing ship brings a bit more of earth's traditions to a new world than anyone had reckoned on.

Third Place: Michael K. Thornton, for "*Undoubtably Still Unworthy*," a theological parable that puts the end of the world into a new perspective.

Honorable Mention: Tom Feller, for "*The Claim*," which features the adventures of two of the most feared creatures on earth: vampires...and insurance claim adjusters!

We had ten submissions this year, and, as has always been the case in this contest, every entry was imaginative, evocative, inspiring, memorable, clever, and just plain fun to read. As always, one finds oneself wishing to be a purchasing editor at a fantasy and science fiction magazine, in order put these stories into professional print where they belong. The art of dreaming -- dreaming, and putting it down in prose -- is alive and well in the greater fannish community, and those of us who love to read stories which challenge the inspiration may rest assured that the next generation of tale spinners is ready, willing, and able to engage our minds with wonder.

Special thanks to Jeff Redmond for serving as the contest's public face, receiving and preparing manuscripts and mailing everything back and forth, and to Ruth R. Davidson and Dennis Davis for coordination and advice.

**Because this is a public version, you don't get the membership roster or the secretary info. MWAHA! Instead, you only get the little cartoon.**



**2008 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 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 \$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: **Jeff Redmond, 1335 Beechwood NE Grand Rapids MI 49505-3830; redmondjeff@hotmail.com** Checks payable to Jeff Redmond. 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>, 2008**.

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 2008 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and agree to them.

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

# The National Fantasy Fan (N3F) Membership Form

New Member     Reinstatement     Joint/Family Membership     Gift Membership

Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Joint/Family Memberships can include other names and info on the back of this form or on a separate piece of paper.

- Which would you prefer?:

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

B: *TNFF* printed and mailed to your home address or PO Box? \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Please check your current SF/F related interests (optional).\*\*\*

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

- 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 or \$18 for the first person and \$4 for each additional person living at the same address) 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 this form to the club secretary  
Dennis Davis, 25549 Byron St., San Bernadino, CA 92404-6403, n3f\_info@yahoo.com

Please allow 8 weeks for your first zine to arrive. You can also sign up online at [www.n3f.org](http://www.n3f.org)

This form may also be copied for personal use.

*Send all address corrections  
and undeliverable copies to:*

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

**Postage  
HERE**

### **TNFF Submission Guidelines**

Publishing Schedule: TNFF is published 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 usually goes in the next issue.***

What We Publish: This is the official clubzine for N3F, a combination of what used to be published in TNFF (all the official reports) as well as *Tightbeam's* traditional content: reviews (book, movie, TV show, game, etc.), con reports, genre poetry, flash fiction (original short stories under 1000 words). Art is always needed. Formats We Will Accept: Paper copies are accepted, but electronic formats are preferred for ease of use. Submissions can be made via disk or email, to the Editorial Cabal Chief (whoever is club president at the time) or the EC Advisor; *query first for instructions*. Unexpected format files can be eaten by virus checkers.

***Please send only copies of your***

***work, whether it is art or text. We do NOT return submissions made on paper unless the sender has included an SASE.***

Not Sure What to Send? For articles, etc: If you've never submitted an article to any zine, and aren't comfortable with writing an article per se, you can always write about something in an 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), and art are welcome and 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 Harder, yseult\_sg@yahoo.com.

*Reviews should be sent to the Reviews Editor*, Jon D. Swartz, 11600 Starview Trail, Austin, TX 78750; jon\_swartz@hotmail.com .

**ADDRESS LABELS  
HERE**