

# The National Fantasy Fan

Vol. 8 No. 2&3

June/September 2008



FanDominion.com

Things to Think About

Election Platforms

Cover Lee & JJ McFadden  
Pg. 11 FanDominion.com  
Pg. 20, 29 Sarah E. Harder  
Back Ruth R. Davidson

All else is random clip art collected from the internet, that were listed on websites as free to use without permission.

As a note:

*I would much rather use art or cartoons by fellow Neffers!*

## **Bureaus & Activities**

### **ARTISTS BUREAU:**

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*See Directorate (pg. 3)*

### **BIRTHDAY CARDS:**

Pending

### **BLIND SERVICES:**

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### **COMPUTER GAMING:**

Pending

### **CONVENTION**

**COORDINATOR:** Pending

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Sarah Harder,  
*See Directorate (pg. 3)*

### **E-MAIL DIRECTORY:**

Dennis Davis,  
*See Directorate (pg. 3)*

**FAN CLUBS:** Pending

**FUTURE FANDOM:** Pending

### **GAMING:**

George Phillies,

### **KAYMAR AWARDS:**

William Center,  
*See Treasurer (pg. 3)*

### **MEMBERSHIP CARDS:**

Dennis Davis,  
*See Directorate (pg. 3)*

### **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:**

Dennis Davis,  
*See Directorate (pg. 3)*

### **N3F BOOKWORMS:**

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### **N3F HISTORIAN:**

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*See Reviews Editor (pg. 3)*

### **N'APA:**

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### **NEFFY AWARDS:**

David Speakman;  
*See N3F Bookworms (above)*

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### **THE MANGAVERSE:**

Ruth R. Davidson,  
*See Election Teller (pg. 3)*

### **WEBMISTRESS:**

Ruth R. Davidson,  
*See Election Teller (pg. 3)*

### **WELCOMITTEE & SUBCOMMITTEES:**

Cynthia Richter,

### **OR**

David K. Robinson,

### **WRITER'S EXCHANGE:**

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## *What Lies Within. . .*

2	Bureaus & Activities w/ art credits	24	Round Robins
3	2008 Officers w/ table of content	25	Web Mistress
4	President's Message	25	Treasurer's Report
5	2009 N3F ELECTION PLATFORMS!	26	Blind Services
7	Historical Vignettes	26	Secretary Reports ↴ & Roster
8	Reviews	29	Tightbeam - Letters of Comment
11	FanDominion.com	30	Constitution & Bylaws w/ changes
12	The Best of ↴ FanDominion.com	34	Things to Think About
22	A Fantasy CD Preview Review	34	Submission Guidelines
24	Bureau & Activities Reports	35	2008 Short Story Contest
24	N'APA		

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**PRESIDENT:**

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Valerie Mignault,

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*See Directorate*

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William Center,

**ELECTION TELLER:**

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**THE EDITORIAL CABAL:**

**Cabal Chief:** *See President*

**Editor:** NEEDED!

**Online Editor:**

Ruth R. Davidson,  
*See Election Teller*

**Reviews Editor:**

Jon D. Swartz,  
*See Directorate*

**Art Editor:**

Sarah E. Harder,  
*See Directorate*

**Publisher:**

Craig Boyd

**Distributor:**

Dennis Davis,  
*See Directorate*

**Advisor:**

Ruth R. Davidson  
*See Election Teller*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Autumn!

It doesn't seem

that the season has flown

by so quickly. This was a difficult time for me as my father-in-law had his final days. After a stressful time, he passed away on the 1st of August. This marked the last of the close family remaining to me. It was a time when I was able to let go of the other deaths -- my husband's and mother's and sister's -- as the care-giving responsibilities were completed. Now is a time for me to go on with my regular life, though I am in a bit of a quandary as to how to proceed.

This seems to be in a parolee situation to the N3F right now. How to proceed.

An excellent start has been made to moving the Club along with the formation of FanDominion. This was the result of members responding and caring enough about the continuance and growth of the Club to step forward to create something to bridge the gap between what has been and what is to come.

Each of us needs to think about what is good about the Club and what could be changed a bit to make things work better for all. Bureau heads are needed to help out and evaluate their situations. Members are needed to say what they want.

As I have said before, the members are needed to step in and indicate where they would like things to go. Without their input and willingness to help, things will not get done.

Change and forward movement is possible. This has happened with FanDominion. It can happen in other places.

Please help the Club to progress by saying how you want it to change and how you can help in the process.



Sally A. Syrjala  
President, N3F

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**The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 8 No. 2 & 3, June/Sept. 2008**

**The Official Organ of the National Fantasy Fan Federation.**

This issue was completed on 09/30/08. 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 Syrjala, 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: Nov. 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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# 2009 N3F ELECTION PLATFORMS

## Presidency Platforms

### Sally A. Syrjala

The N3F is going through a time of searching and reconstruction. What services are needed and what path should be taken are the questions that we all need to ponder. Earlier in the year, the membership stepped into the void and created Fan-Dominion.

This is a step that proves the membership does want things to continue and to bring the Club into a contemporary setting. Notice this was something the membership did. It is the active contribution of the membership and what it wants that will move the Club along and keep it viable. Not one officer or member of the directorate can do this. Only the membership pulling as a whole can take the steps needed.

There are many more steps to be taken. A continuity on behalf of the officers of the Club is needed now to carry us to the next step. What that step will be will be determined by you, the membership. I hope that you will allow me to take that step with you.

## Directorate Platforms

### David Speakman

Before I re-joined N3F five years ago after a self-imposed gafia and became an actifan in the club again, I was one of the many hundreds of Neffers who after years as a member drifted away from the group in the late 1980s and 1990s as the promise of e-mail, web surfing, blogs and chat rooms was transforming fandom. As a professional writer-turned-middle-aged-law-student, I understand quite well the challenges and stress of adapting to a new re-

ality.

I firmly believe that N3F is a strong idea that needs avid stewardship to ensure it adapts and survives during this transition to the Internet age. But, I also think we should honor and update our past strengths - and that includes a monthly publication sent to each and every member of this organization. It was that publication - whether Tightbeam or TNFF that was the lifeblood of N3F for decades. As a club, we should strive to have a healthy regular printed zine in members mailboxes each month. But if we can't, then we need to have other - possibly electronic - options available to allow fen to maximize their interaction with one another in a way only N3F can - and should - provide. If elected my goals will be:

1) Help ensure the future of N3F as a healthy, robust organization as we approach our 100th anniversary.

2) Help ease the transition as we fully embrace the Internet generation to attract new members, welcome back former members and inform new fen of opportunities and fannish history.

3) If possible, work with the other members of the directorate and the president to review our traditional processes of producing the print zines to see if they too can be updated/altered to bring back a reliable monthly printed publication of TNFF/Tightbeam to dues-paying members. Professionally, over the past 20 years, I've worked in printing houses, non-profits and for-profits as a printer/binder and an editor for writers and have been edited myself (ouch). So I may be able to bring some insight from this experience to the club. (I would have volunteered to be editor of The Fan myself if the demands of law school

didn't conflict with it.)

### Joe Shaumburger

I will run for Directorate. Some of my work:

Published poetry: The Elder Runes, FANTASY COMMENTATOR, @1948

Wrote constitution for ESFA, which might still be in existence, 1948

US Army 1948-1950: Editor of Tilton Talk, Editor of Pat's Patter (aboard troopship), Editor, unit newspaper, 21st Infantry Regiment, Kumamoto, Japan Writer for Stars and Stripes.

Armed Forces Radio Service: Announcer, scriptwriter, Armed Forces Radio Station WFDH Ft. Dix NJ 1948 Announcer, scriptwriter, Armed Forces Radio Station, Kokura, Japan 1949

Editor-in-Chief, MAIN EVENTS, Evening Session Newspaper, CCNY 1956-1960

30 years in the publishing industry, rising to VP at Prentice Hall, 1959-1985, retired. Managing Editor at DAW Books 1985-

1994, retired. Book: Ultra-Psychonics, @1975, Parker Publishing Co.

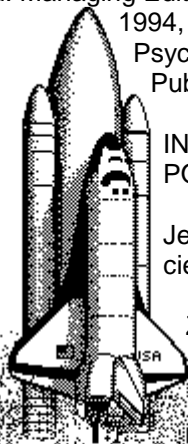
Newsletter, THE INTERGALACTIC REPORTER 1977

Co-founder, New Jersey Science Fiction Society 1982

Editor, FEZ-ZINEWS - International Order of Dickens Fellowship, 1991 Book

Reviewer: Publisher's Weekly, 1997

Master's Degree in Writing, Manhattanville



College, 1997

Editor: WOSSNAME, Official Newsletter of the US Terry Pratchett Fan Group, 1998 to 2008

Plus reams of other fanzines & stuff.

### Sarah E. Harder

I have enjoyed serving the club over the past few years as a Director. Please allow me to continue to do so by your vote. I will continue to serve to the best of my abilities and will always encourage and welcome questions, comments and suggestions for the Directorate to consider.

### Jon D. Swartz

I learned a lot during my first year as a member of the Directorate. We have started several projects that I'd like to have a part in completing. For this reason I am running for the 2009 Directorate. Your vote will be appreciated. Thank you.

### Dennis Davis

I am happy to have been one of the Directors this last year and I hope to continue to serve the N3F as one of your Directors, thus I am once again a candidate for the Directorate of the N3F. Please do vote.

### **Election Notes:**

Paper ballots will be mailed out separately. All votes need to be sent to the Election Teller, Ruth R. Davidson, at her \*current\* address: 4807 Capay Dr. #2, San Jose CA 95118. You may also send your vote via email at [qualtree@ruthiechan.net](mailto:qualtree@ruthiechan.net).

Your votes need to be received by December 1, 2008. If in the event that we are still without an editor for the December issue (hopefully that will not be the case) a separate announcement of the results will be sent via snail mail or email.

# N3F HISTORICAL VIGNETTES

Jon D. Swartz, N3F Historian

## *Geep!*

The Book of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, edited by Rose Secrest. Detroit, Michigan: Harlo Press, 1987.

This was a collection of fiction, articles, poetry, and a play written by N3F members. The editor and contributor, Rose Secrest, who joined the club in 1984, wrote in her introduction: "I am a young, aspiring, amateur writer, as well as a bunch of other things I won't go into right now. In my first year of membership in the N3F, I thought that the club might provide an outlet for me, as well as other writers, but this turned out not to be true. I came to realize that this situation would not change unless I made the change. I decided to put forth an all-Neffers zine." This book was the result of her efforts.

As the club historian, I bought a copy in order to satisfy my own curiosity and to inform current-day members of its contents. In doing so, I was lucky enough to get a copy autographed by Rose. After reading the contents, I realized that Rose had managed to put together some excellent amateur writing. "Who Slays Satan" by George Phillies was my favorite, while Rose's play "The Idiot's Visit to a Chinese Restaurant" (written with husband Michael Peralta), was not. On the other hand, Secrest went on to write other books, including "Glorificemus: A Study of the Fiction of Walter M. Miller, Jr." (2002).

Contributors to *Geep!* were Andrew J. Nagel, Stacey Potts, Ron A. Nyren, Ryck Frank Neube, Kerry Schaefer, Robert A. Newsom, Colleen Kelly, Jack Robins, Jane C. Raymer, Wayne Fordham, Susan Yee, David L. Travis, Laura Todd, Robert S. Miller, George Phillies, Ray R. House,

Ronald Gerard, and Rose Secrest/Michael Peralta.

Jack Robins and George Phillies still are N3F members. I asked them for their memories of this all-Neffers anthology. While both remembered that they had been asked to contribute, they didn't recall a whole lot more. Robins did remember that Rose had asked him to write an article since so many of the other contributors had submitted fiction -- and that the project was not successful, at least in terms of number of books sold. He also remembered that he had been asked to pay for the copies he received.

Things are much better today for Neffers who are aspiring writers/artists. We have an annual writing contest, a bi-monthly N'APA, a print fanzine, and FanDominion on the Internet. All of these venues seek material from amateur writers and three of them also provide outlets for amateur artists.

## **"A Book Collection Honoring a Former N3F President"**

*Food For Demons: The E. Everett Evans Memorial Volume*

edited by Kenneth J. Krueger and illustrated by Henry M. Eichner. San Diego, CA: Shroud Publishers, 1971.

Science fiction writer Edward Everett Evans (1893-1958) initially made his reputation as a member of SF fandom. Later in life he became a SF writer, and late in life came to be called "The Grand Old Man" of the field. As a fan he helped form the N3F and to put on the first Westercon. For years he was also active in the FAPA and the LASFS. He published/ edited the fanzine *The Time-Binder* in the 1940s. For N3F he

wrote several fannish publications, such as the one-shot *What is S-F Fandom* in 1944. The Big Heart Award -- founded by Forrest J Ackerman to honor outstanding service and generosity to the SF field and for "typifying the spirit of SF writer Evans" -- is named in his honor. The book under review was compiled and published to honor his memory.

*Food for Demons* was re-published in 1975 by Fantasy House (as chapbook #2 in Ken Krueger's Fantasy Reader series). The book was originally published in Mexico in Spanish as *Los Cuentos Fantastica* early in 1971.

Stories included were "The Undead Die," "The Martian and the Vampire," "The Brooch," "The Unusual Model," "Blurb," "Visitor from Kos," "Operation Almost," "The Sun Shines Bright," and the title story, "Food for Demons." Some of these stories ap-

peared here for the first time. Others originally appeared in such prozines as *Fantasy Book*, *Weird Tales*, *Startling Stories*, and *Other Worlds*. The friends who commented on Evans' stories were E. E. (Doc) Smith, Ray Bradbury, A. E. van Vogt, Mel Hunter, Forrest J Ackerman, Walter J. Daugherty, Henry M. Eichner, Walt Liebscher, and Kenneth J. Krueger, the editor.

Krueger wrote the following of Evans: "At the time I met Ev he was the president of THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION, and before I knew him ten minutes I was a member. Before I knew him a half-hour I was on a planning committee. Before I knew him an hour I was helping him cut stencils for the club magazine."

Where are the N3F recruiters like Evans today?

## REVIEWS

Jon D. Swartz, Editor

### Three Novels by N3F Member Ray Faraday Nelson

*Then Beggars Could Ride*  
(originally published in 1976)

In a world of communities built to recreate different eras of history, one man seeks the utopia that just fits him. This man is Newton McClintok, who had lived most of his life in an almost perfect replica of the American flapper era. He becomes so discontented with this era, however, that he attempts suicide. Failing in the attempt, he embarks on a journey through the ages to find his own personal utopia, his journey forming the plot of this most entertaining book.

On his journey McClintok experiences several possible lifestyles, including a

Mormon community, a Native American enclave, a club of anachronists whose lives are given up to recreating the lives of a group of artists and writers in the year 1907, and a London set in the time of Sherlock Holmes -- among others.

### *The Ecolog* (1977)

A starship pursued by hostile aliens loses its way and sends down a shuttle to a previously uncharted planet. Scarcity of metal on this planet has resulted in a society ruled by a masked woman, known as The Ecolog, who is in charge of the entire ecology of the planet.

The commander of the starship, Commodore Abraham Briggs, is forced to deal with The Ecolog in order to refuel his ship, discover just where he is, and plot a



course for home. How he is able to do all this makes for a very well-written and suspenseful space opera.

### *Dog-Headed Death* (1989)

This novel is not SF, but an historical murder mystery featuring Gaius Hesperian, a centurion in the time of Nero. Hesperian is sent to Alexandria to solve the mystery of a wealthy shipping magnate, Odysseus Memnon, who had been murdered in his own mansion. Nelson does an excellent job of setting the stage and showing how Hesperian, a compassionate member of Nero's palace guard, uses his deductive skills to solve the mystery.

The story is set in the early days of Christianity, and the Apostle Mark is one of the principal characters. Other important characters are members of the extended Memnon family, their slaves, and Hesperian's soldiers. While the perpetrator of the murder came as something of a surprise to this reader, the story's denouement is quite logical.

All three of these novels are highly recommended. They were originally published elsewhere, but all were reprinted in 2000 by Wildside Press of Berkeley Heights, NJ. Wildside is a publisher of many SF/fantasy books and also of popular genre magazines such as *Weird Tales* and *Fantasy Magazine*. All of their publications are quite reasonably priced, and N3F Members get a discount!.

### Mystery Review

*Bangkok 8* by John Burdett  
NY: Knopf, 2003

Our older son gave me a copy of this book a few months ago, and I just finished reading it -- much to my delight. It's

like nothing I've ever read before. It's a mystery, yes. It involves two detectives who are partners, yes. And one of them is killed in the line of duty and the surviving partner swears revenge, yes. Sounds very familiar, doesn't it? Of course it does. If one reads mysteries, s/he will have read many books with this plot -- or some variation of it; but there all similarities between *Bangkok 8* and other detective novels end.

The protagonist of this story, a half-American, half-Thai detective (illegitimate son of an American soldier and a Bangkok prostitute), Sonchai Jitpleecheep, works in Bangkok, where just about everyone -- including the Royal Thai Police Force in which he wants to succeed -- is corrupt. In addition, Sonchai is a devout Buddhist and an arhat, a Buddhist saint in this lifetime -- well on his way to being reincarnated as a higher life form. When his friend and fellow officer Pichai -- who is even more saintly than Sonchai -- is killed while investigating the murder of an American marine, Sonchai vows to find the murderer.

This is the first in a trilogy of books about Jitpleecheep and the Krung Thep (Bangkok) police force.

### Magazine Review

*Paperback Parade #70*,  
edited by Gary Lovisi  
Brooklyn, NY: Gryphon House, July 2008

The latest issue of *Paperback Parade*, *The Magazine for Paperback Readers & Collectors*, features former model Betty Brosmer on the cover. On the inside an article about Brosmer is illustrated with many paperback books and magazines that featured her image on their covers. An interview with Brosmer by Gary Lovisi is illustrated with photos of the blonde model with celebrities such as Arnold Schwarzenegger and Clint Eastwood. Other articles in this

issue discuss such topics as the Avon "Round Corner" paperbacks of the 1960s and the White Circle Pocket Library imprint from a Canadian publisher during 1942-1952.

To N3F members, however, the highpoint of the issue has to be an 11-page article on the books of science fiction author Wilson "Bob" Tucker, a former N3F member. By a strange coincidence the article was written by yours truly, an expanded version of an article from my fanzine, *The Universe*. My article is illustrated with twenty-three photographs of Tucker and his books, some from my own private collection. I hope I did justice to a former SF great with whom I corresponded just before his death in 2006.

#### Re Reviewers & Reviewed

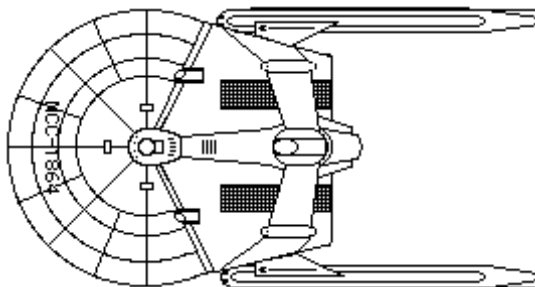
John Burdett, a non-practicing lawyer, found his true vocation in the 1990s when he began writing fiction. His first published novel was *A Personal History of Thirst* in 1996. His next book was *The Last Six Million Seconds* (1997). *Bangkok Tattoo*, a sequel to *Bangkok 8*, was published in 2005. His latest novel, *Bangkok Haunts* (2007), completes his current Sonchai Jitpleecheep trilogy.

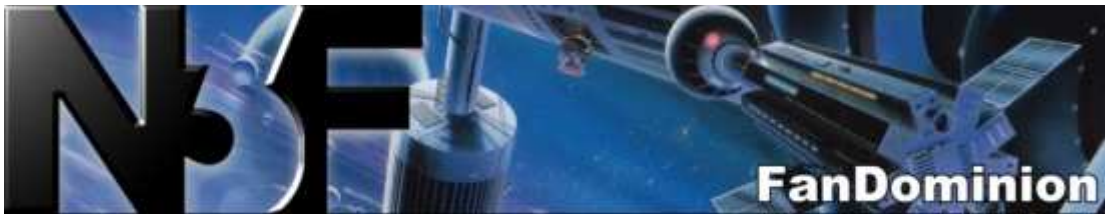
Gary Lovisi, editor/publisher of *Paperback Parade*, also writes fiction and hosts an annual Vintage Paperback & Collectible Book Expo in the New York area. Information on this con and many of his books (plus information on subscriptions to his magazines) can be obtained from Gryphon Books, POB 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228-0209. The publisher's website ([www.gryphonbooks.com](http://www.gryphonbooks.com)) also has information on many of the Gryphon SF and mystery publications.

Ray Faraday Nelson has been a SF fan most of his life and is credited with originating the propeller beanie as a fan symbol.

He later became a professional cartoonist and author and published nearly a dozen SF books, including *The Ganymede Takeover* in 1967 (co-authored with Philip K. Dick). Nelson once belonged to several fan clubs, including the National Fantasy Fan Federation, the Golden Gate Futurians, the Detroit S-Fantasy League, SAPS, Little Men, and ISSFS. He published the fanzines *Universe* and *Stupefying Stories* and wrote for other zines as well. He has stated that he is the last surviving member of Degler's Cosmic Circle. Nelson lived for a time in France. While most Americans who visit France come back with just a tee shirt, a few post cards, and a small statue of the Eiffel Tower, he returned with new wife Kirsten, son Walter, and a philosophy of life: Atheistic Existentialism. Nelson is a member of both First Fandom and CAPA and rejoined the N3F In 2006.

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: 11600 Starview Trail, Austin, TX 78750, and [jon\\_swartz@hotmail.com](mailto:jon_swartz@hotmail.com).





Our new website, FanDominion.com, pulled together by David Speakman, aka Davodd is so spiffy, that not only does it get whole pages devoted to it, but Davodd received an invitation from BlogBurst! It read,

*“Hello David, We are pleased to extend you an invitation to the BlogBurst Network. As you know, BlogBurst is a news service bringing quality blogs onto highly-trafficked, high-brand mainstream publisher sites like the Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, USA Today.com, and Reuters.com. We are very excited about including your blog in our service, and look forward to working with you.”*

Those of you who are connected to the internet have probably seen those news sites where at the bottom of the article they'll have a list of blogs to read for more related material. That's where we will be too now! Also, sometimes they nab the whole article instead of just linking it and syndicate it on their news site with full credit and everything. Basically, that means we have high coolness value. The worst part is trying to keep the egoboo swelling from one's head. I wonder how Davodd is doing on that front as he is the mastermind behind FanDominion. . .

Oh, and just to nip this in the bud, N3F.org still exists and is operating. We still have our forums, and we still have our yahoo group. All three have their own particular functions, and more on them will be in my WebMistress Report (I'll even mention FanDominion again for completion's sake).

Now, here's more about FanDo-

mionion.com, which is still a work in progress. However, we have made LOTS of progress! The up and running beta announcement was on June 4th 2008.

We have a gallery for our artists and photographers. It works so much better than the old one it isn't even funny. So, if you've got something you'd like to add please send it on over to me and I'll be happy to add it for you! Each member gets their own personal gallery within the gallery.

There is also an Event's Calendar which currently lists a few Cons.

Jon D. Swartz thought it would be pretty cool to publish his long worked on Fan Speak directory, and boy is that extensive! I have a sneaky suspicion that it'd take up this entire zine, maybe even more.

On the side we have featured videos and NASA's Inage of the Day.

Our title banner rotates background image every time you load a page. so sometimes it's the slick future look, like the one above, and other times you've got the old style science fiction art.

FanDominion users come in 5 flavors (more can be added, though I can't fathom a need to add any more):

1. Administrator: (can do anything an editor can do – plus database maintenance and upgrading, that's Davodd)
2. Editor: Can write, edit, delete all content (Editorial cabal)
3. Author: Can write, edit and delete own posts only (Bureau Heads and approved columnists[bloggers])
4. N3F Member: are approved by an editor after submission by the writer – they are allowed to edit and/or delete their

own posts. (N3F Paying Members)

5. Contributors: Posts are approved by an editor after submission by the writer – they are allowed to edit and/or delete their own post submissions \*prior\* to publication. (Non-member guest writers)

6. Subscriber: May read public posts and may comment on posts – but nothing else. (comments are moderated for spam control)

When people register (which is a very simple process) – they default at 6. An Administrator/Editor can upgrade them to a higher level.

Additionally – we have the option of a Members only area – where only people in categories 1,2,3, and 4 can access them.

One can subscribe by email to new posts, either general all new posts or users can subscribe to certain categories only, your choice).

There are a few things we still need, editors being one of them, though this type

of editing mostly consists of reading the material and knowing proper English. The most time consuming part is learning the ropes of Word Press, the software we use for Fan-Dominion.

Of course we also at some point need to write how to guides for the different flavors of members. . . Though we all know that takes up gobs of time so it'll be a while methinks.

Things that we can add but haven't is an option for folks with slow or old computers to turn off all the fancy pictures. I personally am hoping we'll add this one. We can also add a database for fan fiction, not everyone's cup o' tea, but it can be done.

Now, without further adieu, since it's inception in May here are the most popular articles at FanDominion, excluding the ones that are primarily videos, for obvious reasons. I am also excluding comments that were posted for each article.

## THE BEST OF FANDOMINION.COM

### Fan Speak: A to Z now Available

By Jon D. Swartz August 3, 2008

There are many words and abbreviations of special relevance to science fiction. In addition, over the years science fiction fandom has created many new terms. A list of some of these words and abbreviations is provided here for N3F members and for any others who are interested in the history of science fiction and science fiction fandom. Additions and/or corrections are invited.

#### Table of Contents

A - "Ā" to "Award"  
B - "B" to "The Burroughs Newsbeat"  
C - "Canfan" to "CVR"  
D & E - "DAAPA" to "E-zine"  
F - "Faaan" to "FVC"  
G & H - "GAFIA" to "Hyperfanac"

I & J - "IA" to "Julie Award"  
K & L - "K-a " to "Lustrum"  
M, N & O - "Macrocosm" to "OWSS"  
P - "Pacificon" to "PVC"  
Q & R - "Quantum: Science Fiction & Fantasy Review" to "Ruthiechan"

*[Imagine my surprise when I saw my fan name here! -Ed]*

S - "SAE" to "Sword & Sorcery"  
T - "Tabloid" to "Typover"  
U & V - "U" to "Vuzd"  
W - "The W" to "WT"  
X & Y & Z - "X." to "Z-Ray"

*[One must visit FanDominion.com to read the Fan Speak Dictionary. It is much too lengthy for our zine. I included this stub about it because it is hands down our most popular post! -Ed]*

## **Review of Reviews: Is Hancock the most-hated blockbuster of 2008?**

By David Speakman • July 2, 2008

According to critics, it's a toss-up between Hancock and Speed Racer for worst big-budget film of 2008.

The Good: Outstanding cast, Smith and Charlize Theron shine.

The Bad: Level of bloody violence worse than you'd expect for a PG-13 film, Not recommended for children younger than 17. Plot not cohesive, Excessive foul language may be too much for some.

Full Review (OPENS: July 2, 2008, RATING: PG-13, **NO SPOILERS**)

Will Smith has a new big-budget blockbuster film out this 4th of July weekend and most film critics hate it.

In Hancock, Smith stars alongside Jason Bateman (Juno) and Charlize Theron (Aeon Flux) in a film about the ultimate super anti-hero.

Of particular note is the phrase "Super Zero" that has shown up in many, many of this film's negative reviews.

Of those who do not like Hancock, most took particular time to point out that the film contains gritty, realistic violence that normally is reserved for R-rated films.

Also noted as negatives were a haphazard script and a confusing and undeveloped plot.

Of the few who liked the film, Hancock was praised as being daringly original. Particular praise was given to the on-screen chemistry between Theron and Smith.

### **Remembering Jack Speer (1920-2008)**

By David Speakman • June 29, 2008

Longtime fan Jack Speer passed away early in the morning June 28, 2008. A member of First Fandom (FF), he was inducted in the FF Hall of Fame in 1995 and was the FGoH (fan guest of honor) at the 2004 Worldcon.

He died at approximately 3 a.m. Saturday morning in his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as discovered by Ruth, his wife of many years.

In the mundane world, John Bristol Speer was a retired lawyer who resided in Albuquerque since 1962; previously, he was a Democrat state representative from the Bend, Washington area during 1959-1961.

Jack was a giant in science fiction fandom, a founding member of N3F, FAPA and the original historian of science fiction fandom.

His 1944 Fancyclopedia has spawned many imitators over the years (including one on this site) and his 1939 book, Up To Now: A History of Science Fiction Fandom, is still used as a reference almost 70 years after first publication thanks to its recently resurrected electronic form on efanazines.com.

Fellow science fiction historian Harry Warner credited Jack Speer as "the first to stress [fandom's] subcultural aspects. Single-handedly, he made fandom's ayjays something entirely different from the mundane amateur journalism groups."

During his early prankster days in fandom, Speer was also known by the fanish name, John Bristol (his first and middle name sans surname).

A fandom innovator, he is also credited with being the father of the fanzine mailing comment.

Jack was the second editor of N3F's The National Fantasy Fan in the 1940s, after founding editor, E. E. Evans.

### **Something to Fear:**

#### **Review of "Fear Itself" episodes 1-7**

By Lee and J.J. MacFadden • July 27, 2008

Genre: Horror

Format: 13-part anthology written by masters in the field.

Airs: NBC at 10 p.m. (ET/PT) on Thursday

nights.

Rating: TV-14

## >>MINOR PLOT SPOILERS<<

### Episode 1:

"The Sacrifice," screenplay by Mick Garris based on the short story, "The Lost Herd" by Del Howison; directed by Breck Eisner ; starring Jeffrey Pierce, Jesse Plemons, and Rachel Miner; music by Brian Tyler

Summary: four convicts become stranded at a strange farmhouse in an out-of-the-way stretch of woods.

Well-acted and well-written, this particular tale has plenty of action and a familiar villain. However, deviated from the current (and rather tired) trend, going instead for the original view of monsters as true monsters, horrific in aspect as well as action; there is nothing romantic about this creature. The three mysterious sisters add depth and navigate the emotion, while the convicts themselves find unexpected and nasty surprises waiting for them in a place they think is safe.

Though not horror buffs ourselves, this was one episode we actually thought we might like to watch again. One has no idea of the villain's true nature until well into the story, and the atmosphere truly lends itself to the fear factor and the isolation of the group. Beautiful winter woods become at turns a desolate

death trap and the symbol of freedom and unrealized dreams. However, be forewarned, those of you who are not regular horror enthusiasts: this episode (as is par for the course for the series so far) does contain gory details and disturbing acts. It isn't the gore alone which makes this episode stand out; there's a dis-



quieting psychological element that will haunt the viewer after the show is over.

### Episode 2:

"Spooked," written by Matt Verne; directed by Brad Anderson; starring Eric Roberts & Cynthia Watros; music by Anton Sanko.

Summary: An ex-cop turned private detective confronts his own inner monsters.

The story of a cop gone bad and the attempt at retribution by those he has wronged is a bit done, and the reason for his going bad seems pat and unrealistic. Roberts' partner is also a very standard character and lends little to the story.

Neither as atmospheric nor as eerie as "The Sacrifice," this episode nonetheless delivers some creepy moments, particularly with the graffiti in the haunted house. Roberts does a passable job, but it is Watros' expression at the end that makes the episode worth watching.

Note to the sensitive: commits a cop-out (so to speak) by writing in a totally unnecessary "gross-out" moment. Also be aware that the gore continues in this episode.

### Episode 3:

"Family Man," written by Daniel Knauf; directed by Ronny Yu; starring Colin Ferguson and Clifton Collins, Jr.; music by Jeff Rona.

Summary: Following a car crash, a man finds he has switched bodies with a serial killer.

The "switched bodies" idea has been done before, and a major key in making the idea seem fresh is in the casting; part of the enticement of watching two people switch lives is in believing they are, on the inside, different people than they appear to be.

The cast, particularly Clifton Collins, Jr., as the hero in a serial killer's body, does

a good job of this, and his confusion and growing fear as he faces horror after horror is well played. The suspense builds, and while there is significant blood in both the beginning and ending, the middle is surprisingly mild compared to, say, Prison Break. The ending offers a neat little twist -- two, actually -- to deliver one final psychological horror.

#### Episode 4:

"In Sickness and in Health," written by Victor Salva; directed by John Landis; starring Maggie Lawson and James Roday.

Summary: A bride gets a sinister note on her wedding day.

The actors are a bit wasted in this somewhat odd episode which has "Psych" star Maggie Lawson receiving the note "The person you are about to marry is a serial killer." There are a few jumpy moments, particularly when the bride is alone in the church at the beginning, but there isn't a lot to the story, and the ending is at once a little predictable and a little confusing. Roday and Lawson do a fine job, though, and the episode isn't a total wash, because fans of "Psych" get to see them stretch their acting muscles somewhat. The ending has a creepy tone, and although there are several gruesome body parts in the final moments, there is less blood than in previous episodes.

Episode 5: "Eater," Review unavailable.

#### Episode 6:

"New Year's Day"; story by Steve Niles; teleplay by Steve Niles and Ben Sokolowski; starring Brianna Evigan, Zulay Henad, and Niall Matter

Summary: A woman wakes up on New Year's Day to find her world taken over by zombies.

No one seems to do zombies in a new way, and this story is no different; this

episode isn't likely to keep you up at night, either. Still, it holds its own as one of the more watchable pieces, partly because of the acting. Brianna Evigan is particularly good as the confused and terrified lead. There's considerable blood and gore, as one would expect in a zombie story, and though a lot of it is in shadows, you still see quite a bit. The love angle is somewhat tired, but there is a refreshing twist at the end, one which might get you to watch the episode again just to see the little clues leading up to it. Unfortunately, the twist doesn't quite make sense even when you go back to re-watch the episode -- almost, but not quite.

Episode 7: "Community" review unavailable.

#### **Sneak Peek: Dollhouse - new series on FOX**

By David Speakman • June 3, 2008

Joss Whedon is coming back to TV with a new science fiction series.

For the handful of readers who do not know who this man is, he is the creator of dark fantasy television classics, Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Angel as well as the cult space opera Firefly (and he was the writer/director of the spin-off movie, Serenity).

The new show is called Dollhouse and it is scheduled to air on the FOX network starting in winter of 2009.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, the show has received a seven-episode commitment from Fox, which is authorizing Whedon to spend between \$1.5 million-\$2 million per episode.

The series will star Eliza Dushku ("Faith" in Buffy, and the title character in Tru Calling). She will play a character called "Echo," a member of a group of young men and women who are imprinted with different personalities for different assignments.

WARNING: The following trailer has minor spoilers. *[No trailer here. Move along. -Ed]*

Whedon ironically returns to TV at the FOX network, the same place that treated his last series, Firefly with such sloppy hands that the neo-mogul swore off episodic television altogether - instead setting his sites on a career as a writer/director in film. But a three-year failed stint working and re-working with Warner Brothers on a concept of bringing Wonder Woman to the big screen and a will-he-be-able-to-make-it original film called Goners, had him re-evaluating his professional life.

According a May article in the Los Angeles Times, Whedon explained that the muse for Dollhouse was the result of a lunch meeting with former employee Dushku:

Eliza had made the deal at Fox and we got together to talk about her ambition, her management, her opportunities, because I've always felt that she's a huge star. Plus, she's a friend.

But I was trying to get a movie off the ground, "Goners." "Wonder Woman" had already crashed and burned. "Goners" they had already lost control of the instruments, but who knows? So things were not that auspicious, but I was working it. Not shunning television but not intending to come back. But as we discussed Eliza's predicament, I started giving her some ideas about what I thought she would need: a genre show so she could be political without being partisan; an ensemble show so she didn't have to be in every scene. And I thought about it for a bit and then literally went, oh, curse word, I just came up with the show and the title. And it was the title that I knew I was doomed. Because if you have the title, you know it's right. And that's just bad.

When we really discussed the whole thing, she said, "You're talking about my life. In my life, everybody tells me who they want me to be while I try and figure out who I am." And that spoke to me. I agreed that I'll write

and maybe oversee the pilot. So I went home and said, "Honey, I'm sorry, I accidentally agreed to a Fox show at lunch."

And in a little more than a week, Dushku and Whedon had sold the concept to FOX. Gary Newman, Chair of 20th Century Fox Television told the Times, "There's an extemporaneous nature to it, which keeps you kind of riveted. You have to listen really carefully because the wicked and clever asides are nonstop."

Dollhouse is scheduled to debut on the FOX network in January 2009, Mondays at 8 p.m. ET/PT as the lead-in to FOX's hit series 24. (As usual, the time and day are subject to change at network executive whim.)

### **Review: The Nines - the best little genre film of the past year**

By David Speakman • July 6, 2008

A very thoughtful and thought-provoking film combining the metaphysical, the spiritual and the human element, The Nines is directed by acclaimed screenwriter John August and stars Ryan Reynolds, Melissa McCarthy, Hope Davis and Elle Fanning.

The Good: Top-notch writing by John August, The three main actors are flawless at their craft, The twist ending is both poignant and thought-provoking.

The Bad: Not meant for children. Drug use and mild sexual situations may be a turn off for some. People who prefer action movies, fight scenes and space ships may be bored by the pace of this film.

Full Review (RATING: R (For brief drug use and mild sexuality) NOW SHOWING: On DVD GENRE: Science Fiction **NO SPOILERS**)

In these days of multi-million-dollar special effects extravaganzas, movie studios seem to be pumping most - if not all - of their budget dollars into getting flashier and



more impressive computer-generated imagery on screen.

But, every so often a lower-budget film comes along that reminds us of the power of great writing in filmed speculative fiction; how an audience can be moved and come to love a movie through its characters and by deft story telling.

The Nines is one of those films. It succeeds as a science fiction movie without space ships or with computer-animated cartoons as main characters as is all the rage these days.

Unfortunately, during this film's original theatrical run during late 2007, it was lost in the shuffle of Holiday blockbuster wannabes and was relegated to just a handful of theatres in just the biggest U.S. cities. Luckily, thanks to home video, The Nines now has a home on DVD and is available to all.

Like recent lower-budget speculative fiction films like Donnie Darko and The Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, The Nines uses story and character in the contemporary world to pose its "what if." This is a lesson we've known since The Twilight Zone first appeared on TV screens in the 1960s.

So, big-budget studios, listen up. The secret to how a good movie is made: You need to start with a great story.

The fact that a great story is at the heart of The Nines should be no surprise. It was written by director John August, the writer of such screenplays as Go, Titan A.E., Big Fish, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Corpse Bride and the forthcoming movies, Billy Batson and the Legend of Shazam and Dark Shadows.

#### A Twist:

The problem with writing a review for The Nines is that the film is set up like M. Night Shyamalan's The Sixth Sense. There is a surprise ending that would spoil full enjoyment of the film if you knew what it was

before you start watching it.

What I can say is that the film is set up as a triptych of sorts, a series of three short films starring the same three actors centered around the characters of Ryan Reynolds (Blade: Trinity, Amityville Horror, and the forthcoming X-Men Origins: Wolverine) who plays Gary, a troubled actor; Gavin, a television show runner; and Gabriel, an acclaimed video game designer.

None of those stories appears to be the least bit science fiction or fantasy until the final scene of the final story. That's when it all comes together as a metaphysical fable to appeal to those living in the 21st century's Internet age.

#### The Cast:

Reynolds is joined by independent cinema star Hope Davis (American Splendor, Six Degrees) as the characters, Sarah, Susan and Sierra. Melissa McCarthy (Gilmore Girls) plays the characters Margaret, Melissa and Mary.

The cast and acting are top-notch and that quality of this film never falters helps the viewer suspend disbelief enough for this weird ride of a movie.

Reynolds shines playing three distinct characters in a self-obsessed actor, a big-hearted TV writer and a devoted family man. Davis is downright spooky as her character walks a line without letting the audience truly know of her character's real intentions or motivations until the very end.

But it is Melissa McCarthy's performance that is the standout. Her character is the heart and soul of this film and the actress pulls it off. It is through her eyes that we ultimately realize what is going on.

#### The Rating:

The movie is rated R for foul language and brief drug use and sexual situations in the first of the three vignettes about the action movie star, although these scenes are much less disturbing than many

of the blood-gore shootouts in many PG-13 summer blockbusters these days.

The Trailer [No trailer here. -Ed]

### **'Masters of Science Fiction' coming to DVD August 5**

By David Speakman • June 15, 2008

If you're like 90+% of the population and missed the short-lived Masters of Science Fiction series that ran for four weeks in August 2007 on ABC, you're in for a treat. The 6-episode anthology series is coming to DVD Aug. 5, 2008 with a suggested price of \$30 for the two-disc set.

Although, many online stores, including Amazon.com, are allowing advanced purchase of the series at a lower price. (\$22 at Amazon.com)

For those unfamiliar with the series' concept, the creators of Masters of Science Fiction decided to take short short stories by well-known science fiction writers and film them as one-hour movies for TV. The six SF authors in this set are: Harlan Ellison, Robert A. Heinlein, Howard Fast, John Kessel, Walter Moseley, and Robert Sheckley.

It was preceded by a sister series, Masters of Horror, that ran for two seasons on cable channel, Showtime.

Although 20 episodes were planned, ABC only ordered six to be filmed. Cancelled before it even aired, only four episodes actually made it to TV screen on Saturday nights at 10 p.m. - known as a graveyard slot in broadcasting.

The DVD set includes the following short films:

"The Awakening"

In the middle of a ferocious firefight

outside of Baghdad, US soldiers discover a mysterious body-one that they can't even identify as human. Swiftly, all over the earth, more such creatures appear and begin to communicate. With this contact, the world is forced to choose between peace and destruction.

Teleplay by Michael Petroni, based on a short story by Howard Fast (Spartacus, The Crossing). Directed by Michael Petroni (The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys). Starring Emmy®-nominee Terry O'Quinn, Elisabeth Rohm ("Law & Order," "Angel").

"A Clean Escape"

A dying Dr. Deanna Evans refuses to believe that her patient, Robert Havelmann, cannot remember the last 25 years of his life. It remains unclear why she has been so obsessed with this particular patient until the final, shocking conclusion.

Teleplay by Emmy®-nominee Sam Egan, based on the short story by Nebula Award-winner John Kessel. Directed by Oscar®-nominee Mark Rydell. Starring two-time Oscar®-nominee Judy

Davis and Oscar®-nominee Sam Waterston (The Killing Fields, "Law & Order").

"The Discarded"

The ultimate story of despised minorities forever adrift in the darkness of outer space. As a last resort - born out of their loneliness and despair - they are forced to make an ominous pact with those responsible for their plight, in the hope that they will finally be offered refuge at home on Earth.

Teleplay by Hugo and Nebula Award-winner Harlan Ellison (A Boy And His Dog, "The Outer Limits") and Oscar®-nominee Josh Olson (A History of Violence), based on a short story by Harlan Ellison. Di-



rected by Jonathan Frakes. Starring two-time Oscar®-nominee John Hurt, Emmy® and Tony®-winner Brian Dennehy (Assault on Precinct 13, Cocoon) and James Denton ("Desperate Housewives," "The Pretender").

#### "Jerry Was A Man"

Mr. and Mrs. Bronson Van Vogel are the seventh-richest couple in the world. Pleasure is their only work; mundane or dangerous chores are done by anthropoids. All the anthropoids-a few strands of human DNA, grown into a baby and fused with plastics-are named "Joe." Somehow, Mrs. Van Vogel's dormant compassion is awakened by a Joe named Jerry. What traits would prove that Jerry is, indeed, a man?

Teleplay by Oscar®, Emmy® and Golden Globe®-nominee Michael Tolkin, based on the short story by seven-time Hugo Award-winner & Science Fiction Grand Master Laureate Robert A. Heinlein. Directed by Tolkin. Starring Emmy®-winner Anne Heche (John Q, "Men in Trees"), Golden Globe®-nominee Malcolm McDowell.

#### "Little Brother"

NEVER SHOWN ON TV: In a future world where courtrooms exist without human judges or juries, automated justice is the law of the land. Sitting before a kiosk which is the judge, jury, and executioner of the future, Fredon must find a way to convince the machine of his innocence - or find some other way to save himself before time runs out.

Teleplay by Walter Mosley (Devil in a Blue Dress, Always Outnumbered), based on a short story from Mosley's novel Futureland. Directed by Damell Martin ("Grey's Anatomy," Their Eyes Were Watching God). Starring Clifton Collins, Jr. (Capote, Traffic), Kimberly Elise ("Close to Home," The Manchurian Candidate).

#### "Watchbird"

NEVER SHOWN ON TV: It seems the perfect solution to a ballooning crime rate - filling the skies with flying robotic droids that can prevent murder before it takes place. However, nobody told these "Watchbirds" that all life depends on a formula of carefully balanced killing. Robert Sheckley's renowned story examines one of the most important questions of our time - is it wise to sacrifice our liberty in the name of our security?

Teleplay by J. Michael Straczynski ("Babylon 5," "The Twilight Zone"), based on a short story by Robert Sheckley (Freejack, Escape from Hell Island). Written by Hugo Award-winner Sam Egan. Directed by Harold Becker. Starring Sean Astin, Oscar® and three-time Emmy®-nominee James Cromwell and Oscar® and Golden Globe®-nominee Sally Kellerman as the voice of The Watchbird.

#### "Yesterday" and Today, Music in SF/F

By Ruth R. Davidson • June 6, 2008

When I joined N3F many moons ago, I was fourteen. I really didn't do much with it because I didn't get this whole "be actively involved" idea as a fan. So, I wasted my big sister's money. As I got older, but still only about sixteen or seventeen years old (still in high school basically) and rejoined, thanks again to the aforementioned sister, I wanted to start and run the Music Bureau in N3F (what get actively involved in fandom? Novel concept young one.). I got some pretty cool copies of high fantasy music tapes from someone who was interested in the bureau, which have since gotten lost.

However, bizarrely enough, what did NOT get lost, and was rediscovered today while I was unpacking and dealing with the remaining boxes of stuff after my fairly recent move, was my green spiral bound notebook labeled "Music Bu." You can imagine

my surprise when I saw this. Inside contains how and what I was going to do for the bureau. Somehow this notebook has stayed with me when I left the nest and got married, moving to Vegas, then moving to Gimp City (my "pet" name for Yuba City), and then returning to San Jose where I am now.

I wanted to do an AudioZine! Now, there's a nifty idea that's probably more plausible now, but it wasn't just gonna be people talking. This was gonna be 1-2 90 minute tapes long. The zine notes, which were to be on paper, would contain the group or artist name, the writer, the copyright and words (if applicable), album name, what movie (if applicable) and other such

things. This could contain any and all types of music including original music by the members as long as nothing was risqué or vulgar. Of course the focus was SFF. I reserved the right not to accept submissions (that's probably not something I would have thought to include, so I'm sure the big sister fan was influential in the way I wrote this stuff, though I must note, that I am not actually quoting myself entirely word for word).

Now, my youth at the time shows because I also had an idea for an Audio RR, which was very similar to the Audio Zine. The difference was a 60 minute tape, with only ten minutes per RR member, and we were going to be talking to each other and

have some music from SFF as well, so we apparently were going to be discussing the music we're sharing with one another. It was also not directly controlled by me either. So it would have been more cut loose than the Audio Zine would have been.

I also had an idea for a general newsletter with the following column ideas, Latest music/the 90's, Artist's: Dead or Alive, Elementary Music Theory? (complete with question mark), Musical Info, Sheet Music, What Grooves and What Doesn't, and Music in SF/F (the crux of the whole idea).

I also got my mother involved with the idea of allowing people to play or sing their songs on tape and have it notated with the first melody being for free. My mother is a musician and is real good at ear dictation, one of my uh, not so strong suits. I have to have a piano with me in order to do that stuff with any sort of accuracy.

And last but not least I had this whole "tell me about yourself" form to help me assess the interests of those wanting to get involved so I could better serve them. Unfortunately, I seem to re-



call that the tape recorder broke down, well, the record button stopped working, along with family and schools issues that this whole idea fell by the wayside. . . I still think it's a valid topic, and maybe I'll stick a Music in SF/F in the N3F Forums that just started back up again. Afterall, the music is what broke the series Andromeda for me. I couldn't watch it because the music was that bad. . . On the other hand, it was the music that turned me on to Babylon 5, and it was the music that got me to play the sci fi MMORPG Anarchy Online, my first MMO experience. . .

Now the ideas and thoughts of my youth are returning to me, and you know they're not half bad. I dunno if \*I'd\* wanna be the one to handle an online audio zine, that could be tricky, but it is definitely a neat idea, and I still believe that music plays an important part in the SF/F genres we love to watch so much.

**Writer's advice from  
'The Wildcat's Victory' author**

By David Speakman • June 5, 2008

BlogCritics.com writer Mayra Calvani interviewed author Christopher Hoare last week and he had many insights from a published author for aspiring writers. Excerpts include:

**ADVICE FOR NEW WRITERS:**

I'd suggest that every writer should join a critique group — a gentler one if they really are writing virgins. I belong to another one that I value for the insights of some of the members but would never submit anything there for criticism. I previously belonged to one that had members who delighted in stomping on any perceived weaknesses. You must learn to evaluate criticism, not succumb to it.

**ON LOOKING FOR AN AGENT**

Unless you have been advised by an established writer to approach an agent

or publisher of their acquaintance, with at least a good word if not an outright recommendation, don't waste your time.

Check out the full interview here:  
<http://blogcritics.org/archives/2008/05/25/104108.php>

*[Our Writer's Exchange Bouncing RR, was fabulous about criticism when I participated three years ago. It was absolutely constructive, helpful and supportive. —Ed]*

**Why we love Roger Ebert?  
Cuz he's one of us.**

By David Speakman • August 2, 2008

In case you ever wondered why movie critic Roger Ebert is one of the kinder of the mainstream media critics toward science fiction and fantasy, wonder no more. He's been a fan for decades, as attested to a May 4, 2008 entry in his blog:

Fanzines were mimeographed magazines that were circulated by mail among science fiction fans in the days before the internet. They still are, for all I know, although now they're generated by computer printers. I first learned about them in a 1950s issue of Amazing Stories and eagerly sent away 10 or 20 cents to Buck and Juanita Coulson in Indiana, whose Yandro was one of the best and longest-running of them all. Overnight, I was a fan, although not yet a BNF (big name fan). It was a thrill for me to have a LOC (letter of comment) published on such issues as the demise of BEMs (bug-eyed monsters), and soon I was publishing my own fanzine, named Stymie.1

For any fan with an interest in film, I highly recommend subscribing to Ebert's blog. He uses his insights in the world of movies and helps a reader decipher how to approach reading film reviews - and how to pick critics to avoid - and better yet - those that you can trust. His blog is located here:  
<http://blogs.suntimes.com/ebert/>

# A Fantasy CD Preview Review

By Ruth R. Davidson

A new CD by Blackmore's Night called *Secret Voyage* is coming out soon (though I got sick before I could post this and so it may be out already). I managed to get my hands on a review copy from Victor of Special Ops Media, and of course the deal was to write a review for it! That seemed pretty spiffy to me, especially since I like Blackmore's Night.

Overall *Secret Voyage* is a very fine compilation of music. It would go well with fantasy roleplaying games, and folk lovers are very likely to dig it along with celtic lovers. According to my iTunes this CD is classified as Easy Listening, but somehow that doesn't seem to cut it. It feels more like celtic/rock/jazz to me. Here are my thoughts on the individual songs.

## **God Save The Keg**

This piece feels like victorious music you would hear in a video game. There is an organ in the beginning which lends a classical feel, but enter in the flutes and there's a folk feel to it. It slowly builds, bringing in percussion and voices and guitars. The more it builds the more it feels like victory music after a long battle, journey or voyage. It feels like it's about to end, but then comes in the organ and it the music changes in the last minute to something more ominous, moving from a major key into a minor key. After the organ is silenced chanting voices are heard. It moves right along and immediately into the second song.

## **Locked Within A Crystal Ball**

This is more new age mixed with rock. Candice Night's singing is very cool and lends itself very well to the style of the song. Ritchie Blackmore's guitar solo is very anticipatory. You are just waiting for what comes next. The beat kicks up again and we're

back to the chorus. They make use of what sounds like mini-bag pipes. Unfortunately, in my opinion the song fails in that it fades out. I feel that fade outs are a cop out to figuring out an appropriate ending for a song. It's not that it ends quietly, but it is repeating the chorus over and over again and slowly fades into silence. If not for the fade out this would be a favorite of mine. However, if this CD is in the background it is still one of the few that catches my attention when I am in the middle of doing something else. That's a positive thing.

## **Gilded Cage**

The violin carries the melody in this piece and has a more easy listening feel. It flows very well, and has a bit of a melancholy sound to it.

## **Toast to Tomorrow**

Russian folk dancing! Seriously, you just want to start stomping your feet while clapping and shout HEY about every two or three measures from the get go. Which, actually occurs a little a bit in the middle of the song. Then about two thirds in, there's a series of HEY's and it changes the key about a whole step, or maybe a third (interval recognition by ear was never a strong point for me).

## **Prince Waldeck's Galliard**

This is a strictly instrumental piece on acoustic guitar. It has a sort of a modern celtic feel. It is in a minor key, and is rather reflective.; as in, it causes one to close their eyes and think on things. Then it does the worst thing it could possibly do in the end. Again, this is just a personal musical peeve. It does a picardy third! ARGH! I detest 99% of picardy thirds. Let me explain, the whole piece is in a minor key, and then the last

chord ends in a major key. In Classical times, ie Bach, it was felt that major keys were more stable, thus pieces written in minor ended in a major chord. I find this jarring. Bach managed to do one that actually sounded nice to my ears. . . If it weren't for the stinkin' picardy third this piece would have been a favorite of mine.

### **Rainbow Eyes**

I love the guitar riffs in this one. It sells this song. Take that away, yeah, it'd be nice but nothing memorable, but man, that guitar is full of awesome. It's got this rock bluesy tone to it, almost like a sexy saxophone played by the most attentive of lovers.

### **The Circle**

This feels bit a like Scottish celtic music with hints of light rock. It has a very definite driving beat, yet at the same time it is not overpowering. It also plays to the strengths of Candice's voice. Right in the middle of it though it brings in these strings that always remind me of ABBA for some reason, after which it switches key and still has a bit of an ABBA feel to it through to the end.

### **Sister Gypsy**

This is more typical of celtic folk music. I get the image of a bard and his players working together to tell the story of a gypsy.

### **Can't Help Falling In Love**

I do not particularly care for this remix of I Can't Help Falling In Love With You by the A-teens. Though I think theirs was also a remix.

### **Peasant's Promise**

This starts out as simple, very little instrumentation, mostly Candace's voice, and then the drums start in and it intensifies while carrying out the same motif from the beginning throughout the song. Unfortunately this is another fade out song. This makes me sad because it would have been

really great otherwise. Now it's just good.

### **Far Far Away**

This song reminds me of the sort of things my mother used to sing while playing the guitar while I Was a child. It's a story about a woman and how she used to have such wonderful dreams of the future and now the question is can the person she is now still dream like she used to dream? Towards the end it has an Enya to feel. Yet again though it's a fade out. It would have been better to simply end quietly. However, in this song it's a bit more forgiveable because of the ending being "looking for moments of far away" as she lives on.

### **Empty Words**

"There's so much said in empty words. . . No one's saying what they mean." This is far too true in real life, and unfortunately we humans aren't very good at reading in between the lines or body language to really gage what a person means. Action speaks louder than words because it supports your words. Thus, it seems that one should always say what they mean, mean what they say, and show it through action. That's what I get out of this very simple voice and guitar piece.

WHOA! Okay, so here I am, having already posted this review on a couple of sites (FanDominion.com and Ruthiechan.net) and in the beginning of "God Save the Keg" is the tune to "Empty Words". I listened to "Empty Word"s and then felt like listening to the whole CD again, only to find myself singing the lyric to "Empty Words" while listening to "God Save the Keg!" It really makes me wonder what other subtleties I am missing. I am betting this CD is telling one continuous story but it's hard to tell when one doesn't have the lyrics to read (the preview CD didn't come with lyrics). This discovery has just increased the coolness value of Secret Voyage.

# Bureau & Activity Reports!

## N'APA

Laurraine Tutihasi

We've had two collations of the newly revived N'APA. Participation has been very good. N'APA is in good health, but we still have open slots for new members. E-mail Laurraine Tutihasi (laurraine@mac.com) for information. It is bimonthly and comes out in PDF format.

## Round Robin Report

by Janine Stinson

I'm sending in this RR report for Lorna Hansmann, whose latest project is a baby -- congrats, dear lady!

Back some years, there were Bouncing Round Robins, or BRRs, which were RRs conducted entirely via email. If there are any still running in this manner, please let Lorna know. I'm currently running two via email due to there only being three members in them (CJ Cherryh and Dogs & Wolves in SF).

Since there are no longer enough people to have a SciFi Channel RR, and SF on TV is so prevalent these days, the SciFi Channel has been resigned permanently. Anyone (like me) who wants to correspond about the SciFi Channel's offerings can join the TV SF & F RR.

Susan Van Schuyver's resigning from her RRs due to illness, so the following RRs will need to find new RMs: Cats, Dreams, Anne McCaffrey, Star Trek Classic 2, Time Travel, and TV SF & F. I'll stick my neck out and volunteer to RM the TV SF & F RR, if the current members agree.

Also, Harold Marcum hasn't been an active Neffer for some time now, so I've taken his name off of the Dragons and Vam-

pires RRs. I'm interested in both these RRs, and if they're still running, would whoever's been RMing them please contact me via email or regular mail?

Susan Van Schuyver's definition of RRs: "Round Robins (RRs) 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."

Reportedly Active/Known Active RRs and their RMs:

Cats - needs new RM  
Celtic Folklore - Priscilla Johnson  
CJ Cherryh - Janine Stinson  
Comics - Ruth Davidson  
Dragons - needs new RM  
Dreams - needs new RM  
Dogs & Wolves in SF - Janine Stinson  
Fairy and Folk Tales - Ruth Davidson  
Firefly & Serenity - Lorna Hansmann  
Harry Potter Books & Movies - Denny Davis  
Horror - Janine Stinson  
Anne McCaffrey - needs new RM  
Mythology - Ruth Davidson  
SF & F Films - Ruth Davidson  
Star Trek - Ginny Benson  
Star Trek Classic 2 - needs new RM  
Star Trek Next Gen - Ginny Benson  
Star Wars - Ginny Benson  
Time Travel - needs new RM  
TV SF & F - needs new RM  
Vampires - needs new RM

Waiting to Form:

Batman and Other Superheroes  
Babylon 5  
Beauty and the Beast



Current Reading  
 Cyber Horror  
 Interstellar Empires  
 Nonfiction  
 Poetry  
 Science and Technology  
 Supernatural  
 Tarzan  
 LoTR Books & Movies  
 Silverwing  
 Twilight (Stephenie Meyer) series



## Treasurer's Report

William Center

June  
 Receipts

Renewal dues +144.00

### Disbursements

Printing March 2008 TNFF	138.14
Mailing March 2008 TNFF	53.00
Paypal service charge	5.04

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-196.18

Beginning Balance (2/15/08)	\$3,781.34
Additions	+144.00
Subtractions	-196.18

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Ending Balance (5/15/08) \$3,729.16

September  
 Receipts

Renewal dues	+296.00
Gift	+1.71

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+297.71

### Disbursements

PayPal service charge -2.46

Beginning Balance (5/15/08)	\$ 3,729.16
Additions	+ 297.71
Subtractions	- 2.46

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Ending Balance (8/15/08) \$ 4,024.41

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

## WebMistress Report

Ruth R. Davidson

Greetings Neffers. We have a few things going on. The SFF Fan Forums are now up and running again with improved anti-spam so we're not gonna get sucky spam users anymore.

The MANGAVERSE is now an individual board on those forums. If any bureau would like to have their own forums that can be done. We can also make boards private.

FanDominion.com is alive and well, and rather popular as you know already know, or should if you've been reading this zine at all.

N3F.org has been updated to reflect the new things going on online.

Our yahoogroup is still going as well as the Bookworm group which is a separate group, though it has been quiet for quite a while now.

The art gallery is now through Fan-Dominion, so artists and photographers if you'd like to have your art available for all to see, please, email me and I will get them up no problem. Or you can snail mail me and I can scan it, though if you send an original be sure to send me a SASE.

All in all, it's been a rather busy on-line fannish world these days. If you have any thoughts or questions, please let me know! Qualtree@ruthiechan.net.

## **Blind Services**

Steven Rose, Jr.

Hi, everybody. You may have heard that I took over the Blind Services Bureau which was at the beginning of the year (if I remember correctly). I know, I'm way overdue for providing the services and I apologize greatly.

I've had some financial set backs these last few months and do not have a job at the time and so I have not been able to afford the shipping and handling of the recordings. Until I can get a job, I can only send recordings of The Fan if some generous members can donate for shipping and handling. I can provide the cassette tapes, that's no problem (and I have a recorder).

Believe me, I really do not want to see anybody left out of access to The Fan because of a visual impairment. But my financial situation doesn't allow me to ship the recordings. So if anyone can donate for the shipping and handling it would be greatly appreciated.

## **Secretary Report**

Dennis Davis

EXPIRED LIST: June 2008: Lynette Flowers, Lorna Hansmann, Mark Nielsen

July 2008: Susan Van Schuyver

## **N3F Roster**

Please check your expiration date carefully. If you believe there is an error, please contact the N3F secretary, Dennis L. Davis, 25549 Byron Street, San Bernardino, CA 92404-6403. Email: <n3f\_info@yahoo.com> Notify me of any address changes ASAP. Thank you. Legend: GS=member in good standing; GSJ=good standing joint members; EXP=expired; LIFE=lifetime membership; NEW=first time membership; NEWJ=new joint members; RN=renewal; REIN=reinstatement \* =time to renew!

## **Notes:**

My N3F email address is: n3f\_info@yahoo.com. If you give my email address out to someone, give them the n3f\_info@yahoo.com address.

Please send your checks to the Secretary Dennis L. Davis, 25549 Byron Street, San Bernardino, CA 92404-6403. Please make checks payable to: WILLIAM CENTER

I am your N3F Secretary and all of the information is as correct as I can make it. Please contact me if you find a discrepancy or have not found your name in this report.

Please help me to serve you better by doing the following:

- 1) Check your information in the roster. Notify me of any changes.
- 2) Mark exp. date on your envelope, or include your renewal reminder card.
- 3) Send address corrections as soon as possible. The USPO charges me to return undeliverable zines. Thank you.

Report Date: 08/30/2008; Total members on the Roster: 67

This page intentionally left almost blank to protect the privacy of the membership.

Sorry, no cartoon this time.

## TIGHTBEAM – Letters of Comment

*Laurraine Tutihasi*

In "The Power of Nothing" Jack Robins talks about homeopathy. One practice that is fairly well known that most people don't think about as homeopathy is the practice of giving allergy shots to desensitize people against the things they are allergic to. The principle is the same. A dilute solution of the things you are allergic to is given as a shot periodically. It's done because it works.

He also wrote "The Computer in Our Lives". I'm wondering now whether the chip he's talking about is in any way similar to the identification chips that are currently used for pets and, in some localities, for children to help track their whereabouts.

I also have a comments on the LoC from David Rubin. He talks of his specialized stamp collection. I started out as a generalist. Then I felt this was getting out of hand, so I cut back to just US stamps until my interest just sort of petered out. Recently I've been collecting again but in certain subject areas only. My areas are science and technology, sf and fantasy, nature, and US history. Those areas are still pretty broad, so I may cut back again one of these days. I know what he means about the Disney stamps. I got myself hooked on some of those.

*Ruth R. Davidson*

Hmmm, no Rick Brooks again. I

hope everything is all right with him. I miss his LoCs.

Life is good. I'm going to school while the kiddo is in Kindergarten. I'm working on transfer units now so I can go to San Jose State University. I've been working on family albums, and doing music for church. I got bribed to edit this, which is fine by me, and I also still find ways to get my geek on. I've recently started playing Anarchy Online again with my husband. It's very weird how things just slowly start coming back to you.



# 2008 Constitution & Bylaws of the National Fantasy Fan Federation

**NOTE:** A change has been implemented in the Bylaws, V. Publication 1. The following was added, "The editor shall also have free dues as long as he or she holds office."

## The Constitution of the National Fantasy Fan Federation

### Preamble:

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

### Article 1 - Membership

1. Membership, including any benefits created by the organization, and all rights such as voting, is gained by paying dues as set forth in the Bylaws. Dues changes may not go into effect until two(2) months after publication in the Official Organ and shall be further delayed until the completion of voting if the Official Organ receives a petition for submission as set forth in Article V, Section 1 for reversal, unless the change is the result of a vote on petition.

2. An organization may become a member of the N3F upon payment of dues as defined in Section 1 and is entitled to all rights and benefits of membership as outlined in this Constitution except that said organization may not vote or hold elective office.

3. Joint memberships are available to two persons residing in the same household. A joint membership will include The National Fantasy Fan Federation(TNFF) and

all rights such as voting and club activities. The dues shall be more than a single membership but less than a double, to be set by the Directorate.

### Article II - Officers

1. A President conducts the affairs of the organization. His/her appointments, suspensions, and removals from office, whether the office concerned is elective or appointive, are subject to the review and approval of the Directorate, as are also his/her methods of procedure.

2. If, for any reason, the office of President becomes vacant, the Directorate appoints a President to complete the unexpired term. Any interim administrative duties are performed by the Chairman of the Directorate, during which time he/she may not vote in his/ her capacity as Director except on motions of appointment.

3. A Directorate, composed of five members, regulates the affairs and controls the finances of the organization, and may define the duties of any office or official of the association.

4. Decisions of the Directorate are by majority of its five members except in the following instances: by unanimous vote the Directorate may refuse membership to any person; expel any member by refunding the balance of his dues; and may remove the President from office.

5. Vacancies in the Directorate, whatever the cause, are filled by majority vote of the remaining Directors. If fewer than three Directors remain, the President shall appoint one or more up to the minimum of three.

6. Any person designated as Treasurer or otherwise empowered to keep or convey the funds of the organization must be over twenty one years of age.

7. The Treasurer shall also have free dues as long as he or she holds office.

### Article III - Elections

1. The President and five members of the Directorate are decided by the membership in an annual election of those officers. Ballots for the election are to be distributed before October 10th and the elected candidates take office on the following January 1st. Any member may seek office by complying with the official requirements which are to be published in the Official Organ at least two months previous to the filing deadline.

2. No person may hold two elective offices at the same time.

3. Each member may cast one vote for each of the five candidates of his/her choice in the election of the Directorate. The five candidates receiving the largest number of votes 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.

## The 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 cop-

ies 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 correspond in any period of three consecutive months may be declared inactive by the Directorate, and may be removed by the President for this cause only, without prejudice.

### III. The Secretary & Treasurer

1. The Secretary may bill the Treasury, as needed, for expenses incurred in the discharge of the office, including the purchase of supplies for new members, the sum not to exceed \$100 per year.

2. The Secretary will maintain a current membership roster, and will report new memberships, renewals, and changes of address to the President, Treasurer, Official Editor, Chairman of The Welcommittee, and such other officers as the President may direct, not less often than once a month.

3. The Treasurer will prepare a yearly report of all income to the N3F Treasury and an itemized list of expenditures. Also included in this report will be a listing of items which will require additional outlays, in

the forthcoming year from the Treasury, and have been approved by the Directorate, but have not yet been paid. This report will be prepared for the first issue of TNFF to appear in the year following the year which the report covers.

### IV. Elections

1. All candidates must, by the filing deadline of September 1st of each year, have paid their dues for the year in which they will hold office if elected, and agree to serve if appointed under Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution.

2. In addition to the regular candidates listed on the ballot, members may write in the name of any member in good standing as a candidate for any elective office. Any candidate so elected must submit a written statement of his willingness to serve plus the dues for the year in which he will serve, to reach the Secretary within 14 days of his notification of election. In the event of non-compliance with the foregoing, the election will be voided and the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes for that office will be declared the winner.

3. Annual election ballots will be handled by one or more of the following methods: printed ballots in the September issue of TNFF, sending online ballots to those members with Internet access, and/or sending postcard ballots in the mail. Members eligible to vote are those in good standing as of September 30th each year. A member can only vote once per election. Each ballot shall include space for the N3F members to write their names in print, provide their signatures (if a paper copy is used to vote), and the date the ballot was completed. Ballots for Constitutional amendments and other membership referendums may also be handled by one or more of the methods listed. The postcard ballots will be sent by the Election Teller or another N3F member designated by the President and



approved by the Directorate. All expenses for materials and postage will be reimbursed up to \$150 upon receipt by the Treasurer of an itemized list of expenditures.

#### 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 are appointed by the President. The editor shall also have free dues as long as he or she holds office.

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

3. 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

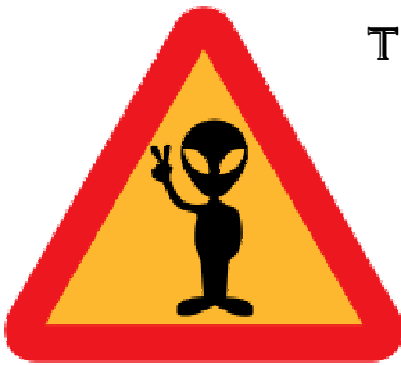
Directorate motions in the nature of Bylaws passed prior to the original compilation and publication of these Bylaws and not included among them, are rescinded.

#### 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.



## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

There are lots of things that have been discussed on how we can meet the needs of the mem-

bership. That includes you. The President and Directorate want to hear from you!

There has been discussion of two due types, \$12 for those who receive TNFF electronically and \$18 for those who get the paper version. Nothing has been decided and of course there are concerns such as, how would this effect our ability to do things? What do you think?

We still don't have an editor. Now

that the editor gets a free membership does that motivate you to help out in this area? If you simply do not have the time do you know someone who's not a member who would be interested in helping us out? Is there something else we can do to make this area simpler? I'm in love with our current paper format. What about you? Would a format change be okay by you?

There are a few activities that need someone to take the lead on. Would any of them interest you? Why or why not? Should they simply be abolished until further notice?

The Directorate could go right along making changes per their own opinions but do you really want only the opinions of a few to determine what we do with YOUR club? I don't, and nor do any of the officers.

So join our Yahoo!Group, or write to Sally and let us know what you think!

## 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 .*

*NOTE: These guidelines are for the paper/PDF publication of TNFF. Guidelines may vary in other club activities. Be good, be nice and have some fannish fun! :D*

**2008 N3F AMATEUR SHORT STORY CONTEST**  
**NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION (N3F)**  
**Story Contest Rules and Entry Form**

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 WILLIAM CENTER, the treasurer of N3F. Dollar bills, or unused stamps (mint, not recycled) are acceptable. All entries must be received or post marked no later than December 31st, 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.

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**ENTRY FORM** (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:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Send all address corrections  
and undeliverable copies to:*

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



**ADDRESS LABELS  
HERE**