

TNFF

The Bulletin of the National Fantasy Fan Federation

Vol. 74, No. 1
Jan-Feb 2015



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Election Results

Obituaries:

- **Graham Joyce**
- **Richard A. Brooks**

THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN

The Bulletin of the National Fantasy Fan Federation

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE for the March/April 2015 issue
is February 15, 2014:

Outgoing 2014 Officers

PRESIDENT

David Speakman

DIRECTORATE

Ruth Davidson
Patricia King-Williams
George Phillies, Chair
Jon D. Swartz
Holly Wilson

TREASURER

Richard DB Speakman

2014 ELECTION TELLER

David Speakman

BUREAUS

Artists Bureau
Sarah Harder

Birthday Cards
R-Laurraine Tutihasi

Con Coordinator
Heath Row

Game Design
George Phillies

Kaymar Award
William Center

N3F Bookworms
Heath Row

N'APA

Jean Lamb

Historian

Jon D Swartz

Neffy Awards

David Speakman

Round Robins

Patricia King

Short Story Contest

Jefferson Swycaffer

Welcommittee

Vacant

The National Fantasy Fan (Bonfire), Vol. LXXIV, No. 1, Jan/Feb 2014, ISSN 2169-3595. Published regularly by The National Fantasy Fan Federation. A one-year subscription to both TNFF and Tightbeam is \$18 in the United States and its possessions, payable in advance in U.S. funds payable to "N3F." The editor of this issue was David Speakman. Submissions may be emailed to him at cabal@n3fmail.com or via U.S. mail at: David Speakman, PO Box 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. All opinions herein are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other members of N3F except where so noted. **Submission deadline for the next issue of TNFF is February 15, 2014.** This non-commercial zine is published through volunteer effort.

Letter from the President

The following letter was received Dec. 23, 2014, before the election results were announced and was written as a Chair's report but is published, instead, as the regular Letter from the President column.—Ed.

by George Phillis, Incoming President of N3F

Greetings from the chair of the 2014 N3F Directorate. It has been an interesting year for all of us. We are going to try to look forward to the future, and attempts to make sure that the future is better than the past. That isn't always going to work equally well, but I am greatly hopeful that our organization is emerging from a slow. And will do much better in the future than it did in the past.

Consider all of the changes the last 60 years of science fiction, fantasy, horror, and other genre fiction have seen. 60 years ago, it was not uncommon for there to be only one science-fiction program on television. It might have been Captain Z-Ro, Commando Cody, Rocky Jones, or the Twilight Zone, but for much of the time 60 years ago there was only one science-fiction television show and it was only on once per week. If a science-fiction film came out, it was fairly unusual and worth going into simply because there would be no other choices for some time.

If you preferred books, you had to hope that the local drugstore collection would get a change, as it did every week or two. Alternatively, there were perhaps a few bookstores in town and, if you were lucky the bookstore owner stock science-fiction as opposed to viewing it as beneath his worth.

Look where we are now. A great fraction of the large-market motion picture films are special effects masterpieces, doing things totally beyond the dreams of the producers of Earth Versus Flying Saucers or War Of The Worlds. The less appreciated Mysterians was actually in its effects and complexity of alien plot was a step forward. We now have an entire science fiction channel and in some areas apparently most of an entire anime channel.

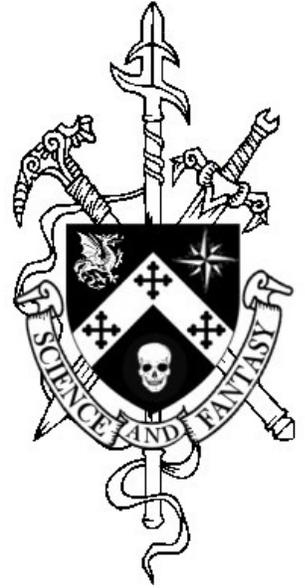
Thanks to the Internet, used bookstores around the world can compete with our attention, so with some effort vast numbers of books that would otherwise have passed out of sight can

still be recovered by a dedicated reader. More spectacularly, electronic book publishers such as Third Millennium, Smashwords, and Kindle have vastly increased the number of titles that we can read.

Two decades ago, I went to a science-fiction convention. Assembled in a panel were publishers' representatives from the major then-extant science-fiction publishing firms. They expressed the opinion that one or two thousand new manuscripts of novels were produced every year across the country. The manuscripts descended on the poor defenseless publishers somewhat like the hordes of the Mongols. Some of them were ludicrously bad. But of that thousand, it was estimated that there were several hundred that some publisher could've published and not be embarrassed to have discussed at a later date. There were perhaps 40 or 60 novels that were entirely good. Which 40 or 60 were entirely good would vary a bit from publisher to publisher, because different publishers had different tastes, but of that 40 or 60 a half dozen would be published. Each other publisher would have a different 40 or 60 and publish another four or six. Most novels would never see the light of day.

Under modern conditions almost all of those novels will become available electronically on some reasonable schedule. That's guaranteed by the existence of those electronic publishers I mentioned above. After all, SmashWords in the last few years has published a third of 1 million books incorporating over 12 billion words. If you have a novel and want to go through the work of getting it out the door, you can get it published for something between free and \$100 or \$200. That dollar sum includes paying off the cover artist to give you a good cover. As a published novel writer, I can assure you that "good cover" is a good idea.

I could go on a great length. The message is simple. For fandoms of all sorts, the Internet has meant an enormous improvement in where we are, what we are doing, and how readily we can all communicate with each other. It is by taking advantage of these great advances in modern technology that we are going to set the National Fantasy Fan Federation on the march to being the world's greatest as well as oldest international science-fiction and fantasy organization. ■



EDITORIAL CABAL

OFFICIAL EDITOR

David Speakman

TNFF

David Speakman

TIGHTBEAM

David Speakman

REVIEWS

Heath Row

ART CREDITS

Nick Delgaris

1, 3

Jose Sanchez

5



Cover Art:
"Mind Flayer"
by Nick Delgaris

N Forum: Letters of Comment

The following letters of comment are correspondences received for both N3F publications, Tightbeam and TNFF, before January 9, 2015. All editing of correspondence is kept to a minimum - limited chiefly to the insertion of name callouts to alert readers to whom a section of the letter is addressed. Please email comments to:
cabal@n3fmail.com

2014.11.10

Kent McDaniel

kentmcdanielband@yahoo.com

If you believe in the possibility of peace and freedom and justice and progress, all the news can shake that brief pretty had.

On the other hand, if you lose the conviction that these things are possible, it probably makes it even less likely that they will.

Any way I wrote a song about it (It's got a good beat; you can dance to it), and I've got the recording up at my blog at: Blues for the Idealists (You know who you are). Hope you'll check it out. <https://dumbfoundingstories.wordpress.com>

2014.11.14

Lloyd Penney

penneys@bell.net

Not long after my loc on the newest TNFF, I have here Tightbeam 271, and I am going to try my hand with this one. Don't worry about dates, you create these when you have the time, and when life allows for it.

[There seems to be a third-year gafia/fafia curse in N3F editor—and that was one tradition I tried to avoid and failed at.—ed.]

I have read many histories of SF fandom, and there are always differences, updates and revisions of just about any written history. Any article that might call itself a definitive history, I'd take with a grain of salt. I know of a history of fandom in the 70s that was started, but I think the author/researcher discovered that such a history would be simply too big to write up. Fandom truly exploded in size and scope during that time.

[But we try, anyway —which is both futile and fun.—Ed.]

The article about your place in fandom...fandom has become very much a social forum, with hundreds of potential activities

to take part in, and hundred of fellow fans who will share that interest. My own interests have varied and changed over time. I started as a Star Trek fan, and have moved to conrunning to club management, to masquerades and costuming, to fanzines and correspondence, to steampunk and other areas, where we can have some fun, and perhaps make our mark. Where letters of comment were a big part of fanzine fandom, it would now seem that the paper zines, and even the .pdfed zines, have been replaced with blog-type websites. As far as I go, I'm either horribly old-fashioned, or I am retro. I prefer the latter.

[As are most things in fandom. It's important to remind ourselves that it is a hobby and we do it because it is supposed to be fun—for everyone.—ed.]

Time to finish up. I hope this will add something to the next issue. Take care, and see you then.

2014.12.25

David Speakman

Davodd@gmail.com

Our law firm adopted a few kids for the Christmas Adopt-A-Family season. Most are young kids and under age 10 and in genuine need, but fairly generic in requests (clothes, toys). Then, I read this profile:

"Michael, 18 (his last year in foster care) is in foster care and was removed from his parents because of neglect. Michael has been in the foster care system since he was 8 years old. His older siblings have all aged out of the system. His father died several years ago and his mother died last year. He has minor learning disabilities and some intellectual delays due to neglect from his birth parents at an early age. He can become very anxious easily, but he is very sweet and has a great sense of humor. The caregiver is struggling and would be unable to provide many holiday presents for the children without the support of Adopt-A-Family. She is grateful for the opportunity to make this season a cheerful one."

And what is Michael asking for? A coat and art supplies (markers, paper, and paint, etc). And he is a big Star Wars fan.

A science fiction nerd art kid. I got on the phone and called Rich, telling him we needed to cut back on our present budget for each other as we were buying this kid some stuff.

He got everything he asked for on his list. Even though there

was less under the tree for us, so far 2014 was my favorite Christmas, ever.

2014.11.14

Lloyd Penney

penneys@bell.net

Many thanks for Vol. 73, No. 3 of The National Fantasy Fan. That's a great cover by Shawn Cruz; it would have looked great in the extreme Jokerish colour.

Congratulations to David on his service to the N3F, and getting the elections going. I see the deadlines have just passed, so I am hoping that the members have taken part to elect a new slate of officers. David, what does your future hold here? If you're not running for office, is there another bit of work you'd like to do?

[I plan on being editor for a while—although I would *love* for any interested folks who would like to eventually take over the job to contact me. It's fun—but I fear I've been doing it too long. I would love to pass the torch on to the next victim.—Ed.]

A great list of movies, and a bit of time for it all to happen. I suspect I won't see most of them, but I am usually picky about what I see. The last movie I saw was The Imitation Game with

Benedict Cumberbatch. I wish we could all give NASA a little more credit for what it does for the small amount of money it gets, and then give them more money.

This really is the election issue, as it says on the front cover, so there isn't a lot for an outsider like me to comment on. All I can really do now is wish the Federation a happy new year, and a prosperous 2015. Many thanks, and I hope to write something better for the next issue. ■



NEWS

Election Teller's Report

By David Speakman

ELECTED as 2015 Officers:

President:

George Phillies - 11 votes
(No write-ins)

Directorate:

Heath Row - 11 Votes
Jon Swartz - 11 Votes

WRITE INS - 3 Positions Open

4 Votes: Jefferson Swycaffer, R-Laurraine Tutihasi

2 Votes: Ruth Davidson, Jean Lamb, Patricia Williams-King

1 Vote: Joy Beeson, George Phillies, David Speakman, Ray Nelson, Holly Wilson

The Top 3 write-in vote-getters are automatically elected if:

1. A statement of accepting the office if elected via write-in, and
2. The member is paid up through Dec. 31, 2015.

(As of press time, **Jefferson Swycaffer** and **R-Laurraine Tutihasi** have accepted and were seated on the Directorate. The remaining open seat remained unfilled due to a possible 3-way tie.)

Under N3F's Constitution/Bylaws: All decisions regarding breaking ties are adjudicated by the already seated members of the Directorate. ■

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Obituaries

GRAHAM JOYCE

(1954 – 2014)

Graham William Joyce was born October 22, 1954, in Keresley, England, a small mining village near Coventry, and grew up there. He received a bachelor of education degree in 1977 from Bishop Lonsdale College and a master of arts degree (English and American Literature) in 1980 from the University of Leicester.



His first book, *Dreamside*, a dark fantasy novel published by Pan Books in 1991, explored shared dreaming and the subsequent consequences for the students involved. His next novel, *Dark Sister*, won the British Fantasy Award in 1992. Subsequent works included *House of Lost Dreams* (1993); *Requiem* (1995), a World Fantasy Award winner; *The Tooth Fairy* (1996), British Fantasy Award winner; *The Stormwatcher* (1998), British Fantasy Award winner; *The Facts of Life* (2001), World Fantasy Award winner; *The Limits of Enchantment* (2005); *Memoirs of a Master Forger* (2008), British Fantasy Award winner [published in the United States in 2009 as *How to Make Friends with Demons*]; *The Silent Land* (2011); *Some Kind of Fairy Tale* (2012); and *The Year of the Ladybird* (2013) [published in 2014 in the United States as *The Ghost in the Electric Blue Suit*].

He also wrote notable short fiction, including “An Ordinary Soldier of the Queen” which won the O. Henry prize. Some of his short fiction was collected in *Partial Eclipse and Other Stories* (2003). In addition, he wrote several books for young readers, including *The Devil's Ladder* (2009).

He was awarded a PhD by Nottingham Trent University (with a dissertation on Thomas Pynchon), and taught there from 1996 until his death. He once used the pseudonym of William Heaney.

In 2013 Joyce was diagnosed with aggressive lymphoma and was undergoing treatment when he died on September 8, 2014. He is survived by his wife, the former Suzanne Johnsen, and their two children.

Jon D. Swartz, N3F Historian

RICHARD A. BROOKS

(1941 – 2014)

Richard Alan Brooks, 73, passed away May 19, 2014 in Parkview Regional Medical Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana.



Richard was born in Angola to Mark L. Brooks and Phyllis Colpus Brooks on April 9, 1941. He attended Scott Center School and graduated from Angola High School in 1959.

He joined the United States Air Force in 1960 and served in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

After his discharge he earned a degree in Electrical Engineering at Tri-State College (Known now as Trine University).

He worked at Square D in Huntington, but his Sachs-Murray Arthritis forced him into an early retirement. He also had worked as a watchman for the Pinkerton Detective Agency.

Rick loved science fiction and cats (not always in that order), and wrote short stories and letters of comment which were published in several science fiction fanzines. He was a member of N3F for decades, a proud member of its Hoosier contingent.

He also was a big fan of the Trine University Thunder softball Team. An avid supporter of the team, he took pride in showing up to every home game until illness made that impossible.

One of his last acts before being hospitalized was to vote in the local primary.

He is survived by a sister Elizabeth Brooks of Fremont, Indiana and a brother James Brooks of Houston, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Steuben County Humane Society.

Condolences may be left online by visiting the following link:

<http://www.weichtfh.com/obits/obituary.php?id=572475>

- from news reports

2015 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

Contest Rules & Entry Form

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 10,000 words in length-and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judges.
3. There is no entry fee.
4. Manuscripts should be submitted electronically as an .rtf or .doc file attached to an email. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at abontides@gmail.com
No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
5. If electronic submission cannot be arranged, the manuscript should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered and the story title as the footer on each page. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
6. Contestants may enter any number of stories. If you submit a hard copy rather than an electronic file, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss; we are not responsible for lost manuscripts. Stories will not be returned without an SASE.
7. While N3F members are encouraged to enter the contest, members will not receive any preference in judging.
8. Send all printed manuscripts and entry forms the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; abontides@cox.net. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2015.
9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.
10. There will be a first place winner, a second place winner, a third place winner, and some number of Finalists.
11. The N3F plans to publish an anthology of short stories from the contest, in electronic or other form, through one or more outlets. Winners and finalists will be invited to publish. To be published, you must agree to give us world first anthology rights. This will be a paid professional publication; you will receive a very modest advance against royalties. Based on historic submission levels, we anticipate that we made need to publish every other year rather than every year. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2016. You may resubmit stories previously entered. All entries will be kept confidential.

(Detach or photocopy. Must accompany all entries.)

Mail to: **Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373** or email abontides@gmail.com

Title of story (for identification): _____

Author's name and address: _____

Author's email address: _____ Author's age: _____

I have read the above rules for the 2013 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



National Fantasy Fan Federation Application

New Member Former Member Joint Membership Gift Membership Email List Only Renewal

Name (Please Print): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Postal Code, Country: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Occupation: _____ Male: Female: Birth date: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Interests. Please select any and all of the following that you're interested in or would like to get involved in

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> APAs (amateur press associations) | <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading and book clubs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Costuming | <input type="checkbox"/> Reviewing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audio | <input type="checkbox"/> DVDs and videos | <input type="checkbox"/> Role-playing games |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blogging | <input type="checkbox"/> Editing | <input type="checkbox"/> Round robins (group letters) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books | <input type="checkbox"/> Fanzines | <input type="checkbox"/> Taping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cartooning, cartoons, and anime | <input type="checkbox"/> Filk singing | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching science fiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collecting | <input type="checkbox"/> Games and video games | <input type="checkbox"/> Television |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comic books | <input type="checkbox"/> Movies | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computers and technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Online activities | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conventions and clubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Publishing | |

Which would you prefer?

A PDF of the zines emailed to you The clubzine printed and mailed to you Both

How long have you been interested in science fiction and fantasy? _____

How long have you been involved in fandom? _____

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

List any conventions you've attended: _____

What prozines and fanzines do you read, if any? _____

What is your favorite type of sf/f? _____

Who are your favorite sf/f authors: _____

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

Which, if any, of the following would you be willing to help the club with?

Artwork Recruiting at conventions Writing for club publications

Organizing activities Corresponding Publishing

Other: _____

Name of Sponsoring Member (if any): _____

Regular dues are \$18 per year (\$22 for Joint Memberships) which includes subscriptions to the club's fanzine as well as other activities and benefits. Voting memberships for those who prefer not to get paper subscriptions are \$6. Being added to our Email List is free of charge. Make checks or money orders payable to N3F. All payments must be made in U.S. funds. Mail dues and application to N3F, PO Box 1925, Mountain View, CA 94042. Please allow at least eight weeks for your first clubzine to arrive. You can also sign up and pay online at <http://n3f.org>