

# The National Fantasy Fan

Volume 2, No. 2

September 2002

## *The Don Franson Memorial Issue*



Photo courtesy of Robert Franson

On June 5, 2002, Donald Franson died. He was a longtime Neffer, a former directorate member and president, club historian, editor of the fanzine *Trash Barrel*, and LASFS member. His nephew Robert, a former and recently returned Neffer, sent club officers the news and is currently sorting through his uncle's estate. In this issue, we remember Don and his contributions to the N3F. Clear ether and hot jets, Mr. Franson.

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### **Artists:**

Catherine Mintz / inside front cover, 2, 8  
David Heath / 5  
Robert Miller III / 20

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**N'APA:** OPEN

**ONLINE BUREAU:**  
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**RENEWALS:**  
Dennis Davis

**REVIEW EDITOR:** OPEN

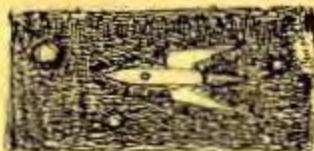
**ROUND ROBINS:**  
Online: Laura Hazelwood  
Via Mail: Susan Van Schuyver

**SHORT STORY CONTEST:**  
Catherine Mintz  
Elizabeth Caldwell

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Dennis Davis

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## President's Message

I love fall. It is my favorite season. I love the crisp temperatures, the colored leaves, the school activities.

This is the Election Issue of The Fan. I hope there are platforms for President and the Directors. I have decided not to run for President or Director this year. I've been one of the elected leaders for the last 6-7 years and just need a break. I have some other interests and responsibilities that I need to spend some time on. At one time I thought I was indispensable, but as I have gotten older, I have realized that it isn't true. Someone else will step forward to carry on, and now is the time.

Of course, I will continue as President until the end of the year, and as long as the new President wants me to, I'll continue to run the Round Robin Bureau.

I am excited and thrilled that two Neffers have taken over open bureaus. Ruth Davidson is the new Birthday Cards Bureau Head. Please contact her if you would like to send cards or make a donation of stamps/cards/money to this bureau. The Birthday Cards Bureau has always been totally supported by donations — no club funds. Thanks, Ruthie, for taking over this wonderful bureau. Ruthie is also

by Susan Van Schuyver

starting up a new bureau — the Anime Bureau. I know several of you are interested in this subject, so I hope you will communicate with Ruthie. Her addresses are on the inside front cover.

Elizabeth Caldwell is resurrecting a bureau I ran for several years in the 90's, the Teaching Science Fiction Bureau. I think this is an important and interesting bureau, and Elizabeth has great ideas. I am looking forward to her reports.

An idea for a new activity has come up — a Review Editor position. This person would regularly review newly released novels for The Fan and be the liaison for publishers looking for ways to get their new works out in the public eye. If you are interested in this position, contact me.

## Ooops...

Due to editor error, some original content for this ish was lost. If anyone who sent in a burep, loc, article or art before the editorial deadline doesn't see their item in here, please resend it. Handwritten items are safe; the computer files are what got deleted. Backups are in place. Apologies. —Ed.

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

\*\*\* Bringing Fans Together Since 1941 \*\*\*

This issue was completed on Sept. 12, 2002. The current editor is Janine G. Stinson, P.O. Box 430314, Big Pine Key, FL 33043-0314, e-mail [tropicsf@earthlink.net](mailto:tropicsf@earthlink.net). Please address all submissions and questions concerning this publication to the Editor. *All opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and do not reflect the opinions of the staff or other members of N3F except where so noted.* Publisher is the great and powerful Howard Devore. Printing graciously accomplished by Craig Boyd. **SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS NOV. 25, 2002. E-mail attachments accepted by prior arrangement only!** We publish quarterly in March, June, September and December.

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## Treasurer's Report

by William Center

September 2002

### Receipts

New members dues (includes reinstatements)	260.00
Renewal dues	645.50
Donations	7.00
Memorials for Martha Beck	40.00

952.50

### Disbursements

TB (Jan, 2000) / TNFF (Feb, 2000) - printing	291.51
TB (Mar. 2000) - printing	235.05
TNFF (Apr./Jun. 2000) / TB (May 2000) - printing	292.40
TB 224 / 225 - printing	236.18
TNFF (Sept. 2001) - printing	235.18
TNFF (Dec. 2001) - printing	208.91
TNFF (Mar. 2002) - printing	205.90
TNFF (Mar. 2002) - mailing	68.45
TNFF (Jun. 2002) - mailing	72.85
Bulk Mail Permit	62.50
Secretary Expenses	50.00

1,958.93

Beginning Balance (2/15/02)	5,041.05
Additions	+ 952.50
Subtractions	- 1,958.93

Ending Balance (8/15/02) \$ 4,034.62

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

## Round Robin Bureau

by Susan VanSchuyver

There are approximately 25 active round robins that I know of. If you enjoy writing snail mail letters, joining a RR would probably be a fun thing to do.

If you are interested, please write to me for information and a list of current round robins. My addresses are on the inside front cover.



## Secretary's Report/Roster

**Expired:** April: Michael Landis 0402; May: Bernadette F. Glasgow 0502, John R. Jeffers III 0502, Jennett Kaerie 0502, Sandra Morrese 0502, Roger Sims 0502; June: Robert Schreib, Jr. 0602; William H. Wharton 0602; July: Celeste Gaylord 0702, Lorna Glasgow Hansmann 0702.

LIFE	Ackerman Forrest J 2495 Glendower Avenue Hollywood CA 90027-1110
GS0403	Anderson Kenneth J. 1919 SE 31st Ave. Portland OR 97214-5063
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 \*GSJ1102 Blackwood Bob & Diane 4304 N Marmora Avenue Chicago IL 60634-1739  
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 \*GS0902 Brooks Richard A. PO Box 834 Angola IN 46703-0834  
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 GS1202 Caldwell Elizabeth 27975 Belgrave Road Pepperspike OH 4124-4636  
 GS0503 Calvert Jack 5811 Ayala Avenue Oakland CA94609-1505  
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 RN0803 Glasgow Sarah E. 3275 Mauricia Avenue Santa Clara CA 95051  
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 GS0803 Johnstone Bruce PO Box 2381 Phoenix AZ 85002-2381  
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 GS0403 King Patricia Williams 647 Frasier Street Marietta GA 30060-7703  
 GS0802 Klees-Starks Carol 4211 6th Avenue Kenosha WI 53140-2929  
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 GS1103 Kurtz Dorothy 401 E. Gibbsboro Rd Apt T16 Lindenwold NJ 08021-1991  
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 GS1202 Marcum Harold PO Box 286 Kermit WV 25674-0286  
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 GS1202 Miller Robert PO Box 236 Clio MI 48420-0236  
 GS0903 Minor Carla Hall 905 Whitney Court Plano TX 75023-6573  
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 GS0603 Moskowitz Christine Haycock 361 Roseville Ave Newark NJ 07107-1721  
 GS0203 Mylenek Chester 4657 Larkins Street Detroit MI 48210-2358  
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 GS0503 Schaumburger Joe 18205 SW 94th Avenue Miami FL 33157-5612  
 EXP0602 Schreib, Jr. Robert 44 Georgetown Drive Toms River NJ 08757-4320  
 GS0802 Schutz Fred Auf der Lach 14 55590 Meisenheim Germany  
 GSJ0303 Shields Rick & Ruth 1410 W. McDowell Rd Jackson MS 39204-5147  
 EXP0502 Sims Roger 7030 Villa Estelle Dr. Orlando FL 32819  
 GS1202 Smith Victoria 12627 Harbor Dr Woodbridge VA 22192-2225  
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 REIN0903 Spinka Penina 10401 W. Bolivar Drive Sun City AZ 85351  
 GS0603 Stinson Janine G. PO Box 430314 Big Pine Key FL 33043-0314  
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 GS0904 Varbanov Michael P. 15475 SW 114th Street Miami FL 33196-4386  
 GS0404 Voharas William 1950 Trenton St Apt 656 Denver CO 80220-2056  
 REIN0803 Wells George H. 8 South Dorado Circle Apt 2B Hauppauge NY 11788-4638  
 EXP0602 Wharton William H. 11 Laurel Drive Oakdale CT 06370-1727  
 GS1202 Winters Rikki PO Box 55452 Phoenix AZ 85078-5452  
 GS0504 Wolansky Taras 100 Montgomery St #24-H Jersey City NJ 07302-3721

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!

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.

**Renewals:** 0803 Sarah E. Glasgow; 0104 Art Hayes; 0903 Emery Kurts; 0903 Jennifer M. Mackay; 0903 Edmund Meskys; 0903 Valerie Mignault; 0803 Lisa Bosko Ocacio; 0903 Robert Peterson; 0704 George Phillies; 0903 David K. Robinson; 0603 David E. Rubin; 0903 Lucy Takeda.

**Reinstated:** 0803 Craig & Sherry Boyd; 0603 Tim & Barbara Gatewood; 0803 Robin Lancaster; 0903 Catherine Mintz; 0903 Penina Spinka; 0803 George H. Wells; 0803 Robert Franson.

**New members:** 0703 Ray F. Nelson, 333 Ramona Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3739.

**Address changes/corrections:** Ruth R. Davidson, 3540 Swenson St #172, Las Vegas, NV 89109; Denise Fisk (ask secretary for address); Bernadette F. Glasgow, 434 Bird St., Yuby City, CA 95991; Sarah E. Glasgow, 3275 Mauricia Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95051; Lorna Glasgow Hansmann, 1064 North 150 West, Orem, UT 84057-3124; Jennett Kaerie, 434 Bird St., Yuby City, CA 95991; Roger Sims, 7030 Villa Estelle Dr., Orlando, FL 32819.

My email addresses are: n3f\_info@yahoo.com and cat999@netmug.org. If you give my email address out to someone give them the Yahoo address.

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

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

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.



## PC Bureau

by Denny Davis

Like I usually do, I have checked to make sure the sites respond to my link checker. Here are some URLs to web sites that I hope are of interest to Nefers. If anyone has any that they want me to list, please send them to me. I am always interested in any sites that are interesting, even if they are only vaguely related to SF, Neffers do have broad interests ya know. :-} So send me a note on what you find, my addresses are in the inside of the front page.

There is an audio book of "Storm Front" the first book of the Dresden Files. James Marsters did the reading members.acsworld.net/longshot

The ezine Phase Five is online with Articles, Interviews, reviews of movies, books, TV and comics, A message board and more. Snark-o-licious reviews are on tap. www.bibliora.com/Phase5/index.html

Another ezine is the Twilight Times ezine www.twilighttimes.com/

For those interested in Therianthropy:

TheWereWeb www.swampfox.demon.co.uk/utlah/

The Temple of Luna www.templeofluna.com/

Thrope www.geocities.com/mokele2/thrope.html

WereNet www.were.net .

I have one note about some Fine Filk :-} The song "The Least of My Kind" is on the CD *The Gripping Beast* by Echo's Children — Julia West has a page listing the songs and some of the lyrics from the CD. Cat Faber is the vocalist and writes the lyrics of most of the songs. Lots of were/vamp/ supernatural themes and other sf/fantasy related stuff at www.sff.net/people/julia.west/filk/gripbst.htm . And the second CD by the same folks is *As Good As Any* ww.sff.net/people/julia.west/filk/asgoodas.htm .

How about some writer's sites for those writers among us?

Electronic Markets for SF/F www.sff.net/people/julia.west/mktezine.htm

Internet Fantasy Writers Association www.chaosmanor.com

The Internet Writing Journal(TM) www.writerswrite.com/journal/

Writers BBS Forums www.writersbbs.com/forums/

Young Writer's Clubhouse www.realkids.com/club.shtml

writers-bbs.com--poetry writers-bbs.com/bbs3/forum.cgi?forum=3Dpoetry\_h

If you would like to find something new to read, there are a lot of sites with reviews etc. so check a few of these sites out. :-}

Baird stafford www.bairdstafford.com/

Book dragon review www.bookdragonreview.com/

Book Reviews & More electronictiger.com

Book Reviews: Reviewer Pete Tillman www.silcom.com/~manatee/reviewer.html#tillman

Bookbrowser: Book Reviews www.bookbrowser.com/

Books www.scifi.com/sfw/issue184/books.html

Fantastic Metropolis www.sfsite.com/fm/

Green Man Review www.greenmanreview.com/

Monthly SF Book Circle www.sf3.org/book/index.html

Postviews www.cs.latrobe.edu.au/%7Eagapow/Postviews/

Reviews www.urbanophile.com/arenn/sf/reviews/

SF Revu www.sfrevu.com/

Silver-oak--SF www.silver-oak.com/

The Internet Writing Journal Book reviews www.writerswrite.com/books/

Finally for fiction online try these sites:

AntipodeanSF antisf.tripod.com/

Attack of the Rockoids www.rockoids.com/

Blakslee www.blakslee.com/

Blakslee SF action serial Rick Raygunn www.blakslee.com/SF/rr/rch01.html

coyotesdaughter www.coyotesdaughter.com/

DargonZine www.dargonzine.org/

Emerald City: The online magazine of SF & fantasy www.emcit.com/

Gopher Productions www.gopherp.com/

Gothic.net ezine www.gothic.net/

Hidden-knowledge [Chelsea Quinn Yarbro e-book] [www.hidden-knowledge.com/](http://www.hidden-knowledge.com/)  
 Hologram Tales <http://207.201.173.29/>  
 Sarpeidon—Original SF/F fiction [pages.scifi.com/sarpeidon](http://pages.scifi.com/sarpeidon)  
 Storiesonline [www.storiesonline.net/](http://www.storiesonline.net/)

## Welcommittee Report

by Dennis Davis

The Welcommittee consists of Dennis L. Davis, Sarah Glasgow, Valerie Mignault, Carla Hall Minor, Chester Mylenek, Cynthia Richter, David K. Robinson. Thanks to everyone for doing a good job writing the welcoming letters. If you want to join in writing to those who are new to the club or returning after an extended absence, let me know.

## Birthday Bureau Report

by Ruth R Davidson

I do hope things are going well with everyone. I just now became the Bureau Head for the B-day Bureau! I am also in the process of moving, and I am so glad I got all the info *before* I moved, so this can all be done on time.

Here's a brief bit about me, so you all have an idea who's behind the curtains. I am 23 years old, and married for almost 2 years, no kids yet. :: smile:: I just got back into N3F after a 5 year absence. I love to read, of course. Presently I've been ingesting Kate Elliot, and Lois McMaster Bujold books. I am a music and English major to become a teacher while I write my novels and music. I also like to draw, though I've been slacking off on that lately. I'm a total Gamer! PC games, online games (AO all the way!), console games, strategy, RPGs, TCGs, etc etc etc. The list goes on!

Before I got married, by the way, I was Ruth R Glasgow, so some people may recognize me by my maiden name.

On to business. I would like to thank Ginny Ben-

son and Sally Syrjala for all their help. (To get this in on time, I am writing this a tad prematurely me-thinks, but I move in 4 days across state!) If I forgot to thank someone, oops! You are appreciated as well!

If anyone would like to send donations I would be much obliged. Look out for those sales on some cards! They can be just blank cards so you don't have to pay more for b-day specific. Stamps are also a nice donation. Also, if anyone would like to help out, even if it's a one time thing, I will gladly accept it.

My new snail mail addy is 3540 Swenson St #172, Las Vegas, NV 89109, and my email addy is [ruthiechan@xarph.net](mailto:ruthiechan@xarph.net). Feel free to inquire about the Bureau.

Here are this quarters' B-days.

### October

Harry Andruschak 10/04/44  
 Martha Beck 10/01/29  
 Jerry C. Davis 10/05/21  
 Tim Marion 10/21/58  
 Lore Ann Parent 10/31/51  
 Dr Ira Lee Riddle 10/02/46  
 David Rubin 10/03/56  
 Robert Schreib Jr. 10/04/52  
 Rikki Winters 10/25/60

### November

Forrest J Ackerman 11/24/16  
 Bob Blackwood 11/21/42  
 Helen E Davis 11/01/62  
 Lorna Glasgow Hansmann 11/14/81  
 Mike Lowrey 11/25/53  
 Jennifer M Mackay 11/17/74  
 Catherine Mintz 11/10/46  
 Jefferson Swycaffer 11/11/56

### December

Michele Nowak Center 12/03/60  
 Michael Contos 12/4/63  
 Debra Eckert 12/19/59  
 David Heath 12/31/52  
 James Madden 12/17/50

Carla Hall Minor 12/02/68  
 Jon D Swartz 12/12/34  
 David Travis 12/30/35  
 Susan VanSchuyver 12/17/52

### January

Charles E Brown 01/26/1967  
 Sarah E Glasgow 01/15/1974  
 Angela Scott Gosnell 01/06/1974  
 Art Hayes 14/04/1923  
 Christine Haycock Moskowitz 01/07/1924  
 Chester Mylenek 01/15/1953  
 William H Wharton 01/30/1943  
 Patricia Mathews 01/03/1939

If I missed anyone or if you find a discrepancy, please email or snail mail me so I can add/fix it. If anyone would like me to leave off their year of birth, please let me know and I will make a note of it.

Also, Happy Holidays everyone!



## Anime Bureau

by Ruth R Davidson

Hello everyone! This will be a brief intro, I'm moving across state in 3 days.

Along with being the new Birthday Bureau Head, I am also starting an all-new (that sounds cliché) Anime Bureau! There's TONS of awesome Anime out there that's Science Fiction and Fantasy related. Can't you tell I'm a bit of an Otaku? (roughly meaning obsessed fan) I will be doing some reviews and such on all the Anime that's out there, and if anyone would like to do one or two (or whatever) as well on some of their favorite or not-so-favorite Anime, please send it on to me. I will also

attempt to keep people posted on various Anime Cons, but that one I know I'll need help on! I only know of a few, and I'm sure there's more out there. If anyone else has any ideas on what other things we can do, please drop me a line.

Remember the Anime has to be Sci-Fi Fantasy related, and no excessive flaming in your reports. Saying it sucks for 3 paragraphs is a bit....well....excessive.

Next time I will include a report on an Anime or two, and hopefully a few more ideas on what we can do with this Bureau.

You can snail mail me at 3540 Swenson St #172 Las Vegas NV 89109, or speed mail me at [ruthiechan@xarph.net](mailto:ruthiechan@xarph.net). Thanks!

## Comics Bureau Report:

### The New #1

by Tim Marion

When I was a wee lad collecting and reading comics for the first time in the mid-to-late 1960s (for me, ages 6-10), I bought lots of DC Comics, because they were most plentifully available; many Marvels, which were my favorite; and the chal-

lenger was a newly revised and burgeoning Charlton Comics. Charlton at the time had many top creators, including Steve Ditko, Dick Giordano, Jim Aparo, Roy Thomas and many others, producing some very interesting characters (most of these creators later migrated to DC and Marvel when Charlton eventually went under; the company was probably hindered by poor distribution). In the lettercolumns of the time, fanboys would write in and say to Marvel, "You're #1!" (meaning the best comics publishing company). A few even loved Charl-

ton's imaginative new characters and creators, and would tell this promising challenger, "Charlton is #1!"

In the year 2000, comics readers were introduced to a new #1. CrossGen Comics is now #1 (thus speaks the sage). They started out with a novel premise — buy the first four issues of their first four books. If you didn't like them, you could return them to the company for a full refund! A very generous offer, which somehow I suspect few took them up on.

I personally would find it pretty hard to return one of their books. They started out similar to the Image formula (yet another new comic group, formed in 1990, only this one has succeeded and now has taken a large part of the market share from DC and Marvel). Basically: full process color on glossy paper by a good artist, inker and colorist team with the story told mostly non-stop until the end of the book, which is taken up with (mostly) in-house advertisements. Unlike Image, however, they also had good scripters with their origin. Almost all of their books are inter-related. No matter in which genre the story falls, the main character usually has a "sigil," which is the CrossGen symbol of two accentuated commas almost in a "69" position (a variation of the yin/yang symbol). Each of these characters was granted the sigil by an unknown entity (to them). The sigil imbues its wielder with great power. The exact power is almost certainly different in every case, and the limits of those powers have yet to be explored.

I have a few of their most recent books on hand as I write this. *CrossGen Chronicles* is a good vehicle for any new CrossGen reader, as the writer and artist explore the past or a different aspect of one of the characters in a "regular" book. #8 has art by Esteban Maroto and script by Mark Waid, and features characters from the *Crux* book.

Since I have a couple of issues of *Crux* on hand, I will describe that book first. The art is by Steve Epting, and is incredible — his Frazetta influence seems to be a bit stronger (not necessarily in terms of style, so much as depth and some of the action poses). They are written by Chuck Dixon, a very

under-rated, action-oriented writer. Basically this book deals with a team of super-powered ex-dwellers of Atlantis who are awakened from their slumber of many millennia to fulfill their duty to protect the earth, which is under some kind of threat. All the people they are supposed to protect are gone; presumably they have evolved to a higher plane of existence after all this time. This team of bewildered ex-Atlanteans is left to figure out what has happened, who the new enemy is, and how to fight them.

Their enemy is a conqueror from another dimension called the Negation. The Negation took a number of heroes and demigods from our universe to examine them in preparation for conquering the rest of our universe. These heroes had a bit more pluck than expected and, led by a short but daring non-super-powered man, manage to escape and commandeer a vessel, albeit losing many of their own in the heroic effort. Still in Negation space, they are left to fight their way home, or to fight just to stay alive. Sometimes the creators on these books are not necessarily all that familiar to me, but, due to the entertaining power of CrossGen, I keep buying the book anyway (the level of quality stays consistent). Looking at #8, the penciller here is Paul Pelletier, and the writer is Tony Bedard.

The effects of the Sigil are perhaps most prominently explored in the book of the same name, which is close to standard space opera fare (which is not to belittle it, as #26 is written by Chuck Dixon). Samandahl Rey has been granted the sigil and uses it in an interplanetary war against alien (to us) saurian enemies. However, the sigil, or at least his knowledge of how to use it, certainly has its limits. He blew up a huge rock that was steered toward the new Earth (called Gaia) by its enemies, but the resulting fragments were so huge that it wiped out billions, and mortally weakened the tectonic structure of the planet. Despite his success, Sam couldn't help but feel very depressed. The only thing to do was to launch himself back into the war. Pencils are by Scot Eaton.

The artist of *Scion*, one of the first CrossGen books I ever picked up, is not that familiar to me

(Jim Cheung), but his decent, serviceable style shows vast improvement with every book (I was amused to see in #26 the artist using the Frazetta pose from the cover to Jane Gaskell's *ATLAN*). The story is by celebrated comics writer Ron Marz. *Scion* takes place on a world which deliberately eschews the technology it once developed, and two rival, pseudo-medieval kingdoms, the Ravens and the Hurons, are at war. Prince Ethan is an honorable, ethical sort, and thus is a good choice for The Sigil (which in his case, is a tattoo on his right shoulder). In his effort to do what is right, he finds he must (at least temporarily) abandon the defense of his realm in order to protect the so-called "Lesser Race," a group of beings who were gene-engineered to be servants.

My favorite CrossGen comic used to be *Mystic*, because it was originally drawn by Brandon Peterson, who is a genius in my (comic) book. However, #26 is drawn by Al Rio and #27 is drawn by Fabrizio Fiorentino (the best artist of the two, no insult to Al Rio intended). The world for this tableau is a semi-medieval setting where magic works. Each type of magic has its own guild master, whose power is conferred (with the help of the spirit of the original magic house founder) her or his successor. The successor for the Nouveau Guild was supposed to be Genevieve Villard, but instead, because of the mysterious sigil that had been implanted upon her palm by a stranger, all of the power of all seven guilds moves into the body of Genevieve's sexy,

fun-loving sister, Giselle. At first Giselle wants to give up this power and go back to her fun-loving ways, but soon understands that she was meant to have that power, and has to fight to protect both herself and her realm many times over. Script by Tony Bedard for both these issues.

I'm running out of time and space, but just let me mention a totally different sort of CrossGen book, *Way of the Rat*, which is drawn against a sort of Asiatic/Oriental tapestry. Boon Sai Hong is a thief who is somewhat reluctantly in the process of acquiring objects of great power, power to change the world, aided and lectured by a very unusual and strange-looking monkey who can both talk to him and kick his ass with kung fu (in order to keep him on the path). A fun book with script by the ubiquitous Chuck Dixon and pencils by Jeff Johnson.

There are several other fine books from CrossGen, including my new favorite, *Ruse* (sort of a spin-off from Sherlock Holmes, where a brilliant but aloof debonair Victorian detective searches for his foil, his even more brilliant erstwhile-partner, while aided by a beautiful assistant ["Partner!"] who is far more than she seems — she sometimes serves as the *deus ex machina*, which she tries to keep hidden from him), ably drawn by Jackson Guice, but I have ran out of room. All these books are \$2.95 each, with the exception of *CrossGen Chronicles* (\$3.95), and are available at your local comic book shop.

As they say: "NEXT!" Something different...

## Fan Club Bureau

by Harold Marcum

I've been doing some serious thinking lately and I've decided to do something different. Instead of giving you a bunch of addresses or URLs I want to talk about a very special fan club, The National Fantasy Fan Federation!

Surely, you've noticed the decline in membership, a decline that we need to reverse. The officers of the club have been butting their heads and brain-

storming for the past several years in order to try and reverse this demise in the membership. What we really need is some very concentrated feedback from you, the members. What is your take on why people would want to leave one of the oldest clubs in fandom. A club that can provide almost any niche in the science fiction and fantasy genres that a person could want.

When I joined the club in the early ninties it was in a response to an ad that Don Franson had placed in "The Fantastic Collectables Magazine" for The Ultimate Science Fiction Club. I was so glad

to find a place to set down my fannish roots that I was hooked. I implore you to try and get other people to join, convince them to share our sense of wonder, see our vision of the future, or just to meet

a great bunch of people.

We may be smaller now, but one way or another we will build our membership back up!  
Support Your Fan Club, N3F Forever!

## Election Platforms

### For President

#### *Ruth R Davidson*

I've been a fan of Science Fiction and Fantasy since my childhood. My big sister, Sarah E. Glasgow, was a big influence in that. I first became a member of the N3F back in 1998 as Ruth R. Glasgow before I got married. I used to be a part of the Youth Bureau, the Art Bureau, and some round robins, of course. After that I left the club for a while. Recently I've rejoined, and I'm so glad I did. I've been able to renew some friendships, and I've rediscovered how much fun this club can be.

Currently I am the Birthday Bureau Head, and the new Anime Bureau Head. Both have recently come into my charge and are fun to do. I am also unpacking my art and such so that I can once more participate in the Art Bureau. (I just moved a couple weeks ago and I finally found my art stuff!)

If I am voted into office, I will do my very best to continue in Susan Van Schuyver's footsteps in helping to make this the best club it can be. I will carry on the goals of increasing membership. I will also solicit from the membership the most informative, fun and creative ideas and activities that would be of greatest interest. I want all Neffers to feel they are a valuable part of the club, because it's true!

\*wink\* Without your participation and the friendships we've made together, there's no way this club could be as successful as it is. I thank you for that.

### For Directorate

#### *Dennis Davis*

I am again running for Director, I have the honor to have been your Director this year and I would

like to be one of your Directors again in the coming year.

#### *Carla Hall Minor*

I am running for a seat on the Directorate again this season. I've been a member of this amiable body for about two seasons now and have enjoyed participating in discussions that effect the running of N3F. I really don't have one particular platform or issue, but as always, I'm concerned with the membership drive, raising funds, and maintaining the current membership. I hope I can serve you in the future as I have in the past.

#### *Sarah Glasgow*

I am running for a seat on the Directorate. If elected, I will serve. I am head of the Artist's Bureau and with Laura Hazelwood have started an artist's page on the N3F Web site.

#### *Janine Stinson*

Simply put, I'm not done yet. If re-elected to the Directorate, I will serve to the best of my ability. Projects in the works now are improving the look of The Fan, helping with an N3F archival project, thinking up ideas for Denny Davis' membership drive efforts, and generally waving my hand in the air and saying, "Hey, can we do this?"

#### *George Phillies*

I am running for the Directorate. If elected, I will serve.

Thanks to all the Neffers who are running in this election. Please remember to cast your ballot when you receive it in the mail, and let's make a real effort to award 2002 the highest-vote-total year ever!

## Correspondence Bureau

by Carla Minor

The Corry Bureau has been inactive all summer; that is, I haven't had any requests for new pals or welcomed any new participants, so the numbers are the same as before. Hopefully this is because everyone is satisfied with the pals I've matched them with...? There is one issue that has been popping up from time to time. We have about 80 percent lady penpallers, 20 percent gents. Frequently gentlemen Neffers write to me asking for new male penpals, and I don't have much to offer them, let alone guys who share their interests. So — where are you, fellas? I know there are plenty of lettermen out there. Join us and add some new blood to the Correspondence Bureau!

## Games Bureau

by George D. Phillies

Forthcoming conventions include:

### August 2002

16-18 College Park, GA. Warfair 2002. Charles Traylor. <http://www.warfair.com>.

30-1 Clarksville TN Con-bat 02, Darick 931-553-0222, 931-551-4145.

### September 2002

5-8 Monroe, VA, HMGS-GI Borodino; Jodie Panzeri, [jodie@jodiecon.org](mailto:jodie@jodiecon.org).

14-15 Colours. Reading, UK. Ph: 0118 971 2001.

21 Kenosha, Wisconsin P.C. Con 2002. A naval wargames convention. <http://bowsprit.home.mindspring.com/rpccon.html> Robert Bubulka, 3641 S. Austin Blvd, Cicero IL 60804 USA.

27-29 Richmond, Virginia Gamesfest. 419-258-1780. [www.advantageconvention.com](http://www.advantageconvention.com); Tysons Corner, VA. Gamecon 17. NOVAG, POB 223660, Chantilly VA 20153 [www.geocities.com/novag12000](http://www.geocities.com/novag12000); Tampa, FL Hurricon 02. Rhett Scott [rhett-scott@aol.com](mailto:rhett-scott@aol.com), or 1416 Forsyth Way, Brandon, FL 33511.

29-2 Tempe, Arizona. Consim World Expo/Monster Game Con 2.0. John Kranz, 465 West Fabens Lane, Gilbert AZ 85223 [kranz@consimworld.com](mailto:kranz@consimworld.com).

### October 2002

3-6 Homer, Illinois. HomerCon. Dean Essig, [dean@net66.com](mailto:dean@net66.com); Arlington, TX

TBA Fort Worth Wars 02, Jeff Lawrence, 2806 Speedway Avenue Wichita Falls TX 76308; Baltimore MD, Barrage VII, Geoff Graff [ggraft@erols.com](mailto:ggraft@erols.com).

11-13 Kansas City, KS. HAHMGS Borderwars. Brian Beal POB 15192, Kansas City MO 64106 [bbeale@cysource.com](mailto:bbeale@cysource.com).

18-20 Shelbyville, TN Wargamers Reunion Mike Randles, 103 Audubon Road, Shelbyville TN 37160 [volfans@charter.net](mailto:volfans@charter.net).

### November 2002

1-3 Fort Wayne, IN Pentacon XVIII, 2030 Silver Street, Anderson, IN 46012 [games@pentacon.org](mailto:games@pentacon.org).

8-10 Gettysburg, PA. E FALL IN Bob Giglio, 5732 Goldfinch Ct., Ellicott City, MD 21043, (before 9 p.m.) 410-465-7688, [ECWCaptain@aol.com](mailto:ECWCaptain@aol.com); Surrey, BC Canada Break Through 2002, Steve Allen, 604-889-4970, [big\\_dog@telus.net](mailto:big_dog@telus.net).

15-17 St. Louis, MO Command Con IV. Pat Connaughton 314-752-3211 [bigmuddy01@earthlink.net](mailto:bigmuddy01@earthlink.net).

22-23 Indianapolis, Virginia Gamesfest, 419-258-1780 [www.advantageconvention.com](http://www.advantageconvention.com)

In addition to these, some SF cons have gaming events.

## Computer Game Bureau

by Harold Marcum

One of the coolest games out there for the pc is *Warcraft III: Reign of Chaos*. I just can't get enough of these role-playing games. Hacking the game is almost as fun as playing it. I hope that the cheats are as productive and fun for as they have been for me. Enjoy!

Press enter to display the message box, type one of the codes in, press enter again to activate the cheat.

1. whosyourdaddy: This gives you invincibility and one hit kills.
2. Iseedeadpeople: This gives you a full map.
3. allyourbasearebelongtous: Instant victory.
4. somebodysetupthebomb: Instant defeat.
5. strengthandhonor: Continue playing losing in campaign mode.
6. greedisgood: 500 gold pieces and lumber
7. thereisnospoon: Unlimited mana.
8. warpten: speeds up construction.
9. iocaine: Fast death and decay
10. paintbreak: Removes food limit.
11. Motherland: [race] {Level} : Level jumping
12. synergy: Disable tech tree requirements.

Here's another game that is just too cool: Neverwinter Nights. This is a little tricky so be careful and remember that all these cheats are case sensitive. Have fun!

To access the debug mode and all the cheats open the nwn.ini file located in your Neverwinter Nights

folder and add the following line underneath the game options: Debug Mode=1 . You can now access the console by pressing the tilde (~) key, and type in DebugModel to enable the cheats.

1. Raise Strength: SetCHA#
2. Raise Dexterity: SetDEX
3. Raise Constitution: SetCON
4. Raise Intelligence: SetINT
5. Raise Wisdom: SetWIS
6. Raise Charisma: SetCHA
7. God Mode: dm\_god
8. Mini Horse: dm\_mylittlepony
9. Attain Gold: dm\_givegold#
10. Attain XP: GiveXP#
11. Raise Level: GetLevel#

I hope y'all can use these to your advantage. I'm always willing to help any way I can. If anyone has a favorite game please let me know and we'll run it up the flagpole.

## Artist's Spotlight: Ray Faraday Nelson

Interview by Sarah Glasgow

### BOHO the Cat

by Ray Nelson



**Q:** Where are you from?

**A:** I was born in Schenectady, New York, moved around a lot, but spent more time in the San Francisco Bay Area than anywhere else.

**Q:** How & when did you become interested in SF & F and fandom?

**A:** I learned to read from the Buck Rogers & Flash Gordon comic strips in the Thirties, and published my own first fanzines & handmade comic books in grade school for my classmates during World War II, finally making contact with other fans in 1947 through a pulp magazine letter column.

**Q:** How long have you been drawing & cartooning, and how did you get into that field?

**A:** I began drawing sometime before entering kindergarten, was first published in a local newspaper while in the seventh grade, drew for fanzines from 1947 on, attended the Art Institute in Chicago, and now do a lot of commercial art for ad agencies and trade journals.

**Q:** What are some of your favorite things to draw and why?

**A:** What I am best known for in fandom is drawings of fat fanboys wearing propellor beanies, but

my own favorite subject is anthropomorphic cats. I have one character called Boho, an American Cat in Paris, that I have been drawing so long he seems to talk to me.

**Q:** What is your favorite medium?

**A:** My favorite medium is pen and ink. I use a fountain Pentel JM2oW-A for lines and a laundry marker to fill in black areas, and usually draw on 16 pound white typewriter paper. I used to work in color, but gradually moved away from that because it was easier to sell black and white artwork, and when I was getting locked out of apartments for nonpayment of rent, I needed to be able to replace my art supplies cheaply and easily.

**Q:** What is it you find inspiring about the F & SF realm that makes you want to work in that genre?

**A:** What draws me to fantasy art is the magic of being able to create a whole alternate universe with just a cheap pen and scrap of paper.

**Q:** Tell me about the sample of art you provided. Why did you choose this particular work? What was the inspiration, symbolism or idea behind it?

**A:** I never know what inspiration or symbolism someone might find in my work than the obvious one of the expression of some joke or idea that is often handed to me by some editor or agency rep. When allowed to follow my natural bent, I generally produce something nobody, including myself, can explain, but which makes people laugh nervously.

**Q:** Can we find your works under Ray Nelson, or do you have a pen name?

**A:** I have used a number of pen names over the years, but all of my currently available novels have been released under my own name, Ray Faraday Nelson. My movies have been either uncredited or released under a collective pen name, most notably Frank Armitage on "They Live."

**Q:** Please tell me any thing else our readers may be interested in.

**A:** Well, I've just launched a new fanzine entitled "Uncle Smiley's Bookcase" dedicated to exploring the bohemian side of fandom. It's free for the asking, but to stay on my mailing list, you have to contribute something creative, like an article or drawing, but just a letter of comment or a postcard will do.

**Q:** What are some of your other hobbies and interests?

**A:** I write novels and short stories. Six of my novels are currently available through Amazon.com, my short fiction has appeared in *F & SF*, *Amazing Stories*, *Fantastic Adventures* and various other

magazines and anthologies, and I have co-scripted three Hollywood movies, one of which, "They Live," has become a cult classic. I also play jazz guitar, sometimes professionally, and have written quite a few songs and part of a ballet score that debuted at a world science fiction convention in Chicago. In Paris, France I did a night club act as Tex the Singing Cowboy, playing

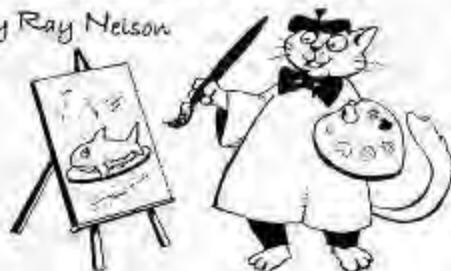
and singing American folk and western songs in French translation.

**Q:** Wow! You've had quite a full life. What are some of your goals for the future?

**A:** I give top priority to regaining my former position as a major cartoonist & writer in fandom. On the pro front, I am working on a sequel to my novel, *Virtual Zen*, and my agent is offering my books to major studios for film production. I will probably run for president of the Berkeley California Writers' Club, a position I have held several times in the past. I am cutting back on my commercial art work to make room in my life for new projects, but really what I want most is to spend time in fandom.

## BOHO THE CAT

by Ray Nelson



## *Tightbeam*

### *Letters of Comment*

*Dennis Davis*

Important News: The Membership Drive has become part of Membership/Recruiting and is not listed separately anymore. Membership/Recruiting also includes Renewal Reminders and PR for the N3F. The Membership Drive Group is working on sending letters to former Neffers. If anyone can help just let me know.

I just want to remind people that I maintain the Neffer Email Roster and if you have email access and would like a copy of the latest Neffer Email Roster, please email me and ask for me to send it to you. Also if you have a new or changed email address, please send it to me so that I can add your email to the Neffer Email Roster. The Neffer email roster is only for members and will not be shared with anyone not on the N3F roster. I don't generally send out the revised editions of the Neffer email roster to people unless they ask, so remember to ask for an updated edition if you haven't got one in a while and would like one.

*Rick Brooks*

Good to get the Fan before the deadline. I do wish I hadn't waited until the last minute to answer it though.

Good to hear that Ed Meskys likes my long, chatty letters. I've been sending out letters since the fifties. Unfortunately the Internet has cut back on my letter writing. E-Mails don't seem quite the same.

It was better where I could write up a letter at night on the computer, then wait until the next day to type it. Allowed time for second thoughts. I've kept a journal on the computer for years. I select parts of that for a CORRNTS file and that forms the body of my letter. I add on answers from their last letter, print and mail. Saves what used to be a lot of retyping from the fifties on before I got a computer.

I always wondered what Damon Knight thought

of his youthful indiscretion in originating the N3F. I first joined about 1960 and the club has changed a lot since then. But so has the world. So have I. Just before Christmas 1964, the arthritis started in my knees. This spring, I began to have trouble going up and down stairs. I've gotten so I depend on using my arms to help pull me up.

I have found that if I sleep or nap with one of the wool blankets over my knees, they don't ache so much after I get up. I do get rather sweaty though.

I passed my 61st birthday this spring and consider myself lucky to still be able to walk. But it's usually painful to do so. Afraid my con-going days are over. I don't travel well. Don't think I've gone over 20 miles from home the last 2 or 3 years.

We lost our little dark gray cat Igor just over a year ago. That cut us down to 6 cats. Then suddenly we got up to 11. May 14th, my sister Betty saw a little black and white cat trying to dig up a spoiled raw potato from our garbage heap to eat. So Betty fed her. A very friendly cat, but apparently not a house cat.

Blackie, as we named her, was around most of the morning and usually disappeared after Betty left for work about 2:15. We found that Blackie had been at our next door neighbors Bowlings, but that she wasn't one of theirs.

She had a sandbur on each hip. I got one out while she was eating. A second, I almost had out when she bit me. I'd ignored a warning growl. I should have been patient. I did get the second far enough out so she could finish the job.

June 1st, we didn't see Blackie until 9:40 pm when she banged the back screen door to get my attention. At 3:40 am on June 4th, she showed up on the back step and I fed her. About 9am, I looked out and there were 3 not so little kittens with her. So far we've seen four kittens. They hide in the pallets by the back door when we come. There are two black and whites and two white and blacks. Three of the four have been seen eating canned cat food. So they are probably over a month old. Makes it likely that Blackie brought them or led them down here after she found out she could get fed without any other cats horning in.

Betty named the four kittens Trey (3 black spots on the top of her head), Cameo, Patches, and Domino. Trey and Cameo have white backs. Patches is black with white patches and a white underside. Domino is mostly black on top. Both Cameo and Domino had both eyes stuck shut. So Betty scooped

them up and brought them in. I held them while she washed their eyes with an eye-cleaning solution. Neither appreciated it. We fed them in the back (utility) room. Used to leave the back door open at night and the light on. Then one of the two little raccoons got in, Blackie was going after it and the poor little raccon, still almost Blackie's size, was rolled into a ball, not fighting back. I rolled it out the door with my foot. It ran behind the pallets by the door. Then two of the kittens came out from under the cedar chest, ran outside, and hid behind the same pallets. So I feed Blackie and the 4 kittens about 6 or 7 pm, and in the morning. Some nights, I stay up until 6 am and feed them. Usually I get up about 9 and feed them.

We thought there would be a problem about having Blackie spayed. Actually afterwards. We kept her in Betty's room for ten days until the stitches came out. We thought she'd be frantic to get out to her kittens. But Blackie liked having the place to herself and having food and drink always there. She was no trouble when the stitches came out. Then she got back with the kittens as though she'd never been away.

Betty and I have gotten so we can pet three of the four kittens. Cameo is the wildest of the lot. Won't eat in the utility room until I leave and shut the connecting door.

This year, we replaced our oil burning furnace which had died in the spring. left our finances in sad shape. And the house needs more work. It's an old house. It has been here since before 1880. When we moved here in 1953, it had no running water. Father put in all the plumbing and the heating ducts as well as doing some rewiring. Father was a farmer. But when he was growing up,

you had to be able to do most other jobs. Before the REMC (Rural Electric Membership Corp.) was established, Father had used a windmill and a bank of storage batteries to provide electric lights for the family farm. When one of his first cars gave trouble, he took it apart on a tarp in the back yard, fussed with and put it back together.

I don't watch much tv any more, mostly basketball. I missed the last Star Wars movie. Didn't feel up to going in those nights it was here.

Had a long hot dry spell here. Lawns are brown and the corn leaves curled. Two days ago, we got a hard rain. The trash can under the garage eaves was nearly full of rainwater. The hibiscus has had four blossoms. But only one opened fully before the beetles got it. Sort of a dark shiny beetle that I only see when the hibiscus blooms. The rose of Sharon in the backyard is covered with red flowers. The older one by the road hasn't even leafed out yet. I'm afraid it is on its last legs.

Got a summer cold and am having trouble getting over it. I was glad to see the weather cool down. I've never lived in a house with air conditioning. But the abrupt temperature change has been hard on my arthritis.

Have read Freedom's Ransom by Anne McCaffrey. Thought she'd finished this series with 3. But now, it's looking open ended. This one concerns getting Earth back on its feet after the war left it in such poor shape. I'll look forward to the next book. Reading more pulp reprints. Modern sf and mysteries rarely interest me any more.

*Jack Calvert*

I enjoyed your editorial in v1 n4. You make some good points about learning the background of fandom. I'm reading A Wealth of Fable now, and keeping an eye out for a copy of The Immortal Storm. A thing that I particularly like about the N3F is that it does have a deep taproot into fannish history. But I don't think I'll take up the challenge to make myself an expert on part of fandom, because most of the real experts — the people who lived in fandom of at least the fifties and sixties — are still

around and they can tell the tale better than I. On the other hand, if I should come on a thread of suitable material, I will certainly write about it and send it in.

Ed Meskys' comments about Seth Johnson in v1 n2 brought back some memories. My first contact with fandom and with the N3F was through one of his ads in the classified section of *F&SF* back in the late sixties. I exchanged several letters with Seth, and remember them as being quite a helpful introduction to fandom, not particularly of a goshwow sort of tone. But this was a long time ago, and I no longer have the letters. And people come across differently in person than on paper.

I saw the sad news about Don Franson on the N3F Web site. I did not know him personally, but I remember him from my early days in the club in the late sixties. One of the few things I have left from that time is Fanbook Number 1, A Key to Fan Terminology, written by Don. And he was kind enough to say good things about a story that I sent to the short story contest. He was one of the fixed stars of the club, and he will be missed.

I'll also miss Damon Knight. I also have his book Creating Short Fiction ready to hand, and I have enjoyed his fiction over the years. He has been an influence on the field in many ways.

On a cheerier note, I'd like to say that the work of Sarah Glasgow and the Art Bureau presented on the web site is really impressive. Everyone should stop by and take a look.

#### *Catherine Mintz*

I'd like to suggest that we rename the President's Award, which is given for outstanding service during a year, the Franson.

Our lifetime service award, the Kaymar, is named for K. Martin Carlson, who began and financed it for many years. He was unreasonably surprised when he gave the awarding to a committee of past winners, that he was the first one they chose. Don, who gave time and money for over thirty years, seems a good person to recognize and remember in a similar way.

#### *Sally Syrjala*

Zines no longer arrive at my address in anywhere near the frequency that they once did. On the other hand, locs no longer leave this address in anything near the verbiage that once poured out from pen and keyboard.

It's nice to see people speaking of the club's history, but we as individuals and therefore the N3F collectively have changed throughout the years. We can look back fondly at that which has formed us, but we have traveled down the path and been changed by its experiences. In a way the N3F can be seen as the home Dorothy yearned to see again as she clicked the heels of her ruby red slippers and went back to the security and belonging that Kansas represented to her. Yet the years change all things - us and home. *[It's the club's history that makes it unique among SF clubs. The fact that the N3F still exists attests to its flexibility and adaptable nature. -Ed.]*

Since my heyday in the club, it has changed. However, all things must change or die. Staying the same is the same as death. What kept the club alive and "debating" each other has always been its members and their interactions with each other. There have been personalities who have flared across the pages of Tightbeam's letter column. Their strings of words were assembled in such a fashion as to motivate others to respond. The debates were most certainly lively!

The way to increase membership is to have debates so compelling and letters so alive that others want to join just to see the latest happenings in Nef-ferland. *[This would certainly be a plus. But an editor cannot simply pluck these things out of the air--others have to write them. -Ed.]*

The problem during my tenure as TB editor was too many letters - too much of a response. This can happen again, but the debate needs to be of a timely, generalized nature and not concentrated so much on the historical and insular. *[Welcome back to the club, Sally, but how many of the last four clubzines have you read? Perhaps it seems there's an emphasis on club history in the last few issues*

because, sadly, some of our elder members have died. Featuring them and their contributions is a way for the N3F to honor those who did so much for the club, and for new Neffers to learn about them. -Ed.]

The N3F has been a club where I've met many dear people with whom I've corresponded throughout the years. If you include an address so we can respond to ideas in letters that interest us, it could help weave us together again as members. Outsiders will not be the ones who breathe life back into us. It will be ourselves who determine that we want to live again. [Addresses used to appear at the beginning of each loc, but I took them out for two reasons: 1) The roster appears often enough, along with the secretary's reports where address changes are announced, that members can refer to the roster for addresses; 2) Removing the addresses from the locs increased the available space in the zine. To be blunt, I thought Neffers didn't need that much help in finding the address of another Neffer if the urge to respond was felt. -Ed.]

Could there be a question of the month such as what book have you read that others should seek out. Readers are always looking for new authors and realms to visit. Robert Crais' PI named Elvis Cole is a discovery I recently made. This character alone can spark interest and wake the adventure-seeking soul. The Sam Spade era lives again in all its hard-boiled essence. [Members' book reviews fulfill the first part of your suggestion, and several have been published in the last year. Of course, not everyone feels like or feels capable of writing a review, and that's where a loc can be useful. Locs are also a good place to recommend books outside the club's genre focus, such as mysteries. A lot of SF fans, it seems, are also mystery lovers. -Ed.]

Get some interesting letters and reviews and send out sample issues to prospective members. Let them know that they too can become part and parcel of this group of divergent thinkers. [Denny Davis and I have been sending out sample issues of the last two zines, so this is covered. As for getting letters and reviews, I have no control over that - club members have to produce those. If you're suggest-

ing a special "sample" issue where particular letters and reviews are assembled into a zine that's for samples only, there are the factors of time, money and permissions from the writers to consider. If you want to work up a proposal, please do so. -Ed.]

People enjoy sharing issues and ideas that concern them with others and bouncing ideas off the printed page to see what echoes are created.

The N3F still has life. In time the spark will flare again. Right now the embers are glowing red hot, ready to once more spring into flame! [It seems this has happened just recently. The N3F never died, it just got quiet for a while. -Ed.]

*Susan Van Schuyver*

I enjoyed all the letters in the June issue; it's good to have so many people participating.

Sarah Glasgow: I enjoyed the new Star Wars movie, too-maybe not quite as much as you did, however. The characters/actors are still wooden, but the special effects are great and Yoda's fight scene is excellent. Have you seen Reign of Fire? Great dragons!

Catherine Mintz: It's amazing how quickly club history and traditions can be lost. We try to pass on information, but when the person leaves that knows a piece that only a few know, it can be unintentionally lost. I'm glad that you are back with some of those "pieces."

David Heath: I'm the one who put together the list of past presidents and it started with 1991 because that's when I joined, so that is the information I have. I would love to complete the list or even just add more names and years. Do you remember the years you were president in the 80's? Or the years of any of the other presidents? We do have a fairly complete list of past Kaymar winners; we just did not publish it in the issue you are referring to.

Obviously, you are upset and disappointed about the change in the numbering of the zines. We gave members months and months to give input about the zines, and then we took the comments and suggestions and did what seemed to be the best for the club. Once we decided to go to a combined zine, a

new numbering system was the logical thing to do. I'm sorry if it still disturbs you; we did not do it out of disrespect for the rich history of the club, but because it was the best answer for the present.

All: Please vote in the N3F elections! Participate in some aspect of N3F!

### *Denise Fisk*

Thought I'd try my hand at my first-ever LOC for the next issue of "TNFF," so here goes! I just rejoined N3F, after several years of being away, and it's so great to be back!

I enjoyed reading David Heath's letter about the film version of "Spider Man." And agree: the technology was awesome! However well special effects may have reigned in this movie, there's another aspect that's been commonly overlooked, at least in the reviews I've read to date. Specifically the role of Mary Jane, Spidey's love interest. As portrayed by Cameron Diaz, she's certainly a very beautiful set piece, but only that. While Mary Jane gave lip service to pursuing professional goals after high school, in reality, she only shuttled between Spidey, or his enemy, the Green Goblin's son, until one or the other would offer her romantic security. Only then, in the glow of romance, could she find her "purpose," and "truly live." She certainly played

the role of a damsel in continual distress to perfection, but what came afterwards, when she had to learn how to rescue herself, especially since Spidey wouldn't always be around to get her out of scrapes?

Alas, the movie never even explored this possibility, and therein lies the rub. Not having been an avid reader of the "Spider Man" comics, I obviously can't vouch for how Mary Jane's portrayed there. However, as played in the movie, she's an insult to most modern women! Give me a break! Many women nowadays are going to college (or trade school) after high school to get a good education, go on to careers, learn to be self-sufficient, and not wait around for a man to give their existence a "meaning."

Let's hope that in any upcoming sequels (and, given the way the movie ended, there has to be a sequel!), Mary Jane has gotten her MBA, and is a very successful career woman in the Big Apple.

Let's also hope that, after the very shabby way Spidey rejected her vulnerable declaration of love at the end, Mary Jane carefully considers if she even wants to give a very unstable Spidey a second chance, should he come around again. Perhaps by then, she will have a more stable man in her life, thereby leaving Spidey behind in a miserable web of his own making!

## Remembering Don Franson



Photo courtesy of Robert Franson

### *Susan VanSchuyver*

The tragedy of the loss of the pioneers of SF fandom continues with the death of Donald Franson. A lot of Don's history with N3F took place before I joined, but I know he was instrumental in running our club for many, many years as well as generally contributing to fandom. (I'm sure someone else much more knowledgeable than I will supply the facts.) When I first became Directorate Chair and President, I frequently sought his advice and counsel. His approach was always practical, no-nonsense, and to the point. In the midst of some

controversy, he was very reassuring. I've missed him over the last year, and he will be missed by the entire club for years to come.

## Was It Don's Fault?

by Catherine Mintz

Back in the dark ages, I published a small literary magazine, which, as I have told in STET, fell into the hands of several fans. They graciously told my what was wrong with my fanzine — my what? — and so I began to learn of the world of fandom.

One of the people was Don Franson. Everyone else dropped out when they discovered I was not printing what I would learn to call LOCs, but Don persisted. He sent letters, he sent copies of strange magazines from some club with an alphanumeric name. He urged me to join, I would like it.

It took him four months to arouse my curiosity and/or wear me down. I sent in my dues, which were, even for the times, a lot less than they are today. For the first two years or so I merely skimmed the contents and went about my business, which was learning Asian languages.

Then along came this guy Heath, and he, seeing a doodle I put on the outside of an envelope of a letter to him — we depended on the Post Office in those times — said I should send in some art. So I sent him some of what I produced while I was listening to people speak in tongues, or at least that was what it sounded like when I was tired.

Somewhat later came Lola Andrews — later to be Lola Ann Center — and she suggested as she suggested to many people that I run for office. I did; I won. And so ten years sped by and many things happened, among them that I rediscovered writing, something I had not done anything with for years.

In fear and trembling, I sent out my first submission, which was rejected, as one would expect. But I continued to send things out from time to time. Some great while after I had qualified for membership I was persuaded to join SFWA, Damon's Knight's

other creation.

More time passed. Don grew older, and asked me to take over some of his jobs. I accepted the Kaymars, the Short Story Contest, and the post of Historian. He was disappointed I would not run for office, having curiously good memories of my term of service considering the frank and free — as diplomats put it — discussions we had while I was an officer.

And now I am a professional author and the East Coast Regional Director for SFWA. We're holding the Nebulas here, in Philadelphia, this coming year, and I'll be hosting the Authors and Editors in NYC. I derive some considerable pleasure from horrifying the less-liberal minded of my fellow SFWAns when they discover I am still a member of N3F.

True, I did drop out, but Don spared no effort to get me to rejoin, even to the point of offering to pay my dues. He knew me, once I was in would work for the club. Frankly, I like being a fan, and I like being a Neffer, and if it were not that I am run out of time, I would even stand for office as Don wished I would.

So, in the end, many things were Don's fault. I miss him and thank him for being himself. He was the very best Don Franson there could possibly be.





## Book Reviews



The Quantum Rose by Catherine Asaro  
(2000, Tor Books)

Reviewed by Denise Fisk

In the far-flung future, the Skolian Empire has many planets within its domain. One, Balumil, is a rather backwater world, having lost the technology of its original founders thousands of years before. One particularly poor province, Argali, is ruled by young Kamoj Argali. Desperate to save her people (mostly farmers whose fortunes rise and fall with their crops), Kamoj becomes engaged to Jax Ironbridge, the governor of a more prosperous province. However, Ironbridge, though ambitious, is also cruel, and occasionally uses verbal and physical abuse to keep Kamoj in line. She is quite fearful of Ironbridge, but if she breaks off the engagement, then there's no hope for her people.

Enter Havyrl Lionstar, a wealthy prince from Lyshriol, a more technologically advanced planet also within the Skolian Empire. He's already resided on Balumil for some time, and has even done some extensive remodeling of the Quartz Palace, the old Argali family's manor house. After meeting Kamoj, he's quite taken with her, and asks permission to marry her. Kamoj, at first reluctant, eventually agrees to marry Havyrl, because he seems a much kinder man than Jax, plus his wealth will help her people get out of their poverty. After some initial bumps, the marriage appears to be happy, as they're well suited to each other. However, Jax is quite angry over this turn of events, and kidnaps Kamoj. After intense negotiations, Kamoj is returned to Havyrl, but damage has already been done: Jax has beaten and raped Kamoj. She fears that she will never again be about to trust any man after this trauma, including gentle Havyrl Lionstar.

This novel starts off very well, with careful world

building, and some realistic interactions between the characters. Kamoj's desperation, especially, comes across very sharply, as she walks a fine line in trying to balance her people's needs with her own. Jax is also not the typical one-note "evil villain." Rather, he's a very complex man, who loves Kamoj in his limited way, and yet, reflecting his world's feudal background, primarily regards marriage to her as an alliance of their two provinces. Havyrl is also very realistically conflicted: he's caught between this medieval world and its charms, and the more modern advances of his own world. How to balance the two? Especially now that he's married to Kamoj. How will they fit into both worlds?

However, there are several very bothersome details. One is the age difference between Kamoj and Havyrl: she's 18 to his 69. Granted, he has virtually eternal youth, thanks to Lyshriol's technical advancements. However, at least in the beginning, he seems more of a "father figure" to Kamoj, rather than her peer. What would make this story more realistic is to add some years to Kamoj. She can still remain (relatively) naive, but being more of an age with Havyrl would be more believable.

Also, there is not really a lot of processing about the rape. Which is very surprising, and extremely disappointing, given the gender roles, and politics related thereto, that Asaro touches upon elsewhere. Some mention is made of this tragic incident throughout the novel, but not enough. Too soon, and Kamoj ready to resume sexual relations with Havyrl, all without undergoing any kind of counseling. Realistically, it takes a rape victim many years to heal, and Kamoj is no exception. The novel would be much more powerful if Kamoj took steps to actively confront this trauma, including enlisting the help of a professional. Havyrl does offer some kind words along the way (and also expresses his own anger over the rape), but his is not the professional help that Kamoj needs at this point.

The Quantum Rose won the 2001 Nebula Award, and is the sixth novel in the ongoing Skolian Empire saga, though it can be read on its own.

The Eyre Affair by Jasper Fforde  
(Hodder & Stoughton, London, 2001)  
Reviewed by Jon Swartz

This alternate history novel is set in a 1985 Great Britain in which Baconians are trying to convince the world that Francis Bacon really wrote Shakespeare, Surrealists and Impressionists are engaging in riots, and thousands of men are named John Milton. In addition, corner "Wil-Speak" machines quote Shakespeare, Richard III is performed with audience participation, and a person can get lost (literally) in a poem. In other words, the people of this Great Britain have a special relationship with literature.

Into this setting Fforde introduces time travel, cloning, and his super-villain Acheron Hades, the "Third Most Wanted Man in the World." For years Hades has been stealing manuscripts and holding them for ransom, his plan seeming to be the destruction of literature as it is known and loved. His ultimate goal is the fictional *Jane Eyre*, whom he means to eliminate completely. To carry out this plan Hades steals the original manuscript of the Charlotte Brontë novel.

Feisty "Special Operative" Tuesday Next, known for her literary detective skills, has to bring this notorious criminal to justice. She has been on the trail of her former instructor since he eliminated Mr. Quaverley from Martin Chuzzlewit (when he re-

moved him from the book's original manuscript, the character immediately disappeared from all subsequent editions of the book). If you don't remember Mr. Quaverley, you probably read Dickens' book before 1985! Tuesday enters the original text of *Jane Eyre* by means of her dotty Uncle Mycroft's "Prose Portal," intending to rescue Jane before her character is expunged from the manuscript. In addition to dealing with Jane and Edward Rochester, Tuesday must cope with other problems: her time-travelling father (a former colonel in the ChronoGuard who can reduce time to an ultra-slow trickle), the loss of her brother in a Crimean War that has been dragging on for 130+ years, the meddling of Jack Schitt of the Goliath Corporation, etc.

This is Fforde's first novel. It has been variously described as science fiction, a mystery, an action adventure, and a love story. Whatever the classification, it is truly unique and a great read! No degree in English is needed to appreciate it; the average literate reader will find plenty to chuckle over here. Fforde is described on the book's dust jacket as "writing purely for his own pleasure for the past ten years, and . . . delighted that this is about to change."

Originally published in the UK (2001), this novel saw US publication in 2002, winning the William L. Crawford IAFA Fantasy Award. A sequel, Lost in a Good Book, is scheduled for publication in the UK this year.

## The 2002 N3F Short Story Contest

by Catherine Mintz and Elizabeth Caldwell

The N3F Short Story Contest is at least a quarter of a century old, started by Don Franson some time after he joined the club. The purpose of the contest was, and is, that the winner achieve professional publication.

Contestants are limited to novice writers. The contest is intended to encourage people who would

like to write to become familiar with the expected professional standards. A professional writer is the final judge. Prize money is awarded as follows: \$50 for first place, \$30 for second, and \$20 for third.

The club assumes no responsibility for publication. As contest administrators, we are considering arranging for on-line publication for interested authors.

### Submissions Guidelines

Standard professional format should be used. For contest purposes, this means the manuscript should be typed in black ink on white, 8.5 by 11

inch opaque paper (the nearest European size is acceptable if the American size is unavailable), double-spaced with one-inch margins all around the text. No more than two inked corrections per page.

The story's title and appropriate page number must be on every sheet. There should be a front sheet with only the contestant's full name, postal address, and the title of the work.

For manuscript returns, enclose a 9 by 12 inch (or European equivalent) SASE with sufficient return postage in US stamps affixed. No IRCs. Disposable manuscripts should be clearly marked as such and accompanied by a #10 SASE or European equivalent to receive notification about the story. **If SASEs of appropriate size and postage are not included, manuscripts will not be returned and notification will not be made.**

Stories must be more than 1,000 words and less

than 4,000 words. **The deadline for this year's contest is Dec. 1, 2002.**

Stories should be within the genres of science fiction, fantasy or horror. The contest is for novice writers who have not had more than two stories published at the SFWA professional rate, currently three cents a word. Manuscripts are received throughout the year but judging will not begin until after Dec. 1, 2002. Contestants may enter as many times as they wish, but each manuscript must be packaged separately.

For full details, visit <http://www.simegen.com/fandom/n3f/>, send e-mail to Elizabeth Caldwell at [ladycarrieavon@hotmail.com](mailto:ladycarrieavon@hotmail.com), or write to her at 27975 Belgrave Road, Pepperpike, OH 44124-4636. Mail queries without SASEs will go unanswered.

## Mac Wheels In by Al MacIntyre

### Beautiful Minds and Barryar

The movie "A Beautiful Mind" is a MUST SEE recommendation, in fact worth seeing AGAIN after the first time, because it is like a science-fiction mystery in which you figure out more stuff as it goes along & you might want to view it again with the advantage of having figured out some of what is going on.

Then, like me, you might want to visit the book store for a follow-up. When I was at Barnes & Noble for the book, I also picked up the latest from Lois McMaster Bujold. Incidentally, you might want to check out the Barnes & Noble Web site for their newsletter on upcoming SF releases [www.bn.com/explorations](http://www.bn.com/explorations).

I saw the movie "A Beautiful Mind," then told some people about it. Initially I did not realize it was a true story about a real mathematician until close to him getting the Nobel Prize for Economics, and I wanted to know more about his theory, but I guess within the scope of movie plot that could not really be presented any better than it was.

It was the whole bit about U.S. Intelligence having him study U.S. media for patterns of Communist messages, before the psychiatrist diagnosed him as a schizophrenic, that I just could not buy as a valid theory ... it was just too far-fetched, and then I realized that we were seeing these other people through his eyes, and the sadness of the state of the art of curing people of these problems is such that it also cures them of the brilliant mind and being human. The movie was very clever in packaging what was really going on.

My friends tell me that I really need to get the book that the movie is based on. Apparently there is a bit of controversy over how the book was represented on both the PBS documentary about it, and the movie apparently took a lot of liberties.

However, the movie turned me on to learning more about several subjects. When people see stuff that is not there, is it as real for them as was represented by the movie? Is the state of art of curing people of mental problems still such that the risk is great that they are also cured of whatever it is that makes them a unique valuable person?

In terms of a reliable picture, I have been advised to rank the info: 1. The Book 2. PBS Documentary 3. The Movie.

I stopped by Barnes & Noble to pick up the book A Beautiful Mind by Sylvia Nasar. While I was there, I asked Customer Service if they had a book that provided an overview of his theory and its application ... the one that earned him the Nobel Prize ... well I saw the table of contents (on their computer screen) of Celebration of John F Nash Jr (an \$ 80.00 book) by Harold W Kuhn. That read a bit like a very high level College Text ... My current interest is more focused on something a bit like "An introduction to John Nash Theory for Dummies." I guess a search of the Internet for articles in popular magazines might be the way to go.

While I was at Barnes & Noble, I saw that one of my favorite authors, Lois McMaster Bujold, had a new book out — Diplomatic Immunity — still in hardback. I got it yesterday. I read it yesterday.

I have not yet cracked the John Nash book. This weekend is my plan. It is a bigger read than the novel.

Diplomatic Immunity is 300 pages, at about 35 lines per page. John Nash's biography is 450 pages, smaller print (more density per page), at about 45 lines per page (also more words per line), same size pages. More stuff on a page does not mean it's easier to pour it into my brain, but a bit more user unfriendly in the read, so possibly slower pace of reading the content. This is not something that will be readable in one sitting, like the novel was.

Bujold is one of my favorite authors, thanks to this series. Human Space is peppered with planets connected by wormholes, where each planetary society could be almost have been written by a different author, they are so alien to each other. Bujold is that talented that she is the equal of scores of SF authors. The governments of these worlds are in perpetual conflicts, which they attempt to resolve by military action, often using mercenaries, but more often via underhanded political intrigue plots that have to be deciphered by our hero Miles.

If you are a fan of Lois McMaster Bujold, you are probably familiar with the timeline of Miles Vorkosigan / Admiral Naismith. You also know that Miles got fired from Military Intelligence because he covered up the seizures he was having

thanks to cryogenic recovery from being killed by a needle grenade, then his first assignment as Auditor was to investigate the mysterious fate of his former boss Simon Ilyan.

Well I don't want to totally spoil the story for those of you who have not yet read the latest book, but basically there are these Komarr Trade Fleets running all over the place with Barraryaran military escorts, then if some crisis occurs, the escorts leave the merchants unescorted & rendezvous where the trouble is. This means that there is invariably a good-sized force on the right side of any wormhole nexus. A good military strategy for this universe. This story is set at the end of a honeymoon trip to Earth with his wife Lady Ekaterin, who he met on his assignment as Imperial Auditor in the book Komarr (that's where the rebels found a way to fire a weapon into a worm hole that caused the worm hole to collapse & release all the energy that it had, an atomic boomerang is understating the effect), and then courted in A Civil Campaign (romance and intrigue and klutz misjudgement calls).

Do you remember the first story in the whole series? In Falling Free, the Quaddies are created by genetic engineering, humans with their lower limbs turned into a second pair of arms ... four arms with hands on the ends, no legs, perfect for working in outer space, where legs for locomotion are somewhat redundant. But then they lost their value to the corporate interests that invented them, when new grav technologies came along, and they had to escape the brutal economic consequences. Over the long haul of Bujold's novels, we have occasionally met these people ... there was a raid on Jackson's Whole where the hermaphrodite Bel Thorne from Beta fell in love with Nicol, a quaddie musician.

Diplomatic Immunity takes us to Quaddie Space. In Falling Free they fled to the ends of the then-known universe, but eventually human space grew and swallowed them up. One reason they fled had to do with "normal" human prejudices against "mutants." If you've read any of the Bujold books, you know that the Barraryarans have this prejudice to an extreme degree. Another common theme is that people on space stations are paranoid about

contamination.

So we have a mixture of events here that are guaranteed to create interesting plots: Barrayaran military let loose on the Quaddie Space station for what any military gets to do after being at space for a long while, but there are these racist attitudes guaranteed to antagonize the locals; a smuggler uses biowarfare to cover his tracks; a victim of the smuggler who survived but wants revenge for all

his friends killed by the smuggler.

The victim talks to one of the security people in the Barrayaran & Komarr combined fleet, and the smuggler kills the security person in a mysterious way guaranteed to drive everyone up the wall, Barrayaran and Quaddie. This leads to Admiral Vorparil (an older relative of cousin Ivan) ordering everyone back to the ships.

A progressive jump pilot (jump pilot meaning

## *The N3F Trader*

"The Youthian" — Extra copies available of Issues 1 & 2 of the N3F Youth Bureau's 1995 newsletter. Send SASE (64 cents total) to Sarah Glasgow, 3275 Mauricia Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95051.

### **A Neffer Special**

**FOR SALE:** Almost the entire run of *Locus*, an SF news magazine, from Sept. 1994 to Feb. 2001. Writer interviews, photos, book reviews, con reps, etc. \$2 each or all for \$50 plus shipping costs. SASE for full list to Janine Stinson, PO Box 430314, Big Pine Key, FL 33043-0314.

### **A Neffer Special**

#### **CALLIGRAPHY BY**

**CARLA:** Fine writings of your choice for birth or wedding announcements, other occasions. Club members will be charged the standard price, 100% of which will be donated to N3F. I work fast and have been in business in calligraphy for 3 years. Commissions by mail are no problem. Send SASE for information and samples to Carla

Hall Minor, 905 Whitney Court, Plano, TX 75023, or e-mail your request to c-minor@attbi.com.

### **ANGELA K. SCOTT CREATIONS**

Looking for unique fantasy and SF-themed merchandise for yourself or others? Handcrafted bookmarks, stationery and cards from Angela K. Scott Creations are available now! Send an SASE for catalog to: Angela K. Scott-Gosnell, LRM, CMR 402 Box 1438, APO AE 09180.

### **A Neffer Special**

**FOR SALE** — Paperback

books  
\$5 each (*Star Wars: Specter of the Past* by Timothy Zahn/ good condition; *Star Wars: Jedi Search*, Vol. 1 in the Jedi Academy Trilogy by Kevin J. Anderson/ good condition, some scuffs and minor creases) and hardback book *Star Wars: Planet of Twilight* by Barbara Hambly, near-mint condition, \$10. Action Figure of Xena II Warrior Disguise from Hercules: The Legendary Journeys, still in original package, package slightly bent, \$14. 100% of

paperback sales and 50% from other items to be donated to N3F. All prices include postage. Write to Sarah Glasgow, 3275 Mauricia Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95051.

### **FOR SALE OR TRADE**

2 counted cross stitch booklets, \$3 each. "Scary Book" features Real Musgrave dragon; other features dragon and castle by Teresa Wentzler. Full color reproductions of completed piece in each booklet. ONLY money orders or equivalent in U.S. postage accepted in payment. Send to Janine Stinson, PO Box 430314, Big Pine Key, FL 33043-0314.

### **WANTED**

Digital copies of Tightbeam and pre-combination TNFF zines. Query before sending for formats. Write to David Heath, PO Box 1985, El Cajon, CA 92022-1985.

*The N3F Trader provides free ads for goods or services. Donate at least 50% of your item's proceeds to N3F, and it's A Neffer Special!*

trained to take ships out of normal space; progressive meaning not a racist) falls in love with one of quaddies, Garnet Five, a dancer in the Minchenko Ballet, a free-fall exhibition that combines gymnastics and music, so he is in her apartment, not wearing his wrist com when the recall is sounded, so the military police are sent to round up folks missing, and they happen to be of the racist persuasion & are the cause of a brawl at the ballet dancer's housing. So Quaddie security puts the 3 Barrayarans in jail ... the pilot and the 2 racist military policemen, but somehow the forces back on the ships do not have a clear picture of what happened, so another military police expedition is sent to rescue the earlier one, and we have a confrontation that turns into a diplomatic incident.

So Barrayan Emperor Gregor dispatches Miles to patch things up and make sure that we will be able to trade there again.

Half this merchant fleet is owned by the Toscane family, the same one that Gregor's wife is in, so Miles needs to balance things to not appear to be favoring the Toscane family over their Komarr competition.

That smuggler is a renegade Ba from the Cetagandan Star Creche, who used bioweapons to kill everyone else on one of the annual ships carrying the latest genetic improvements to one of the Cetagandan worlds, then make off with the materials, planning to start a new empire. Ba are truly neuter, not male female or both like the hermaphrodite. He tells the merchant community that he is transporting mammals, you know like a new line of farm animals, and the trail leads through Barrayan space, which means that the Cetagandans are ready for another war, because they think the Barrayarans are involved.

These books have wheels within wheels within wheels of plots. I love them. But if you are new to the collection, you might want to start with something earlier in the series.

Falling Free is the precursor to this universe, and it won a Nebula. Shards of Honor is where Miles' mother and father meet & fall in love ... they come from opposite sides of the war between Beta and

Barrayar. In Barrayar there is a poison gas attack on his parents, which fails, but leads to Miles having brittle bones for life, but what I found most interesting was how the unauthorized mission played out, when Cordelia went on a shopping trip to the Capital. I would consider this one the best of all that I have read.

Miles flunks out of the Service Academy so he takes a trip, and in The Warrior's Apprentice Admiral Naismith of the Free Dendari Mercenaries come into existence. Borders of Infinity is a collection of short novelettes that will give you a flavor of Miles life and universe. In The Vor Game the bored Gregor, Emperor to be, goes off on his adventure & needs to be rescued by Miles, ultimately leading to adults giving Gregor some real responsibilities. One of the best (five), and it won a Hugo Award.

Miles and Ivan attend a state funeral in Cetaganda and get caught up inside a Cetagandan bio political treason plot. In Ethan of Athos we are introduced to a world of homosexual men with no women who have to buy women's eggs for reproduction, and some other plot leads to a regular purchase being hijacked, so Doctor Ethan is sent to investigate, where he meets up with Commander Elli Quinn on Kline Station. Some Komarr revolutionaries have produced a double for Miles whom they try to substitute when the Dendaris are in a mess on Earth in Brothers in Arms, thanks to a confrontation with the Cetagandans. Miles meets his clone brother Mark again in Mirror Dance in an adventure at Jackson's Whole, that proves lethal for one of them.

In Memory, Miles tries to cover up his seizures, so he has been fired when something happens to Simon's mind, and Miles asks Gregor for an Imperial Auditor to investigate the case, and Gregor makes Miles one. Komarr was the space accident that Gregor sent Miles and the Professor to investigate. In A Civil Campaign, Miles finally gets hitched, but more due to Barrayan internal politics than his strategic skills.

## FANZINES

by Ted White

Fanzines are a basic part of science fiction fandom, having been in existence as long as fandom itself — the past 70 years. Fanzines are a reflection of many fans' interest in the printed word and amateur publishing. The publication you are reading this in is a fanzine, but a specialized one. A variety of other fanzines are also available and this column will cover some of them.

All fanzines are published as a hobby and lose money. Their editors appreciate money to defray their expenses and sometimes list single-copy or subscription prices, but they appreciate even more your LoC. Feedback — better known in fandom as "egoboo" — is what fanzine publishing is all about.

SLEIGHT OF HAND #1, Spring/Summer 2002 (John Teehan, 499 Douglas Ave., Providence, RI 02908; "Copies available for \$2 (\$3 outside the US) or The Usual;" e-mail to [tumble@ids.net](mailto:tumble@ids.net))

John Teehan read SF most of his life, but only recently discovered fandom and fanzines. Last year's Worldcon in Philadelphia was his first convention, which he attended with some hesitation, and "In the weeks that followed MilPhil, I discovered Bill Burns' wonderful [cfanzines.com](http://cfanzines.com) website and the Memoryhole, Timebinders and Trufen e-lists." With his discovery of fanzines came his discovery of fandom's history: "I'm mostly just sitting and soaking in the stories. Fandom has such a rich history that's very hard to describe."

And, inevitably, John wanted to do a fanzine of his own. *Sleight of Hand* #1 is the result. Frankly, I wish my first fanzine had been half as good. The fanzine runs 28 letter-sized pages, but is printed on sheets twice as large, folded and saddle-stapled. Like virtually all modern fanzines (except *Twink*) it's produced on a computer. Large, readable Adobe Garamond type is set in a double-columned format. Art is sprinkled nicely through the text.

But the key to any fanzine is its written contents, and here once again *Sleight of Hand* triumphs. The main article is from Dave Langford, whose groaning bookshelf full of Fan Writer Hugos was well

and honestly won. Langford's "Microcon Metamorphoses" is the speech he gave at Microcon in March, 1999. It hasn't dated at all and is a delight to read.

Rich brown's "Why I Only 'Used To' Know That Diana Rigg Was A Natural Red-Head" is a rewrite of an e-list post of rich's in which he explains how he came to see Diana Rigg nude, from a distance of perhaps 20 feet — with several digressions thrown in for good measure.

Mike Resnick's "Tales of the Prozines" is a good demonstration of Resnick's ability as a story-teller, and his willingness to hold actual facts at bay when they get in the way of his stories. Since these purport to be *true* stories, let the reader beware — several are embroidered into fantasy and many incidental facts and details are wrong. But they make an enjoyable read.

The last Big Name in the issue is Janis Ian — the creator, more than 40 years ago, of the song and recording "Society's Child," an improbable pop hit a year after its release. She too read SF for many years, but only just discovered fandom. Her "Worldcon Diary: How I Spent My Summer Vacation," describes the buildup to and her attendance at the same Philadelphia Worldcon at which John got his toes wet. It's a bit of a gosh-wow piece, but that's not bad, considering its source.

In addition to a couple of minor items, and a page of "Ten-Second Reviews" by the editor, there's a letter column — in *Sleight of Hand*'s first issue. It's made up of a running conversation which first occurred on one of the fannish e-lists after John announced his intention to do a fanzine and asked for advice. Next issue will have actual letters of comment.

All in all, this fanzine is superior to most first issues, especially by those with no prior experience. I feel no hesitation in recommending it, and I'm looking forward to #2.

A MIMOSA FANTHOLOGY (MIMOSA 28), June, 2002 (Nicki & Rich Lynch, P.O. Box 3120, Gaithersburg, MD 20885; copies available for \$5 (\$8 outside North America) or "a printed fanzine in trade;" e-mail to [fiawol@cpug.org](mailto:fiawol@cpug.org) or visit the

website at <http://www.jophan.org/mimosa/>)

Mimosa has been published since 1982, and is celebrating its 20th anniversary with the publication of two "fanthologies" and after that will cease publication with a final issue – #30. (There is an old tradition in fandom that few fanzines make it past their 30th issue and the Lynchs are adhering to this tradition.) #28 is the first "fanthology" issue.

Most "fanthologies" are year's-best collections, drawn from a wide variety of fanzines (and in recent years have been published in cooperation with and the sponsorship of the annual fanzine fans' convention, Corflu) – but *A Mimosa Fanthology* is drawn solely from the first 16 issues of *Mimosa*. This volume (106 pages with wraparound cover) is the editors' choice from issues published between 1982 and 1994. There are 29 pieces, plus the Lynchs' opening editorial and a connective narration which introduces each piece and places it in context. The material is presented chronologically, starting with a minor anecdote (less than a page long) from #1. Many, but not all, of the covers of

these issues are also reproduced as thumbnails.

*Mimosa* evolved into a fanzine about fanhistory – publishing the anecdotes and memoirs of a number of older fans, going back to Forry Ackerman (the self-proclaimed *first fan*). But this is less obvious in the material from early issues, which is oriented more towards localized fandoms and personal reminiscences. But by *Mimosa* #5 and Dal Coger's "The Degler Legend" (about fandom's first Major Crackpot, back in the '40s), the die is cast.

*Mimosa* has won several Hugo Awards for Best Fanzine, and the reasons for those awards can be found, in part, in this volume. And no doubt more will be found in #29, which the Lynchs hope to publish "by the end of 2002." Frankly, I'm more interested in the final issue – #30 – just to see how they wrap everything up, since I've already read the material which will appear in #29, but these two *Mimosa Fanthologies* offer those of you who are new to fanzines an unparalleled opportunity to skim the cream from a Hugo-winning fanzine.

## Submission Guidelines

**PUBLISHING SCHEDULE:** The zine publishes four times a year (quarterly) in March, June, September and December.

**DEADLINES:** 25th day of the month preceding the publication month. As an example, material intended for the March issue should be in the Editor's hands by Feb. 25. **If it doesn't get here in time, it goes in the next issue.**

**WHAT WE PUBLISH:** The zine is still the official clubzine for N3F, so it includes all the stuff that it's always published. Added to that will be the lettercol from Tightbeam and whatever else members submit: reviews (book, movie, TV show, game, etc.), conreps, genre poetry, and other fan-nish texts. Art is always needed; if it can be sent on a disk or in e-mail, so much the better. Please send **ONLY COPIES** of your work, whether it's art or text.

**FORMATS WE WILL ACCEPT:** Paper cop-

ies are welcome, as are copies delivered on a disk or via e-mail. The Fan is done in MS Publisher, and I can accept any electronic file that has a .txt extension. If you're not sure what that means, write and ask me.

### 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 a LoC and the editor can do a bit of editing to turn it into an article. More than one article has started out that way. If you'd like to try an article, recall all that stuff you were supposed to learn in English Composition and use it. See, there's a reason you should have paid attention in English class.

For art: I can always use fillos and front cover art. On occasion the editor may run an artist's showcase for a member. All members should keep in mind that N3F serves artists and writers. Now, get busy!

## NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION (N3F) Membership Application

New Member     Reinstatement     Joint Membership     Gift Membership

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OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_ Male  Female  Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Please check your current SF/F-related interests.

<input type="checkbox"/> APA's	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> artwork	<input type="checkbox"/> audio
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<input type="checkbox"/> editing	<input type="checkbox"/> fanzines	<input type="checkbox"/> filksinging	<input type="checkbox"/> games
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# Years interested in science fiction \_\_\_\_\_ SF Conventions attended \_\_\_\_\_

Read prozines and fanzines? Which? \_\_\_\_\_

SF fantasy type preferences \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite SF a/o fantasy writers \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Which (if any) of the following would you be willing to help the club with?  artwork  
 corresponding     publishing     recruiting at conventions     organizing activities

\*\*\*\*\*

Name of sponsoring member (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Dues are \$18 per year (\$22 for joint memberships) which includes subscriptions to the club's fanzine as well as other benefits and activities. Make checks or money orders payable to **William Center**, our treasurer (not N3F). All payments must be in US funds. Mail dues and application to club secretary **Dennis Davis**, 25549 Byron St., San Bernardino, CA 92404-6403. Please allow at least 8 weeks for your first zine to arrive.

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