



The National Fantasy Fan

Volume 75 Number 7

July 2016

Neffy Awards

The Neffy ballot will appear in our next issue. The time to prepare to vote is now.

SF Conventions

We really need a loyal Neffer volunteer, someone not currently doing work for our Federation, to step forward and volunteer to generate and maintain a listing of SF conventions. My inspiration for making this request is a note I received from Judy Carroll, reporting on a convention announcement she had recently received:

Mid-Atlantic Nostalgia Convention
Hunt Valley Wyndham Hunt Valley MD
September 15-17, 2016
www.MidAtlanticNostalgiaConvention.com
The celebrities represent many genres: westerns, comedy, drama etc., but they do have Keir Dullea and Gary Lockwood from 2001: A Space Odyssey.

It would be wonderful to have a listing of these, similar to our listing of game conventions...we don't. We need a convention column editor. Please volunteer!

Reviving Tightbeam

I have offered a hypothetical for reviving Tightbeam. (Or *Hyperspace Tightbeam* as it was once known.) TNFF has picked up a number of functions that at one point were included in Tightbeam. The proposal here is that Tightbeam would be a fiction+lettercolumn zine, that it would be electronic/PDF only, and that it would be as long as there was material. My old Game! magazine sometimes got up to 50 pages, monthly, via this route, so the approach is perhaps workable.

SF Magazines: If

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph. D.
N3F Historian

If: Worlds of Science Fiction -- usually known simply as If -- was a science fiction (SF) magazine first published in 1952 by Quinn Publications, owned at the time by James L. Quinn.

The magazine was successful, although it was never regarded as one of the top SF magazines. It achieved its greatest success under editor Frederik Pohl, winning the Hugo Award for best professional magazine three years running from 1966 to 1968. If published many award-winning stories over its 22 years, including Robert A. Heinlein's novel *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*.

Several well-known writers sold their first story to If; the most successful was Larry Niven, whose story "The Coldest Place" appeared in the December, 1964 issue. The features included over the years were also first rate and included -- in addition to editorials -- book reviews, contests, science briefs, short bios of SF personalities, and other entertaining features for SF fans.

If was merged into *Galaxy Science Fiction* after the December, 1974 issue, its 175th issue overall. Among the stories that were to have appeared in If, but ended up in *Galaxy* was the novel *The Sign of the Unicorn* by Roger Zelazny.

Origins

The first issue of If was dated March, 1952, with

Art — Jose Sanchez on pages 2, 3, 7, and 9
Cedar Sanderson on page 5

Please send contributions to the Editor, George Phillies,
phillies@4liberty.net
We desperately need your contributions/



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Support the N3F! Volunteer Now!

Many New Volunteers are needed: Electronic Publica-
 tion Support, Readers for the Blind, Con Listings,
 Advertising, Convention Hospitality, Outreach, Corre-
 spondence, Comics, Films.

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 ly by The National Fantasy Fan Federation.**

Paul W. Fairman as editor; it featured stories by Richard Shaver, Raymond Palmer, and Howard Browne, all writers who were regulars of the Ziff-Davis SF magazines. By the time the third issue reached the newsstands, the disappointing sales figures for the first issue were in, and Quinn decided to let Fairman go.

Quinn persevered with himself as editor. His first issue as official editor was dated July, 1952, and he continued as editor on the masthead for some years. Quinn brought in Ed Valigursky as the magazine's art editor; Valigursky designed covers, including some wraparound artwork, which helped improve circulation. Quinn eventually began searching for a permanent replacement editor.

SF writer Lester del Rey turned down the job, but Quinn was able to engage Larry T. Shaw, an active SF fan who had sold a few stories. Shaw joined in May, 1953, as associate editor and soon began writing editorials (beginning with the September, 1953 issue) and assisting with story selection. The magazine's quality quickly improved and soon Quinn felt able to switch to a monthly schedule,



Commander Khyron

Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with zines via paper mail are \$18; with zines via email are \$6. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. or pay online at N3F.org

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instead of bi-monthly. Shaw left after only a year, however, and Quinn resumed the editorial responsibilities.

Paul Fairman

Paul Warren Fairman (1916 - 1977) was an editor and writer in a variety of genres under his own name and under pseudonyms. He published “No Teeth for the Tiger” in the February, 1950, issue of *Amazing Stories*. Two years later, he was the founding editor of *If*, but only edited four issues. In 1955, he became the editor of both *Amazing Stories* and *Fantastic*.

Larry T. Shaw

Lawrence Taylor Shaw (1924 - 1985) was a Hugo Award-winning SF fan, author, editor, and literary agent who usually published under the name Larry T. Shaw. Shaw joined the famous New York Futurians during the early 1940s. From 1948 through the early 1950s, he wrote short fiction before becoming an editor for *If* and later *Infinity Science Fiction*. Shaw and Quinn clashed almost from the beginning of their association with regard to editorial policy. Shaw wanted to publish prestige stories that were also controversial, while Quinn only wanted to publish entertaining stories by traditional pulp standards.



Khyron Accusing

Frederik Pohl

Frederik George Pohl, Jr. (1919 - 2013) was a SF writer, editor, and member of the Futurians, with a career spanning more than seventy-five years — from his first published work, the 1937 poem “Elegy to a Dead Satellite: Luna,” to stories and

essays published as late as 2012. The Science Fiction Writers of America named Pohl its 12th recipient of the Damon Knight Grand Master Award in 1993, and he was inducted into the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame in 1998.

Ed Valigursky

Edward Valigursky (1926 – 2009) was sometimes credited as such or simply as Ed Valigursky. After artistic training at the Art Institute of Chicago, the American Academy of Arts, and the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, he began working as an associate art director for Ziff-Davis Publications in 1952. He became art director for Quinn Publishing in the following year, and moved into freelance work two years later. While at *If*, he recruited several other excellent SF artists, including Kelly Freas, Mel Hunter, and Ed Emsh.

Title Changes

Beginning its run as *If: Worlds of Science Fiction*, the title was changed on the title page to *Worlds of If Science Fiction* in 1961 -- even though the magazine's indicia read *If Science Fiction* -- and then was changed to *Worlds of If*. All this time and later, however, most readers thought of, and referred to, the magazine simply as *If*.

Some Facts/Conclusions About *If*

SF giants Horace Gold and Theodore Sturgeon both claimed to have thought of *If* as the name for a SF magazine, but Sturgeon also believed that 1952 was the wrong time to bring out another SF digest. In fact, he proved to be prophetic as several digest SF magazines folded the year after *If* began.

When H. L. Gold was editor (1959 - 1961) he frequently placed stories in *If* that he had accepted for *Galaxy*, but felt that he didn't have sufficient room to publish them there.

It has been claimed that the only explicit editorial direction the various *If* editors ever received from Quinn was “to be entertaining.” If this were indeed the case, the goal was achieved.

Before Quinn sold *If*, he gave the editorship to Damon Knight for three issues. James Baen edited the last six issues before the magazine “merged” with *Galaxy*. Baen's explanation for the combina-

tion of the two magazines was that they had run out of paper, at least the kind of paper they could afford to use for their publications.

Bibliography

Clute, John & Peter Nicholls (eds.). *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*. London: Orbit, 1993.

Tuck, Donald H. *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy, Volume 3: Miscellaneous*. Chicago: Advent, 1982.

Tymn, Marshall B. & Mike Ashley (eds.). *Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Weird Fiction Magazines*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1985.

Note: In addition to the above sources, several Internet sites were consulted, including Fancyclopedia 3, ISFDB, and Wikipedia.

N3F Founding Members

Robert A. W. "Doc" Lowndes
by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph. D.
N3F Historian

Robert Augustine Ward "Doc" Lowndes (September 4, 1916 – July 14, 1998) was an American science fiction (SF) editor, author, agent, and fan. According to Damon Knight in his tell-all book, *The Futurians* (1977), Lowndes' friends gave him the nickname "Doc" because he once worked as a porter at a Greenwich, Connecticut hospital. He was also known by the nickname "Rawl." Lowndes was born and grew up in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and once stated that he began reading SF at age 14.

Lowndes is remembered today primarily for his editorial work. He edited such SF magazines as *Future Fiction*, *Science Fiction*, and *Science Fiction Quarterly* -- among other crime, western, and sports magazines for Columbia Publications -- in the 1940s. In the 1950s he edited *Dynamic Science Fiction* and *Science Fiction Stories*. He was also editor of the SF line for Avalon Books during the 1950s and 1960s -- beginning with the first title they published in 1956.

Lowndes was also a horror enthusiast. As a young fan in 1937, he received two letters of encouragement from horror author H. P. Lovecraft; and, in 1963, Lowndes edited the *Magazine of Horror*

(1963 - 1971) for Health Knowledge Inc. This magazine was popular and spawned several companion magazines: *Startling Mystery Stories* (1966), *Famous Science Fiction* (1966), *Weird Terror Tales* (1969), and *Bizarre Fantasy Tales* (1970) -- all of which Lowndes edited. The collapse of Health Knowledge in 1971 marked the end of these and several other popular magazines. *Startling Mystery Stories* is notable for carrying the first stories of Stephen King and F. Paul Wilson. Lowndes subsequently edited Acme News' magazines *Exploring the Unknown* and *Real Life Guide*, and then went to work as an associate editor for Hugo Gernsback's non-fiction magazine, *Sexology*.

With fellow former Futurian James Blish, he edited *The Best of James Blish* for Ballantine Books in 1979.

Lowndes did a lot of writing. He was a collaborator on several stories with other members of the Futurians, under the pen names of Arthur Cooke, S. D. Gottesman, Paul Dennis Lavond, and Lawrence Woods. For his solo work in the early 1940s Lowndes used the pseudonyms of Carol Grey, Mallory Kent, Wilfred Owen Morley, and Richard Morrison; later he added Carl Groener, Robert Morrison, Michael Sherman, Peter Michael Sherman, J. K. Stuart, and Jay Tyler to the list -- and he collaborated with Blish when they wrote *The Duplicated Man* in 1953 as by John MacDougal. It has been estimated that, over his career, he used more than 50 pseudonyms. He also wrote many essays and poems, as well as three solo SF novels: *Believers' World* (1952), *The Mystery of the Third Mine* (1953), and *The Puzzle Planet* (1961).

In addition, he wrote some excellent reference works, including *Three Faces of Science Fiction* (1973), *The Gernsback Days: The Evolution of Modern Science Fiction from 1911 to 1936* (2004), and *Hugo Gernsback: A Man Well Ahead of His Time* (2007).

In 1948 he married Dorothy Rogalin, who had a young son from a previous marriage. The couple decided to separate in 1967, and finally divorced in 1974.

Lowndes was an early SF fan, one of the leaders of the famous New York Futurians in the 1930s and 1940s. His most memorable fanzine of the time

was Le Vombiteur. He also worked for a short time as a literary agent, mostly handling the stories of his fellow Futurians. Later he was a member of First Fandom, and in 1991 was elected to the First Fandom Hall of Fame.

He also was a founding member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation in 1941, and our club is now celebrating its 75th year of existence.

Sources: The Futurians; Historical Dictionary of Science Fiction Literature; Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Weird Fiction Magazines; Monthly Terrors; Fancyclopedia 3; ISFDB; and Wikipedia.

Birthday Card Bureau

4 birthday cards were sent out in June.

--

R-Laurraine Tutihasi
laurraine@mac.com
<http://www.weasner.com/>

N'APA

The July 2016 issue of N'APA, issue 223, with zines from John Thiel, Jefferson Swycaffer, Lorien Rivendell, Jeff Barnes, and George Phillies, has been collated and transmitted.

Round Robins

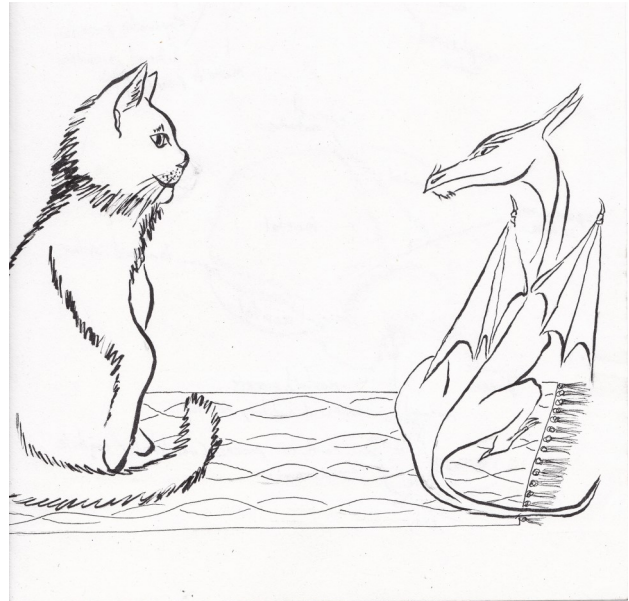
With all the superhero movies that came out in the last few years, and the list of new ones to be released in the coming few years, I am surprised no one has wanted to join a Round Robin and discuss their favorite heroes and villains.

So, for all you SUPERMAN FANS out there, here is a bit of Superman info. Question: How many of these TV series and movies have you seen or heard about? (Some of the old, oldies can be found online on DVD or YouTube.)

Faster than a speeding bullet! More powerful than a locomotive! Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound!

("Look! Up in the sky!" "It's a bird!" "It's a plane!" "It's Superman!")

Yes, it's Superman... strange visitor from another planet, who came to Earth with powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men! Superman... who can change the course of mighty rivers, bend



steel in his bare hands, and who, disguised as Clark Kent, mild-mannered reporter for a great metropolitan newspaper, fights a never-ending battle for truth, justice, and the American way! Opening Narration from Adventures of Superman TV series - ran from 1952 - 1958

The following men have all played Superman in TV or movies - live action only (no radio, animation, TV commercials, musicals on Broadway or TV specials, foreign movies, or in public at the 1939 Worlds Fair).

1. Kirk Alyn - 2 theatrical serials - Superman, 1948 / Atom Man vs. Superman, 1950
2. George Reeves - Superman and the Mole Men, 1951 movie / Adventures of Superman - TV series, 1952 - 1958
3. Christopher Reeve - the following movies: Superman: The Movie, 1978 / Superman II, 1980 / Superman III, 1983 / Superman IV: The Quest for Peace, 1987
4. John Newton (AKA John Haymes Newton) Superboy, 1988 TV series (first season)
5. Gerard Christopher - The Adventures of Superboy, 1989-1991 TV series (He took over the above series from John Newton. He played Superman for the 2nd, 3rd, & 4th season. The series name was retitled in season 3.)
6. Dean Cain - Lois and Clark: The New Adventures of Superman, 1993-1997 TV series
7. Tom Welling - Smallville, 2001-2011 TV series
8. Brandon Routh - Superman Returns, 2006 movie
9. Henry Cavill - Man of Steel, 2013 movie / Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice, 2016 movie

10. Tyler Hoechlin - Will appear on the Supergirl TV series Fall 2016

Join the Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror in TV, Movies and Books RR and you can discuss the merits of all the supermen who have played the Superman.

Snail Mail - Judy's List

We only have 9 Round Robins now that I have combined them

Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror in TV, Movies and Books.

(Any movie, TV series or book that comes under this subject can be discussed here.)

Writers and Their Works - Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror

(Any author who writes Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Horror can be discussed here.)

The following are
Stand Alone

- Fairy Tales and Folklore
- Beauty and the Beast in Fairy Tales, Movies and TV
- Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Artists
- Japanese Anime
- Cartoons and Cartooning
- Science Fiction Fantasy and Horror Video Games
- Comics and Graphic Novels

Seeking More Members - A Round Robin needs at least 3 members to start rounding. Please help these members by joining one of the following Round Robins.

- Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror in TV, Movies and Books - 2 members
- Writers and Their Works - Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror - 2 members
- Fairy Tales and Folklore - 2 members
- Beauty and the Beast in Fairy Tales, Movies and TV - 1 member

If you see any RR you would like to join please contact Judy Carroll
AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Electronic Round Robins

SUPERHERO MANIA IS GOING ON RIGHT NOW!

Come on People! This is what we live for! How long have we waited for the World to recognize the Mesmerizing Hold and Adventure of the Superhero? The Whole World has become Geeks.

Join an ERR and Support Your Superhero!

We need at least 3 members to start an ERR.
Following is the list of current ERR:

The Marvel Universe
DC Superheroes and Villains
All Things Star Wars
Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror in TV, Movies and Books
Beauty and the Beast in Fairy Tales, Books, Movies and on TV
Writers and Their Works - Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror

Bookworms - In this ERR the members read and discuss books from a list selected by the Bureau Heads of the Bookworms reading club. Currently they have 3 members.

For more information about the Bookworms reading list and their round robin contact

--- Graham & Wolf leeandjj@gmail.com

If you see an ERR you would like to join contact Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Welcommittee

Greetings Members!

Last month I told you we were in the process of contacting all the 'old' members to see how they are doing.

This project was completed before TNFF for June was received by the members.

We have Rob Hansen to thank for this accomplishment. Rob is the newest member of the Welcommittee.

He joined with a desire to help and the will to succeed.

Thank You, Rob, for being there for the N3F.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions about the club or the Welcomittee, or if you would like to join the Welcomittee please contact :

Judy Carroll AutumnSeas8012@yahoo.com

Treasurer

NEW & REINSTATED MEMBERS

No New Members

RENEWED:

No Renewing Members

EXPIRED/EXPIRING

Renew Now!!

Expiring in July

Cynthia Bagley

Terri Drake

STATUS CHANGES

Tom Feller - EXP 4/30/2016 - To Dropped (no email address)

Keith Walker - EXP 4/30/2016 - To Public/Non Voting

Holly Wilson - EXP 4/30/2016 - To Public/Non Voting

Roy J. Moore - EXP 4/30/2016 - To Public/Non Voting

Logan L Masterson - EXP 4/30/2016 - To Public/Non Voting

2701.17 (June 19, 2016)

+ 0.00 Paypal Dues

+ 0.00 Cash Dues

+ 0.00 Check Dues



Soldier Firing

- 75.01 Reimbursements (Postage)
- 0.00 PayPal Fees
- + 0.00 Interest

\$2626.16 (July 17, 2016)

Writers Exchange Bureau

This month we have a guest writer. Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln wrote more than speeches.

Did you know that Abraham Lincoln wrote a True Crime story?

He wrote about a court case he had in 1841. The story was published in a Quincy, Illinois newspaper in 1846 and titled "Remarkable Case of Arrest for Murder". It was reprinted in the March 1952 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine. The titled was changed to "The Trailor Murder Mystery."

Did you know that Abraham Lincoln was a fan of Edgar Allan Poe? (Poe's story "The Mystery of Marie Roget," was based on a real crime.)

See the following two links for more information and the actual story:
<http://storyoftheweek.loa.org/2011/02/remarkable-case-of-arrest-for-murder>
<http://www.criminalelement.com/blogs/2016/02/happy-birthday-to-the-most-famous-lawyer/thriller-writer-in-history-its-not-who-you-think>

Did you know that Abraham Lincoln wrote poetry?

My Childhood Home I See Again

My childhood's home I see again,
And sadden with the view;
And still, as memory crowds my brain,
There's pleasure in it too.

O Memory! thou midway world
'Twixt earth and paradise,
Where things decayed and loved ones lost
In dreamy shadows rise,

And, freed from all that's earthly vile,
Seem hallowed, pure, and bright,
Like scenes in some enchanted isle

All bathed in liquid light.
To read the rest of the poem and for more information visit:

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/poetry.htm>

“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other.”
Abraham Lincoln

If you would like to join the Writers Exchange Bureau please contact Judy Carroll AutumnSea-s8012@yahoo.com

Games Bureau

Our Games Convention list appears courtesy Omar DeWitt and the AHIKS Kommandeur, visible at AHIKS.com. Good sources for information on all kinds of conventions are the Steve Jackson game site: <http://sjgames.com/con> and the Columbia Game site: <http://columbiagames.com/convention/conventions.shtml>

July 23-31, Seven Springs Mountain Resort, PA
THE WORLD BOARDGAME CHAMPIONSHIPS
<http://www.boardgamers.org/wbcindex.html>

July 29-31, El Paso, Texas
BOARDER CITY GAME CONVENTION
<http://www.boardercon.com/>

July 30-31, Cary, NC
FANTASY GAMER'S CONCLAVE
koflgames@gmail.com

Aug. 1, Seattle, WA
PAX PRIME <http://west.paxsite.com/>

Aug. 4-7, Indianapolis, Indiana
GEN CON
conventions@sjgames.com

Aug. 4-7, Indianapolis, Indiana
MUNCHKIN TAVERN 2016
<http://www.sjgames.com/>

Aug. 13, Watertown, South Dakota
AKUA CON
<https://www.facebook.com/AkuaCon-Mini-GamingAnime-Convention>

Aug. 19-21, Bellevue, Washington
DRAGONFLIGHT
<https://www.dragonflight.org/>
Aug. 20-21, Hamilton, New Zealand
BOARD GAMES BY THE BAY HAMILTON
<http://boardgamesbythebay.org.nz/>

Aug. 26-28, Niagara Falls, NY
FAN WORLD
<http://www.fanworld.us/>

Aug. 26-28, Philadelphia, PA
FILLYCON
cassandra.j.lowe@gmail.com

Letters of Comment

АНТОНИНА Бойко <tonya.boyko.85@gmail.com>
Hi, George!
Could you advice me any modern futurology books to read or authors? Please ? Thank you!
[Editor: Future Shock. The Coming Singularity]

Hi George,

As I contemplate the world around me I am continually amazed at the events occurring everyday. I suspect that what we need to have as a method of coming to grips with events is a new slant on SF by the folk who can carry the mantle of Pohl, Kornbluth, and Leiber. They were able to point out the hidden within the ordinary.

No one can read the Creature from Cleveland Depths without gaining new insights into the obsessive cellphoneys of today. One should notice that the insights are not about technology, they are about human behaviors and the trap of cognitive circularity of a culture.

Technology makes a difference but it rarely is the promoted and obvious linear projections of the fanboys. Henry Ford had no plans to create mobile bedrooms for the young, his major block was the absence of roads to run his creations on. Looming above us like the flyswatter of an angry god is nanotech coupled with a horde of scientists probing into every available crevice of the natural world. Most of the gloss is about medical applications, better solar collectors, better batteries, usw. What isn't being discussed is the implications of some obscure escapee from the labs to interact with human behaviors in unexpected ways.

The price of VR is dropping rapidly and one lure is that you can game in a man-made world. What will it mean if this takes off? Nobody knows and few have even guessed at the possibilities.

Warm Regards
Dave Haren

1706-24 Eva Rd.
Etobicoke, ON
CANADA M9C 2B2
July 13, 2016

Dear Neffers:

Thank you for Volume 75, Number 6 of The National Fantasy Fan...it's time to have a look through the issue, and see what I can say in reaction to what I see.

Congratulations to all on the Neffy Awards...I hate to say it, but I haven't read any of the novels listed. Of all listed, the only one I can say I enjoy is Phil Foglio's Girl Genius.

I hope those who read this zine will step forward to take over old bureaus, or take on new ones. The club is only as good as the efforts you put into it. Once you're busy with some responsibilities with the club, you will be more knowledgeable about the club, and SF as a whole, then you've ever been.

Yay, something about Forry Ackerman! I had the pleasure of meeting Forry twice, once at a Worldcon in the 1980s, and again at a convention in Montreal in the 90s. The nicest fan you could imagine, and someone who knew all about the social aspects of fans gathering together.

I haven't been down to Niagara Falls lately, but I do know there is now a huge comiccon on the Canadian side of the border that now gathers about 5000 members every year. We will soon be going on a fannish vacation to London, England. With the usual touristy things to see, we will also be going up to the Harry Potter studios north of London to see the exhibits, and then take a train up to Lincoln to attend The Asylum, the biggest steampunk event in the world. It's about 35 days away, can't wait!

Time to go, there's lots to do today. Take care, and see you with the next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

Heath Row
PO Box 372
Culver City, CA 90232

Hello! I returned from a week camping in the Sierras with the Boy Scouts to find the June issue of *The Fan* in my mail pile. I've been relatively inactive as a Directorate member recently, and you all deserve at least a letter of comment.

Congratulations to Davodd on receiving the Franson Award. It is well deserved. I shall have to read the Neffy nominees before voting. It looks like an intriguing list! Likely I've been reading mostly nonfiction, but I'm 300 pages into *The Sword of Shannara*, inspired by the short TV show. It's enjoyable but nothing too breathtaking. I kind of wish Brooks would stop telling me how important Alannon is, and show me. But that's neither here nor there. Mostly, I think of Alanon (AA for family members) any time his name comes up.

Welcome to all the new members! Might you consider publishing their address as well as email address? I'd be more likely to write a letter. Swartz's piece on Famous Fantastic Mysteries makes me want to track down that anthology from 1991! I like the idea behind more general round robins. If I get inspired, I'll drop a line to Judy, and she and Patsy can work accordingly!

It was good to see letters of comment from Lloyd Penney and other readers. Thank you for publishing their addresses! (At least one. You can publish mine.) Chris Nuttall's works look inspiring. I shall have to check out.

So hello! I hope to return to more frequent involvement, and to whip something up for the story contest by the end of the year.



Zentradi Commander

Be well,

Heath

George Phillies
48 Hancock Hill Drive
Worcester, MA 01609

Hello!

The Neffy Awards list appeared in the last issue.
The ballot will appear in the next issue.

In reading the list of award names, I am reminded of an observation from 30 and 50 years ago. Once upon a time, I was a member of the MIT Science Fiction Society, which is the oldest collegiate SF club in the world, so far as anyone knows. MITSFS has an annual spring picnic in the Blue Hills. One of the traditional games is “identify the character”, in which the lead player answers questions in rotation until the character is identified. The game stopped working by 1985, because with great regularity no questioner had ever heard of any of the characters that other players had chosen. There was just too much science fiction in print.

Neffy ballots have the same problem. I offer a few thoughts. Your mileage will vary a lot.

Of the video choices, I am fond of Supergirl, and have heard of some of the others, though I missed seeing most of them. I think I have heard of both novels, but not read them. I like all of the novel series. One was even written by a Neffer. 163X has attracted a fabulous number of co-contributors. Schooled in Magic is a ‘person on our world reaches a medieval pace with magic, except she does not save the world by means of her mechanical engineering prowess’. Safehold is David Weber’s newest series, but it is actually approaching completion. There is a considerable amount of character advancement and prefiguring, and heroes and heroines (well, the lead character is a bit more complicated than that) facing an incredible set of challenges.

The three Editors are quite different. Toni Weisskopf got a Neffy last year. Sheila Gilbert is regularly praised. We are advised that Peter Buch is trying to build up Elsewhen in the direction of Baen books, a place that develops new writers, which is certainly highly meritorious.

With respect to the Best Comic, Girl Genius is serious, but a bit over the top, Astro City is widely praised as well written and drawn, but I am not familiar with Naruto.

Recipes

Buttermilk Cornbread

Ingredients

2 cups cornmeal
1 cup flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 cups buttermilk
2 eggs
1 tablespoon bacon fat or butter

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 400 deg F. Mix the dry ingredients in a large bowl. Pour in the buttermilk and beat in the eggs. Melt the fat in a cast iron skillet. Pour fat in the batter and bake in the skillet for 20 to 25 minutes, until risen and browned.

You could easily make this into cornbread muffins just by putting muffin cup liners into muffin tins, or greasing the tin liberally. Change the bake-time to 12-15 minutes, though, and check for doneness with a toothpick. When the (wood!) toothpick comes out clean, they are done.

Yellow cornmeal

A minor snag we ran into while whipping up this quick and easy meal was that I didn’t have cornmeal in the house. I have self-rising cornbread mix (NOT jiffy mix, which is terribly sweet) and grits, but no meal. The First Reader ran out and got me some nice yellow cornmeal, eagerly anticipating the dinnertime treat. I always know cornbread will go over well with him. This recipe makes a great, moist, rich cornbread that stands up well to butter. I like it with honey, too. You could embellish this recipe to your heart’s content. I’ve added cheese, salsa, more corn (frozen kernels work great), diced jalapenos, handfuls of crumbled bacon... you could put anything in there. But the First Reader loves it straight up.

Recipe by Sabrina Chase (author: The Scent of Metal)

Comments by Cedar Sanderson

2016 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

Now and then, it has been suggested to open the N3F Amateur Short Story Contest to professional writers, writers who have had one or two sales. I've never favored this. It is my opinion that we want new blood. We want to reward the new kids on the block. To be blunt, we want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals -- but who have a story to tell. I want stories from guys nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will. Those who are already successful don't need the encouragement of our little contest. If they were to enter the contest, the danger is that they'd win, every time, and crowd out the promising newcomer.

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at abontides@gmail.com. No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. There are no entry fees.
7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.
8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; abontides@gmail.com. Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2016.
9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.
10. The N3F may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made in March 2017. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2016. Good luck!

Please supply on a separate page the following information as your entry form.

Title of story (for identification):

Author's name and address:

Author's email address:

I have read the above rules for the 2016 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature:

Date: _____

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

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