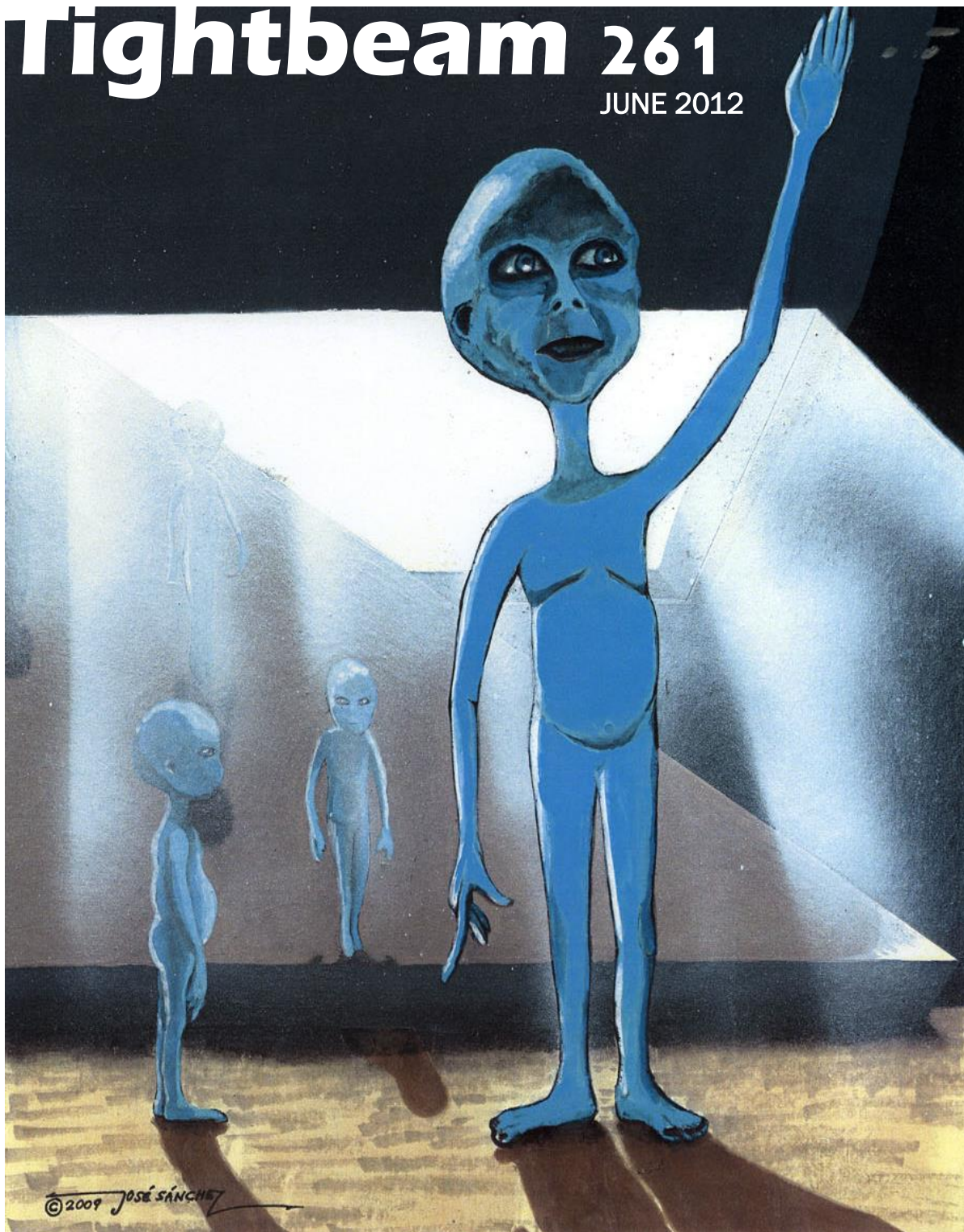


Rightbeam 261

JUNE 2012



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David Speakman

Jon D. Swartz

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TREASURER

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Birthday Cards

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David Speakman

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Patricia King

Short Story Contest

Jefferson Swycaffer

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Teaching Science Fiction,

The Writer's Exchange.

INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR N3F OFFICE?

Declare your candidacy and submit your platform by August 15, 2012

- MUST be a current member paid up through Dec. 31, 2013 or later
- Please read the current Bylaws and N3F constitution included in this issue for other qualifications, restrictions, and duties.

TIGHTBEAM 261

The Springboard of Ideas

Tightbeam 260

1—Tightbeam Cover

Art: Jose Sanchez

2—2012 N3F Officers

4—Officer Contact Form

5—Letter from the Chair

6—Letters of Comment

8—Re: The Review Section

Heath Row

Owen K Lorion

10—Space Opera Venn Diagram

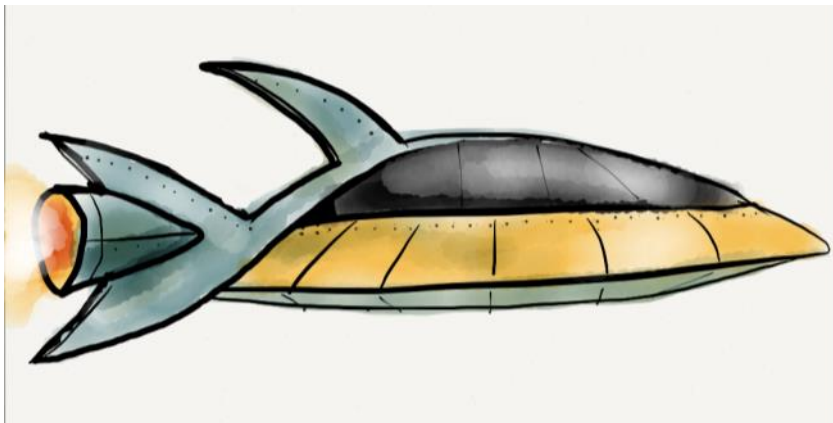
David Speakman

11—N3F Membership Form

12—Nefferland

David Speakman

13—Short Story Contest Form



Editorial Cabal

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David Speakman

PAST-EDITORS

Ruth Davidson (2003-2008)

Heath Row (2009-2011)

ART EDITOR

Sarah E. Harder

REVIEWS EDITOR

Heath Row

FICTION EDITOR

Open

PUBLISHER

Craig Boyd

DISTRIBUTOR

Dennis Davis

SUBMISSIONS

All submissions are to be sent to the editorial cabal via email at:

cabal@n3fmail.com

unless otherwise noted.

This issue was started on March 25, 2012 and completed on June 12, 2012. The editor was David Speakman. The editor of the next issue is, again, David Speakman. Submissions may be emailed to him at cabal@n3fmail.com or via U.S. mail at: David Speakman, 501-83 Moorpark Way, Mountain View CA 94041. All opinions herein are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other members of N3F except where so noted. **Submission deadline for the next issue is August 15, 2012.** This zine is to be published at least quarterly in March, June, September, and December through volunteer effort.



Cover Art: By Jose Sanchez

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Kaymar Award

William Center
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Mangaverse

Ruth Davidson
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Welcommittee

Heath Row
(see directorate)

Cynthia Richter
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Letter from the Chair

This is my first time as Chair and I will strive to fulfill all of my duties in this capacity. In the past my biggest concern had always been making sure that the membership felt encouraged to express opinions and share suggestions with the Directorate. Many of you have done so over the years and we have all benefited. We are currently discussing recent suggestions to help us continue to move forward and increase awareness and membership. With the help (and dare I say genius) of people like David, Heath, Ruth, Denny, Jon and others we have really made wonderful progress. I hope we will soon start to see some of these new ideas realized as well. Please contact me, or any Directorate member, to offer suggestions, express concerns, offer praise (wink) or to volunteer to help. I'd also love to hear from you about what you think is currently working, what isn't, what you'd like to see, and how you feel you can help. I am happy to take these things to the Directorate and President for discussion. We are also in need of volunteers to edit The Fan, perhaps on a rotating basis. Participation at any level is always valued. I express my sincere thanks to all who head bureau's, write articles, provide art and stories, edit, and in other ways participate and support the club. You are the club! I look forward to witnessing, and being a part of, our ever evolving N3F!

Sarah Harder



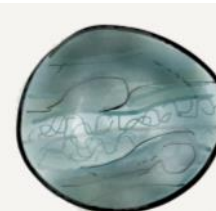
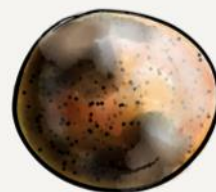
ART CREDITS

Jose Sanchez:

1

David Speakman :

2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 12



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Letters of comment

2012.03.29

Hello, welcome, and thank you for continuing on the NFFF's publications, in this case, The National Fantasy Fan Vol. 71, No. 1, and Tightbeam 260. I haven't seen the Tightbeam name in some time. I do seem to remember David Heath's editing of TNFF a long time ago when I first received NFFF zines.

I can't agree that personal letters of comment are a thing of the past, obviously. Communication leads to community, and any group should work towards it. I do get a lot of zines, and some of them come from clubs and other organizations, and I find that when I send a letter from deepest, darkest Ontario, it can be a reminder that fandom is not a phenomenon of their town or village or even their state or province, but is a world-wide phenomenon, a subculture. Communication in this manner used to take a letter, envelope and stamp, and now it can take the form of an e-mail or Facebook message. The communication, the expression of ideas, transcends the medium used.

In spite of some of the snarky types we all have to deal with from time to time, I think fandom plays fairly well together, and we do better as a group with common purpose, in-

stead of being a bunch of individual, passive consumers. My wife and I recently retired after being on the committee of our local convention, and many other conventions, for the past 30 years. We couldn't have done what we did without working on a committee or board of directors, and that helped to develop business skills that helped us in our mundane business lives.

I mentioned Facebook above...I believe the NFFF has some Facebook presence...I went to find your FB page, and liked it, but it looks like I am only the fifth person to like it. I think you need more social media presence. Each issue of this fanzine is .pdfed, so there's lots of links for members to go to, but I think you might need more Facebook presence to get you more members. I am not a Facebook guru or anything like that, but any SF club these days needs all the help (and members) it can get.

Just about the page is good, so I will sign off, and say my thanks. I hope you'll send me more issues. Yours,

Lloyd Penney.

[Thank you for your words of encouragement and insight. I stand squarely on all the

(Continued on page 7)

shoulders of all of the past editors since I first joined N3F from David Heath, Jr. ... to Heath Row. I also look forward to more of your criticism and tips on how we can improve.

Indeed, N3F does have a Facebook presence. We have a public page at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/N3F/89128934330> as well as a private list that is just for members. — DSJ

2012.04.12

What a surprise to open my last issue of “The National Fantasy Fan” [Dec. 2011, TNFF Vol. 70 Nox. 2-4—ed.] and find my poetry in a great center-page spread. Thank you for the exposure. Hope at least a few fans enjoyed them.

I have been told my novel is schedule for publication on May 18. Very Excited.

Angela Myers

[Ed Note: The name of Angela’s novel is titled When the Moon Is Gibbous and Waxing by Angela Parson Myers and will be published by Etopia Press. ISBN 978-1-937976-32-3]

2012.05.14

Thanks for the review. Until I find time to send out some paper copies, the only way in which most people can look at Steam Engine

Time 13 is on efanzines.com. Thanks very much for the review of Scratch Pad 80.

Since airmail postage keeps going up all the time and my income is going to be rather slender from now on, I will have to rely on most of the people used to receiving my zines by mail to download them from efanzines.com. I can't see any other way to keep publishing.

Bruce R. Gillespie

Send your letters of comment to: cabal@n3fmail.com or to: Cabal, 501-81 Moorpark Way, Mountain View CA 94041



Re: The Review Section

Unless otherwise indicated, the reviews editor compiles and writes the review section. Members of the N3F are invited and encouraged to submit reviews, preferably by email, although postal mail will be accepted. If you send a review by email and do not hear back within a reasonable length of time, please write to check on its status. Publishers: We are especially interested in receiving new books to consider for review. Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA 90230; kalel@well.com.

Editor: Heath Row (HR). Contributors: Owen Lorion (OL) and Heath Row (HR)

Books

Fire Works in the Hamptons, by Celia Jerome (DAW, 2011)

Can you say Chick-Lit?

If you are a man, this is a book you want to avoid at all costs. If you are a woman, this is probably a book you want to pick up. (If you're gay or lesbian, you're on your own.)

I've never read a romance novel, per se, but this is about what I imagine one would probably read like. "I felt the rock hardness in his pants as his kiss set my lips on fire and turned my knees to water until I came up for air." Probably three quarters of this book

consist of the narrator-heroine thinking about the sexiness of the men in the book or thinking about having sex with the men in the book, but never about any actual sex, the way a man would think about it and then be done thinking about it. If she's typical of most women, then it's obvious that the reason men rule the world is because they're far more capable of thinking about something other than sex!

But enough ranting about why this book was a chore for me to read, and on to the 25% of it that was actual plot. The fantasy story was interesting, if somewhat contrived. Willow Tate is an artist in a village of people with various supernormal talents—telepaths, prognosticators, lie detectors, and so on. Her particular unique talent is one she has no control over, of being a channel with an alternate reality where magic is the rule rather than the exception. For some insufficiently explained reason, during a July 4 fireworks display, she accidentally summons a swarm of fire flies. Not fireflies, but hummingbird-sized beetles that carry literal fire. She sees them as beautiful. Everyone else sees them as bugs, except the local sociopath, who sees them as arsonist tools, and a toddler, who sees one as a munchie. Predictable complica-

(Continued on page 9)

tions ensue. The bad guys are bad. The good guys are good. The various special talents that some characters have keep them from being too cardboard, and their adaptations to those talents give a bit of depth to their personalities. The writing is fluid enough to follow easily, and no one acts out of character just to advance any (non-sexual) plot point. There are serious spoiler references to events from the previous books in the series, enough to tell what happened in them, but not in a way to make the current story less understandable. While this probably isn't going to rate as a classic of any sort, it's a readable escape book.

Provided you're not a man. (OL)

Zines

Alexiad Vol. 11, No. 1 (April 2012)

This is a wonderful fanzine—one I'll need to spend more time with and would gladly pick up again. Combining personal writing and literary sercon, the two editors fit a lot into 24 pages. My favorite parts included the piece on fan fiction and plagiarism, the book reviews (of Mike Resnick, Neal Stephenson, Harry Turtledove, and others), the lettercol (with entries by Chris Garcia, Ned Brooks, Brad Foster, Lloyd Penney, and others), and the little bits of art inserted throughout. There's a lot to read here, and if you only

seek out one zine this issue—it should be this one. The Usual to Lisa and Joseph Major, 1409 Christy Ave., Louisville, KY 40204-2040; jtmajor@iglou.com. (HR)

Exhibition Hall #20

James Bacon offers a brief interview with Robert Rankin about self-publishing his back catalog as e-books, Chris Garcia writes an appreciation of Gail Carriger's Parasol Protectorate series, and folks like Andy Hooper and Lloyd Penney stop by for the lettercol. Relatively short at 14 pages and simple in its presentation, this zine introduced me to two writers with whom I wasn't familiar—and that goes far. The Usual to journeyplanet@gmail.com. (HR)

Fanstuff #2 (May 2012)

This new fanzine from fanzine fan Arnie Katz helps him meet his self-imposed goal of publishing weekly. The lead article is a comparison of email-based discussion lists and amateur press associations, and their relative impact on fandom. There's a review of Mike Glycer's Web site File 770, which continues where his fanzine left off, and a few bits of con-related news. And a two-page lettercol (a third of the zine) features correspondence from Robert Lichtman and others. I don't keep up enough with all of Katz's fanzines to know where this fits in, but it's a short, fun, and friendly read. Worth

checking out. The Usual to Arnie Katz, crossfire4@cox.net. (HR)

Space Cadet #19 (May 2012)

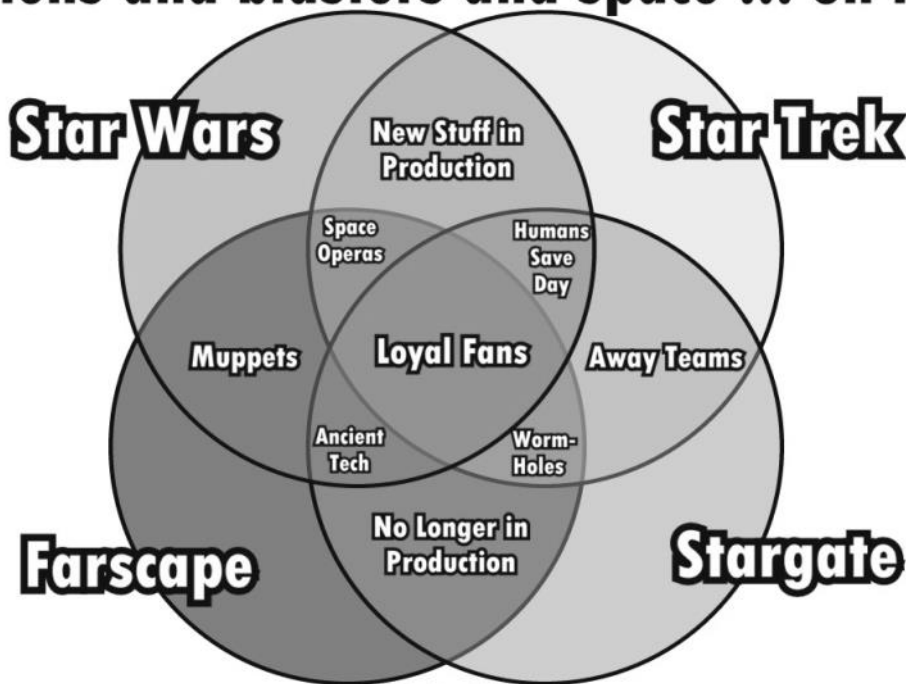
The editor comments on his experience at the FanExpo comics con, the demise of the MonSFFA's con ConCept, and dream fragments. Andy Hooper recounts his experience with Blade Runner, and there's a seven-page lettercol. Given the large typeface, the 18-page zine feels a little airy, but there's still plenty to read and remark on. I appreciate Graeme's attempts to broaden Space Cadet beyond a perzine. The Usual to R. Graeme

Cameron, 13315 104th Ave. #72G, Surrey, BC, Canada; rgraeme@shaw.ca. (HR)

The Ink Machine Colour Supplement #5 (April 2012)

Published as a one shot for Corflu, Nigel Rowe's 10th, this two pager was written on an Android phone. Rowe considers the technical implications of publishing via mobile device and remembers his involvement in the con for fanzine fans over the years. Not a lot to this slender zine, but enough enthusiasm and involvement over time to warrant seeing what else Rowe's been up to. The Usual to Nigel Rowe, 431 S. Dearborn #402, Chicago, IL 60605; nigel84@mwpssoft.com.

Aliens and blasters and space ... oh my!





National Fantasy Fan Federation

_____ New Member _____ FORMER MEMBER _____ Joint Membership _____ Gift Membership

Name (Please Print): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Postal Code, Country: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Occupation: _____ Male: _____ Female: _____ Birth date: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

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

_____ APAs (amateur press associations)

_____ Art

_____ Audio

_____ Blogging

_____ Books

_____ Cartooning, cartoons, and animation

_____ Collecting

_____ Comic books

_____ Computers and technology

_____ Conventions and clubs

_____ Correspondence

_____ Costuming

_____ DVDs and videos

_____ Editing

_____ Fanzines

_____ Filk singing

_____ Games and video games

_____ Movies

_____ Online activities

_____ Publishing

_____ Reading and book clubs

_____ Reviewing

_____ Role-playing games

_____ Round robins (group letters)

_____ Taping

_____ Teaching science fiction

_____ Television

_____ Writing

Which would you prefer?

_____ A PDF of The Fan emailed to you _____ The clubzine printed and mailed to you _____ Both

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

How long have you been involved in fandom? _____

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

List any conventions you've attended: _____

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

What is your favorite type of sf/f? _____

Who are your favorite sf/f authors: _____

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

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

_____ Artwork _____ Recruiting at conventions _____ Writing for club publications

_____ Organizing activities _____ Corresponding _____ Publishing

_____ Other: _____

Name of Sponsoring Member (if any): _____

Regular dues are \$18 per year (\$22 for Joint Memberships) which includes subscriptions to the club's fanzine as well as other activities and benefits. Make checks or money orders payable to William Center (the treasurer). All payments must be made in U.S. funds. Mail dues and application to club secretary Dennis Davis, 25549 Byron St., San Bernardino, CA 92404-6403. Please allow at least eight weeks for your first clubzine to arrive. You can also sign up online at <http://n3f.org>



2012 N3F Amateur Short Story

Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

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 judges.

3. Manuscripts 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. Email attachments of Word documents are also acceptable.

4. Contestants can enter any number of stories, provided that each is accompanied by a separate entry blank and fee. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss; we are not responsible for lost manuscripts. Stories will not be returned without an SASE.

5. The entry fee is \$3 per story for N3F members in good standing, and \$5 for non-members. The extra \$2 is for printing and publicity, which will be paid for using N3F funds. The basic \$3 is for judging expenses and prizes. While N3F members are encouraged to enter the contest, members will not receive any

preference in judging. Because of a long-standing agreement with the British Science Fiction Association, BSFA members can pay the same fee as N3F members.

6. 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.

7. Send all manuscripts, accompanied by SASEs, entry forms, and fees to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; n3f.story.contest@gmail.com. Make checks payable to William Center. Well-concealed American cash (dollar bills is also acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2012. Email entries will be accepted, but no guarantee of email receipt can be made.

8. The judge is a published science fiction professional. All comments and critiques are solely the judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructively critical and polite.

9. The N3F assumes no publishing rights or obligations. We want to encourage professional sales, not fan publication. All entries will be returned after the contest is over, if accompanied by an SASE. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made in March 2013.

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, 2012. Good luck

(Detach or photocopy. Must accompany all entries.) Mail to: **Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373**

Title of story (for identification): _____

Author's name and address: _____

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

Enclosed is the entry fee of \$5 (for N3F or BSFA members, the fee is \$3). I have read the above rules for the 2012 N3F

Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



National Fantasy Fan Federation

C/O Dennis L. Davis
25549 BRYON ST
SAN BERNADINO CA 92404-6403

ADDRESS AND RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

We're on the web:
<http://www.n3f.org>