

The National 80 Fantasy Fan Years

Cras ad Stellas — Tomorrow to the Stars
Volume 80 Number 6 June 2021

Neffys

Mea Culpa — Kudos to Justin E. A. Busch and Nic Farey for catching two entries that I managed to drop along the way. The corrected listings are

Best Non-N3F Fanzine: Portable Storage, Event Horizon, Outworlds

Best novel:

Storm Between the Stars by Karl Gallagher Unmasked by Kai Wai 'Benjamin' Cheah Hussar by Declan Finn Pure Poison by Hawkings Austin Coven by Declan Finn Gods of Pangea by John C. Wright Machine by Elizabeth Bear

N3F Mini-Con on the internet

Saturday, July 17, 2021 10:00 PM – 11:00 PM Eastern Time

Organizer: Heath Row <h3athrow@gmail.com>

This event has a video call.

Join: https://meet.google.com/kdv-esoq-ksk

Illustration Contest

May be too late to enter, but interesting to see https://www.fablehatch.com/illustration-tournament-samurai-girl-1

N3F on Twitter

Thanks to Jason Hunt, we have recovered the password for the N3F Twitter account. We are Tightbeam on Twitter.

NefferCon

NefferCon, the Con that Neffer ends, is in full swing on MeWe.com. We are over 100 members at this point, not bad for a first con. Books, mostly book announcements, seem to be among the more prominent entries. You can see it all at https://mewe.com/join/neffercon.

Letters of Comment

Editor:

My science fiction group on Facebook seems to now have 69,770 members. My goal is to get 70,000 by the end of this year. I will also continue promoting the N3F for new members.

Of course many in my sci fi group are not real fans. Facebook has millions of people who just join groups for no real reason. There is an Arcturian sci fi group on Facebook which claims to have 200,000 members. And I think a media sci fi group with 100,000 members.

I wonder if we could have a realistic goal of getting

Continued on Page 2, Top Right



Art

3 ... Morningtide, Sci-Fi ... Jose Sanchez

4 ... On Board ... Jose Sanchez

9 .. Designer Horse ... Angela K. Scott.



TNFF

Your Volunteer Team

Directors:

Heath Row— kalel@well.com (Chair) Judy Carroll - BlueShadows2012@gmail.com Jefferson Swycaffer - abontides@gmail.com John Thiel - kinethiel@mymetronet.net Kevin Trainor wombat.socho@gmail.com

Officers

President George Phillies - phillies@4liberty.net Treasurer Kevin Trainor wombat.socho@gmail.com

Editors

Editors, TNFF: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net; Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com Artists: Jose A. Sanchez, Angela K. Walker, Alan White, Nathan Warner N'APA: Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com Tightbeam: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net, Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com Ionisphere: John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net Eldritch Science: George Phillies

Mangaverse: Patrick Ijima-Washburn patokon.com

@gmail.com

Nameless News: George Phillies

Films Fantastic:

Origin: John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net The N3F Review of Books: George Phillies Keeper of the URLs: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net Host of the Web Site: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Bureau Heads

Anime/Comics Kevin Trainor wombat.socho@gmail.com Artists Bureau Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@gmail.com Birthday Cards R-Laurraine Tutihasi laurraine@mac.com; Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@gmail.com Book Review Bureau G. Phillies phillies@4liberty.net Convention Calendar: Heath Row kalel@well.com Club Directory Heath Row kalel@well.com Correspondence Bureau Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com Election Teller Jon Swartz. jon swartz@hotmail.com Fandom History/Research Bureau John Thiel kinethiel@ mymetronet.net; Jon Swartz jon swartz@hotmail.com Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau John Thiel kinethiel@ mymetronet.net FanZine Review Editor Justin Busch jeab@musician.org Film Bureau Eric Jamborsky mrsolo1007@gmail.com Franking Service George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net Games Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net Gourmet Bureau Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@gmail.com Historian Jon Swartz jon swartz@hotmail.com History and Research Bureau John Thiel kinethiel@ mymetronet.net; Jon Swartz jon swartz@hotmail.com Information Technology George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net Lord High Proofreader Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com Lady High Proofreader Jean Lamb Membership Recruitment Kevin Trainor wombat.socho @gmail.com, John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net redmondjeff@hotmail.com Continued Next Column, Middle

Page 2

500 members for the N3F. There seems to be no one sabotaging or terrorizing the group now. I appreciate the opportunity to participate and increase the membership

... Jeffrey Redmond

George:

I was surprised you had Nameless News all set and ready to go, and pleased to receive it. It looks like it can be a top quality newszine; everything in it was respectable and timely and of great interest to readers.

I especially appreciated Justin Busch's fanzine column, which took a really active look at fanzines and showed things newsworthy about them. The convention lineup was the best I've seen. A fine addition to

Your Volunteer Team

Neffy Awards Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net Pro Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net Round Robins Patricia Williams-King, 335 Forrest Park Road, Apt # 75 Madison, TN 37115.

 $Short\ Story\ Contest\ J.\ Swycaffer\ abontides@gmail.com$

Social Media: George Phillies

Video Bureau: Cathode Ray the anonymous

Welcommittee: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com Writers Exchange: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

WANTED-WordPress & Web Help

Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with TNFF via paper mail are \$18; memberships with TNFF via email are \$6. All other zines are email only. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to Kevin Trainor, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049. Pay online at N3F.org. Our PayPal contact is treasurer@n3f.org Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

The National Fantasy Fan (originally Bonfire), Vol. LXXX Number 6, June 2021, ISSN 2169-3595. Published monthly by The National Fantasy Fan Federation.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE: All material in this issue, unless expressly noted otherwise, is contributed for one-time use only in this publication in its various print and electronic forms including fair use in electronic archival libraries. All other copyrights are retained by the contributor. Other use of any portion of this publication in any medium requires the express permission of the current (at time reproduction is to be made) President and Directorate of N3F and the original copyright holder.



Morningtide, Scifi by Jose Sanchez

what the N3F has.—John Thiel

George:

Nameless News? This zine is awesome. What a fun thing to get in the mail.

Have a great night, Heath

Editor:

I =like= "Nameless News" as its name! It just seems to fit.

And it brings to mind the once-famous "Store Without A Name" https://library.ndsu.edu/fargo-history/?q=content/store-without-name (in its day THE elegant menswear shop in Fargo)

"Deeds of Fen" is good too, but sounds like awards and the like.

...Rez

Dear George,

Bob Jennings is no fan of the redesigned N3F

logo. I'm inclined to agree, although I'm less sanguine than he about the possibility of changing it. I so wish there had been some kind of membership selection from among three or four alternatives.. I do note that the 'buds to stand for growth' originally planted, so to speak, by Jack Sloan have disappeared. It looks rather more like a film studio logo than a coat of arms.

I enjoyed reading Jon Swartz's traversal of Armageddon 2419 A.D, and its multimedia offspring. He left out the very best of those offshoots, though, Duck Dodgers in the 24 1/2th Century, surely one of the funniest of all SF spoofs. I discovered Buck Rogers in reverse order: Seeing the trimmed version of the 1939 serial on TV when I was young, then seeing a few of the comics, then seeing the book. The results was that I at first thought that the book was a novelization of the film. It's interesting to speculate how stfnal history might have been different had E. E. Smith been approached before Nowlan about a comic strip version of The Skylark of Space, etc. I suspect that some of Smith's ideas would have been quietly left out (trial marriages, indeed!).

Justin E.A. Busch

Dear George:

Many thanks for the latest National Fantasy Fan, Volume 80, Number 5. High time for me to get moving with a fast letter, and with a cool, rainy day outside, it's the perfect day to do it.

Best of luck to all the Neffy nominees...good to see there is still quite a lot of interest in these historic awards. I think you say that NefferCon will be on MeWe.com, but I already have too much to deal with when it comes to social media. Will we need to set up a MeWe account in order to participate?

My letter...many people are looking forward to getting their second COVID-19 vaccinations, and Yvonne has been able to arrange for us our second shots, either Pfizer or Moderna, on Canada Day, July 1. We will be going to an arena in neighboring Mississauga to get them. We are just now

starting to lift out of lockdown, and I might be able to get my haircut in about three weeks or so.

We have been busy these days with writing, creating jewelry (me) or sewing projects (Yvonne), plus also trying to figure out what will happen in the local steampunk group as the pandemic slowly comes to an end, fingers crossed. We are also going through many of the next things we have tucked away on a shelf or two, and seeing if we truly want to keep them, or try to sell them or simply give them to a local thrift shop. It is not easy to do it, but should we need to move, there should be at least a couple of boxes we won't have to pack.

Anyway, that's it for now...I am sure the next issue will be here soon, so off this goes, with my thanks.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Dear George,

Here we are: eighty years since *Bonfire*, soon afterward renamed *The National Fantasy Fan*, first saw the light of fannish day. I cannot think of any other fanzine with so long and storied a history; when you consider the various travails of N3F—and latterly of print fanzines in general—, keeping such a tradition going is indeed a remarkable achievement, and one for which many editors, writers, artists, and readers deserve gratitude and acclamation. Long may TNFF carry on that tradition!

I wasn't too thrilled with the stapling of the convention list over the front page in the last issue, but it did give me an idea: that it would not be difficult for something like the proposed newszine to be published after all, albeit with a more modest scope. I suggest that the convention listings be published separately, along with 'Fanfaronade'' from *Tightbeam* and possible one or two other regular items of a specifically fannish nature drawn from other on-line N3F publications, under a general title such as *Fanac Monthly* (or some such). Very little extra work would need to be done for this to happen, as it would, apart from designing a cover and creating a masthead, be mainly a matter



On Board by Jose Sanchez

of copying and pasting material sent in e-mails. This would help focus readers, current and potential, on N3F's offerings of material about fans and fandom, and in turn, I think, focus greater fannish attention on the N3F itself.

In the April issue I nominated Elizabeth Bear's *Machine* for a Best Novel Neffy, but the title does not appear on the final list. Is there a limit to the number of nominations? If so, how is the cut-off determined? On the other hand, of this is a simple error of omission, could you please correct it? This is one of the most interesting and exciting new sf books I have read in a long time, and I would be sorry for it not to be at least considered by voters as being worthy of the award.

In the 'Directorate Notes' the proposed Bylaw amendment regarding "Emergency Provisions" is described as being dropped for lack of support, but the fate of the second amendment, regarding "hostile" personages, is not mentioned. I sincerely hope that this ill-conceived idea was dismissed. The opening statement, that "The Society is open to persons who are not hostile to the N3F," leaves the nature of what counts as hostility, or who gets to make the decision regarding its presence or absence, wholly vague. In fact, I suspect that there have been plenty of statements by N3F members, whether in TNFF or *Tightbeam*, regarding various N3F Presidents and/ or Directors, which would easily fall afoul of the term. Even the limited description of the process sounds vaguely Orwellian (maintaining "a confidential list of such persons and their statements"). This proposal, although presumably well-intentioned, is

TNFF

not a good one, and would merely invite abuse, whether in deed or word— in a word, hostility.

Jon D. Swartz's article on 'Connie" was intriguing, but I would have liked more detailed descriptions of the nature of her adventures, especially as it appears that at least some of them were wholly stfnal in setting and character.

Justin E. A. Busch

[Ed: In fact, both proposals were dropped. *Machine* was omitted by mistake. *Nameless News* has appeared much the way that you proposed.]

SerCon

Blackhawk by Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D. N3F Historian

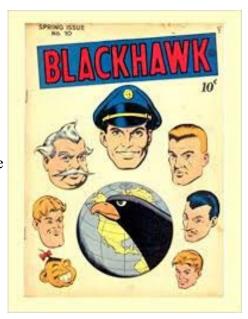
Blackhawk is the lead character of the long-running comic book series Blackhawk -- first published by Quality Comics and later by DC Comics. Primarily created by Will Eisner and Chuck Cuidera, with help from Bob Powell, the Blackhawk characters first appeared in Military Comics #1, dated August 1941. Eisner was the comic book's editor at the time.

When Cuidera served in the United States military during World War II, Reed Crandall took over the drawing chores and worked for Quality until the early 1950s, at which time he moved to E. C. Publications. Alex Kotzky assisted Crandall, and also worked on other Quality characters, including Eisner's The Spirit.



The Blackhawks

Led by Blackhawk, the Blackhawks (or more formally, the Blackhawk Squadron) were a small paramilitary team of World War II ace pilots of varied nationalities, each typically known under a single name, either their given name or their surname.

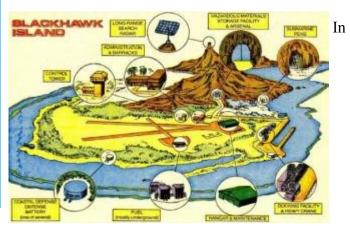


Though the membership roster underwent changes over the years, the team has been portrayed most consistently as having seven core members: Blackhawk (Polish), André (French), Chuck (American), Hendrick/Hendrickson (Dutch), Olaf (Swedish), Stanislaus (Polish), and Chop-Chop (Chinese, and originally a comic figure). André was featured in some of the early stories. Their mascot was a hawk named Blackie.

There were also some early members who appeared only once or twice, including Zeg, Boris, and an English member named Baker. The design of their planes was credited to a man named Vladim.

Later female members, all of whom were known as Lady Blackhawk, included characters named Zinda Blake, Natalie Reed, and Kendra Saunders.

Blackhawk Island





their most well-known incarnation, the Blackhawks operated from a hidden base known as Blackhawk Island in the mid-Atlantic Ocean, a detailed map of which was presented in Military Comics #4. They flew their re-vamped Grumman XF5F Skyrocket airplanes, and shouted their battle cry of "Hawk-a-a-a!"

as they flew through the skies and fought tyranny and oppression. (The actual plane was considered a failure, and not produced in any quantity).

Song

A full Blackhawk song was published in Military Comics #8, but a shorter version was present in almost every one of their early stories. Richard French, a song and comic writer, wrote the song.

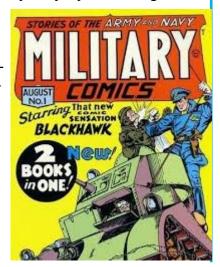
Foes

Clad in matching blue and black uniforms (with usually only Blackhawk himself boasting a hawk insignia on his chest), early stories pitted the team against the Axis forces, but they also came to battle recurring foes such as King Condor and Killer Shark, as well as an array of deadly femme fatales.

The Blackhawks also frequently squared off against

science fiction (SF) war machines ranging from amphibious "shark planes" and flying tanks, to armed robots, to the aptly named War Wheel, a gigantic rolling behemoth adorned with spikes and machine guns.

Later in the series, especially when it was



published by DC, the stories had even more elaborate SF and fantasy plots – and the Blackhawks even became superheroes for a short period.

Popularity

At the height of their popularity in the 1940s, Black hawk titles routinely outsold every other comic book on the market, with the exception of Superman. In 1945, after World War II, Military Comics changed its name to Modern Comics. A complete book devoted to the Blackhawks was begun by Quality as a separate title in 1944 (formerly their Uncle Sam Comics). This decision also resulted in the cancellation of Modern Comics, said to be due to the wartime paper shortages.

Blackhawk also shares the distinction of being just one of five comic book superheroes to be published continuously in their own titles from the 1940s up to the 1960s.

Movie Serial

In 1952 Columbia released Blackhawk, a 15-episode movie serial starring Kirk Alyn as Blackhawk, leader of the Blackhawk International Squadron of flyers known as the Blackhawks. The serial's directors were Spencer Bennet and Fred Sears.

Alyn had previously starred in other popular serials, including The Adventures of Superman (1948).

Radio Series

Blackhawk was a 1950 ABC radio series that aired on Wednesday afternoons, adapted from the comic book, about the team of adventurous World War II aviators. Actor and radio announcer Michael Fitzmaurice (1908 - 1967) played the leader of the Blackhawks. Starting in 1950, he also starred in the role of Superman on the radio series.

Novel

A Blackhawk paperback novel by William Rotsler was published in 1982. In the story, the origin of the Blackhawks is told. Once the background is told, however, the plot involves Blackhawk being captured while trying to bring down a giant high-altitude

bomber attacking London.

Future Feature Film

According to industry reports since 2018, Steven Spielberg, through his Amblin Entertainment, will produce a new Blackhawk movie, and will also direct it. Warner Bros. is said to be distributing the film; longtime Spielberg collaborator David Koepp (Jurassic Park, Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull) is supposedly writing the script.

Other sources report that Spielberg has lost interest in the project. Time will tell.

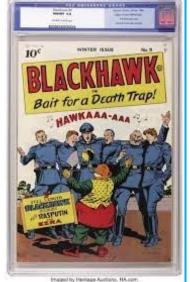
Will Eisner

Writer/artist Eisner (1917 - 2005) was a part of comic book history from the very beginning of the field. In addition to his iconic strip, The Spirit, he wrote the influential study

of comics, Comics and Sequential Art (1985).

Charles Cuidera

Chuck Cuidera (1915 - 2001) was an artist who also used the house pen name of Charles Nicholas (created at Eisner and Iger Studio, and used by others including Jack Kirby). In addition to Blackhawk, Cuidera worked on several other Quality Comics, such as Plastic Man, The



Ray, Captain Triumph, and Uncle Sam.

Bob Powell

Bob Powell (1916 - 1967), who had a hand in creating the Blackhawk series, was born Robert Stanislaus Pulowski in 1917. Is there any wonder why the lead Blackhawk character was Polish? Powell and Eisner collaborated on several other comic book projects.

Reed Crandall and Others

Reed Crandall (1917 - 1982) took over the drawing in the 12th issue, with help from Alex Kotzky (1923 – 1996). Crandall remained the chief artist for several years. Others who helped with the art and writing over the strip's long run included Bill Finger, Dick French, Bill Ward, William Woolfork, Manly Wade Wellman, Dick Dillin, and Al Bryant, among others. Sam Rosen did most of the lettering on the early stories.

Blackhawks Through the Years

The Blackhawks became super-powered, costumed heroes in 1967, but the change only lasted for 12 issues. They then became their original selves again, but only appeared in a couple of additional issues.

They were revived in 1976, but this revival only lasted a year. They were revived again in 1983, but only lasted a bit over two years this time -- and with changes in artists, writers, and even a main character's name.

In the late 1980s, DC published a 3-issue miniseries -- featuring a solo Blackhawk – written and drawn by Howard Chaykin. Next, the Blackhawks appeared in the short-lived Action Comics weekly during 1987 - 1988, with Alex Toth providing Blackhawk cover art.

Finally, in 1989, they were back again for 16 issues, before finally expiring in 1990. Martin Pasko and Rick Burchett were responsible for the writing and art this last time around.

The Blackhawk Archives, Volume 1, published by DC in 2001, reprints the first seventeen issues of Military Comics, dated August 1941 to March 1943.

Sources

Bails, Jerry & Hames Ware (eds.). The Who's Who of American Comic Books, Volumes 1 - 4. Detroit, MI: Bails, 1973 - 1976.

Benton, Mike. The Comic Book in America: An Illustrated History. Dallas, TX: Taylor, 1989.

Cline, William C. In the Nick of Time. Jefferson,

NC: McFarland, 1984.

Duin, Steve & Mike Richardson. Comics Between the Panels. Milwaukie, OR: Dark Horse Comics, 1998.

Goulart, Ron. Great History of Comic Books. Chicago, IL: Contemporary Books, 1986.

Swartz, Jon D. & Robert C. Reinehr. Handbook of Old-Time Radio. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1993.

Note: In addition to the sources cited above, several Internet sites were consulted.

N3F Activities

Welcommittee

We have no new members to greet this month.

Please read the current TNFF for a list of the many activities and bureaus you can join. Being active is the most fulfilling way to enjoy being a member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation.

The purpose of the Welcommittee is to welcome new members to the club. A letter is sent, by email or postal mail, to new members informing them of club activities they may be interested in joining. Those members with email addresses are also sent attachments to the current TNFF and other publications the N3F has to offer.

If you have questions about the club or are interested in helping, please contact

Judy Carroll at BlueShadows2012@gmail.com or 975 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

Correspondence Bureau

If You wish to join you need to do the following:

- 1. Send me your name and either email address OR postal address,
- 2. If you wish to correspond with a member already listed with the Correspondence Bureau in-

clude their name.

3. If you have a postal address and wish to correspond with someone listed "by email" let me know and I will contact them. I will let you know their reply.

Depending on your preference you will receive an email or postal mail with the contact information.of the person you wish to contact, and they will receive your contact information.

The following members are interested in corresponding. .

Jeffrey Redmond - by email John Thiel - by email Judy Carroll - by email or postal mail.

Send email requests to: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com Send postal mail requests to: Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

Writers Exchange

Welcome to the Writers Exchange!

It's been a long time since we have received any stories from our N3F writers

Part of our service is to read short stories and critique them for any of our members who would like a second opinion. Actually, your work would be critiqued twice, once by me and once by Jefferson Swycaffer. Each of us sees the same story in a different light.

If interested, please contact me.

A few days ago an eight year old relative was visiting me. I told her I needed to get on the computer and write an article for the Writers Exchange, and mentioned I hadn't thought of anything to write about. She asked me a few questions. Smiled. and said "I like writing because.."

Thank goodness for young minds not stuck in the familiar.

- I like writing because:
- It's creative.

- It's a good way to express myself.
- I can share my anger with a blank page, and not hurt anyone's feelings.
- I can lay out my despair and fold it up and put it away.
- I like to play with words and see how they flow.
- I like the sound of words and how they can produce thunder in your ears, peace in your soul and beauty in your eyes.
- I like that words can bring back memories to the reader as well as the writer.
- I like the satisfaction of successfully finishing a story and discovering months or years later that it is still a well told story.

I've recently discovered that it's faster for me to express some things in a poem rather than in a short story. So, I thought I would share one with you.

Some Days

Some days I know what I'm doing. And everything turns out right. Other days I'm so stressed That everything's a fight.

On good days the sun is shining
If not in the sky - then in my heart
On bad days dark clouds gather
And tear my thoughts apart

For me there is no middle ground And no matter how I try I cannot find a day for me Where sun and clouds combine.

Judy Carroll

I would like our writers to send their "I like writing because..." comments for publishing in next month's Writers Exchange. Along with a poem or part of a story paragraph they would like to share

If you are a new writer, a professional writer, or someone who dreams of being a writer - this is the place for you. If you love reading unpublished work and find it exciting to do so, this place is also for you.

The Writers Exchange is for anyone interested in writing. If you have a story you would like read and commented on, or if you just want the excitement of reading unpublished work, then the Writers Exchange is here for you. Published or unpublished - all are welcome. You may join as a writer, a reader or both

If interested, please contact: Judy Carroll. BlueShadows2012@gmail.com OR if you prefer postal mail, Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

Believing the bureau should be doing work outside the N3F as well as within, we are looking for opportunities to promote fan and pro interrelations and to advise on that outside the N3F. When we have managed to do something of this nature we will report it and discuss it in Ionisphere, and of course we will mention that we do our work from the N3F to attract attention to our organization. We want fandom to swing and we want the N3F to swing. More science fiction activity is our objective. I am getting ready to make all this clearer in Ionisphere.—John Thiel

History and Research Bureau

The N3F membership will observe that we are making science fiction look more exciting and more a thing of value in displaying the results of our researches in Origin. The history we are revealing shows the development of science fiction and of fan-



Designer Horse by Angela K. Walker

TNFF

dom and brings about a greater insight into the reading we are all doing—the following of fantasy and science fiction.—John Thiel

Recruiting Bureau

I gave Kevin Trainor a little assistance with the membership listings by pointing out that there were some people who shouldn't have been on the roster. Since Kevin took over the treasury, some names have already been dropped from the roster, that of people who are deceased. Meanwhile the membership is continuing to rise, as we continue to call attention to the N3F.—John Thiel

Treasury

Paypal balance: \$942.26

NSB balance: \$1803.63

Life members: 2

Electronic members: 20 Regular members: 27 Household members: 2 Total voting members: 51

Public members: 201 Archive members: 2 Total membership: 255

Expiring in June: Ray Nelson & Jessica Silver The following voting members have not renewed their memberships and have been converted to public memberships: Eric Jamborsky, Erik Martin, Diane Blackwood, Allegra Gulino, Kathryn Jankowski, Sam Lubell, and Michael Lowrey.

Renewed this month: Dorothy Kurtz. Thanks to all of you!

Games Bureau

My game store is still shut down as a result of the pandemic. As I wait for that to change I've been playing many solitaire games of Sim City.

Sim City is a collectable card game. Each card represents a city block. The goal is to score points by placing blocks where they would do the most

Page 10

good. Blocks score more points when placed near other similar blocks, Players need to keep track of the color coded bars at the bottom of each card. Those bars tell you during which phase that card becomes playable.

White cards are playable from the start of the game. Green cards become playable when Phase 1 has been obtained. (Population equal to the number of players in the game.) Brown cards become playable when Phase 2 is achieved. (Job providing locations equal to twice the number of players in the game.)

The goal is to be the first player to score 250 points. Some games are longer than others because disaster cards get played. The rules are simple enough that you can simulate multi-player games solitaire. That's what I've been doing.

I had enough cards to create four decks, each capable of building a different kind of city. My favorite seems to be the one that lets me build a university town. I also have one that lets me build an oil city with farms nearby.

...Wesley Kawato

Birthday Card Bureau

Ten birthday cards were or will be sent out in May. Please note that I have not outsourced the birthday messages to a first grader. I had a rather substantial bicycle accident last month, and neither of my hands is wholly functional, but I thought it better to scroll actual greetings rather than printing something out and gluing it to a card.

Publications

We have a new fanzine, Nameless News. Nameless News was created because we have several fine monthly columns that did not fit well because of length in Tightbeam or The National Fantasy Fan. We expect that Nameless News will be a regular monthly publication, appearing about mid-month, including Fanfaronade, Convention News, Rabid Ears, and such other regular columns as shall appear in the future

2021 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, 2021.
- 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. Stories will also be reviewed by the Editor of the N3F Fiction zine Eldritch Science; authors of suitable tales will be invited to submit their tales for publication in our zine. This review and invitation will only occur after contest winners have been announced, so it can have no effect on the contest outcome.
- 11. The NSF 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 by March 2021. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered if they did not win previously. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2021. Good luck!

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

Author's name and address:

Author's email address:

I have read the above rules for the 2021 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

| Signature/Date: | |
|-----------------|--|
| | |



In This Issue

Neffys — N3F MiniCon on the Internet — Illustration Contest N3F on Twitter — NefferCon

Letters of Comment
Jeffrey Redmond — John Thiel — Heath Row — Rez
Justin E. A. Busch — Lloyd Penney — Justin E. A. Busch

Sercon Blackhawk

N3F Activities

WelCommittee — Correspondence Bureau — Writers Exchange Fan-Pro Coordinating Committee — History and Research Bureau — Recruiting Bureau Treasury — Games Bureau — Birthday Card Bureau — Publications

Short Story Contest