



The National **81** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

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In the Mystery of Death All Men Are Initiates

Will Mayo

We are saddened to report that Will Mayo, regular contributor to Origin, N'APA, and Tightbeam, has passed to the next plane of existence. We have no other information at this time.

Will's writings in N3F zines brought a breadth rarely seen in fandom. His reviews of popular music found sf/fnal themes in a medium oft overlooked. His reviews of radio plays, comic books, and poems reminded us of the glorious breadth of modern sf/fnal culture. His Zine Contents of a Good Life showed his awareness of that which awaits us all. Jefferson Swycaffer comments: "I'm very sorry, if it is true, that we have lost the man, as he had an eloquence and a beautiful insight and outlook -- he could look inwardly and outwardly both, and most poetically."

Mindful of Will's fondness for books, odd buildings, and reports of hauntings, your Editor closes with an exchange set in Baltimore's Main Library, an exchange Will doubtless would have enjoyed:

Psychic Medium in traditional dress: I saw your advertisement for someone in my profession.



Head Librarian: Yes, you see, our library is haunted.
Medium: I'm sorry, but I'm a Medium, not an Exorcist.
Head Librarian: Oh, no. You don't understand. These are ghosts of patrons. We want to know how to serve them better.

Image from Will Mayo's APA zine *The Contents of a Good Life*

Presidential Notes

Your President does sometimes get complaints, usually from people who are not members. There was the rational observation that the list of Laureate Award novel nominees and the list of Hugo nominees do not overlap much. A little math considered how many novel readers we are likely to have, how many novels are published each year, and recognized three filter points: (1) one of our members has to have read the book that became a Hugo Nominee (unlikely), (2) that member has to be inclined to make Laureate nominations (plausible), and (3) that member has to have liked the book in question more than he liked other books (possible at best). That's a lot of tight filters, so the lack of overlap is not a surprise. Then there was the complaint some time back that we had not done an extended memorial piece on a named fan. The named fan was not a current member, and had not been active in the N3F in so long that our historian was unable to suggest what we might say. Finally, there was the person who complained that I had urged members to advertise us on social media sites. I even listed all the sites that I could name, with no recommendations beyond that.

If any of you have complaints, or suggestions, please speak up. You may not have time, energy, or ability to carry the suggestion out, but someone else here might.

...George Phillies

Letters of Comment

Editors,
Well-deserved congratulations to the four new Franson Award recipients, as reported in the July 2022 edition of *The Fan*: Justin E. A. Busch, Jon Swartz, Jefferson Swycaffer, and John Thiel. All four well deserve such recognition for their service to the National Fantasy Fan Federation and its members, as well as broader fandom!

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 Continued Next Column, Middle

But I am struck by Jon's somewhat frequent recognition in this regard. Having also received the Franson in 2004, 2007, and 2017, Jon is now at least a four-time winner, and that speaks very highly of his ongoing engagement, activity, and support. Since 1991, a handful of other Nefers have also received such accolades multiple times, including Dennis Davis (twice), Laura Hazelwood (twice), Jeanette Marsala (twice), R-Laurraine Tutihasi (twice), William Center (three times), Lyne Masamitsu (three times), George Phillies (three times), and David Speakman (three times). The four new—and not-so-new—recipients are in fine company indeed. You inspire

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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.

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me.

I was somewhat surprised to learn about treasurer Kevin Trainor's proposal to file for non-profit status in the pages of *The Fan*. Even with director John subsequently weighing in with a letter of comment in the August 2022 edition of *The Fan*, I've reached out to the Directorate to ensure that all directors are aware of the proposal and that we pursue any needed discussion and due diligence before proceeding. The idea is exciting and interesting, and well worth considering.

Welcome, Greg Chaffins, as a new member! I'm glad you joined the club formally.

It was fun to see the active lobbying for Laureate Award nominees in the letters of comment. Justin's remarks in response to Jon's writing about the comic book *Space Detective* will inspire me to return to that piece in the May issue. Lloyd Penney indicated that he's a Tuckerized character in Robert Sawyer's novel *Illegal Alien*. Spill the beans, Lloyd—which character is you? (I haven't read the book yet, so if the character's name is Lloyd Penney, I apologize. I just ordered the novel from my local bookstore for pickup; I look forward to reading it!) How was Anime North? I recently took a business trip to Mexico City, where I perused the sf, fantasy, and horror shelves at a local bookstore during some down time, making it home safely without contracting COVID-19 (so far, so good; I've been home a week, so I think I'm in the clear) and hope that the con was as illness-free as possible.

Judy, I recently found a couple of old *Star Trek* round robins in my home office and will strive to get them back in the mail soon—I'll be sure to let you know when I do so. I would be willing to participate in a *Stranger Things* round robin. I watched the first season and perhaps a little into the second when the show first aired—and would welcome an opportunity to return to the program to discuss it with other Neffers.

I read and enjoyed Jon's exploration of the *Weird Science* comic book. Despite having spent some time with EC's Ray Bradbury adaptations, I'm more well versed with its horror line of titles. I didn't know that Harry Harrison was involved in inspiring the EC sf comics. To be honest, I also didn't know he was a comic book artist before he began writing full time. Looks like I have more to read! Your coverage of specific story influences is rich fodder for paired reading, much like listening to old-time radio adaptations of sf stories. I look forward to seeking out the original short stories before exploring the comic adaptation—no matter how

loosely inspired. (To that end, I just put a handful of *Weird Science* issues on my iPad—looks like the reprints Bob mentioned. Regardless, I look forward to revisiting them!)

Congratulations are also due the recipients of the 2022 N3F Laureate Awards as reported in the August edition of *The Fan*. There are certainly some bright lights among the names listed! Thank you, Kevin, for setting up the CafePress store; I look forward to hearing how the T-shirts and other items turn out. Thanks are also due to Jose Sanchez for volunteering as Art Bureau Head to succeed Cedar Sanderson. I've enjoyed your artwork greatly over the years and look forward to even more fan art from you and other fan artists in the pages of our clubzines. (And if you meet any who want to do illos for apazines, send them my way!)

John's LOC mention of the Jack Mulcahy interview that ran in *Ionisphere* #32 (December 2021) made me laugh out loud and shake my head in disbelief. When I started profiling members for *The Fan*, I didn't even think to check against back issues of our very own clubzines. I apologize for following such a well-trodden path—but I am glad John thought the interview was still worthwhile in the end. I think we both covered enough new ground that it's worth reading both conversations, and for those Neffers who haven't recently read the *Ionisphere* interview with Jack, John's more fully fledged bibliography of Jack's writing in print is worth referring to, as is the discussion of Jack receiving an honorable mention in the *Writers of the Future* competition. I also enjoyed Bob's in-depth LOC commenting on the Mulcahy interview.

Welcome back, Gar—thanks for renewing! You might receive a *Star Trek* round robin from me in the weeks to come.

Judy, I will do my best to submit something in response to this month's *Writers Exchange* prompt. I recently finished a short fantasy story, "The Chord of Wandering," participating in this year's *Tolkien Reverse Summer Bang* (<https://tolkienrsb.tumblr.com/>)—the deadline is Sept. 4. I hope to whip it into shape to submit for this year's short story contest. In addition, I still have that story, "A Symphony of Chairs," which you and Denise Fisk so kindly offered feedback and guidance on, to return to and revise for submission. Thank you for continuing to do the good work.

And director Judy Carroll's (the very same Judy!) installment of "The Directors' View" offered a timely, fan-filled appreciation of the recently departed Nichelle Nichols. I applaud you for bringing the voices of so

many female fen to the pages of The Fan. That's what the directors—and the N3F—attempt to do in all our activities: bring fen together to share their love and enthusiasm for all things sf, fantasy, and horror.

Putting it on a tight beam,
Heath Row

Editors:

First, my thanks for the Franson Award. I had somehow missed the announcement (I was busy looking up the nominees for the Laureate Awards), so when the certificate arrived while I was in the hospital it was a very pleasant surprise, something you rarely get in the hospital. Congratulations as well to the other recipients.

Congratulations also to the winners of the Laureate Awards. In a future letter I will again tilt at the windmill of suggesting reforms to the process, but for now I will stick with congratulations..

I was really looking forward to reading about This Magazine is Haunted, which he mentions in his introduction and then, alas, never again. I assume it's a horror story anthology, but the title is enticing enough that I wanted to know more. I also enjoyed Angela K. Scott's interior illos and Judy Carroll's reminiscence of the impact of Nichelle Nichols on her and her sisters, though I wish it had been longer, a reaction I often have to Judy's work.

But now I must turn critical, and in a serious way. I invite readers to consider a few fanzines and their editors: The Baloobius (Taral Wayne); This Here... (Nic Farey); Askance (John Purcell); and The Zine Dump (Guy Lillian III). Four very different zines produced by four very different editors— and each of them with some sort of acknowledgement of the recent death of Robert Lichtman. But, so far as I can tell, that death went unnoticed in N3F publications; certainly it did not appear in either TNFF (its natural home) or FanActivity Gazette (which purports to be a newszine).

Now of course most fanzines published recently said nothing about Lichtman's death or his career. But most fanzines are published by people with but a slender knowledge of their predecessors. Not so with the N3F zines, which are deeply embedded in the history of fandom, a history in which Lichtman figured prominently for many years (well do I know this; I made an error of fact in one of my letters, which he promptly wrote in to correct— politely but firmly, and with plenty of supporting detail). Nor are most fanzines published by, or

for, a club. Not so with the N3F zines (the same silence occurred upon the death in July of last year of long-time fan Edmund Meskys, also a member of the N3F).

This, it seems to me, is wrong. Lichtman was a longstanding member of the N3F; surely his death deserved some sort of notice. If there was truly no one left in the N3F who knew him well enough to produce a proper memorial essay (and I would not be wholly surprised if this proved to be the case), then permission should have been asked to reprint of one of the better articles from another fanzine. But in any case he deserved better from his club, much better, than for his death to pass unnoticed.

....Justin E. A. Busch

Editor: As this issue keeps coming up, I shall point out that neither Ed Meskys nor Robert Lichtman were, at the times of their deaths, N3F members. I am not sure why the contrary report keeps returning. As far back as I can look in the membership records, they had not been dues-paying N3F members. They had, many years back, been active in the N3F, but our archives are silent on their doubtless excellent deeds. Nonetheless, if someone wants to write a short In Memoriam on their N3F activities, please do so.

Member of the Month

This is the fourth installment in a periodic series of features showcasing interesting people from among the members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. We offer such profiles as a way to help connect members. Feel free to reach out to other Neffers—even if just to say hello—individually or within the pages of The Fan.

Justin E.A. Busch
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N3F member Justin E.A. Busch has been intrigued by science fiction, fantasy, and horror for almost 60 years. An avid reader, fanzine and apazine publisher, and letterhack, Busch enjoys reading sf and fantasy, though as a writer, he focuses on fantasy.

Justin: "I scarcely remember a time when I wasn't reading what I would now call sf or fantasy, but that's partly because, once I figured out how to read, I read absolutely voraciously, with no regard for genre boundaries or demographics. So, for example, I was reading the Hardy Boys at the same time (third grade) as Catch-22 (needless to say, I understood more of the former than the latter), but I got the basic ideas from [Joseph] Heller's book, in part because I'd already read William L. Shirer's Rise

and Fall of the Third Reich.

“Among this cascade of reading was a collection, Edgar Allan Poe Stories, which I still have, another collection of H.G. Wells [that] had at least *The Time Machine* and some short stories, and [C.S.] Lewis’s *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. There was something about being taken to other places, not just places I’d never been, but places to which no one had ever been—or could ever go. Each place was mine, in the sense that I was collaborating with the author to imagine and populate the world. [J.R.R.] Tolkien came shortly after that (again, in the third grade), and I was thoroughly enchanted by the idea of a landscape littered by ancient ruins—so much so that I got a plastic cup from our kitchen and created a number of towers from the sand in our sandbox, towers [that] I scattered about the neighborhood (or at least three or four nearby houses), allowing myself the pleasure of imagining Nashville to be the equivalent of who knows what long-past empire and its ruins.

“Although I haven’t built towers in a long time, I think my basic liking of science fiction and fantasy remains similarly grounded to this day: [Each world is one the reader not only helps create but which, for all the sweating and straining of the author, could not exist without the reader.]

“[As a writer,] apart from a story published in *Challenging Destiny* in 2001 (Editor’s Note: “In the Sight of Eternity,” a tragic portrayal of the costs of fear and the assumption of godhood), [I’ve written] six other main stories. In terms of length, the order is reversed, [with] the longest coming first. I wrote a 100,000-word fantasy novel, *The Price of Magic*, in 1999. I shopped it around but without success; I think now that it’s very readable but probably too slow moving for most contemporary audiences. It was followed, a few years later, by *Thief’s Reward*, a science-fantasy novella of about 23,000 words (as I like to say, back in the old days, *Fantastic Adventures* would have published it as a “complete novel,” but those days are long gone). Then, from 2017-2019, with the assistance of a silent partner, I published four limited-edition chapbooks of stories set in the world of the novel. [Those] were moderately successful, especially the first two, but eventually the funding ran out, and the series (for which there were no more finished stories anyway) ended.

“I’ve started any number of other stories, but I’m not really a fiction writer at heart, so even ones more or less complete in outline rarely get finished.”

He spends his days composing, writing, reading, listening to music, and occasionally watching movies. Music is

even in his very name—one of his middle initials stands for the name of a Russian composer and pianist.

Justin: “I’m not a performer as such (I’ve played someone else’s music, so far as I can recall, only about six times in my life, including recitals when I was taking piano lessons); I use the piano as an aid to composition, although I also improvise as a form of performance. The last set of pieces I’ve been working on are settings of poems by [fen] from the 1940s. Although the series, as published in *Far Journeys*, is entitled, overall, *Lyric Visions*, there are actually two types of poems involved: ones of a more traditional nature, either as regards form or content, and ones related to some form of more-or-less Lovecraftian plot and imagery. The former are generally more straightforward in style and approach; the latter are often more dramatic or dreamlike.

“In general I don’t write program music; most of my pieces have abstract titles such as *Meditation*, *Sonata*, *Quartet*, and so on. One relevant exception is a *Fantasy Septet* yclept *The Sorceress of Zoom*, which was inspired by the 1940s comic book anti-heroine. There’s a spirited performance on YouTube. (<https://tinyurl.com/bdcks5ux>)”

Busch indicates that he prefers sf writing that features utopias, space opera, and hard science fiction—particularly involving aliens. He also appreciates high fantasy and adventure that doesn’t take itself too seriously. Favorite authors include Leigh Brackett, Jo Clayton, Zenna Henderson, Jack Vance, A. E. van Vogt, Stanley G. Weinbaum, H.G. Wells, and James White.

Justin: “There’s no one thing which [I appreciate most that] would cover every author I enjoy, but, very loosely, I might use the phrase “emotional and moral intensity” to point toward a key element. [That] is neither original nor especially profound, but it does accurately reflect my self-awareness as a reader from an early age, and, suitably modified by many subsequent years of reading, my approach today. By [that] I mean both the central aspects of the story (major plot points, character development, and so on) and the overall impact of the story as a whole.

“The first time I consciously encountered a form of this experience (which, of course, I understood quite differently then) was in reading [E.E. Smith’s] *Grey Lensman*, which I did when I was about 12 or 13. Kimball Kinnison has been smashed quite brutally and seems to be hopelessly trapped, but he finds a spider, the mind of which he is able to link with to achieve his goal. Then he guides the spider toward some delicious food, because “a *Lensman* always pays his debts, even to a spider.” I remember thinking, “This is what it means to be good!”

That was, of course, quite simplistic, but I don't think it's wholly wrong even now; we ought to acknowledge those who have assisted us, especially if, like the spider, they have not done so wholly of their own free will.

“[That] understanding takes multiple forms; a comic story such as Eric Frank Russell's “And Then There Were None” makes its point largely through the humor—but the humor holds up even after you realize that the political and philosophical aspects are largely nonsense. The intensity [that] matters, therefore, is the humor—by which I don't mean it's a laugh-a-second yockfest. Quite the opposite; the humor is entirely gentle, which does at least as much to make the deeper points as do the actual arguments, but with more emotional weight.

“More recently, the Aleytys sequence by Jo Clayton is filled with such moments, especially after Aleytys becomes the bearer of two other individuals (not to mention the fact that she has a child of her own). The complexities, both of deed and of thought, are striking.

“The foregoing probably makes me sound terribly sercon (which I suppose I am, in a way), so I should definitely stress the importance of the emotional side of all of this as well. Let's face it: There's a great satisfaction—with no moral weight at all—when Luke pulls the trigger, the rockets hit the target, and the Death Star blows up. Sometimes what matters is simply that the action resolves in as thrilling a manner as possible.”

When asked about his favorite books, Busch asserted an appreciation for short fiction. “You don't mention stories, which might be just as well,” he said. “That list could go on for a very long time.” In fact, a list of Busch's favorite books is also extensive. His favorite novels include Elizabeth Bear's *Machine*, Brackett's Eric John Stark trilogy, John Brunner's *A Planet of Your Own*, C.J. Cherryh's *Downbelow Station*, Hal Clement's *Mission of Gravity*, Tom Holt's humorous fantasy *Expecting Someone Taller*, C.L. Moore's *Black God's Shadow*, Andre Norton's *Witch World* series, Alva Rogers's pulp magazine history *A Requiem for Astounding*, Eric Frank Russell's *Wasp*, George Schuyler's *Black No More*, Clifford D. Simak's *City*, Smith's *Grey Lensman*, Vance's *Showboat World*, and Wells's *Men Like Gods*.

He also enjoys media fandom, as well, and his favorite movies include *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Alphaville*, *Aniara*, *Contact*, the 1931 *Dracula*, *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *Forbidden Planet*, *Gojira*, *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir*, *Metropolis*, *Return to Oz*, the original *Star Wars* movie (“Han Solo shot first,” he says), *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*, and *Things to Come*. “That's more than I

realized,” he admits. “I could list others.” On television, Busch enjoys *Doctor Who* (especially Jon Pertwee, Patrick Troughton, and Jodie Whittaker), *The Sarah Jane Adventures*, the original *Star Trek*, and the original *Twilight Zone*.

Involved in fandom since 1974, Justin is currently active in the N3F, for which he edits our clubzine *Films Fantastic*. (<https://tnfff.org/films-fantastic/>) (“I actually published about 10 issues of a dittoed fanzine—a term I did not then know—in 1972,” he says.) He's also marginally involved in the Minnesota Science Fiction Society and has attended conventions such as *Discon 2* and *Minicon 55*.

Justin: “Although I was reading a great deal in the early 1970s, I was also a huge fan of monster movies, and therefore of *Famous Monsters of Filmland*. So naturally, with the bravado of a 13-year-old, I decided to produce my own version. There were, I think, 10 issues all told. My father dittoed them at his departmental office, probably five copies (maybe as many as 10), and I sold the copies for a dime—or, more often, gave them away (in [that], at least, I was following a long fannish tradition), except for number six (25 cents), which, as I remember, had a page or possibly two—they would have cost a nickel apiece—of photocopied pictures clipped from, yes, *Famous Monsters of Filmland*. Apart from a similar zine published by a friend of mine soon after mine, I knew of no other efforts in this direction, so the idea that there might be entire communities of such [editors and publishers] never occurred to me.

“I must admit, though, that while I [might] have been something of a prodigy as a reader, I was most assuredly not one as an editor or writer.”

Regardless, Justin is now an active fanzine reader and publisher. Justin currently publishes the fanzines *Dreams Renewed* and *Far Journey*, as well as the *StippleAPA* apazine *Stipple-Ations*.

Justin: “[*StippleAPA* is] a lively and varied group, so each mailing is bound to contain surprises. There's a good mix of artists and writers, and, of course, I contribute my sercon articles (generally a match between a prozine and a fanzine from the same year, or even month, making some connection [that] readers might find intriguing, but sometimes straight fannish history—I admit I've reprinted some of [those] articles in *Far Journeys*). Jeanne Mealy has been keeping the apa going for decades now, and deserves a great deal of credit; without her, I suspect *StippleAPA* would long ago have gone the way of many of its predecessors, including *MinneaAPA*.”

He edits the N3F's Films Fantastic and contributes to the N3F's Fanactivity Gazette, as well as John Thiel's Pablo Lennis, the BFF Portable Storage, Rune, and This Here... His favorite fanzines—old and new alike—include The Acolyte, Banana Wings, Idea, Janus, Lan's Lantern, Littlebrook, Mimosa, Portable Storage, and This Here... Also a reader of older prozines and semi-prozines such as Amazing, Astounding, Challenging Destiny, Fantastic, Galaxy, Neo-Opis, and Wonder Stories, Justin says he's not been keeping up with the newer ones, though he occasionally reads The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction.

Justin: “[My interest in fanzines] came much later. Although I was aware of fanzines on an individual level (e.g. Don-o-Saur), I still had not made the connection with a community. I'd read and enjoyed [Sam Moskowitz's] The Immortal Storm, but its immediate relevance to my own life was not apparent. Over the years I kept discovering individual fanzines in bookstores, and, step by step, developed a sense of what I thought worked and what did not. But it was only in 2019, when I started publishing Dreams Renewed, that I really started seeking out fanzines. I was lucky; I was connected, through a friend, to two fans who had been very active in the 1970s and 1980s, so I inherited, so to speak, a substantial number of older fanzines almost as soon as I became more extensively interested in them, among them Geri Sullivan's Idea, Bill Bowers's Outworlds, Rich and Nikki Lynch's Mimosa, and George Lankowski's Lan's Lantern. I thus had a very quick, but thorough, introduction to the possibilities of fanzine publication before I'd started Far Journeys (Dreams Renewed was always intended to be a single-sheet foldover: to use Jack Speer's term, a minimag).

“I very much enjoyed the vast range of styles and approaches and attitudes and designs of fanzines. It was just plain interesting to see the very different answers reached by editors grappling with what were essentially the same questions.

“[That] all, I must admit, gave me a rather romanticized view of fanzines and their production. The first issue of Far Journeys came out in February of 2020, and I discovered, on doing some research, that the number of print fanzines was much smaller than I had assumed. I then discovered, having mailed out a number of copies for potential trade, that the reply rate was very low, probably about one in 10. It was, I admit, rather a disappointment.”

Other interests include amateur press associations, books, collecting, fandom, history, music, pulp fiction,

publishing, reading, short stories, teaching and education, and writing.

A rousing Neffer hello to member Justin E.A. Busch!

Treasurer's Report

PayPal balance \$1082.29

In: \$52.29 for membership renewals & upgrades

NSB balance: \$1526.63

In: \$30 for membership renewals & upgrades

2 life members + 24 electronic + 16 regular + 3 household members = 45 voting members

7 archive members + 239 public members = 246 non-voting members

Thanks to Steve Simmons, J.I. Rogers, Scott Duncan, Mick Taylor, Walt Boyes, and Angela Myers for upgrading to a voting membership, and to Denise Fisk & John Thiel for renewing theirs!

Welcome to Evan DeShais!

In an effort to make us not so reliant on membership fees, the Directorate has approved the opening of an N3F swag shop, powered by CafePress. Along with T-shirts, coffee cups, and mouse pads, there is a surprising amount of other useful items on offer, all of which goes to help support the N3F.

Bureaus

Welcomittee

It has recently come to my attention that I have neglected to welcome the latest new members into the N3F. This was not intentional. George Phillies, our club president, discovered that I was not receiving most of his new member information. I found the missing names hiding in my computer in places I didn't even know existed.

Following are the newest members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation: Jack Mulcany, Michael McLain, Justin Busch, Amy Clark, Laura Montgomery, Kevin Plummer, Brianna Coyle, Edward Stapleton, Tiffanie Gray, Michael Williamson, Lisa Nybaek, Lisbet Rasmussen, Michael McCormick, A. Servello, Wait Boyes, and Evan Deshais.

We hope your expectations are fully realized and that your time with the N3F is one of the most enjoyable experiences of your life. We would also like to recognize Jeffery Redmond and Dani Zweig who have renewed

their memberships. May your coming year with the N3F continue to be a happy and enjoyable experience.

Being active is the most fulfilling way to enjoy being a member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Please read the current TNFF for a list of the many activities and bureaus you can join. If you find a bureau or activity you are interested in, please contact the head of the bureau or activity for more information.

If you have questions about the N3F or are interested in helping with the Welcomittee please contact: Judy Carroll at BlueShadows2012@gmail.com or 975 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

History-Research Bureau

This has been getting comments from here and there, including the bureau members, about how evocative our portrayal of earlier science fiction is, and I think we have been going great guns in our researches. We are not letting the past rest untended! John Thiel

Round Robins Bureau

I would like to see the Round Robins Bureau active again. I would like to try something new. Granted, what I am about to suggest is different and may not work, but I would like to give it a try.

Netflix Streaming Round Robins

I have Netflix Streaming. I am curious as to whether N3F members who also have this would like to try a new version of the Round Robin. We need at least two members plus the Robin Master. I will be the RM for this experiment. Following are three series to choose from:

Travelers - 3 seasons - series completed

Stranger Things - 4 seasons - on-going

Raising Dion - 2 seasons -on-going

Please contact me if you are willing to try this experiment.

Postal Mail Round Robin

I have only one active Round Robin that I am aware of, Worldwide Folklore #2. This RR has only three members. This Round Robin is through the mail. If you are interested in joining, please contact me at the address below.

I have two members who would like to join the Worldwide Folklore #2 Round Robin. I am checking the information I have been given to see if it is still up to date. I would really appreciate it if any members of an active RR would contact me. The information would allow me to open up the RR to more members. If any-

one is interested in starting a new RR, please contact me. I will put the information in the next TNFF "as seeking more members."

Contact: Judy Carroll, 971 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660 OR blueshadows2012@gmail.com

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

We're livening up along with the rest of the N3F. I have been seeing the people on the Fan-Pro Bureau staff elsewhere, which gives the bureau more of a background. Heath Row is getting around plenty, Jeffrey Redmond and I have been doing more email exchanges, Jefferson Swycaffer is reading and LoCing my fanzine as well as being with me in NAPA. We want internal as well as external activity. The next Ionisphere has a cover by our new art bureau head, and some of their doings outside the bureau are being mentioned in the zine.

...John Thiel

Correspondence Bureau

Want to make new friends? What to discuss the latest book by your favorite author? What to debate the merits of soft science fiction vs hard science fiction? Then you have come to the right place.

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 include 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 or persons 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.

G Steven Condrey - by email -*New Member

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

Writers Exchange Bureau

We have three readers, Heath Row, John Thiel and George Phillies. who have accepted the challenge given

in last month's Writers Exchange. Thanks guys. It's always fun to have responses.

In last month's article I wrote:

In the evenings, or when I just want quiet sounds to fill in the background noises in my head while I think or sleep, I turn on the TV to an instrumental music channel..... Once I've seen combinations of words that appeal, I can spend more time writing them down than sleeping or thinking important thoughts.

This is how the information appears on the screen:

Title: Morning Splendor
Artist: Pauline Anna Strom
Album: Late Night Tales

This is what I do with it:

Late night tales
And morning Splendor
Much to do
In mid-December

Then I asked the readers "to pick a title, album or both and write a brief poem or the opening sentence or two of a story idea. Combine any combination you want." Then several choices were offered. (If you wish to read the offers, please read the August Writers Exchange in TNFF.)

Heath Row
Stimulus:
Title: Seven Rays
Artist: 2002
Album: A Word In The Wind

Result:
A word in the wind
written like exhalation, like breath, like prayer
Motes rise in updraft, glinting like minds in that word
like little burning hearts
Like souls
illuminated by seven rays

John Thiel
Here's a poem based on the song title "Distant Shores".

Distant shores
Set one a-dreaming
But what's their mores
What are they scheming?

George Phillis
(Not quite what you asked for, but whatever)

Maxwell King
Wine and Lovers
The Way I Feel
is Eclipse's State Funeral in Stand Against the Light

The Rippingtons
Aspen
Chapters 24 and 25 of The One World
the Sisterhood marches into battle against alien invaders.

I love being around young children. I love the way they laugh and giggle and the huge smiles that almost take up their tiny faces. I love their sparkling eyes and their innocent spirits. I love their willingness to help and their acceptance of everyone.

Sometimes, these little wonders say some of the funniest things.

Here are three examples of young relative of mine.*

Tina at four years old talking to me..
Tina, "Opposition. It's a real word."
Me, "I know it's a real word".
Tina, "I'm a special kid. I'm the most special kid in the world because I can talk to animals."

Tina at four years old talking to her eight year old sister.
Tina, "Did you know my experiments can never be suppressed?"
Anna, "You're Weird."

Tina at five years old.
Tina, "Tadpoles are dangerous to your ears."
Me, "How did you decide that?"
Tina, "From my brain," as she points to her forehead,

For the October Writers Exchange I would like you to quote a young relative or a friend's child aged two to 5 years. You may send a total of three quotes.

Responses will appear in next month's Writers Exchange.

If you have a story you would like read, please contact me, and I will check with our readers to see who is available. I will contact you with the name and email address of your reader. Please do not contact a reader unless I have assigned that reader to you. Occasionally we get several short stories at the same time and I don't want any of our readers getting "reading overload."

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

Sercon

Captain Science by Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D. N3F Historian

Captain Science Comics, published by Youthful Magazines, went through several title changes during its brief existence. Captain Science was initially published for seven issues during 1950 – 1951. The title then became Fantastic for two issues (1952), continuing the numbering of Captain Science.

Acquired by Trojan Magazines, the title was again changed, this time to Beware, for three issues (1952), but continued the numbering of Fantastic. Chilling Tales, the final title of this comic book, was published for five issues during 1952 – 1953, continuing the numbering of Beware. This article will examine the seven issues of the science fiction (SF) comic book titled Captain Science, all of which were 32 pages in length and published in full color.

Captain Science #1

Captain Science #1 (1950) told the origin story of Captain Science and also contained a two-page article, with photos,



of George Pal's movie, "Destination Moon." While visiting New Mexico, scientist Gordon Dane is given an advanced supercomputer by the alien survivor of a flying-saucer crash, which he uses to become Captain Science. Using the supercomputer, Captain Science learns that Hitler and other Axis leaders were actually aliens, and they have a new invasion planned for the planet. In another story, "The Monster God of

Rogor," an archaeologist is transported by a strange crystal to another world, where he is welcomed as a legendary hero, in a story with early art by Wally Wood.

Contents: Tracking the Flying Saucers; Traitors to the Earth; Destination Moon (text article); The Monster God of Rogor; The Spawn of Saturn. Cover by Walter Johnson. Stories and art by Wally Wood, Walter Johnson, and Gustav Schrotter.



Captain Science #2

When the alien supercomputer warns of danger from the dark side of the moon, Captain Science and his young assistant Rip use the flying saucer to investigate. In a Brant Craig story, interplanetary private eye Craig investigates after the Venusberg Freight line is targeted by space pirates. A second Captain Science story is "The Cat Men of Phoebus." Contents: The Dark 'o the Moon; The Space Pirates of Lanthus IV; Nightmare! (text article); The Cat Men of Phoebus; Robots of Ra. Cover by Walter Johnson. Stories and art by Walter Johnson and Gustav Schrotter.

Captain Science #3

In "The Mental Monsters" giant robots attack the Earth, and only Captain Science can stop them. In the Brant Craig story, Craig gets a call from the moon on his unlisted Space-o-phone, leading to a murder and a confrontation with the Dwarfs of Deimos. Another Captain Science story is "The Lost World of Mindanao." In this issue's final story, a researcher discovers ghosts living under the surface of the Earth. The story featured early art by future Marvel legend Don Perlin.

Contents: The Metal Monsters; The Deadly Dwarfs of Deimos; The City of the Ancients (text article); The Lost World of Mindanao; Ghosts from the Underworld. Cover by Walter Johnson. Stories and art by Don Perlin and Gustav Schrotter.

Captain Science #4

In "The Martian Slavers," Captain Science responds to a call for help from Martian scientists. He must battle slavers who have taken control of the Martian atmosphere



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

When Time Stood Still. Cover by Joe Orlando and Wally Wood. Stories and art by Myron Fass, Joe Orlando, and Wally Wood.

Captain Science #5

In “Time Door of Throm” Captain Science learns that Plutonians may one day conquer Earth, unless he can stop them. In “Science vs. Sorcery,” the Captain and Rip travel to the Sahara Desert to battle a powerful wizard “with a yen for world conquest.” Interplanetary private eye Brant Craig battles the Shark Pirates of Pisces, who look as one might expect. Contents: Time Door of Throm; The Flower of Death!; Scientific Fakers (text article); Science vs. Sorcery; Shark Pirates of Pisces. Cover by Joe Orlando and Wally Wood. Stories and art by Joe Orlando and Wally Wood.

Captain Science #6

In “Spawn of Pathor” an alien scientist warns Captain Science and his gang that the military forces on his dying world have taken control, and plan to invade Earth next. Interplanetary private eye Brant Craig investigates the murder of the solar system's most famous actor in a story featuring “good girl” art. Another Captain Science story is “Invisible Tyrants of Calot III.” Contents: Spawn of Pathor; Brant Craig: The Red Devils of Mars!; Do You Believe in Ghosts? (text article); Invisible Tyrants of Calot III; World War III with the Ants. Stories and art by Tex Blaisdell and Vince Napoli.

Captain Science #7

In “The Legion of Space,” a gigantic spacecraft from another galaxy appears over the Earth, demanding fealty to The Legion of Space. Even Captain Science's alien super-

plant. In another Captain Science story, the Captain and Rip go back in time to face a menace from another dimension. Art by Joe Orlando and Wally Wood. Interplanetary private eye Brant Craig battles a Saturnian bank robber who reanimates the dead. Contents: The Martian Slavers; The Insidious Doctor Khartoum; Vampires: Truth or Fiction? (text article); Brant Craig: The Legion of the Dead; computer is no match for the aliens. In “The Hangman’s Son,” a young boy is haunted by the spirits of those executed by his father, a hangman. In “Heads of Horror,” hideous blobs from space plan to devour Earth and all who dwell upon it, unless Captain Science can stop them. Contents: The Legion of Space; The Hangman’s Son; Can Science Make Gold? (text article); Heads of Horror!; Brant Craig in “The Hot Money Space Mob!” Stories and art by Harry Harrison and Vince Napoli. Final issue under this title; series continued as Fantastic #8 (1952).



Some Conclusions

All seven issues of Captain Science were collected in a hardback book published in 2017 by P S Artbooks in the UK. Comic book historian, Roy Thomas, provided an introduction to the volume.

Youthful (also known as Youthful Magazines) operated from 1949 to 1954. The company was owned by attorney Bill Friedman and his wife. Adrian Lopez was publisher of the company for most of its existence.

Sources

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



In Memoriam Will Mayo

Presidential Notes

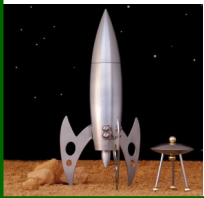
Letters of Comment
Heath Row — Justin E.A. Busch

Member of the Month
Justin E. A. Busch

Treasurer's Report

Bureau Reports
Welcommittee — History-Research Bureau
Round Robins Bureau — Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau
Correspondence Bureau — Eldritch Science — Writers Exchange

Sercon
Captain Science



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