

ORIGIN 66



Publication of the National Fantasy Fan Federation
History and Research Bureau

August 2023

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Origin is the official publication of this bureau and appears monthly. Our interest is the study and research of science fiction and fantasy literature and its advancement in the consciousness of its readership as well as our own. Hubris? Gone to soot.

Published for the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F). To join or renew, use the membership form at <http://n3f.org/join/membership-form/> to provide your name and address. Memberships with TNFF via paper mail are \$18; via email are \$6. Our other zines are email only. Public memberships are free. Send payments to Kevin Trainor, Post Office Box 143, Tonopah, Nevada 89049. Pay online at N3F.org. Our pay contact is treasurer@n3f.org .

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We are here to amuse and entertain you, to introduce you to historical findings in the field of science fiction and fantasy, and to find pertinent information about the makeup of science fiction society and its place in the literary field. Let us know if we have been finding out and expressing things you like to know.

Argue with us if you have contentions different from our own. We like to interact with others here.

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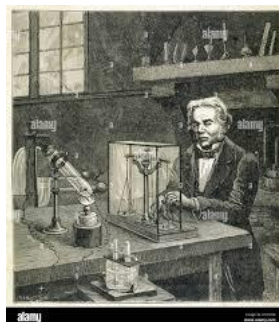
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Cover art by Malcolm Upitas



EDITORIAL



Hard Times and Hopes

Yes, we live in this juncture in the developing world of science fiction where things have come to a sort of halt and further developments are largely unrecognized, perhaps to say unrecognizable. Sometimes there have been surges in the development of science fiction, and sometimes stalls; fans of the fifties called this "boom and bust" cycles, a term originating in the fanzine **Sigma Octantis**, it being thereafter much discussed in the Cult. Some have thought wars were having these effects. And that does seem to be a whole lot of our present-day plight and predicament. A lot of our projects come to naught, but perhaps are picked up later. It's hard to know just what to do when things are going foundering.

Origin is not doing as good as it could be doing. We keep running into problems, sometimes pretty sensational ones. After a time of getting a lot of compliments on what we are doing, we are suddenly hit by downgradings and unexpected crises, where things seem as if they might turn against us, and the odds become unfavorable. Then there might be some new surprises that put us in a better mood. Those who look at the publishing data at the top will find our staff to be one person short. Jon Swartz has decided to withdraw from his position in this bureau. He's the N3F historian and thereby a great asset to our bureau. Having the axe strike at Jeffrey Redmond has been diminishing to our bureau as well. At this time I'm doing better than when the bureau was started and I was the only person who could be called its staff, but I found two people who seemed to suit this bureau's needs, Jon Swartz and Judy Carroll, and Jeffrey Redmond had been doing a lot of research that seemed quite suitable to this bureau, but it seems that in research, as in the creative arts, you have to say where the research is coming from. We are still wondering how to solve this problem, as a lot of the material involved is written anonymously. So, there is something dismal about our present position, and I am wondering if there are any people in the organization who would like to add themselves to our staff.

Go back through our previous issues and take advantage of our tips on where research and historical information is to be found, good links to use, and you will find that we are not negligent in the operation of this bureau. I have a speculative fiction award for Origin as best N3F fanzine as proof that we have our ups as well as downs in our career here in the N3F. And I hope we have been being genuinely serviceable to the NFFF membership in the work we have been doing. It seems to me we

have helped reestablish a consciousness in sf fandom and to provide definitory material on what we are all doing, which does not seem to be coming very much from the inner circles of fan fandom, as far as I can see.

Those are the hard times, now what are the hopes? Well, I've been saying what I hope for in previous issues of Origin, but it may be that nobody gives a d—n what I hope for, as those hopes are not likely to be similar to what anybody else hopes for, whereas the commentary on hard times will probably strike responsive chords. (Wait, hold on, I didn't say get responses; I know pretty well I don't get many LoCs!) (I'd say we don't, but I'm not real sure of my ground when I say "we".) Here is where I'm in a bind; I don't know what would constitute hope for other people. So when I speak of "hopes", I am attempting the impossible. You can't get other people to hope for what you hope for; hoping is too magical, too ephemeral, perhaps. Though you might notice that Judy Carroll is making a careful attempt at expressing what might be considered universal hope. Perhaps I should leave the hopes factor to her, aside from saying that there are things I hope to see, but again, are they things other people hope to see? Judy is referring back to what commonly constitutes hopeful things, and pointing out that there is a lot of deviation from this, and that people might want to be doing things otherwise than to ignore what is most commonly regarded as being hopeful. I think Jeffrey Redmond takes things as they come. Judy says NFFFers ought to do good neffing. If they do this, they may not be achieving what they hope for, but they are doing what other Neffers hope to see them doing; people do like to see activity, even if they are not themselves prepared for doing anything as yet. You bring some element of hope into being when you are doing things, if what you are doing is not nefarious. Stagnation begets moroseness.

Hope has to involve what two or more people want; the hopes of a single person are not respected. This may be why hope is so often a rarity; it doesn't pass from one person to another very easily. It is wistful and not easy to communicate. A material basis helps out; a person might say, "I hope we can get this construction finished before the weekend" and might be answered affirmatively by more than one person. They might ask "why should it get done so fast" and the first fellow might say "It's less likely to be hit by vandals when it's finished, and there've been more and more people hanging around looking." To which: "Right on. That's just exactly why I was agreeing with you." With a material basis, things are more easily understood, and conversations get started relevant to the subject. Whereas without this solid basis, whimsicality, the more tenuous feelings, are not communicated as well and it is less possible to work with them, or converse about them. This is especially relevant to literary matters, where things are not capricious and statements are expected to count. One step beyond that, the N3F is a literary organization and is apt to get all bolloxed up in the ineffable, with confusions on every side on what things are to be accomplished and what pursuits are to be pursued. We are discussing workmanship here, without a clear basis as to what's to be worked with, and we are not discussing science fiction and fantasy nearly enough, perhaps being tyros at the setup we have, which is not clearly enough set out.

Look to the early days and you see the same thing. People were just starting out and they had no course set out for them. Now, after some collapses, we are re-starting things, perhaps with the same gaping inexperience that there was then.

CALCULATORS IN THE CLASSROOM by Judy Carroll

How well are we doing in this computerized world?



As you all know, I love science fiction. As soon as I discovered it as a child, I became madly in love with it. I like the suspense, the adventure, the unfamiliar planets, and the interesting forms and ability of the Aliens.

Of course, I haven't seen all of the science fiction movies and TV series that are available. Some of them don't appeal to me at all. I don't like the stories where evil prevails, and I don't like the movies where special effects are the main reason for the movie's existence. I don't like drawn-out battle scenes, or conversations that go nowhere. I like stories that are more about the people, be they aliens and/or humans. I like old black and white movies and color-filled new ones. And the most important thing of all—I have to like the characters.

Recently, I was helping a six-year-old relative review what she had learned in Kindergarten. I had talked to her mother and she ok'd this little adventure since school was starting on August 16th. She does quite well in reading. Math is a different story. She became very upset when she couldn't give the answers immediately and had to think about it. I asked her how her Kindergarten teacher taught the children math. According to my little relative, the computer taught the children math.

My mind ran back to something I had heard a few months ago during the last school year. Cursive is not being taught in public schools any more and math is being taught with calculators.

I decided to ask the internet what its thoughts were on cursive and calculators in the classroom. If you are curious as to what I found out go to the * at the end of this column. Otherwise, let's move on.

We will now go where my mind took me when I was thinking about computers and calculators.

Do you know what movie the following scene is from? (Do I need to say Spoiler Alert in case you have never seen the movie? It's the last scene.)

SPOILER ALERT!! (Name of movie is under **)

Soldier: "You push that button, everything we've accomplished for the last 500 years will be finished. Our technology, our way of life, our entire history. We'll have to start all over again."

I thought of this movie because of the idea that if computers, calculators, cell phones, and etc. were zapped out of existence, what would the people of Earth do? Would they help one another? Would they fight with each other? Would they try to rebuild all that was lost? Would they become a more caring people than they are now?

What do you think?

Email or write to me. I will include members' thoughts in the September issue of Origin.
My email address and postal mail address are on the opening page of Origin.

*Cursive Pros and Cons. <https://cityparent.com>education> .

PROS

- Cursive Writing stimulates the brain.
- Cursive Writing may promote focus.
- Cursive Writing may help students with dyslexia.

CONS

- Cursive writing is only used in signatures.
- Typing on a keyboard should take precedence.
- Digital tests make it obsolete.

Calculators in the classroom.

Resilient Educator

Pros and Cons of allowing kids to use calculators in math class

The SHARE Team January 1, 2023

PROS

- Technological knowledge
- Enjoyment
- Accuracy

CONS

- Complacency
- Cheating
- Costly

**Escape from LA



Painting by Condias Neigh

Hearing From the Others

Jeffrey Redmond: I recruited Lisa to join the N3F. George made her the editor of the N3F adult group, and me the editor of the regular N3F one on Facebook.

The N3F does not grow very fast. Many of its members do not try to recruit others. But it's lasted for many years and will continue to survive.

We have hot and humid summer heat, with skies filled with Canadian smoke here in Michigan. Smog like in Los Angeles. I mostly stay home and watch movies on television. Last night they had on Planet of the Apes with Charleton Heston. Always an excellent film.

Thanks for using another of my articles in Pablo Lennis. I'm surprised you got it past all the censors and troublemakers out there.

If readers have not seen it, Lisa was interviewed in the August issue of Pablo Lennis.

Judy Carroll: Under Cursive Pros and Cons it should say Cursive writing, not Creative writing. Sorry about that. I was having a lot of problems with my computer while I was writing—it kept jumping around and refused to cooperate. It shut down once, and I thought I had lost the entire piece. I ended it fast trying to get it shut off before I went completely crazy.

I'm hoping it will cooperate enough for me to get my articles to George before the deadline.

I surely hope it is doing that. Those are exactly the same problems I've been having with my computer, and as I write my printer has unaccountably stopped working. I'm having to do the last two pages of my print fanzine with a ballpoint pen. Working with the computer is far more difficult than producing printed matter was in times of old, and I think it may be said that our equipment is not very dependable.

I find it deplorable how much we have lost ground contact doing this. Regular printed matter has much greater stability to it and should work conjointly with computer fandom for a feeling of wholeness to our work.

LOOKING OVER THE ISSUE

Regretting again losing the assistance of Jon Swartz and his recent column work, I thought perhaps I should continue the series on female science fiction writers myself, but it was too late to get anything accomplished. It may be that I will continue the series in the upcoming issue. I have in mind Evelyn E. Smith.

"Hearing from the Others" is an attempt to further introduce our staff to our readers and give people a better look at what we're doing and how we're doing it, and how we relate to one another. It is better that we not be impersonal in how we handle our bureau activities.

Anent Judy's column, I'd say computerization seems to be overriding our standard way of living. It would be well if we don't become computer dependent; as she points out, loss of the systems is a conceivable possibility.

I don't think spoiler alerts are necessary. Prior knowledge doesn't spoil the reading of a book. Somewhat modified issue this time, but very readable, I think.

