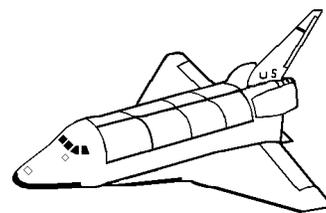


The



SHUTTLE June 1999

*The Next NASFA Meeting is 19 June 1999
at the Regular Time and Location
ConCom Meeting on the 17th at Mike & Marie's*

Oyez, Oyez

The next NASFA meeting will be **19 June 1999** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location** (room 130 of the Madison City Municipal Building).

The June program is undetermined at press time.

The June after-the-meeting meeting will be at Mike Cothran and Marie McCormack's place.

2004 Worldcon Bid Announced for Charlotte

Recently a committee was formed to promote a Charlotte NC bid for the 2004 Worldcon. The main facility for the convention would be the Charlotte Convention Center which has more than adequate space. According to the committee there are currently 2900 hotel rooms within walking distance of the CCC with more hotels planned or under construction. The Charlotte airport is a major regional hub with over 500 inbound flights a day.

You can get more information at the convention web site <<http://www.scenic-city.com/charlotte2004>> or you can email them at <charlotte_2004@earthling.net>.

Concom Meeting Set

The June Constellation XVIII concom meeting will be held at Marie McCormack and Mike Cothran's place at 6:30P on Thursday 17 June 1999. This is an eating meeting. Watch your neck this month — the food theme is "Dracula."

Raise your Frankenstein for a Toast

Welcome to the second food quiz of 1999. The May con committee food theme was "Frankenstein" and you're invited to try to match the descriptions below to the actual food items. The weak of stomach might do better to skip it this month <grin>. The answers are hidden elsewhere in this issue.

1. Parts, as they say, is parts.
2. These treats were rebuilt to double the filling.
3. Braised bits from failed clones, served in sauce, over a bed of dried maggots.
4. Spare stuffing.
5. Sliced, diced, and recombined, this dish was both creamy and crunchy.

(continued on page 2)

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Deadline for the July 1999 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 2 July 1999.

Bridge Publications, and are in need of a review for the *Shuttle of A Very Strange Trip* Original idea by L. Ron Hubbard novel by Dave Wolverton. The copy we received is a pre-release copy, the book will be coming out June 28th.

After much discussion, Mike Cothran took the book and agreed to provide the review.

There was some discussion of Harry Warner, Jr.'s typewriter problems. His new typewriter uses a carbon ribbon, and he went through the first one the first week he had it! He says he can't afford the typewriter at that rate. There was some discussion, and a question: Since most laser printers come with "starter toner cartridges" these days good for only a few hundred pages (regular cartridges being good for a few thousand), could it be that Harry's new typewriter came with a "starter ribbon"?

CONVENTIONBUSINESS

The Con†Stellation home page got 305 hits last month (<[<http://www.hsv.tis.net/~constell/constell/>](http://www.hsv.tis.net/~constell/constell/)). The second most popular page on the Con†Stellation web site was the Fannish Family Feud results page with 111 hits.

The next Con Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 13th at 6:30P at Mike and Robin Ray's home. This will be an eating meeting, and the food theme will be "Frankenstein." (Now past you should have been there!)

In light of some *more* recent ISP problems with our web site, there was some discussion of getting our own Internet domain name, and changing ISPs.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41P. Once again there was no program, so we all left early for the After-The-Meeting Meeting at Mike Kennedy's place.

Half a Review of LibertyCon

by Mike Kennedy

LibertyCon 13 was held The Memorial Day weekend (28–30 May 1999) at the Ramada Inn South in East Ridge TN (near Chattanooga). Guests included Literary GoH Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, AGoH David Mattingly, Special Guest Cheryl Mandus, and MC James P. Hogan.

I had dithered for two or three weeks, trying to make up my mind whether to go to LibertyCon or not. I certainly *wanted* to go, but several unexpected expenses put a damper on my enthusiasm. In the end I decided not to go. Or so I thought.

I dropped by my office the Saturday of the con to work on restoring some files from a backup I made before my companies "Information Technology" department replaced the hard drive on my computer. When I arrived, I found the "new-email" symbol showing on the computer screen. Lo and behold Sam Smith had sent me a message urging me to come to the con to see an old friend who had unexpectedly shown up *and* to find out about the newly-announced Charlotte NC bid for the 2004 Worldcon.

So shortly thereafter I found myself on the phone to Marie McCormack — asking her to take care of my dog Sally while I was gone — and simultaneously "packing" a plastic grocery bag with the necessities for an overnight trip. Fortunately I decided to be conservative and pack for *two* nights since as it turned out I didn't make it back home until late Monday.

By the time I arrived Saturday evening most of the people I wanted to talk to were at the more-or-less official "non-banquet" (which took place at a nearby seafood restaurant). I did run into Irv Koch who is co-chairing the abovementioned Worldcon bid. We talked for a little while and I started learning about the bid. Look elsewhere in this issue for a few of the basics.

Because I arrived at the con so late, I can't comment much on the programming. I did make it to both the art auction and masquerade Saturday evening, enjoying both. The masquerade was not huge, but the dozen-or-so entries surprised even the staff. (*Many* of them came in at the last minute — if I heard right there were only two or three entries registered when masquerade-mistress Sue Thorn left for the non-banquet.) The art auction had some spirited bidding. I even contributed to it — bidding up one piece by a goodly increment. I don't remember exactly what it finally went for but it was well above \$400.

Since LibertyCon moved into this hotel they have had a "dealers alley" rather than a traditional dealers room. In case you're not familiar with this concept, the dealers sell their wares out of their hotel rooms which are blocked together along a common corridor. I have seen this approach work well, and I have seen it work poorly. At LibertyCon it seemed to work out pretty well. I made only one trip down this hallway (conveniently located directly off the hotel lobby) but there seemed to be quite a bit of business going on. If you were going to only one regional con this year and your goal was to buy books, this would have been the con to attend. I lost count of the exact number of books dealers, but I believe there were *at least* seven (from used books, to new books, to collectibles).

Of course the real reason I went to LibertyCon this year was socializing and the con was laid out well for that. The con suite took over the bar area of the hotel and was busy enough as people drifted in for soft drinks, beer, or munchies. But once they had their provisions, most people made their way out to the patio where a large number of chairs, umbrella tables, and a couple of canopies made a pleasant schmoozing area. If you wanted somewhere cooler, tables were available inside the con suite and in the card room (which I used extensively).

There were several parties Saturday evening. Toni Weisskopf's Baen Books party was particularly nice for me since I discovered a lonely bottle of peach schnapps. No one seemed interested in that poor little bottle, but I happened to know that Sam Smith almost always travels with orange juice. So I borrowed the better part of a half gallon of orange juice from Sam and "borrowed" a good part of Toni's peach schnapps plus some ice from a hotel ice machine. The resulting half-gallon fuzzy navel lasted me all the way into the dead dog party Sunday evening.

And speaking of the dead dog party, I suspect that some members of LibertyCon's staff sign up just so they will have a good place in line — it's always a blowout. This year they had the grill fired up to make hotdogs, hamburgers, and ribs. A variety of side dishes and deserts completed the buffet. Even with a *huge* number of fans working on it they never quite managed to eat everything.

I hadn't made it to LibertyCon for several years before this one. I'm glad Sam twisted my arm (by remote control!) to do so this year and I suspect I'll be back next year.

NASFA Receivables

by Randy B. Cleary

Here's the latest round up of things NASFA has received. This column covers the last two months.

FANZINES

ASFS Future Times, May 1999, Volume 2, Issue 5; Editor Bill Sides, P. O. Box 98308, Atlanta GA 30359-2008; < drbills@mindspring.com >. This great 14-page issue answers the call for submissions from the last single page issue. It has club news, science news, reviews of music, comics, movies, television, and short fiction installments.

Challenger, Spring 1999, Number 9; Editor Guy H. Lillian III, P. O. Box 53092, New Orleans LA 70153-3092; 504-821-2362; < GHLIII@yahoo.com >. This 106-page fanzine has a great Diana Shaples scratch board cover. A *Challenger* web page is in the works. Mr. Lillian and various associates contribute personal and other items of interest. Lots of LOCs.

ConNotations, Volume 9, Issue 1, Spring 1999, P. O. Box 62613, Phoenix AZ 85082-2613; < editor@casfs.org >. This 20-newsprint-page newszine of the Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society is packed with news and reviews of all media of fannish interest. This issue's special feature was on Harlan Ellison.

De Profundis, #322, Volume 1, Number 2; Editor Scott Beckstead, 11513 Burbank Boulevard, North Hollywood CA 91601; 818-760-9234; < http://www.lasfs.org >. This 16-page LASFS club zine had mostly minutes and club information.

Derogatory Reference, #92; Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine Street, Yonkers NY; < hlvaty@panix.com >. This is the 6-page print version of the e-zine reviewed two months ago.

File 770, Issues 129 and 130, Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Avenue, Monrovia CA 91016; 626-305-1004; < MGlycer@compuserve.com >. Issue 129 was a 20-page issue with a pink cover by Alan White and the usual extensive fan news roundup. The passing of Mike Kennedy's Suburban was noted. Issue 130 had a yellow Rotsler cover and 20 more fan-news packed pages. It also served up a mention of NASFA's meaty concom meeting.

Kronos, May 1999, D. A. Hussey, < dah2@hotmail.com >. This e-zine is the newsletter of the Middle Tennessee Science Fiction Society. This issue contained information, convention listings, club doings, and upcoming event listings.

Memphen, #254/255, April and May 1999; Editor Greg Bridges 141 Stonehaven Circle, Jackson TN 38305; 901-664-6730; < memphen@aol.com >; < http://members.aol.com/memphen/mpnh1.html >. The April issue had a nice Egyptian-theme Foster cover, club news, and a bird's eye view of MidSouthCon 17. The May issue continued the Egyptian cover theme by Foster, more of the usual, and a MiniCon report.

OASFiS Event Horizon, Volume 12, #1, Issue 140 (or 141 again and again?), April and May 1999; Leslie R. Hammes, 4796 East Michigan Street #2, Orlando FL 32812; 407-263-5822; < michaelhammes@worldnet.att.net >. Okay! I assume these are the the April and May issues although the actual dates on the zines continue to be conflicting, confusing, and out of date. They contained club information and doings and some short fiction.

Scavenger's Newsletter, #182 and 183, April and May 1999; Editor Janet Fox, 519 Ellinwood, Osage City KS 66523-1329; 785-528-3538; < foxscav1@jc.net >; < http://www.cza.com/scav/index.html >. The 28-page April and May issues had the latest small press listings and scroungings with a discussion of how to start a story and an interview with William F. Nolan.

SFSFS Shuttle, #137, March/April 1999; Editor Carlos Perez, P. O. Box 70143, Fort Lauderdale FL 33307. This 24-page issue of the South Florida Science Fiction Society had club news and lots of LOCs.

Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin, Volume 7, Number 3, January 1999; Editor Julie Wall, 470 Ridge Road, Birmingham AL 35206-2816; (205) 833- 8635; < jlwall@usit.com >. This 32-page issue with a cover by Cleary had con reports, more history of organized fandom in Chapel Hill NC, fanzine reviews, con and club listings, illustrations, and LOCs. Also, a plea is made for financial assistance in publishing the bulletin.

MISCELLANEOUS

We also received promotional material for *A Very Strange Trip* by L. Ron Hubbard and Dave Wolverton plus **Cargo Cult Books & Notions** catalogs and **Dragon*Con 1999** flyers.

The Science Fiction Research Association 1999 Conference

A PERSONAL REMEMBRANCE

by Sue Thorn

From it's title you might suspect that SFRA is not your usual fan convention and you'd be right. It's an academic convention with programming starting each morning at 8:30 am! For a SF convention without a Con Suite, Dealers Room, Art Show, or Masquerade, I found the SFRA very enjoyable. The theme of this year's conference was "Southern Accents in Science Fiction." It was held in Mobile AL at the Radisson Admiral Semmes Hotel from June 2 through June 6. Their guests included Frederik Pohl, Gregory Benford, Jack McDevitt, and Brian Stableford.

The following is quoted from the program book and provides insight into what the conference is about. "The SFRA, the oldest professional organization for the study of science fiction and fantasy literature and film, was founded in 1970 to improve classroom teaching; to encourage and assist scholar-

ship; and to evaluate and publicize new books and magazines dealing with fantastic literature and films, teaching methods and materials, and allied media performances."

I admit that I found some of the papers presented at the panels boring (I read SF for pleasure — I don't want to analyze it), but the author readings and interviews were very nice. Also, since this is a small conference (my guess is not more than 150) it had a relaxed atmosphere and gave ample chances to talk with the guests.

Although there was not a con suite, there was a morning break at 10:00 where coffee, tea, and really good cookies were available and you could just about always find guests there.

There was at least one room party given by Ron Larson from San Francisco. He has attended for several years and convinced me to attend this year. Ron brought several bottles

of very good wine and invited people to a BYOG (Bring Your Own Glass) party. Some came with styrofoam cups, some with the coffee cups or glasses from their rooms. The room party was the part of the convention that felt most like a fan SF convention with guests and fans sitting and standing around talking, joking and having a good time. Gregory Benford, Jack McDevitt, and David Hartwell were at the party. The conversations got loud and sure enough hotel security came to tell us to be quiet. About an hour after that they shut us down altogether! It was great! A couple of nights later Ron had a smaller group up that included Fred Pohl. As I said, there were opportunities to talk to guests.

The registration for the conference included a ticket to the awards banquet. The banquet was nice and the food very good. However, I think most people (including me) enjoyed the beach party more. That's right, a beach party. One of the professors among the group has a beach house on Dauphin Island and on Friday afternoon, if you so desired, you could attend the beach party for \$5. They delivered us on a bus to the beach house where boiled shrimp and hotdogs were the main courses. Then those of us who were so inclined took a dip in the Gulf. I did see Gregory Benford and Brian Stableford's lovely wife Jane in the water. Jane swims like a fish!

Since many of the panels did not appeal to Ron or me, we went book shopping. We found one really nice used bookstore. We went another day as well because David Hartwell let us know that Brian Stableford, who lives in England, wanted to visit some American book stores so Ron and I took David, Brian, and Jane to the used bookstore, Barnes and Nobles, and Books-A-Million. I tried not to spend any money, but it was *bookstores!* At the used bookstore I got a first edition of Fred Pohl's *Man Plus*. I'd never read it and when I read the blurb I was hooked. It was very good and although published in 1976 holds up very well. It grabbed my interest to the point that I was carrying it around with me everywhere I went and by the time the conference was over I'd finished the book.

The SFRA, like Worldcon and DSC, travels around. In 2000 it will be in Cleveland OH on June 28–July 2 with guests Dick Lupoff, Karen Joy Fowler, Geoffrey A. Landis, Maureen F. McHugh, Mary Doria Russell, and Joan Slonczewski. In 2001 it will be in Schenectady NY on Memorial Day Weekend with guests David Weber, C. J. Cherryh, Jane Yolen, and Vicent DiFate. (But none of you can make it in 2001 because you'll be at LibertyCon, right?)

I recommend the SFRA if you'd like a change of pace from a regular fan SF convention.

A Strange Little "Trip" Report

book review by Mike Cothran

A Very Strange Trip, an original story by L. Ron Hubbard, novel by Dave Wolverton, Bridge Publications Inc., 1999, 320 pages, ISBN 1-57318-164-1, \$25.00. Review based on advance copy, final release date 28 June 1999.

A long time ago, in a land far distant from these environs, a promising young man named Dave Wolverton gained entrance to the hollowed halls of SF fame as the author who penned "On My Way To Paradise," which received a quarterly first place award in the Writers of the Future contest, followed by their annual grand prize award for 1987.

One of the opportunities afforded to selected winners was the chance to collaborate with Ron, through Author Services Inc., L. Ron Hubbard's literary agency. In this the managers of the WOTF Contest are rather Uniquely Qualified as they control, through all the interconnected units, the rights to all of L. Ron's works whether published or unpublished, as was the case with this screen play penned by L. Ron many years ago.

Dave Wolverton did more than just novelize and update a screen play with this work. He seems to have taken the prior work and changed it into something L. Ron might have written if he was still alive and writing works of the type he was most known for in the late 40's or early 50's. This is a good thing, we have far too little of that type of work at present so my hat is off to Wolverton for this effort.

While I was originally reading this work in solo style I also happened to notice a book which had escaped boxing a while back and decided to pick up and re-read Heinlein's 1957 *The Door Into Summer*. I am glad I read these two works at the same time since that combination covers time travel in three fashions and from two or three different perspectives (depending on who is the author; L. Ron and/or Dave Wolverton or RAH).

The story within *A Very Strange Trip* takes place in present time with all the technology of now, albeit with the additional elements of a time machine of Russian origin and

assorted other Russian devices which I will leave to the author's inventive prose below.

"...We've got experimental assault rifles, bazookas, fifty thousand rounds of ammunition, grenades!"

We will find out a lot more about these items within the pages of this book. And speaking of pages... each page contains around 235 words of various lengths rather than 250 as is more common with other advance copies or as-published hardbacks in this page count grouping.

The number of chapters is 38, each starting halfway down a right-hand page. When the ending page for the previous chapter is (all too frequently — about 2/3 of the time) on a right-hand page as well, this problem is fixed by inserting a blank left-hand page. So, the page count does not truly reflect the amount of reading material. The leading (inter-line spacing) and point size is also excessive. This book would run to 205–211 pages if done in a more conservative fashion. I don't object on the face of these items, they would still charge \$25 for the book in any case. Watch the size of the mass market offering in few months, my guess it it will be tighter on the leading and chapter placements with a much smaller point size.

As to the plot line(s) and story? Well I don't want to give any more away than the cover blurbs do, suffice it to say, I enjoyed the book!

Excerpt of Back Cover Blurb

Caught by police with moonshine in the trunk of his uncle's car, Everett Dumphree is faced with the decision to spend ten years in jail or enlist in the United States Army. He opts for what he thinks is freedom — a hitch in the Army.

Come down to BookMark on South Parkway here in Huntsville for more details. That's where the advance copy will be, till the end of the month at least when I reclaim it for my shelves that is.

Letters of Comment

POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC

Sheryl Birkhead
23629 Woodfield Road
Gaithersburg MD 20882

17 April 1999

Argh — for a fan, a fate worse than death — my mailbox came down and I had to stop delivery for a bit (and [I'm] not on-line either).

Mummies... uh like burritos?

I'll eventually get *Komarr* from the library — from all the suppositions... I can't really see Miles married — she must be "unusual."

We still see Rotsler and Ian Gunn in zines — it will take a while to get used to not seeing Buck.

The DUFF race is over — things start to heat up for Worldcon!

[The sequel to *Komarr* isn't on the store shelves yet, but if you were on-line you could check out the first few chapters on the Baen Books web site. I don't know if Miles will make it to the altar not, but it certainly looks to me like Ekaterin is more than just a passing fancy! I got a look at the cover flat at the Baen party at LibertyCon (and passed it on to BookMark for display). It's certainly a change from their usual style and begs more questions than it answers. -ED]

LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC

Harry Warner, Jr.
423 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown MD 21740

9 May 1999

I'm sorry both for having gone silent for a couple of months and for inflicting on you poor penmanship. I've been through a time of troubles in many respects. My typewriter broke down, I couldn't find a non-electric replacement in operating order except for a couple of office machines I couldn't lift, and when I finally bought a new electric typer I became very ill before I'd even unpacked it. A week later I felt well enough to use it but had trouble removing a protective device needed for shipping. Finally I found someone who figured out how to get it out of the mechanism and by then I was pressing the FAPA deadline. So I typed eight pages for that organization and before I'd finished a page of my first letter in many weeks the carbon ribbon was exhausted. I can't afford to buy a new carbon ribbon every five or six days so I'm still unable to type until I find a source of fabric ribbons that fit this machine.

I don't think I ever thanked you for the copy of the internet offering of Beta videotapes. I'm deeply appreciative since the firm I'd been patronizing for this purpose seems to have gone out of business.

The two issues of the *Shuttle* I've failed until tonight to loc had a great deal of interesting material about the review books from Baen. I also received a package and my fine intention to hurry up and read them, then get some reviews published

before the Hugo voting deadline was ruined by the illness and other problems. The reviews reflected in a number of places the book reviewing problem that didn't exist until three-decker novels and strings of sequel novels became numerous. Now it is very difficult to review the latest book in a series unless the reviewer is acquainted with a few or a lot of books previously published. Nobody can possibly read all the science fiction and fantasy published in the past few decades so how can a fanzine editor find a reviewer who won't be handicapped by this factor, without tedious inquiring?

Of course, I was very sorry to see space required in both issues to chronicle death and illness in fandom. I hope the sick are recovering. Tom might take solace that he didn't get born in the 19th century when his diabetes would probably have gone unidentified and there would have been no medicine to keep it under control. There are good things that have come out of the 20th century, despite the evils it has produced.

I hope I'll have some mechanism to utilize in my next loc. This assumes that you don't remove from your mailing list in revenge for suffering from this handwritten letter.

[You're welcome for the info, Harry, and I hope you find some of the Beta tapes you want — I'd almost forgotten about it. Since your next letter has already arrived (I held over locs from the last issue) I know that you hadn't solved your typewriter dilemma by late May. I know it's silly to suggest it but with the cost of bargain basement computers and printers, have you looked at that lately? (Of course I think you'd be better off spending a little more for a Mac, but not everyone would agree.) -ED]

POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC

Sheryl Birkhead
23629 Woodfield Road
Gaithersburg MD 20882

19 May 1999

Well, the Hugo nominations are out and (from my own skewed interests) I need to find out who Baer (fan artist) is!

What is "Star Crunch"?

Hmm — so PartheCon XXVII was small at 125 — what about Corflu at 18??

I strongly suspect that *The Phantom Menace* won't be in my near future viewing — too expensive and I haven't seen a movie in a long time. Well, I borrowed *Dark City* but that has about been it for a *long* time. (Did anyone catch the new generation (?) of robot dogs seen on the *Today* show May 18th? Great righting reflex — only \$2500!

[Star Crunch is a type of snack cake that's really more like candy than cake. I knew Corflu was small but I wasn't aware it barely made it to double digits! -ED]

LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC

Harry Warner, Jr.
423 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown MD 21740

22 May 1999

Once again I must resort to penmanship. I almost bought

a non-electric typewriter this morning at a yard sale. But it looked awfully fragile with a thin all-plastic frame and it wasn't a name brand, so I didn't risk it. Soon, I hope, I'll find something.

The May *Shuttle* contains the first review I remember seeing on what must be a remarkable new book, the Stableford dictionary. It makes me dizzy just to think of the time and effort that must have gone into researching and verifying each of its many entries. I suppose it doesn't cover every English language science fiction world, but 384 pages indicates it lists most of the very famous and moderately famous ones. I'm not familiar with Wonderland Press, but I hope it has good enough distribution to get this volume into a lot of bookstores and libraries.

The Hugo nominees listing contains a few surprises. They range from gratification that *Plotka* and *Thyme* made the ballot to mystification over the fact that I can't remember any fan art by Freddie Baer. And Michael Swanwick must be quite a short story writer to get three nominations.

Did you know that an important ingredient of the latest Star Wars merchandizing push came from Hagerstown? A local firm turned out most of the covers for the adult and children's books released along with *The Phantom Empire*. Security at the plant was reportedly as tight as if it had produced the identifications for Academy Award winners, to prevent the art work from getting distributed before the proper release dates.

[I recently received yet another solicitation to join the Science Fiction Book Club. They are selling their edition of Stableford's *Dictionary of Science Fiction Places* for about \$5 less than the publisher's edition. The SFBC blurb promises that "over 600 cities, planets, space habitats, underground realms, skyscraper societies, computer universes, and other unusual places" are covered." -ED]

EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC

George "Lan" Laskowski
george_laskowski@cc.cranbrook.edu

26 May 1999

I'm a little behind in loccing the *Shuttle*, but rather than try to catch up, I'll just stick with the latest mailing.

You people are certainly creative with the number of

1 - f 2 - h 3 - b 4 - a

different food quizzes. For me, I have difficulty at times just looking at food, let alone eating. I certainly don't need strange names attached to strange concoctions. When the cooks dyed things green on St. Patrick's Day this year, I almost couldn't eat breakfast. My problem, of course, is the chemotherapy drugs I am getting. They put off my appetite in such a way that food neither smells, looks, or tastes good. Since I know I have to eat something, I force stuff down, but it is a struggle. Fortunately these side-effects last only for a few days, so I should be getting back to "normal" in a couple more days.

Dictionary of Science Fiction Places by Brian Stableford sounds like a fascinating book, something I would love to have in my collection of research materials. Unfortunately, money is tight, and so I hope that maybe our library will order it — I may have to prompt them.

I agree with what you said about small conventions. I rather like them over the large or *huge* ones, most of the time, since you can get to talk to people and interact with them on a personal level rather than a superficial one. But, even small conventions need some sort of organization so things run smoothly, to avoid problems with the hotel staff and management, etc. Some of the very best cons I have attended have been small ones with attendance less than a hundred. But, there are some large ones (2,000+) where I have had some great times too. Fans make the fun for themselves, but a concom can really help things along with good organization.

Thanks for reprinting the Hugo nominees. Now I know what to read for voting. I have not yet received my ballot yet, so I guess I have time before the deadline to read those stories and books I haven't, and maybe reread some others. I was hoping that *Lan's Lantern* would have made the ballot this year, but, alas, it didn't. Well, there is always hope for next year!

I skipped over the *Star Wars* book review, in hopes that I will see the film fresh, and without being exposed too much to the plot and such. So far I have been successful in avoiding the over-hype on the film. I hope to continue that.

Well, that's about all for now. Take care, and keep up the good work.

[So you skipped the *Star Wars* book review, eh? You're not the only one that's told me this. I debated with myself a short while before printing the review, especially since it gave away a few plot points. In the end I decided that it was just too timely *not* to run and, after all, people could skip it if they wished. -ED]

5 - e 6 - d 7 - c 8 - g



P. O. Box 4857
Huntsville AL 35815-4857

The NASFA Shuttle is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the June 1999 edition (Volume 19, Number 6). NASFA Officers for 1999: President Anita Eisenberg; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Sam Smith; Treasurer Ray Pietruszka; Program Director Mike Ray; Publicity Director Ron Lajoie. *Shuttle* Editor Mike Kennedy.

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Con†Stellation XVIII: Lupus

29–31 October 1999 Huntsville AL

MCDavid Weber
GoHAllen Steele
AGoHDarry Elliott
FGoH...Tom & Anita Feller

Membership Rates:
\$30 through 27 September
\$35 thereafter & at the door
Children’s Rates Available

For more information write **Con†Stellation XVIII, P. O. Box 4857, Huntsville AL** or check us out on the web at <http://www.hsv.tis.net/~constell/constell/index.html> >. Watch for our new web address later this year!