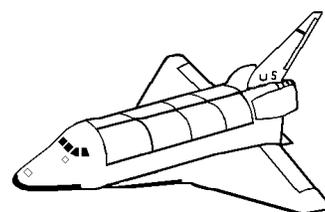


The



SHUTTLE
November 2002

*The Next NASFA Meeting is 16 November
2002 at the Regular Time and Location*

Forward Archive to be Established

The *Shuttle* has received word of the formation of the Friends of Robert L. Forward to support the establishment of an archive of Dr. Forward's works at The University of Alabama in Huntsville. The archive is to include his collected science fiction and technical works (originals of each where available).

Dr. Forward is donating his works to UAH, but a significant endowment (estimated at \$10,000) is needed to provide for continuing organization of his works and their maintenance. There is already an anonymous challenge grant of \$5,000. An additional estimated \$2,000 is being sought for purchasing a set of lockable, glass-front bookcases for storage of the collection. (Other collections at UAH include the Willy Ley Collection and the Saturn V Collection — see <www.uah.edu/library/archives/index.html> for additional information.)

If you're interested in contributing, checks should be made out to the UAH Foundation and marked as being for the Friends of Robert L. Forward. Dr. Forward will be notified of your gift, and it will also be recognized individually by UAH for your tax purposes. Your company may also provide matching funds, if so please provide the information/paperwork at the time of your contribution.

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next **NASFA meeting** will be on **16 November 2002** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**. Call BookMark at 256-881-3910 if you need directions.

Before the meeting, NASFAns (and others) are invited to catch the **3:00P IMAX showing of *Star Wars II***. Interested parties should meet at the Space and Rocket Center at 2:45P. The cost is about \$10. The movie should be out in time to make it to the club meeting — you might even be able to grab a bite to eat on the way.

The **November program** (7P) is the more-or-less annual NASFA Club Fund Raising Auction. Please bring donated items to sell as well as some cash!

The **after-the-meeting meeting** will be at Mike Kennedy's house. We need ATMM volunteers for future months.

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Deadline for the December 2002 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 6 December 2002.

Novella.....“**The Bird Catcher,**”
S. P. Somtow (*The Museum of
Horrors*, Dennis Etchison, ed., Leisure)
Short Story“**Queen for a Day,**” Albert E.
Crowdry (*F&SF* October/November 2001)
Anthology***The Museum of Horrors,***
Dennis Etchison, ed. (Leisure)
Collection.....**Skin Folk,**
Nalo Hopkinson (Warner Aspect)
Artist**Allen Koszowski**
Special Award, Professional (tie)**Stephen Jones**
(for editing) and **Jo Fletcher** (for editing
the Fantasy Masterworks series, Gollancz)
Special Award, Non-Professional**Raymond
Russell and Rosalie Parker** (for Tartarus Press)

Next year’s World Fantasy Convention <www.seahunt.org/wfc> will be held 30 October–2 November 2003 in Washington DC. The convention in 2004 will take place in Tempe AZ and the 2005 convention in Madison WI.

Proud as a Peacock

A Convention Review

by Mike Kennedy

Con†Stellation XXI: Pavo <www.con-stellation.org> took place 18–20 October 2002 at the Holiday Inn Express in Huntsville AL. Honored guests included Eric Flint (GoH), K. D. Wentworth (MC), Darrell K. Sweet (AGoH), and Sandy McDade (FGoH).

Though I tried to talk other people into writing this review, I once again find myself in the position of reviewing a con I worked on. (Not that I mind writing a review, you understand, but as you might expect I’m sort of biased and would have welcomed a view from someone less closely associated with the con. You can get some of that if you take a look at Carlo DeShouten LoC elsewhere in this issue.)

This year’s Con†Stellation was different in one respect



from most of it’s predecessors since it was the second con sponsored by NASFA in the same calendar year — DeepSouth-Con 40 having been in Huntsville this past summer. On previous occasions

when we *did* have two cons in a year (in 1985 and 1987 following DSCs and in 1983 in conjunction a major change in the time-of-year of Con†Stellation) the second one was done as a relaxicon, which we did not do this time. We did have a somewhat reduced attendance (just over 200 versus 250–300 for a “normal” year) possibly due to some people choosing to come to DSC but not Con†Stellation.



The Holiday Inn Express was a new venue for Con†Stellation and seemed to work out quite well. The facility is a combination of what had been two separately-run hotels (a Holiday Inn and an HI Express). In fact, the majority of the function space was what had previously been the restaurant, lounge, and lobby of the Holiday Inn. Another function room,

and hotel rooms were also used for various convention functions.

As with all facilities, this one had pluses and minuses, but the vast majority of attendees seemed quite pleased with the hotel (and were verbal about it). The level of appreciation was no doubt due in part to the much easier parking and access situation than at the airport hotel used for Con†Stellation the previous several years. However I think credit should also go both to the hotel personnel (who were eager to please) and to the con’s inventive use of the available facilities. The biggest example of this was the use of the old lobby as a central gathering space (hosting con registration, t-shirt sales, a great conversation area, and some key programming events). In particular, using the lobby for the Saturday evening programs (the Art Auction and especially the Masquerade) proved to be an inspired choice. Because of this, most programming events could be held in areas appropriate to the number of attendees, instead of having a “main programming” room that is only filled for the Masquerade and echoes cavernously for most other items held there.

Outside of the Art Auction and Masquerade, undoubtedly the most popular program I attended was the demonstration by Ancient Caravans Belly Dancers. It was popular with the cameraman from the local TV station that showed up that evening, too. He must have shot the better part of 30 minutes of footage of the dancers — and perhaps 5 minutes of the rest of the con. Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed in the editing room, and the story that actually aired Friday evening was well balanced. It was even *accurate* (outside the stumbling pronunciation of the newsreader). It was not, unfortunately, *complete*, as they neglected to mention *where* the con was!

I missed several program items I’d have like to made it to, chief among them the Guest of Honor speeches and the Sandy McDade roast. The latter had other members of the “McDade clan” on the panel and there were a number of other Chattanooga-area fans in attendance who hopefully contributed their “un”-fair share to the proceedings.

I actually had an unusual role (for me) at this year’s con. For the first time I was “in charge” of the Dealers Room. I think we ended up with a nice selection of dealers, covering most of the usual areas (books, collectibles, gaming supplies, costumes, jewelry, t-shirts, and more). There were no art dealers, but Randy Cleary did his usual fine job in getting artists to the Art Show. Large sales there (especially for AGoH Darrell K. Sweet) did possibly draw a bit of cash away from the dealers. I contributed some to the Art Show total, by practically stealing (for minimum bid) Sweet’s original art for the program book cover.

Fortunately for me, we had a very experienced group of dealers. Between that and the great support from our Con Suite and Operations departments (keeping the dealers happy with the occasional drink or food run is a *good* thing) my duties were relatively light once the con was up and running. That left me with enough time, for instance, to lose in the Killer Cutthroat Spades tournament. Sigh. At least I made it to the second round this year.

As with any “general interest” sf con, there are areas of intense, moderate, and low interest for any given attendee. Thus I can’t tell you much from direct experience about the Anime Room, Game Room, LARP, or Dances. Indirectly, I can tell you that I heard good things about all of them (and witnessed a moderate-sized but well-pleased crowd at the Saturday night dance).

The Game Room was located just off the aforementioned lobby area (as was the Dealers Room and Art Show) which

meant the gamers were much more centrally located than at some cons. One of the game masters commented that he believed this was a good thing, helping the gamers get more involved in the rest of the con. I *can* comment that at “peak” times, the Game Room did seem to be full — with all 11 tables operating in tournament action.

The Anime Room was somewhat less central, but it was just down the hall from the Con Suite and a programming room. The Huntsville Alabama Anime Society <www.haas-online.net>, who sponsored the room, seemed pleased with this and I did hear that they had good attendance. The Live Action Role Playing (sponsored by the emergency society <www.emsoc.org/esplarp>) was much in evidence, based on the number of people wearing the special LARP badges, but was never intrusive on the rest of the con as far as I know. That’s at least a success from a non-LARPer’s point of view and I hope the game was a success for the LARPer’s, too.

Plans are beginning to jell for next year’s Con†Stellation. One of the consequences of doing a con where most of the planning was compressed into the few months following DSC is that we have not firmly pinned down next year’s event. Preliminary plans call for us to be back at the same hotel (yeah!) but one week earlier — 10–12 October 2003 — but stay tuned for a while until we can get that in writing. Con†Stellation XXII: Pegasus guests will include GoH Mercedes Lackey and MC Larry Dixon. Other guests will be added later. Check back at <www.con-stellation.org> for updates — at least the basics will hopefully be firmed up before the end of the year.

Con†Stellation XXI Masquerade Winners

- Best in Show** (Medal and \$60 cash) Anita Eisenberg, Maria West, David Helphand, James “German” McClelland, and Monsters in “**A Dungeon’s Party**”
- Best Young Fan** (Medals) Nancy Peters and Michelle Townley in “**Men In Tights**”
- Best Group** (\$20 cash) Robin Ray, Sam Smith, Doug Lampert, and Mary Ortwerth with a special appearance by Uncle Timmy in “**Hades Invitational Killer Cutthroat Spades Tournament**”
- Best Fantasy** Sterling in “**It Finally Happened**” to a Faerie Hunter
- Best Science Fiction** (\$10 cash) Pam Stone in “**Stargate SG1**” Recreation
- Most Beautiful** (Medal) Carlo DeShouten and Company in “**The Prince of Darkness**”
- Mike Ray Wacky Costume Award** (\$10 cash) William “Willy” Poole in “**Is the Water Safe? by Billy Bow Bob**”
- Best Novice** (Medal) Cat McEvoy for “**A Scottish Tavern Wench**”
- Most Humorous** (Medal) Olivia “Liv” Huggins in “**Princess Leia, The Lone Bunman**”
- Best Costume** MC Eric Flint for wearing a suit and pretending to be a Mundane



Letters of Comment

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

Lloyd Penney
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16 October 2002

It’s post-Worldcon, and life can get back to as normal as possible under the circumstances. But only if normal is what you really want... hmm, didn’t think so. So, here’s a few comments on the October *Shuttle*.

I’ve read in many places, paper and online, that there are complaints about the Torcon 3 membership rates, but lots of people are looking at the Canadian dollar figures. Right now, a Canadian dollar is worth about 63 cents American. Torcon 3’s at-the-door rates will probably be about US\$200/Can\$300. Don’t know for sure, but that’s what I’d expect. Hope you all got your memberships early. How many of you are going, anyway?

Hi, Dragon! Goodbye, Dragon! That can't be all you have to say, can it? Surely there's more adventures to entertain the club members with. Twenty parts, that's not too many. There must be more to say and do, or do you have another feature in mind?

Great to see both Jack McDevitt and me in the local together, for we also appear on the same convention flyer together. In April of next year, Jack is one of the ProGoHs at EerieCon 5 in Niagara Falls, New York, and Yvonne and I are the FanGoHs. We'll have to meet then. EerieCon is a dark fantasy/SF/horror convention in a hotel on the edge of town. The distance to the Canadian border from the hotel's front door can be measured in feet, or metres if you prefer...

My loc... Yvonne's early birthday party on October 5 was a blast. We managed to jam about 60 people into our two-bedroom apartment... thank Ghu we have a big balcony. Yvonne dressed special for the evening, in homemade mediaeval garb, and slides in her hair. As for me, I dressed totally in black, to the consternation of many. (Some of you have seen someone short and dressed in bright Hawaiian-style shirts racing around a Worldcon... that's probably me.)

Some news... I've got a CD coming out! Or rather, I'm on the CD. *Fears For Ears* is a spoken word CD with dramatizations of five horror short stories, all written by Canadian writers, such as Tanya Huff, Shirley Meier, and Edo van Belkom. By answering an ad in an entertainment paper just over and year and a half ago, I auditioned for a role on the CD, and was accepted! Tomorrow night (17th) is the launch party at a Toronto cocktail bar, and after all this time, I'll get my copy. If you're interested in one, you will be able to buy one via the web and PayPal. Check out all the details of the CD, and how to buy one (as of the 22nd), at <www.fearsforears.com>.

Time to go, mainly because I've run out of zine. My in box is starting to fill with zines in the mail, and also .pdf zines, just like this one. Take care, and see you next issue.

[The October issue was sort of weird. I prepared it two weeks before the club meeting rather than the usual one week, because the intervening weekend was our annual local con, Con†Stellation XXI. I delayed putting it in the mail until just before the con so local people would get their club meeting reminders at around the usual time before the meeting. Sam, however, must have been quite speedy posting the PDF version on the web and, as a result, I got your LoC before the paper copies were mailed! I'm glad to hear Yvonne's birthday party was a success. I should probably consider having an early party next year at Con†Stellation, since I'm chairing that year and will be just a handful of weeks away from my 50th birthday. On the other hand, maybe I shouldn't plant this idea in people's minds — no telling what they might cook up. All black decorations come to mind, but so many people wear all black at cons that such decorations might not be noticeable. I plan to be at Torcon 3 but I don't think many other Huntsvillians are planning to go. Other *Shuttle* readers are welcome to chime in about their plans. -ED]

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

Carlo R. DeShouten
<strangemage57@hotmail.com>

24 October 2002

Con†Stellation Report 2002

I arrived at the new hotel which it was the Holiday Inn Express and I understand the con staff were under short notice

looking for the hotel. I was also told they still have some grudges with the Tom Bevill Center. The hotel is quite nice but sadly not enough convention rooms. The suite was very small. And there's not much to hang out.

The con has its ups and downs. And it has some exciting events: There was a belly dancer exhibit provided by the SCA and it was interesting to see.

There was the usual LARP and it was the usual theme: Terrorists, nations bickering, aliens, comet, world destruction, etc. And plus there was lots of running and shooting (I was being chased twice and I was worn out). To make a long story short: the world was saved by bubble gum.

The Masquerade was interesting: There was a group of adventurers I think led by German (Mike will have to give you the details, I'm not good at this) Celtic woman, girls dressed as Robin Hood, Princess Leia (*Star Wars*) which she threw her hairball at the dark minion right in the crotch. And I was the Prince of Darkness aka Ozzy, and most of my "family" didn't show up for the show, I also yell "Sharon!!!" about the bubbles on stage and attempt to throw garbage at the audience which I got chased off by security and won for best beautiful. It was neat.

There was also a charity for someone had an accident that whoever wants to slay Barney the purple creature on stage. I did an excellent job by biting its head off. And I nearly succeeded by getting its stuffing out but I was told save it for people who want to slay him. Taste terrible though.

The convention like I said, has the ups and downs but hopefully not too bad, hopefully we'll get a better hotel in the future soon.

[Well, we don't have any grudges against the Bevill Center, Carlo, but apparently they decided they don't want to do business with us at present, so, yes, we were rushed finding a facility for Con†Stellation this year. I think, however, you're just about the only one who's had much bad to say (at least to me) about this year's hotel. I agree that we could have used one more function room, but I think we pretty much made up for the lack by the way we used the lobby area. And in the same vein, that area (when we didn't have it severely rearranged for the Saturday evening programs) made a great place to hang out — which I believe made up for the relatively small suite we used for the Con Suite. Your take on the Masquerade was, um, interesting. I'd point out that German was not the leader of the dungeon adventurers, but he did play a major role in that entry. Also, it wasn't exactly a *hairball* that Princess Leia hurled at her antagonist (it was a stale cinnamon roll); plus I have it on good authority that she did not *aim* for the, um, spot she hit. Though poor Pat paid for it, I'll admit it *did* make the skit funnier. -ED]

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

Sheryl Birkhead
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Gaithersburg MD 20882

25 October 2002

Horrors — you've lost some of my sterling prose! Fer shame...

Yeouch — those Worldcon memberships — guess that's the way things are, but *wow*.

End of the Dragon's Tale??

I wish, but don't see *any* way, I could visit with Andre Norton — so I hope you all know how lucky you are.

(continued on back cover)



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Sounds as if Archon was a bit laid back, but had no major snafus.

Lloyd — there are a whole passel of us Capricorns out there — but I didn't know Yvonne's b'day was shared with Harry — small world. I *think* I saw a TV clip for the most recent *Abandoned in Time* — but never saw it.

[You may have heard that Ms Norton has been in the hospital recently. According to newsgroup posts by her assistant (Rose Wolf) she had a laparoscopic hernia repair and is recovering,

albeit somewhat slowly. People do complain about Worldcon membership rates, but to anyone who *travels* to a Worldcon the membership — even at \$200 or more — is a small part of the overall cost. Things like hotel bills (at more than \$100 a night), travel (probably several hundred dollars if you fly), and meals add up to far more. And having helped run cons (albeit on a much smaller scale) for more than two decades now, I know that it is downright *expensive* to provide the kind of facilities, equipment, and supplies it takes to put on something like Worldcon. -ED]