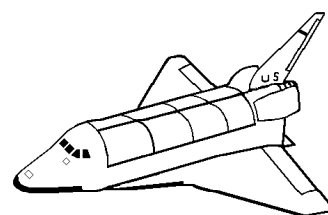


The



SHUTTLE
February 2003

*The Next NASFA Meeting will be 15 February
2003 at the Regular Time and Location*

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next **NASFA meeting** will be on **15 February 2003** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**. Call BookMark at 256-881-3910 if you need directions.

The **February program** (7P) will be “SciFaiku” — that is, science-fiction-themed haiku. Come supplied with some of the 17-syllable poems you have written ahead of time, or just write them on the spot to fit themes provided at the meeting. You can check out SciFaiku at many places on line, including <www.scifaiku.com>.

The February **after-the-meeting meeting** will be at Mary Ortwerth’s house — 116 Sunset Ridge in Madison. Call her at 256-772-6986 if you need directions. We *need* ATMM volunteers for future months.

Con†Stellation con committee meetings are all tentatively scheduled for the Sunday after the first Saturday each month. The next meeting is scheduled at 2P on 6 April. (As always, stay tuned as things can change if circumstances alter.)

NASFA Calendar

FEBRUARY

- 01 National Freedom Day.
- 02 Groundhog Day.
- 08 BD: Lin Cochran.
- 09 BD: Jack Lundy.
- 10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.
- 11 BD: Jeanna Woosley.
- 12 BD: Abraham Lincoln.
- 14 Valentine’s Day.
- 15* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. ATMM at Mary Ortwerth’s house.
- 17 BD: George Washington (Observed).
- 17 BD: Nancy A. Cucci.
- 21–23 ShevaCon 11 — Roanoke VA.
- 22 BD: George Washington.
- 28–02 Concave 24 — Horse Cave KY.

(Calendar continued on page 2)

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Deadline for the March 2003 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 28 February 2003.

North American DUFF delegates and will be traveling to the 2003 Australian national convention.

Reported numbers (which don't quite add up) are 170 valid ballots (138 North America; 32 Australasia) of which 158 voters expressed a preference. The Lillians received 101 first place votes, while Mike and Linda McInerney received 58. The remainder was split between Hold Over Funds (1), No Preference (12), and Write In (1, for Harry Warner, Jr.).

Full voting details and voter lists are to be posted on the web at <home.pacbell.net/jgelb/duff2k.html>.

Sex and the Single Minotaur

read, enjoyed immensely, now reviewed by Karen Hopkins

The Minotaur Takes a Cigarette Break, by Steve Sherrill, Picador, 1 November 2002, Trade Paperback, 320pp, ISBN 0312308922, \$14.00 (Also available in Hardback from John F Blair Publications, May 2000, 256pp, ISBN: 0895871971, \$19.95)

If you were an immortal, accursed creation of the misguided passions of gods and men, where would you be today?

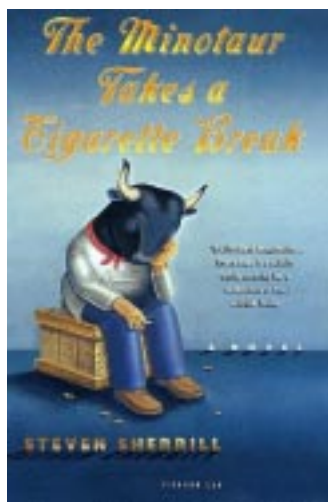
Intriguing question and one which Steve Sherrill tackles in a, to me, ludicrous and somehow logical way...

You would be working the FryDaddy at Grub's Ribs and living in the Lucky-U Mobile Estates somewhere in the southeast, about a half day's drive from the Florida border.

The Minotaur (now known simply as "M") is no longer terrifying, he's now a line cook driving a '75 Vega. He's learned to sew so he can tailor men's clothes to his no longer fearsome shape. To help cope with the horror of his endless days, the Minotaur takes solace in tinkering. He fixes cars, clocks, and meals. He takes great care in the daily grooming of his "transitional" skin. He can no longer muster the energy for confrontation, although he does offer sympathy or a shake of his horns at the questionable antics of his co-workers. In private, he sings.

Some of the book's funniest (and saddest) moments occur with the occasional stirring of his largely dormant libido. In his lifetime the Minotaur has had lovers, and they have run the gamut in species, gender, and degree of consent or reciprocity. Flirtations with a saucy waitress, (think Flo from *Alice*) and a few other encounters can remind one of our own attempts at dating and mating.

I came across this book while at Mike Kennedy's house for one reason or another and flipping through his *Locus* magazines. While I try to not judge a book by it's cover I do judge a book by it's title. This one had me eagerly scanning through the other reviews on the same page to find it. When I read the premise I guffawed and at my soonest opportunity went down to BookMark and ordered it. It came pretty quickly



even though it's from an apparently very small publisher. I took it home and immediately started reading, knowing it would bump whatever book was already in the next spot

Surprisingly to me, the other characters in the book don't even blink an eye when they see "M." Except for a few customers of the restaurant who leave in shock, everybody treats "M" as just another co-worker, neighbor, or customer.

I could try to go on but words do occasionally fail me.

I was quite tickled to see that a few weeks after I read the book and recommended it to several people, CNN had a review. I hadn't recommended it to anyone there that I know of but I would have — just as I am recommending it to anyone out there who enjoys fantasy come to the present. Read it and love it. Personally, I would love to have a chance to meet "M."

Chances With Wolves

No Need for a Dragon with a Migraine Chapter 1
by PieEyedDragon

The sun is warm and pleasant. Turtles, on rocks and jutting snags, soak it in.

Watching them, I do the same where I lie... at great length. They remind me of Mom.

My new body is powerful, but my mind still needs quiet times to complete healing. This land will assist. Lazy lakes and crystal caverns. My soul needs this.

(rrumble)

I'll go fishing in the river, next month. If nothing suits, I'll fly down to the ocean.

The wolves ought to be good neighbors. I'll do the same. But if their pups are endangered, I will assist. What's magic for, anyway?

I close my eyes, and let my mind drift around my new lair, taking imprints of this land's features.

— O — O — O —

I finally figure out what was making me uneasy: I haven't shed this skin since my rebirth!

I start shredding places around my mouth, and begin the peel-down. This will probably take two or three days. I'll have to eat it. Can't leave such toxic stuff lying around, considering the battles I've been in. My legs are short, but my body is supple; all 177 feet of it's length.

I get my head finished, and realize *someone close* is watching me! I watch the trees as I continue shedding. I smell wolf.

— O — O — O —

I finish the shedding process, and rest a little while. Then I start eating my discarded skin. There are several reasons for doing this: It is rather toxic, it leaves fewer signs of my presence, and no one can use or *misuse* it for magical purposes. It still is not tasty... My stomach needs something else. Fish is not presently appealing; I think I'll try some fresh caribou meat. I summon my wings and float upward.

The strong herd is circled on a little hill, watching the small wolf pack. I float higher to get between them and the sun. I extend my fore claws, furl my wings, and drop!

The caribou are nervous, looking around. They have heard, seen, and smelled the wolves.

They are not looking *up*!

A thunderclap of displaced air scatters the herd in panic, as something huge flaps back skyward, holding two cows from the center. One of the younger bulls, from the perimeter, falls behind; limping with a badly-broken fore-leg: a luck-gift to the

others seeking meat.

My prey are dead. I settle in at my new "home," unhinge my jaw, and begin the swallowing process.

The two caribou have settled my stomach, upset from the harsh presence of my old skin. I'm feeling mellow. It is a warm evening. The frogs, and their insect prey, are singing. I sing too, wordlessly and very deep. It sounds mostly like an immense bullfrog or alligator grunt. The deeper notes make the water dance, and shiver the leaves and branches of trees and bushes. Fireflies wink and dance. Two fairies keep their distance, as they look me over.

— O — O — O —

Never any man's dogs, the wolves accept me; as a neutral co-predator. Especially since I seldom hunt, and my usual prey is fish. The Fairies play tricks on them when here: pulling fur, throwing pine cones, and whispering. Talks with the Alpha are helping me regain contact with my inner beast. I stayed a servant for too long.

Genre Films Receive Nominations

Although the Academy Awards nominations were not announced in time to make this issue of the *Shuttle*, genre films have already received general-audience recognition with nominations from other organizations.

SCREEN ACTORS GUILD

Nominations for the 9th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards (for performances during 2002) were announced Tuesday 28 January 2003. The SAG Awards cover acting in both film and television. The awards will be presented Sunday 9 March 2003 at the Los Angeles Shrine Exposition Center and televised on TNT at 7P (Central).

The only indisputably genre nomination from SAG this year is in the category "Cast of a Theatrical Motion Picture" where the cast of *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* (New Line Cinema) was honored. Some would argue that television thriller *24*'s noms for Keifer Sutherland (Male Actor in a Drama Series) and for the cast (Ensemble in a Drama Series) would also qualify as sf.

Interestingly, the SAG has made it known that the nomination for *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* marks the first time the cast of films in a continuing series have been nominated in consecutive years. Next year may mark the first time it has happened three years in a row.

BAFTA

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts announced nominations for the Orange British Academy Film Awards on Monday 27 January 2003. The awards will be presented Sunday 23 February in London and broadcast on BBC One.

The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers leads genre films with nine nominations, including Best Film, The David Lean Award for Achievement in Direction (Peter Jackson, who won last year in this category), Cinematography (Andrew Lesnie), Production Design (Grant Major), Costume Design (Ngila Dickson and Richard Taylor), Editing (Michael Horton and Jabez Olssen), Sound, Special Visual Effects, and Make Up & Hair (Peter Owen and Peter King).

Other BAFTA genre nominations include three nods to *Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets* for Production Design (Stuart Craig), Sound, and Visual Effects. Both *Minor-*

ity Report and *Spider-Man* also received Visual Effects noms. *The Chubb Chubbs* received a nod in the Short Animation category.

The shortlist for the Orange Film of the Year, for the ten most popular films of 2002 has mostly genre films. The full list is *Monsters Inc.*, *Star Wars Episode II – Attack of the Clones*, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, *Spider-Man*, *Ocean's 11*, *Austin Powers in Goldmember*, *Men in Black II*, *Scooby Doo*, *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, and *Die Another Day*.

Nebula Awards Preliminary Ballot

The Nebula Awards are annually voted on, and presented by, active members of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA). The Preliminary Ballot for 2002 has been released; the final ballot will be mailed 15 February 2003. The Nebula Awards will be announced at the 2002 Nebula Awards Banquet to be held in Philadelphia on Saturday 19 April 2003. Items on the Preliminary Ballot are:

NOVEL

- Steven Barnes, *Lion's Blood* (Warner Aspect, February 2002)
David Brin, *Kiln People* (Tor, January 2002)
Lois McMaster Bujold, *The Curse of Chalion* (Avon Eos, August 2001)
Julie E. Czerneda, *In the Company of Others* (DAW, June 2001)
Neil Gaiman, *American Gods* (William Morrow & Co., July 2001)
Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Other Wind* (Harcourt Brace, September 2001)
Paul Levinson, *The Consciousness Plague* (Tor, February 2002)
Terry McGarry, *Illumination* (Tor, August 2001)
Maureen F. McHugh, *Nekropolis* (Avon Eos, August 2001)
Patricia McKillip, *Ombria in Shadow* (Ace, January 2002)
Robert A. Metzger, *Picoverse* (Ace, March 2002)
China Miéville, *Perdido Street Station* (Del Rey, March 2001)
Syne Mitchell, *Technogenesis* (Roc, January 2002)
Pat Murphy, *Adventures in Time and Space with Max Merriwell* (Tor, November 2001)
Vera Nazarian, *Dreams of the Compass Rose* (Wildside Press, May 2002)
Patrick O'Leary, *The Impossible Bird* (Tor, January 2002)
Jerry Oltion, *The Getaway Special* (Tor, December 2001)
William Sanders, *J.* (<i>Publish.com>, August 2001)
Pamela Sargent, *Child of Venus* (Avon Eos, May 2001)
Robert J. Sawyer, *Hominids* (Analog, April 2002; Tor, May 2002)
Stanley Schmidt, *Argonaut* (Tor, July 2002)
Wen Spencer, *Alien Taste* (Roc, July 2001)
S. M. Stirling, *The Peshawar Lancers* (Roc/NAL, January 2002)
Michael Swanwick, *Bones of the Earth* (Avon Eos, March 2002)
Mark W. Tiedemann, *Compass Reach* (Meisha Merlin Publishing, June 2001)
Ken Wharton, *Divine Intervention* (Ace, November 2001)
- ### NOVELLA
- Michael A. Burstein and Shane Tourtellotte, "Bug Out!" (Analog, August 2001)

Adam-Troy Castro, “**Sunday Night Yams at Minnie and Earl’s**” (*Analog*, June 2001)
 Richard Chwedyk, “**Bronte’s Egg**” (*F&SF*, August 2002)
 Andy Duncan, “**The Chief Designer**” (*Asimov’s*, June 2001)
 Charles Coleman Finlay, “**The Political Officer**” (*F&SF*, April 2002)
 Pat Forde, “**In Spirit**” (*Analog*, September 2002)
 Bud Sparhawk, “**Magic’s Price**” (*Analog*, March 2001)

NOVELETTE

Richard Bowes, “**The Ferryman’s Wife**” (*F&SF*, May 2001)
 Stephen L. Burns, “**Look Away**” (*Analog*, May 2002)
 Ted Chiang, “**Hell is the Absence of God**” (*Starlight 3*, Tor, July 2001)
 Gregory Frost, “**Madonna of the Maquiladora**” (*Asimov’s*, May 2002)
 Mike Moscoe, “**The Job Interview**” (*Analog*, May 2002)
 William Sanders, “**When This World Is All on Fire**” (*Asimov’s*, November 2001)
 William Browning Spencer, “**The Essayist in the Wilderness**” (*F&SF*, May 2002)
 Allen Steele, “**The Days Between**” (*Asimov’s*, March 2001)
 Charles Stross, “**Lobsters**” (*Asimov’s*, June 2001)
 Shane Tourtellotte, “**The Return of Spring**” (*Analog*, November 2001)

SHORT STORY

M. Shayne Bell, “**Refugees from Nulongwe**” (*Sci Fiction*, May 2001)
 Chris Bunch, “**Mirror**” (*Absolute Magnitude*, May 2001)
 Michael A. Burstein, “**Spaceships**” (*Analog*, June 2001)
 Carol Emshwiller, “**Creature**” (*F&SF*, November 2001)
 Jeffrey Ford, “**Creation**” (*F&SF*, May 2002)
 ElizaBeth Gilligan, “**Iron Joan**” (*Black Gate*, February 2002)
 Megan Lindholm, “**Cut**” (*Asimov’s*, May 2001)
 Jack McDevitt, “**Nothing Ever Happens in Rock City**” (*Artemis Magazine*, August 2001)
 Joel Richards, “**The Gods Abandon Alcibiades**” (*Asimov’s*, February 2001)
 Bruce Holland Rogers, “**The Djinn Who Lives Between Night and Day**” (*Realms of Fantasy*, April 2002)
 William Shunn, “**The Veil Beyond the Veil**” (*Realms of Fantasy*, April 2002)
 Kevin G. Summers, “**Isolation Ward 4**” (*Star Trek: Strange New Worlds IV*, Pocket, May 2001)
 Michael Swanwick, “**The Dog Said Bow-Wow**” (*Asimov’s*, November 2001)

SCRIPT

Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio, *Shrek* (Dreamworks, May 2001)
 Fran Walsh, Philippa Boyens, and Peter Jackson, *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* (New Line Cinema, December 2001)
 Joss Whedon, *The Musical: Once More With Feeling* (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, November 2001)

SFWA Special Awards

Ursula K. Le Guin has been named a **Grand Master** by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA). The selection was made by the SFWA Board of Directors, in conjunction with the living past presidents of SFWA. SFWA has also named **Katherine MacLean** this year’s **SFWA Author Emeritus**. Presentation of these awards will take place during the Nebula Awards Weekend in Philadelphia 18–20 April 2003.

SESFA Awards Announced

Winners of the **2002 Southeastern SF Achievement Awards** (the first), administered by the online magazine sci-fidimensions, have been announced. Winners received a certificate designed by artist Dan Henderson. Further details can be found at <www.scifidimensions.com/sesfa/sesfa.htm>. The awards went to:

Life Achievement.....**Andre Norton**
 Novel.....*DeepSix*, Jack McDevitt (Eos)
 Short Fiction.....“**The Chief Designer**,”
 Andy Duncan (*Asimov’s* June 2001)

BSFA Awards Nominations

Finalists for this year’s British Science Fiction Association Awards have been released. The awards will be presented at the 2003 British National Science Fiction convention (aka Eastercon) — Seacon ’03, to be held 18–21 April in Hinckley, Leicestershire. Further information about the BSFA Awards can be found at <www.avnet.co.uk/home/amaranth/BSFA/awards.html>. The nominees are:

NOVEL

Castles Made of Sand, Gwyneth Jones (Gollancz)
Effendi: The Second Arabesk, Jon Courtenay Grimwood (Earthlight)
Light, M. John Harrison (Gollancz)
The Scar, China Miéville (Macmillan)
The Separation, Christopher Priest (Scribner)
The Years of Rice and Salt, Kim Stanley Robinson (Harper-Collins)

SHORT FICTION

Coraline, Neil Gaiman (Bloomsbury)
 “**Five British Dinosaurs**,” Michael Swanwick (*Interzone* #177 March 2002)
 “**If Lions Could Speak**,” Paul Park (*Interzone* #177 March 2002)
 “**Router**,” Charles Stross (*Asimov’s* September 2002)
 “**Singleton**,” Greg Egan (*Interzone* #176 February 2002)
 “**Voice of Steel**,” Sean McMullen (*Sci Fiction* 08.21.02)

ARTWORK

Dominic Harman, Cover of *Interzone* #179 May 2002
Peter Gric, Cover of *The Third Alternative* #31 July 2002
Fraser Irving, *Judge Death: My Name Is Death* (page 1) 2000AD Prog 1289 1 May 2002
Richard Marchand, Cover of *The Third Alternative* #32 August 2002
Joachim Luetke, interior illustration for “The Routine” (by Gala Blau; *The Third Alternative* #31 July 2002)

NONFICTION

“**The Interrogation**,” Nick Gevers and Christopher Priest (*Interzone* #183 October 2002, Christopher Priest interviewed by Nick Gevers)
 “**Introduction**,” David Langford (*Maps: The Uncollected John Sladek* Big Engine)
Mapping Mars, Oliver Morton (Fourth Estate)
 “**Once There Was a Magazine**,” Fred Smith (Becon Publications 2002)
 “**The Time Machine**” (film review), Lucius Shepard (*Electric Story* 2 April 2002; *F&SF* August 2002)

Clarke Award Nominations

The finalists for the 2003 Arthur C. Clarke Award, for best SF novel published in Britain during 2002, have been announced. The winner will be announced at a ceremony Saturday 17 May 2003. Judges are Tony Cullen and Iain Emsley for the British Science Fiction Association, Doug Millard for the Science Museum (London), and Paul McAuley and Liz Sourbut for the Science Fiction Foundation. The Chairman of the judges is Paul Kincaid. The nominees are:

Kil'n People, David Brin (Orbit)
Light, M. John Harrison (Gollancz)
The Scar, China Miéville (Macmillan)
The Separation, Christopher Priest (Scribner)
Speed of Dark, Elizabeth Moon (Orbit)
The Years of Rice and Salt, Kim Stanley Robinson (HarperCollins)

Brin's novel was published in the US as *Kiln People*; Moon's, in January 2003, as *The Speed of Dark*. Harrison's and Priest's novels have not been published in the US.

Philip K. Dick Award Nominations

The Philip K. Dick Award is given annually for science fiction published in paperback original form in the United States. The award is sponsored by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society while the ceremony is sponsored by the North-West Science Fiction Society. Judges for this year's award are Michael Blumlein, Shelley Rodrigo Blanchard, Nalo Hopkinson (chair), Donna McMahon, and Lois Tilton. First prize and any special citations will be announced on Friday 18 April 2003 at Norwescon 26 at the Doubletree Seattle Airport Hotel, SeaTac WA. The nominees are:

Empire of Bones, Liz Williams (Bantam Spectra)
Leviathan Three, Jeff VanderMeer and Forrest Aguirre, eds. (The Ministry of Whimsy)
Maximum Ice, Kay Kenyon (Bantam Spectra)
The Mount, Carol Emshwiller (Small Beer Press)
Report to the Men's Club, Carol Emshwiller (Small Beer Press)
The Scar, China Miéville (Del Rey)
Warchild, Karin Lowachee (Warner Aspect)

Lambda Literary Awards Nominations

The Lambda Literary Awards (aka the Lammys) are sponsored by the Lambda Literary Foundation <www.lambdalit.org> for excellence in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered publishing in a number of categories. The awards will be presented at the Book Expo convention on 29 May 2003 in Los Angeles CA. This year's finalists in the SF/Fantasy/Horror category are:

Daughters of an Amber Noon, Katherine V. Forrest (Alyson)
The Devil Inside, Randy Boyd (West Beach Books)
Queer Fear II, Michael Rowe, ed. (Arsenal Pulp Press)

Seeds of Fire, Karen Kallmaker, writing as Laura Adams (Bella Books)

Wired Hard 3, Cecilia Tan, ed. (Cirlet Press)

Additional genre-related works that were nominated include David Gerrold's *The Martian Child* (Forge) and Jim Grimsley's *Boulevard* in the Gay Men's Fiction category; Nicola Griffith's *Stay* (Doubleday) in the Lesbian Fiction category; Rowe's *Queer Fear II* in the Fiction Anthology category; and Lawrence Schimel's *Found Tribe* (Sherman Asher Publishing) in both the Nonfiction Anthology and the Spirituality categories.

Aurealis Awards Nominations

The shortlist for the 2002 Aurealis Awards, for works of Australian Speculative Fiction, have been announced. The nominees are:

SF NOVEL

Blue Silence, Michelle Marquardt (Bantam)
Echoes of Earth, Sean Williams and Shane Dix (HarperCollins)
Transcension, Damien Broderick (Tor)

SF SHORT STORY

"*The Imperfect Instantaneous People Mover*," Geoffrey Maloney (*Agog! Fantastic Fiction*)
"*Late Returns*," Shane M. Brown (*Redsine* #9)
"*Lucy Lucy*," Shane M. Brown (*Aurealis* #29)
"*Walk to the Full Moon*," Sean McMullen (*F&SF* December 2002)
"*Within Twilight*," Chris McMahon (*Redsine* #8)

FANTASY NOVEL

Blood, Tony Shillitoe (HarperCollins)
The Crippled Angel, Sara Douglass (HarperCollins)
The Gift, Alison Croggan (Penguin)
Hades' Daughter, Sara Douglass (HarperCollins)
The Novice, Trudi Canavan (HarperCollins)
The Storm Weaver and the Sand, Sean Williams (HarperCollins)

FANTASY SHORT STORY

No Award

HORROR NOVEL

Daughter of the Dark, Louise Cusack (Simon & Schuster)
The Gift, Alison Croggan (Penguin)
Shadows Bite, Stephen Dedman (Tor)
The White Body of Evening, A. L. McCann (Flamingo/HarperCollins)

HORROR SHORT STORY

"*Oracle*," Kim Westwood (*Redsine* #9)
"*Wastelands*," Stephen Dedman (*Agog! Fantastic Fiction*)
"*What the Tide Brings*," Claire McKenna (*Fables and Reflections* #2)
"*Within Twilight*," Chris McMahon (*Redsine* #8)

YOUNG ADULT NOVEL

Fireworks and Darkness, Natalie Jane Prior (Angus and Robertson/HarperCollins)
The Hand of Glory, Sophie Masson (Hodder Headline)
Mum, Me, and the 19th C, David McRobbie (Angus and Robertson/HarperCollins)
The Starthorn Tree, Kate Forsyth (Pan)

YOUNG ADULT SHORT STORY

No Award

CHILDREN'S LONG FICTION

Astrid Spark, Fixologist, Justin d'Ath (Allen & Unwin)
Eglantine, Catherine Jinks (Allen & Unwin)
In the Garden of Empress Cassia, Gabrielle Wang (Puffin)
Lily Quench and the Treasure of Mote Ely, Natalie Jane Prior (Hodder)
Rhianna and the Dogs of Iron, Dave Luckett (Scholastic)

CHILDREN'S SHORT FICTION

"The Golden Udder," Terry Denton (Allen & Unwin)
"In the Blink of an Eye," Andrew Chapman (*Spellbinders, Spinouts Sapphire*, Longmans)
"Old Ridley," Gary Crew and Mark McBride (Hodder)
"Tashi and the Haunted House," Anna Fienberg and Kim Gamble (Allen & Unwin)
"The Two Natalies," Justin d'Ath (*Reel Trouble, Spinouts Sapphire*, Longmans)

Letters of Comment

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

Harry Warner, Jr. 17 January 2003
423 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown MD 21740

Congratulations on your reelection to such an altitudinous post in the upper echelon of the royal and imperial ruling element in NASFA. I trust that the editorship of the *Shuttle* will continue to be part of your duties.

I got a headache after I read the instructions on getting information about your club on a computer. It sounds as bad as filling out an income tax return and it doesn't have the potential for resulting in a refund like a tax document. Between this item and Sheryl's description of her problems, I feel awfully wise and superior in my status as a computerphobe.

I'm a great admirer of Judi Dench, but I think I'll skip *Die Another Day* despite her inclusion in its cast. I wish she would stop her bad habit of taking only small roles in movies. *Mrs. Brown* is the only big movie role I've seen her in for a long while.

The return of PED lives up to my hopes for the sequel. I've made a New Year's resolution to keep more firmly in mind what happened in the last episode so I can understand the next episode better when it arrives a month or so later on.

And I do believe that this is the totality of the comments that I can summon up in my decomposing brain on the January *Shuttle*. Incidentally, for the second month in a row I'm writing in a snowy period. We've had about a half-dozen snows in the last month, each only one or two inches in depth followed by a cold snap, so walking and driving are as dangerous as if we'd been getting big blizzards. I never remember any such stretch of winter weather before around here. The only real advantage in turning 80 is that neighbors have been shoveling my sidewalk and even cleaning off my car for me, something that wouldn't happen if I looked or actually were only 60 or 70.

[If you're a fan of Dame Dench, have you watched the TV series *As Time Goes By*? It ran for nearly a decade (ending in 2002 I believe) in the UK and shows up on public TV in the states. It's one of the most charming of the so-called Britcoms, funny yet touching and even romantic. As for the *Shuttle*, yes I'll still be the editor — so far no one else in the club seems to want the task. (Hey, sooner or later one of them will have to step

up to the plate. Chickens ;-) I certainly don't envy you your weather this winter. So far we've had very little snow (as is usual) and none of it has stuck around for long. Which is fine by me. -ED]

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

Lloyd Penney 18 January 2003
<penneys@netcom.ca>
1706-24 Eva Road
Etobicoke ON
Canada M9C 2B2

Greetings, all — I downloaded and hardprinted Volume 23, No. 1 of the *Shuttle*, so here goes with some comments.

Having a club e-mailing list is great to get the word out fast — just make sure that the club still has features that you can't access on e-mail, or people will ask why they belong to the club in the first place. The Web has all kinds of stuff for free, and that can hurt even successful clubs.

The movies I've seen recently are *LotR: The Two Towers* and *Star Trek: Nemesis*. There are some changes from the book in *The Two Towers*, but not enough to change an excellent story. *TTT* will suffer from being the middle movie, but the final movie next year will make it an absolute blockbuster. *Nemesis* was a little slow, and perhaps the best scene in the movie was Picard cracking wise at Riker and Troi's wedding reception, but it made for a good episode, and not necessarily a good movie. I enjoyed it, that's the main thing, although there have been some parallels drawn between this movie and *Wrath of Khan*. We plan to see the second Harry Potter movie — tomorrow!

The Pie-Eyed Dragon with a migraine — I'd call that Excedrin Headache #1. Welcome back, and tell us of all your new adventures.

I suspect lots of people, including Harry Warner, are affected by this cold snap most of us are having. The low temperature in Toronto tonight should be around -20 degrees Celsius, which is about 5 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. Bone-chilling, no matter how you write it. Harry mentions my comments about affording Worldcons — I think we are planning to attend no more after Boston next year — this level of fandom is for the rich only.

Congratulations to the new club executive, and farewell until next issue.

[The club email list is just to distribute info that needs to get out quickly — it certainly shouldn't have any negative impact on the social aspects of the club. You aren't the first person I've seen talk about the latest Star Trek movie as though it were a slightly-glorified TV episode. I haven't seen it myself, though it was still playing locally the last time I noticed. Perhaps I'll get to a weekend matinee next weekend, if it's still here. I can't see paying the full tariff, though. -ED]

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

Michael D. Glicksohn 22 January 2003
<mglick@interlog.com>

About twenty years ago I stopped going to see movies in the theatre. Too many rude and inconsiderate talking and eating and noise-making patrons spoiled the experience for me. But in 2002 I actually saw three films in theatres: the first
(*LoCs continued on back cover*)



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two Harry Potter films and the first part of *LotR*. And recently my wife and I went to see part two of Tolkien's masterpiece brought to the cinema.

It was indeed a memorable and remarkable piece of movie making, a film I'll eventually own on DVD and watch repeatedly. But I'm not sure I'd call it "a fairly faithful adaptation of his works." I guess that depends on how liberally you interpret "fairly." The book doesn't include an encounter between orcs on what appear to be giant Tasmanian devils as the folk of Rohan head towards Helm's Deep, nor is there any mention of Aragorn falling off a cliff and disappearing for a couple of days. And the siege at Helm's Deep is eventually relieved by a thousand foot soldiers and a walking-not-talking forest, not by a horde of horsemen.

Still, that doesn't spoil the film as far as I'm concerned. It is a wonderful movie. But it's not quite what Tolkien wrote.

Hope y'all have a great new year and that some *Shuttle* readers make it to the worldcon here in Toronto.

[Good to hear from you, Mike. Differences between exactly what Tolkien wrote and the plot of the movies clearly exist. Some of them are probably attributable to both the visual nature of movies and the relatively short time they have to tell a story. Other are artistic choices. I'm no where near enough of a Tolkien *or* movie expert to try to discern which differences fit in which category. What I would venture to say is that, on a strictly subjective basis, much of the heart of Tolkien comes through in the movies to date. I can only hope the final piece of the trilogy carries this through as well. -ED]