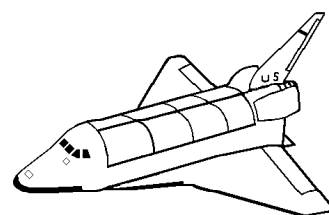


The



SHUTTLE
August 2003

The Next NASFA Meeting will be 16 August 2003 at the Regular Time and Location

The Next Con+Stellation XXII ConCom Meeting is Sunday 17 August 2003 at Mike Kennedy's House

Future ConComs 7 & 21 September and 5 October; plus 9 October at the Hotel

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next **NASFA meeting** will be **16 August 2003** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**. Call BookMark at 256-881-3910 if you need directions.

The **August program** is to be determined at press time.

The August **after-the-meeting meeting** will be a pool party at Russell McNutt's house.

We need volunteers for future After-The-Meeting Meetings

ConCom Meetings

The next Con+Stellation XXII con committee meeting will be held 2P Sunday 17 August at Mike Kennedy's house — 7907 Charlotte Drive SW, Huntsville AL. An email with additional information will be sent out closer to the day.

Future concom meetings are scheduled for 7 September, 21 September, and 5 October at Mike's house. There will also be the usual last-minute concom meeting on Thursday 9 October at the hotel.

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Deadline for the September 2003 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 5 September 2003.

DSC 41/LibertyCon 16

reviewed by Mike Kennedy

As has been true about half the time in recent memory, this year's DeepSouthCon was combined with an existing convention. DSC 41/LibertyCon 16 <www.libertycon.org> was held 25–27 June 2003 at the Best Value Inn in East Ridge (Chattanooga) TN. Invited guests included Literary Guest of Honor S. M. Stirling, Artist GoH Darrell K. Sweet, Very Special Guest John Ringo, and MC Darryl Elliot. A large number of other professionals were expected to attend — far too many to list here.

When DSC changed to a two-year-in-advance selection schedule the better part of two decades ago, the events leading up to this year's con were hardly anticipated, but it turned out to be fortuitous in an odd way. Shortly before the originally-scheduled date of LibertyCon 16, their hotel was partially destroyed in a major fire. Of course, that was *last* year, when LC was not scheduled to host DSC. The fire occurred too close to the con's dates to allow for an alternate location to be found, so LibertyCon 16 slipped a full year. I won't even *try* to go into the various issues they ran into with guests being forced by various unforeseen circumstances to drop out, or the details of the hotel changing hands twice in the last year. Through it all, the committee persevered and in the end put on a very good con.

Which is not to say there were no problems. When the hotel was rebuilt they didn't include as many sleeping rooms. Between that and the extra attendance because it was a Deep-SouthCon, LC needed to use several overflow hotels, some of which were across a very busy multilane highway. (One Huntsvillian staying in one of those remote hotels made a number of trips across the road by foot. I don't think I would have had the nerve.) For myself, the biggest problem with the hotel was the lack of an elevator and the fact that the party rooms (including mine) were on the second floor — up a curving staircase of about 20 steps. Fat old men with bad knees shouldn't have to climb that many stairs as often as I did that weekend.

All that said, most aspects of the con went very smoothly. I barely got my head inside the dealers room the whole weekend so I can't say much about it. The art show was very nice. I understand that they sold a lot of art, and the often spirited bidding at the art auction Saturday evening seemed to confirm that. I cast my eye on a piece or two but I don't even have all the art I own on the walls, and the bidding quickly outstripped my pocketbook.

The function space at the Best Value Inn is somewhat oddly arranged. As a consequence, the con suite (which occupies part of what used to be a bar) serves as the entryway to both the dealers room and the art show. (When a false wall is collapsed, one can also get from the con suite into the main programming room.) This arrangement makes the con suite more of a central meeting place than might otherwise be the case — a good thing in my opinion. There is a corresponding drawback, that the doors to the patio outside got opened a *lot* into the late-July heat. Fortunately, the hotel's air conditioning seemed to cope a bit better with this than it has in times past. A large tarp used by the con as a canopy over a big chunk of the patio probably helped, reducing the solar heat load through the glass front of the room.

While a lot of my weekend was taken up with "business" (for instance, wrapping up work on the DSC Rules Committee that I'd served on since last year's DSC in Huntsville), I did

manage to go to a few programs here and there and participate in the killer-cut-throat spades tournament. In that latter I did fairly miserably, failing to advance to the second round. (While he didn't make the finals, David Weber was really on his game most of the weekend and pretty much blew me out of the water in the first round.) Well... I almost made it into the very last second round game as a substitute, but gave up my seat at the last moment when another player showed up. In fact, I don't think I won a single spades game that weekend, tournament or not.



The major programming item that I wanted to get to but didn't was the masquerade. The main programming room at that hotel is really too small for that event. The con did show it on the hotel TV system, but I chose not to go find a place to watch (the TV in my room only got one channel, ESPN). If someone has a video tape or even good stills I'd love to have a look sometime. Besides, the con was going to give out various awards during the judging interval and I always like to be around for the DSC Awards. As it turned out I had good reason to do so this year, even though it meant standing through the presentations.

DSC itself gives out two awards (though often to multiple people) every year and provides a venue for one other annual tradition, the Rubble. The Rebel and Phoenix Awards are for service to Southern Fandom by fans and sf professionals respectively. The Rubble Award, rather than being for fans who have done things *for* Southern Fandom, is for those who have done things *to* it. (I should note, for those not familiar with the tradition, that the award is normally given out in good-natured fun.) Two Phoenix Awards were announced this year — for Rick Shelley (posthumously) and Larry Elmore. The announcement of Rick's win got perhaps the biggest round of applause of the night; I know I joined in vigorously. The Rubble Award went to Gerald W. (Jerry) Page, making him only the second to score all three awards, after Toni (T. K. F.) Weisskopf. The Rebel Award went to, well, me.

OK, here I'm going to be more honest that perhaps is wise. It was not a complete surprise. A very good friend, who had apparently been recruited to try to make sure I was at the masquerade, was, well, less than completely subtle in the attempt — enough so that I was rather suspicious. Then, right before the presentations, both he and another old friend practically dragged me into the room on a flimsy excuse. But surprise or no, I was very touched by the whole thing; quite on the verge of tears during my short acceptance speech. If you want to know more about how I felt you'll have to join the Southern Fandom Confederation so you can get hold of a copy of their upcoming zine (*SFC Bulletin*) — Randy Cleary talked me into writing an article.

Next year DSC 42 will be held in conjunction with MidSouthCon 22 <www.midsouthcon.org> in Memphis TN, 26–28 March 2004. Guests include Writer GoH David Brin, Artist GoH Todd Lockwood, Fan GoH Cullen Johnson, and

TM Michael Sheard.

DSC 43 (selected this year) will be held in conjunction with Xanadu 8 in Nashville TN. Xanadu was an annual con some years ago and is being revived next year with Xanadu 7. One guest, GoH Mike Resnick, was announced for 2005.

World Fantasy Awards Nominations

World Fantasy Awards nominations (for works published in 2002) have been announced. The juried awards will be presented at this year's World Fantasy Convention <www.seahunt.org/wfc> to be held 30 October–2 November 2003 in Washington DC. Judges for this year's awards are Justin Ackroyd, Les Edwards, Laura Anne Gilman, Lawrence Watt-Evans, and Jane Yolen. Awards administrator is Peter Dennis Pautz. A Life Achievement Award, whose nominees are not released in advance, will also be announced at the convention. More information about all World Fantasy Conventions can be found at <www.worldfantasy.org>. The nominees are:

NOVEL

The Facts of Life, Graham Joyce (Gollancz)
Fitcher's Brides, Gregory Frost (Tor)
Ombria in Shadow, Patricia A. McKillip (Ace)
The Portrait of Mrs. Charbuque, Jeffrey Ford (Morrow)
The Scar, China Miéville (Macmillan; Del Rey)

NOVELLA

Coraline, Neil Gaiman (HarperCollins)
"The Least Trumps," Elizabeth Hand (*Conjunctions 39: The New Wave Fabulists*)
"The Library," Zoran Zivkovic (*Leviathan 3*)
Seven Wild Sisters, Charles de Lint (Subterranean Press)
A Year in the Linear City, Paul Di Filippo (PS Publishing)

SHORT STORY

"Creation," Jeffrey Ford (*F&SF* May 2002)
"The Essayist in the Wilderness," William Browning Spencer (*F&SF* May 2002)
"Little Dead Girl Singing," Stephen Gallagher (*Weird Tales* Spring 2002)
"October in the Chair," Neil Gaiman (*Conjunctions 39: The New Wave Fabulists*)
"The Weight of Words," Jeffrey Ford (*Leviathan 3*)

ANTHOLOGY

The American Fantasy Tradition, Brian M. Thomsen, ed. (Tor)
Conjunctions 39: The New Wave Fabulists, Peter Straub, ed. (Bard College)
The Green Man: Tales from the Mythic Forest, Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling, eds. (Viking)
Leviathan 3, Jeff VanderMeer and Forrest Aguirre, eds. (Ministry of Whimsy Press)
The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror: Fifteenth Annual Collection, Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling, eds. (St. Martin's)

COLLECTION

City of Saints and Madmen, Jeff VanderMeer (Prime Books)
The Fantasy Writer's Assistant and Other Stories, Jeffrey Ford (Golden Gryphon Press)
Figures in Rain, Chet Williamson (Ash-Tree Press)
The Ogre's Wife, Richard Parks (Obscura Press)

Waifs and Strays, Charles de Lint (Viking)
Water: Tales of Elemental Spirits, Robin McKinley and Peter Dickinson (Putnam)

ARTIST

Kinuko Y. Craft
Gary Lippincott
John Jude Palencar

Tom Kidd
Dave McKean
Charles Vess

SPECIAL AWARD, PROFESSIONAL

Paul Barnett (for Paper Tiger art books)
Ellen Datlow (for editing)
William K. Schafer (for Subterranean Press)
Gary Turner and **Marty Halpern** (for Golden Gryphon Press)

Gordon Van Gelder (for *F&SF*)

Terri Windling (for editing)

SPECIAL AWARD, NON-PROFESSIONAL

Peter Crowther (for PS Publishing)
Gavin Grant and **Kelly Link** (for Small Beer Press)
Sean Wallace (for Prime Books)
Michael Walsh (for Old Earth Books)
Jason Williams, **Jeremy Lassen**, and **Benjamin Cossel** (for Night Shade Books)

Other Awards News

ENDEAVOUR AWARD NOMS

The Endeavour Award <www.osfci.org/endeavour> is presented annually at OryCon (Portland OR) for the best science fiction or fantasy book written by a Pacific Northwest author or authors and published in the previous year. This year's award will be presented at OryCon 25 (14–16 November 2003) for a book published during 2002. Judges for this year are Martin H. Greenberg, Joe Haldeman, and Douglas Smith. The award includes a grant of \$1,000. The nominees are:

The Disappeared, Kristine Kathryn Rusch
Lion's Blood, Steven Barnes
The Maquisarde, Louise Marley
Solitaire, Kelley Eskridge
Technogenesis, Syne Mitchell

GAYLACTIC SPECTRUM AWARDS

Nominations for the Gaylactic Spectrum Awards <www.spectrumawards.org/2003.htm> have been announced. The awards are given by the Gaylactic Network to honor sf/fantasy/horror works (published in 2002) with significant positive gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender content. Winners will be announced at Torcon, this year's Worldcon, to be held 28 August–1 September in Toronto ONT. Works are nominated in several categories for this year's awards, plus Hall of Fame inductees (to honor works originally released in North America prior to 1998 in any format) may be selected.

BEST NOVEL

Dance for the Ivory Madonna, Don Sakers (Speed-of-C)
The Fall of the Kings, Ellen Kushner and Delia Sherman (Bantam Spectra)
Fire Logic, Laurie Marks (Tor)
Hominids, Robert Sawyer (Tor)
Lorimal's Chalice, Jane Fletcher (Fortitude Press)
Nightmare: A Novel of the Silent Empire, Steven Harper (Roc)
Solitaire, Kelley Eskridge (Harper Eos)

BEST SHORT FICTION

“**Bugcrush**,” Scott Treleven (*Queer Fear 2*, Arsenal Pulp)
 “**For the Mortals Among Us**,” Robert Knippenberg (*Mind & Body*, Circlet Press)
 “**Night of the Werepuss**,” Michael Thomas Ford (*Queer Fear 2*, Arsenal Pulp)
 “**Polyphemus’ Cave**,” David Nickle (*Queer Fear 2*, Arsenal Pulp)
 “**Three Letters from the Queen of Elfland**,” Sarah Monette (*Lady Churchill’s Rosebud Wristlet*, Small Beer Press)
 “**Till Human Voices Wake Us**,” Stephen Dedman (*Queer Fear 2*, Arsenal Pulp)
 “**Unspeakable**,” M. C. A. Hogarth (*Strange Horizons*)

BEST COMIC/GRAPHIC NOVEL

The Authority (issues 28 and 29), various (Wildstorm/DC)
Buffy the Vampire Slayer — Willow and Tara: Wilderness, Amber Benson and Christopher Golden (Dark Horse)
Green Lantern: Hate Crime (issues 154 and 155), Judd Winnick (DC)
Murder Mysteries, Neil Gaiman and Craig Russell (Dark Horse)
Uncanny X-Men (414), various (Marvel)
X-Statix (1–5), various (Marvel)

BEST OTHER WORK

Buffy the Vampire Slayer (“Seeing Red”), Joss Whedon, et al. (FoxTV)
Eyes of the God: The Weird Fiction and Poetry of R. H. Barlow, S. T. Joshi, Douglas Anderson, and David Schultz, eds (academic collection, Hippocampus Press)
Mind & Body, Cecilia Tan ed. (Circlet Press)
Queer Fear II, Michael Rowe, ed. (Arsenal Pulp)
Wired Hard 3, Cecilia Tan, ed. (Circlet Press)

No Need For Necromancy!

No Need for a Dragon with a Migraine Chapter 7
 by PieEyedDragon

After the initial chaos of finger-pointing, fights, and foul language; the Frost Giants set out to discover who wrecked their terror weapon. Their King, Jarl Utgard-Loki, sent his chief druid with a pair of guards down to the cold gate of Niflheim, or Hell.

Wearing an iron thumb ring and flint, the druid spoke the almost-unpronounceable spell to summon Grua, the spae-wife giantess buried at the gate of Hell. For a bag of blood, she would answer such questions as the dead are privy to. A cloaked figure shambles over to the druid: stopping beside the blood. Fleshless hands and feet extend beyond the garment’s edges.

“I hear your summons. What do you want?”

“Who wrecked out terror weapon, Coldbringer, which now lies in ruins?”

“*One!* The Pie-Eyed Dragon of Iceland unmade your Banshee, which indirectly destroyed your great work; though he knew not of it.”

“Where now is this dragon?”

“*Two!* All must come here,” the dry voice whispered, “so did he. Unlike the rest, he left again. Niord the dragon-guardian did not block him: Professional Courtesy. He rests now beside a fairy-lake, on the frozen land of northern Alaska.”

“How can he be caught?”

“*Three!* He is quick, but freezing weather can slow down any serpent. When the sun next sets for the long Arctic night, the fairies will be away; leaving him alone. No more questions

will I answer now, unless you would pay with your own hearts. No? Then *begone!*” Grua climbed back into her barrow, and the Frost Giants leave.

The druid reported all this to his lord, who thought for three days before replying. Then, the Frost-King raised his hands and began the slow summoning of the coldest winds. He raises a powerful winter storm of the kind seen less than once every thousand years. A strike team of seven trolls is formed, armed with ice bombs. Though “loaded for bear” it was no bear they were after. The king reluctantly opened the treasury and allowed his druid to borrow the great Stace-Ice rod; with horrible warnings should it become damaged.

The weather had been getting colder than normal. The fairys had all gone to Alfheim to visit their relatives; after being separated for so long. PED kept shrinking, to reduce his surface area. As the low sun finally set for the long Arctic night, he decided to stay down in the water until Spring. “Time to head for the deep water, or I’ll become a *frost-breathing dragon!*” he chuckled.

As he slowly approached the edge, seven trolls leapt out of the water and threw freezing bombs at him. Then, three giants rose up behind them, out of the water, and a great blue flash froze the dragon solid!

— O — O — O —

The giant-druid next chill-blasted the base of a tall tree, and snapped it off. The other giants made quick work of stripping the branches, and began tying the dragon to the tree for transport. (The druid’s scrying instruments kept pointing to the dragon’s mid-section all this time.) The trolls were capering around, getting thoroughly angry at the absence of any obvious treasure hoard. “Where’s the treasure? There’s not so much as a wooden ha’penny here!”

With great effort, and shaking legs, two giants hoisted the tree trunk with the bound dragon, and splashed back into the lagoon. The druid reopened the elemental nexus and giants, trolls, and dragon all disappeared through the water-gate. Hard snow, blown by bitterly cold winds, begins covering their footprints; and all the torn-up branches.

— O — O — O —

Officer Kiyone cuts their patrol short when she finds her partner Mihoshi — very blue and shivering — on the floor of the ship’s galley. She puts her partner into the isolation chamber, broadcasts a contagion warning, and makes all speed back to the Galaxy Police orbital Headquarters.

— O — O — O —

“And did you find the power mineral?”

“It is inside the dragon, oh King. But; how to get it out without risking a thawing? *Naglfar* must have this power source!”

“There’s more than one way to skin a dragon...I’ll *eat* him!”

The flash-frozen dragon is consigned to a very cold dungeon. The giants begin preparations for a great feast.

— O — O — O —

Wotan, aware of much of this from his ravens, and the motions of the game pieces on his chessboard; which had reflected the “Priest captures Dragon” gambit. He addresses the others present in Asgard: “We have struck a mighty blow, and might do more if someone clever enough could suggest the proper plan. We dare not release Loki, for he would be unlikely to aid us.”

The smith, Weland (who was visiting Asgard) speaks up: “Lord Wotan, I can recommend someone: a very clever fellow, with a little gift of prophesy.”

No Need For A Castaway!

No Need for a Dragon with a Migraine Chapter 8
by PieEyedDragon

In the end, Weland himself goes to fetch his old friend, returning to Asgard.

Puck: Well, to paraphrase Cupid upon seeing Pluto in the upper world: "An audience like this, I may never see again!" What can an old trickster possibly do for the lords of the Æsir? (Puck is quickly briefed on the situation.)

"I'll do anything to help. He's the most decent worm that ever lit up the sky. I first met him in Ireland. *He* was east-bound, so I asked him to please avoid England. He promised, and hasn't crossed the English coastline now in over three thousand years. I've visited him in Japan a few times, this past millennium. Also, I'll gladly seize the chance to pay the Jotuns an old debt."

A look of ancient sorrow settles upon his face. "*Naglfar* was a heavy cruiser, colony ship. The Jotuns mutinied, and spaced every one of the officers; including a certain psychotherapist who was also the morale officer. Being one of the 'Brownies of the High Air,' I survived and made landfall under my own power. With engines failing, the giants over-drove my kindred ship-pushers to get here, too. That treatment rendered many of the Brownies insane. I visit all of them regularly, and do what I can for their conditions. Psychic healing is a very slow process for us."

Wotan: I never met any of the officers. The giants stranded us here, not caring.

Puck: (decisively) Other friends of the dragon must be invited. Lend me *Skipbladnir*! As a lifeboat of *Naglfar*, it will fly higher and faster for *my* hand than ever for any of you.

Wotan: Go then, and speed well!

— O — O — O —

Puck goes first to the nearby lords of Ireland, and gives the news.

Next, Puck crosses over the pole to visit Honshu. "She Who Shines In The Heavens," Amaterasu, thanked the fairy, and offered a helpful piece of information; and the present location of a certain person.

Puck goes to a few sites around the Mediterranean, and thence to Mexico; to complete his local visits. These being completed, he "talks" to the ship.

"Okay, Skippy old girl; now for it. Can you still sail the High Air?"

In reply, *Skipbladnir* tilts her dragon-prow upward, and rapidly rises until all the atmosphere is left behind. The "oars" are now withdrawn, and the little ship; guided by Puck, truly begins accelerating until they start actually pushing c. Puck is overjoyed to finally see a starbow, again.

— O — O — O —

Officer Mihoshi had mostly recovered from the chills, and been cleared from any possibility of active contagion. She was on light administrative duty (to keep her out of trouble) when a diplomatic request from a small brown alien, Robin Goodfellow, sent her off to assist with a kidnapping investigation. Goodfellow was apparently a Juraan offshoot since his small ship, *Skipbladnir*, was made of wood. It was also the third ship visiting this month to have a dragonhead prow, though it looked very old. Such ornamentation was seemingly coming into style with shipfitters.

— O — O — O —

Skipbladnir begins accelerating away from the GP HQ;

pushing c.

Mihoshi: Mister Goodfellow (is that *really* your name?), there don't seem to be any instruments here. Is this an AI ship?

Robin: (cocks his head to one side with a grin, while keeping one hand on a certain spot) You know what they say about "Any sufficiently advanced technology being indistinguishable from magic?"

Mihoshi: I saw magic once: a man pulled a cabbit out of a hat. (She looks ahead, toward their direction of flight.) That's the prettiest starbow I ever saw!

Robin: Quite so! (as he wrapped the starbow around the wooden ship, and "pushed" them over into jumpspace; headed toward Asgard, Bifrost, and the Starbow's End.)

Letters of Comment

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

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31 July 2003

I have the July *Shuttle* here, Vol. 23, No. 7 to be exact, and I've got some time to get a quick loc done.

I may have already asked, but seeing it's not far off, less than 30 days as I write, who is going to Torcon?

Found some unhappy news in other places — this is taken from the Australian SF Bullshead:

DEATHS

Walter "Matt" Jeffries, designer of the original Starship Enterprise, and after whom the "Jeffries Tubes" — access tunnels between the decks of the starship — were named, passed away on 22 July aged 82. The cause of death was not mentioned, but Jeffries had recently been treated for cancer.

Anthony Caruso, the actor who played gangster Bela Oxmyx in the original Trek episode "A Piece of the Action" died recently. He was aged 86.

Kathie Browne McGavin, wife of actor Darren McGavin (who played Kolchek in the *Night Stalker* series) also passed away recently. Kathie played Deela in the original Trek episode "Wink of an Eye."

The review of the newest Harry Potter book makes it sound promising, but I have been lurking on the Usenet area alt.fan.harry-potter, and the teeming masses there are largely unhappy with it. I haven't bought it yet, but I think I'll wait until the softcover version comes out.

Lots of awards — thank you for running the complete list of nominees for the Aurora Awards. We're hoping and optimistic. The Auroras will be given out on the Friday of Torcon in the Concert Hall of the Royal York Hotel. In the Mark Time and Ogle Awards list, I was a voice actor on the horror CD that tied for the Gold Ogle, *Fears For Ears*.

I hope there'll be lots of you at Torcon; we're staying at the good old Royal York. Sure, we could commute from home, but we're involved with a 2006 Worldcon bid (LA), and we're helping others with another party. Other than that, we have few commitments, and do not intend to take any more. We worked

hard to bring the convention about while we were on the bid committee, and we are hoping the con will be a success.

[As far as I know, I'm the only NASFAn going to Torcon, though probably not the only Huntsvillian (I'd expect Patrick Molloy and Naomi Fisher to be there, for instance — though I don't know that for sure) and certainly not the only recipient of the *Shuttle*. I'm staying at the Cowne Plaza myself, a major concession on my part. When given a choice, I've always gone with the party/evening-event hotel before when attending a Worldcon. I decided this year that I'd rather have the ability to go easily back and forth to my room during the day. I still plan to make the trek down to the Royal York each evening for various events and the parties, but that's once a day. I hope my decision will reduce my total walking to spare my knees some wear and tear. I have never managed to get into the Potter books, though a number of my close friends have done so and none of them have mentioned any disappointment with the most recent book. -ED]

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

Sheryl Birkhead
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Gaithersburg MD 20882

1 August 2003

Hi — Nothing if not consistently inconsistent. I would have *sworn* I responded to the June ish — but, right here I have both June and July. So...

June — I like the “other” font better — just personal choice.

I haven't been to a con for a *long* time, and even longer if

you require at least 24-hour stay.

I see that Carlo (DeShouten) says Furmeet *needs more games* — I hope that doesn't mean it “should” be games alone.

I saw the AFI Heroes and Villains special — a lot of fun.

July — Ah, the old font is back.

I am waiting for the library to get the books-on-tape version of the Harry Potter book, but I know there will be a *huge* waiting list... maybe I ought to just read... naw, listening to it while I drive is so much more “fun.”

Congratulations to the Penneys on their 20th anniversary — and nominations!

Agh — almost two years of movies I have yet to see — keep hoping the older ones will show up at the bargain VHS [bin] — yeah RSN.

[Well, of my own knowledge I cannot say with any certainty whether you sent a prior response to the June issue or not — I have been known to lose letters and postcards in my house and the last couple of months has seen things stacking up more than usual. As I type this (on my laptop) I don't yet know if my desktop computer will have eaten another monitor or not. The lack of a working monitor for that older computer (two died at essentially the same time) was what forced me to do the layout of the June issue on my laptop and led to it's odd look. I have been using a very small (but cheap!) monitor the last month plus, which made the layout work for the July issue more troublesome and will do so again this month — assuming that the tiny thing is still functional. Sooner or later I'll have to either get a bigger monitor or just give in and upgrade to a more modern computer (and software). Carlo's opinion on the Furmeet is, of course, his own. A number of people wondered aloud in my presence, with some bemusement, why he would have expected much in the way of gaming at that type of con. -ED]



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