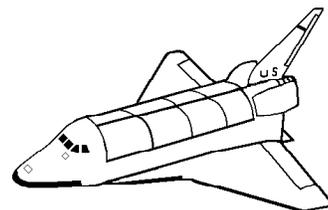


The



SHUTTLE
September 2003

The Next NASFA Meeting is 20 September 2003 at the Regular Time and Location

ConCom Meetings: 21 September and 5 October at Mike's House

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next NASFA meeting will be **20 September 2003** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**. Call Book-Mark at 256-881-3910 if you need directions.

The **September program** will be a group discussion on the topic "What are you currently reading and why?" Please bring examples with you to the meeting.

The September **after-the-meeting meeting** will be at Ray Pietruszka and Nancy Cucci'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 21 September at Mike Kennedy's house — 7907 Charlotte Drive SW, Huntsville AL. An email with additional information will be sent out closer to the day.

One more concom meetings is scheduled for 5 October at Mike's house. There will also be the usual last-minute concom meeting on Thursday 9 October at the hotel.

RIP PLCM

On Tuesday 26 August 2003 Southern fandom, lost one of its most beloved members, Pamela Lynn "P. L." Caruthers-Montgomery. Her death was ascribed to natural causes. She is survived by husband Larry Montgomery and a host of fen who loved her.

Both Larry and P. L. are legends in Southern fandom. You'll find articles by both of them in the 1997 *Southern Fandom Confederation Handbook* (whose online home is <www.smithuel.net/sfchb/hbtoc.html>). I was privileged to be on the con committee for DeepSouthCon 23 in 1985 when both of them were presented with the Rebel Award — rather belatedly in my opinion. I was also privileged to work with P. L. when she a NASFA officer and *Shuttle* editor for a period of time in the mid-to-late '80s, even though she lived miles away in Anniston. Others knew her best when she was an officer of the Southern Fandom Confederation or as a long time member of the Southern Fandom Press Alliance.

Larry has made it know that, per P. L.'s wish, there will be no formal memorial. She will be cremated and her ashes given to the winds atop Alabama's highest mountain.

All of Southern fandom should pause — each in his or her own time — and reflect on this sad event. We have lost a piece of our collective heart.

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Deadline for the October 2003 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 26 September 2003.

Star Trek Night at the Huntsville Library

The Huntsville Public Library is hosting a Star Trek night as part of their ongoing Century of Flight celebration. It will be held Friday 3 October 2003, 6P–9P. Screenwriter Lee Shackleford will be showing a special edition of “City on the Edge of Forever” and will give an insider’s talk about writing for Star Trek.

Other planned events include audience readings from an unproduced Shackleford screenplay, a Star Trek game show with prizes, a costume contest (also with prizes), door prizes, Star Trek comestibles, and a presence by local fan clubs. NASFA and Con*Stellation plan to have a representative.

For more information contact Sophie Young at 256-532-5940 or via email at <syoungh@hpl.lib.al.us>. You can also check out the library’s web site at <www.hpl.lib.al.us>.

The Astronomy of Star Trek: The Good, the Bad and the Bogus

reviewed by Mary Orwerth

A lecture by Larry Nemecek, Star Trek writer, and Dr. Chip Meegan, astronomer and “debunker” of bogus science, took place at 7:30P on 27 August at UAH’s Chan Auditorium. The lecture was the brainchild of Mitzi Adams, director of the planetarium, and was co-sponsored by NASFA and the Von Braun Astronomical Society (VBAS).

The program consisted of a lively discussion of Star Trek locales and episodes with stills and clips that detailed the astronomical points in question. Topics ranged from the size and shape of the Milky Way Galaxy and the location of Earth’s solar system in it; to the truth about various star systems, their location and likelihood of planets and inhabitants; to basic scientific theories behind such things as restarting burned out stars and shielding to protect vehicles and passengers entering a star’s corona.

Not surprising to most Star Trek fans, the writers have made a concerted effort to place recognizable stars, nebulae, galaxies, and other features in their universe. Wolf 359, for example, is a star very close to our own solar system, an obvious attempt to bring the action close to home. 40 Eridani, the solar system of the planet Vulcan, (never mentioned in the TV series but referenced occasionally in books), actually is a binary star as depicted in movies III and IV. On the other hand, Rigel, a blue giant star, is identified as having at least 12 planets (many with indigenous populations as presented in different Star Trek episodes), not a likely scenario according to Dr. Meegan. While habitable planets may orbit Rigel, the short life of a blue giant star would not likely allow an evolutionary cycle to produce intelligent life. Likewise, an attempt to rekindle a burned out carbon-oxygen white dwarf star by crashing a shuttle into it would not likely have much effect. If the mass of “protomatter” was sufficient to cause all the carbon and oxygen to be converted to hydrogen, it would result in an explosion significantly large enough to make one, hopefully, reconsider the effort.

The lecture lasted about an hour and a half and was

followed by a brief question and answer period. Approximately 150 people in the audience clearly enjoyed the witty banter and knowledge of the two guest lecturers. Very possibly this is the first of many programs on this subject, as there are quite a few locations in Star Trek episodes and movies that have not been discussed. Unfortunately, the proposed Mars viewing could not take place due to inclement weather.

LotR Re-Releases Planned

Prior to the theatrical release of the final installment of Peter Jackson’s *Lord of the Rings* movie trilogy, there are now planned, limited re-releases of the first two films in extended versions. About 120 North American theaters will be included in the playdates.

About two weeks before *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* (scheduled for 17 December 2003), New Line Cinema plans to screen a 208-minute version of *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*. Then, on 12 December, a 214-minute version of *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* will hit the big screen. Both of these are expected to be the same as the corresponding extended-version DVD releases.

As if that’s not enough for gluttons, plans have been announced to show a back-to-back-to-back marathon of all three films on some screens, starting at 3P on 16 December and continuing on 4-hour intervals with the final installment wrapping up in the wee hours of the 17th.

Advanced tickets for the re-releases are slated to go on sale in late September or early October via movie-ticketing sites like Fandango, Moviefone, and Movietickets.com as well as participating exhibitor websites.

Book Reviews

by Jim Woosley

Callahan’s Con, by Spider Robinson, Tor, July 2003, hardback (jacket art by Jeff Fischer), 304 pp, ISBN: 0765302705, \$23.95

Spider Robinson is back with the latest round of adventures of the “original” barflies (no apologies to the regulars at Baen’s bar, which includes a Callahan’s page).

Regular readers of the series will recall that, when last we left our troupe of stalwart retreat hippies and occasionally telepathic saviors of the world, they had moved lock, stock, and Irish coffee machine from the bureaucratically unfavorable venue of Long Island to Key West, Florida, where they had taken over a former nudist colony while at the same time helping Nikolai Tesla save the universe.

Well, it’s time to fast forward a decade, to a time in the relatively near past. Nothing noteworthy has happened in the intervening decade — unless one counts life, which is always interesting but doesn’t usually make good fiction, or at least good science fiction, in the presence of the barflies. Along the way, they’ve picked up several new regulars (most of whom have graphically described and supposedly amusing speech impediments of some sort), and lost one major one (the Lucky Duck, who disappeared in ’96 leaving behind only the note “Ireland needs me more now”).

Suddenly, disaster comes in fours.

*The subrosa deal they have for state approval of Jake's stepdaughter Erin's homeschooling has evaporated. If you recall from the last two novels, Erin absorbed the knowledge and memories of Solace, the first AI to artificially coalesce from the Internet, when Solace suicided (and incidentally saved the world) at the end of *The Callahan Touch*. Along about the time she was two, the superintelligent youngster learned teleportation and time travel from the Callahans. So, needless to say, having to face an examination of their schooling practices (which mostly consists of admonitions to stay out of the way of broadswords while observing live battlefields for her history class, etc.) by a *gasp* bureaucrat is cause for major concern. Particularly when said bureaucrat is a battle-hardened woman briefcase-carrier of the human services wars. Double particularly after they learn that she is a cousin ("Third cousin once removed, which for Ukrainians is about like twins") of the Long Island administrator who shut Jake's original bar down, seeking a little revenge for the payback they gave him.

*Astute readers of the companion Callahan's Lady series might remember "Tony Donuts," the abusive man-mountain who was the subject of one of the most memorable introductory scenes in modern science fiction. ("...on the spectrum (of masculinity and femininity), consider the point that is as far from Robert Mitchum in one direction as Liberace is in the other. Label this genetic freak 'Tony Donuts.')" Well, it turns out that Tony had a son (called, appropriately enough, "Little Nuts"). Tony Jr. enjoys ripping men apart and raping women as much as his father did. He's decided to enter the protection racket on Key West — with the objective of outing and ejecting Russian mob influences there in order to come to the positive attention of and membership in the Mafia — and has chosen the Place as his first "conquest." This leaves Jake and the Gang to ponder two problems: first, will the high-tech shielding they've been granted by Mickey Finn and Michael Callahan, which protects them from everything from bullets to nukes, operate properly to stop them from being firmly squeezed to death or pulled apart like chickens. Second, if it *does* work, even Little Nuts is bright enough to realize that the Callahan regulars might be of more use to his prospective bosses in their own right than the shooting war he hopes to start — and win — with the Russian mob.

*Third, that umpteen years after the original founding of Callahan's Place, and thirty years after the series opened, some of the regulars are getting long in the tooth. Enough so that entropy is starting to rear its ugly head, and one of the best-loved regulars is getting ready to drink his last...

*And, last but not least: Mary and Mickey Finn, Nikolai Tesla, and Mike and Sally Callahan haven't been seen since their last appearance at the Place shortly after they saved the universe. None of them can be traced — and Mike isn't answering his telephone.

Thus is launched a notoriously awful pun fest, aided and abetted with hot and cold running shaggy dog stories, and — as the title suggests — an attempt to "con" Tony into leaving them alone, for which the "Professor" — and thirteen year old Erin — are key. While the Bureaucrat from Hell (OK, from Tallahassee, but the difference is moot) is doing her best to find reasons to take Erin from Jake and Zoey's custody. And while saying good-bye to a beloved friend.

I think I've mentioned before that I believe Spider Robinson is looking for ways to depart gracefully from the Callahan series, and it's very possible that he has finally found that departure. (Though I suspect that he has at least two books worth of unwritten "historical" material.) The novel is both better and worse than some of the past books — better, because

Spider has matured as a novelist, and his prose swims along like an Olympic medalist. Worse, because his characters reside in a corner of America that is not changing and growing; they have (except for Erin) embraced the status quo. No matter how much better Spider tells the stories, it cannot hide the fact that he hasn't really had anything new to say in these past three novels.

The fact that, for the first time, none of the Callahans shows up may be the key — this is probably the end.

As much as I hope that Spider finds his voice again in the Callahan milieu and graces us with some stories as vibrant and different as "Fivesight" or "Pytor's Story," my belief is that any continuation of the series will be even more strongly focused on Erin, who remains one of Spider's most engaging inventions — on a par with Sharra Drummond — and who is the only person in the Callahan's universe with a new story to share.

For anyone who loves the Callahan universe, this is, as always, a must read. For anyone new to Callahan — well, the original novels are back in print from Tor and Baen; start at the beginning, get yourself hooked, and *then* go to the end. If you start with *Callahan's Con*, you'll certainly be lost and probably will be disappointed.

Red Rabbit, by Tom Clancy, Penguin, August 2002, hardback, 640 pp, ISBN: 0399148701, \$28.95 (paperback available from Berkley, August 2003, 565 pp, ISBN: 0425191184, \$7.99)

The Teeth of the Tiger, by Tom Clancy, Putnam, August 2003, hardback, 461 pp, ISBN: 039915079X, \$27.95

WARNING: This review contains spoilers for *Teeth of the Tiger* and *Red Rabbit*.

Last summer, when the movie adaptation of Tom Clancy's nuclear terrorism novel *The Sum of All Fears* came out, rumors were in circulation that the choice of Ben Affleck to play Clancy's CIA hero Jack Ryan was prompted by a decision to start a "Young Jack Ryan" series. This is necessary because the aging Ryan was not only too old for personal heroics, but had in the main series, though an unlikely series of events, become President of the United States.

Both of these novels are apparently in response to that decision.

Red Rabbit does this directly, as it concerns a "never-before-revealed" episode in Ryan's life, the secret mission which took place during the year he was assigned to England — alluded to in Clancy's first novel, *The Hunt for Red October*. To put it bluntly, the novel places Ryan in the crowd during the assassination attempt against the Pope in 1981, attempting to prevent it.

The Teeth of the Tiger, however, is more like *Ryan, the Next Generation*, as it involves his son Jack, Jr., and two nephews (I thought Ryan was an only child, but...) named Dominic and Brian Caruso. And — not surprisingly, since Clancy virtually originated and certainly popularized the counterterrorist thriller — it concerns the response against post-9-11 terrorism.

Both novels, while they retain the page-flipping quality that Clancy has trademarked (I generally read *The Order of the Phoenix* back in June) have plots that are incredibly contrived. *Red Rabbit* carries it better — indeed, it melds both the evolving alternate history of what might be called the "Ryanverse" and contemporary history very well.

The Teeth of the Tiger... well, the premise is that, before leaving office, President Ryan decided that he wanted insur-

ance against an “opposition” president who would once again bleed the intelligence and operations directorates of the CIA, leaving them in an orgy of bureaucratic infighting for the remaining resources. Thus was born the Campus: a low key but respected and successful financial and trading house by day, but, secretly, an investment-funded intelligence and counterterrorism operations service by night. Created to seek terrorists — and deal with the terrorist threat — outside the system, when bureaucratic constraints within the system are too slow to adequately respond.

The Caruso brothers — respectively, an FBI agent who appointed himself executioner after arriving a few minutes too late to save the life of a kidnapped girl from her rapist/murderer, and a Marine who proved himself in the mountains of Afghanistan — are enlisted as the reconnaissance and operations arm of the Campus. Ryan Jr. — who deduced the mission of the Campus from things his father *hadn't* said — is their up and coming hotshot information analyst. Entirely too contrived — particularly given the suggestion that all three were the “best of the best” without any influence from the former President. Also contrived, the fact that the first post 9-11 terrorist attack is launched a few miles from where the Carusos are training — on a mall, at a time when they happen to be shopping for running shoes.

Also contrived, that their assassination weapon — basically, a cross between curare and nerve gas — is ready just in time for them to begin to identify and target the leaders who ordered the terrorist attack, from information available to a CIA which seems to be ignoring it for absolutely no apparent reason, giving them “free” reign to launch their own clandestine counteroffensive outside the system. Also contrived, that each assassination immediately turns up the next person up the terrorist chain of command, allowing four assassinations in four European countries in as many days, all apparently under the radar of the terrorist organization, the various police forces, and of the CIA. And with enough evidence to convince the originally skeptical Carusos that the assassinations are worthwhile, and that conventional law enforcement and military intelligence would not be able to respond in time, if at all, to prevent a future attack. Finally, the book ends with Ryan, Jr. rushing to the airport for new orders after the fourth assassination — very evidently, making it the first novel of a series and setting up a sequel without any break in the action.

Frankly, it reads not like a thriller, but like the “I personally want to choke the living *.-?+ out of bin Laden and Saddam” fantasies that a lot of men — and many women — have had since September 11. And it cheapens the whole Ryan milieu in the process.

The bottom line: If you're a hard-core Ryan fan, you will enjoy the two novels but will never miss not reading them. If you're not a hard-core Ryan fan, go back and read *Patriot Games*, *The Hunt for Red October*, *Clear and Present Danger*, *The Cardinal of the Kremlin* (only if you are a space weapons buff, however), and *The Sum of All Fears*. If those — particularly *Patriot Games* — hook you, then keep reading. If not, then don't even try the increasingly fantastic balance of the series.

Dragon*Con 2003

a review by David K. Robinson

I recently attended Dragon*Con which was held on August 29 through September 1, 2003. I really enjoyed it. It was held in three different hotels, the Hyatt, the Hilton, and the Marriott

in downtown Atlanta.

Let's start with the guests. I got to meet Forrest J. “Forry” Ackerman, one of the giants in sf fandom, and I got to meet Mira Furlan who played Delenn on *Babylon 5* from 1993–1998. I got her autographed photo for \$20. It was a real thrill meeting her since I used to watch *B5* regularly.

I also enjoyed the panels I attended, including one on radio astronomy which I am into. I have been into astronomy for many years — most of my adult life (I am 36).

There were many people there. I saw several people dressed in costumes ranging from mild to weird. I saw several people dressed in black costumes that seemed to be the norm!

Also there were several nice places to eat. My friend Jack Lundy and I ate at the hotel restaurant (for \$32.85 plus tip).

Both dealers rooms were real nice. I bought some books and stuff — including some Doctor Who novels for \$18.

The pacing was a bit slower than I am used to. But overall it was a nice con. I hope to attend next year. Grade B+

Torcon 3 Introduction

Torcon 3, the 61st World Science Fiction Convention, was held 28 August–1 September 2003 in downtown Toronto ON Canada. Invited guests included Pro GoH George R. R. Martin, Artist GoH Frank Kelly Freas, Fan GoH Mike Glyer, Toastmaster Spider Robinson, and GoHst of Honour Robert Bloch. Mr. Bloch had been GoH at both Torcon 1 (1948) and Torcon 2 (1973) and the committee chose this way to honor his memory. Kelly Freas broke his hip on Friday 8 August and underwent surgery on 10 August. He is reported to be recuperating well but was unable to attend the con. Torcon 3 was also designated as this year's Convention, the annual convention of the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association.

Torcon was held at the Metro Toronto Convention Center (MTCC) with the headquarters hotel being the Fairmont Royal York (FRY). The Crowne Plaza hotel (CP), which is attached to the MTCC, was also used for some convention functions. As of the convention's Closing Ceremony, attendance (warm bodies on site) was estimated to be 3725. Total attending membership (which includes people with attending memberships who were not actually present) was approximately 4050. Estimated total membership (which includes supporting members) was 4800. The convention will doubtless announce refined numbers later.

The main part of the *Shuttle's* Worldcon coverage this year is in the form of a travelogue. You will also find numerous sidebars listing awards and many other items of interest. Now on with the show.

A Torcon 3 Travelogue

or, What I Did on My Summer Vacation
by Mike Kennedy

Day -3 (Saturday — Prep Day 1)

Today I realized that the symptoms I had been putting down to an allergy flare-up were really a cold coming on. Bah.

I had lots of chores to take care of — washed several loads of clothes and cut as much of the grass as I could stand, including all the front and less than half the back. Hopefully this will keep the neighbors from calling the grass police on me until I get back.

Day -2 (Sunday — Prep Day 2)

Packing is the number one task today. I got basically everything except my computer, my CPAP machine (for sleep apnea — it helps me breath better when I'm asleep), and last-minute toiletries done. Karen Hopkins came over and baked a "test cake" to try out the kind she wants to do for her parent's 50th wedding anniversary.

Day -1 (Monday — To Work We Go)

I went to work today, as planned. It was pretty quiet (which is not necessarily a good thing) so I did get some web browsing done to resolve last-minute questions and I was able to get away for a few minutes to get traveler's checks. (Up until then I was just going to carry cash and a credit card.) I had sworn to myself that I would not do any Con†Stellation business after Friday. Yeah, right. Not only did I do some over the weekend, I handled a semi-flurry of last-minute emails tonight after work. I also tackled a semi-large number of small tasks that had occurred to me for before the trip, like cleaning out my wallet so I wouldn't be carrying things I didn't need.

Day 1 (Tuesday — Travel Day)

Notice how I skipped over zero?

I got up at more or less the normal weekday time (7-ish). I planned to leave the house by 8:30 (about the time I *should* leave for work normally, but often miss) but had extra stuff to do, like take my dog Sally to the vet for boarding. I managed to shortcut the morning ritual somewhat by (for instance) not checking email so I was back at the house from the vet with around 20 minutes to spare.

Karen, who was to take me to the airport, arrived at my house moments after I did, so we were at least 10 minutes early leaving the house. An auspicious start to the trip. Breakfast

Hugo Award Winners

- Best Novel ***Hominids***, Robert J. Sawyer
(*Analog* January–April 2002; Tor)
- Best Novella ***Coraline***, Neil Gaiman (HarperCollins)
- Best Novelette **"Slow Life,"** Michael Swanwick
(*Analog* December 2002)
- Best Short Story **"Falling Onto Mars,"** Geoffrey A. Landis
(*Analog* July/August 2002)
- Best Related Book ***Better to Have Loved: The Life of Judith Merrill***, Judith Merrill and Emily Pohl-Weary (Between the Lines)
- Best Short Form Dramatic Presentation ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer*** **"Conversations With Dead People"** (20th Century Fox Television/Mutant Enemy Inc.) Directed by Nick Marck, Teleplay by Jane Espenson and Drew Goddard
- Best Long Form Dramatic Presentation ***The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*** (New Line Cinema)
Directed by Peter Jackson; Screenplay by Fran Walsh, Philippa Boyens, Stephen Sinclair, and Peter Jackson; based on the novel by J. R. R. Tolkien
- Best Professional Editor **Gardner Dozois**
- Best Professional Artist **Bob Eggleton**
- Best Semiprozine ***Locus***, Charles N. Brown, Jennifer A. Hall, and Kirsten Gong-Wong, eds.
- Best Fanzine ***Mimosa***, Rich and Nicki Lynch, eds.
- Best Fan Writer **Dave Langford**
- Best Fan Artist **Sue Mason**
- John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer
(not a Hugo) **Wen Spencer**

Torcon Art Show Awards

The following Art Show Awards were announced in the Sunday afternoon issue of the con's newszine.

AMATEUR

Tina Klein Lebbink, "Captain's Kitten"
Jacob and Wayne Fowler, "Phoenix Rising"
Cheryl Garrett, "The Egg — Fire Dragon 3 of 4"
Dan J. O'Driscoll, "Metropolis"
Rachael Mayo, "Serpent Star 3: Bluestar"

PROFESSIONAL

Erin McKee, "Green Man"
Mai Q. Nguyen, "Sea Dragon"
Theresa Mather, "Mariner's Tale"
John Platt, "Chariots of New Frontiers"
Jean-Pierre Normand, "Asimov June"
SoMK Sophie Klesen, "Cherudek"

(another thing I skipped from the usual morning rush) turned out to be sausage-egg biscuits from a Hardees drivethru near the airport. Karen stayed long enough for us to both eat sitting in her car.

I haven't traveled by air since all the current security arrangements were put in place. (I *used* to travel a *lot* on business, but that was years ago. My last business flight — and that was a one-time fluke — was July of last year. You have to go back to the early '90's and before to hit a period of time I was regularly traveling for work.) There were practically no lines anywhere in the airport, but it still took me the better part of 45 minutes to get through the various security checks. Part of that was a delay when a checked bag set off some alarm on the chemical sniffer and had to be hand-searched. A little more was due to traveling with a laptop computer. TSA is being semi-paranoid about those right now and checks each one. Curiously, my CPAP machine didn't raise so much as a single eyebrow.

Other than being on a tiny plane and fighting the effects of congestion from the cold, the first leg of my trip (to Chicago) was uneventful. The gate agent had kindly moved me to an aisle seat with the adjacent seat empty (the plane was 1 & 2). I passed the time both before and during the flight mostly by reading up on the Toronto tourist info and map that I had brought with me. The landing gave some very nice (albeit momentary) views of parts of downtown Chicago and the lakefront as the plane banked over Lake Michigan to get aligned for landing at O'Hare. The landing itself was almost velvet smooth.

The flight attendant had announced connecting flight info while we were maneuvering for landing. Fortunately I'm a "suspenders *and* belt" type of guy about that sort of thing and I checked the in-airport display after landing. The actual departure gate was nowhere near the one announced by the flight attendant and I probably would have been upset to go to one then have to hurry to the other. As I trudged up to the actually-scheduled departure gate, though, any reason for hurry evaporated. The weather outside had markedly deteriorated in the 10-15 minutes since deplaning and it was obvious a thunderstorm was moving in. While the actual rain and lightning event proved to be fairly brief at the airport proper, the incoming flight was being delayed (in a holding pattern) so there was no airplane to board. Since plans were to meet Sue Thorn (flying from Birmingham via a different airline and different connecting city) at the Toronto airport before going

on to the hotel, and since her flight was scheduled to arrive about 20 minutes after mine, a little delay would be no big deal. When Sue was vacillating about whether or not to go to Torcon, I had offered her a place to stay during the con, which offer she eventually took up.

I spent my time at O'Hare mostly catching up on this journal. I was glad to have had a relatively big breakfast since lunch was going missing (OK, I did have some potato chips) and supper was hours away. The scheduled departure time came and went with no sign of the airplane or an announcement of when we might depart. I might have expected a summer weather in Dallas (where I'm connecting on the return trip) but wasn't prepared on the outbound leg. Ah well, roll with the punches, eh?

In the end, that 15 minutes of rain cost me more than 90 minutes upon arrival in Toronto (a good bit of that excess waiting for takeoff behind a bunch of *other* planes that had also been delayed by the rain). Sue's plane, as Murphy would have it, was on time — which meant she had a long unexpected wait for me. As it turns out she had just given up on me and was in line to buy a ticket for the Airport Express bus as I walked up to her. From there we made reasonable time and got checked in at the Crowne Plaza with no delay. The hotel's front desk was very odd — a sleek curve topped with frosted glass, looking nothing like a conventional hotel desk and bearing no sign indicating what it was. But, as it was the only thing in the lobby that could conceivably serve that purpose, it gave only momentary pause.

By this time it was well past dinner time so Sue and I set out for dinner, and to look around a bit. We walked down from the CP down Front Street toward the Fairmont Royal York (the

Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award

The third annual Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award (for the writer, living or deceased, "whose work displays unusual originality, embodies the spirit of Cordwainer Smith's fiction, and deserves renewed attention") was presented at Torcon Sunday 31 August 2003. The winner was **Edgar Pangborn**. Judges for this year's award were Robert Silverberg, Scott Edelman, Gardner Dozois, and John Clute.

main convention hotel) checking out restaurants on the way. Unfortunately for dinner, we got all the way to the FRY and I wanted to check out the function space and poke around a little into the PATH (interconnected underground walkway system with shops, etc.). Most of the stores in the PATH seemed oriented toward the daytime crowd, so no food places were open in the tiny part we explored. As well, the rumored late (convention) registration area in the FRY was not to be found, at least not in the room that everyone thought it would be.

I should stop here and mention that everywhere we went from the time we got on the airport shuttle bus all the way until finally heading up the elevator to the room for the last time, we kept running into fans (and pros) many of whom seemed to recognize either Sue or me — or who we recognized. The FRY lobby was thick with them, for instance.

Dinner, when it finally came, was at the Canyon Creek Chophouse on the way back to the CP. Sue had offered to buy me dinner the first night as a thank you for the crash space so I took advantage of her. I had a very nice piece of prime rib and Sue had some ribs that she said were delicious. We split a dynamite brownie topped with vanilla ice cream, caramel sauce, and creme anglais. Sue enthused over the caramel. The chocolate brownie, for me, was much the star. The center was still warm and the flavor was sinfully good.

Once back at the CP, I talked Sue into taking a quick side trip into the Metro Toronto Convention Center (which connects directly from the CP), where the larger con events will be held. It was useful to me, helping give concrete orientation to the theory (maps) I had already seen. After just a few minutes, an MTCC guard chastised us for being there. It turned out they must have closed for the evening just moments after we had

Chesley Winners

The Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists announced the 18th Annual Chesley Awards Friday 29 August 2003 at Torcon. The awards (named for space artist Chesley Bonestell) are the preeminent peer awards within the SF&F art community. The winners are:

Artistic Achievement **Tom Kidd**
Best Cover Illustration — Hardback Book **Tom Lockwood**, *Resurgence* by Charles Sheffield
Best Cover Illustration — Paperback Book **Tristan Elwell**, *Briar Rose* by Jane Yolen
Best Art Director **Irene Gallo**, TOR Books
Best Cover Illustration — Magazine **Todd Lockwood**, *Dragon Magazine* #302, December 2002
Best Monochrome Work — Unpublished **Maurizio Manzi**, "The Skimmer's Lagoon"
Best Color Work — Unpublished **Richard Hescocox**, "The Storm"
Best Three-Dimensional Art **Kim Graham**, "ConJosé Dragon"
Best Interior Illustration **Scott Gustafson**, "Classic Fairy Tales" by Scott Gustafson
Best Product Illustration **Dean Morrissey**, "The Light Ship," fine art print for The Greenwich Workshop
Best Gaming Related Illustration **Todd Lockwood**, "Spider Queen," *Forgotten Realms* supplement for "City of the Spider Queen," by Wizards of the Coast
Contribution to ASFA **Geoff Surrette**, design and management of the ASFA Website

Golden Duck Awards

The Golden Duck Awards, for excellence in children's science fiction literature, were presented Sunday 31 August 2003 at Torcon. The winners are:

Picture Book **Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones — Incredible Cross-Sections**, Curtis J. Saxton, illustrated by Hens Jensen and Richard Chasemore (DK Publishers)
Eleanor Cameron (Middle Grades) Award **Andrew Lost** (entire series), J. C. Greenburg (Stepping Stones Books, Random House)
Hal Clement (Young Adult) Award **Feed**, M. T. Anderson (Candlewick Press)
Special Award: Best Science and Technology Education **Tales of the Wonderzone** (entire series), Julie Czerneda (Trifolium Books)

Gaylactic Award Winners

The Gaylactic Spectrum Award winners were announced at a ceremony at Torcon, Friday 29 August 2003. The awards recognize outstanding genre works with positive gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender content. The winners were:

Best Novel *Fire Logic*, Laurie Marks

Best Short Fiction **“Three Letters from the Queen of Elfland,”** Sarah Monette

Best Comic/Graphic Novel (tie) *The Authority*, issues #28–29; *Green Lantern*, issues #153–155

Best Other Work *Queer Fear II*, ed. By Michael Rowe

Hall of Fame inductees were *The Left Hand of Darkness*, Ursula K. Le Guin; *The Holdfast Chronicles*, Suzy McKee Charnas; *Shadow Man*, Melissa Scott; and *The Tale of the Five* series, Diane Duane.

entered, and the door to the CP was now locked. Fortunately, there was a push-to-exit door back to Front Street and a short walk back to the CP front entrance.

As we got back to the hotel we ran into our last sf-ians for the night, Joe and Gay Haldeman sharing a cab with Rusty Hevelin, all just arriving and looking to check in. We said hellos and, moments later, goodbyes to finally get back to the room to unpack and crash. I spent a little time catching up on this journal after (mostly) unpacking and finally made it to bed after midnight. Tomorrow will be sightseeing day, or at least that’s the plan.

Day 2 (Wednesday — Sightseeing Day)

The day started slowly but somewhat auspiciously. I got up around 9 but, since Sue and I planned to do our sightseeing together, we had to wait until both of us were ready — which took a while. Breakfast was the first order of business and we didn’t finish until around 11. On our way out of the hotel (or at least that was the intent) we ran into friends (James “Merlin” Odom and Richard Wix) who, among other things, mentioned that registration was indeed open in the MTCC. Detour time. The reg lines were short (though they were also moving slowly I thought), but after picking up badges and various goodies we wanted to go back to the hotel room to dump stuff before finally trudging out to our first planned stop (the Royal Ontario Museum).

The con is giving all members a nice canvas tote bag with the reg goodies. Unfortunately, that didn’t include — yet — either pocket programs or the souvenir “program” book (which will presumably follow established tradition and have no programming info at all). The story was that those would be available tomorrow, and everyone was given a blue ticket to exchange for them at that time. At least that was one story. Sue was told the items might be available tonight. I also heard (or at least think I heard) someone say the pocket programs would be available tomorrow but the souvenir book not until later in the con.

It took a little while to walk down to Union Station where the nearest subway stop is, and a little more time than that to finally find the subway and figure out which way to go. Union Station serves not only the subway but also long-distance rail and the GO (short-distance rail) network. I think it also serves one of the trolley lines but I’m not sure about that.

We finally got to the ROM about 12:30. From the maps they give you it doesn’t look that large. Don’t be fooled. The elevator was being serviced (according to the sign for the whole month of August!) so I suggested we trudge up to the top

(3rd) floor while we were semi-fresh and start there. Besides, that had several displays that looked promising to both of us. Four hours later we had finished about 75–80% of that one floor. The ROM is currently building a new wing (scheduled to open in 2005) so if you decide to go after that, and if you’re the type who must see all of something, then allow *lots* of time.

To be fair, neither Sue nor I were particularly fast at going through the exhibits. Sue tended to linger a lot and I tended to stop and rest a lot. But there is certainly no way we could have seen all the exhibits in one day even if we were there their entire open hours.

Filk for the Masses

Torcon 3 had two “custom” filks inflicted on, um I mean sung for, the masses. The first song below was sung by a chorus at the Opening Ceremony, the second was a solo by the wife of the con chair at the Closing Ceremony.

ODE TO TORONTO

(sung to the “Ode to Joy” by Beethoven)

Lyrics: Ingrid de Buda, Judith Hayman and various bits by Heather Boream, Bill Roper, and Kathleen Sloan

Welcome to Toronto, all here
Welcome to the Third Torcon
No more SARS and no Mad Cow here
And we’ve got the lights back on.

“Trawna” town has fun a-plenty
Painted moose adorn our streets
CN Tower, Science Centre
See the ROM, your trip’s complete.

Wild Cards and high fantasies George
R. R. Martin is the pro
Send warm thoughts to artist Freas
He’s fie, but will miss the show

Glyer is the fan guest for you
Robert Bloch is our guest Ghost
Spider’s pointed wit will please you
He’s the one who’ll be our toast.

Thanks for coming to Toronto
Welcome to the Third Torcon,
Costumes, Art Show, Science, Hugos
Panels, Filk and Film go on.

Lots of writers new and big-name
Early, late it’s fannish fare
If you must assign the blame see
Peter Jarvis, he’s the chair.

THE WORLDCON CHAIR WIDDOW’S LAMENT

by Athena Jarvis

Oh where, tell me now, has my con chair hubby gone?
I had him in my sights a while ago but now he’s gone.
I hope he’s not been shanghaied and comes back safe to me.
Oh, you wouldn’t think a man so tall could be so hard to see!

I follow him to meetings and almost every con,
But if I take my eyes off him for seconds, zip, he’s gone!
He’s always being side-tracked or collared by some SMOF
And if I want to take him home, I have to drag him off!

Aurora Award Winners

The Prix Aurora Awards, for excellence in Canadian science fiction and fantasy, were presented Torcon 3 Saturday 30 August 2003. The winners are:

- Best Long-Form Work in English**Permanence**,
Karl Schroeder (Tor, 2002)
Best Long-Form Work in French**Le Revenant de
Fomalhaut**, Jean-Louis Trudel (Médiaspaul, 2002)
Best Short-Form Work in English**"Ineluctable,"**
Robert J. Sawyer (*Analog*, November 2002)
Best Short-Form Work in French**"La Guerre
sans temps,"** Sylvie Bérard (*Solaris* 143)
Best Work in English (Other)**Be VERY Afraid!**,
Edo Belkom, ed. (Tundra Books)
Artistic Achievement**Mel Vavaroutsos**
Fan Achievement (Fanzine)**Made in Canada
Newsletter**, Don Bassie (webzine)
Fan Achievement (Organizational)**Georgina Miles**
(Toronto Trek 16)
Fan Achievement (Other)**Jason Taniguchi**,
one-man SF parody shows
-

The original plan had been to leave the ROM early enough to go to a unique museum just a few blocks away — The Bata Shoe Museum. That's right, a shoe museum. Shoes. The things you wear on your feet. I had stumbled across the fact of its existence when researching Toronto earlier this year. It seemed a shame to miss the opportunity but I was flagging by 16:30. Sue, however, convinced me we should go and my vague memory was that they were open at least as late as the ROM (18:00) and perhaps later. I walk slowly in the best of times but, having been on my feet so long already, that walk was slower than usual even though I hurried as much as I could. It turned out that the Bata closed at 17:00 and we got there less than 15 minutes before that. Rats. Sue looked around a little in the small gift shop (I did too, but for less time — I'm afraid I needed to sit to recover from the walk).

All was not in vain, however. Two fellow out-of-town fans (brothers Michael and Bob "Fan-Writer-Hugo-Nominee" Devney) had just finished their tour through the place. Their descriptions were so glowing that Sue (a true costumer at heart) vowed to come back. I'm tempted, but I doubt I'll be able to put together a big enough block of time once the convention starts to make it truly worth while. One thing was worth while, though. The brothers had plans to eat at a (semi-pricey) restaurant that had been recommended to them by (this is not a joke) Bob's barber — who somehow knows the owner of the restaurant. We ended up accompanying them and — after one small detour by getting off at the wrong subway stop — had a very pleasant meal. My salmon was demonstrably not fresh Pacific salmon, but was tasty enough. Everyone else raved about their entrees. More important than the food, though, was the pleasant company. Since they were staying at the CP also, all of us ended up taking the subway back to Union Station and walking to the hotel. One coda on the hotel. I had suspected yesterday that the air conditioning wasn't working right. When I got back to the room I was convinced of it. I pushed the button on the phone labeled "whatever you need" and was rewarded shortly with someone from the engineering group who fiddled with a couple of things and apparently fixed the problem.

And so a long day is drawing to a close — it's close to 20:00 and I'm caught up on my travelogue. Sue has been going

over a printed copy of the preliminary con schedule I had with me. I'm going to close this little document and see if I can go online and download a searchable version. Even if it doesn't come in handy tonight it may be useful later in the con.

Tomorrow the con proper begin (first program is at 13:00). I expect my entries may get more terse from here on out.

Day 3 (Thursday — The Con Begins)

The internet experiment last night was a bust. For some reason, line 2 (to which the data port on the phone connects) will not provide an outside line. Again, the hotel fairly promptly sent up someone from engineering (who discovered the problem with line 2). His suggested solution was to use line 1 by unplugging the RJ-11 connector from the back of the phone and plugging it directly into my modem port. I demurred from trying this since I couldn't get what I felt to be an ironclad statement that the hotel had an analog phone system. Digital PBXs tend to fry modems. Perhaps later today I'll be able to find out for sure and try it. Or perhaps I'll just do without in-room access and use the con's internet lounge for the few non-con-schedule things I'd like to do online while I'm here. (It's a shame I don't know the default Linksys password since there seems to be at least two wireless networks "visible" to me in the room that I could try to hack into. But perhaps it would be better not to anyway ;-)

The morning started out with sleeping in followed by yet another call for hotel engineering/maintenance — this time for a toilet that wasn't flushing properly. The hotel is certainly nicely appointed but I'm beginning to wonder if they are paying enough attention to their infrastructure.

Things looked up shortly after the above discovery, though, with a call from Richard saying that he and Merlin had gotten paperwork finished and were scheduled to be married as part of a mass ceremony today at 13:00! There were four couples in all. Merlin and Richard were a last minute addition and thus weren't on the formal, printed announcement card. The ceremony was performed by the Reverend Doctor Cheri DiNovo of the United Church of Canada and was held in one of the function rooms at the FRY. I always cry at weddings and this was no exception. Reverend DiNovo ran a very touching ceremony and I doubt there was a dry eye in the house. Certainly not in my seat.

I managed to sneak in a couple of errands before the wedding, including finally exchanging some currency, getting a bite of lunch at a food court in the building across Front Street from the CP, and picking up my pocket program guide. At first glance, the pocket program is going to end up being wildly inaccurate. The con was also giving out three legal-sized (8.5x14 inch) sheets, printed double-sided, with a corrected version of today's schedule. I decided to carry just that with me and leave the pocket program in the room — after making note

Prometheus Awards

The Libertarian Futurist Society announced the winners of the Prometheus Award Thursday 29 August 2003 at Torcon. The Prometheus Awards honor outstanding science fiction/fantasy "that explores the possibilities of a free future, champions human rights (including personal and economic liberty), dramatizes the perennial conflict between individuals and coercive governments, or critiques the tragic consequences of abuse of power." The winners are:

- Prometheus Award**Terry Pratchett**, *Night Watch*
Hall of Fame Award**Robert Heinlein**, "Requiem"

of the location of certain non-program items like the Art Show/ Dealers Room, Internet Lounge, Con Suite, etc.

In fact, the Internet Lounge was my next stop as far as official convention functions is concerned. I didn't have a lot of time there before a panel I wanted to attend (at 16:00), but managed to weed through my email enough to throw away some spam and read a few legitimate emails that seemed most likely to be important. Nothing earthshaking was in evidence — a good thing.

The first traditional talking-heads-type panel I attended was entitled "The Chesley Awards: A Retrospective," which wasn't quite what I was anticipating. It turned out to be on a

book (of the same title as the panel) that has just been published. It looks like a wonderful book, with over 300 Chesley-winning works reproduced in the slightly-oversize format. I take most of the blame for getting the panel somewhat off topic (about halfway through the 50-minute hour) by asking how they viewed the support provided by past Worldcons for the actual Chesley Award Ceremony. I feel that many Worldcons have given them short shrift in terms of room size, technical support, etc. Probably half of the remaining time was spent on this topic or something related.

I then went straight to "The Best Dramatic Presentation Hugo Split... Will It Prevail?" at 17:00. All five panelists (one

Business Meeting Decisions

The World Science Fiction Society (WSFS) is the body that controls the rules for selecting the Hugo Awards and Worldcon sites, though each individual Worldcon is in fact run by a separate organization which has only limited WSFS reporting requirements. The only way to be a member of WSFS is to be a member of that year's Worldcon. All attending Worldcon members can attend the WSFS Business Meetings at that Worldcon to debate and vote on business affecting WSFS. Even supporting members of the Worldcon can submit business to these meetings though they won't be there in person to be an advocate. Changes to the WSFS Constitution must be adopted by the Business Meeting at two successive Worldcons to take effect.

AMENDMENTS RATIFIED

One constitutional amendment received first passage at ConJosé last year and was ratified at Torcon 3. The amendment, known as "Lesser Minutes," made a technical change in the definition of the dividing line between the long-form and short-form dramatic presentation Hugo Awards, removing some superfluous wording. It should have no substantive effect.

AMENDMENTS RECEIVING FIRST PASSAGE

Five constitutional amendments received first passage this year and will be sent on to next year's Worldcon (Noreascon 4) for possible ratification.

The most hotly contested amendment, "Back to the Future," would shorten the lead time for Worldcon site selection from the current three years to two years. Since the amendment, if ratified, would take effect at the close of the 2004 Worldcon, the 2005 Worldcon (Intersection, in Glasgow) would not hold a Worldcon site selection. Provisions were added such that members of both Intersection and the 2006 Worldcon (L.A.con IV) would be eligible to vote for selection of the 2008 Worldcon site and the vote would be administered in 2006. Unless other changes are made, this amendment would also have the effect of shorting the NASFiC lead time to one year. Because of the timing of when the amendment would take effect, the chair of the Business Meeting (Kevin Standlee) ruled that if a 2007 NASFiC is required, it will be selected at the 2005 NASFiC.

"Extended Distribution" requires Worldcon committees to include with the Hugo ballot a list of works or classes of works that have received extensions of eligibility. The meeting also passed a resolution asking Noreascon 4 (who would not be affected by this rule even if it is ratified next year) to voluntarily follow this practice.

"Moving Works" makes technical changes to the Hugo rules restricting the movement of nominees between categories

to "specific work" categories. It would have the effect, for example, of preventing an over-eager Hugo Awards administrator from counting nominations for a person in both Fan and Professional Artist categories as if they were all in one category. The general feeling was that the amendment only codifies existing practice.

The "Default Rates" amendment provides that the default advance supporting membership rate (widely known as the voting fee) for any WSFS site selection (including NASFiC) will be the median of the previous three Worldcon site selections. As the rules stand now, there is no meaningful default rate for NASFiC site selections.

"Tied Races" will provide explicit rules for resolving site selection races that end in ties. It also will add an additional provision to the "meltdown" clause of the constitution. That clause already empowers the Business Meeting of a standing Worldcon to act to select a new site and committee in the instance that a future but already-selected committee is unable to hold the con. The new provision would remove the exclusion zone restriction in selecting the replacement site.

AMENDMENT REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

A constitutional amendment that would provide explicit tie-breaking rules for all WSFS elections (the Hugos, site selections, committee selections, etc.) was referred back to the Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee from which it originated. It is anticipated that a new version of that amendment will be brought to the Business Meeting at next year's Worldcon.

OTHER BUSINESS

Most of the other business handled this year (receiving committee reports, electing and appointing committee members, etc.) was fairly unexceptional. One piece of business, however, stirred enough controversy during the Business Meeting to be worth mentioning here.

During the convention, the Business Meeting received a number of financial reports from various Worldcon committees, both past and future. The relevant part of the WSFS Constitution (section 2.9) requires a statement of all income and expenses and, if the convention has a surplus of income over expenses, the requirement continues past the end of the convention until the "surplus is totally expended or an amount equal to the original surplus has been disbursed."

LoneStarCon 2 (1997) has missed reporting some years. This year their report included a \$15,000 line item for "seed money" to Bouchercon, a convention sponsored by the same corporate parent as the Worldcon had been. While a number of people at the business meeting took various exceptions to this, the chair ruled that the way that LSC2 disposed of their "surplus" money was basically up to them — it was only their requirement to *report* that distribution. It may or may not be within the *spirit* of what people would want them to do, but it is pretty clearly within the letter.

of whom was upcoming Con†Stellation FGoH Guy Lillian) certainly though it should prevail, though some of them were of the opinion that the time-based split into a long-form and short-form category was the wrong approach. I tend to agree.

I had been ambivalent earlier when asked about dinner plans. There was a reception for the wedding(s) I attended earlier in the day at 18:30 that I wanted to go to, plus the Torcon Opening Ceremony at 20:00. I wasn't sure how I would fit dinner in to the equation. In the end, I decided that a nice dinner before the reception was in order so I went to an Italian place, Joe Badali's, which was next to (actually more like over) Canyon Creek. I had a nice salad with an interesting lemon herb dressing and a superb plate of fettuccine alfredo with chicken. The bread was great, too. I decided to forgo a dessert so I would have at least a little room for wedding cake.

The wedding reception was still in full swing when I arrived. The cake was nice and I enjoyed the convivial atmosphere. I hope I don't disappoint the guy who pinched my butt too much. I don't know who it was and he, presumably, doesn't know I'm straight (unless one of the other people clued him in later) — but I did rather enjoy the implied compliment.

Then it was straight from the reception to the Opening Ceremony. Torcon was trying something different, doing it reception style with little tables and clusters of chairs. I believe they vastly underestimated both the attendance and fandom's desire for comfort. Many of the people (myself included) who found all available chairs taken simply went down the hall and "stole" a chair. I got mine from a huge ballroom which was being used for the film program, but was basically empty of viewers. Other fen simply sat on the floor. And many were left standing (which I could not have done, by then my knees were killing me).

The ceremony itself started a bit after the 20:00 scheduled time, lasted between 30 and 45 minutes, and utilized a small portable stage on one side of the room, a large fixed stage on one end, and balconies on the third and fourth sides of the room. Thus people were constantly swiveling in their chairs (or floor, or feet) to catch the various "acts" that comprised the ceremony. It was all cute — and well received — but future cons should learn some lessons from this one before trying to have this sort of event again. The ceremony was light-hearted and fun. One of the highlights was an "appearance" by Torcon GoHst of Honour Robert Bloch (who, in life, had been a guest at both Torcon 1 and 2). Another, um, highlight was a specially-composed Torcon 3 song, to the tune of Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*. The lyrics (which I'll put in a sidebar if there's room) extolled the virtues of both the convention and Toronto. A reception followed (with food paid for by GoH George R. R. Martin's publisher plus a cash bar). I had a few nice nibbles, but made my way out by a little after 21:00. I intended to make a short appearance at a party or two and make an early night of it.

The Chichen Itza in 2012 Worldcon (hoax) bid party was,

Sidewise Awards

The Sidewise Awards, for alternate history works, were presented Sunday 31 August 2003 at Torcon. The winners are:
Long Form (tie) **Martin J. Gidron**, *The Severed Wing* (Livingston Press) and
Harry Tuttle, *Ruled Britannia* (NAL)
Short Form **William Sanders**, "Empire" (from
Alternate Generals II, Baen Books)

Other Awards

A number of unrelated awards are typically presented at the beginning of the Hugo Award Ceremony.

FIRST FANDOM AND BIG HEART

First Fandom Hall of Fame Award Philip José Farmer
and Philip Francis Nowlan (posthumous)
First Fandom Moskowitz Archive Award Rusty Hevelin
E. Everett Evans Big Heart Award John Hertz

SEIUN AWARDS (previously announced)

Translated Short Fiction **Greg Egan**, "Luminous"
Translated Novel **Robert J. Sawyer**, *Illegal Alien*

in fact, the only one I made it to. I ran into several people I knew and hung around a bit until they broke out the fixings and equipment to make some liquid nitrogen ice cream. It's sort of the opposite of those guys who used liquid oxygen to see how fast they could get a pile of charcoal started. After the ice cream, I happened to catch Rusty Hevelin's eye (or, actually, ear) and we had a nice conversation that went on for quite a while. So... an hour had passed in one party, and my body was telling me that an hour was going to be enough for the night. Tomorrow will be (the first) Business Meeting day, so morning is going to come too damned early.

Day 4 (Friday — Business Meeting Time)

And thus starts the string of early mornings. My first order of (convention) business today was, yes, the first session of the WSFS Business Meeting. I'll save all my comments about the whole thing for a sidebar rather than this travelogue. Things were made a bit simpler (for me) by Sue braving the early morning hour to get copies of the daily programming schedule — this time on *four* legal-sized sheets. Sue was interested in the schedule because she wanted to go to two different panels which, according to the pocket program, were scheduled for the same time in the same room. Which, if either, of those panels was actually to be held was at issue. The convention has posted signs around the convention which speak of "the high number of changes" after the pocket program was printed (or some such wording) and advises one to pick up daily program sheets. I'm sure there are indeed many changes — that always happens — but many of the differences between the pocket program and reality are more in the line of *corrections*.

After the Business Meeting, I had a buffet lunch in the CP, intending for that to be my main meal of the day. Then it was off to a string of three programs, starting at 14:00, all in the same room (yeah!). The first of these played off the fact that Kansas City and Los Angeles are the bidders for the 2006 worldcon, which site selection is taking place this year. It featured Mike Glyer, chair of the last LA worldcon (in 1996), and Ken Keller, chair of the last KC worldcon (in 1976). Mostly they told war stories related to their own (and the other's) worldcon.

Then came the "Fannish Inquisition." No one expects the Fannish Inquisition. Well, actually, just about everyone at a worldcon expects it. The bid committees of the LA and KC bids presented their cases and answered questions. It was obvious that both committees really wanted to win and were quite competitive. But both were also very friendly. I expect that either would be able to put on a good con and the bidders at least professed to believe it will be a close vote. Obviously LA has something of an edge on experience and better fannish connections. But the KC committee is no slouch and voters may decide that they want to go someplace they haven't been in

Masquerade Results

JUNIOR DIVISION

Most Tasty A Poultry Problem
Best Superhero The Flash
Most Dramatic Curiosity Kills

NOVICE DIVISION, WORKMANSHIP

Headpiece Flora Regina
Beading Jadis, Queen of Narnia
Latex Work The Man from the Lovecraft Dating Agency
Handsewing Sally
Creative Engineering Saucer for Sale
Dyeing Technique Redwood Fairie
Best in Class, Workmanship Lord of the Fling

NOVICE DIVISION

Best Crustacean The Man from the
Lovecraft Dating Agency
Best Political Statement Professor A. Boffin
Most Fannish Captain Worldcon
Most Romantic Flora Regina
Best Media Re-Creation Vedek Deypa
Best Literary Re-Creation Jadis, Queen of Narnia
Most Original Novice Saucer for Sale
Most Humorous Lord of the Fling
Most Animated (Young Fan) Ash Ketchum
Best in Class Mike and Celia, Seeing Eye to Eye

JOURNEYMAN DIVISION, WORKMANSHIP

Wings Angel of Death
Bead Detailing The Faerie Godmother
Use of National Materials Miss Torcon 3
Use of Hot Glue Arena
Best in Class, Workmanship (tie) Morpheus² and
Winter is Coming

JOURNEYMAN DIVISION

Best Re-Creation Angel of Death
Best Collision of Universes Arena
Most Beautiful Morpheus²
Best Presentation Winter is Coming
Best in Class Mighty Wing Lung Puff

MASTER DIVISION, WORKMANSHIP

Globe Construction Fire and Ice
Best in Class, Workmanship Trumps of Amber

MASTER DIVISION

Most Apocalyptic Fire and Ice
Best in Class A Wildlife Adventure

SPECIAL AWARDS

Bantam Books Songs of Ice and Fire Award Winter is
Coming
Best in Show, Workmanship A Wildlife Adventure
Best in Show Trumps of Amber

many years (if at all). I was particularly impressed that the mayor of the suburb of KC in which the convention would be held made the trip. Party organizers should have been impressed that the party hotel will be an all-suite facility (located diagonally from the convention center) with each suite featuring a full kitchen.

Really, really no one expects the “Fannish Inquisition” part two! Wait... perhaps they do. The 16:00 program had bidders for the 2005 NASFiC (to be held because the worldcon is in Glasgow — and thus outside North America — that year. Both Seattle and Charlotte (NC) made very credible presentations and fielded questions. Time was also allotted for outyear

bids, the only one of which made a presentation was the Nipon 2007 bid. Apparently Columbus (OH) who is also bidding for that year did not get the message that they were invited.

I then did something that I’ve been trying to do the entire time in Toronto. Take a nap. I wanted to be reasonably alert and active for the evening’s festivities, beginning with the Chesley Award ceremony at 19:30. As it turned out, I could have slept a bit longer. The president of the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists (ASFA) — the sponsoring organization — was running late because the clock in her room was off an hour. Thus she arrived 15 minutes after the scheduled start with a fistful of slides that then had to be arranged in the projector tray before the show could begin. In all they started about 30 minutes late. I was a little surprised that relatively few people (including presenters) were dressed up for the occasion. I didn’t do much myself, but at least I changed out of a convention t-shirt into a dress shirt to go with my jeans. I would estimate that there were somewhere north of 150 people in attendance, considerably down from my experience at other Worldcons. Many recipients were absent also. Both might be explained by the apparent fact that (according to con scuttlebutt) many US artists declined to ship (or bring) art to the convention due to problems some artists had with border crossings for the last Canadian worldcon (ConAdian, 1994, Winnipeg).

Tonight turned out to be another one-party night for me. This time, it was the reception in the Art Show following the Chesley Awards. The food was great (including some wonderful cheesecake) and it gave me a chance to see the entire Art Show in a relaxed atmosphere. There was one piece (and drat, I failed to note the artist’s name) I particularly liked — a chain mail necktie with a picture of a rising rocket ship “woven” into the mail using various colors of tiny rings. The workmanship was wonderful and must have taken many, many hours. The price asked, unfortunately for me, reflected that. Oh well, it was too small to look good on a big fellow like me, anyway. There were, unfortunately perhaps, many empty panels in the show. This may again go back to the relative lack of US artists represented. I didn’t attempt an inventory of names or places.

Tomorrow will again be a day for the Business Meeting — this time with debate on proposed amendments to the WSFS Constitution. There are “interesting” items proposed so people will be there with their (hopefully figurative) knives sharpened.

Day 5 (Saturday — In Which I Finally Visit the Dealers Room)

The morning once again began with an early rising. After getting ready I scurried along (insofar as my slow walk can be so characterized) toward the Business Meeting at the FRY. Along the way, I ran into Patrick Molloy — also headed that way. Since he had missed the Preliminary meeting yesterday and since he evinced some interest, I briefly described some of the highlights of that meeting for him. Once again, I’ll reserve any comment on outcomes for a sidebar.

After the meeting, I headed back to the CP. I made a short detour along the way to see if the small packaged-food shop in the food court I visited on Thursday was open today as I had, at breakfast, finished the last of the granola bars I had bought there. Alas they were closed (though some of the fast food establishments were open) so I’m not sure what (if anything) will pass for breakfast tomorrow.

Back at the CP, I once again tucked into the lunch buffet. The food was all fairly good, though perhaps not up to yesterday’s standard, except for the potato-cheese soup and some of the desserts, which were quite good. Perhaps I’ll try

something different after the Business Meeting tomorrow. I had a little time after lunch and before the first program I wanted to attend, which I spent in the Internet Lounge and finally caught up almost completely on email — well, to the extent of getting rid of spam and of learning what had arrived and would have to be dealt with later. Only one item seemed to call for a more-or-less immediate response.

At 14:00 I attended George R. R. Martin's Guest of Honour Speech. His topic was, basically, his life, or more precisely his formative years in Bayonne NJ and how they had informed his writing. The speech was in turn humorous and touching. It was also longer than the allotted 50-minute hour. While he started a little over 5 minutes late (which was suggested to him to give those coming from the FRY time to make it if they had attended a panel in the previous hour, he ran until a bit past the time for the next panel to start. No one complained. I, myself, might have gotten a tiny bit ruffled since there was an item at 15:00 I wanted to go to, but since that panel ("Fandom through the Eyes of Harry Warner, Jr.") was in the same room I had no fear of missing it's start.

As the SRO house let out from GRRM's speech (the room held about 300, possibly more, seats), I moved up from almost the back of the room to nearly the front of the room for the Harry Warner panel. It was ably moderated by John Hertz, with contributions from all the panelists (Mike Glycer, Jack Speer, Richard Lynch, and Lloyd Penney) and many of the audience members. There were probably only 10–15% as many people in the audience as had been there for GRRM's speech, but many of the latter could have benefited from staying over.

As I was determined to try to make a few of the après-Hugo parties at the FRY, I decided to take a long rest in the room. I did make a detour in order to make one pass through the Dealers Room, which I did in about 30 minutes. I stopped and looked at a few items, but saw nothing that immediately caught my eye as a must have. Certainly the Dealers Room this year would support the argument that worldcon is primarily a literary convention, as roughly half the table space was new or used books. Oh yes, and I also made a quick stop by Torcon's sales-to-members table where I determined that they had sold out of t-shirts in my size. I declined the offer to order one, though I suppose I could change my mind later. *Then* nap time.

The Hugo Ceremony was held at 20:00, in Hall C, a part of the MTCC that was used by the convention for that, the Masquerade, and little else. The fourth issue of the at-con newszine, *Dam Write Daily*, warned that the routes into and out of the room would be different from each other and would be confusing. While it didn't turn out to be all *that* confusing, it was certainly different. Access to enter Hall C was up the main escalator in the center of the MTCC then along nearly half the length of the building to an entrance near the back of the hall. Well, except for Handicapped Access which used an elevator and the troupe of Hugo nominees, presenters, etc. who used a set of escalators much nearer the hall. Upon exiting, all non-HA persons exited via a portal near the *front* of the hall and used the same escalators (now both running in the down direction) that the Hugo nominees had used to enter. In order to prevent any potential hazard, the con had people exit from only one section of the hall at a time, starting with the Hugo losers (winners and presenters had to stay at least a while for photos) and proceeding through the hall. I was in one of the last sections allowed to exit, but it still took only 15–20 minutes from the time that exits started until I got out of the hall.

The ceremony itself started almost exactly on time (20:00) and ran just over two hours. Spider Robinson made a great MC for the event which was very professionally produced. Most of

the winners were predictable (in my estimation — check the sidebar listing them to see if you agree) and most were present to accept the award in person. Exceptions included Fan Artist (Sue Mason), Long-Form Dramatic Presentation (but Peter Jackson sent a video-taped acceptance), and Pro Artist. Sharon Sbarsky, accepting the latter of those, did a credible hair flip in imitation of Bob Eggleton. The best presenter of the night was probably George R. R. Martin, who presented the last award, for Best Novel. He made light of the fact that though all Hugos are equal, somehow he didn't have "a big one," noting also that "even Connie Willis has a big one."

Feeling amazingly lively at after 22:00, I did make the trek from the MTCC up to the FRY to do some parties. I made it to three of them (including a brief stay in an incredibly crowded and noisy Australia in 2010 bid party). Naps can do wonders. In fact, I was still feeling good at midnight, when I decided that discretion was the better part and decided to head back to the CP and get some sleep before arising early for the Business Meeting one last time. The con had sent out people to the parties passing out schedules for the remaining two days, so I won't have to search for that in the morning.

Site Selection Results

Currently Worldcons are selected three years in advance, so this year the vote was for the 2006 Worldcon. In a fairly close first round victory, Los Angeles beat out Kansas City for the right to host the 64th Worldcon. The approximate total was 754 to 680. (The *Shuttle* was unable to find an authoritative source for these numbers but believes they are quite close to the official count.)

L.A.con IV will be held 23–27 August 2006. Note that this is a little over a week before the "traditional" Labor Day weekend and runs from Wednesday through Sunday. Invited guests include Author GoH Connie Willis, Artist GoH James Gurney, Fan GoH Howard DeVore, and Special Guest Frankie Thomas (billed as TV's original "Tom Corbett, Space Cadet"). The site will be the Anaheim Convention Center and the nearby Hilton and Marriott. The initial membership rate (though 2003) is \$125 with various discounts for site-selection voters (who already have a supporting membership) and pre-supporters. Further info can be had by writing the con at P. O. Box 8442, Van Nuys CA 91409-8442, by emailing <info@laconiv.com>, or by checking out <www.laconiv.com> on the web.

Because the Worldcon in 2005 will be out of North America, and pursuant to the WSFS constitution, a site selection election was held to determine where (and if) a North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC) would be held that year. In a *very* close race, Seattle won over Charlotte NC. It took three rounds (the first resulted in eliminating all the write-in votes and the second in eliminating "None of the Above"). Seattle won 204–198.

CascadiaCon will be held Labor Day weekend 1–5 September 2005. Invited guests include Author GoH Fred Saberhagen, Artist GoH Liz Danforth, Editor GoH Toni Weisskopf (way to go girl!), and Fan GoH Kevin Standlee. The site will be the SeaTac Airport Hilton. The initial membership rate (through 30 April 2004) is \$75 with discounts for site-selection voters (who already have a supporting membership) and pre-supporters. Further info can be had by writing the con at Box 1066, Seattle WA 98111 or by checking out <www.seattle2005.org> on the web.

Day 6 (Sunday — During Which Much is Revealed)

Breakfast today was almost existent (I did take advantage of Sue's earlier offer and "stole" an oatmeal creme pie), but I had made plans to have lunch at a late breakfast buffet at the FRY after the Business Meeting. Again, the outcome of the Business Meeting — including the announced site selection results — can be seen elsewhere in this issue.

After breakfast-for-lunch, I did some souvenir gift shopping in one of the FRY's shops then trudged back to the CP to drop that stuff off in my room. Immediately afterwards it was back downstairs and through the connecting doors to the MTCC to go to the fan fund auction at 14:00. Representatives from DUFF, TAFF, and CUFF were all present and spent the better part of two hours auctioning items to support their various funds. One had to be careful to note who was auctioning as prices for the DUFF and TAFF auctions were in US dollars while the CUFF auction was in Canadian dollars. All of them were willing to take either type of currency at a rate of C\$1.40 = US\$1.00. I ended up buying two items (one CUFF, one DUFF) and also ended up paying all in Canadian cash — a total of C\$60 — as that way I could come close to exact change in each auction and also get rid of the Canadian cash that it didn't look like I would otherwise have much chance to spend.

After looking ahead at the schedule, I found nothing of any strong interest either later today or tomorrow except for the Masquerade at 20:00 tonight and the Closing Ceremony at 15:00 tomorrow afternoon. Unfortunately, a call to the Bata Shoe Museum led to the knowledge that they are closed on Monday, so Sue and I are going to have to remain disappointed about missing that opportunity.

While I might have been well advised to take a long nap before the Masquerade, I decided instead to go to an early dinner (at the Lone Star Texas Grill across Front Street from the CP) with Sue and a take short nap instead. Unlike the Hugos, the Masquerade did not start on time. Well, it *is* a more technically challenging show. In all, the show ran from about 20:45 to 22:30 during which time 37 entries strutted their stuff and about a dozen entries in the "Tribute to Canadian Costuming Fashion Show" were also seen. MC Gord Rose did an overall very good job, certainly keeping the audience entertained during the occasional delay, but I thought he sometimes interjected too much of his opinion (generally in a non-verbal manner) before some of the entries. Sometimes after, too. Technically, the show went off very well. There were only a couple of noticeable technical glitches and none of them really detracted from the entrants.

It was much too dark for me to make notes on individual entries in the Masquerade so I'm not going to try to relate any opinions on who should have won what. I will say that the overall quality level was quite high. While some of the novice entries were rather simple in costume and/or presentation, I thought that all the participants acquitted themselves well. If a few of the costumes would have looked more at home on the stage of a much smaller con, there were also at least a few entries that were clearly world class. The program booklet for the event mentioned that individual photos, a CD photo collection, and both DVD and VHS videos would be available for sale on Monday (with delivery to be made later I expect). If you get a chance to see any of that it would be worth your while (though of course it was better in person).

The Masquerade entry and exit procedures were very similar to the Hugo Award Ceremony. Once again I was one of the last few persons to exit. The room was about 2/3 full (basically the same as for the Hugos) and it took about 15 minutes to empty. A few (very few) people stayed behind to

wait out the judging. Announcements by the staff seemed to indicate that they would let people back into the room later to hear the results, but that seemed a silly way to proceed since no one would know when to come back. Knowing how long worldcon Masquerade judging often takes, I for one had no intention of waiting. I expect I'll be able to see at least the highlights of the results in tomorrow's zines, and if I'm lucky the whole thing will be available online and I can run them as a sidebar in the *Shuttle*.

I would have loved to go to at least the Baen Books party tonight, but my knees were hurting enough that I thought better of it. This may be the last worldcon (or other large con) I attend where things are so widely separated. The way the con counts it, it's only 1 1/2 blocks from the CP or MTCC up to the FRY for the parties. But at least one of those is a heck of a long block. By the time you count in the zigs and zags and the fact that one is not starting at the point in the MTCC closest to the FRY, it's probably around half a kilometer walk. Not that much for someone in good shape, but painful for me with bad knees and being generally quite out of shape. I did decide to quickly check a few things in the Internet Lounge (in the CP) and go by the newsletter office (also in the CP) to pick up any issues I had missed before heading to bed. It's a good thing I did the latter, as an article in today's afternoon issue clarified that the Closing Ceremony will be in the same place at the FRY as the Opening Ceremony was. (There is another program with a confusingly similar title listed in the daily schedule and held in the MTCC at the same time.) I also got two different hoax newzines, *Durn Wrong Hourly* issue *Pi*, and *Dam Rong Dilly-Dally* issue 666. (Later in the con I saw, but did not get a copy of issue *i* — as in the square root of -1 — of *Durn Wrong Hourly*. It was available after the con for download on the Torcon web site.)

Tomorrow promises to be a slow day. Perhaps I'll take another tour through the Dealers Room and/or Art Show, or look at all the standing exhibits, but unless something pops up to catch my interest I don't anticipate going to any programming before the Closing Ceremony.

Day 7 (Monday — During Which the Con Ends)

Sleeping in this morning was nice. I'll have to get up early again tomorrow to make it to the airport in time. Sigh.

It was noon before I made it out of the room today. Lunch consisted of an obscene amount of home fries purchased from a street vendor. I think the guys set up in front of the MTCC must have made a killing this past several days. I had observed many people ignoring the signs posted at MTCC entrances forbidding outside food, but I decided to stroll down the sidewalk just a bit and sit on a low retaining wall that runs in front of part of the CP. That way I could enjoy the cool weather and do a little people watching while "dining." There were still many fans in evidence, but they were outnumbered by the people streaming from the direction of Union Station, past the CP and MTCC, headed toward the nearby baseball stadium where there was apparently an afternoon Blue Jays game scheduled. The baseball fans who weren't dressed in team logo clothing looked remarkably like the sf fans, except for a lesser reliance on black as a primary clothing color.

I did decide, after that, to take a short walk through the convention standing exhibits. I had already seen the Hugo retrospective when I was in the hall doing site selection voting earlier in the con. Some of the other exhibits were already packed up. I wish I had the patience to sit and look at some of the small photos on display (it appeared that many of them had sticky notes added with identifications by attendees) but such was not the case. I also took a last tour through the Dealers Room. Though there were certainly bargains to be had, I was

not interested in anything that was bulky, heavy, or fragile — as packing my bags for the return trip is already going to be a challenge enough. That left few things to look at and in the end none that called to me enough to make me break out money.

While in the Dealers Room I picked up this morning's issue of the con newszine which, among other things, said that the con would be selling left-over canvas tote bags for C\$1 at registration. When I got there, perhaps 10 minutes later, they had sold out (but said that more might be available at the dead dog at the FRY tonight). At C\$1 each I'd have gladly picked up a fistful of them to give away to friends back in Huntsville. While in the standing exhibits area earlier I had heard a PA announcement that the con would be auctioning off excess equipment at 19:00 in a room in the MTCC. It sounds like Torcon is serious about divesting itself of just about all dunnage it might have to store after the con!

I headed toward the FRY earlier than needed for the Closing Ceremony in order to finally track down the Con Suite. I did so and snagged a drink and some candy and sat a while. The Con Suite was actually in three suites not connected to each other. Collectively they probably provided enough space for a decent worldcon Con Suite but the traffic flow was odd so one had to edge slowly through the room(s) even when they were not all that crowded. The soft drinks (and bottled water) were in the bathtub in one of the suites, which really took me back to my early days of attending cons in the south — before so many conventions moved to fountains.

I showed up early for the Closing Ceremony and watched in amusement as both hotel employees and con staff bustled around to get things ready. At a smaller con — or one where I was personally known — I would have gladly pitched in but I figured I'd be more in the way than helpful if I tried. The ceremony got started about 20 minutes late, running from about 15:20–15:55. Athena Jarvis (wife of the con chair and official Chair Minder) opened the ceremony with an a cappella filk whose lyrics talked of the difficulty of her job. This was followed by a fife and drum band who lead in the main participants (this year's worldcon chair, next year's worldcon (Noreascon 4) chair, and the available main guests). The ceremony was cute and included a lot of in jokes, including Noreascon 4 making sure that GRRM finally got his big one — in this case an inflatable silver rocket about 8 feet tall.

After the closing ceremony, I hung around the FRY's lobby a while, just people watching and listening to people talking about the con. Oh, and napping a bit. Eventually, I went up to the dead dog (or beaver) party that started at 18:00 in the Con Suite and was sponsored by the Minneapolis in '73 group. I didn't stick around long enough to find out if anyone from Torcon was going to show up and sell the promised tote bags because I wanted to drop in on the aforementioned auction, and also wanted to get to bed at a reasonable hour. The auction in the MTCC ran right at an hour and did have some bargains (*and* some things that went for way too much). None of the things sold (which included left over office supplies, electronics, computer networking equipment, party supplies, etc.) were tempting enough to me fight with their bulk and weight all the way back home.

Day 8 (Tuesday — Home Again, Home Again, Jiggety-jig)

My final morning in Toronto started too bloody early. Even though my flight wasn't until about noon, I had to allow time to eat a good breakfast (airlines don't often serve snacks, much less meals, these days), get from downtown to the airport, and go through US customs/immigration as well as normal airport security before boarding. And I wanted to make sure I wasn't *too* rushed through it all.

The CP was still serving meals only in one of their ballrooms (um, I forgot to mention earlier that their restaurant was being remodeled during the con) and fortunately continued to serve breakfast even after the con was over. If I understood correctly, that was an ongoing thing during the remodeling, while the lunch and dinner buffets were served only while Worldcon was there. In any case, I finished a tasty breakfast and paid with the last Canadian currency I had left, reserving only one penny as a souvenir. This let me get to the front of the CP in plenty of time to catch the Airport Express bus due to pick up at the CP at 8:55. That was one bus (30 minutes) later than suggested by the probably-overly-cautious airport website, but one bus sooner than suggested by the hotel concierge. Call it a compromise.

Woe to those who listened exclusively to the concierge and were trying to catch the same bus as I was.

When an Airport Express bus pulled up to the hotel just a few minutes after the scheduled time, those of us who were waiting all started that way — only to be told by the driver that he wasn't going to pick up anyone. I think one passenger got off. It wasn't clear whether the bus was full of passengers going to the airport, but I don't think it was. I still have no clue why he didn't do a pickup. The driver assured us that "George" (apparently another driver) would be along shortly from the FRY to do a pickup. That sounded fishy to me since the FRY was scheduled to be after the CP for pickups.

Sure enough, "George" never came. A few of the people waiting for the bus got nervous enough to have the hotel doorman hail them a cab. One other set off to walk down to the FRY in hopes of catching an Airport Express bus there. (According to him, he had been forced to get off at the FRY when coming into town because the driver wasn't going to go to the CP.) Most of us waited.

About 5–10 minutes after the next scheduled pickup (9:25) another Airport Express bus finally arrived. Well, actually, it was the same bus with the same driver who had refused to pick us up thirty plus minutes before. We all hustled on, including several people paying in cash, and the bus set off to pick up at another hotel. We didn't make the entire circuit of hotels at which they stop, skipping at least two that Torcon used. Sigh. There was one more slight holdup on the way to the airport as we encountered the tail end of a wreck-induced traffic jam on one of the freeways. The driver had been warned about it (I was sitting on the right hand front seat of the bus and heard all his radio traffic quite clearly) but it hadn't sunk in until he was already committed to the route in question. I finally got off the bus at the airport at about 10:05.

Fortunately, all this delay didn't cause me a great deal of grief. I did skip looking for the place to get receipts stamped for refund of Canadian GST. I should still be able to get a refund for the GST on my hotel bill, but not on two purchases (one for me and one for Sue) that were large enough to fit the criteria they set. Going through check in with the airline, US immigration and customs, checked baggage inspection (both of mine had to be opened because they contained electronics), carryon baggage inspection, and the metal detectors took almost exactly an hour, getting me to the gate perhaps 5–10 minutes after 11:00, or about 40–45 minutes before the flight was due to depart. This left just about enough time to catch my breath and wipe off some of the sweat before boarding started.

There was nothing remarkable about the actual trip back — both flights were semi-crowded but I did have at least one empty seat next to me each time — except for a stroke of luck in Dallas when my connecting gates were quite close to each other. The same "unremarkable" remark can't be made regard-

ing the arrival in Huntsville, however. I made an, er, pit stop between disembarking and going to collect my checked baggage. By the time I got there, the moving belt had been picked almost clean and my bags were nowhere to be found. OK, back to the American Airlines ticket counter (which also handles baggage complaints for them in Huntsville). The good news was that my bags were “in the system” — the bad news was that they wouldn’t arrive in Huntsville for hours.

OK, so I took a cab — actually a minivan from the airport “limo” service — home (as I had planned to do). I went in my house just long enough to drop off my carryon bag and reset the air conditioner, then hopped in my car to go pick up Sally at the vet. She was almost as happy to see me as I was to be home. I loved the con, but after a week on the road and hours in transit, being home was oh-so-nice. Dinner was drivethrough food from someplace forgettable, and most of the evening was spent just slowly decompressing while staring vacantly at the TV or empty space, whichever happened to be in front of my eyes at the time.

In the end my bags did make it home (even though the driver for same airport “limo” service I used to get home went to the wrong house) safe and sound. By that time it was getting pretty late so I spent a minimum of time checking to see that the important items in my luggage were safe then gratefully crept into bed as soon as I could. Tomorrow was to be a day back at work.

Coda (Recovery comes slowly)

There are, of course, many things that happened that I didn’t mention in the travelogue. I was happy, for instance, to see old friends Jay Johns and Wil Hoffpauir, both from the north Alabama area and both of whom I seldom see outside of the occasional convention. I also briefly met Lloyd Penney but unfortunately missed catching up with Mike Glicksohn, both from the Toronto area and both contributors to the *Shuttle*. I most sincerely regretted getting the news of the death of an old friend, P. L. Carruthers-Montgomery, to whose memory this issue of the *Shuttle* is dedicated.

I feel that I should mention some overall impressions of the convention. Other than the distance between the CP/MTCC and the FRY (which I absolutely *hated*) I was generally pleased with the facilities. The MTCC probably had too much space, but wasn’t as overwhelming in this respect as large convention centers can often be. I suspect the facilities could have handled close to twice as many people as attended Torcon without undue strain. One of the ways the “low” density of people complimented the facilities was that there was almost never more than a trivial wait for vertical transportation (elevators and escalators) — except when exiting the Hugo Awards and the Masquerade. Had the parties been in the CP, their bank of 5 elevators might not have been up to the task, but as it was I often had no stops between the lobby and my room on the 17th floor. Since the large majority of the parties in the FRY were on only two floors, their main bank of 8 elevators (not counting 2 express elevators) and auxiliary bank of 3 seemed to me to be quite up to the task, with only a few minute’s wait at worst.

There were certainly problems with the con — particular the program scheduling semi-fiasco. While it didn’t rise (sink?) to the level of 1988’s Nolacon II, there were more than enough schedule changes to make it a daily adventure seeking out what to do/see at the con. However, I’d point out that the items I did attend were of high quality. I suppose I could give in to hubris and claim that this was due to application of my years of experience in selecting what to do, but in all likelihood it had a lot to do with the con scheduling interesting items.

Aside from the problems with program scheduling and the

“surprise” of the Hugo/Masquerade exit route, Torcon ran smoothly as far as I, as an average attendee, could tell. If the ducks were paddling frantically under the water to stay afloat it didn’t show on the surface. I’d say that the Torcon committee, staff, and workers should all be commended for putting on a heck of a convention.

2003 Hugo Awards Voting Breakdown

805 Hugo Awards ballots were submitted (478 electronic; 327 paper). 29 were disqualified for various reasons (e.g., incorrect PINs, postmarked after the deadline, etc.), leaving 776 valid ballots.

•••Best Novel 660 ballots counted

First Place

<i>Hominids</i>	195	197	207	228	293
<i>The Scar</i>	139	139	163	207	266
<i>Kiln People</i>	133	133	149	176	
<i>The Years of Rice and Salt</i>	95	95	16		
<i>Bones of the Earth</i>	84	85			
No Award					14

Apply the No Award test: 400 ballots rank *Hominids* higher than No Award; 76 ballots rank No Award higher than *Hominids*; *Hominids* is confirmed as winner

Second Place

<i>Kiln People</i>	198	199	225	291	
<i>The Scar</i>	157	157	186	248	
<i>Bones of the Earth</i>	120	123	167		
... <i>Rice and Salt</i>	121	121			
No Award					19

Third Place

<i>Bones of the Earth</i>	166	169	248		
<i>The Scar</i>	197	197	245		
... <i>Rice and Salt</i>	166	166			
No Award					26

Fourth Place

<i>The Scar</i>	268				
... <i>Rice and Salt</i>	218				
No Award					36

Fifth Place

... <i>Rice and Salt</i>	416				
No Award					48

•••Best Novella 562 ballots counted

First Place

<i>Coraline</i>	185	185	204	217	255
“Bronte’s Egg”	89	89	95	109	126
“In Spirit”	91	91	94	98	107
“Breathmoss”	72	73	85	96	
“The Political Officer”	58	58	61		
<i>A Year in the Linear City</i>	53	54			
No Award					14

Apply the No Award test: 371 ballots rank *Coraline* higher than No Award; 40 ballots rank No Award higher than *Coraline*; *Coraline* is confirmed as winner

Second Place

“Bronte’s Egg”	113	114	134	206	
... <i>Linear City</i>	97	99	113	178	
“In Spirit”	105	105	110		
“Breathmoss”	96	98	110		
“The Political Officer”	76	76			
No Award					18

Third Place					
“Breathmoss”	118	120	150	196	
... <i>Linear City</i>	115	117	139	177	
“In Spirit”	119	120	132		
“The Political Officer”	100	100			
No Award	19				
Fourth Place					
... <i>Linear City</i>	158	163	212		
“In Spirit”	133	134	161		
“The Political Officer”	124	124			
No Award	24				
Fifth Place					
“The Political Officer”	181	184			
“In Spirit”	175	177			
No Award	30				
Sixth Place					
“In Spirit”	264				
No Award	55				
•••Best Novelette	529 ballots counted				
First Place					
“Slow Life”	123	123	134	159	237
“The Wild Girls”	138	138	150	187	223
“Halo”	103	103	117	140	
“Presence”	92	92	108		
“Madonna of the Maquiladora”	61	62			
No Award	12				
Apply the No Award test: 362 ballots rank “Slow Life” higher than No Award; 34 ballots rank No Award higher than “Slow Life”; “Slow Life” is confirmed as winner					
Second Place					
“The Wild Girls”	171	172	188	246	
“Halo”	127	127	149	191	
“Presence”	113	113	136		
“Madonna...”	75	76			
No Award	18				
Third Place					
“Halo”	171	172	207		
“Presence”	153	154	205		
“Madonna...”	114	116			
No Award	23				
Fourth Place					
“Presence”	222				
“Madonna...”	173				
No Award	32				
Fifth Place					
“Madonna...”	314				
No Award	47				
•••Best Short Story	513 ballots counted				
First Place					
“Falling Onto Mars”	137	139	156	184	227
“The Little Cat Laughed to See Such Sport”	89	90	106	136	195
“‘Hello,’ Said the Stick”	104	106	116	133	
“Creation”	85	85	103		
“Lambing Season”	83	83			
No Award	15				
Apply the No Award test: 348 ballots rank “Falling Onto Mars” higher than No Award; 40 ballots rank No Award higher than “Falling Onto Mars”; “Falling Onto Mars” is confirmed as winner					
Second Place					
“‘Hello,’ Said the Stick”	140	143	165	235	
“Creation”	114	114	149	181	
“The Little Cat Laughed...”	112	113	136		
“Lambing Season”	104	105			

No Award	20				
Third Place					
“The Little Cat Laughed...”	165	169	212		
“Creation”	138	139	191		
“Lambing Season”	122	125			
No Award	26				
Fourth Place					
“Creation”	195	198			
“Lambing Season”	175	179			
No Award	33				
Fifth Place					
“Lambing Season”	308				
No Award	53				
•••Best Related Book	432 ballots counted				
First Place					
<i>Better to Have Loved: The Life of Judith Merril</i>	120	120	142	149	172
<i>Bradbury: An Illustrated Life</i>	104	107	116	124	167
<i>Dragonhenge</i>	88	88	92	113	
<i>Spectrum 9: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art</i>	57	57	58		
<i>The Battle of the Sexes in Science Fiction</i>	50	50			
No Award	13				
Apply the No Award test: 261 ballots rank <i>Better to Have Loved...</i> higher than No Award; 32 ballots rank No Award higher than <i>Better to Have Loved...</i> ; <i>Better to Have Loved...</i> is confirmed as winner					
Second Place					
<i>Bradbury...</i>	134	138	152	183	
<i>Dragonhenge</i>	99	99	124	142	
<i>Battle of the Sexes...</i>	81	81	85		
<i>Spectrum 9...</i>	69	69			
No Award	15				
Third Place					
<i>Dragonhenge</i>	136	137	184		
<i>Battle of the Sexes...</i>	110	110	121		
<i>Spectrum 9...</i>	91	94			
No Award	20				
Fourth Place					
<i>Spectrum 9...</i>	145	152			
<i>Battle of the Sexes...</i>	137	137			
No Award	25				
Fifth Place					
<i>Battle of the Sexes...</i>	197				
No Award	41				
•••Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form	752 ballots counted				
First Place					
<i>The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers</i>	388				
<i>Spirited Away</i>	180				
<i>Minority Report</i>	109				
<i>Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets</i>	41				
<i>Spider-Man</i>	26				
No Award	8				
Apply the No Award test: 661 ballots rank <i>LotR: TTT</i> higher than No Award; 25 ballots rank No Award higher than <i>LotR: TTT</i> ; <i>LotR: TTT</i> is confirmed as winner					
Second Place					
<i>Minority Report</i>	199	200	227	317	
<i>Spirited Away</i>	269	270	276	315	
... <i>Chamber of Secrets</i>	161	163	194		
<i>Spider-Man</i>	74	75			
No Award	14				
Third Place					

<i>Spirited Away</i>	323	324	343		
... <i>Chamber of Secrets</i>	222	225	297		
<i>Spider-Man</i>	121	123			
No Award	19				
Fourth Place					
... <i>Chamber of Secrets</i>	345				
<i>Spider-Man</i>	237				
No Award	45				
Fifth Place					
<i>Spider-Man</i>	472				
No Award	67				
••Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form	591				
counted					
First Place					
“Conversations With Dead People” (<i>Buffy</i>)	187	211	211	219	263
“Serenity” (<i>Firefly</i>)	144	147	151	163	200
“A Night in Sickbay” (<i>Enterprise</i>)	77	81	85	132	
“Carbon Creek” (<i>Enterprise</i>)	73	76	78		
No Award	71	71			
“Waiting in the Wings” (<i>Angel</i>)	39				
Apply the No Award test: 369 ballots rank “Conversations With Dead People” higher than No Award; 108 ballots rank No Award higher than “Conversations With Dead People”; “Conversations With Dead People” is confirmed as winner					
Second Place					
“Serenity”	179	182	188	249	
“Carbon Creek”	95	97	164	204	
“Waiting in the Wings”	125	127	133		
“A Night in Sickbay”	87	90			
No Award	75				
Third Place					
“Carbon Creek”	134	137	218		
“Waiting in the Wings”	199	204	215		
“A Night in Sickbay”	107	110			
No Award	84				
Fourth Place					
“Waiting in the Wings”	227	233			
“A Night in Sickbay”	190	195			
No Award	87				
Fifth Place					
“A Night in Sickbay”	297				
No Award	120				
••Best Professional Editor	566				
counted					
First Place					
Gardner Dozois	118	118	138	166	239
David G. Hartwell	133	134	148	179	228
Ellen Datlow	100	100	133	161	
Stanley Schmidt	110	110	118		
Gordon Van Gelder	89	91			
No Award	16				
Apply the No Award test: 387 ballots rank Gardner Dozois higher than No Award; 48 ballots rank No Award higher than Gardner Dozois; Gardner Dozois is confirmed as winner					
Second Place					
David G. Hartwell	156	157	182	231	
Ellen Datlow	126	126	176	225	
Stanley Schmidt	132	132	151		
Gordon Van Gelder	111	113			
No Award	18				
Third Place					

Ellen Datlow	167	168	257		
Stanley Schmidt	163	164	205		
Gordon Van Gelder	155	159			
No Award	21				
Fourth Place					
Gordon Van Gelder	222	226			
Stanley Schmidt	210	212			
No Award	24				
Fifth Place					
Stanley Schmidt	359				
No Award	35				
••Best Professional Artist	520				
ballots counted					
First Place					
Bob Eggleton	122	122	138	164	241
Donato Giancola	145	145	157	183	210
Frank Kelly Freas	115	115	123	134	
Jim Burns	79	79	87		
David A. Cherry	52	52			
No Award	7				
Apply the No Award test: 399 ballots rank Bob Eggleton higher than No Award; 22 ballots rank No Award higher than Bob Eggleton; Bob Eggleton is confirmed as winner					
Second Place					
Donato Giancola	168	168	186	240	
Frank Kelly Freas	134	134	159	196	
Jim Burns	105	105	124		
David A. Cherry	73	77			
No Award	12				
Third Place					
Jim Burns	177	177	230		
Frank Kelly Freas	165	165	204		
David A. Cherry	109	113			
No Award	16				
Fourth Place					
David A. Cherry	205	212			
Frank Kelly Freas	200	200			
No Award	24				
Fifth Place					
Frank Kelly Freas	339				
No Award	50				
••Best Semiprozine	549				
ballots counted					
First Place					
<i>Locus</i>	206	207	221	241	292
<i>The New York Review of Science Fiction</i>	109	109	128	155	201
<i>Ansible</i>	84	84	88	115	
<i>Interzone</i>	67	68	80		
<i>Speculations</i>	65	65			
No Award	18				
Apply the No Award test: 413 ballots rank <i>Locus</i> higher than No Award; 49 ballots rank No Award higher than <i>Locus</i> ; <i>Locus</i> is confirmed as winner					
Second Place					
<i>Interzone</i>	108	109	131	203	
<i>New York Review...</i>	149	149	170	191	
<i>Ansible</i>	117	117	121		
<i>Speculations</i>	82	82			
No Award	19				
Third Place					
<i>New York Review...</i>	195	196	230		
<i>Ansible</i>	154	154	169		
<i>Speculations</i>	92	94			
No Award	21				
Fourth Place					

<i>Ansible</i>	237				
<i>Speculations</i>	142				
No Award	28				
Fifth Place					
<i>Speculations</i>	262				
No Award	38				
•••Best Fanzine 360 ballots counted					
First Place					
<i>Mimosa</i>	62	62	81	113	152
<i>Emerald City</i>	79	80	91	106	126
<i>File 770</i>	75	75	79	95	
<i>Plokta</i>	63	64	76		
<i>Challenger</i>	47	47			
No Award	34				
Apply the No Award test: 209 ballots rank <i>Mimosa</i> higher than No Award; 46 ballots rank No Award higher than <i>Mimosa</i> ; <i>Mimosa</i> is confirmed as winner					
Second Place					
<i>File 770</i>	97	97	111	166	
<i>Emerald City</i>	88	89	105	128	
<i>Plokta</i>	78	79	99		
<i>Challenger</i>	58	58			
No Award	35				
Third Place					
<i>Emerald City</i>	106	107	134		
<i>Plokta</i>	95	96	130		
<i>Challenger</i>	80	80			
No Award	38				
Fourth Place					
<i>Plokta</i>	122	123			
<i>Challenger</i>	106	107			
No Award	41				
Fifth Place					
<i>Challenger</i>	188				
No Award	49				
•••Best Fan Writer 385 ballots counted					
First Place					
Dave Langford	124	128	128	156	195
Steven H Silver	78	81	82	94	120
Mike Glycer	66	69	69	87	
Bob Devney	63	65	65		
No Award	36	37			
John L. Flynn	18				
Apply the No Award test: 255 ballots rank Dave Langford higher than No Award; 62 ballots rank No Award higher than Dave Langford; Dave Langford is confirmed as winner					
Second Place					
Mike Glycer	112	119	119	161	
Steven H Silver	93	98	100	126	
Bob Devney	80	83	83		
No Award	38	39			
John L. Flynn	23				
Third Place					
Steven H Silver	117	129	132		
Bob Devney	99	113	113		
No Award	46	48			
John L. Flynn	39				
Fourth Place					
Bob Devney	143				
No Award	60				
John L. Flynn	59				
Fifth Place					
John L. Flynn	114				
No Award	108				

•••Best Fan Artist 359 ballots counted						
First Place						
Sue Mason	75	75	89	104	150	
Frank Wu	101	102	114	120	142	
Brad W. Foster	60	60	78	95		
Steve Stiles	50	50	51			
Teddy Harvia	49	49				
No Award	24					
Apply the No Award test: 204 ballots rank Sue Mason higher than No Award; 40 ballots rank No Award higher than Sue Mason; Sue Mason is confirmed as winner						
Second Place						
Frank Wu	121	122	132	152		
Brad W. Foster	72	72	95	141		
Teddy Harvia	66	66	79			
Steve Stiles	62	62				
No Award	25					
Third Place						
Brad W. Foster	87	87	118			
Teddy Harvia	94	94	115			
Steve Stiles	73	74				
No Award	31					
Fourth Place						
Teddy Harvia	143					
Steve Stiles	98					
No Award	31					
Fifth Place						
Steve Stiles	173					
No Award	40					
•••John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer (not a Hugo) 417 ballots counted						
First Place						
Wen Spencer		108	108	116	139	163
Charles Coleman Finlay		87	87	96	128	149
Karin Lowachee		78	78	81	86	
Ken Wharton		69	69	80		
David D. Levine		52	52			
No Award		23				
Apply the No Award test: 240 ballots rank Wen Spencer higher than No Award; 37 ballots rank No Award higher than Wen Spencer; Wen Spencer is confirmed as winner						
Second Place						
Charles Coleman Finlay		108	108	119	150	
Ken Wharton		99	99	112	134	
Karin Lowachee		96	96	103		
David D. Levine		56	56			
No Award		26				
Third Place						
Ken Wharton		137	137	166		
Karin Lowachee		119	119	129		
David D. Levine		72	72			
No Award		27				
Fourth Place						
Karin Lowachee		154		154		
David D. Levine		127		127		
No Award		31				
Fifth Place						
David D. Levine		204				
No Award		38				
For the brave souls that made it to the end of this list, you might want to know that Worldcon coverage will continue in the next issue of the <i>Shuttle</i> with a list of nomination statistics for the Hugo Awards. We will also resume normal <i>Shuttle</i> contents, including LoCs.						



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