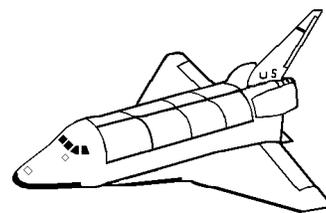


The



SHUTTLE
December 2003

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

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

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

The **December program** will be a “random gift exchange.” Bring a small gift (or more than one if you like) to contribute to the pile. Gifts will be given out at random — and much hilarity will ensue.

The December **after-the-meeting meeting** (aka Christmas party) will be at Mike Kennedy’s house.

There will be a **New Year’s Eve party** at Ray Pietruszka and Nancy Cucci’s house. Stay tuned for more details.

2003 GUFF Results

The result of the 2003 GUFF race has been announced. GUFF (the Get Up-and-over Fan Fund or the Going Under Fan Fund, depending on the year’s direction) promotes fannish ties between Europe and Australasia by providing funds for well-known fans from one part of the world to attend a major science fiction convention in the other. GUFF winners are selected by popular vote, after a nomination process. Winners are required to attend a specified convention in the host country. They also become administrators until the next winner from their area takes over. Although GUFF is often thought of as being
(continued on page 2)

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Deadline for the January 2004 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 2 January 2004.

between Australia and the UK, people from other European countries and New Zealand are eligible to nominate and be candidates.

This year's winner (in the north-to-south direction) is Pat McMurray. Voting results (as announced by Paul Kincaid, the UK GUFF administrator) are:

	UK	Australia	Total
Doug Bell	25	8	33
Pat McMurray	22	13	35
No Preference	6	2	8

More information about GUFF in general (including how to donate to this fan-funded effort) and about this year's race in particular can be found at <www.ericlindsay.com/guff>.

NASFA Calendar

DECEMBER

- 05-07 SMOFCon 21 — Rosemont IL.
- 09 BD: Mia West-Smith.
- 12 BD: Toni Weisskopf.
- 15 Bill of Rights Day.
- 17 BD: Robin Ray.
- 19 BD: Yvonne Penney.
- 20* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: Gift Exchange. ATMM at Mike Kennedy's house.
- 22 Winter begins.
- 25 Christmas.
- 26 BD: Michael R. Stone.
- 26 Kwanzaa.
- 26 Boxing Day (Canada).
- 27 Chanukah.
- 31 New Year's Eve — party at Ray Pietruszka and Nancy Cucci's house.

JANUARY 2004

- 01 New Year's Day.
- 02-04 ShadowCon VII — Memphis TN.
- 03 BD: Jim Kennedy.
- 03 BD: Karen Hopkins.
- 06 BD: Rich Garber.
- 07 BD: Doug Lampert.
- 16-18 Chattacon XXIX — Chattanooga TN.
- 16 BD: Bruce Butler.
- 17* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM TBD.
- 19 BD: Martin Luther King (Observed).
- 20 BD: Larry Montgomery.

FEBRUARY

- 01 National Freedom Day.
- 02 Groundhog Day.
- 08 BD: Lin Cochran.
- 09 BD: Jack Lundy.
- 10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.
- 11 BD: Jeanna Woosley.
- 12 BD: Abraham Lincoln.
- 14 St. Valentine's Day.
- 16 BD: George Washington (observed).
- 17 BD: Nancy A. Cucci.
- 21* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM TBD.

- 21 BD: Susan Stockell.
- 22 BD: George Washington.

MARCH

- 02 BD: Ronnie Lajoie.
- 08 BD: Bill Payne.
- 09 BD: Tracey Kennedy.
- 10 BD: Kerry Gilley.
- 13 BD: Anita Eisenberg.
- 15 BD: Carlo DeShouten.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day.
- 17 BD: JoAnn Parsons.
- 19-21 StellarCon 28 — High Point NC.
- 19-21 TechniCon 21 — Blacksburg VA.
- 20* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business Meeting at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM TBD.
- 22 BD: Jayson Woosley.
- 24-28 25th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts — Ft. Lauderdale FL.
- 26-28 DeepSouthCon 42/MidSouthCon 22 — Memphis TN.
- 30 BD: Maurine Dorris.

OoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOo

The North Alabama Science Fiction Association meets on the third Saturday of each month. (Unless there is a large nearby convention being held that weekend — in which case we often move the meeting to the second or fourth weekend.) The regular meeting location is the upstairs meeting room at BookMark on South Memorial Parkway. The Executive Committee meeting (if scheduled) is at 5P. The business meeting is at 6P. The program is at 7P. Anyone is welcome to attend any of the meetings. There is usually an after-the-meeting meeting with directions available at the program.

November Minutes

by Samuel A. Smith, nothing, just nothing

The November meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, November 15, 2003 in the upstairs meeting room at BookMark at 6:23:07P by President Mary Ortwerth, the gavel, the crickets, but no Joshua.

OLD BUSINESS

We still have no idea who those Stormtroopers were.

NEW BUSINESS

Doug Lampert wants there to be nominations.

Anita Eisenberg nominated all of the current officers for another term. (For the record, this is: Mary Ortwerth — President, Mike Kennedy — Vice-President, Sam Smith — Secretary, Ray Pietruszka — Treasurer, Karen Hopkins — Program Director, and Doug Lampert — Publicity Director.)

Mia West-Smith volunteered to be "Candy Bringer Lady."

Nominations for officers were closed (until December).

Karen Hopkins wants to be ignored.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

According to Mike Kennedy, there is "not really" any convention business at this time.

Sam Smith reported that the Con+Stellation web site received 1352 visitors in October, and the NASFA web site received 184 visitors in the same time period.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 9th is Mia West-Smith's birthday.

April 7th is Mary Ortwerth's birthday.

LATE NEW BUSINESS

Do we want to move the 17 January 2004 meeting due to Chattacon? After some discussion, the answer was "No."

Do we want to move the 20 March 2004 meeting due to Galacticon? After additional discussion, the answer was also "No."

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44:34P. The program was the annual NASFA Auction. (For our favorite charity — Us!) The After-The-Meeting-Meeting was the November birthdays party held at Mike Kennedy's place.

NASFA Receivables

by Randy B. Cleary

Here are the items received by NASFA since last time.

ASFA Future Times, Volume 6, Numbers 6–10, June–October 2003, Editor: L. J. Anderson, Publisher: Atlanta Science Fiction Society, P. O. Box 98308, Atlanta GA 30359-2008 — These five club zines have con reports, book reviews, movie reviews, author interviews, event listings, and club information.

Cargo Cult Books & Notions, July/August 2003, 2804 Stuart Street, Berkeley CA 94705; 510-549-3018; <70701.2154@compuserve.com> — A 16 digest page genre catalog of books, CDs, and DVDs.

ConNotations, Volume 13, Issues 1 February/March, 3 June/July, 4 August/September, 5 October/November 2003, Editor: Stephanie L. Bannon, Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society, P. O. Box 62613, Phoenix AZ 85082; <Editors@casfs.org> — These news zines have 24 newsprint pages each of SF media news, reviews, and convention listings.

De Profundis, 362–370, March–November 2003, Editor: Marty Cantor, c/o The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, 11513 Burbank Boulevard, North Hollywood CA 91601; <www.lasfs.org> — These club zines have club minutes, rosters, info plus some reviews and occasional Rotsler illos.

File 770: 142, Editor: Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Avenue, Monrovia CA 91016; 626-305-1004; <Mglyer@compuserve.com> — A year's worth of news about and for fandom are contained in 42 letter size pages.

FOSFAX 208, July 2003, Editors: Timothy Lane and Elizabeth Garrott, The Falls of the Ohio Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, P. O. Box 37281, Louisville KY 40233-7281 — This fair and balanced issue had 84 pages of articles, features, con and trip reports, reviews, and lots of illos and LoCs.

Galaxy Press, 7501 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 200, Hollywood, CA 90028; (323) 466-7815; Fax (323) 466-7817; <www.galaxy-press.com>; <info@galaxy-press.com> — Flyer for special commemorative hardcover edition of *Battlefield Earth* by L. Ron Hubbard. Also sent *ASI Magazine*, Volume 5, Issue 1.

Minicon 39 Flyer and Registration form, April 9–11, 2004, P. O. Box 8297, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408 — Millennium Hotel Minneapolis, WGoH: Walter Jon Williams, EGoH: Sharyn November, FGoH: Deb Geisler.

Nice Distinctions, 1–3, Editor: Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine Street, Yonkers NY 10704-1814; 914-965-4861; <hlavaty@panix.com> — These 6 letter size page personal zines are done in the style of Hlavaty's previous zine, *Deroga-*

tory Reference with personal commentary and some reviews.

OASFiS Event Horizon, Volume 16, Number 1, Issues 188–196, March–November 2003. Editor: Leslie R. Hammes, The Orlando Area Science-Fiction Society, P. O. Box 592905, Orlando FL 32859-2905; 407-263-5822; <lhammes@cfl.rr.com> — These nine small club zines have club minutes, events, and info.

SFSFS Shuttle, 152–155, March–June 2003, Editors: Cynthia and Karen Warmuth, South Florida Science Fiction Society, P. O. Box 70143, Fort Lauderdale FL 33307-0143; <sfsfs.org> — These four club zines have club calendars, minutes, reviews, event listings, and club information.

Review of a Special Exhibit

by Doug Lampert

"My Reality: Contemporary Art and the Culture of Japanese Animation" at the Huntsville Museum of Art through 4 January 2004; Originated at the Des Moines Art Center; \$7 for adults (\$3.50 on Thursday evening from 5–8P).

The Huntsville Museum of Art is having a display of anime related art, so a group of us (Sam, Mary, Nancy, and me) decided to go and see it. I got (self) nominated to write a review for the *Shuttle*.

The first thing to realize is that this is not a display of Japanese anime, or of stills and characters from anime, but rather of modern art that was influenced or inspired by anime. I only saw references to a particular work in three pieces; in most cases the inspiration was simply the culture and style of anime rather than a particular anime character or work.

As a rule I dislike modern art, this exhibit was not really an exception to the rule. But for modern art it was not all that bad. The common theme gave the whole thing some degree of unity and a few of the pieces showed originality. It clearly beat paintings made by splashing paint on the canvas from a distance.

The artistic unity of the presentation was somewhat spoiled by the fact that I seem to have entered the show from the back and moved to the beginning. The entrance is at the back of the main gallery, the opening on your left as you come in to the main gallery is the exit. This meant that I saw one piece clearly intended for viewing from a distance from a few feet first.

I could not recommend going to the Museum just to see this display; fortunately you do not need to. "The Art of Soldiering: Treasures from the Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection" — which is also at the Museum — was a quite good exhibit, being military related art from the 16th century to early 20th century. Also, "Through the Needle's Eye: The 17th National Exhibit of the Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc." will start before this goes to press. Going to the art museum to see all three strikes me as a good idea for how to spend an evening.

Fat White Vampire Blues

A Review

by Karen Hopkins

Fat White Vampire Blues, by Andrew Fox, Ballantine Books, 1 July 2003, trade paperback, 334pp, ISBN 0345463331,

\$13.95

Strange books find me. Strange books leap from the shelf and wrap themselves around my ankles whining, until I take them home.

Strange new books discover me before I even know about them. I mean, I read and enjoyed a Minotaur taking a cigarette break a month or so before CNN discovered it and reviewed it.

Well, another new one has found me.

Fat White Vampire Blues by Andrew Fox.

I've never heard of the guy but one of his writing muses was John Kennedy Toole, an author whose Pulitzer Prize winning novel *A Confederacy of Dunces* I've read a gazillion times. If you ever get the chance you should also read it. But I'm straying away from the vampire.

And I have since been told that *FWVB* was featured at the most recent World Fantasy Convention in DC.

Jules is a vampire. Jules is a fat vampire who lives in New Orleans. Jules is a fat vampire because, according to the newspaper clipping he keeps on the visor of his Cadillac, New Orleans is the fattest city in the nation.

Now I lived in New Orleans for 14 years. I don't know about it being the fattest city but it could be.

Jules is fat because he feeds off the residents of New Orleans. More specifically he feeds from the black residents of New Orleans. He claims their blood is richer and tastes better than the white residents who, in this book anyway, have a tendency to be vegetarian and skinny. I guess he never met me.

Jules was not fat before he became a vampire. He was turned into a vampire by a BBBW (yes, the 3 Bs are on purpose) who is a dancer in a French Quarter strip club.

Jules is blissfully happy feasting on the black populace of New Orleans until he is confronted by a new vampire, a young black vampire who takes great umbrage at Jules' dining choices. He tells him that he must stick to his own. And, to prove he's serious, burns down Jules' house.

Now the adventures start.

Jules doesn't want to leave his home and his friends. So with the help of Maureen, the dancer, and another vampire that Jules created, Doodlebug, an undead cross-dresser who literally flies in from the coast, he sets out to re-stake his territory. Various evil and nasty things happen to Jules and especially his friends.

Then we have the final showdown between "good and evil."

I read this book on a Saturday afternoon. It was very entertaining and kept me turning the pages. Have a bite of this book and to get in the mood, read it with a big plate of red beans and rice.

Mini Review

by Jim Woosley

Good Omens, by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett, ACE, 4 December 2001, Trade Paperback, 368pp, ISBN 0441008615, \$13.95 (also available in hardback and mass market paperback)

Good Omens: Purely and simply, think *Damien/The Omen*. Meets Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*. On a Monty Python soundstage.

I sorta knew what I was in for when the *Dramatis Perso-*

nae listed "supernatural beings" and at the end of the list of Fallen Angels and Lords of Hell included: Crowley (An Angel who didn't so much Fall as Saunter Vaguely Downward).

This is, purely and simply, a story of Armageddon. And the changeling who is sent into the world to be the Antichrist. And the boy the changeling was supposed to replace. And the Other Baby born at the same time... And the Serpent of Eden, and the Angel who Guarded the Gates of Eden — both of whom would really rather not see the world end just yet.

War is a black market weapons broker. Pestilence has retired, but Pollution has taken his place with a remarkable love of flammable rivers and abandoned potato chip bags. Famine has become a multimillionaire diet guru who just loves to lose his patients. And Death shrieks "I never touched him" when confronted with the image of an older man flipping burgers in a Des Moines fast food outlet while crooning under his voice, "Love me tender, love me true..."

With a plot as convoluted as the M95 or London "Beltway" (carefully designed by Crowley to look like a black magic glyph from ancient Lemuria), *Good Omens* defies description.

Don't miss it. And make sure you don't fall off the floor laughing.

A Tale of Two Books

Suspended by the Neck Until Dead, Dead, Dead

by Doug Lampert

Far Side of the Stars, by David Drake, Baen Books, October 2003, hardback, ISBN 074347158X, 448pp, \$25.00

Trading in Danger, by Elizabeth Moon, Del Ray Books, September 2003, hardback, ISBN 0345447603, 304pp, \$24.95

I liked both of these books, but after reading them I noticed a common element, both include background details it does not really pay for me to think too hard about.

The Far Side of the Stars is the third in the Daniel Leary (RCN) series by David Drake; all in all one of the better Napoleonic Navies in space series that I know of. *Trading in Danger* is the first of a new series, although there is, I see, nothing on the cover that indicates it is not a standalone.

Both are fine books in most ways (assuming you like military SF, and I do), but both have elements in their background that at least momentarily spoil my suspension of disbelief.

Different people find suspension of disbelief ruined by different things. I have no trouble with magic, FTL travel, time travel, or anything of that nature. What wrecks suspension of disbelief for me is when people do not react reasonably to their environment including these things. Magic is not interesting, FTL is not interesting, time travel is not interesting; what is interesting is how people behave in a world with magic or FTL or time travel. So, when an author flubs that, he has done something far worse for my interest in the story than simply introducing an inconsistent background detail — he has rendered the entire fantasy/SF background irrelevant at best.

None of these problems are particularly serious in the books I am discussing; I did not throw either book across the room, and I will buy and read the sequels as soon as possible. But I find that somewhere in the back of my mind I do not really believe in the worlds of either of these books as much as I should, and I find that disappointing.

David Drake's series involves substantial intelligence work, and in this book introduces an oracle. Yet, the oracle is not surrounded by intelligence agents, and is even indicated to not be worth anything to pirates since the money is not kept on the same planet. If I were a pirate, I might consider information on targets and escorts worth a side trip and raid on an undefended target, and if I were an intelligence officer I might consider an oracle that gives useful information worth having. The main story is about Daniel and Adele, so the oracle isn't all that important (just a means to give our heroes some information), but it does not seem to fit with the rest of the universe. I wish Drake had found a better way to give them the information without wrecking the rest of the plot.

The problems with Moon's book are both less and more serious. It is more serious because the problem is in the first chapter and forms a major part of the heroine's background, so I cannot just ignore it if I want to speculate about future books. (And if I did not speculate that would be a bad sign for the series.) The problem is less serious because this is the first book so it may well be explained in a later book. Moon is writing about a young would-be naval officer who is kicked out of her planet's military academy for an utterly senseless reason (she helps an underclassman she is assigned to mentor by telling him the name of a non-Navy clergyman of his faith). Every time I think about this my suspension of disbelief starts to fail. The reason given makes no real sense, and the procedure is a bit too hasty to be on the up and up. I can think of at least three consistent reasons why this might happen in the story as presented, but each of them involves someone she trusts lying to our heroine, and in each case the correct reaction would probably be to have stayed at home and tried to figure out who is lying and why rather than go along with being shipped off planet. So I either wind up with our bright and ambitious heroine being a fool about at least some things, or with an inconsistent background.

No Need For A Crown!

No Need for a Dragon with a Migraine Chapter 11
by PieEyedDragon

Mihoshi: My tummy feels like I've been eating too-spicy food. May I have some water?

(Wotan is checking the game board. The dragon piece had been under the Frost king. Now, the figures had blurred and kept shifting. They grow still again, with the dragon on top; wearing the crown of the Frost king.)

(Puck looks at the new configuration.) I thought any pawn that survived to reach the enemy's home rank became a Queen — not a King.

Wotan: The difference is not important to PED. Like his mother, he has no permanent gender polarity; remaining functionally neuter. Neither of them belong to a species. They are one-of-a-kinds. We must now wait and watch. If he can hold this position, then Fimbul-Winter may never arrive. We will be able to concentrate on the Fire giants, alone; without the sons of Ymir to fight, too.

Puck: I feel that my watching will be from a much closer vantage point, in the near future.

Mihoshi: Some water, please; or ice cream. Lots of ice cream!

— O — O — O —

Dragon: Hhhhoussscleaning! Lay hhhim out topssside,

ssstraight; assss beffitssss a king!

Utgard-Loki's body is removed.

The dragon shoves the throne off the raised dais, and coils-up there.

"Druid. Come hhhhere!"

Druid: As you command, Lord.

"Whhhat name hhhafff you?"

Druid: Svartrede Yngvisson. I was born here.

The dragon reaches out to touch the druid's ears, healing the minor injury.

"I sssee Trollsssss. I sssee Jotunsssss: giantsss and not giantsss. What otherssss are in thissss sssteading?"

Druid: There are servants of many races; visitors, and some few captives.

"Did your ffformer king hhhhave ffffamily?"

Druid: Three children he had: two sons and lastly a daughter. The sons were mighty and hunted human warriors for sport. The daughter played the part of bait, since she was still only of human size then. Misfortune befell the sons. Their sister led a warrior into ambush who proved too mighty for them, and they were slain. The daughter had to call upon her father for rescue, and he took it very ill that his sons were dead. He banished her.

"A... princesssssss you sssay? I hhhhave need sssometime sssuch. What name had ssshe?"

Druid: She was Atali, the Frost King's daughter. She has come into her growth in the past several centuries.

"Hhhow would ssshe take the deathhhh offff hhhher fathhher, thhhen?"

Druid: I cannot say. Shall we send for her?

Dragon: Sssend out hhhheraldsss. Inffform othhher realmsss of a Kingsss Deathhh! We ssshall now exssamine thhhe dungeonsss.

Druid: At once, Lord!

The tour is thorough. At the main kitchens, a ragged "street-person-looking" fairy man drops a dirty mixing-bowl, and starts following the dragon. More like him — male and female — join the parade here and there. Some twitch, some giggle, some moan and yammer. Their little red caps are filthy. They stumble along, and never take their staring eyes off the dragon.

— O — O — O —

Dragon: What is this, a Chinese New Year's parade?

Druid: The Brownies? I'm afraid they are all quite crackers. Some can barely function. Most of them are still good for minor, menial tasks.

Dragon: They remind me of some others I've seen: far, far away from here.

— O — O — O —

At one point, we pass near the stables. Horses, both four- and eight-legged ones, get very jumpy. Two more little red-capped men, drop their feed baskets and manure forks, and join the others.

We are outside the main icy keep, now; facing an immense glacier that covers the side of the mountain.

Dragon: There is more here than meets the ice. What is special, here?

Druid: Only, an artifact: Covered by the glacier.

Dragon: What, Ut-Napishtim's Ark? I've seen that, on another mountain.

Druid: That's not a far-off guess. There (points) lies the mobile fortress: Naglfar!

(The Brownies whisper, in a bedlam chorus: "Naglfar!")

Letters of Comment

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

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
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22 October 2003

Any of you watch *JAG*? Interesting discussion over the christening of a *JAG* layer's second son — as James Kirk... And yes, the obvious connection is intentional (he told his wife Kirk was a perfect middle name... an old name — I believe he said it meant courageous... to try to sneak it by.)

Yes — thank you for the con reports!

Thanks, yet again, for the Hugo stats. Interesting to note the order of info — at the con the first given is Fan Artist... yet in the stat listing it is always [later]... just an observation.

[I had this letter from you, Sheryl, in plenty of time for the last issue — but decided to hold it since it was the only one. My coverage of Hugo stats and the like generally follows whatever convention the, er, convention uses in their own material. In the “old” days that meant printed handouts; currently it normally means web-based files. I *could* do something like putting the listings in the same order as the articles of the WSFS Constitution, but certainly the track of least effort (always important in putting together a one-person publication!) is to follow the immediate source material. -ED]

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

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6 December 2003

This time around I've got two issues of the *Shuttle* to comment on, the October and November issues, Volume 23, issues 10 and 11. Time to get moving on a Saturday morning!

October — I've seen some more information on the BBC's planned regeneration of *Doctor Who*. The announcements I've seen say something about five years, 12 to 13 episodes a year, no one cast as the Doctor just yet. (Has anyone seen the animated episodes you can watch on the BBC's Cult website? I hope this might revive Doctor Who fandom, who has been more patient than even Star Trek fandom, but the local fans I do know, who belong to DWIN, the Doctor Who Information Network, wisely say that they will believe it when they see it. There's been lots of brave Beeb words and deflated hopes in the past.

Thank you for printing up all the Hugo stats — I hope I might improve my figures in Boston. I'd love to be on that ballot just once — this is *my* grown-up Christmas list.

Hello to the Pie-Eyed Dragon! “I'm getting better...” Quiet, you're dead!... If only we could divide up our own essences into multiple bodies, well, we might even get to see an entire Worldcon!

Hi, Mike — perhaps I can be the reporter you need for the Boston and LA Worldcons, but right now, both Worldcons are in doubt for us. I'm not working right now, and we may have to start living on savings shortly. There might be a good job for me in the near future, says a couple of agencies — that's also

on my grown-up Christmas list, by the way...

My thanks to Sheryl Birkhead, but I wish I'd had something to do with Torcon's actual staging. I didn't, for unfortunate political reasons. I found the Torcon 3 fanzine lounge plain and not that friendly, so I am sure that the N4 fanzine lounge will make up for it.

November — it will be Yvonne's birthday shortly. December 19 was also Harry Warner's birthday, and his loss is still keenly felt. It was almost unwritten law that it wasn't a real fanzine without a Harry Warner letter of comment. There's an Australian fanzine, *Busswarble*, that has taken to running Harry's older letters of comment in his memory.

Does anyone know where next year's World Fantasy Convention will be? I won't attend it, but I am curious. I still have good memories of the WFC we worked on in Montréal in 2001. A good-sized WFC is a bellwether of literacy, IMHO, and of the health of the SF&F industry.

More PED — I imagine the Dragon, after this particular episode, rushed off to his local video store, and bought the *Alien* Quadrilogy. After these movies, you always wonder — is that pain in my chest just heartburn, or...?

That's my sum total today — not sure how creative I can be when I'm still rubbing sleep out of my eyes. Yvonne and I wish you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, a Cool Yule, a great Kwaanza — whatever you celebrate, party hearty, and don't call me for the bail money. See you all in 2004!

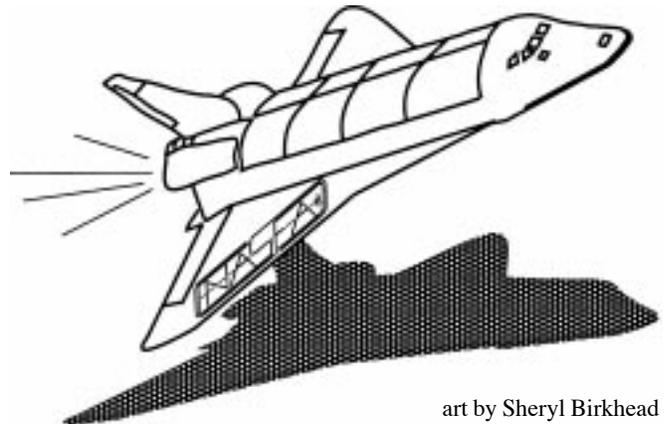
[Yes, I seem to recall other rumors of new Doctor Who material from time to time. I've casually watched a very few episodes of *Who* myself, but could certainly never have been called a fan of the Doctor. The 2004 WFC will be in Tempe AZ (28–31 October) while the 2005 edition will be in Madison WI (3–6 November). The official World Fantasy Convention site is <www.worldfantasy.org>. If it turns out you do go to either of the next two Worldcons, I certainly would appreciate your on-site observations for the *Shuttle*. Obviously there is a lot of time before either of us needs to worry *too* much about it. -ED]

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

Sheryl Birkhead
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12 November 2003

Uh... now I *know* (or at least strongly suspect) I've written about another ish since this one (Sept.) has been here. But, since I made no notes I'll try again.



art by Sheryl Birkhead

Ah *LotR* — re-released... I guess I need to turn in my fan card — I haven't seen the second one yet (along with a whole sheet of movies I haven't see yet).

The local library has some of the Tom Clancy books-on-tape and I have really enjoyed them. *But* not knowing the chronological sequence I have not been listening "in order." Doesn't decrease my listening enjoyment.

I *really* don't like to fly — and (come to think of it, this is similar to my thoughts about cons!) the longer I go without the more I want to *continue* to be without it! White knuckle flyer

doesn't quite describe my feelings.

Thanks (even if I don't manage to respond sequentially or in a timely manner).

[Well, I haven't been exactly timely in printing your missives. My plan for the third *Lord of the Rings* movie is basically the same as for the first two — to go see it on Christmas Day. What I'll do *next* year on that day is up in the air, since I won't be able to count on another must-see-for-me genre movie. -ED]



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