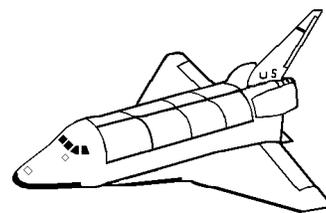


The



SHUTTLE
July 2006

*The Next NASFA Meeting will be 15 July
2006 at the Regular Time and Location*

*There will be a Con+Stellation ConCom Meeting 7:30P
Thursday 13 July at Sam Smith's Place*

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next **Con+Stellation concom meeting** will be **7:30P Thursday 13 July** (two days before the club meeting) at Sam Smith's apartment.

The next **NASFA meeting** will be **Saturday 15 July 2006** at the **regular time and location**.

There is a possible conflict between the proposed **July program** and the proposed **July after-the-meeting meeting**. The proposed **program** is a road trip to the Huntsville Stars vs. Mississippi Braves baseball game. The game starts at 7:05P at Joe Davis Stadium, so we'd be headed north on the Parkway as soon after the Business Meeting as possible. That night there is a Stars Logo Baseball Giveaway, but the balls go to only the first 2000 fans so it's unlikely we'd arrive in time to get one.

However, before the program was proposed Adam Grim had volunteered his new house for the **ATMM**. If we go there we'd be headed south on the Parkway to 2117 Buckingham Drive SW. Directions: south on the Parkway ~3-4 miles; right on English Drive; left on Picadilly Lane; right on Buckingham.

Jim Baen, RIP

by Mike Kennedy

Jim Baen, publisher at the eponymous Baen Books, died Wednesday 28 June 2006 of complication from a massive stroke suffered approximately two weeks earlier. He was 62 years old.

Baen was, of course, best known for founding and running Baen Books, along with a number of publishing innovations they introduced or popularized. Among other things, BB was the first — or at least *among* the first and almost certainly the most successful — publisher to press full speed into electronic book publishing that did *not* incorporate encryption or other rights-management accouterment. Baen believed, apparently correctly, that making electronic books available — even if not all copies actually returned money to the publisher and authors — grew the market for *paid* copies, whether electronic or physical.

I believe I first became aware of Jim Baen at a time when
(continued on page 2)

Letters of Comment...

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Deadline for the August 2006 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 4 August 2006.

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.

June Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The June meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, June 17, 2006 in the BookMark upstairs meeting room at 6:19:31P by President Mary Ortwerth and the mysteriously recovered crickets.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

The club discussed when and where to hold this year's NASFA picnic. Mike Cothran volunteered his house again. Once "where" was settled, the discussion of "when" came up. Lately, we've held the picnic on the NASFA meeting day, but there's no reason (except maybe convenience) that it can't be held on some other day. Doug decided the picnic will be on the August meeting day, on August 15. Doug admits that the August heat is part of his plan to get himself impeached.

Doug asked if there was a Stars baseball game after the meeting. No one knew.

Jim Kennedy arrived wearing a pink con shirt. Someone said he looks pretty in pink, and a meeting side-track developed, about some men who look good in pink.

Because Mary and Doug had recently gotten hitched, Jim wondered if the club has some sort of morality clause about officers being married to each other. The answer is no. The historical example of Ray and Nancy was cited.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

The Con Com meeting the day before the meeting was not well attended.

We still needed someone to run gaming. Adam volunteered, but he needed to know what he had to do first. The club had a discussion of the duties of the head of game programming.

Doug reported that Jim Baen had had a stroke, and he had been in a coma ever since. [Unfortunately, Jim Baen has since passed away.] Writers, including David Drake and Jerry Pournelle, had reported on the stroke, and asked that no one send flowers, which wouldn't be allowed in the ICU anyway. Jim Baen's medical problems fall under con business because they could interfere with some of the convention's planned guests and events. There was concern about whether his medical problems might interfere with Toni Weisskopf attending Con†Stellation, because most of his work running Baen Books would naturally fall to her.

Sue got in touch with Les Johnson. He said he will attend Con†Stellation if it does not fall on the same weekend as one of his daughter's Indian Princess camp events. He won't know for sure about the date until August. Of course, he would like to do programming if he does come to Con†Stellation. After a few minutes of ribbing, Sue regretted mentioning the Indian Princess thing.

Sue talked to Les about getting his membership paid as a Guest of Honor. He has an article coming out in Analog, along with a book, so Sue thought that might make him eligible for a writer's GoH slot, but she later found out he has to be a member of SFWA for that. He said he'd be willing to come

even if we don't pay his membership fees.

The club discussed Les' status as a possible Writer Guest of Honor. According to the rules, non-fiction doesn't help toward Writer GoH status. Neither does his time as technical advisor for the "Lost in Space" movie. We decided we can make Les the Fan Guest of Honor, a slot that wasn't filled for this year. He's a big enough fan to deserve it. There was some confusion over whether a Special GoH (which we already have) is the same thing as a Fan GoH. The one disadvantage of having Les as Fan GoH is that we can never do it again, although there isn't actually a rule about that. Les has been Science GoH at other cons, but as far as we know, he has never been a Fan Guest.

Eric Flint called Mike Cothran a couple of weeks before the meeting, about an idea he and Jim Baen had. Eric would like Mike to reserve him a suite with all of the hard furnishings removed, and replaced with several upholstered chairs. The suit will be for Universe, his electronic magazine, and he would like it to be open 24 hours a day — something he can't do with programming space.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45:52P.

For the program, we viewed photos from Doug and Mary's honeymoon trip to Alaska.

The After-the-Meeting Meeting was held at Mike Kennedy's house.

Awards Roundup

CAMPBELL AND STURGEON AWARDS

The Campbell and Sturgeon Memorial Awards were presented Friday 7 July 2006 at a banquet during the annual Campbell Conference at the University of Kansas in Lawrence KS.

The Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award for best short science fiction story of 2005 was awarded to **Paolo Bacigalupi** for "The Calorie Man." The runners up were Ian McDonald's "The Little Goddess" and Kelly Link's "Magic for Beginners."

The John W. Campbell Memorial Award for the best science-fiction novel of 2005 was won by **Robert J. Sawyer** for *Mindscan*. Runners up were Ian R. Macleod's *The Summer Isles* and Robert Charles Wilson's *Spin*.

HEINLEIN AWARD

The recipients of the 2006 Robert A. Heinlein Award (for outstanding published work in hard science fiction or technical writings inspiring the human exploration of space) have been selected. The Heinlein Society announced 6 July 2006 that the award will go to Greg Bear and Jack Williamson. The Award will be presented at the Society's annual dinner, to be held during the World Science Fiction Convention in Los Angeles CA in late August.

STOKER AWARDS

Winners of this year's Bram Stoker Awards, given by the Horror Writers Association <www.horror.org>, were announced Saturday 17 June 2006 at the HWA Annual Conference and Banquet in Newark NJ. The winners are:

Novel (tie) *Creepers*, David Morrell (CDS) and
Dread in the Beast, Charlee Jacob (Necro Publications)
First Novel *Scarecrow Gods*, Weston Ochse
(Delirium Books)
Long Fiction "Best New Horror," Joe Hill
(*Postscripts* #3)
Short Fiction "We Now Pause for Station

- Identification,”** Gary Braunbeck (Endeavour Press)
Fiction Collection *Twentieth Century Ghosts*,
 Joe Hill (PS Publishing)
Anthology *Dark Delicacies*, Del Howison and
 Jeff Gelb, eds. (Carroll & Graf)
Nonfiction *Horror: Another 100 Best Books*,
 Stephen Jones and Kim Newman (Carroll & Graf)
Poetry (tie) *Freakcidents*, Michael A. Arnzen (Shock-
 lines Press) and *Sineater*, Charlee Jacob (Cyberpulp)
Lifetime Achievement **Peter Straub**
Specialty Press Award **Necessary Evil Press**
President’s Award **Lisa Morton**

LOCUS AWARDS

Winners of this year’s Locus Awards were announced Saturday 17 June 2006 at ceremony at the Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame in Seattle. Winners were selected by Locus readers who voted in the annual Locus Poll. The winners are:

- Science Fiction Novel** *Accelerando*, Charles Stross
 (Ace; Orbit)
Fantasy Novel *Anansi Boys*, Neil Gaiman
 (Morrow; Review)
First Novel *Hammered/Scardown/Worldwired*,
 Elizabeth Bear (Bantam Spectra)
Young Adult Book *Pay the Piper*, Jane Yolen
 and Adam Stemple (Starscape)
Novella **“Magic for Beginners,”** Kelly Link
 (*Magic for Beginners*, F&SF September 2005)
Novelette **“I, Robot,”** Cory Doctorow
 (*The Infinite Matrix*, 15 February 2005)
Short Story **“Sunbird,”** Neil Gaiman
 (*Noisy Outlaws, Unfriendly Blobs, and Some Other Things*)
Magazine *The Magazine of Fantasy*
and Science Fiction
Publisher **Tor**
Anthology *The Year’s Fantasy and Horror:*
Eighteenth Annual Collection, Ellen Datlow,
 Kelly Link, and Gavin Grant, eds. (St. Martin’s)
Collection *Magic for Beginners*, Kelly Link
 (Small Beer Press)
Editor **Ellen Datlow**
Artist **Michael Whelan**
Nonfiction *Storyteller: Writing Lessons and*
More from 27 Years of the Clarion Writers’
Workshop, Kate Wilhelm (Small Beer Press)
Art Book *Spectrum 12: The Best in*
Contemporary Fantastic Art, Cathy and
 Arnie Fenner, eds. (Underwood)

SUNBURST AWARD NOMS

The shortlist for the 2006 Sunburst Award (a juried award for speculative fiction novel or book-length collection by a Canadian writer) has been announced. The nominees are:

- *Someone Comes to Town, Someone Leaves Town*, Cory Doctorow (Tor)
- *Gravity Wells: Speculative Fiction Stories*, James Alan Gardner (HarperCollins Canada)
- *The Wave Theory of Angels*, Alison MacLeod (Penguin Canada)
- *In the Palace of Repose*, Holly Phillips (Prime Books)
- *Spin*, Robert Charles Wilson (Tor)
- *Skybreaker*, Kenneth Oppel (Eos) — Honourable Mention
- *Lady of Mazes*, Karl Schroeder (Tor) — Honourable Mention

SIDEWISE AWARDS NOMS

The shortlist for the 2005 Sidewise Awards for Alternate History has been announced. The winners will be announced at a ceremony during this year’s Worldcon in Los Angeles.

Short-Form Alternate History

- **“Harvest Moon,”** William Barton (*Asimov’s*, September 2005)
- **“The Illuminated Heretic,”** A. M. Dellamonica (*Alternate Generals III*)
- **“Panacea,”** Jason Stoddard (*SciFiction*, 14 September 2005)
- **“Pericles the Tyrant,”** Lois Tilton (*Asimov’s* October/November 2005)
- **“The 2005 Hugo Award Ceremony Script,”** Kim Newman and Paul McAuley (Kim Newman Web Site, September 2005)

Long-Form Alternate History

- *A Princess of Roumania*, Paul Park (Tor)
- *Romanitas*, Sophia McDougall (Orion UK)
- *The Summer Isles*, Ian R. MacLeod (Aio)

Primetime Emmy Noms

Nominations for the 2005–6 Emmy Awards have been announced. Genre and genre-related TV shows received a fairly high number of nominations, even a few in some of the headline categories. The 58th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards show will take place Sunday 27 August 2006 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles CA and will be broadcast live on NBC at 7P central time.

The top genre-related (albeit somewhat tenuously) show was **24** which received an even dozen nominations in categories as diverse as Single-Camera Cinematography, Drama Directing, Single-Camera Editing (twice, for different episodes), Sound Editing, Sound Mixing, Stunt Coordination, and Dramatic Underscore. They also were honored in several top categories including both Lead and Supporting Actor (Drama), Supporting Actress (Drama), and Drama Series.

Other genre and genre-related series receiving nods include:

- *Alias* (2 noms for Hairstyling and Stunt Coordination)
- *Battlestar Galactica* (3 noms for Costumes, Sound Mixing, and Special Visual Effects)
- *Classical Baby 2* (1 nom for Children’s Program)
- *Escape From Cluster Prime* (1 nom for Animated Program, Long Form)
- *FedEx commercial Stick* (for Outstanding Commercial, naturally)
- *Ghost Whisperer* (1 nom for Main Title Design)
- *How William Shatner Changed The World* (2 noms for Nonfiction Special and Writing for Nonfiction Programming)
- *Lost* (9 noms for Casting (Drama), Single-Camera Cinematography, Directing (Drama), Single-Camera Editing (twice, for different episodes), Guest Actor (Drama), Sound Mixing, Writing (Drama), and Special Visual Effects)
- *Mammoth* (1 nom for Special Visual Effects for a Miniseries, Movie, or Special)
- *Masters Of Horror* (2 noms for Dramatic Underscore and Main Title Theme Music)
- *The Nightingale* (1 nom for Special Visual Effects for a Miniseries, Movie, or Special)
- *Once Upon A Mattress* (2 noms for Costumes for a Mini-

- series, Movie, or Special and Music and Lyrics)
 - *Smallville* (1 nom for Sound Editing)
 - *Stargate: Atlantis* (1 nom for Dramatic Underscore)
 - *Stephen King's Desperation* (2 noms for Art Direction for a Miniseries or Movie and Sound Editing for a Miniseries, Movie, or Special)
 - *Supernatural* (for Dramatic Underscore and Sound Editing)
 - *Surface* (1 nom for Special Visual Effects)
 - *The Triangle* (2 noms for Special Visual Effects for a Miniseries, Movie, or Special and Main Title Design)
- A few more "out there" (not *really* genre-related but sort of...) nominations are worthy of note.

Two different *Star Trek* captains received nominations for non-genre work. William Shatner received a Supporting Actor (Drama) nod for his work as Denny Crane in *Boston Legal*. Patrick Stewart was singled out for playing, well, himself on HBO's *Extras*.

The Discovery Channel science program *Before The Dinosaurs* received nominations for Outstanding Animated Program (Long Form) and Special Visual Effects for a Miniseries, Movie, or Special.

Also in the science arena — at least vaguely — are the Special Visual Effects nods for the Discovery Channel science-drama series *Perfect Disaster* and the CBS really-bad-science movie *Category 7: The End Of The World* which received a nom in the Sound Editing for a Miniseries, Movie, or Special category.

Proper Timing is No Joke!

No Need for a Ring — Chapter 6
by PieEyedDragon

Gandalf: Haven't you learned all you need to know yet? Why the delay?

Thunderbird: Timing is critical. I must delay landing upon the farther shore until the shortest day of the year. Death of the

old way, and a new beginning; don't you know. I'm also practicing the use of my new, ah, appendages.

Gandalf: You talk like a wizard.

Thunderbird: Didn't you know? Eärendil found me at my school... *magic* school! I'm an official Journeyman Wizard — Special Class.

Gandalf: How many were in your class?

Thunderbird: Only... one. The other classes were filled by immortals and a few other exotic creatures. By the way, the dust here is made of powdered gemstones and gold dust. If it weren't magically charged, and I was a natural beast, I'd be coughing my lungs out in bloody globs. It gets in *everywhere*!

Gandalf: Can you manifest a Bag of Holding?

Thunderbird: Yes. Having multiple stomachs, I am especially suited for such. Why?

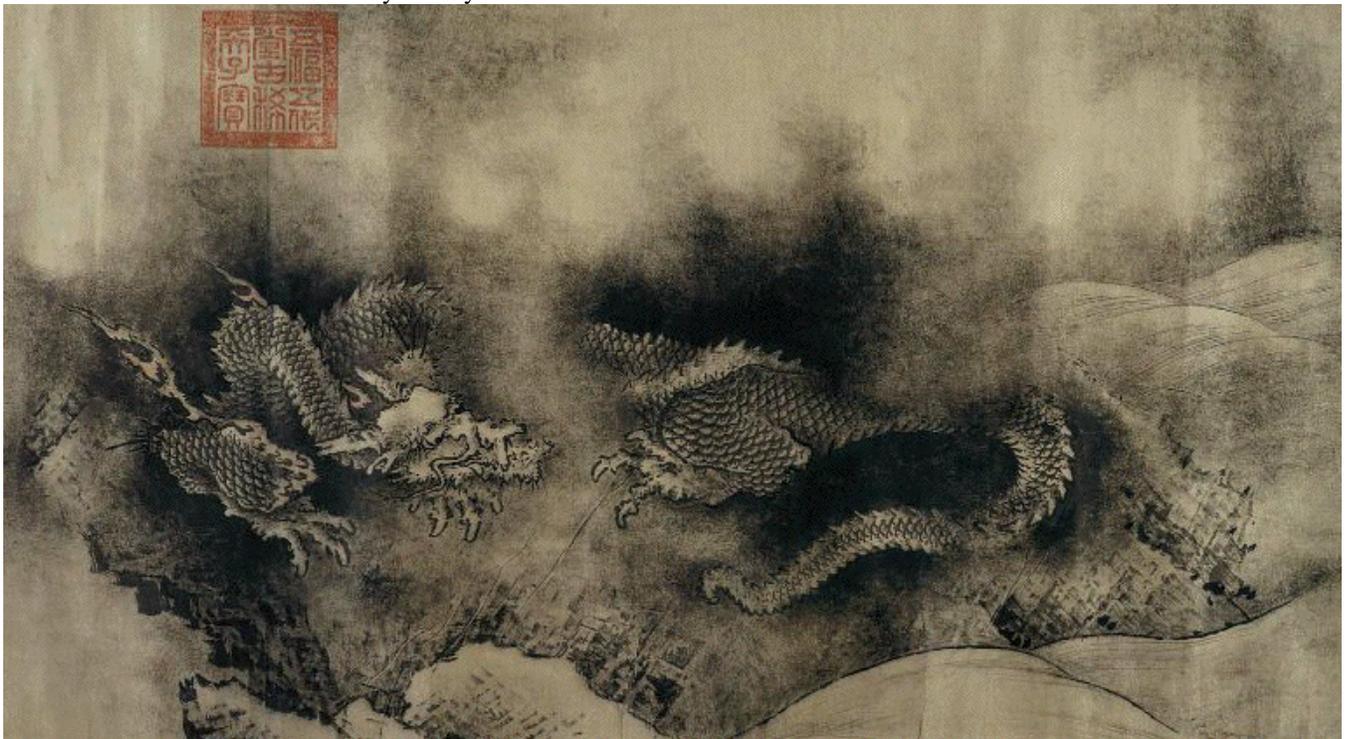
Gandalf: (Pulling a small box out of a pocket) Bilbo had something that his nephew Frodo brought over. I'd like to send it back to Sam Gamgee's heirs.

— O — O — O —

The day finally arrives. I position myself at just the right place on the shore and activate the Track. It lies on the water's surface here, but will soon enough lift upwards. The sun peeps over the horizon before me. I spread my natural wings and shove off with all four legs. Beating the air fiercely, I rise.

Great eagles pace me on either side; and one immense avian takes the lead. Thorondor. With his one hundred eighty foot wingspan, he is proportioned more like a condor; but the head and feet are all Eagle. He is an Archetype. I had to see for myself if he could actually get off the ground without a catapult. It defies aerodynamics. I wonder what loophole in the cube square Law allows him to fly. It must be due to his long service to his patron, Manwë: Lord of Winds. That, and a liberal dose of Magic. I feel like I'm in a circus parade. Just to break the solemnity, I nervously start honking like a goose.

The eagles pay no mind. They will fly the entire distance; back to the Havens in the Gulf of Lune before continuing further. At some point, I will dive and continue the invasion under water.



There is still *one* more of the Valar whom I have to meet before landfall. He is Ulmo: the Lord of Waters, and the Friend of Man.

— O — O — O —

I finally spy a smudge on the horizon ahead... land. I curve leftward off the Track and begin a slow descent northwards. I finally extend my feet and make a four-point landing on the water and then submerge. I swim, familiarizing myself with this ocean. Now and then I catch and eat a moderate-sized fish.

There is a subliminal pulsation. A sound: stretched-out like the voices of whales, but with a feeling of antiquity and power.

Manwë spoke of this: Their many voices blended in this last song of Creation, which could still be heard — in water.

I swim slowly northeast for a few days, before I become aware of a Presence.

— O — O — O —

Ulmo: What are you, that you couldn't decide between being a turtle and a dragon?

Thunderbird: My mother is a turtle. She made me from herself, but caused me to bear a very different image: this to confound her enemies. In a sea, she chose an island born of fire. Going inland, she made a nest in a great fissure of old lava and laid a single egg. The local elves, and others, kept her under observation. Twelve years later, I finally hatched. Elves brought naming-gifts. Their seers predicted that I was a Very Good Thing! The Frost Giants, too, had seers. Theirs got a very different reading of my advent. At best, they have always been rather "cool" toward me!

Ulmo: The dust of Valinor is upon you, and the light of the Two Trees gleams in your eyes. You have been close to the Mariner; for the other two jewels are under the earth, and deep in the sea.

Thunderbird: For the present, I am Thunderbird: a protector-in-training of Man. Eärendil, by the Will of Ilúvatar, sailed west of the sun, and west of the moon. He crossed the starless void to find me and fetch me here. I am sent forth covertly; as the Sickle of the Valar, with particular tasks. To aid Men and Dwarves and all the Free Peoples, I must lay low the dragons and recover the lost palantiri. Your brothers and sisters have given me good counsel in this.

Ulmo: It is as I said when Gil-galad's uncle, Turgon, set out to take up residence in his new city, Ondolindë; that most know as Gondolin. I told Turgon: "Remember that the true hope of the Noldor lieth in the West and cometh from the Sea."

Thunderbird: And I am now come, by Sea, from beyond the Uttermost West. Can you help, too?

Ulmo: Certainly. Follow me, and I will show you the stones that foundered when King Arvedui's ship was crushed by the ice. I cannot yet help about the Stone of Osgiliath, though it fell into the river Anduin. Water is my province, but ages ago the servants of Melkor induced a cunning poison into the headwaters of all the rivers. Before then, there was scant place in all the land where my Eyes could not see, my Voice could not be heard, and my aid reach. I see you have powers of all four elements. If you can purify the water sources, then my help can come.

Thunderbird: This sounds like another sub-quest. I'll do what I can. It sounds like that old sorcerer who said: "Every great epic must be *at least* a trilogy!" knew what he was talking about!

Ulmo: The waters under the earth are not affected. I will grant you command over these. While you are in the sea you can request fogs and waves. It may take some little time, but I

will send them.

Thunderbird: Thank you! That will be helpful when I go ashore on D-day: "D" for Dragon!

Ulmo: Do you need any traveling money?

Thunderbird: What would I do with money? This is war and I must travel light.

Ulmo: Things may change. Wars have been fueled by gold, and treasures have not been the least of the causes of war. We are swimming over what used to be the River Ascar. When the dwarves fled back toward their city of Nogrod with the plunder of Thingol's halls of Menegroth they were attacked here by Beren and the Green-elves of Ossiriand, and had to dump it all. They put a curse on it, but time and my ocean have washed that all away.

Thunderbird: Gold, though it won't take an edge, can be a fearsome weapon! Please show me, then. I'll know where to look, should the need arise. Thanks to Bilbo Baggins, I already know where to find some such goodies near Erebor, but that is yet far away.

[Some of the above beings and situations have been suggested by the works of J. R. R. Tolkien. (But you already knew that, didn't you?)]

Letters of Comment

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

Ensign Puck

16 June 2006

c/o <pieeyeddragon@yahoo.com>

PED laughed about the gecko question. (S)He says there was a strong resemblance right after the second hatching. The first time, the wings and pot belly were most un-gecko like.

Sorry to hear about Mister Bone (Jim Baen). Was it stroke, or elf-stroke?

PED has left now to investigate the earthquake and volcanic eruption at Java. This is too close; too soon, to the last Indonesian/Malaysian disaster. Volcanoes are spewing also in the Philippines and southern Japan. The internet prognosticators are saying of such calamities: "five toes kick butt," and we've gotten four already. The next suspect area is California.

Two more chapters are finished. PED has set foot on Middle-earth and *named* herself to... well... the welcoming committee. PED has only given broad outlines of the rest of the adventure.

Gamera has, again, burrowed-down to the moderately active crater of Vatna to "top off her tanks." If the world stays quiet enough; she and PED are going to try and jump-start one of the secondary auxiliary power/attitude control ramscoop thrusters on *Naglfar*. This will trickle some power into the main systems. Maybe this ship will fly, again. Not for a loooong time.

Keep laughing. It's the best medicine.

Ensign (Psych) Hrobben Gud Fiello (aka *Puck*)

Commanding the (grounded) Tri-Confederation Cruiser *Naglfar*

[I'm sure that y'all have heard by now that Jim Baen unfortunately did not recover from his stroke. An obituary — which I felt as unqualified to write as usual — appears elsewhere in this issue. On a much happier note, Part 6 of PED's Middle-Earth saga also appears herein. The schedule for our running

future installments in uncertain, in part because of other fannish commitments. -ED]

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

Lloyd Penney
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23 June 2006

Hey, even an old dog like me can learn a trick or two, such as locating fanzines before deadline. Here's a timely loc on the June *Shuttle*.

TAFF winner Bridget Bradshaw is coming to Toronto as part of her North American travels. A party might be set up in her honour, and there will be a regular pubnight I hope she'll come to.

There's the Aurora nominations, English and French, and many thanks for that. I hadn't been expecting to go to TT20 this year because of a few things that happened last year, but we will be going this year after all... TT will be honouring Yvonne as the convention's founder. This takes place in just a couple of weeks, so I'll let you know what happens. Robert Sawyer and Robert Charles Wilson seem to have a lock on Aurora nominations, and I see them listed for the Campbell, too.

Many years ago, I sat down with local fan Donald Simmons at a restaurant in the downtown area, and he told me he wanted to stage an anime convention. We spent about three hours hashing out all the things he'd need, and much of

what we wrote down was important... for a science fiction convention. Donald told me he'd been a to a few anime convention in the US, and they consisted mainly of screening rooms and masquerades. He wanted to add in some of the features of an SF convention, such as a hospitality suite, fan panels, fan tables, art auction, etc., that he didn't see at the anime cons. When he did, local anime fandom literally exploded. Fans came from the US and elsewhere to enjoy these new (to them) features of an anime con, and Donald tells me that most anime cons have these features now, too. I don't know much of what he says is accurate, about anime cons being the way they were, but with the introduction of those familiar features, Donald may have changed anime cons for the better. Some cons are considering replacing the traditional artshow with an Artist's Alley, or the masquerade with a cosplay feature, so there is some back-and-forth between SF and anime cons.

Short but sweet, and on time, too! Don't get used to it, I sure won't... Take care, and see you next *Shuttle*.

[You should pass on our congratulations to Yvonne for the hono(u)r and include at least a short convention report in your next missive — or even a full standalone report if the spirit moves you. I was interested in your notes about cross-pollination between anime and sf cons. We have a little crossover between the local furry con and anime fandom (but not the local anime con itself) and Con†Stellation, but I'm convinced that more would be better for all the groups. There is, however, only so much mindshare to go around — and that raises or reinforces barriers that I wish weren't there. -ED]



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