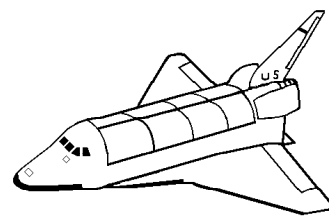


The



SHUTTLE
April 2007

*The Next NASFA Meeting will be 21 April 2007
at the Regular Time and New Regular Location*

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next NASFA meeting will be **Saturday 21 April 2007** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **NEW regular location**. BookMark has moved and the NASFA meeting has moved along with it. BookMark's new location is in the Huntington Shopping Center (2 miles south of their former location) on the southwest corner of Memorial Parkway and Meadowbrook Drive — 11220-J South Memorial Parkway SW, Huntsville AL 35803.

The April program will be a review of the Hugo and Campbell Award nominations. We'll have sample (non-official) ballots for mock voting to be counted live at the program. The location of the April After-The-Meeting Meeting is TBD at press time.

March Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary who is still upstairs in his mind

The March meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, March 17, 2007 in the BookMark meeting room at 6:19:50P by President Mary Ortwerth. The gavel was missing, so she used the Swiss Army

gavel. Despite the Secretary's last minutes, there is no longer an "upstairs meeting room."

OLD BUSINESS

None yet.

NEW BUSINESS

Frolicon in Atlanta has requested the use of our art show equipment over Easter weekend. We need tall volunteers to get the art show stuff down. This would probably happen on the Wednesday or Thursday before the 8th. If not then, when is a better time? There were some potential volunteers.

OLD BUSINESS, AGAIN

We always disapprove of the minutes. Jim moved to disapprove of the minutes retroactively, all the way back to the second NASFA meeting. We won't actually do anything about it, just disapprove of them. Doug seconded. Doug amended the motion to disapprove of those minutes that are not written yet. At this point, things got too complicated and silly for the secretary to bother to write down. Manda moved to move the meeting forward.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

Mike Cothran said there have been no changes. Talk to Marie.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The usual spammish emails were read. There were four this time.

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Deadline for the May 2007 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 4 May 2007.

(continued from page 1)

One email was from Neil, announcing the feature film "Double Down" <www.Double-Down.biz>. "It's a haunting thriller about a computer genius who takes over Las Vegas and reunites with the dead."

We got another email from Dracul466, two blocks down from the Beast, promoting Babel Con 2007 in the Baton Rouge area. Babel Con will be held for one day, August 4. Its web site is at <www.babelcon.org>.

Michael Kingsley forwarded an email from Baen Books. They're looking for a new editorial/production assistant to work in Wake Forest, North Carolina. For details, go to <www.ocjobsdb.com/jobs/jobdetail.cfm?jid=13418>.

Shelby Vick announced the publication of a new issue of *Planetary Stories*, a pulp-style fiction webzine at <www.PlanetaryStories.com>.

Doug moved to adjourn. Mary held off for any other announcements.

Jeff and Manda sold their house!

Jack announced that the Science Fiction Book Club at the Bailey Cove branch of the Huntsville Public Library will be discussing *Stranger in a Strange Land* (the uncut version) on the first Thursday in April, starting at 6P. The SF Book Club would also like recommendations of books written in the last twenty years to pick from. The list of recommended books that Jack already has ended in 1988.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37:07P.

Immediately after the meeting, there was a rush to grab free books. Any books left over were boxed and moved back to Mike and Marie's. The program was a showing of the *Call of Cthulhu* silent film, at Mike and Marie's house. Conveniently, the After-the-Meeting Meeting was also held at Mike and Marie's house.

NASFA Calendar

APRIL

- 01 April Fool's Day.
- 01 Palm Sunday.
- 02 Passover Begins.
- 05-08 Frolicon — Atlanta GA.
- 07 BD: Mary Orterth.
- 08 Easter Sunday.
- 13-15 Middle Tennessee Anime Convention — Nashville TN.
- 15 BD: "Uncle Timmy" Bolgeo.
- 15 BD: Amanda Freeman.
- 17 Income Tax Day.
- 20-22 RavenCon 2007 — Richmond VA.
- 20-22 ShowMeCon 5 — St. Louis MO.
- 21-22 Atlanta Comics Expo — Atlanta GA.
- 21* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: Hugo/Campbell Nominees. ATMM: TBD.
- 21 BD: Randy B. Cleary.
- 22 Earth Day.
- 25 Administrative Professionals' Day.
- 26 BD: Chloe Airoidi.
- 27 Arbor Day.
- 30 BD: Mark Maxwell.

MAY

- 01 BD: Russell McNutt.

- 03 BD: Martha Knowles.
- 13 Mothers' Day.
- 14 BD: Debbie Hughes.
- 16 BD: Linda Bolgeo.
- 18-20 Mobicon X — Mobile AL.
- 19* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
- 19 BD: David O. Miller.
- 19 Armed Forces Day.
- 20 BD: Mike Glicksohn.
- 25-27 Rocket City FurMeet 5 — Huntsville AL.
- 25-27 OMG!!Con — Paducah KY.
- 25-27 OASIS 20 — Orlando FL.
- 27 BD: Kathy Paulk.
- 28 Memorial Day.

JUNE

- 01 BD: Glenn Valentine.
- 01-03 ConCarolinas 2007 — Charlotte NC.
- 02 BD: Lloyd Penney.
- 08-10 Sci-Fi Summer Con — Atlanta GA.
- 14 Flag Day.
- 15-17 PersaCon 2007 — Huntsville AL.
- 15-17 Hypericon 3 — Nashville TN.
- 16* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
- 17 BD: Jeff Freeman.
- 17 Fathers' Day.
- 22-24 ApolloCon 2007 — Houston TX.
- 24 Atlanta Comic Convention — Atlanta GA.

JULY

- 01 Canada Day.
- 02 BD: Deb Stone.
- 04 Independence Day.
- 14 TimeGate 5 — Tucker (Atlanta) GA.
- 21* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
- 22 Parents' Day.
- 24 BD: Jay Johns.
- 27-29 LibertyCon 20 — Chattanooga TN.
- 28 Alabama Comic Weekend — Huntsville AL.
- 29 Alabama Comic Weekend — Birmingham AL.
- 29 BD: Mark Paulk.

Oo

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 **NEW** regular meeting location is the meeting room at *BookMark's* new location 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.

Hugo and Campbell Noms

The 2007 Hugo and Campbell Award nominations have been released. The Hugo Awards (generally acknowledged as the premier popular awards in the sf/fantasy field) are given by

each year's Worldcon. Members of the current and previous Worldcons may nominate for the Hugos; the final vote is by members of the current year's Worldcon only (Nippon 2007, the 65th World Science Fiction Convention).

The John W. Campbell Award is sponsored by Dell Magazines (publisher of *Analog* and *Asimov's*) but the nominating and final voting is administered by the Worldcon in the same manner as the Hugo Awards. As part of a 2006 transition in rules, eligibility for the Campbell Award was extended for writers whose eligibility was reduced to one year. This will only affect the awards for 2007.

There was one change in the Hugo categories for 2007. The former Best Professional Editor category has been replaced with two categories: Best Editor, Short Form and Best Editor, Long Form.

In the "oops" category, the initially-released Hugo ballot and associated press releases had a mistake in the Dramatic Presentation, Long Form category. Due to a tabulation error, nominee *Pan's Labyrinth* was omitted and *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* was included when it should not have been. Online forms have been corrected and a postcard will be sent to Nippon 2007 members to notify them of the change. A corrected printed ballot will be mailed in the convention's upcoming Progress Report 5. In recent years most Hugo voting has taken place online so the error will probably cause only a little confusion. The committee has announced that it will make every effort to contact anyone who has already voted or who subsequently votes using the uncorrected ballot. These voters will be given an opportunity to revise their votes in the Best Dramatic Presentation Category. Other safeguards are also being implemented.

Further information on the Hugo and Campbell Awards can be found on Nippon 2007's English-language website <www.nippon2007.us> or by contacting the Hugo Administrator at <hugoadmin@nippon2007.us>. The English-language postal address for the convention is Nippon 2007, The 65th World Science Fiction Convention, P. O. Box 314, Annapolis Junction MD 20701-0314. (Note that this is *not* the mailing address for sending Hugo ballots; that address is printed on the ballot itself.)

The 2007 Hugo and Campbell nominations are listed below by category. There were a total of 409 voters in the nominating round. For each category the total number of people who voted in that category, the total number of votes made (each voter may nominate up to five items), and the range of votes needed to make the final ballot are listed. For example, 327 of the 409 people who voted made at least one nomination in the Novel category. These 327 people listed 1009 nominations, an average of just over 3 nominations per person. The lowest vote total that made the cut for the final ballot (top 5) was 35 persons, whereas the novel receiving the most nominations got the nod from 58 persons.

NOVEL

Voters: 327 Votes: 1009 Range: 35–58

Eifelheim, Michael Flynn (Tor)

His Majesty's Dragon, Naomi Novik (Del Rey: Voyager January 2006 as *Temeraire*)

Glasshouse, Charles Stross (Ace)

Rainbows End, Vernor Vinge (Tor)

Blindsight, Peter Watts (Tor)

NOVELLA

Voters: 167 Votes: 424 Range: 26–34

"*The Walls of the Universe*," Paul Melko (*Asimov's* April/

May 2006)

"*A Billion Eyes*," Robert Reed (*Asimov's* October/November 2006)

"*Inclination*," William Shunn (*Asimov's* April/May 2006)

"*Lord Weary's Empire*," Michael Swanwick (*Asimov's* December 2006)

Julian: A Christmas Story, Robert Charles Wilson (PS Publishing)

NOVELETTE

Voters: 191 Votes: 564 Range: 21–34

"*Yellow Card Man*," Paolo Bacigalupi (*Asimov's* December 2006)

"*Dawn, and Sunset, and the Colours of the Earth*," Michael F. Flynn (*Asimov's* October/November 2006)

"*The Djinn's Wife*," Ian McDonald (*Asimov's* July 2006)

"*All the Things You Are*," Mike Resnick (*Jim Baen's Universe* October 2006)

"*Pol Pot's Beautiful Daughter (Fantasy)*," Geoff Ryman (*Fantasy and Science Fiction* October 2006)

SHORT STORY

Voters: 214 Votes: 608 Range: 16–43

"*How to Talk to Girls at Parties*," Neil Gaiman (*Fragile Things*, William Morrow)

"*Kin*," Bruce McAllister (*Asimov's* February 2006)

"*Impossible Dreams*," Tim Pratt (*Asimov's* July 2006)

"*Eight Episodes*," Robert Reed (*Asimov's* June 2006)

"*The House Beyond Your Sky*," Benjamin Rosenbaum (*Strange Horizons* September 2006)

RELATED BOOK

Voters: 190 Votes: 403 Range: 21–93

About Writing: Seven Essays, Four Letters, and Five Interviews, Samuel R. Delany (Wesleyan University Press)

Heinlein's Children: The Juveniles, Joseph T. Major (Advent: Publishing)

James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon, Julie Phillips (St. Martin's)

Cover Story: The Art of John Picacio, John Picacio (MonkeyBrain Books)

Worldcon Guest of Honor Speeches, Mike Resnick and Joe Siclari, eds. (ISFiC Press)

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, LONG FORM

Voters: 243 Votes: 677 Range: 40–102

Children of Men; Screenplay, Alfonso Cuaron and Timothy J. Sexton; Director, Alfonso Cuaron (Universal Pictures)

Pan's Labyrinth; Screenplay and Director, Guillermo del Toro (Picturehouse)

The Prestige; Screenplay, Jonathan Nolan and Christopher Nolan; Director, Christopher Nolan (Touchstone Pictures)

A Scanner Darkly; Screenplay and Director, Richard Linklater (Warner Independent Pictures)

V for Vendetta; Screenplay, The Wachowski Brothers; Director, James McTeigue (Warner Bros.)

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, SHORT FORM

Voters: 179 Votes: 525 Range: 22–64

Battlestar Galactica "*Downloaded*," Writers, Bradley Thompson and David Weddle; Director, Jeff Woolnough (NBC Universal/British Sky)

Doctor Who "*Army of Ghosts*" and "*Doomsday*," Writer, Russell T. Davies; Director, Graeme Harper (BBC Wales/BBC1)

Doctor Who "*Girl in the Fireplace*," Writer, Steven Moffat; Director, Euros Lyn (BBC Wales/BBC1)

Doctor Who "*School Reunion*," Writer, Toby Whithouse; Director, James Hawes (BBC Wales/BBC1)

Stargate SG-1 "200;" Writers, Brad Wright, Robert C. Cooper, Joseph Mallozzi, Paul Mullie, Carl Binder, Martin Gero, and Alan McCullough; Director, Martin Wood (Double Secret Productions/NBC Universal)

EDITOR, LONG FORM

Voters: 191 Votes: 543 Range: 28–88

Lou Anders (Pyr)

James Patrick Baen (Baen Books)

Ginjer Buchanan (Ace Books/Roc)

David G. Hartwell (Tor Books)

Patrick Nielsen Hayden (Tor Books)

EDITOR, SHORT FORM

Voters: 211 Votes: 584 Range: 26–92

Gardner Dozois (*The Year's Best Science Fiction*)

David G. Hartwell (*Year's Best SF/New York Review of Science Fiction*)

Stanley Schmidt (*Analog*)

Gordon Van Gelder (*Fantasy and Science Fiction*)

Sheila Williams (*Asimov's*)

PRO ARTIST

Voters: 199 Votes: 695 Range: 28–71

Bob Eggleton

Donato Giancola

Stephan Martiniere

John Jude Palencar

John Picacio

FAN WRITER

Voters: 182 Votes: 493 Range: 21–39

Chris Garcia

John Hertz

Dave Langford

John Scalzi

Steven H Silver

SEMI PROZINE

Voters: 159 Votes: 361 Range: 22–76

Ansible, Dave Langford, ed.

Interzone, Andy Cox, ed.

Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet, Gavin Grant and Kelly Link, eds.

Locus, Charles N. Brown, Kirsten Gong-Wong, and Liza Groen Trombi, eds.

The New York Review of Science Fiction, Kathryn Cramer, David G. Hartwell, and Kevin J. Maroney, eds.

FANZINE

Voters: 155 Votes: 362 Range: 23–28

Banana Wings, Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer, eds.

Challenger, Guy H. Lillian III, ed.

The Drink Tank, Chris Garcia, ed.

Plokta, Alison Scott, Steve Davies, and Mike Scott, eds.

Science-Fiction Five-Yearly, Lee Hoffman, Geri Sullivan, and Randy Byers, eds.

FAN ARTIST

Voters: 141 Votes: 305 Range: 23–59

Brad W. Foster

Teddy Harvia

Sue Mason

Steve Stiles

Frank Wu

CAMPBELL AWARD (not a Hugo)

Voters: 200 Votes: 551 Range: 24–81

Scott Lynch (1st year of eligibility)

Sarah Monette (2nd year of eligibility)

Naomi Novik (1st year of eligibility)

Brandon Sanderson (2nd year of eligibility)

Lawrence M. Schoen (2nd year of eligibility)

Awards Roundup

TIPTREE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The James Tiptree, Jr. Award <www.tiptree.org> is given annually for gender-exploring science fiction. This year's

winner(s) are **Shelley Jackson** for *Half Life* and **Catherynne M. Valente** for *The Orphan's Tales: In the Night Garden*. Special recognition was also announced for **Julie Phillips** for her biography *James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon*. Awards will be presented 27 May 2007 at WisCon <www.wiscon.info> in Madison WI.

STOKER AWARDS PRESENTED

Winners of this year's Bram Stoker Awards <www.horror.org/stokers.htm>, given annually for superior achievement in horror fiction, were announced at a banquet Saturday 31 March 2007 at the World Horror Convention <www.whc2007.org> in Toronto ONT. Further information on this year's nominees can be found at <www.whc2007.org/stokers-nom01.htm>. The winners are:

Novel *Lisey's Story*, Stephen King

First Novel *Ghost Road Blues*, Jonathan Maberry

Long Fiction *Dark Harvest*, Norman Partridge

Short Fiction "Tested," Lisa Morton

Anthology (tie) *Retro Pulp Tales*, Joe R. Lansdale and *Mondo Zombie*, John Skipp

Collection *Destinations Unknown*, Gary A. Braunbeck

Nonfiction (tie) *Final Exits*, Michael Largo and *Gospel of the Living Dead*, Kim Paffenroth

Poetry *Shades Fantastic*, Bruce Boston.

Specialty Press Award **PS Publishing**

Lifetime Achievement Award **Thomas Harris**

PHILIP K. DICK AWARD

The winner of the 2006 Philip K. Dick Award <www.philipkdickaward.org> was announced Friday 6 April 2007 at Norwescon 29 in SeaTac (Seattle) WA. The award, given annually for a distinguished science fiction published in paperback original form in the United States, went to **War Surf** by M. M. Buckner (Ace Books). A special citation was given to **Natural History** by Justina Robson (Bantam Spectra).

The Dick Award is sponsored by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society <www.psf.org> (contact Gary Feldbaum, 215-563-2511). The award ceremony is sponsored by Norwescon <www.norwescon.org> (contact NorthWest SF Society, 360-438-0871).

SF HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Inductees for the Science Fiction Hall of Fame <www.sfhomeworld.org/exhibits/homeworld/scifi_hof.asp> have been announced. **Gene Wolfe**, **Ridley Scott**, **Ed Emshwiller**, and **Gene Roddenberry** will be inducted at a Saturday evening ceremony 16 June 2007 at Seattle's Science Fiction Museum <www.sfhomeworld.org>. The ceremony will also include the announcement and presentation of the 2007 Locus Awards.

The ceremony will be the final event of the "Science Fiction Awards Weekend." Information on the weekend and tickets for the various events can be found at <<https://secure.locusmag.com/About/2007LocusAwardsAd.html>>.

PROMETHEUS AWARDS NOMS

Finalists for the 2006 Prometheus Awards <www.lfs.org/awards.htm>, for Libertarian Science Fiction, have been announced. The awards are sponsored by the Libertarian Futurist Society <www.lfs.org>. Winners will be announced at the 2007 World Science Fiction Convention, to be held in Yokohama, Japan from 30 August–3 September 2007. In addition to the Best Novel and Hall of Fame awards, Special Award winners are sometimes selected. The nominees are:

Prometheus Award Best Novel Noms

Empire, Orson Scott Card (TOR Books)

The Ghost Brigades, John Scalzi (TOR Books)

Glasshouse, Charles Stross (Penguin Group)

Rainbows End, Vernor Vinge (TOR Books)

Harbingers, F. Paul Wilson (FORGE)

Prometheus Hall of Fame Noms

A Clockwork Orange, Anthony Burgess (novel, 1963)

"As Easy as A.B.C.," Rudyard Kipling (short story, 1912)

It Can't Happen Here, Sinclair Lewis (novel, 1936)

Animal Farm, George Orwell (novel, 1946) by

The Lord of the Rings, J. R. R. Tolkien (series, 1954)

"True Names," Vernor Vinge (novella, 1981)

BSFA Awards

The 2007 British Science Fiction Association Awards were announced and presented at the recent British National Science Fiction Convention (popularly known as Eastercon). This year's convention, known as Contemplation, was held Easter weekend (6–9 April 2007) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Chester, England, UK.

This year's Eastercon was a bit different than normal in that it was a last-minute replacement convention. The selected Eastercon, known as Convoy 2007, was canceled due to facilities issues. In November (at Novacon 36), a replacement committee was selected which carried out the convention, site selection for the 2009 Eastercon, and administration of the BSFA Awards voting. The results of that vote were published in an at-site newsletter that apparently omitted two of the early rounds in the preferential balloting of the short-fiction category. Full results — or as full as available to the *Shuttle* — are shown below in order of finish. A total of 78 ballots were cast.

BEST NOVEL

70 votes cast, 8 votes no initial preference

<i>End of the World Blues</i>	14	14	16	20	49
<i>Nova Swing</i>	15	15	16	19	
<i>Lost Witchfinder</i>	14	14	16	19	
<i>Darkland</i>	13	13	15		
<i>Icarus</i>	11	11			
No Award	3				

BEST SHORT FICTION

63 votes cast, 15 no initial preference

"The Djinn's Wife"	21	21	23	24	25	30
<i>The Highway Men</i>	15	15	15	15	15	20
"Signal to Noise"	10	10	12	12	15	
"The Point of Roses"	9	9	9	9		
"The House Beyond Your Sky"	4	4	4			
"Sounding"	?	?				
No Award	?					

BEST ARTWORK

63 votes cast, 15 no initial preference

<i>Angelbot</i>	17	18	18	27	
<i>Droid</i>	15	15	15	23	
<i>The Return to Abalakin</i>	9	10	10		
<i>Ring of the Gods</i>	9	10	10		
No Award	7	8			
<i>Made in Sheffield</i>	6				

Costume-Con 25 Review

Costume-Con 25 took place Friday 30 March – Monday 2 April 2007 at the Holiday Inn Southwest in St. Louis MO. The convention was sponsored by the St. Louis chapter of the

International Costumers' Guild (ICG) aka the St. Louis Ubiquitous Tailoring Society, aka the SLUTS.

I had been to one Costume-Con before (in Atlanta 3 years ago) and decided that St. Louis was close enough to make this my second. Besides, Mary Lampert (nee Ortwerth) was planning on going and, since she had moved to Huntsville from St. Louis, I'd have a "native guide." I debated whether to drive (it's a fairly short day's trip) but decided to fly because my schedule just wasn't going to mesh with the other Huntsvillians going and driving it alone wasn't appealing. Sure, the plane ticket cost quite a bit more than gas would have, but figuring in wear and tear on my car (and more importantly on me) a reasonably-priced Continental Airlines ticket won over a 7-hour solo drive.

THURSDAY

Sue Thorn had originally volunteered to take me to the airport but her work was sending her out of town for training so her sister Eva Walton stepped in. Eva picked me up in plenty of time to take my dog Sally to the vet for boarding and get to the airport quite a while before my flight. I took advantage of the free wireless at HSV¹ to download some software that would have taken excruciatingly long over dialup at home and to start this report. I had intended to have a semi-nice lunch before my flight but was somewhat thwarted. The concourse is undergoing some renovations and all the restaurants I had expected to find (if you can call places like Subway a restaurant) had disappeared. I considered going back into the terminal building and eating at the Sheraton's restaurant but I didn't really want to go through the security drill again (shoes, unloading all electronics, having my CPAP² machine checked for explosives, etc.) So, I settled for an unmemorable but edible turkey sandwich at the bar. (Of course there's a bar still open in the concourse.)

The first flight — to Houston Bush Intercontinental — was about as good as air travel gets these days. All four segments of the round trip were to be on commuter jets with a 1-and-2 seating configuration. I'd had the good luck to be able to book seat 1A on each flight. On these Embraers³ the front seat on the 1-seat side has lots of extra legroom and generally at least the outboard armrest swivels up thus giving more width at the hips — both significant comfort features for me. Perhaps the biggest drawback of that seat is that only the 2-seat side has overhead bins and those don't start until the second or third row (the galley is on that side at the front). Still, I managed to stow both by laptop and CPAP cases close to my seat.

The connection at IAH⁴ wasn't great but wasn't awful, either. On the plus side, I found a comfortable place to sit in line-of-site to my departure gate and with a power outlet so I could recharge my computer. On the minus side, IAH is much greedier than HSV when it comes to wireless internet access — and I wasn't about to pay Sprint \$9.99 for "daily" access that would last about an hour.

Well, maybe I'd have gotten 90 minutes use instead, as the incoming flight was late. We boarded 20–30 minutes later than scheduled and had another delay when the airport Ground Power Unit glitched and dropped power to the airplane. All in all we were maybe 40 minutes late pushing back, but only about 30 minutes late getting to St. Louis. I called Doug

¹ HSV: the code for Huntsville International Airport

² CPAP: Constant Positive Airway Pressure, a machine to treat sleep apnea

³ Embraer: Empresa Brasileira de Aeronáutica, a Brazilian manufacturer of commuter jets

⁴ IAH: the code for Houston Bush Intercontinental Airport

Lampert as soon as I could after landing and it turned out that he and Mary had gotten to the hotel only a short time before. It wasn't clear if they were going to want to get dinner before I got to the hotel (ETA 8P) but in the end the three of us plus Kerry Gilley (who was sharing a room with me and had already checked in) went across the street from the hotel to a Lion's Choice — a local Roast Beef Sandwich chain that Mary claims puts Arby's to shame. It was good, if not quite able to live up to Mary's lavish praise. In one highly-positive note, the self-serve soft drink fountain included Diet Dr. Pepper. It wasn't quite perfect (not being the caffeine-free variation) but it's *very* rare to find this at a restaurant and I was happy to find it.



Kerry Gilley, CC25 official photographer

After dinner, we all trooped back to the hotel where Mary, Doug, and I did our first convention-related thing. The convention had early registration open in the Con Suite so we all picked up our badges, even Doug who was transferring a membership from Robin Ray (who had been unable to come at the last minute). Strangely, the Con Suite too had Diet Dr. Pepper, albeit in cans. I was to be well supplied with this libation during the weekend.

Kerry had already done several con things, having even attended a (gasp) staff meeting to set the details of his photography work for them. For most of us, though, our second *fannish* thing (though not *Costume-Con* fannish) was to find a place to play spades⁵. I did miserably early but could have been in a position to at least contend for the win after we formed an ad-hoc conspiracy to set Kerry on a crucial hand. However, my brain was too foggy to bid strategically on one of the last few hands and I ended up deliberately setting my *own* 5 bid to give Kerry enough overtricks to keep the game going. Had I done the math right and bid 4 (on a hand that could clearly make 5) I'd at least have been within a nil of winning when Kerry finally went over the top.

We considered starting another game but it was late enough on a long day that I begged off. By the time I unpacked, checked email, wrote some on this report, etc. it was 12M. I'd made plans to meet Carol Inkpen at Convention Registration (where I had volunteered to work) pretty early on Friday so it was time to give it up for the night.

FRIDAY

I'd had to leave a wakeup call for 8A to have enough time for all the morning rituals and necessities. (I'll leave it as an exercise for the reader to decide which of the two categories such things as a shower, checking email and news, eating breakfast, etc. each fall.) Kerry joined me at the hotel breakfast buffet where my theory was that I'd eat entirely too much but would probably end up missing lunch due to work at Registration and a 1P panel I wanted to attend.

Indeed I was at Reg from just before 9A to just before 1P, during which time we had intermittently busy periods, though never a great enough crush we couldn't handle it with fairly good grace. The system they had was perhaps a bit over-elaborate and over-manual-at-the-point-of-contact, but there may not have been a lot they could have done about it because

of all the various types of memberships, event tickets, etc. (In addition to the 4-day full membership, they sold various 1-day memberships plus event tickets for the three big evening events so, for example, family members of costumers could attend the Masquerades.)

From 1P–2P I attended a panel on lighting costumes. It wasn't clear in the pocket program description of the panel whether that was adding lights to a costume itself or using stage lighting for costumes. It turned out to be a mixture of both. I'd heard much of the material presented or knew about it in at least a theoretical fashion, some from the Atlanta Costume Con, some from poking around on the web, and some from being backstage during theatrical productions of the Huntsville Community Chorus many years ago.

I did get some lunch after all. The Milwaukee CC28 bid was sponsoring a Con Suite⁶ event and I picked up a bratwurst with some fairly good horseradish mustard to eat while putting my feet up in my room for an hour or so. After that I went back down to Reg and stayed from about 3P to 6P. Registration was to stay open until 8P in part to sell tickets for the first evening's event, a rock-and-roll themed social, later in the evening. The first day of the con had been advertised as free to all comers, and indeed there were a few people taking advantage of that, but the free day didn't include the social. There were only about 50 preregistered people who hadn't shown up when I left.

Doug, Mary, and I wandered across the rather busy road in front of the hotel to a Ruby Tuesday in the shopping plaza there. Mary wasn't feeling all that well, but the rest, food, and drink (and maybe especially her first significant dose of caffeine for the day) seemed to perk her up. Because of that bratwurst earlier I wasn't terribly hungry and feeling like I should eat something I could at least pretend was healthy, so I had the salad bar.

I think Mary and Doug went straight to the social after we got back to the hotel. I went to my room to change for the evening. I'm *not* a costumer but I did take something a little nicer than jeans and t-shirts to change into for the evening events. I made it down to the social about 7:30P at which time things were still a little slow (excepting the desserts, to which temptation I yielded more than I should have). Things picked up over the evening and by the time I left, around 9:15P, there was a small crowd on the dance floor and a lot more lively group in general. The cash bar may have had something to do with both changes.

I had earlier stashed a drink in my room which came in handy waiting for the Con Suite to reopen — they closed it during all the major events — for a wine tasting at 9:30P. I did dart in once it was reopened but not for the wine (that not being my drink) to grab another soft drink before heading back downstairs.

I had thought I'd stick my head back in the social but I ran into Doug who suggested spades instead. He corralled Mary and Kerry and we settled in for a couple of games. I won both, coming from behind in both cases, but the wins required as much luck as skill. I wandered up to the room about 11:30P. Kerry, who had been busy most of the day as the official photographer for the convention, headed out to Steak n Shake for a belated dinner. I spent about an hour catching up on email, news, and notes for this report before crashing.

SATURDAY

The 9A wakeup call came, predictably, too darned early for my tired old body (despite the fact that the hotel's auto-

⁵ Spades: Killer Cutthroat Spades, of course

⁶ Con Suite: Costume-Con prefers the term Hospitality Suite, but I heard both terms used

mated call system seems to have it's clock set 5 minutes slow). Anyway, I dragged myself out of bed and got ready to face the day. (When I'm traveling that includes at least a cursory check of world news to see if anything really weird has happened. Truly odd events have happened several times when I was out of touch resulting in cognitive dissonance while catching up with the consensus worldview.) The Con Suite had sweets (donut bits and the like) which served adequately for breakfast.

Saturday's reason for getting up early-by-con-standards was a 10A panel I wanted to attend, part one of a two-part panel on Masquerade Management. That — and the 1P second part — gave me a number of pointers I plan to share with our Con+Stellation masquerade folks and in fact the whole Con+Stellation concomm. If I included all of that in this report it would stretch the better part of a page longer.

After that panel I dropped by Reg, but it looked pretty quiet so I decided they didn't need my help and instead took a quick tour through the Dealers Room. There wasn't a lot of interest to me as a non-sewer/costumer, though a couple of dealers did have some nice jewelry and other "shiny pretties." I also made a trip to the Con Suite and found that a large chunk of it had been taken over by a beading workshop running 10A–12N. The suite was not adequately sized to do this and leave much room for hospitality activities so I wish they could have found a different place for the workshop. It's probably worth noting here that the Con Suite was adequately sized for normal hospitality uses during the day, though a little undersized for it's peak evening hours (like Friday's wine tasting and Saturday's Evil Genius party) at which times it overflowed into the hallway or self-regulated by keeping crowd-averse people away entirely.

I killed a little time working on various fannish projects (including transcribing my notes from the 10A panel while it was fresh on my mind) until it was vaguely nearing noon, at which point I went in search of Doug and Mary to see if they were interested in a quick lunch. Mary had been in the beading workshop so our start was delayed until just after noon, at which point we gathered a group of Doug, Mary, me, and Mary's friend Kim Schenken for lunch at the Steak n Shake, which was adjacent to the hotel. I had a double "steakburger" platter that was passable. The burger was pretty good and the shoestring fries were OK. The beans appeared to be straight out of can. I was pushing my luck getting to the 1P second part of the Masquerade Management panel so I left money with Doug and hurried back to to the hotel.

After the panel (again, my notes are too extensive for this report) I took some time to look at the exhibits. Those included costumes and various ephemera from past Costume-Cons plus a number of entries in the doll contest. That's right, costumes at Costume-Con are not just for people. My favorite was a diorama inspired by the 1960's TV show *Lost in Space*. Later in the con I had Kerry take a picture of it for me so I could share it with *Shuttle* readers.



I checked with Reg; while they still weren't busy we made plans for me to come back at later to give someone a break, probably Carol. I again took advantage of the time to transcribe panel notes and take care of other "business." When I got back down to Reg at 3P they didn't really need me and Carol didn't really seem to want to take a break. I hung around for a couple of hours anyway because it was a nice place to chat with people. As usual at cons, Registration had become a *de facto* information desk and Carol was very interesting. By this time, virtually all the preregistered people who were going to make the convention should certainly have shown up. I estimate that about 30 preregs went unused.

Registration closed at 5P though they were to be open a bit later to sell event tickets for the science fiction and fantasy Masquerade. Doug had committed to help Kerry with the photos for that event so I wasn't sure who would be available for dinner. I checked the weather, which was wet, and my appetite, which was minimal, so I decided that snacks from the Con Suite and some down time in my room to rest up for the evening's activities was in order rather than dinner.

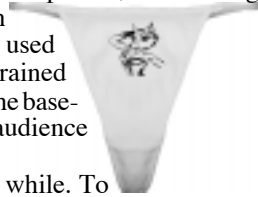
I headed down to the 8P SF/F Masquerade a bit less than 30 minutes ahead of time and found the house was already open. That far ahead of time attendance was light so I got a very good aisle seat. I ended up sitting next to the parents of one of the participants (her costume was the Mail Order Bride) who may well have taken advantage of those \$5 event tickets. They were a very nice couple and a delightful contrast to the other set of parents I had met earlier at registration. That couple — especially the father — was most put out about being at the con and made it pretty clear they would rather be anywhere else. I got the strong feeling that they disapproved of their daughter's interest in costuming. Thank goodness I ended up next to the Mail Order Bride's parents who absolutely delighted in their daughter's hobby. (It's also her business, she works for a costume company.)

The SF/F Masquerade started *smack* on time and ran quite

Selected SF/F Masquerade Winners

- Cement Overshoes Award (from the Chicago Guild) to **There and Back Again**, a puppet-theater version of Bilbo Baggins, Gandalf, and Smaug from *The Hobbit*
- Persistence of Stitchery (from next year's Costume-Con, for the Fresh Face they most want to see again) to **Medea**, from mythology
- Sick Pups Spazzie (from the New York/New Jersey Guild, for sick humor) to **Henry W. Osier**, the thong guy
- Slattern Award (from the SLUTS) to **Mail Order Bride**, whose outfit consisted almost entirely of material available from the Post Office
- Best in Class (Workmanship, Original), Master to **Manticore**
- Best in Show (Workmanship) to **Trinity Blood** (anime)
- Best in Class (Presentation), Novice class was won by a **Warhammer 40K** entry from the woman whose parents had been so disagreeable at Registration
- Best Recreation (Presentation), Master to **Trinity Blood**
- Best in Class (Presentation), Master to **Manticore**
- Best in Show (Presentation) to **There and Back Again** — a worthy choice if not quite the one I would have made

efficiently. I did find it odd that they had a 10-minute intermission (ostensibly to change camcorder batteries) about halfway through the contestants. There were around 30 entries, though 4 of them were by the same person — a running gag of “educational” presentations with a CC25 thong. (Yes, among other convention-logo merchandise on <www.cafepress.com/cc25> you can buy a thong.) The sketches were humorous. For instance, one of the themes of CC25 was pirates, so the thong was used as an improvised eye patch in one skit. In another, the thong was used as a sling for a teddy bear that had sprained its arm digging the Panama canal in the basement. (Yep, I think a number of audience members got the reference.)



The judging dragged on quite a while. To while away the time they had various fillers. First up was a photo-op runthrough where audience members could get closeup pictures of the costumes. Next was a costuming Match Game (from the old game show of the same name) that was cute but probably better in concept than in execution. They also presented awards for the winners of the doll and shoe contests, followed by awards for the SF/F Masquerade sponsored by various ICG branches. By the time they got through all of that and the Workmanship awards (the judging for which was done before the actual Masquerade started) the Presentation awards were finally ready.

All the SF/F Masquerade activities finally ended about 11:30P, by which time the dinner I had skipped was becoming all too obvious. I joined up with Doug, Mary, Kim, and her husband Dave for a trip across the street to IHOP. Doug and Mary had missed dinner too; I'm not sure about Kim and Dave. After dinner Kim and Dave headed for home while Doug and Mary went to see if the promised video of the Masquerade was playing yet. It turned out they'd both missed most of the presentation helping Kerry.

I made a quick visit to Con Suite Evil Genius party (sponsored by CC26) in the Con Suite. It was too crowded to stay but I did score the last piece of 70% dark chocolate from their promised stash of luxury chocolates. I made a much longer visit to the ConQuesT <www.kcsciencefiction.org/conquest/conquest.htm> room party. They had real food — something that was notably absent most of the time in the Con Suite — but I didn't need or want any food after the IHOP trip. I did pick up a piece of Dove dark chocolate. I spent a nice time talking about cons and the Kansas City worldcon bid — there being some overlap between the ConQuesT committee and the KC bid. In a curious coincidence, ConQuesT's next GoH is Phyllis Eisenstein, who was GoH at the first Con†Stellation.

I left the party at 1:11A and headed straight to my room. While unwinding, I savored the two aforementioned pieces of chocolate while transcribing some of the day's notes and chatting with Kerry. He left an 8:30A wakeup call when he turned in around 2A since he needed to get breakfast before starting what promised to be a long day for him. I turned in perhaps a half hour later with no plans for a particular time to awake.

SUNDAY

I got up about 10A, wishing I could sleep longer but unable to do so. Getting ready to face the day (showering of course, but also checking email and the news online), I was out the door only a bit after 10:30A in search of Con Suite snack before the Future Fashion Show. The idea of this is to make and model a costume from any one of a number of designs published before the convention in the Future Fashion Folio. Some of the costumes are made by the designer but many are not.

I swung by the Con Suite for an extremely quick bite and was downstairs at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start but the house was not open yet. It did open about 10 minutes before 11A but the show was about 10 minutes late starting. At least one model had arrived — still needing to get changed — about 10:45 and pre-show photography was about a third done at that same time.

The show had 17 entries, most of which showed a lot of imagination both in the design and execution. The MC was dressed as Edna Mode from *The Incredibles*. Doug later commented it was sad none of the entries had capes (apropos a quote from the movie). A fashion show runs much faster than a masquerade with the same number of entries would. The catwalk itself took only 10 plus minutes, followed by 10–15 minutes for a photo opportunity for the audience as models did an additional runthrough, striking various poses. A number of awards were given, the top 3 of which were for Best Workmanship, Most Accurate by other than the designer, and Most Accurate by the designer.

Lunch was back at the Red Lion with Mary and Doug. I tried the turkey sandwich which I liked at least as well as their roast beef. I tried to be a good boy by having a salad instead of fries. This, oddly, made my combo a little bit cheaper. It's perhaps the first time I've ever had a “healthy” alternative at a fast food restaurant that was cheaper than the usual fried stuff.

Doug and Mary headed off to 2-hour 1P anime panel but I took a rest in the room, trying to catch up a bit for what felt like a short night's sleep. Their panel either ended early or they cut out on the end as the three of us plus Kerry ended up playing spades. Kerry fetched me from the room and we had about 20 minutes (during which we finished only 4 hands) before I went off to a 3P-5P panel deconstructing the SF/F Masquerade. Many of the participants showed off details of their costumes and talked about how they were constructed. I enjoyed a lot of it even though I'll never get to apply any of the techniques and understood less than half of them. I was awed by the process the Manticore costume had entailed, taking almost a year from concept to completion and involving quite a few people and companies (including one that custom-wove the fur) and lots of bucks. The panel ran over at least 15 minutes and felt rushed even at that.

After that, the four amigos got back together to finish up our interrupted spades game. I won on a chancy nil. We went in search of food but found out the Con Suite was closing at 6P! They con had advertised that it would close the suite during the evening Masquerades but never posted exact times. It turned out they also closed for the afternoon Future Fashion Show, which was never posted at all. Closing 2 (!) hours before Sunday's Historical Masquerade was to my mind a very odd decision. The somewhat snippy Con Suite person on duty just before 6P (when it was to close) said she had to be in the Masquerade Green Room at 6:30P, which doesn't explain why the hospitality department couldn't have scheduled someone else to keep the Con Suite open for an hour or so more.

Kerry, Doug, and (to a lesser extent) Mary all had to be in photography for that same Masquerade at 6:30P which left them little time. In the end Kim and Mary went out to a sandwich shop and bought stuff for Kim, Mary, Doug, and Kerry. I wasn't particularly hungry and decided to wait a bit. The four of them were still finishing eating when the first Historical Masquerade entrants started showing up for their official photos.

While they were eating, Kim had given me a piece of bread she didn't want from her combo, which maybe set off an appetite. I went across the street to Subway and picked up a

Selected Historical Masquerade Winners

Sick Pups Spazzie (from the New York/New Jersey Guild, for sick humor) to **Batty Aunt Dotty**
Persistence of Stitchery (from next year's Costume-Con, for the Fresh Face they most want to see again) to **My Torch Burns, 1943**, torch singer
Directors' Choice Award to **Toll House of the August Moon**, tea ceremony meets chocolate chip cookies
Best Documentation of Hairstyle to **My Torch Burns, 1943**
Best Documentation of Concept and Progress to **Eyes and Ears of Pharaoh**
Most Imaginative Presentation of Documentation to **Bon Voyage**
Best Workmanship, Tailoring to **A Night at the Ball**
Best Workmanship, Cleanest Construction to **Toll House of the August Moon**
Best in Class (Workmanship) to **Bon Voyage**
Best Workmanship Overall to **A Night at the Ball**
Best Workmanship, special Skull and Cross Buns Award to **Vajra**
Best Presentation, Ethnic to **Osaiho**
Best Presentation, Boy's Gone Wild to **Eyes and Ears of Pharaoh**
Best in Class (Presentation), Novice to **Bon Voyage**
Best in Class (Presentation), Journeyman to **A Night at the Ball**
Best in Class (Presentation), Master to **Vajra**
Judges Choice (Presentation) to **Toll House of the August Moon**
Best in Show (Presentation) to **My Torch Burns, 1943**

sandwich about 7P by which time the photography room was really starting to get busy. I ate my sandwich in the room and caught the first couple of innings of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball game. It was Opening Day and Mary is a major Cards fan. We had checked into getting tickets for the game but had been unsuccessful.

I changed clothes for the evening and wandered down to Historical Masquerade only about 10 minutes before the 8P scheduled start. By that time all the really good seats were gone but I still scored a reasonable spot. I was close enough to see the costumes quite well but my low-angle sightline was blocked so I couldn't see (e.g.) their shoes (often a telltale on how thoroughly a costume is carried out) and one presentation that took place kneeling was almost completely blocked. There were 14 entries, all of which I found impressive but of course I don't have the detailed historical knowledge to tell how accurate to period the costumes were. The Masquerade started only a few minutes late and ran pretty well, especially after a malfunctioning microphone at the MC's lectern was replaced. I did really appreciate having a program for the Historical Masquerade, listing the entries. It would have been nice to have the same for the SF/F Masquerade the previous night though I suppose that would have been harder to compile with a little more than twice the entries.

The wait for results from the judges was filled up reasonably well with a photo opportunity for the audience (bringing out all the contestants) and various announcements. The winner of the Costume-Con 28 site selection was announced —

unsurprisingly the only bidder (Milwaukee WI <www.spybid.org>) won. A New Jersey bid for CC29 was announced — again apparently the only bidder. After a few awards sponsored by various ICG branches were announced, the judges decisions were ready. The Historical Masquerade presents awards for Documentation, Workmanship, and Presentation. This is the second Costume-Con I've attended, and the second time I've seen a novice win Best in Show (Presentation) in the Historical Masquerade. I can't claim all the "credit" since Doug and Mary can also say the same about their CC history.

After the Masquerade I hung around in the photography area (with Kerry, of course, but also Mary and Doug) waiting for the likely crowd to clear out a bit in the Con Suite — they had announced that there would be a spread of desserts. Kerry packed up most of his equipment since his official duties were over and Doug and I pitched in for a few minutes when some folks needed a hand taking down some tall pipe and drape that had been used to cordon off the hall between the photography area and the backstage entrance to the main ballroom.

The desserts turned out to be a bit of a disappointment as everything I found once I got to the Con Suite was store-bought and not top notch. Perhaps there were homemade items that had run out before I made it by. I did finally get to sample toasted ravioli⁷ (not a dessert but a St. Louis delicacy I gather). They may have been past their peak and I didn't feel like risking sauce while juggling a plate in a crowded room but they *were* interesting. Perhaps I'll have to try the dish under more controlled circumstances next time I'm in St. Louis.

Though I needed to turn in at a somewhat reasonable hour, there was time for a last game of spades. The four of us gathered in the lobby bar where I won my fifth game of the extended weekend — all in all a good stretch for me. I was back in the room by about 11:45P where I took care of some business with the hotel, arranging for a noon airport shuttle run for me, late checkout (as late as 2P so Kerry could take his time packing his van), and a 9A wakeup call. I figured I needed time to eat a good breakfast before my flight since lunch looked improbable. By the time I checked up on email, scanned the news, and wound down a bit it was almost 1A when I hit the bed.

MONDAY

Strangely I woke up 15 minutes before the wakeup call, but it was probably good since that gave me more time to get my cell phone charged before I faced the day. I'd run the battery pretty much flat Sunday night repeatedly checking the Cards game — then forgotten to plug it in before bedtime.

After the usual morning rituals I went down to the hotel restaurant where I put a major dent in the buffet. Yeah, it was far too much food but I enjoyed it and was anticipating a long day. I left there shortly before 10A and stopped by the Dealers Room for only the second time of the con. I took a semiserious look at some of the jewelry but just couldn't get my brain wrapped around what I might want to buy for whom, despite apparently good prices. The relatively short list of programs for the day didn't include anything that called to me, nor did any of the planned field trips (to fabric stores and the like).

Thence upstairs to get ready for the trip home. As I was packing, Kerry came in and started doing the same. I was finishing up around 11A when Doug called looking for a last game of spades before he and Mary hit the road. I had a little time and Kerry was about ready to go, so, yeah we figured we'd try to fit it in. All us met in the lobby where I checked out and

⁷ Toasted Ravioli: *not* prepared, as Doug threatened, with a pop-up toaster and a can of Chef Boyardee

doublechecked the airport shuttle schedule. Yep, noon.

The spades game went very slowly as we were all dragging a bit and it turned out to be only a partial game before I called it quits so I could move to where I'd be able to see the shuttle arriving. It turned out the shuttle was running just a little late but it was just as well for me I stopped the game as I was losing badly.

The shuttle was late only because the other person — another Costume-Con attendee — going on that trip had gone missing. Several CC people were apparently running all over the place looking for him and finally found him in the Dealers Room. I wasn't in any particular hurry because I had tons of extra time so I just sat and read my McPaper⁸.

The trip to the airport was uneventful and checking at Continental went quickly. I had to schlep my own to-be-checked bag from the Continental counter a short distance to a TSA counter to go through security, then followed the signs to go through security myself. There was the now-normal rigamarole of taking off my shoes, getting out all my electronics, etc. which went smoothly. In fact, I was at the gate just seconds more than an hour before my flight was scheduled making it *very* theoretically possible that I'd have made it if I'd taken the 1P shuttle instead of the noon one. Um, no thanks.

I took advantage of the extra time before the flight to work on this con report (mostly just straightening out various notes). I even found an electrical outlet fairly near the gate so I could top off the charge on my laptop. I couldn't get online, though. STL⁹ had a weird mix of wireless access points; a couple that my computer could "see" appeared to be free but I never got through to the net.

The flight from STL to IAH was also uneventful and I was pretty tired so I just killed time finishing what was worth reading in my McPaper and otherwise snoozed. We pulled into IAH Terminal B on time and just a couple of gates away from my eventual connection. My connection time was *much* worse on the way home than on the way up, but I was to turn a bad thing into a good thing. I'd planned ahead and made the trek over to Terminal E to a good restaurant where I'd eaten the last time I had a layover in IAH — Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen.

When I got to Terminal E it was only a little after 4P, almost 2 and a half hours before my scheduled departure. The big breakfast I'd had was still with me so I decided to kill a little time before dinner watching the planes come and go through the 50-foot high panoramic window at the end of the terminal and working on this report. It was a good thing I'd found that electrical outlet in STL since there wasn't one around at IAH.

When I did go upstairs to Pappadeaux, dinner proved to be pretty good if not quite as good as I'd hoped. The shrimp on the Fried Shrimp & Cajun Chicken Tenderloins platter seemed fresh if not really fresh-off-the-boat and the chicken had enough bite to be a bit interesting.



The trek back to Terminal B seemed to involve a *lot* more walking than the reverse trip had, but I may not have taken an optimal path. I was back in the gate area a bit before 6P and my plane (apparently from Amarillo) pulled up to the gate a few

⁸ McPaper: aka *USA Today*, the universal hotel substitute for an actual newspaper

⁹ STL: the code for Lambert-St. Louis International Airport

minutes early. Boarding was on time and the flight back to Huntsville was fine, other than a growing case of FBS¹⁰.

We landed in Huntsville around 15 minutes early and I called Sue for pickup as we'd arranged. My checked luggage showed up only a couple of minutes before Sue did. She was nice enough to take me by Kroger so I could pick up milk for the next morning. I was home, and glad of it, by 9P.

WRAPUP

I took the Tuesday off work as I'd planned — knowing I'd need time to recover from the trip. About the only useful thing I did that day was pick up Sally from the vet. Oh, and I discovered that my attempted majik to keep the odd news at bay hadn't completely worked since I didn't hear about Sunday afternoon's Solomon Islands quake and tsunami until noonish Tuesday.

Costume-Con 26 <www.cc26.info> will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel San José, near Mineta San José International Airport, 25–28 April 2008. Representatives of CC26 were much in evidence at CC25 with a lot of talk that it might be the largest Costume-Con in several years if not of all time. (Eastern and Midwestern costumers could be heard to mutter that this might be so if only because — according to them — West Coast costumers don't travel much to cons outside their region.) As much as I enjoyed my experiences at CC25 (and 3 years ago at CC 22) there's no way it'll ever be a regular thing for me so they'll have to set the record without me. Other upcoming Costume-Cons include CC27 (2009 in Baltimore MD) and CC28 (2010 in Milwaukee WI). There are bids outstanding for 2011 (New Jersey) and 2012 (Pittsburgh).

¹⁰ FBS: Flat Bottom Syndrome, a side effect of sitting too long

Letters of Comment

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

Sheryl Birkhead
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30 March–2 April 2007

As soon as I go out and buy the nice little notecards, I get a reply from a faned informing me that the toner arrived as one large gray smear. Sigh — I have yet to get any feedback from about 10 other locs I wrote, but I suspect it will be the same story. So... I'll print the loc on regular paper and fold it into the envelope along with the blank card. Not quite what I had planned... and I do not keep copies of the letters, so it is all history now!

The Hugo nominations are out. I intended to sit on the sidelines and see what people have to say... since I goofed and did not do my fannish duty. While I wait, I need to try to locate some of the nominations and make an educated decision for my ballot. From what I saw it was an interesting way to report the nominations — sort of in an alphabetical listing of an interesting nature. I went looking for (and found) a listing by category. Sad to say, there are two fanzines that I have never seen. Congratulations to all!!

I have seen the *James Tiptree, Jr.* biography from the library, but haven't made a whole lot of headway. Seeing it on the Hugo list will, I hope, prod me into reading more of it. At least this way I will be able to say I have some knowledge of one of the non-sf nominations.

I *thought* I taped the Oscars — but did not realize until a

week or so later (I had diligently ignored news about the winners) that I missed at least the last half hour — so I'm guessing they ran over by that much. Of course that last half hour has all the *big* categories... and I am piecing together the winners. It would be ever so much simpler to just go online and Google the information, but that is too much like work.

Just saw *Monster House* (via Netflix) and had a great time with the special feature explaining the technology. I am not sure (have not seen *Happy Feet* yet) where my vote would go — technology, story, or plain enjoyment.

Ah, the Razzie is pretty tiny — but (uh...) quality versus quantity??

Not at all sure what *Meet the Robinsons* is about, but perhaps that is one of the draws?

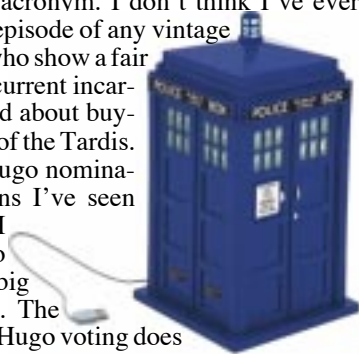
PieEyed and M.A.N.T.I.C.O.R.E. — wasn't that part of the Jessica Alba show? I am not sure if it was an "acronym" in the show or it merely referred to a manticore and cannot recall that it was ever explained on the TV show. Now PED can explain.

I've now seen the first three episodes of the "new" *Dr. Who* series and am told it will start showing up on Public TV around here in the next few months. I have watched some of the original episodes and was mildly entertained and amused... same for this series. I doubt I'd ever be an addict, but it is our differences that makes things interesting... just not a series I would sit on the edge of my chair waiting to see. Now I see that some episodes made the Hugo list — as always, I tend to wonder if that dilutes the impact and spreads the voting out. I think the official reply is supposed to be that the Australian ballot keeps that from happening... but isn't that true only if you vote the whole order and not just the winner?

Ah, talk about personalized service... the librarian told me she had already put my name on the list for the audio book of the last Harry Potter book.

[I never watched *Dark Angel*, but my vague understanding is that Manticore was the name of the organization/base where Alba's character was created — and of course a reference to the character's chimeric nature. I don't think, but am certainly not sure, it was written as an acronym. I don't think I've ever watched a whole *Dr. Who* episode of any vintage

but I know several people who show a fair amount of devotion to the current incarnation. Sam has even talked about buying a USB hub in the shape of the Tardis. I'm not sure what list of Hugo nominations you saw; the versions I've seen have all been by category. I can't see much purpose into mixing them all into one big lump, alphabetized or not. The preferential ballot used for Hugo voting does a pretty good job of preventing dilution of votes because of multiple nominations for related works, but only if most voters take the time to actually order their preferences. One doesn't have to rank *everything* in a category, necessarily, but it's better if one can. If *Dr. Who* fans predominate in the voting, and if they rank all three episodes before the other two nominated works, then one of the episodes will bubble to the top no matter how the voters individually rank them. -ED]



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

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6 April 2007

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Canada M9C 2B2

It has been a very relaxing Good Friday today, but yet, there's still lots that needs to be done. That's what the weekend's for. In the meantime, I must catch up with some writing. Here's some comments on the March *Shuttle*.

Chattanooga is lucky to have so many cons. Toronto doesn't have that many. With all those conventions comes all those convention committees, and I didn't know these places had so many fans who liked working on convention committees. There's probably some overlap with all those committees, so I hope there won't be massive burnout somewhere down the road. Yvonne and I lasted 25 years on various committees; I hope there's others who will last as long.

The World Horror Convention wound up just a few days ago at a downtown Toronto hotel, the first time it had been held outside the US. From all reports, about 500 attendance, and very well run and received. A friend got me the beautiful souvenir book from the 2007 WHC, and I'll be taking some time to sit down and enjoy it.

This year's Aurora awards are currently in the seeking nominations stage. They will be given out at this year's CanConvention, which will be VCon in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Greetings to PieEyed... I wondered why Tom Bombadil sang about himself so much in the Tolkien books. I guess if you're as alone as he was, you'd have nothing to concern yourself with but yourself. I think the decision to not include Old Tom in the LotR movies was a wise decision, but I think there could have been a bit more music in the movies; such was the way legends were created and passed on.

It is Easter time, and for us, it is cold outside. I think Christmas was a little warmer. There is even a dusting of snow on the ground. We have done our Hugo nominating, but not our voting... we are not members of Nippon 2007, and I doubt we'll ever be Worldcon members again, and I regret that. Maybe Montreal in 2009?

Chris Garcia is right, Lee Hoffman and Bob Tucker had a lot of influence into what we consider to be fandom and the fannish way. I got to see Mike Glicksohn at the fannish First Monday pubnight just last night, and he gave me a copy of the *Strange Voyages* CD Taral Wayne has been selling. It contains much of Mike's lifetime of fanzine publishing, including issues 1 to 16 of *Energumen*, and issues 1 to 15 of *Xenium*. Should be quite a trip through time.

Issue 12 of *SFFY* will indeed be the last one, but I had hoped that an issue 13 would be a tribute to Lee herself. I'm sure it will be done, but probably under another name.

We've saved up enough cash for both of us to get to the ISDC in Dallas, and we're trying to get together with Texas fans. If plans go the way we'd like, we'll be dining the conference's Friday night with John Purcell and Brad Foster, and their respective Significant Others.

Time to go, and we hope your Easter was a great time with family and friends, and warmer than what we had... brrrrr! Hurry up, spring!

[Howdy, Lloyd. I trust you'll keep us up to date on the Aurora nominations if we somehow let them slip by. The spring heat may not be here yet, but the spring rain certainly is — at least as of today. We had over an inch and a half of rain Saturday and, as I write this, I'm working on battery power because the
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storm has taken out my power. I suppose having six cons in Chattanooga is a good thing, but I do wonder about burnout there — by attendees as well as concons. Heck, I even wonder about it in Huntsville which has four cons, albeit averaging a good bit smaller than the ones in Chattanooga. (Note that Huntsville has a significantly smaller metro area — about

365,000 versus 475,000 per wikipedia — though the cities themselves are roughly the same size.) One of Huntsville’s cons is a commercial gaming/media convention that keeps delaying it’s third incarnation. The other three are fannish, for various definitions of fannish. (Con†Stellation is the general-interest sf/f con; the other two specialize in furies and anime respectively.) -ED]