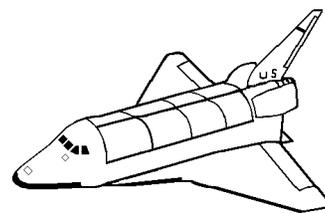


The



SHUTTLE
June 2007

The Next NASFA Meeting is 16 June 2007 at the Regular Time and the New Regular Location

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next NASFA meeting will be **Saturday 16 June 2007** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **NEW regular location**. Meetings are at BookMark's new location in the Huntington Shopping Center (2 miles south of their old location) on the corner of the Parkway and Meadowbrook Drive — 11220-J South Memorial Parkway SW, Huntsville AL 35803.

Watch your email for an announcement of the next Con+Stellation concom meeting.

The June program and After-The-Meeting Meeting are, um, complicated.

- For those who wish to indulge in watching the National Pastime, the program *and* the (first) ATMM will the Huntsville Stars vs. the Birmingham Barons. The game starts at 7:05P; a convoy will leave BookMark for the stadium after the Business Meeting.
- For those skipping the ballgame, proceed after the Business Meeting to the Freemans' new house, 101 Adalene Lane, Madison. The program will be a movie (probably *Ghost Rider*) and the ATMM will be at the same location. Full directions will be available at the meeting. Abbreviated directions: north on the Parkway, west on University, north on Jeff Road, west on Nick Davis Road, south on Anita Drive, to the corner of Anita and Adalene.
- Those going to the Stars game should call to see if the ATMM is still going on at the Freemans before heading there for their *second* ATMM.

Announcements and Info

DOC TAYLOR SPEAKS

Toni Weisskopf sends word that Travis Taylor will be doing a lecture and book signing at the Decatur Public Library <www.decaturlib.al.us> at 6:30P Thursday 28 June. The title of the lecture is "Putting the Hard Science in Science Fiction." The library is at the corner of Lee Street and 6th Avenue in Decatur — that seems to be about 6–8 blocks after crossing over the Tennessee River bridge when driving to Decatur from Huntsville/Madison.

UNICORNS RAMPANT

A new exhibit, "Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns & Mermaids," has been organized by the American Museum of Natural History (New York), in collaboration with The Field Museum (Chicago), the Canadian Museum of Civilization (Gatineau, Quebec), the Australian National Maritime Museum (Sydney), and the Fernbank Museum of Natural History (Atlanta).

The exhibit will stay at the AMNH 26 May 2007 to 6 Jan 2008, after which it will tour the other sponsoring museums. Stay tuned to the Fernbank's web site <www.fernbank.edu/museum> to learn when the exhibit will be in Atlanta. At the AMNH, the exhibit costs \$21 (\$16 student/senior; \$12 children). The cost to see the exhibit at the Fernbank has not been announced. You can learn more about what's in the exhibit at <www.amnh.org/exhibitions/mythiccreatures>.

(continued on page 2)

Inside this issue...

NASFA Calendar	2
Minutes of the May Meeting	2
15 Geekiest Vacations	3

Awards Roundup	3
Fall Broadcast TV Schedule	4
<i>No Need for a Ring</i> — Chapter 15	5
Letter of Comment	6

Deadline for the July 2007 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 6 July 2007.

and not official NASFA positions. -ED]

Sam arbitrarily decided on a chair budget of \$200, since the club made a \$300 surplus last year.

According to Sam, the club is currently \$304 to the good, minus the \$50 reimbursement to Manda. No *Shuttle* postage had been paid yet. There was no money transfer to the convention this year, because the checking account never dipped below the minimum balance.

Mike Kennedy has poo-pooed the idea of Wal-Mart chairs. Marie had a Staples catalog open. Doug asked whether this meant Sam should expand the chair committee by two people. No. Sam will appoint, or otherwise dragoon, minions as necessary.

We received no contact from Frolicon. We deposited their entire damage deposit, since there was damage this time around. Sam wondered if we were going to refund any of that money, but he wasn't in any particular hurry to find out. Doug moved to deposit the entire damage deposit of \$50, for damage done to the art show materials, and Bruce seconded. Only Sam gave an opposing vote, so the motion carried. \$50 is well under what it will cost to repair the damage. [I'm not sure that's completely true. -ED]

Manda moved that we raise the deposit in the future. Mia proposed that we never lend our art show equipment to Frolicon again. The original motion, to raise the deposit, carried. Mia repeated her proposal to never loan to them. Mike Kennedy said that would be bad policy. Sam suggested simply raising our rates in general. Doug moved that we raise the damage deposit to a minimum of \$100 for art show rental. The motion was seconded, and carried. [My understanding was that it was the rental charge itself that was raised. -ED]

NEW BUSINESS

Sam has a "pile of crap" to read. More spammish emails.

Dav is creating a society directory for "ethnic groups, religions, issues, family, and more," and he would like the Con†Stellation site to join. There was some discussion of whether we're a racial, ethnic, or religious group. Doug pointed out that there have been at least three religions founded by fans, and Sunn noted that we're likely to have snake handling at the next con. Manda quipped that we've had snake handling before, just behind closed doors. "Next!"

The Indie Film Coop invited us to their B Movie Celebration, in Franklin, Indiana, on August 17-19.

"Hazel the Cat" represents the actress Catherine Hicks, who was in *Seventh Heaven* and *Star Trek IV*. She might be interested in attending Con†Stellation, and would like to know our interest in having her there, and our terms for participation. The email doesn't say, but Sam thinks they'd probably charge an appearance fee we wouldn't be willing to pay.

The Kennedys brought in a puppy. Neither one of their children was traded in for the puppy.

Sam spotted something he thought looked interesting, a book called *Brave New Words: The Oxford Dictionary of Science Fiction*. According to Jeff, everything we say translates to "I'm a geek." At Anita's store, she has become official Speaker to Geeks.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

We have a salon chair for the Masquerade! The chair needs a home, though, for the time being. Manda might be able to store it in her new house, after they get moved in. Who's donating the chair? The daughter of Anita's coworker Marie (cue *Space Balls* "What does that make us?" "Absolutely nothing!") is a beautician, and they have three broken salon chairs with none of the hydraulics working, so they're willing

to donate one to get it out of the shop. What do we do with it after Masquerade? The only uses for a salon chair Sam could think of off the top of his head were kinky. Jeff suggested that we give it to Frolicon, then. They'd want the hydraulics, though.

Sam moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40:03P.

The program was a crafts workshop, where we built alien creatures out of various craft materials. Many styrofoam balls and pipe cleaners were sacrificed that night. The After-The-Meeting Meeting was held at Steve Sloan's house.

15 Geekiest Vacations

Website eWeek <www.eweek.com> has published a list of what they claim to be the "15 Geekiest Vacations" — with tie ins both to Huntsville and to sf fandom. Most of the listings are self-explanatory; the full list below has to go into detail for only a few of the destinations.

- 15 National Computer Museum <www.computerhistory.org>
- 14 The Geek's Baseball Stadium Tour (A tour of places like the National Historic Landmark HP Garage (Palo Alto), Google and Yahoo headquarters, and the Motorola Museum (Schaumburg IL) — akin to the way rabid baseball fans tour baseball stadiums across the United States.)
- 13 World Science Fiction Convention <www.worldcon.org>
- 12 Great Places for Nerdy Reasons (Like going to New Zealand because the *Lord of the Rings* movies were filmed there.)
- 11 Queen Mary 2 <www.cunard.com/ourships/default.asp?ship=QM2> (For the "first-class network architecture" plus the "100-megabit Ethernet cables and a network switch between every pair of cabins.")
- 10 National Air and Space Museum <www.nasm.si.edu>
- 9 International Spy Museum <www.spymuseum.org>
- 8 Quark Bar <www.vegas.com/nightlife/bars/quarks.html>
- 7 Space Camp <www.spacecamp.com>
- 6 Star Wars Odyssey Tour <www.harrisonfordweb.com/vacation>
- 5 Pennsic <www.pennsicwar.org>
- 4 Star Trek Convention (eWeek apparently used this as shorthand for any of a number of special/single-interest sf/fantasy/etc. cons, including a Battlestar Galactica Convention, a Xena Convention, and Comic-Con International.)
- 3 Geek Cruises <www.geekcruises.com>
- 2 Geek Is in the Details (This means going beyond taking just your laptop, video iPod, portable DVD player, GPS, satellite radio, and Wi-Fi antenna ("so you have Internet coverage down on the beach") — to also taking accessories like "a headphone jack splitter in case the random person next to you (or maybe even a cute girl!) wants to watch, too — that's geek.")
- 1 Visiting Blog Buddies (Take a road trip to meet your blog friends.)

Awards Roundup

NEBULA AND NORTON AWARDS

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America <www.sfga.org> has announced the winners of the Nebula

and Andre Norton Awards for 2007. The awards were presented 12 May 2007 during the Nebula Awards Weekend. These awards represent the best known peer awards in the sf/f field. The winners are:

Novel**Jack McDevitt** for *Seeker*
(Ace, November 2005)
Novella**James Patrick Kelly** for “**Burn**”
(Tachyon Publications, December 2005)
Novellette**Peter S. Beagle** for “**Two Hearts**”
(*F&SF*, October/November 2005)
Short Story**Elizabeth Hand** for “**Echo**”
(*F&SF*, October/November 2005)
Script**Hayao Miyazaki, Cindy Davis Hewitt,**
and **Donald H. Hewitt** for *Howl’s*
Moving Castle (U. S. Premier 10 June 2005)
Andre Norton Award (young adult sf/f)**Justine**
Larbalestier for *Magic or Madness*
(Penguin Razorbill, May 2005)

The 2008 Nebula Awards Weekend will be 25–27 April at the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown, Austin TX.

CROOK AWARD ANNOUNCED

The winner of the 2007 Compton Crook/Stephen Tall Award, for best first sf/f/h novel of 2006, has been announced. The award was presented Friday 25 May 2007 during the opening ceremony of Balticon 41 <www.balticon.org>. The winner, selected by members of the Baltimore Science Fiction Society, was *His Majesty’s Dragon*, by Naomi Novik.

STURGEON AWARD NOMS

Finalists for this year’s Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award for best sf short fiction (for calendar year 2006) have been announced. The winner will be announced, and the award presented, at the annual Campbell Conference and Awards Ceremony <www2.ku.edu/~sfcenter/campbell-conference.htm>. This year the conference will be held 6–8 July 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center and Westin Crown Center, Kansas City MO, in conjunction with the Heinlein Centennial Convention <www.heinleincentennial.com> and the SFRA Conference <wiz.cath.vt.edu/sfra/conferences.html>. The nominees are:

Paolo Bacigalupi, “Yellow Card Man” (*Asimov’s* December)
Michael F. Flynn, “Dawn, and Sunset, and the Colours of the Earth” (*Asimov’s* October/November)
Jeffrey Ford, “Botch Town” (*The Empire of Ice Cream*, Golden Gryphon)
Ian McDonald, “The Djinn’s Wife” (*Asimov’s* July)
Paul Melko, “The Walls of the Universe” (*Asimov’s* April/May)
Robert Reed, “A Billion Eves” (*Asimov’s* October)
M. Rickert, “You Have Never Been Here” (*Feeling Very Strange*)
Benjamin Rosenbaum, “The House Beyond Your Sky” (*Strange Horizons* September)
Christopher Rowe, “Another Word for Map Is Faith” (*F&SF* August)
William Shunn, “Inclination” (*Asimov’s* April/May)
Michael Swanwick, “Lord Weary’s Empire” (*Asimov’s* December)
Robert Charles Wilson, “The Cartesian Theater” (*Futureshocks*, Roc)
Robert Charles Wilson, *Julian: A Christmas Story* (PS Publishing)

Nominations for this year’s award came from Lou Anders, Rebecca Bates, Suzanne Church, Ellen Datlow, Gardner Dozois, Eugie Foster, Nicholas Gevers, Eileen Gunn, Brian Hades, Jim

Kelly, Bridget McKenna, C. Powell, Eric Reynolds, Ekaterina Sedia, Steven H. Silver, Larry Taylor, Lois Tilton, Gordon Van Gelder, and Sheila Williams. Reviewers of short sf interested in participating in future Sturgeon Award nominations are asked to contact Chris McKitterick <cmckit@ku.edu> for more information.

QUILL NOMS

Nominations (in 19 categories) for the 2007 Quill Awards have been announced. Winners will be selected by about 6,000 invited booksellers and librarians. Later this year there will be online voting — open to the public — for Book of the Year. Nominees in two of the categories of most interest to sf/f/h fans are given below.

Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror Quill Noms

Brasyl, Ian McDonald (Pyr Books)
The Execution Channel, Ken MacLeod (Tor Books)
Farthing, Jo Walton (Tor Books)
Getting to Know You, David Marusek (Subterranean Press)
The Name of the Wind (The Kingkiller Chronicle: Day One), Patrick Rothfuss (DAW Books)

Graphic Novel Quill Noms

Alice in Sunderland, Bryan Talbot (Dark Horse)
Aya, Marguerite Abouet, illustrated by Clement Oubrerie (Drawn & Quarterly)
Exit Wounds, Rutu Modan (Drawn & Quarterly)
Making Comics, Scott McCloud (HarperCollins)
Ode to Kirihito, Osamu Tezuka (Vertical)

SUNBURST AWARD NOMS

Finalists have been announced for the 2007 Sunburst Award <www.sunburstaward.org> — a juried award for best sf/f/h/surrealism/magic realism novel or collection by a Canadian writer in 2006. The winner will receive a cash award of C\$1,000 and a medallion with the award’s “Sunburst” logo. Honourable Mentions included *Widdershins*, Charles de Lint; *One Chrysanthemum*, Joan Itoh Burke; *Powers*, Lynn Jacobs; and *Farthing*, Jo Walton. The nominees are:
Before I Wake, Robert J. Wiersema (Random House Canada)
Blindsight, Peter Watts (Tor Books)
The Droughtlanders, Carrie Mac (Puffin Canada)
Fabrizio’s Return, Mark Frutkin (Vintage Canada)
Keturah and Lord Death, Martine Leavitt (Front Street)

Fall TV Schedule

The broadcast networks have announced their fall TV schedules with a number of new and returning sf/f/related shows. The days and times (Central time zone) listed below are per those announcements — all subject to change (or cancellation) of course. All shows, except the half-hour comedy *Cavemen*, are an hour. Anyone want to start a pool on which of the new shows gets canceled first?

ABC

Cavemen (new) — 7P Tuesday
Pushing Daisies (new) — 7P Wednesday
Eli Stone (new) — Midseason start
Lost — Midseason start

CBS

Ghost Whisperer — 7P Friday
Moonlight (new) — 8P Friday

CW

Reaper (new) — 8P Tuesday
Smallville — 7 P Thursday

Supernatural — 8P Thursday

FOX

New Amsterdam (new) — 7 P Tuesday

The Sarah Connor Chronicles (new) — Midseason start
24 (not sf, but sort of related) — Midseason start

NBC

Heroes — 8P Monday

Journeyman (new) — 9P Monday

Chuck (new) — 8P Tuesday

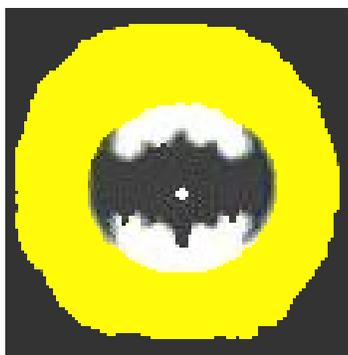
The Bionic Woman (“new”) — 8P Wednesday

Medium — 8P Sunday

I Heard The Orcs Call My Name

No Need for a Ring — Chapter 15

by PieEyedDragon



Ten days pass, bringing their share of rain, wind, sun, and even snow. The next several nights will be dark. With the princess ensconced in this place of reasonable security I shall continue my mission tonight, alone.

Yesterday I heard someone speak my name. Someone far away. I have been hearing this from time to time as the goblins of

Shaborc-kun, back northwest in the Blue Mountains, talk about me. This was different. Goblin voices, from the north-East, are talking about me! Messengers must finally have reached the area of Mount Gundabad in the Misty Mountains. That is the primary stronghold of the goblins and orcs, though it was originally one of the important dwarf-homes: the reputed awakening-place of Durin, first of the Longbeards. The dwarves had retaken it once, during the Dwarf and Goblin wars, but that was before they lost so many in the assault on Khazad-dûm. Though they prosper in Aglarond, Erebor, and the Iron Hills, there are no longer enough dwarves to take and hold such places, not yet. I don't know if even I could clear that mountain. It is not my primary mission, anyway, and only Dwarves can make more Dwarves.

Night falls. When it is fully dark, I quietly take wing. I head out over the forest and follow the river, flying low along the valley. Soon enough, the forest begins thinning out and the river joins with the Baranduin (Brandywine) flowing east and southeast from the Shire. The river meanders southeast, then south, and finally southwest, crossing the old South Road at Sarn Ford. When dawn approaches I land to check the waters, finding no taint. Even though this area is not inhabited, I rest in a deep place during the day. Continuing on that evening, I swim downstream and catch a few fish now and then. Eventually, the river washes past the southern feet of the southernmost portion of the Blue Mountains and flows into the sea. Ulmo is waiting there. I describe my findings and he agrees that this river is clear; at present. There could still be secondary sources of pollution that are not in contact with the flowing water at this season. Time will tell.

Ulmo: This is a very good beginning. Baranduin cuts

through the middle part of the north kingdom as far as Lake Evendim.

PED: King Elessar rebuilt Arnor's ancient northern capital city, Annúminas, on the southern shore of that lake. The King's northern hall is there. The current king, Eldarion, *may* even be in residence there now!

Leaving Ulmo, I swim north along the coastline. I confirm that the river Lhûn has the taint. Checking the northern coast of the Gulf at Forlindon, I confirm that that river, west of the Blue Mountains, is also tainted. I go ashore and take wing. I spend a few days flying over the southern Blue Mountains, beyond the river. I avoid the Tower Hills and the Westmarch of the Shire. I locate a few signs of the dwarven presence that I know to be here in these mountains. Maybe they see me, too. There are homes and active mines. I return westward and take to the sea for a while. After making a stop offshore at Ascar, to pick up a few more trinkets as “window dressing” for my putative lair, I take flight once again. There is no more need for remaining hidden in these regions. I want to be seen again — by the Goblins! I make certain to fly near enough to their entrances on my way back to the old mine, so that their door guards will certainly see me.

Back at the mine, I look around outside for a considerable length of time before checking the inside. There are goblin footprints, but not fresh. The bodies are gone. The treasure items are all still present, though some had been moved.

— O — O — O —

Three Dúnedain riders, on exhausted horses, galloped into the city and made for the King's Hall. The two on either side supporting the third, a very old ranger in extreme pain. They dismount and carry him inside, to an antechamber. Eldarion, in his sleeping clothes, meets them there. The old ranger, still smelling somewhat of skunks, gestures to his companions. One hands back his log book and they take their leave of the King. The ranger's breathing begins to ease, and his pain lines start relaxing. He takes a drink.

Eldarion: Uncle Walker, what is your news... an invasion?

Walker: (Taking a deep breath) Dragon! (He proceeds to give his king a full report.)

— O — O — O —

Eldarion walks along the balcony and looks out over the city. Too many buildings were made of wood. If a dragon came here, they would have to evacuate. Losses would not be small. He could field an army of sorts, but armies were not very effective against dragons. This would not be like the campaigns against the easterlings, the wainriders. Walker had known full well the value of concise information. An early warning system would be a great help. Eldarion would use the palantir of Orthanc, but wished for more. A cold heavy mist was blowing in off the lake. He could scarcely see the building around him, but there was a clear lane out toward the water. A very large manlike figure was taking shape at the water's edge.

Eldarion: I am King Eldarion of Gondor and Arnor. Are you... Ulmo?

Ulmo: I am the lord of waters, yes.

Eldarion: Lord... is there any way we can obtain the palantiri of the north, that were sunken with King Arvedui?

Ulmo: The matter is being addressed. (He places a hand upon the wall near the king.) I have a few things to tell you. A few things... but not everything.

[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?)]

art by Sheryl Birkhead



Ah... another issue of the *NASFA Shuttle*...

it warms the fanish soul!

Letter of Comment

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

Lloyd Penney
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Etobicoke ON
Canada M9C 2B2

21 May 2007

I've got some catching up to do... I've got two *Shuttles* to respond to, the April and May issues. So... what am I waiting for?

April... Sorry I've let this one go for a while. I've had a lot of daytime work these days, in addition to my evening work. Literally working day and night doesn't allow for much time to sit at a computer (of any kind) and compose letters. (For the record, I've started this letter with my Palm Tungsten E2 and keyboard sitting in a collapsible chair in one of Toronto's many parks right on the shore of Lake Ontario. It's a little cool yet, but I'll take the opportunity to be outside in the sun any day.)

The calendar... I'll be 48 on June 2, and yesterday was Mr. Glicksohn's birthday. I'll have to drop him a line to wish him a good one. One event that's not on the calendar... in a few days, Yvonne and I will be flying to Dallas to attend the 2007 International Space Development Conference, to work it, help with registration, enjoy four days of space advocacy and meet some big names in space and aerospace, and even some folks like Ben Bova and Larry Niven, too. Should be great fun, and we are just about packed, and definitely ready to go. Gotta bring polo shirts, Dockers and our best suit clothes for this event, so it's already different from the usual cons. (Also, we'll be flying Brazilian Embraers to and from Dallas, and I have been told they are very luxurious.)

The Hugo ballots are out... I did not purchase any kind of membership for Nippon 2007, so I have no vote. Not sure what

will happen here, so I'll wait patiently for the final results in the fall. Also, I did not attend the World Horror Convention held here, not being a horror reader, and I was told by different people that it was a splendid time and an organizational nightmare. I also heard that they were very short of volunteers, which made up much of the problems. Still it's good to see that rotational conventions like Worldcon, World Horror, World Mystery, etc., can still make it up here.

Many years ago, Yvonne and I were costumers, and we plied our trade in the 80s at Worldcons and local conventions. We got out in the late 80s, mostly because of egos, arrogance, and the possibility of sabotaging our costumes. That was long ago, and I hope that the cutthroat competition of costumers has lessened so that all can enjoy it. CostumeCon was in Toronto some years ago, but it received so little publicity in local fandom we actually didn't find out about it until after it had happened.

The Aurora Awards at VCon in Vancouver will be given out in October, and the nominating deadline is in June. So, I expect that the final ballot will be out in July or August. I'll pass on the lucky nominees as soon as I find out who they are.

May... The spam about a gaming/anime convention in Iraq called ZigguratCon seems to be a reality... check Trufen.net for the details. As far as the Locus Awards goes, I rarely hear of them these days, having given up purchasing *Locus Magazine* as an expense cut out entirely. Peter Watts is a local author here, and Jo Walton is a British author who's currently living in Ottawa. On the other hand, Cory Doctorow is living in Britain, and he's from Toronto, and John Clute is British, but born in Mississauga, just west of Toronto. Tough to know who to cheer for...

As a relatively new webcomics reader, congratulations to Susan Rankin and D. C. Simpson for their Ursa Major awards. I am a regular reader of *A Domain of Their Own* and *Ozy and Millie*, among others.

Hello, Pie-Eyed! As did the hobbits, you elected to stay with Tom Bombadil for a few weeks. He must have some spectacular real estate, outside of the Wicked Willow. This is a little extreme gardening, isn't it? There must have been something less extreme on House and Garden Television...

Hey, Chris... if BASFA has no official clubzine or newsletter, that may be your next publishing task. Should *SF/SF* ever fold or someone be willing to take it off your hands, a BASFA newszine is something of value I'd like to see.

The laundry is done, and the final pack must begin. Take care, all, and see you with the July issue. I'll have ISDC stuff to talk about, I hope.

[Hmmm... I've flown on Embraer regional jets a number of times and I certainly wouldn't use the word luxurious to describe them — but neither would I use that word for any airplane outfitted in the cattle-car way they are these days.

Hmmm again... costume sabotage? I wouldn't have thought that would be common enough to be a big concern, but I suppose that only a couple of bad apples can spoil the cider. We'd pretty much confirmed that ZigguratCon was real (at least a real plan) before the subject came up at last month's NASFA meeting, though additional confirmation is not unwelcome. It's funny you mention the cost of *Locus*, Lloyd, since they just announced another price increase, effective 1 July. This one is chalked up, with excellent justification, to the recent increase in US postage rates. I don't

have to worry about rate increases for *Locus* since I bought a lifetime subscription at least 3 decades ago. (At that time it cost 10 times the annual subscription rate — that's certainly turned out to be a bargain. If that deal was still in effect a bulk-rate-postage lifetime subscription would now cost \$560, going up to \$600 in a few weeks. I suspect Charlie eventually recognized he was giving people *too* much of a bargain with those lifetime subscriptions.) We'll look forward to a nice chatty letter — or even a complete review of ISDC — from you nextish. -ED]



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