The NASFA* SHUTTLE
March 2008

The Next NASFA Meeting is 22 March 2008 at the Regular Time and Location

Note that this is on the fourth Saturday instead of the normal third Saturday

Stay Tuned for the Date and Time of the next Concom Meeting

Oyez, Oyez

The next **NASFA meeting** will be Saturday **22 March 2008** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**. Please note that this is **one week later than normal**, due to conflicts with several conventions on our usual meeting weekend. Meetings are at BookMark, 11220-J South Memorial Parkway — at the corner of the Parkway and Meadowbrook Drive.

PROGRAM

For the **March program**, Tim McElyea — author and founder of Media Fusion — will present a multimedia program based on his company's animation work for the space industry.

ATMM

The location of the March **After-The-Meeting Meeting** is undetermined at press time. Stay tuned to email and/or the grapevine in case a location is set before the meeting date.

Russell McNutt has volunteered his house (and pool!) for any or all of the June, July, and August ATMMs. We can discuss this at the March meeting and let him know.

Volunteers for future ATMMs are always needed.

CONCOM MEETING

There probably *will* be a concom meeting in March, but not before the NASFA meeting as it might normally be. Stay tuned for the date and location.

News and Info

TV ANTHOLOGY TO BE TRIED AGAIN

Though genre TV anthologies have at best a mixed track record, NBC has announced they're trying it again — this time with horror. Watch this summer for *Fear Itself*, a 13-part anthology series slated to feature several well-known directors and actors.

Directors who have signed aboard are said to include John Landis (*An American Werewolf in London*), Stuart Gordon (*Re-Animator*), Darren Bousman (*Saw*), Ronny Yu (*Freddy vs. Jason*), Brad Anderson (*The Machinist*), Breck Eisner (the remake of *Creature From the Black Lagoon*), Mary Harron (*American Psycho*), and Ernest Dickerson (*Heroes*).

Likewise, actors who are slated to appear include Brandon Routh (*Superman*), Elisabeth Moss (*Mad Men*), Eric Roberts (*L.A. Confidential*), Shiri Appleby (*Charlie Wilson's War*), Cynthia Watros (*Lost*), and Pablo Schreiber (*The Wire*).

ODDEST BOOK TITLE?

If you hurry, you can help select the winner of the Diagram Prize for Oddest Book Title of the Year. OK, so it's not genre, but all fans of literature may be interested in knowing about this prize — currently in its 30th year. After reviewing the list below, head to <www.thebookseller.com> to record your vote.

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Deadline for the April 2008 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 4 April 2008.

(***News and Info*** *continued from page 1)*

The Bookseller Magazine solicits nominations from publishers, booksellers, and librarians around the world which are culled into a shortlist by staff at *Bookseller*. That shortlist is then opened up for public vote. This year's nominees are:

- *I Was Tortured by the Pygmy Love Queen*, Jasper McCutcheon (The Nazca Plains Corporation) — Fiction
- *How to Write a How to Write Book*, Brian Piddock (Neil Rhodes Books) — How To
- *Are Women Human? And Other International Dialogues*, Catharine A MacKinnon (Harvard University Press) — Philosophy/Human Rights
- *Cheese Problems Solved*, P L H McSweeney, ed. (Woodhead) — Reference/Guide
- *If You Want Closure in Your Relationship, Start with Your Legs*, Big Boom (Simon & Schuster) — Self Help
- *People Who Mattered in Southend and Beyond: From King Canute to Dr Feelgood*, Dee Gordon (Ian Henry Publications) — Local History

A few books that didn't quite make the shortlist were singled out for recognition in a kind of runners up list. These included *Drawing and Painting the Undead*; *Stafford Pageant: The Exciting Innovative Years 1901–1952 (Art)*, *Tiles of the Unexpected: A Study of Six Miles of Geometric Tile Patterns on the London Underground* (Architecture), *Squid Recruitment Dynamics* (Reference/Human Resources), and *Glory Remembered: Wooden Headgear of Alaska Sea Hunters* (Anthropology).

OLD WINES TO RECEIVE NEW SKINS

Some classic genre (and non-genre) TV shows have been tagged to appear on the web in streaming form at <NBC.com> and other NBC-owned sites (including <SciFi.com>, <ChillerTV.com>, and <SleuthChannel.com>). You may need to check among the sites to find your favorite.

Genre (and related) shows said to be in the package include *Buck Rogers*, *Night Gallery*, *Battlestar Galactica* (the original, not the remake), *Tek War*, *Swamp Thing*, *Tremors*, and *Crow*. Other shows included are *The Alfred Hitchcock Hour*, *The A-Team*, *Miami Vice*, *Emergency*, *Kojak*, and *Simon & Simon*.

The shows will be also available through the Hulu service and via that conduit at Yahoo, MySpace, AOL and various other Web destinations.

NASFA Calendar

MARCH

02 BD: Ronnie Lajoie.
06 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Rendezvous with Rama*, Arthur C. Clarke; 6P.
08 BD: Bill Payne.
09 Daylight Saving Time begins.
09 BD: Tracey Kennedy.
10 BD: Kerry Gilley.
13 BD: Anita Eisenberg.
14–16 DeepSouthCon 46/Stellarcon 32 — High Point NC.
14–16 OmegaCon — Birmingham AL.
15–16 MomoCon — Atlanta GA.
16 Palm Sunday.
17 St. Patrick's Day.
19–23 29th International Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts — Orlando FL.

What Do You Think?

Elsewhere in the *Shuttle* there's news of an award (that anyone can vote on) for the Oddest Book Title of the Year. None of the entries are genre (for which we just *might* be grateful); indeed only one is fiction. Genre works, though, have probably had their share of odd titles through the ages.

So, what do *you* think is the oddest title for a genre book (sf/fantasy/horror/whatever) you've ever heard of?

20 First Day of Spring (19th in Mountain time zone and westward).
20–23 Frolicon 2008 — Atlanta GA.
21–23 Lone Wolf Tattoo and Horror Show — Nashville TN.
21 Purim.
21 Good Friday.
21–23 FantaSciCon 2008 — Chattanooga TN.
22* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: Tim McElyea, of Media Fusion, discussing his company's animation work for the space industry. ATMM: TBD. **NOTE:** Date was changed from the 15th due to conflict with DeepSouthCon, et al.
22 BD: Jayson Woosley.
23 Easter.
27–30 AggieCon 39 — College Station TX.
28–30 MidSouthCon 26 — Memphis TN.
28–30 JAMPcon — Chattanooga TN.
28–30 EconoCon — Atlanta GA.

APRIL

01 April Fool's Day.
03 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Storm Front*, Jim Butcher; 6P.
07 BD: Mary Lampert.
11–13 CoastCon 31 — Biloxi MS.
13 Atlanta Comic Convention — Atlanta GA.
15 Income Taxes Due.
15 BD: Manda Freeman.
15 BD: "Uncle Timmy" Bolgeo.
18–20 ConGlomeration — Louisville KY.
18–20 PyrateCon 2008 — New Orleans LA.
19* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
20 Passover Begins.
21 BD: Randy B. Cleary.
22 Earth Day.
23 Administrative Professionals' Day.
25 Arbor Day.
25–28 Corflu Silver (Fanzine Fandom) — Las Vegas NV.
25–27 Middle Tennessee Anime Convention — Nashville TN.
25–27 RavenCon 2008 — Richmond VA.
26 BD: Chloie Airoldi.
30 BD: Mark Maxwell.

MAY

01 BD: Russell McNutt.
01 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Probability Moon*, Nancy Kress; 6P.

02–04 Starfleet Region 1 Summit — Pigeon Forge TN.
02–04 Galaxy of Stars — Jackson MS.
03 BD: Martha Knowles.
11 Mothers' Day.
14 BD: Debbie Hughes.
16–18 Mobicon XI — Mobile AL.
16 BD: Linda Bolgeo.
17* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
17 Armed Forces Day.
19 BD: David O. Miller.
20 BD: Mike Glicksohn.
23–26 Timegate: Regenerations — Atlanta GA.
23–25 Rocket City FurMeet — Huntsville AL.
23–25 Oasis 21 — Orlando FL.
23–25 ConQuest 39 — Kansas City MO.
26 Memorial Day (Observed).
27 BD: Kathy Paulk.
30 Memorial Day (Traditional).
30–01 ConCarolinas — Charlotte NC.
30–01 A-Kon — Dallas TX.

JUNE
01 BD: Glenn Valentine.
01 Comic Fan Appreciation Show — Nashville TN.
02 BD: Lloyd Penney.
05 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *The Wizard Hunters*, Martha Wells; 6P.
06–08 OMG!con 2008 — Paducah KY.
06–08 Sci Fi Summer Con — Atlanta GA.
13 BD: Bill S.
14 Flag Day.
15 Fathers' Day.
17 BD: Jeff Freeman.
20 First Day of Summer.
20 BD: PieEyedDragon.
21* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD (possibly Russell McNutt's house).
27–29 Hypericon 4 — Nashville TN.
27–29 PersaCon 2008 — Huntsville AL.
27–29 ApolloCon 2008 — Houston TX.

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

February Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The February meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, February 16, 2008 in the BookMark meeting room at 6:13:02P by President Mary Ortwerth. The crickets actually worked this time.

There was a digression about the accuracy of Sam's watch.

OLD BUSINESS

Dues are still due.

We discussed why we moved March's meeting a week later, to March 22nd. There are several conventions that would prevent people from attending the meeting on March 15th, including DeepSouthCon and OmegaCon.

We received a thank you letter from St. Jude's Hospital, for our donation in honor of Karen Hopkins' father, and we also received a thank you card from the Hopkins.

NEW BUSINESS

Manda resigned as Program Director, citing work issues, teenager issues, and moving issues. Doug moved that we open nominations for a replacement Program Director, and Anita seconded. Doug nominated Sue Thorn, and Anita seconded. Sue nominated Bill as her minion. Doug moved that nominations be closed, and Mike K. seconded. Anita claims this was the fastest railroad job she's seen, but Mike K. and Doug have seen much faster. We have been known to pay the dues for someone who wasn't here, just to get them elected to something. Sue only accepts if we will help her with ideas. In a vote to approve Sue Thorn as our new Program Director, only Sue opposed.

If we can get a program decided by Wednesday, Bill can get it in the *Valley Planet*. No pressure… We are in the current edition, in the Valentine's issue.

Bill has created a Flickr account for the club and Con†Stellation. Flickr is a photo-hosting website. Bill wants to post photos from each con on there. If we can put the pictures on Flickr, that will eliminate the burden of hosting them on our own web server. We have used 48 MB out of the 75 MB we're allowed on our web site, so that will help. The free Flickr account only allows three sets of photos. Unlimited photos on Flickr cost $24.95/year, anyone with a Yahoo account can contribute to the pool of Con†Stellation pictures, and it can be moderated. Bill will moderate who joins. Sue moved that we spend $24.95/year for Flickr, and Mary seconded. The motion carried, with only one opposing vote.

Mike K. has pictures of previous cons on his laptop, and he can transfer them to a thumb drive. They are other peoples' photos, so he can't give Bill permission to post them, but he can refer him to the people who took them.

There was a digression about possible incriminating and embarrassing photos and events at cons.

Sam asked if anyone wants a James Monroe dollar.

Sam is working his way through getting the club a credit card account, that we can use to make purchases. He would ask for three cards, one in Sam's name, one in Mike K.'s name, and one in Mary's name, because they are the three people who are currently allowed to sign checks for the club.

Sam completed the final club accounting for last year. We lost a shade under $200. The club had a surplus of $300 [at the beginning of the year], so we don't need to worry about raising dues yet. Funeral donations were the main things that took us by surprise this year.

Sam read the usual list of spammish email crap. Roddenberry.com sent us three more emails. Sam tried to get off their mailing list, but the site makes you register for an account before you can unsubscribe. Among other things, Roddenberry.com declared February "Klingon Love Month." Doug moved that we ignore future Roddenberry.com spams. All-Con 2008 in Addison, Texas is coming up March 7–9,

2008. We got a special invitation to attend the 50th Anniversary Space Exploration Symposium, held here in Huntsville on January 31, 2008. Elena Smith, webmaster of Direct Hotels in the UK, requested a link exchange. BabelCon 2008 announced that they will have actress Suzie Plakson as a guest.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

Bill has put together a new convention website.

We still need a registration head. Without that, we will be running FreeCon, which will probably eliminate the problem of future conventions, and give the treasurer a heart attack. We still need someone to run the dealer's room, for similar reasons. We also now need a hotel liaison, because Doug and Mary ran into Tim on the way in, and he said no.

We will probably be at the same hotel, but it's not official yet.

We still don't have an Artist Guest of Honor, so we are looking for suggestions. Doug didn't get a response from the one Randy suggested, so he's definitely in the no category. We have no outstanding requests for artist guests, either. Email Doug if you have an artist you like, and there's a good chance Doug will send an invitation.

Some time, Mary would like to set up a committee to start talking about programming.

There was a discussion of possible alternative hotels.

According to Bill, the Doctor Who club in Birmingham might be open to running some programming, or running their own room.

How much effort would we be willing to go to to get Peter Morwood, Diane Duane's husband, here to Huntsville from Ireland? We're not currently planning to buy his tickets, and he's not necessarily planning to come.

Stamp prices are going up again in May, so should we buy enough "Forever" stamps to cover the convention and club for this year? We'd save about $15 by buying ahead.

Mike K. announced that next year's constellation will be Vulpecula (the Fox). Steve made a bad joke about "Vulpecula" in Dracula's accent, joke number one of fifty million, illustrating why we've avoided the name until now. Mia suggested that with a fox constellation, maybe there could be more interest from the anime group.

Sam moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50:22P.

The program was a discussion of "Love and Lust in Science Fiction and Fantasy." The After-the-Meeting Meeting was held at Doug and Mary's house.

He Has Gone to Meet Zagyg

by Bill Savage

There are a few people in our lifetimes that have impacted them so greatly it is hard to grasp the scope their contributions have made. March 4th was the birthday of Alexander Graham Bell. It is because of his efforts trying to help the deaf to hear that we can communicate with each other, be it by telephone or the internet, over mere wires. "Watson, come here, I need you" are words known by nearly all that are aware of the telephone's inventor.

Another inventor whose contribution to the world has had an impact beyond measure is E. Gary Gygax. The name may not ring a bell to some, but to many it is immediately recognizable as the originator and co-creator (along with Dave Arneson) of Dungeons and Dragons (D&D), the fantasy role-playing game that changed the way people "gamed" forever. Some of his famous words, well known to those who have played a role-playing game, are "Ok. Roll 3D6 six times for your stats. In order."

Gary Gygax's name may not be a household word outside the world of fandom and gaming, but the name Dungeons and Dragons most certainly is. If you have ever played a role-playing game, of any sort, you owe that somewhat to Mr. Gygax. As I said earlier, his life has impacted us in countless ways. The popularity today of computer role-playing games, and the acceptance of role-playing games as a way to socialize instead of as a way to conjure demons, owes a small debt to Mr. Gygax.

Gary Gygax got interested in developing a system for role-playing out of his interest in tactical wargames such as *Gettysburg* by Avalon Hill. He developed the early D&D system to accompany playing with miniatures. *Dungeons and Dragons* was first published as the "Basic Set" in 1974 by a company he developed with his partners, Tactical Studies Rules now know to most as TSR, Inc. A new version of D&D, called *Advanced Dungeons & Dragons*, was published in 1977. The original *Monster Manual* was the first supplemental rule book to be published. In addition to D&D, Mr. Gygax started the International Federation of Wargamers and Gen Con, which is now North America's largest annual hobby-game convention.

If you are anything like me, role playing games, including Dungeons and Dragons, are what helped round you out as a geek. Playing with oddly shaped dice doesn't seem that odd, but to those who've never played it is weird. Personally, it is because of Mr. Gygax that I'm writing to you now. I've had a long interest in science fiction, fantasy, and other genre fiction from a very early age. But it is because of Dungeons and Dragons, which I first started playing in 1981 (or so) that I first learned about role-playing games and the even larger world of fandom. It is because of my first experiences with Dungeons and Dragons that I learned how to think a bit differently. How to respond to scenarios given to me by a game master. It is also due to Dungeons and Dragons and other role-playing games that I learned nuances of character creation that impact my writing and the way I approach many creative exploits these days. Most importantly it is through my experiences with role-playing games that I have interacted with countless people, and formed a lot of friendships that I may haveotherwise not made. My story is not unique. There are many, many, people across the world that are united in their love for role-playing games and fandom. They owe this in some part to Gary Gygax. His invention has grown far beyond its original scope and intent in ways that we can only begin to fathom.

Gary Gygax passed away on March 4, 2008 at his home in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin after being ill for some time. He was a mere 69 years old. In the terms of Dungeons and Dragons, Mr. Gygax has started a new character sheet.

If you would like to read more about Gary Gygax here are a few links to webpages of interest:

- Wikipedia Entry, <en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary_Gygax>
- Remembrance by actor Wil Wheaton, <tinyurl.com/2b4bfc>
- Tribute by web comic *Order of the Stick*, <www.giantitp.com/comics/oots0536.html>
- 25 Gaming Euphemisms to Refer to Mr. Gygax's Death, <tinyurl.com/24pffq>

Nebula Final Ballot

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America <www.sfwa.com> has released its Final Ballot for the Nebula and Andre Norton Awards. Additionally, **Michael Moorcock** has been named as the recipient of the 2008 **Damon Knight Grand Master Award**, which recognizes excellence for a lifetime of contributions to science fiction and fantasy. Nominees in the various categories appear below.

The Nebulas/Norton are perhaps the premier peer awards in the sf/fannish field. Nominations are made in a multistep process that includes votes by both SFWA's membership at large and by juries specific to several of the individual awards. Nebula and Norton winners will be announced and the awards (including the Grand Master) presented following the Nebula Awards Banquet to be held in Austin TX (at the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown, 26 April 2008) as part of the Nebula Awards Weekend (25–27 April). Anyone can register for the Weekend, though only SFWA members can attend the Business Meeting. Registration for the entire weekend is currently $125 and may not be available at the door. Registration sans the Banquet (but including the Awards ceremony) is currently $50.

NOVEL NEBULA NOMS

The Accidental Time Machine, Joe Haldeman (Ace, August 2007)
The New Moon's Arms, Nalo Hopkinson (Warner Books, February 2007)
Odyssey, Jack McDevitt (Ace, November 2006)
Ragamuffin, Tobias Buckell (Tor, June 2007)
The Yiddish Policemen's Union, Michael Chabon (HarperCollins, May 2007)

NOVELLA NEBULA NOMS

"Awakening," Judith Berman (*Black Gate* 10, Spring 2007)
"Fountain of Age," Nancy Kress (*Asimov's*, July 2007)
"The Helper and His Hero," Matt Hughes (*F&SF*, February–March 2007)
"Kiosk," Bruce Sterling (*F&SF*, January 2007)
"Memorare," Gene Wolfe (*F&SF*, April 2007)
"Stars Seen Through Stone," Lucius Shepard, (*F&SF*, July 2007)

NOVELETTE NEBULA NOMS

"Child, Maiden, Mother, Crone," Terry Bramlett (*Jim Baen's Universe*, June 2007)
"The Children's Crusade," Robin Wayne Bailey (*Heroes in Training*, DAW, September 2007)
"The Evolution of Trickster Stories Among the Dogs Of North Park After the Change," Kij Johnson (*Coyote Road, Trickster Tales*, Viking Juvenile, July 2007)
"The Fiddler of Bayou Teche," Delia Sherman (*Coyote Road, Trickster Tales*, Viking Juvenile, July 2007)
"The Merchant and the Alchemist's Gate," Ted Chiang (*F&SF*, September 2007)
"Pol Pot's Beautiful Daughter," Geoff Ryman (*F&SF*, November 2006)
"Safeguard," Nancy Kress (*Asimov's*, January 2007)

SHORT STORY NEBULA NOMS

"Always," Karen Joy Fowler (*Asimov's*, April/May 2007)
"Captive Girl," Jennifer Pelland (*Helix: A Speculative Fiction Quarterly*, Fall 2006, Issue #2)
"Pride," Mary Turzillo (*Fast Forward* 1, Pyr, February 2007)
"The Story of Love," Vera Nazarian (*Salt of the Air*, Prime Books, September 2006)
"Titanium Mike Saves the Day," David D. Levine (*F&SF*, April 2007)
"Unique Chicken Goes In Reverse," Andy Duncan (*Eclipse 1: New Science Fiction and Fantasy*, Night Shade Books, October 2007)

SCRIPT NEBULA NOMS

Blink, Steven Moffat (*Doctor Who*, BBC/The Sci-Fi Channel, September 2007)
Children of Men, Alfonso Cuaron, Timothy J. Sexton, David Arata, Mark Fergus, and Hawk Ostby (Universal Studios, December 2006)
Pan's Labyrinth, Guillermo del Toro (Time/Warner, January 2007)
The Prestige, Christopher Nolan and Jonathan Nolan (Newmarket Films, October 2006, based on the novel by Christopher Priest)
V for Vendetta, Larry Wachowski and Andy Wachowski (Warner Films, March 2006, based on the graphic novel illustrated by David Lloyd and published by Vertigo/DC Comics)
World Enough and Time, Marc Scott Zicree and Michael Reaves (Star Trek: New Voyages, <www.startreknewvoyages.com>, August 2007)

ANDRE NORTON NOMS (for Young Adult SF/F)

Flora Segunda: Being the Magickal Mishaps of a Girl of Spirit, Her Glass-Gazing Sidekick, Two Ominous Butlers (One Blue), a House with Eleven Thousand Rooms, and a Red Dog, Ysabeau S. Wilce (Harcourt, January 2007)
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, J. K. Rowling (Scholastic Press, July 2007)
Into the Wild, Sarah Beth Durst,(Penguin Razorbill, June 2007)
The Lion Hunter, Elizabeth Wein (Viking Juvenile, June 2007)
The Shadow Speaker, Nnedi Okorafor-Mbachu (Jump At The Sun, September 2007)
The True Meaning of Smek Day, Adam Rex (Hyperion, October 2007)
Vintage: A Ghost Story, Steve Berman (Haworth Positronic Press, March 2007)

Oscar Winners Announced

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced the winners of the 80th annual Oscar Awards — for the best movies of 2007 — Sunday 24 February 2008 in a televised gala ceremony. While a few things surrounding the Oscars were scratched this year because of the Writer's Strike (settled shortly before the ceremony), most of the traditional elements survived the scare.

Genre films were shut out of the headline categories during the nomination process — the Academy may be waiting for *The Hobbit* to make it to the screen before any such recognition accrues to sf/f films again — but did manage a number of noms in the "lesser" categories, and pulled off three wins.

Ratatouille (Pixar Animation Studios/Walt Disney Pictures) won for Best Animated Feature. UK film *Peter and the Wolf* (BreakThru Films Ltd.) took home the trophy for Best Animated Short. Finally, the Best Visual Effects Oscar went to *The Golden Compass* (New Line Cinema/Scholastic Productions). Non-genre crime/horror drama *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* also took home a prize, for Best Art Direction.

Razzie "Winners" Announced

The "winners" of the 28th Annual Golden Raspberry Awards — for the worst movies of 2007 — were announced Saturday 23 February 2008 (the day before the Oscars) at a ceremony held at the Abracadabra Theatre at Magicopolis in Santa Monica CA. Sort-of-genre pic *I Know Who Killed Me* slew the competition, winning a record eight Awards (including a very weird "tie" in the Actress category). *I Know* took Worst Picture, Worst Actress (two awards, both for Lindsay Lohan in two separate roles), Worst Screen Couple (for LL and LL again, as "The Yang to Her Own Yin"), Worst Remake Or Rip-off, Worst Director (Chris Siverston), Worst Screenplay (Jeffrey Hammond), and Worst Excuse for a Horror Movie. The four remaining awards were split between two non-genre films — *Norbit* (Worst Actor, Worst Supporting Actress, and Worst Supporting Actor; *all* for Eddie Murphy) and *Daddy Day Camp* (Worst Prequel or Sequel).

Awards Roundup

BAFTAs AWARDED

Winners of the Orange British Academy Film Awards <www.bafta.org> were announced Sunday 10 February at the Royal Opera House in London's Covent Garden. Genre and related winners included *Ratatouille* (Animated Film) and *The Golden Compass* (Special Visual Effects).

SKYLARK AND GAUGHAN AWARDS

The Edward E. Smith Memorial Award for Imaginative Fiction (aka the Skylark) is presented annually by the New England Science Fiction Association <www.nesfa.org> to a person, who, in the opinion of the membership, has contributed significantly to science fiction, both through work in the field and by exemplifying the personal qualities which made the late "Doc" Smith well-loved by those who knew him. The winner for 2008 is **Charlie Stross**. The award was presented during Boskone 45, held 15–17 February 2008 at the Westin Waterfront in Boston MA.

The Jack Gaughan Award for Best Emerging Artist is named in memory of Jack Gaughan, well known sf artist and a longtime friend of fandom. Gaughan was known to feel it was important to encourage and recognize new blood. NESFA announced, also at Boskone, that **Shelly Wan** is the 2008 winner.

SF HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

The Science Fiction Hall of Fame <www.empsfm.org> has announced that their inductees for 2008 will be **William Gibson**, **Ian & Betty Ballantine**, **Rod Serling**, and **Richard Powers**. The ceremony, to be MCed by Connie Willis, will take place at the Experience Music Project/Science Fiction Museum in Seattle WA on 21 June 2008 as part of the Locus Awards Weekend. Tickets for the events can be purchased online at <https://secure.locusmag.com/About/2008LocusAwardsAd.html>.

PW TO BE SOLD; QUILL AWARDS SUSPENDED

Trade magazine *Publishers Weekly* (along with *Variety* and a number of other trade publications) is being put on the block by its current owner, publishing company Reed Elsevier. As part of this, Reed Elsevier has "suspended" (read "dumped") support for the Quill Awards effective immediately. The first Quills were awarded in October 2005 to celebrate the best in book publishing while promoting the cause of literacy in the US. The foundation set up to oversee the Quills will be dissolved; remaining funds are reportedly to be divided between First Book (giving children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first new books) and Literacy Partners (supporting community-based adult and family literacy programs).

WFA JUDGES ANNOUNCED

Judges for the 2008 World Fantasy Awards <www.worldfantasy.org/awards> have been announced: Peter Coleborn, Robert Hoge, Dennis L. McKiernan, Mark Morris, and Steve Pasechnick. The Judges are chosen by the World Fantasy Awards Administration. Contact info can be found online at <www.worldfantasy.org/awards/judges.html>.

2008 SPECTRUM AWARDS

The Spectrum Awards <www.spectrumfantasticart.com> (for contemporary fantastic art) have been announced. Most of the categories include awards at the Gold and Silver levels.

Spectrum Grand Master Award

The Grand Master is selected by the Spectrum Advisory Board — currently consisting of Rick Berry, Brom, Mark Chiarello, Leo and Diane Dillon, Harlan Ellison, Irene Gallo, Bud Plant, Don Ivan Punchatz, Tim Underwood, and Michael Whelan. The Jury that selects the other winners is not clear to the *Shuttle*, though it may be the same as for the Grand Master.

All of the art selected will be included in *Spectrum 15: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art* to be published by Underwood Books in October 2008. The winners are:

Grand Master ..... John Jude Palencar
Best in Show ..... James Jean, cover to *Fables #67: The Good Prince*
Advertising Gold Award ..... Johnny Yanok, "Resurrection of the Blood-Zombies From Beyond"
Advertising Silver Award ..... Brom, "Hellbent"
Book Gold Award ..... Sam Weber, cover to *Thirteen Orphans*
Book Silver Award ..... Stephan Martiniere, cover to *City Without End*
Comics Gold Award ..... James Jean, cover to *Fables #66: The Good Prince*
Comics Silver Award ..... Adam Hughes, cover to *Catwoman #75*
Concept Art Gold Award ..... Daniel Dociu, "Defeated Dragon"
Concept Art Silver Award ..... Daniel Dociu, "Carnival Season"
Dimensional Gold Award ..... A. Brent Armstrong, "The Mummy Revisited"
Dimensional Silver Award ..... Akihito Ikeda,

"Heart of Art"
Editorial Gold Award .....Phil Hale, "Interpreter"
Editorial Silver Award.....Kurt Huggins and Zelda Devon, "Singer"
Institutional Gold Award .....Robh Ruppel, "Hot, Dry, & Deadly"
Institutional Silver Award .....Larry MacDougall, "Rainy River"
Unpublished Gold Award .....Omar Rayyan, "The Apple"
Unpublished Silver Award .....Brom, "Black Coast"

STOKER FINAL BALLOT

The Final Ballot for the Horror Writers Association's Bram Stoker Awards <www.horror.org/stokers.htm> has been released. The Stokers are for Superior Achievement in various Horror Fiction (and related) categories. Items that made the Final Ballot in each category are listed below. Additionally, the HWA has announced that writer **Robert Weinberg** and writer/director/producer/composer **John Carpenter** will each be awarded the HWA **Bram Stoker Lifetime Achievement Award**.

The Stoker Award winners will be announced and at the 2008 World Horror Convention, to be held 27–30 March 2008 at the Radisson Hotel Salt Lake City Downtown in Salt Lake City UT.

Stoker Superior Achievement in a Novel

The Guardener's Tale, Bruce Boston (Sam's Dot)
Heart-Shaped Box, Joe Hill (William Morrow)
The Missing, Sarah Langan (Harper)
The Terror, Dan Simmons (Little, Brown)

Stoker Superior Achievement in a First Novel

Heart-Shaped Box, Joe Hill (William Morrow)
The Hollower, Mary SanGiovanni (Leisure Books)
I Will Rise, Michael Calvillo (Lachesis Publishing)
The Memory Tree, John R. Little (Nocturne Press)
The Witch's Trinity, Erika Mailman (Crown)

Stoker Superior Achievement in Long Fiction

"Afterward, There Will Be A Hallway," Gary Braunbeck (*Five Strokes to Midnight*)
"Almost the Last Story by Almost the Last Man," Scott Edelman (*Postscripts*)
"An Apiary of White Bees," Lee Thomas (*Inferno*)
General Slocum's Gold, Nicholas Kaufmann (Burning Effigy Press)
"The Tenth Muse," William Browning Spencer (*Subterranean* 6)

Stoker Superior Achievement in Short Fiction

"Closet Dreams," Lisa Tuttle (*Postscripts* #10)
"The Death Wagon Rolls On By," C. Dean Andersson (*Cemetery Dance* #57)
"The Gentle Brush of Wings," David Niall Wilson (*Defining Moments*)
"Letting Go," John Everson (*Needles and Sins*)
"The Teacher," Paul G. Tremblay (*Chizine*)
"There's No Light Between Floors," Paul G. Tremblay (*Clarkesworld*)

Stoker Superior Achievement in an Anthology

Dark Delicacies 2: Fear, Del Howison and Jeff Gelb, eds. (Carroll & Graf/Avalon)
At Ease with the Dead, Barbara and Christopher Roden, eds. (Ash-Tree Press)
Five Strokes to Midnight, Gary Braunbeck and Hank Schwaeble, eds. (Haunted Pelican Press)
Inferno, Ellen Datlow, ed. (Tor)
Midnight Premiere, Tom Piccirilli, ed. (Cemetery Dance Publications)

Stoker Superior Achievement in a Collection

Defining Moments, David Niall Wilson (Sarob Press)
5 Stories, Peter Straub (Borderlands)
The Imago Sequence, Laird Barron (Night Shade Books)
Old Devil Moon, Laird Barron (Night Shade Books)
Proverbs for Monsters, Michael A. Arnzen (Dark Regions Press)

Stoker Superior Achievement in Nonfiction

The Cryptopedia: A Dictionary of the Weird, Strange & Downright Bizarre, Jonathan Maberry and David F. Kramer (Citadel Press/Kensington)
Encyclopedia Horrifica, Joshue Gee (Scholastic)
The Portable Obituary: How the Famous, Rich, and Powerful Really Died, Michael Largo (Harper)
Storytellers Unplugged, Joe Nassise and David Niall Wilson (Storytellers Unplugged)

Stoker Superior Achievement in Poetry

Being Full of Light, Insubstantial, Linda Addison (Space and Time)
Heresy, Charlee Jacob (Bedlam Press [Necro Publications])
Ossuary, JoSelle Vanderhooft (Sam's Dot Publishing)
Phantasmapedia, Mark McLaughlin (Dead Letter Press)
Vectors: A Week in the Death of a Planet, Charlee Jacob and Marge Simon (Dark Regions Press)

A Plague of Princesses

No Need for a Ring — Chapter 21

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor's Note: This is the fifth chapter in the second part of the NNFAR trilogy — *The Two Hairy Towers* — and is thus numbered as Chapter 5 in some places. The *Shuttle* is serializing the entire tale and chooses to use the alternate sequential chapter numbering system.]

Near evening of March 21st, they reach a weedy clearing beside the river. There is an ash-filled hole near the water, and a muddy looking area near to it.

Glorfindel: This is the place, or was. The old Willow was right there (pointing at the hole). Looks like he met his match.

Beerin: More like, something made a match out of him!

Gilraen: (examining the muddy place) It feels like some very smooth rock under here. It's black, but slick: shiny as glass.

Glorfindel: (looking) That's because it *is* glass!

All: *Glass*!?

Eowyn: How?

Beerin: There's no glass over there in the willow ashes.

Glorfindel: No wood fire is hot enough to make glass. This spot has seen some truly exceptional heat.

Eowyn: Dragon fire?

Glorfindel: Likely. Here are three large, reptilian, toe prints that were pressed into the glass while still molten!

Gilraen: Should we leave… quickly?

Glorfindel: I sense no immediate danger. What happened here, happened weeks ago. It was very specific. Something destroyed the Wicked Willow. The forest was not burned; but it seems to have suffered a change of… heartwood!

Eowyn: (groaning) For that, you can keep watch tonight!

Glorfindel: I fully intended to, since I rarely sleep.

— O — O — O —

As they prepare the animals the next morning, Wingfoot raises his head. His ears start flicking in the direction upriver. They all stop; to listen and look.

Eowyn: Should we get under cover?

Glorfindel: (begins a slight smile; his stance easing) No, I think that is unnecessary. Wait and listen. (Soon, they all can hear a light voice, singing:)

"Down the river, now I go:
To a lily pool I know!
Mother thinks my feet are slow!
Spring has come again, below."

(Around a curve in the path, a small woman appears. She is followed by another, slightly shorter, who dances. They stop. The first one laughs.)

Goldberry: Well! And well met! Tom said there were Elvish folk about! Were you coming to see us, Glorfindel?

Glorfindel: No, or perhaps yes, Lady Goldberry. Is Tom hereabouts?

Goldberry: Oh, no. He went for a walk on the downs. He said there was nothing dreadful in the forest anymore. I must just beware of tricky badgers and such as I go down to my lily pool.

Glorfindel: Have you noticed a dragon anywhere hereabout?

Goldberry: (laughs) Of course! How not? She visited my house for a while. Tom laughed so very hard!

Glorfindel: "She visited…" Was there much damage?

Goldberry: Few beside Tom will mourn the old Willow; and he only halfheartedly. I would not count a plowed field as damage.

Glorfindel: Can you tell us more about this dragon? People are worried and frightened.

Goldberry: Why, yes, I… (the other woman touches her arm and whispers something). Oh, the princess is right. There are some things we know that we may not tell. But there are some things we can tell.

Glorfindel: Another Princess? She looks Elvish and somewhat familiar; but I do not recognize her kind. Won't you make an introduction?

Goldberry: Since some of you are the strangers, you go first.

Glorfindel: Of course. May I present Master Beerin Stock, a Hobbit of good repute. Here beside me stand Their Royal Highnesses: Princess Gilraen and Crown Princess Eowyn of the Reunited Kingdom of Gondor and Arnor. They are, respectively, Great and Great-great granddaughters of the Lady Galadriel.

Goldberry: Well met, high ones! This shrinking violet is Princess Mee of Ossiriand.

Glorfindel: Mee? Meena? I remember meeting Princess Meenathoris. She was much taller, but… it *is* you! What happened, Princess?

Meena: Many, terrible things. Where is Galadriel? Can I see her?

Glorfindel: Galadriel took ship from the havens and returned into the west, along with Lord Elrond and others. Celeborn her husband bides for a time yet in Imladris, Rivendell. I have heard that some of the Green Elves long ago took service with King Thranduil in Mirkwood, now once again Greenwood the Great.

Meena: My people… some of them… alive?

Glorfindel: I think so. Now, what about this dragon?

Meena: PED protected me. She got me away from the goblins. She healed my foot. She killed the three who learned I was not eaten (at this her cheeks reddened slightly). She saved me when that tree attacked us and I fell off. I will not betray her.

Glorfindel: PED. A very short name for a dragon. Though, she *is* a small dragon, right?

Meena: It is short for the name she took; she says her name now is "Palantíri Eä Daedeloth."

Glorfindel: Blasphemy.

Meena: No, not really. When we started flying, we saw an old man fall down in the snow. PED said he had been watching her for days; and must be a brave, loyal servant of some worthy lord to risk the goblin band so near.

Glorfindel: That would be Ranger Walker. I'll pass the compliments along to him and to the King. Where is PED now.

Meena: She flew down river. We haven't seen her since. I don't know where she went.

Eowyn: She flew over the dwarf holdings of the southern Blue Mountains. She went back to her lair near Mount Dolmed. She flew toward Forochel. She was attacked and crippled by the Ice Dragon. She was last seen crawling toward the bay. She since has not been seen. We do not know where she is or if she survives.

(Meena thinks: If she lives, she knows where we are. She hears her name when someone speaks it…anywhere…like I just did.)

Beerin: (Remembering tales of "Mad" Baggins) Does she have any treasure?

Meena: Very little, so far. A small box, a comb, a few gold and silver chains and armlets that she seemed to have little regard for. My hair was a mess. She re-swallowed the little box; and gave me this comb (showing it, on a little chain). It had belonged to Lúthien Tinúviel.

Glorfindel: (Wonderingly) What kind of dragon would *give* away so much as a wooden toothpick? That comb has got to be worth a dwarf-king's ransom at least; maybe more even than the famous mithril coat of Bilbo Baggins! The more we learn, the less we know. This creature is full of riddles. It *is* a riddle! What do you think, Master Stock?

Beerin: (Slowly) What was that about a… little box? We've heard strange tidings of such a thing, recently… if you can believe in an old woman's dream.

Glorfindel: I heard of a dream that was more than a dream. It came to the sons of the Steward of Gondor and began: "Seek for the sword that was broken"! Princess Meena, can you describe the box you saw?

(Meena does so; right down to the single silver "G" rune on the lid.)

— O — O — O —

Four hundred twenty miles to the northwest, in a hole in a hill, snored a giant. The healing "birdie" listened as goblins spoke her name further and further south through the Misty Mountains, and eastward through the Grey Mountains and toward the Withered Heath. She also heard a diminutive elf speak it near the Withywindle River. She smiled. Soon, she will leave and swim south: seeking larger prey and rare minerals to make her expanding hide strong. She would find the raw magic left behind in places where demons or wizards had died, and a wizard been reborn. Weapons, too, she would seek. Many on this list would be found in water where she was strongest.

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

Letters of Comment

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

Sheryl Birkhead 6 February 2008
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

Somehow I thought I had already sent a note, but looks as if I haven't — need to remedy that.

I just took a look at the Denvention 3 PR and see that the Hugo nomination ballots need to be received by March 1st — gotta remember that! Oh drat, don't think I have the card that had my PIN number, so I may not be able to nominate. I vaguely remember getting a postcard and not seeing any reason to keep it since the number is always on the PR envelopes. Guess I had better get online and see if I can get another one. It would be ironic to have to abdicate one of the two (activity) rights (nominating and voting) of a supporting membership just because…

I'm sure you already know the DUFF winner(s) is (are) Steve and Sue Francis — I expect to see comments about the win in thish (or maybe the timing will make that nextish?). It is always as bittersweet decision when all the candidates running are ghood choices — the winner is always a ghood choice, but so are the losers. If you don't win — keep on running!

Courtesy of Netflix I am only now seeing the TV shows *Eureka*, *Closed Room* (I think that is the correct name), and *Dresden Files* — I wish these had been on mainstream TV — not sure if any of them are still in production. Seeing them in retrospect makes me wish I had cable, but I am still not willing to pay for the chance that shows will appeal to me and will continue to be broadcast in that venue.

I see mentions of the various awards and it reminds me that I have never looked for a listing of the Golden Globe Awards. Normally I would tape the show and skim through it. In the absence of the show, I actually forgot to look.

PED please forgive my slip of the keyboard! I hope your next installment shows you found John.

My latest computer woes are related and not direct — i.e., the computer didn't do it, but it certainly helped! With a sickeningly single-mindedness, the zip disk that holds my records (including year end analyses for taxes) was corrupted. *Only* the files that would do the most "damage" are unsalvageable! Ironically, I have 7 years of similar files and only those in the newest version of the software (i.e., 2008) cannot be opened. Sigh. I guess I should be grateful for small favors. I actually backed the files up as of December 26, but *not* on January 13 when I did the summaries and analyses. Somehow I seriously doubt just handing the IRS a zip disk and telling them all the information is in there — *honest* — will do the trick. You can see what I will be busily doing for the next few weeks/months. It did necessitate another Mac store run with the computer and the zip drive/disk to pull out as much of the damaged information/files [as I could] — now I have to get the tax information together again.

The laptop (on which I am typing!) has been resurrected from the dead. I took the gamble to try to fix it myself — bought a new adapter and that allowed it to boot up and I could type — but the "module" I used most (zip disk) would not work — i.e., I had no way to get the file on the desktop to the printer. So, I gambled that there were actually *two* things that went wrong at once and bought a replacement zip module (all these things are used since this laptop is about 10 years old). *Eureka*, and I can continue to limp along. If I get to the point that I feel particularly flush, I may spring for a new battery — need to ask around if it is wiser to get one of the original (i.e., used — never sure to what degree) or go with a "compatible." I think it will end up being a no-brainer and I'll go for the compatible… yeah, RSN.

I need to suddenly find about a million (ok, I'll be kind… make that half a million) dollars sitting on my doorstep. Ah — a new Mac, a new Apple laptop, satellite Internet, some HD TVs… I am sure I can think of a few more things on my wish list. I settle for just covering my *must* list.

[PED has been mostly offstage in recent chapters, though she makes a short appearance at the end of the one serialized in this issue. I don't (usually) read ahead of the chapters we publish, so I don't know if she ever goes looking for John or not — it would seem at first blush to be aside from her core mission but one can never tell what twists the tale may take. I'm glad your computer woes are at an ebb, but with a computer that old — especially a *laptop* that old — it's always chancy. If you have the option to move to a somewhat more modern backup medium (CD or DVD, for instance) you might want to think about getting away from Zip drives as they have packed their bags and moved *way* down Obsolete Boulevard — and are unlikely to be supported well (if at all!) on any new machine. I trust you either got the PIN you needed for online Hugo voting, or just sent in a paper ballot, for which a PIN was unnecessary. I don't know anything about the TV shows you mention, Sheryl; somehow I've never gotten into many non-broadcast sf series. Perhaps one of our readers could enlighten you on their final status (or one could just check IMDb as they have pretty complete TV-series info, despite being the Internet *Movie* Database). -ED]

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

Lloyd Penney 1 March 2008
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Canada M9C 2B2

Oops, I'm a day past the deadline, but I hope I'll get in anyway. I have here the February issue of the *Shuttle*, and comment on it I will…

Ah, no membership with the Denver Worldcon have I, so I won't be able to nominate or vote for this year's Hugos. However, I certainly will for Montréal, and I hope you'll come up for it.

Thanks for running the DUFF results… Yvonne and I were two of Murray Moore's nominators. Congratulations to Steve and Sue, and I look forward to their trip report. Also, with the horror nominations, as far as I know the only local writer here to make the list is Brett Savory. Could be wrong, I don't read horror.

Hello again, Pie Eyed… the adventure continues, and makes me wish more and more for the movie version of *The Hobbit* to see reality. It's off to a shaky start, so I am hoping that those problems can be overcome. Lots of people seem to have an uneasy attitude towards the idea of a *Hobbit* sequel… I wonder who will write that, and how his efforts will be

(continued on back cover)

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(***LoCs** continued from page 9)*

received. To see the final end of Bilbo Baggins… only his physical existence ends. We will know of him for a long time, and he shall be until that long time ends, and perhaps beyond. We always ask, "And then what happened?," and your tales offer a possible answer to that question.

Indeed, *The Friendly Giant* was a network show of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. We certainly did hear of *Captain Kangaroo*… Bob Keeshan came to Canada quite often. In the places we lived, we could get the Buffalo NY television stations… that's how I came to know about *Star Trek*.

Going to fold and get this to you asap. Take care, and I look forward to another issue in about a month or so.

[Yes, Lloyd, you snuck in under the wire — don't tell anyone but I can almost always work in something I get a couple of days after the printed deadline. I suppose from your perspective you'd have rather Mr. Moore had won the DUFF vote but I think that Sue and Steve should make splendid North American representatives at Swancon and elsewhere on their journey. I do slightly envy them the trip, but the way I'm feeling this weekend (this issue of the *Shuttle* is being edited under the influence of muscle relaxants that, while mild, still mess with my mind a bit) I *don't* envy them the actual travel. That's a looooong time on an airplane. -ED]