The NASFA Shuttle
December 2008

The Next NASFA Meeting is 20 December 2008, at the Regular Time and Location

Christmas Party at Sue & Eva's House Follows Meeting

First Con†Stellation XXVIII Concom Meeting will be Sunday 11 January 2009, 2P, Mike Kennedy's House

Oyez, Oyez

The next **NASFA Meeting** is Saturday **20 December 2008** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**. Meetings are at BookMark, 11220-J South Memorial Parkway — at the corner of the Parkway and Meadowbrook Drive.

PROGRAM

The December program will be our more-or-less annual Random Gift Exchange. If you want to participate bring an *inexpensive* gift (some people bring more than one) to throw on the pile. Details of the exchange will be worked out by Program Director Sue Thorn.

ATMMs AND NEW YEAR'S EVE

The December After-The-Meeting Meeting cum Christmas Party will be at Sue Thorn and Eva Walding's house — 147 Garden Brook Drive in Madison. Directions will be available at the meeting. Any betting pool on how many Christmas trees Sue and Eva have set up this year will be strictly unofficial.

There will be a New Year's Eve party at Nancy Cucci and Ray Pietruszka's house in Madison. The January ATMM will be at Adam and Maria Grim's house. We need ATMM volunteers for February and forward.

CONCOM MEETINGS

The first Concom Meeting for Con†Stellation XXVIII: Vulpecula will be Sunday 11 January at 2P at Mike Kennedy's house — 7907 Charlotte Drive SW in Huntsville. It is anticipated that most Concom Meetings this year will be the Sunday six days before the monthly NASFA Meeting at Mike's house, but you should of course stay tuned for potential changes.

Remember that Con†Stellation will be about a month earlier than in the recent past so we really need to hit the ground running this year.

NASFA CALENDAR ONLINE

Thanks to Bill S. NASFA now has an online calendar on Google. Interested parties may check the calendar online but perhaps more importantly you can subscribe to that calendar and have your Outlook, iCal, BlackBerry, or other calendar automatically updated as events (Club Meetings, Concom Meetings, local sf/f events) are added or changed. Contact Bill S. for details.

SHUTTLE TRANSITION PLANS

This issue marks the nominal end of the transition of *Shuttle* production to different (newer) hardware and software. While tweaks can take place at any time, it is hoped that all significant changes to our production are behind us. Well, with one major exception.

The nominal deadline for the *Shuttle* has in recent years been the Friday 15 days before each NASFA Meeting; but some slack has been allowed since the actual production effort has

Inside this issue…

News and Info....2
Minutes of the November Meeting....2
NASFA Calendar....3
Awards Roundup....4
Letter of Comment....6

Deadline for the January issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 2 January 2009

been mostly concentrated on the weekend before the meeting. Since Concom Meetings are expected to be on that middle weekend this year, a significant amount of work on each issue must be shifted the the left on the timeline. For now our nominal deadline will remain at T-15 days, *but* it will be *much* more stringently enforced than before.

Off topic from the transition (but on topic for the *Shuttle* itself), it is anticipated that the next installment of PieEyed-Dragon's adventures in Middle-Earth will be available for the January issue.

News and Info

DEATH OF A LEGEND

Forrest J. "Forry" Ackerman died Thursday 4 December 2008 at age 92; the reported cause of death was congestive heart failure. Ackerman had been hospitalized off and on recently but died at his Los Angeles home. Premature reports of his death had surfaced about a month before as his health declined. He was said to be surrounded by his friends over his last days.

Ackerman was a major collector of science fiction and horror memorabilia. Much of his estimated 300,000-item collection had been on display in the "Ackermansion," his home which also served as a museum. (The Smithsonian Institution listed it as one of the 10 best private museums in the country.) A large part of his collection, and the Ackermansion itself, was sold in 2002 in part to pay for mounting medical expenses.

In addition to being a collector, he was also a writer (Lifetime member of Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America), a key early sf/f literary agent, a publisher (*Famous Monsters of Filmland* magazine), a fan (attending almost all Worldcons from the first in 1939 onward), an actor (around 50 cameos and bit parts), an editor, a punster, a many-time award winner, and an all-round promoter of genre literature and films. He is even credited with creating the phrase "Sci-Fi." Memorials for Ackerman can be seen all over the web, including on SFWA's web site at <www.sfwa.org/news/2008/fackerman.htm>.

WORLDCONS ANNOUNCE RATE BUMPS

Both currently-seated Worldcons, for 2009 and 2010, have announced their next membership rate increases.

Anticipation, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention, to be held 6–10 August in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, will increase several rates beginning 1 January 2009. A summary follows; full details, including rates in other currencies, can be found on their web site at <www.anticipationsf.ca>. Anticipation's Attending Membership rate will increase from $CAD215/$US190 to $CAD240/$US195. Their Family Attending Memberships will increase from $CAD500/$US450 to $CAD550/$US450. Both these rates are good through 15 July 2009. Supporting Memberships and Child Memberships, in $CAD, will remain unchanged for the present at $CAD55 and $CAD75 respectively — though there are changes in some other currencies including $US. Anticipation has also announced that the presupporter discount will be discontinued as of 1 January 2009. Additional info can be found at the website above, by emailing <registration@anticipationsf.ca>, or by writing to Anticipation, P. O. Box 105, Station NDG, Montreal QC, H4A 3P4, Canada.

Aussiecon 4, the 68th World Science Fiction Convention, to be held 2–6 September 2010 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, has also designated 1 January 2009 for a rate increase. A summary follows; full details, including rates in other currencies, can be found on their web site at <www.aussiecon4.org.au>. Aussiecon's Attending Membership rate will increase from $AUS160/$US155 to $AUS210/$US175. Their Supporting Membership rate will increase from $AUS52/$US50 to $AUS70/$US50. Aussiecon 4 does not have a separate Child Membership rate. Additional info can be found at the website above, by emailing <membership@aussiecon4.org.au>, or by writing to Aussiecon 4, GPO Box 1212, Melbourne VIC 3001, Australia.

TOP MOVIE ROBOTS LISTED

Time magazine has published a list of more than a dozen of "Cinema's Most Memorable Robots" — viewable online at <http://tinyurl.com/65t2mf>. It would be easy to quibble that many of the robots mentioned are in fact androids, cyborgs, or other non-robots... but since they're a non-genre outlet maybe one should cut *Time* a tiny bit of slack. The list, in rough chronological order, is:

- Maria, *Metropolis*, 1927
- Gort, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, 1951
- Robby the Robot, *Forbidden Planet*, 1956
- Gunslinger, *Westworld*, 1973
- C-3P0 and R2-D2, *Star Wars* Episodes I–VI, 1977–2005
- Ash, *Alien*, 1979
- Terminator, *Terminator*, 1984
- Johnny 5, *Short Circuit*, 1986
- Robocop, *Robocop* 1, 2, and 3, 1987–1993
- Data, *Star Trek, The Next Generation* series, 1994–2002
- NS-5, *I, Robot*, 2004
- Marvin the Paranoid Android, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, 2005
- Gigolo Joe, *A.I.: Artificial Intelligence*, 2007
- Optimus Prime, *Transformers*, 2007
- WALL-E, *WALL-E*, 2008
- Gort?, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, 2008

That last, from the *DtESS* remake, was published with a question mark, without a photo of the robot, and with the note "The producers of the remake have kept the details of the iconic robot's new incarnation clothed in secrecy. Hopefully the new Gort will be bigger, badder and less robotic than Keanu Reeves." Reeves, of course, plays Klaatu in the new film.

REMAKE OF YET ANOTHER "CLASSIC"

Info has surfaced that the (debatable) classic *Conquest of the Planet of the Apes* may be in for a remake. Sort of.

20th Century Fox has let slip that they are working on a prequel to the 1968/2001 *Planet of the Apes*, something that has already been attempted in 1972 with *Conquest*. Various rumors have surfaced, calling for this new movie to be named either *Genesis: Apes* or *Caesar*, and to cover either the "ape revolution" that created the PotA or just the first intelligent chimpanzee who was "uplifted" through scientific experimentation by humans. The former might be a more straightforward remake of *Conquest*, while the latter might cover an even earlier period in the PotA timeline. Rumors are fairly consistent in calling the script "near completion." No actors or dates appear to be attached to the project.

November Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The November meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, November 15,

2008 in the BookMark meeting room at 6:20:28P by President Mary Ortwerth. Apparently, the crickets are dead, missing, or on vacation. Sam and Steve both have recordings of the crickets on their recorded minutes, so we could create MP3 crickets. Manda moved that we create virtual crickets for the next meeting. Doug moved that, prior to the next meeting, we wipe out all of Sam and Steve's recordings of previous meetings. Neither motion was seconded.

OLD BUSINESS

Before this meeting, Mike K. and Sam were supposed to meet to come up with a recommended change to the bylaws, related to increasing the annual membership dues. They didn't find time to meet due to busy schedules.

Sam read the section of the bylaws related to dues. Mike K. summarized the issue for Sam. The club is running at a deficit, and no one at last month's meeting had a strong objection to raising dues, but some people objected to allowing it to be decided at a single meeting. At the previous meeting, the consensus was to change the dues amount listed in the bylaws, rather than to change the bylaws to make it easier to change dues in the future.

Doug moved that we increase the subscribing membership rate from $15 to $25 per year for the first member of the family. The $6 rate for each additional member of a family would stay the same. Maria seconded. In the vote, three opposed. The motion carried. [Since this is a bylaws change, it will have to be ratified at the December meeting to take effect. -ED]

Anita asked if she can pay her dues in chocolate. No, but it's worth considering.

NEW BUSINESS

Mary noted that it's time for officer nominations to begin for next year. Doug moved that we railroad the existing slate of officers. Mike C. seconded. We're still looking for additional nominations.

Sue nominated Alice as official Sergeant at Arms. Mike C. asked if we need a Sergeant at Arms. Manda stated that if anyone shushes her, they're going to get a little bit of attitude. Mike S. wanted to know if we need a Lieutenant of Legs. Jeff nominated Randy for Lieutenant of Legs. Randy actually wants to be Corporal of Punishment. Sunn has a bustier she can loan. Mike S. suggested Private Parts. Jeff wanted to nominate Sunn for whatever position causes her to actually wear the bustier to the meeting. Mike C. suggested that position be called Club Supporter.

Steve read the current slate of nominations:

President.....Mary Lampert
Vice-President..... Mike Kennedy
Secretary.....Steve Sloan
Treasurer..... Samuel A. Smith
Program Director.....Sue Thorn
Publicity Director.....Bill Savage

The only other semiserious nomination was Alice Scanland as official Sergeant at Arms. There is a similar appointed position for a Parliamentarian described in the bylaws, but we don't normally fill it. It could be adapted to a Sergeant at Arms position. There was digression about who had copies of *Robert's Rules of Order*, including the *Dummies* version of the book.

The subject of 2010 con chair nominations came up. Anita tread on dangerous ground by saying "me, me, me" out of context, and almost got nominated. The club decided to skip con chair nominations until next month. Mike K. noted that when he served as con chair two years in a row, he did a terrible job the second year. The last time Sunn served as con chair, she gafiated for almost 20 years afterward.

EMAILS

Sam read the (often spammish) emails he received. The Huntsville Public Library got a fanfare from a booting Windows machine that was being tested for the auction. Anyway, the Huntsville Public Library will be reading *The Tempest*, then meeting on November 21st to watch the movie *Forbidden Planet* and discuss the similarities between the two works. Atlanta-area anime club Atlantame wants to sell us ad space on their web site. No thanks. However, Steve jokingly wondered if they can fill in for HAAS running the anime room next year, since HAAS will all be at Anime Weekend Atlanta on Con†Stellation weekend. Maybe we can arrange a swap of anime clubs. Anita thought we could exchange HAAStages. Anyway, Michael Thorp advertised his new book, *Ben Brown's Adventure Beyond the Universe — The Return of the Nephilim*. Ikthalion Press announced more books.

In real mail, we got a thank you card from Kerlak Publishing. They had very nice things to say about Con†Stellation.

One of the convention mass mailings bounced.

CON BUSINESS

According to Mike K, no date has been set for the first concom meeting of the year. It needs to be some time in early January, because we'll have a month less time than usual to prepare this year. Mike's personal preference is to meet Sunday afternoons. Does anyone have a problem with meeting on a Sunday afternoon early in January? It would probably be the first or second Sunday of January. The agreed-upon time for the first concom meeting of the year will be Sunday, January 11, at 2P at Mike K.'s house.

There are places where you can get chocolate-covered bacon.

Sam reminded everybody to get their convention receipts reimbursed ASAP. He would like to get the books closed on the 2008 con by the end of the year.

Last year's Read Assist charity check never could get delivered to anyone at Read Assist. There were no objections to converting the undelivered Read Assist donation into an American Heart Association donation.

Anita sent three more t-shirts to Gene Wolfe. Payment has been received and deposited. He followed that up with a very nice thank you note to her and an autographed copy of his new book.

Sam announced that the convention is $1000 in the hole so far.

Doug moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:49:36P.

The program was the annual auction. Mike Kennedy hosted the After-the-Meeting Meeting at his house.

NASFA Calendar

DECEMBER

04 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Swords and Deviltry*, Fritz Leiber; 6P.
05–07 SMOFcon 26 — Columbus OH.
05–07 CatchupCon — Norcross (Atlanta area) GA.
09 BD: Maria West-Grim.
12 BD: Toni Weisskopf.
15 Bill of Rights Day.
17 BD: Robin Ray.
19 BD: Yvonne Penney.
20* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: Random Gift Exchange. ATMM: Christmas Party at Eva Walding and Sue Thorn's house.

20 BD: Aaron Kennedy.
21 First Day of Winter.
21–29 Hanukkah.
22 BD: Wolf (Wolfie) Freeman.
25 Christmas Day.
26 BD: Michael R. Stone.
31 New Year's Eve Party — Ray Pietruszka and Nancy Cucci's house.

JANUARY 2009

01 New Year's Day.
03 BD: Jim Kennedy.
03 BD: Karen Hopkins.
06 BD: Rich Garber.
07 BD: Douglas E. Lampert.
08 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Book of Lost Things*, John Connolly; 6P.
09–10 Shadowcon XIII — Memphis TN.
09–11 GaFilk 11 — Atlanta GA.
11 Con†Stellation XXVIII Concom Meeting, 2P, Mike Kennedy's house.
16 BD: Bruce Butler.
16–18 MarsCon — Williamsburg VA.
17* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: Dr. Travis S. "Doc" Taylor presents "Your Brain is a Quantum Computer" plus signs books. ATMM: Maria and Adam Grim's house.
19 BD: Martin Luther King, Jr.
20 Inauguration Day.
20 BD: Larry Montgomery.
23–25 Chattacon 34 — Chattanooga TN.

FEBRUARY 2009

01 National Freedom Day.
01 Atlanta Comic Convention — Atlanta GA.
02 Groundhog Day.
05 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Princess of Mars*, Edgar Rice Burroughs; 6P.
08 BD: Lin Cochran.
09 BD: Jack Lundy.
10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.
11 BD: Jeanna Woosley.
12 BD: Abraham Lincoln.
14 Valentine's Day.
15 **Tentative** Con†Stellation XXVIII Concom Meeting, Mike Kennedy's house.
16 President's Day.
17 BD: Nancy A. Cucci.
20–22 Con Nooga 2009 — Chattanooga TN.
21* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
21 BD: Susan Stockell.
22 BD: George Washington.
27–01 SheVaCon 17 — Roanoke VA.
27–01 MegaCon — Orlando FL.

MARCH 2009

02 BD: Ronnie Lajoie.
05 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *A Dirty Job*, Christopher Moore; 6P.
06 Vulkon Orlando Spring Sci-Fi Expo — Orlando FL.
08 Daylight Savings Time begins.
09 BD: Tracey Kennedy.
10 Purim.
10 BD: Kerry Gilley.
13 BD: Anita Eisenberg.
13–15 Stellarcon 33 — High Point NC.
13–15 Madicon 18 — Harrisonburg VA.
14–15 MomoCon 2008 — Atlanta GA.
15 **Tentative** Con†Stellation XXVIII Concom Meeting, Mike Kennedy's house. **NOTE:** Stay tuned for a possible date change if the club meeting date changes (see below).
15 BD: Carlo DeShouten.
17 St. Patrick's Day.
19–22 Furry Weekend Atlanta 2009 — Atlanta GA.
20 First Day of Spring.
20–22 FantaSciCon '09 — Chattanooga TN.
20–22 MidSouthCon 27 — Memphis TN.
20–22 CoastCon XXXII — Biloxi MS.
21* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD. **NOTE:** Stay tuned for a possible date change due to multiple convention conflicts.
22 BD: Jayson Woosley.
27–29 ImagiCon 2008 — Birmingham AL.
27–29 Econocon 2009 — Atlanta GA.

OoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoO

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.

Awards Roundup

CHESLEY AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Winners of the 2007 Chesley Awards were announced Monday 17 November 2008. The awards, given by the Association of Science Fiction & Fantasy Artists <www.asfa-art.org>, were named in honor of the famed astronomical artist Chesley Bonestell. (The awards were originally called simply the ASFA Awards; the name was changed after Bonestell died.) Presentation of the Chesleys normally takes place annually at Worldcon, but was delayed this year.

Cover Illustration, Hardback Book........... **Donato Giancola** (*The Outback Stars*, Sandra McDonald, Tor)

Cover Illustration, Paperback Book...........**Donato Giancola** (*Crystal Dragon*, Sharon Lee and Steve Miller Ace)

Cover Illustration, Magazine......................... **Cory Ench** and **Catska Ench** (*Fantasy & Science Fiction*, March 2007)

Interior Illustration........ **James Gurney** (*Dinotopia; Journey*

to Chandara, James Guerney and Andrews McMeel)

Gaming-Related Illustration..... **Donato Giancola**, *Vanguard: Saga of Heroes* (Sigil Games Online)

Product Illustration..... **Todd Lockwood**, *War of Angels* (poster for Bullseye Tattoo)

Monochrome, Unpublished.....**Donato Giancola**, *Season of Change* (Pencil and Chalk on Toned paper)

Color Work, Unpublished Donato Giancola, *Red Sonja* (Oil)

Three Dimensional.....**Vincent Villafranca**, *Conscious Entity and Its Maker* (Bronze)

Art Director.....**Irene Gallo**, Tor Books

Award for Artistic Achievement.....**Michael Wm. Kaluta**

ENDEAVOUR AWARD GIVEN

The 2008 Endeavour Award (for works published in 2007) was announced and presented at OryCon 30 <www.orycon.org/orycon30>, which was held 21–23 November 2008 at the Portland Marriott Waterfront in Portland OR. The winner was ***The Silver Ship and the Sea*** by Brenda Cooper (Tor). The award is named for H.M. Bark *Endeavour*, the ship of Northwest explorer Capt. James Cook, and is for a "distinguished science fiction or fantasy book, either a novel or a single-author collection, created by a writer living in the Pacific Northwest." The author receives an engraved glass plaque and a $1000 honorarium. Judges for the 2008 award were Ellen Asher, Steven Barnes, and Russell Davis. Barnes made the award presentation.

AMAZON MAKES ODD AWARDS

Online bookseller Amazon has announced their 10 Best Books of 2008 <tinyurl.com/6rtzbw> in each of almost 20 categories. Actually, there can be up to 20 books in each category since they compiled separate Customer Favorites and Editors' Picks lists. Each Customer Favorites list is said to be comprised of bestsellers for books in that category first published in 2008, using sales totals through October 2008. Each Editors' Pick list is compiled by a board of editors appointed (or perhaps employed) by Amazon. The methodology used for this latter list is unknown to the *Shuttle*.

The two sf/f lists, from first to tenth place, are shown below and include some — shall we say — unusual choices. Other categories of likely interest to *Shuttle* readers include Teens, Children's Books (separate lists for Middle Readers and Picture Books), Comics & Graphic Novels, and Science.

Amazon SF/F Editors' Picks

- *Liberation: Being the Adventures of the Slick Six After the Collapse of the United States of America*, Brian Francis Slattery
- *The Drowned Life*, Jeffrey Ford
- *The Resurrectionist*, Jack O'Connell
- *Tender Morsels*, Margo Lanagan
- *Anathem*, Neal Stephenson
- *Last Dragon*, J. M. Mcdermott
- *Black Ships*, Jo Graham
- *The Stone Gods*, Jeanette Winterson
- *Matter*, Iain M. Banks
- *Victory of Eagles*, Naomi Novik

Amazon SF/F Customer Favorites

- *The Host: A Novel*, Stephenie Meyer
- *Small Favor*, Jim Butcher
- *Anathem*, Neal Stephenson
- *The Outlaw Demon Wails*, Kim Harrison
- *Cry Wolf*, Patricia Briggs
- *Iron Kissed*, Patricia Briggs
- *The Gypsy Morph*, Terry Brooks
- *Invincible*, Troy Denning
- *Valiant*, Jack Campbell
- *Revelation*, Karen Traviss

LA FILM CRITICS AWARDS

Genre films *WALL-E* and *The Dark Knight* took the top two spots in 2008 Los Angeles Film Critics Association Awards <www.lafca.net> when their 34th annual awards were announced 9 December. *WALL-E* was named Best Picture of the Year while *Dark Knight* took the runner-up spot in that category. *Dark Knight* also took several other trophies including for runner-up in the Best Director category (Christopher Nolan), the top honor in the Supporting Actor category (Heath Ledger), and the runner-up post in Production Design (Nathan Crowley). Upcoming (and genre-related) release *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* was named runner-up in the Music/Score category.

BCFA NOMS

The Broadcast Film Critics Association <www.bfca.org> has released the nominations for their 13th annual Critics' Choice Awards. Genre and related movies did pretty well, lead by genre-related *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* with eight noms (tied for most in the entire list with non-genre *Milk*).

Button got nods in the Best Picture, Best Actor (Brad Pitt), Best Actress (Cate Blanchett), Best Supporting Actress (Taraji P. Henson), Best Acting Ensemble, Best Director (David Fincher), Best Writer (Eric Roth), and Best Composer (Alexandre Desplat) categories. *The Dark Knight* was close behind, with six noms for Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor (Heath Ledger), Best Acting Ensemble, Best Director (Christopher Nolan), Best Action Movie, and Best Composer (Hans Zimmer and James Newton Howard). Next in the genre list is *WALL-E*, which garnered three nominations: for Best Picture, Best Animated Feature, and Best Song ("Down to Earth," performed by Peter Gabriel, written by Peter Gabriel and Thomas Newman).

Both *Bolt* and *Quantum of Solace* were recognized twice; the former for Best Animated Feature and Best Song ("I Thought I Lost You," performed Miley Cyrus and John Travolta, written by Miley Cyrus and Jeffrey Steele) and the latter for Best Action Movie and Best Song ("Another Way to Die," performed by Jack White and Alicia Keys, written by Jack White). Bringing up the rear, with one nom each, are *Kung Fu Panda* and *Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa* for Best Animated Feature plus *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* and *Iron Man* for Best Action Movie.

In all, genre and related films took 26 of the 91 nominations slots, or about 28.6%. Eliminating the Documentary and Foreign Language categories, that would be 26 of 80, or 32.5%.

NYFCC AWARDS

The New York Film Critics Circle <www.nyfcc.com> announced the winners of their 2008 Awards on 10 December — the 74th time the awards have been given. The only genre/related winner was *WALL-E* in the Best Animated Film category. That category was established in 2000 when it was won by *Chicken Run*.

GOLDEN GLOBE NOMS

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced the nominations for their annual Golden Globe Awards <www.goldenglobes.org> on 11 December 2008 — they showed relatively little love to genre films, and even less to genre TV.

One genre-related film did receive five noms to tie for the most for all films. *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* got nods for Best Motion Picture — Drama, Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture (Brad Pitt), Director (David Fincher), Screenplay (Eric Roth), and Original Score (Alexandre Desplat). The genre TV show

recognized the most was *True Blood*, with two noms: for Best TV Series — Drama and Performance by an Actress in a TV Series — Drama (Anna Paquin).

Also receiving two noms each were *WALL-E* and *Bolt*, both for Animated Feature Film and Original Song in a Motion Picture (for "Down to Earth" and "I Thought I Lost You" respectively). One nod each went to *The Dark Knight* (for Heath Ledger in the Supporting Actor for a Motion Picture category), *Kung Fu Panda* (for Animated Feature Film), and the sort-of-related *24: Redemption* (for Kiefer Sutherland in the Actor in a Mini-Series or Motion Picture made for TV category).

In all that made 14 nominations for genre and related works out of 123 slots, or 11.4% (or, eliminating the Foreign Language Film category a marginally better 11.7%). Only two Golden Globe categories saw multiple noms for genre works — a clean sweep in the Animated Feature Film category and two nods in the Original Song in a Motion Picture category.

WRITERS GUILD NOMS

The Writers Guild of America <www.wga.org> announced their TV (and Radio, News, etc.) award nominees on 8 December 2008. These awards roughly cover the 2007–8 TV season — movie nominees (for calendar year 2008) and video game nominees will be announced separately in early January. Their award show — the 61st annual version — will be Saturday 7 February 2009, held simultaneously at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel in LA and the Hudson Theatre at the Millennium Broadway Hotel in NYC.

Genre and related shows did pull down a few noms, lead by kind-of-sort-of-genre-related *The Simpsons*, with nods for Comedy Series plus four different episodes ("Apocalypse Cow," "The Debarted," "E Pluribus Wiggum," and "Homer and Lisa Exchange Cross Words") in the Animation One Airing Time category. Genre shows copped three of the five honors in the New Series category, for *Fringe*, *Life on Mars*, and *True Blood*. One of those, *Fringe*, also got a second nomination in the Long Form — Original category for their pilot episode.

Two additional shows were recognized for their content, and one for a promotion. *Lost* was tapped in the Dramatic Series category, while the sort-of-related TV special *Elmo's Christmas Countdown* caught a look-in in the Children's Episodic and Specials category. Genre series *Jericho* took an On-Air Promotion nod for the "Two-Minute Drill" episode (the season opener).

In all, genre and related (some only distantly related) shows came away with 12 noms out of 84 slots, for only 14.3%. That rises to a more respectable 25% (12 of 48) after eliminating the Comedy, Daytime, Documentary, and News categories.

NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW AWARDS

The National Board of Review of Motion Pictures <www.nbrmp.org> announced the winners of their annual awards. Genre and related winners included *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* (Best Director (David Fincher) and Best Adapted Screenplay (Simon Beaufoy), the latter a tie with non-genre *Slumdog Millionaire*. Best Animated Feature was taken by *WALL-E*. Though no other genre films won in a category, *The Dark Knight* was listed among the Top Ten Films, joining both *Button* and *WALL-E* in that honor.

Letter of Comment

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

LLoyd Penney 24 November 2008

1706-24 Eva Road
Etobicoke ON
Canada M9C 2B2

Thank you for yet another *Shuttle*, for November. I will read it slowly so [I] can get everything I can out of it.

I used to buy *Locus* on a regular basis through my local SF bookstore, but I had to cancel it because of rising prices. And what do you have after several years' subscription? A big stack of magazines that take up space. I am almost expecting that *Locus* will go all-electronic in a couple of years. Charlie Brown and company put out a pretty magazine, and I'd like nothing better than to work on it, but so many magazines are going under or are going electronic.

One of the biggest problems any club has, and that is dues to finance its operations. Tough to set, and tough to balance with what your members can afford. Not an easy decision… I hope the members understand what has to be done to keep things going with ever-rising prices.

I checked the website for the Gaylactic Spectrum Awards… there's still nothing announced for that third category. And Taral's year just gets better and better with his Rotsler Award.

No PieEyed this time around? Disappointed I am, also type like Yoda speaks I do.

It is amazing that as it started as a small convention, the Worldcon today has a budget of over $1 million, and a revenue stream that other conventions would envy. Yet, I can only imagine the revenues that come from a Dragon*Con or any 50,000+-attendee anime convention. They're not little cons any more; they are full businesses. Every convention must take that same attitude today.

I'm going to fold it up and say thank you, and fire it off into the ether, and my LJ, too. Getting close to the festive season… If you look in the stores, you'd swear it's been Christmas since Labour Day. Take care, see you next issue.

[For me, Christmas — the shopping part at least — starts long before Labor Day (or Labour Day, for that matter). In fact, it's not that uncommon for me to buy things that won't be given as gifts for more than a full year. Sometimes that's deliberate and sometimes it just works out that way. Regarding the budget of the megacons, I'm not privy to them (they have *much* less transparency in their operations than does Worldcon) but they might not be as much higher than a Worldcon as you might imagine because of economies of scale. Worldcons could increase their typical attendance by 50–100% without adding a large amount in the way of facilities cost, for instance. It's not entirely fair to compare the headline membership rate of a Worldcon (over $200 at the door) to Dragon*Con (just under $100 at the door in 2008; rumored to be exactly $100 in 2009) since the latter is shorter (4 days versus 5); has some separate, optional charges (autographs and tournament gaming for instance); and many of the features offered differ. That said, *part* of the reason Dragon*Con can cost significantly less (and presumably have a proportionately lower budget-per-member) is that they have many more members over whom to spread the fixed costs. Kevin Standlee has written extensively about this aspect of Worldcon budgeting; search his LiveJournal blog <kevin-standlee.livejournal.com> if you want to peruse his thinking on the matter. I've been in touch with PED and hope to be able to run another installment of his tale in the January issue (and maybe a second one in February). After that I'm not sure how things will go. Hmm… *Locus*, lemmie check — OK, the current cover price is $US6.95 but a one-year subscription for Canadian addresses would be $US73, or a "mere" $US730

for a lifetime subscription. I took the lifetime option (at US rates, of course) mumbledy-mumble years ago so in some sense I too haven't paid for *Locus* for a long time, even though I still receive it. -ED]

art by PeterM from <OpenClipArt,org>

P. O. Box 4857
Huntsville AL 35815-4857

****
The NASFA Shuttle is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the December 2008 edition (Volume 28, Number 12). NASFA Officers for 2008: President Mary Lampert; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Steve Sloan; Treasurer Sam Smith; Program Director Sue Thorn; Publicity Director Bill Savage. Shuttle Editor Mike Kennedy.
Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by email to: nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org — EDITORIAL ADDRESS (EMAIL)
Comments, inquiries, and contributions of writing by snailmail to: Mike Kennedy, 7907 Charlotte Drive SW,
Huntsville AL 35802-2841 — EDITORIAL ADDRESS (SNAILMAIL)
Dues ($), subscriptions ($), and Official Mail to: NASFA, Inc., P. O. Box 4857,
Huntsville AL 35815-4857 — OFFICIAL ADDRESS
Contents Copyright, © 2008. All rights revert to contributors. All opinions are those of the individual authors and do not reflect club policies other than by coincidence. LoCs subject to edited printing.
NASFA Dues = $15/year (Family rates available) Subscription only = $10/year Single copy = $1.50 each.
One Time Notice: Dues go up beginning in 2009; see elsewhere in this issue for details.
****