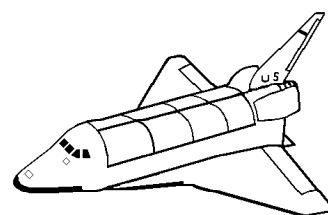


The



SHUTTLE July 1998

The Next NASFA Meeting will be 18 July 1998 at the Regular Time and the New Regular Location (Madison City Municipal Building)

Oyez, Oyez

The next NASFA meeting will be **18 July 1998** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **new regular location** (room 130 of the Madison City Municipal Building).

The July program will be putting together the convention mass mailing. The after-the-meeting meeting location is to be determined at press time.

July C-XVII ConCom Set

The next Con†Stellation XVII Con Committee meeting will be Thursday 16 July 1998 at co-chair Pat Brooks' place. Call (256) 883-5922 for directions. This *is* an eating meeting with the eating starting at 6:30P and the meeting proper thereafter. The food theme is "Mercury."

Everyone is welcome to attend the eating, the meeting, or both. Department heads are strongly urged to attend at least the actual meeting.

Everyone Loves "Venusian" Food at ConCom

Being just a wee tad smaller than the gas giants, Venus attracted fewer entries at the June concom dinner than we had seen in April and May. Nonetheless, the high quality was maintained. See if you can match the descriptions of the "Venusian" foods below to the earth equivalents.

1. Served after the last meal of the day, Venusian Cloud Tarts provide the population it's most popular pucker-upper dessert.
2. Like spinach does to most young humans, Simmered Venusian Sulfur Gourds stir profoundly distressed feelings in Venus's younglets.
3. Venusian Flat Worm Bake is truly appreciated by the older generations, those with taste.
4. These Venusian VVVIAGRA aphrodisiacs are popular in high class society as party favors. Their striking two toned color variation is thought to stimulate the baser animalistic centers in otherwise preoccupied normal minds.

(continued on page 2)

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Deadline for the August 1998 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 31 July 1998.

A "Big Hit" Movie

reviewed by Jack Lundy

Deep Impact stars a comet, a heavenly body that does a cannonball belly flop, scoring a 20 on the Richter scale, and generates a Surfer's dream — comparable perhaps to the ones that killed the dinosaurs, and perhaps immortalized Noah.

This story concerns a real near future possibility of us facing a serious non-human enemy, a "Near Earth Object" (NEO) like the Shoemaker-Levy comet train that raised welts on Jupiter that were as big or bigger than Earth itself.

I feel this story is not about the mechanics of science that infuse such a story, but about the humans who must face extinction when all their efforts and prayers to God seem to be answered "NO." This is OK if you're Noah, but what if you're a run-of-the-mill sinner or a science fiction fan? Their story unfolds, which is a story about us.

One plot thread is from the perspective of the news team, especially a young news anchor-woman who begins thinking she is assigned to cover a Clintonoid scandal, and winds up with what is the greatest, yet also the last, truly Big Scoop.

Closely woven with her thread is the President and his Government who must make the grim choices and announcements of not only the impending doom, but of who gets to live and who doesn't per the resources at his command.

Those who live with the Government's decisions at our level are shown via the young astronomer who first spots and reports the comet along with his family and friends. He is chosen along with his young wife to be evacuated and lodged in the Missouri hills that have been turned into a subterranean Ark. Their families are not and are kept from the Ark bus by the U. S. Army whose job has become suppression of the population via martial law. *Much* easier with tomorrow's technology that it was during the Vietnam War era.

Finally, there is the NASA team, principally the crew of the *Messiah*, the space ship sent to the comet to disintegrate it

by planting nukes. The *Messiah* is led by an over-the-hill Apollo astronaut and young pros who could be dubbed "Star Trek: the Pre-Generation." They embark to fight the unbeatable foe. (Perhaps their ship should've been christened *La Mancha*?)

Back on Earth, as doom approaches, the good news is that the young astronomer who originally spotted the comet becomes a *mensch* by refusing to board the subterranean Ark. And, the *Messiah* crew have lots of high schools named after them as they make their last desperate move, a la Don Quixote aboard his steed Rosinante charging the Holy Inquisition stockades to free the galley slaves.

BOOM.

A few questions popped out at me from the movie:

Love is a major survivor in many aspects, but not in all.

There is no love story as in *Titanic*. There is less passion (forget sex) and glamour than there would be in a movie about a monastery. Will Beauty be one of the extinctions of Tomorrow, especially sexy beauty? Will it matter? Why or why not?

If this scenario dawns, do those in power that designate themselves "Chosen" have license to use the military to sentence the non-chosen to death, including their soldiers who hold us at gunpoint?

After the Boom Doom, with all but the young and healthy exterminated — but for the politicians and their military enforcers who now run their lives — would Dr. Strangelove get so excited he'd walk for his Fuhrer/President "Noah"? Dance?

Scientists: The description of the aftermath of a humongous collision: e.g., a super hot atmosphere, acid rain, etc., sounds like the current environment on Venus: 750 degrees at the surface with a sulfuric acid atmosphere. Is this sort of collision possibly what happened to Venus?

Sleep well.

b-7 9-d s-2 f-f d-8 g-5 o-l

Just the Facts

Deep Impact, Zanuck/Brown Productions/DreamWorks SKG/Paramount Pictures. PG-13 (intense disaster related elements and brief language). Staring Robert Duvall, Tia Leoni, Elijah Wood, Vanessa Redgrave, Morgan Freeman, Leelee Sobieski, Maximilian Schell, etc. Directed by Mimi Leder. Produced by Joan Bradshaw, David Brown, D. Scott Easton, Walter F. Parkes, Steven Spielberg, and Richard D. Zanuck. Effects by Industrial Light & Magic. Written by Bruce Joel Rubin and Michael Tolkin. Cinematography by Dietrich Lohmann. Original music by James Horner. Additional music by Giacomo Puccini (from "La Bohème"). US release date: 8 May 1998.

If It's Not Some Snowball, Then It's Some @#%&*! Rock

by Mike Kennedy and Pat Brooks

Armageddon Jerry Bruckheimer Pictures/Valhalla Motion Pictures/Touchstone Pictures. PG-13 (sci-fi disaster action, sensuality, and brief language). Staring Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton, Ben Affleck, Liv Tyler, etc. Directed by Michael Bay. Produced by Kenny Bates, Michael Bay, Jerry Bruckheimer, Jonathan Hensleigh, Gale Anne Hurd, Chad Oman, Pat Sandston, Jim Van Wyck, and Barry H. Waldman. Effects by POP Film/Vision Crew Unlimited/Blue Sky Studios/Visual Effects/Cinesite Hollywood/Digital Domain/Dream Quest Images. Written by Jonathan Hensleigh, Robert Roy Pool, Tony Gilroy, Shane Salerno, Jonathan Hensleigh, and J. J. Abrams. Cinematography by John Schwartzman.

Original music by Harry Gregson-Williams. US release date: 1 July 1998.

MIKE'S TURN

If you listen to the critics, you won't bother going to *Armageddon*. They say it's too loud. They say it has no plot. They say it's a desperate, and doomed, effort by Bruce Willis to justify his multi-million-dollar-per-movie asking price.

It's probably true that Willis desperately needs a major hit, especially one that's not part of the *Die Hard* franchise. It's also true that when this movie is loud, it's really quite loud. (But then so are most action-adventure movies.)

And, judging by the early returns, it's probably true that

this will not be the box-office hit of the summer.

Nonetheless, *Armageddon* is getting a bad rap.

OK, so the science — or at least most of it — sucks rocks. And the romantic subplot is never completely satisfactory. And occasionally the fast-paced visuals get a little confusing. And some of the characters are two dimensional. Or less.

OK, so this could never be an important movie. Or even a first-rate movie. But it *is* entertaining.

Armageddon tells the story of a group of deep-core oil drillers recruited to use a nuclear bomb to save the Earth from a Texas-sized asteroid headed for the old bull's-eye. They have an obscenely short time to whip uncooperative equipment into shape and train to be astronauts — or at least learn to handle themselves in low gravity. NASA just happens to have at least four different deus ex machinas waiting in the wings to make this mission possible albeit still incredibly difficult and dangerous.

The eight drillers are joined in the large cast by the daughter (Liv Tyler) of the lead driller (Bruce Willis), a NASA higher-up (played admirably by Billy Bob Thornton), several astronauts, a Russian cosmonaut, assorted military officers, and many more. Some of the characters are clearly set dressing — killed off before the final countdown begins. Others are simply shunted aside (the President of the United States — or rather the actor that plays him — gets 36th billing.) But a surprising number of the characters are developed into distinct individuals and play a significant role right up until the end, both on the mission to the asteroid and back on Earth.

One of the ways excitement is generated in many action-adventure movies — and this one is no exception — is pitting people against the clock. In *Armageddon* the characters are “on the clock” from almost the first few minutes of the movie. There are numerous deadlines — literally *dead* lines — that must be met. And they keep getting packed closer together. First you have weeks to do something. Then you have days. Then several hours. Then just a handful of minutes. Then a matter of seconds. Inexorably the mainspring tightens and the audience is pulled closer and closer to the edge of their seats.

This structure sounds artificial, and it is. I would have been happier, in fact, if *Armageddon* had not followed this formula so closely. There were too many things where you could say “Now wait a minute — that timing doesn't make sense!” Having said that, though, I'm more than happy to admit that *Armageddon* makes very effective use of this device. Even if you have no doubt about the ultimate outcome, the pucker factor can get intense as the deadlines approach.

So *Armageddon* provides quite a ride. Ben Affleck (who plays the number two driller) is quoted as saying “I hope [viewers] have that feeling that you get when you get off a roller coaster, which is: ‘I wanna get right back on and try it again!’” I don't know about getting back on, but it is a pretty good ride.

PAT SPEAKS UP

I did not see *Deep Impact*. It sounded much too down for me. But I was determined to see *Armageddon* from the first preview in the cinema — and I didn't let the critics talk me out of it. Mike and I even swung for night-time prices because Monday night was when we were both free. Was it worth it? Yes!

Bruce Willis played mature oil driller extraordinaire Harry S. Stamper very well. Steve Buscemi as Rockhound reminded me of Barney Fife — except this Fife is a genius. It must have taken guts for Hollywood to cast an ordinary looking guy in such an important comedy-relief role. To whoever was respon-

sible for the casting — a big “Good Job.” Buscemi played the role perfectly.

Billy Bob Thornton, as NASA's flight director Don Truman, did a *fine* job. I did keep wondering why his beard never grew past the “I'm growing a beard, but it's not quite there yet stage”. It constantly looked 48 hours old. But that's a makeup or directing decision — I guess. Three of the driller characters were definitely flat. But I didn't mind, the movie is nearly two and a half hours long as it is. Oh, the romantic subplot wasn't bad.

The screenwriters get two thumbs up as well for all of the wonderful lines that made me laugh... and cry. The physical exam at NASA all the drillers had to go through was one of the funniest scenes in the movie. Comic relief was available just where it was needed.

Now for the science. Perhaps it would be best if you went in with a (1) this-is-an-action-film, or (2) this-is-really-set-50-years-in-the-future, or (3) I'm-dropping-my-logic-into-my-back-pocket-as-soon-as-I-pick-up-the-popcorn attitude. Who says you need to choose just one — take all three and have fun.

When they put together an air scrubber made out of plastic sheeting and duct tape at Houston's ground control for the Apollo 13 mission and made it work, it was improbable. But it *was* a real life example of how human ingenuity can triumph over certain tragedy. *Armageddon* is a movie of human spirit, of not giving up even *after* the fat lady sings. *Armageddon* is a “feel good” movie. It explores another good reason to get at least some humans off this one fragile island we call Earth.

NASFA Receivables

by Randy B. Cleary, additional reviews by Pat Brooks

FANZINES

ASFA Future Times, Volume 1, Numbers 2–4, April–June 1998. Editor: Ian Letendre <valhalla@dsga.com>, Publisher: Atlanta Science Fiction Society <asfs1@juno.com>, P. O. Box 98308, Atlanta GA 30359-2008. 6, 9, and 6pp.

A good little club zine (especially for a club still in its infancy), with club information, minutes, editorial comments, art, reviews, and fannish information.

Issue 2 has a unicorn and fairy cover (by me), a *Babylon 5* Model Kit review, a *Sliders* update, con listings, and a *Lost in Space* review.

Issue 3 has a female druid cover (by me but with a resized aspect ratio), confessions of a new *Babylon 5* junkie, con listings, a short-fiction installment, publications received, and Hugo nominations.

Issue 4 has an alien/wizard head shot by Miss Jayne, publications received, a LibertyCon report, con listings, the conclusion to the short-fiction installment, a review of *The Truman Show*, and a cool website column.

DeProfundus, Issue 313, June 1998. Publisher: Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society. Editor: Tim Merrigan. \$10/year. Correspondence: 11513 Burbank Boulevard, North Hollywood CA 91601. 10pp.

This club zine is packed with tiny but (thankfully) clear tri-column format type mostly about the LASFS club comings and goings, and with zines received, con bid info, and fannish news.

Derogatory Reference, Number 89. Editor/Publisher: Arthur Hlavaty, 206 Valentine Street, Yonkers NY 10704 or

email <hlavaty@panix.com >. \$1/issue (\$2 outside the USA) or arranged trade or LoC. Email version available on request. 6pp.

This personal zine recommends the Alfred Bester and Howard Waldrop collections out from Vintage, comments on reading habits (based on writing styles), discusses the ICFA (unlike Hlavaty, I did not find *Deadeye Dick* by Vonnegut to be that boring), and the advantages of becoming an NYU student.

File 770, Number 124. Editor/Publisher: Mike Glycer. Subscription: \$8 (5 issues) or \$15 (10 issues). Correspondence: P. O. Box 1056, Sierra Madre CA 91025 or email <MGlycer@compuserve.com >. 22pp.

All the fannish news that's fit such as TAFF info, DUFF info, FFANZ info, CUFF info, con bid info, COAs, Obits, Hugo Nominations, a Con*Dor report, an Eastercon report, and LOCs.

FOSFAX, Number 191, June 1998. Editors: Timothy Lane and Elizabeth Garrott. Publisher: Falls of the Ohio Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, P. O. Box 37281, Louisville KY 40233-7281. Subscription \$12/year (6 issues) — higher prices for first class, etc. Sample issue: \$3. 72pp.

A club zine full of politics, literary criticism, con and trip reports, lots of reviews, and tons of LOCs. There's lots of little clip art wedged here and there (one by me). The frog parable was heart- (or should I say, "globally-") warming.

The Geis Letter, Numbers 48–49, May–June 1998. Publisher/Editor: Richard E. Geis. Subscription: \$1/issue (US); \$2/issue (elsewhere). Back issues \$2. Published irregularly. Correspondence: Richard E. Geis, P. O. Box 11408, Portland OR 97211-0408. 8 and 8pp.

Issue 48 lists the 1997 Nebula Awards, presents an update on TWA Flight 800, and has several reviews and letters.

Issue 49 discusses eye problems and **requests that no more books and zines be sent**. It has an update on TWA Flight 800 as well as several reviews and letters.

Memphen, Number 243, May 1998. Editor: Tim Gatewood, 3125 South Mendenhall #353, Memphis TN 38115-2808. Publisher: Memphis Science Fiction Association, P. O. Box 12534, Memphis TN 38182. Subscription: \$10/year. 12pp.

The Darrell Awards will be presented June 18th. There were moving tributes to Claude Saxon who died between April 9th and 10th. Club news and news of the publication of *The Enemy Papers* by Barry B. Longyear fill the pages. (Sigh — another got to have. Seems like all three *Enemy Mine* portions are rounded up here.) Also promised — a review of *Lost In Space*.

Memphen, Number 244, June 1998. Editor: Tim Gatewood, 3125 South Mendenhall #353, Memphis TN 38115-2808. Publisher: Memphis Science Fiction Association, P. O. Box 12534, Memphis TN 38182. Subscription: \$10/year. 8pp.

This issue of the club zine contained Meeting Minutes, discussion of the cost of printed club zines, and LOCs with several spot illos and nice cover art.

OASFiS Event Horizon, Volume 11, Number 5, Issue 130, May 1998. Editor: Jennifer C. Stutesman, 20 Sandlewood Court, Oviedo FL 32765. Publisher: Orlando Area Science Fiction Society, P. O. Box 940992, Maitland FL 32794-0992. Subscription: \$12/year. 8pp.

This is their special convention issue for OASIS

11, May 15–17, 1998. Convention enthusiasm is wide spread inside, but short fiction by Dean S Warren appears also. "Succession" struck me as a snapshot, a three page prospect for a book idea to an editor. While good, I kept wanting more, a fleshing out of Prince Tol and Benina. Perhaps Warren writes long fiction also. I feel there is more to this world than *The Event Horizon* has room for. An OASFiS literary magazine to be sold at OASIS conventions may be in the works. Anyone interested can write to their P. O. Box, Attn: Michael Bennett.

OASFiS Event Horizon, Volume 11, Number 6, Issue 131, June 1998. Editor: Jennifer C. Stutesman, 20 Sandlewood Court, Oviedo FL 32765. Publisher: Orlando Area Science Fiction Society, P. O. Box 940992, Maitland FL 32794-0992. Subscription: \$12/year. 6pp.

This club zine issue discusses the last OASIS convention, has a few LOCs, and still had room for jello.

Scavenger's Newsletter, Number 171, May 1998. Editor: Janet Fox. Correspondence: 519 Ellinwood, Osage City KS 66523-1329 or email <foxscav1@jc.net >. Subscription: \$8.50/6 months, \$17/year, \$32/2 years (bulk mail). Sample copy \$2.50. First Class, Canadian, Overseas air or surface mail, and First Class (in envelopes) subscriptions also available at higher prices. Prices also available in £ for British subscriptions. 28pp.

S. F. Willems interviews Jeff VanderMeer, founder of the Ministry of Whimsy Press who also has many published works of his own. The Ministry of Whimsy Press published *The Troika* by Stepan Chapman which recently won the Phillip K. Dick award. Tom Winstead, Huntsville-area writer and editor, co-published it. Tom is a wonderful writer. Small world, huh? *Lots* of up to minute info from the small press publishers.

Scavenger's Newsletter, Number 172, June 1998. Editor: Janet Fox. Correspondence: 519 Ellinwood, Osage City KS 66523-1329 or email <foxscav1@jc.net >. Subscription: \$8.50/6 months, \$17/year, \$32/2 years (bulk mail). Sample copy \$2.50. First Class, Canadian, Overseas air or surface mail, and First Class (in envelopes) subscriptions also available at higher prices. Prices also available in £ for British subscriptions. 28pp.

This writers resource contained the latest scroungings of the small-press market and some reviews (to tell the truth).

Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin, Volume 6, Number 12, May 1998. Editor: Tom Feller, P. O. Box 68203, Nashville TN 37206-8203. Publisher: Southern Fandom Confederation. SFC membership (includes subscription) \$10/year individual or \$50/year for clubs or conventions. 18pp.

This official SFC organ issue contained Feller's con comments, web site comments, zine reviews, club listings, con listings, LOCs, plus the SFC roster and by-laws.

MISCELLANEOUS

We received a flyer for a hotel touting the Sheraton University Inn hotel and tickets to the touring exhibit, "Explore strange new worlds," with Star Trek: Federation Science at the Orlando Science Center May 30–September 7, 1998.

We also received flyers for **Westercon 51** (July 2–5, 1998 in San Diego) and **Dragon*Con 1998** (September 3–6, 1998 in Atlanta).

Letters of Comment

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

Carlo R. DeShouten
1434 Goehler
Cullman AL 35055

18 June 1998

Greetings. Thought I write down on this month LOC. Well, I tried to go to DSC but sadly I didn't go due to lack of transportation. And worse, I had to work half-day (over time) on a Saturday. And I was sulking pretty bad. Plus I didn't get to see Ol' Buck. Oh well. There's always July in Birmingham so hopefully I'll get to go.

Also I'm surprised nobody did a movie review of *Godzilla*. I meant to do it earlier but I didn't have time so I'll write it down. First, the special effects and acting was OK. And of course the big reptile was huge. However there are a couple of drawbacks.

First thanks to American technology, they made *Godzilla* more reptilian like. And I still like the old costume style better. (Call me old fashion.)

Second, helping defeating the bug monster was *not* Japanese. But the French. Yes, the French. Mostly their secret army. Somewhat makes our government look bad. And because *Godzilla* is somewhat bi-sexual, he lays 100 or more eggs at Madison Square Garden and then you see little *Godzillas* roaming around which is so ridiculous.

And finally, I rate the show so-so. But I'll tell you this. Though we may laugh at the old *Godzilla* movies [...] the Japanese are laughing at us right now.

[Yours is one of the first fan reviews *Godzilla* that I've seen, Carlo. I didn't know about the French involvement in the film. That's odd indeed. -ED]

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Buck Coulson
2677W-500N
Hartford City IN 47348

20 June 1998

Your comment that DeepSouthCon was larger than the last few surprised me. To me, it seemed rather small for *the* southern regional con. Of course, Rivercon is the only southern con Juanita and I make regularly, and it draws fans from both north and south, and memories of attending previous southern cons in Birmingham and Huntsville are pretty dim by now.

Anyway, small or large, it was enjoyable, and we met some old friends we hadn't seen or corresponded with in years — notably Charlotte Proctor.

For one thing, the feudal nature of Barrayaran society isn't generally emphasized in Lois's books. Instead, there are a lot of digs at government inefficiency, which are always popular with fans. (Or general readers, for that matter.)

Only in *Shards of Honor*, the first book of the series, is feudalism given a major role, and there the emphasis is on the duties of a feudal lord towards his subjects, rather than vice versa. (This takes place before Miles is born, and involves his

parents.) Lord Vorkosigan starts off in the protagonist's mind (and the reader's) as a sort of super-Nazi, and gradually is perceived as a rather rigid but very honorable man. It's still my favorite book of the series, providing a fair amount of humor in a serious situation and leading the reader to a better understanding of why feudalism worked.

I got the Poul Anderson article done; now I'm trying to write one about Jackie Causgrove for Bill Bowers, after not having seen or heard from Jackie directly for over 20 years. (And my memory isn't what it used to be... never was all that great, for that matter.)

[DeepSouthCon *used* to be a good bit larger, Buck. It maxed out somewhere just short of 1000 a decade or so ago. The smaller attendance in more recent years is, in my opinion, due to at least three factors. First is the emergence of quite a few local cons throughout the South. Then there's the growth of a few mega cons, notably (no duh) Dragon*Con. Finally, DSC was, at one time, something of an alternative for Southerners who couldn't (or didn't) travel to Worldcon — and more Southerners go to that con now. You raise an interesting point about feudalism not being emphasized in the Vorkosigan books. It is there in the background, though, and plays some part in the plot of most if not all of the books. -ED]

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Harry Warner, Jr
423 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown MD 21740

20 June 1998

There are so many long convention report in this June NASFA *Shuttle* that I'm tempted to think of it as *File 770* South instead of its real title. I am particularly pleased to read all the details about DeepSouthCon, because this is the event I'd been accustomed to learning about through many reports in the summer mailing of SFPA, which has a reunion of sorts each year there. Now I've dropped from SFPA through lack of time and money, but I was glad to read familiar names in many paragraphs of your report. It was particularly gratifying to know that Tom Feller had received a Rebel, because he has done yeoman service with the SFC and with other good deeds.

The prices you found in the eating areas of those hotels don't seem unusually high for the present day. There are several restaurants in Hagerstown, one of them only a couple blocks from my home, that don't look like anything special from the outside but charge pretty much in the range you found for entrees. Needless to say, I don't patronize them, because there are fortunately still a few "family restaurants" in the area that are affordable to people who can't put their eating costs on an expense account.

I've enjoyed the several Miles Vorkosigan books I've read. Maybe their special success had been aided by the fact that Lois McMaster Bujold didn't follow the tried and true pattern for fantasy and science fiction heroes. Instead she made Miles a character with physical problems and a person almost as introspective as Hamlet. This is a great difference from the Apollo who makes quick, wise decisions in so many series of books nowadays. Much the same difference can be found in the political setup this author has contrived, not the evil or repressive dictatorships against which stalwart heroes usually fight but rather benevolent oligarchy or whatever term best fits the

ruling clan. Of course, Lois is also an inventive and skillful writer.

It's good that Nelson Bond and Jack Williamson are still able to attend an occasional convention. There can't be more than a half-dozen other writers from their time who are still with us, and most of those others lack the fame that these two possess and the good relations they've always had with fans.

I'm trying without success to remember the science fiction story that did cause the spaceship to go right through the Sun, which seems much worse than the "let's go through the middle of the planet" scene that apparently occurs in the *Lost In Space* movie. But I can't remember who wrote it. I do seem to recall it was an excellent story by a well-known writer in spite of its apparently foolish denouement.

The usual apologies for the poor typing. I almost bought another typewriter recently at the Salvation Army, an Olympia non-electric that was distinguished by having about a dozen more keys than the normal typewriter, permitting use of all sorts of exciting symbols. I changed my mind when I found I couldn't lift the machine to carry it to the checkout counter.

[*File 770 South* — I don't think so, Harry. I'm quite busy enough editing this little clubzine once a month. Starting off with a \$15 entrée, adding a \$2 soft drink, tax, and a tip brings the total to well over \$20. And that's pretty much the minimum you can spend for dinner at those hotels — upping it to \$40–50 doesn't even require ordering an alcoholic drink. While that's OK for some meals, my point was that there are no budget alternatives in the hotels and no restaurants close by. If the Worldcon goes to Orlando I'll almost certainly be there, but I suspect I'll be eating in my room a good bit and driving to dinner many nights. -ED]

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

Bob Tucker 20 June 1998
tucker34@gte.net

The June issue of the *Shuttle* arrived here today and thank you again for keeping me on the mailing list.

I want to correct one point in your Deep-SouthCon report. The con committee was *not* responsible for announcing the Best in Show winner before announcing the second and third place winners. That was my error, my sad mistake. I was late in reaching the judges' room during the intermission because I had stayed in the hall to see the Rebel, Phoenix, and Rubble awards.

When I finally joined the judges they dictated the nine winners to me and I jotted down the same in my own shorthand. Like a dope, I didn't pay close attention to the listed order and so I read them into the microphone in that same jumbled order later. Blame me, sir, not the harried committee. I suspect they had their own problems.

[The mix-up at the DSC masquerade is understandable, Bob. I plan to take this as a lesson and request that our masquerade staff provide a written (versus oral) report to the MC after the judges

are through. -ED]

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

Mal SFSFS Secretary 23 June 1998
p028893b@pb.seflin.org

Thanks for sending along the June issue of the *NASFA Shuttle*. The next *SFSFS Shuttle* should be out at the end of June. There may or may not be a delay depending on if we get the Gestetner we just acquired straightened out.

I'll bring to the attention of the members the article on the Dolphin and the Swan, I'm sure they will be interested. The folks at SFSFS are of course excited about the 2001 bid for Orlando.

Have to go back and read *Dinner at Deviants Palace* again.

I'll pass along the 1997 Nebula Awards weekend article as well. I'm sure our local Nebula/Hugo Nominee will be interested to see it. He should have an article in the next *Shuttle* about his adventures at the Nebulas.

PS: We just had our Travelling Fete and our home page <<http://scifi.squawk.com/sfsfs.html>> should contain a link to some pictures of it now.

[As you can see in this issue we have a new (or rather the revival of an old) reviewer for zines. Keep on sending 'em because we enjoy all the zines we get! -ED]

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

Michael D. Glicksohn 24 June 1998
mglick@interlog.com

This is an almost brand-new communications medium for me but since I'm heading off on vacation tomorrow morning and don't have time for a real loc I thought I'd send a short e-moc to thank you for the June edition of the *Shuttle*. A friend (or perhaps I ought to call him a "former friend") gifted me with a one-year e-mail address (having finally realized that I would never get one on my own) as a belated birthday gift and since we have the technology we may as well build the damn thing.

I just thought I'd mention that by the time the next issue of the *Shuttle* sees print I will have spent an afternoon with Harry Warner, accompanied by the well-known British fan and locsmith, Paul Skelton, and also accompanied by Lloyd Penney's copy of *All Our Yesterdays*. I figure this may well be the greatest gathering of internationally known letterhacks in the entire history of fandom!

Hope to see some of the *Shuttle* regulars at the worldcon in Baltimore. You'll probably find me much of the time at the Toronto in 2003 table and I'll definitely be at our three parties for at least part of each night so look me up. I promise not to pressure you too heavily to presupport us!

If
you
had
the
printed
version
you
would
see a
snazzy
piece
of art
here.

[Another letterhack has fallen into the email trap! I imagine Pat and I will see you at the Toronto party (in Baltimore) at least one night, Mike. -ED]

POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC

Sheryl Birkhead 27 June 1998
23629 Woodfield Road
Gaithersburg MD 20882

Okay, so I guess I'm not an astute reader of recipe titles (chagrin — didn't do at all well).

I'm interested in [...] *Komarr* (Bujold book) — but not as a hardback with those prices. I'll see if the library, eventually, gets a copy.

The bid for a Disney World-con sounds pretty affordable if the figures cited hold up. I still have to root out the Hugo ballot and (re)locate the site ballot.

Not much to say — too many "cases" to deal with (hydrocephalus kitten, two kittens as emergencies — the other two were found dead when volunteers went to see what was going on — one ear infection needing frequent treatment... Now if this was paid...)

[I liked the little cartoon you drew on the postcard, Sheryl. Too bad it's partially covered by the address and part of the printed background on the postcard or I'd reproduce it here. -ED]

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

George "Lan" Laskowski 30 June 1998
P. O. Box 801
Bloomfield Hills MI 48303

There was a lot of good stuff in the June issue of the NASFA *Shuttle*. The two reviews have added more to my long list of books-to-be-read. I've had a copy of Tim Powers' *Dinner at Deviant's Palace* for several years but other books supplanted my reading it, and I've long banished it to languish on by paperback book shelf. Now I'll have to pull it out to read. *Komarr*, the latest offering by Lois McMaster Bujold, is already on my list as soon as I can get a copy. Her books are always good reading. Good to know that Lois is working on another Miles novel, then returning to her fantasy world of *The Spirit Ring* (as reported in the LibertyCon report).

Steve Carper's description of the Nebula Awards Weekend and Banquet was fun to read, especially with his humorous slant. I was pleased to know that Poul Anderson introduced Jack Williamson, and the introduction was reciprocated for Anderson's Nebula Grand Master Award. It turns out that the very first *Lan's Lantern* Special for a Golden Anniversary author was done for Jack Williamson, and now I am working

on Poul Anderson's Golden Anniversary issue (still accepting submissions!).

The idea of the Boston Worldcon in Orlando near Walt Disney World does not bother me. I won't be going regardless, but I would note that MagiCon the Worldcon in 1992, was held in the same area using the convention center as the base of operations. I remember that Worldcon well as it was the one where I held the Hugo for Best Fanzine for about 30 minutes before the committee and I straightened out the mix-up that I had *not* won the Hugo, but Nicki and Richard Lynch had for their fanzine *Mimosa*. I insisted on going onto the stage to hand it over to the real winners. And it was *not* Toastmaster Spider Robinson's fault for announcing the wrong name; mine was the name in the envelope.

Thanks for running the DeepSouthCon report. It's good to read about some of the cons I'll never get to. I remember meeting Michael Bishop at B'hamaCon 1 on my way to SunCon, my first worldcon in Miami Beach, Florida, back in 1977, where Jack Williamson was the GoH (gee, small world all the way around). Michael is a gentleman and a scholar, and I admire and enjoy his writing very much.

My health has both improved and gotten worse. The cancer spread to my liver and so the operation I was supposed to have didn't happen. I had another operation for an intestinal bypass; the tumor blocked the duodenum and stopped food from going where it should. I am undergoing more chemotherapy, even as I type this letter. I have a portable pump strapped to my side which is administering the drugs in small amounts every 30 seconds. I'll be on the pump for a week, then have a short stay in the hospital for a different set of drugs, then off for three weeks, at which time the cycle starts again. After three cycles, we'll see how effective this is. My plans for the future, however, include a trip to Alaska with my loving wife Kathy between cycles in August, and a return to work teaching in September. I have a few short experiences of pain as the tumor tries to reach out from my duodenum and pancreas to the liver, but I am hoping that this round of chemotherapy will put the tumor into remission.

Well, that's about all. Take care, Mike, and keep editing those issues!

[I really enjoyed Steve Carper's article, too — not least because it required almost no work on my part! It dropped into my lap when emailed to me by a mutual friend and, being written by a professional, I don't think I had to make but one or two editorial fixes (and they were extremely minor). I could get used to working with professionals! Thanks for the update on your health situation. The news is indeed mixed — I hope the next time we hear from you all the news is good. -ED]

WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF

We also received a short loc from Debra Hussey thanking us for the *Shuttle* and complementing the articles on the Nebula weekend and the Orlando hotels.

FANNISH FAMILY FEUD QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name your favorite SF/F book. _____
2. Name a US or Soviet space program. _____
3. Name something found on the bridge of the Enterprise. _____
4. Name a SF/F television series whose name/title contains a number. _____
5. Name your favorite robot. _____
6. Name your favorite SF/F artist. _____
7. Name the worst television SF/F series of all time. _____
8. Name a technological advance first mentioned in a SF work. _____
9. Name the super power you would most like to have. _____
10. Name the SF/F author whose work you would least like to be a character in. _____
11. Name something associated with vampires. _____
12. Name your favorite female SF/F author. _____
13. Name a mythological/fantasy creature. _____
14. Name the SF/F movie you would most like to see remade. _____
15. Name a SF/F movie based on a book. _____
16. Name the book you would like to see made into a "good" movie. _____
17. Name your favorite convention activity. _____
18. Name a species found on BABYLON 5. _____
19. Name an anime series. _____
20. Name something you should carry on a quest. _____
21. Name a comic book series. _____
22. Name a planet in this solar system other than Earth. _____
23. Name your favorite SF/F sidekick. _____
24. Name your favorite monster. _____
25. Name your favorite SF/F trilogy. _____
26. Name something done to you when abducted by aliens. _____
27. Name your favorite Con†Stellation T-Shirt. _____
28. Name the alien you would most want to have carnal knowledge of. _____
29. Name a Hugo winning author. _____
30. Name a type of SF/F media. _____

Return completed Fannish Family Feud Questionnaires to: FFFQ, c/o Mike Kennedy, 7907 Charlotte Drive, Huntsville AL 35802-2841

— or —
Fill it out on our web site at < <http://www.hsv.tis.net/~constell/constell/fffq.html> >
Deadline for receipt of questionnaires is 11 September 1998



P. O. Box 4857
 Huntsville AL 35815-4857

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Con†Stellation XVII: Hydra

9–11 October 1998

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Master of Ceremonies: Tim Powers
Artist GoH: Bob Eggleton
Fan GoH: David O. Miller