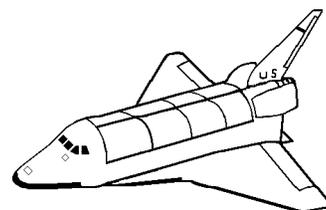


The



# SHUTTLE

March 2000

*Our 20th year of Publication*

*The Next NASFA Meeting will be 18 March 2000 at the Regular Time and Location*

## Oyez, Oyez

The next **NASFA meeting** will be **18 March 2000** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location** (room 130 of the Madison City Municipal Building).

The March after-the-meeting meeting will be at Mike Kennedy's house.

The March program will be Don Dailey speaking on "Comic Books: What they were, what they are, what they're going to be." Don works at Comic Corner on the Parkway and has been a collector since 1986.

## Change, Change, Change

CHANGE OF FO-OOLS

Beginning with this issue the production process for the *Shuttle* will be going through some changes. The printer which had been used to produce the originals is no longer available (and, as you may have noticed in the last several issues, its quality was falling off anyway).

In addition to experimenting with different printers, it is likely that there will be software changes. In the end we hope to get back to the previous print quality, but it will take a while. Please bear with these changes.

## February Minutes

by Samuel A. Smith, clerk

The February meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, February 19, 2000 in Room 130 in the Madison City Municipal Building at 6:19P by President Anita Eisenberg. Once again Barney was the smashee of honor, because the Ewoks are loose in Mike and Marie's house! ("Quick, the Ewok motels!")

### OLD BUSINESS

Randy Cleary: Remember to donate for the auction later this year.

Ray Pietruszka: Dues are still due.

### NEW BUSINESS

Randy Cleary is getting up a group to go on a field trip to see *Mission to Mars* in March. See Randy if you want to go tripping with him.

Comcast has UPN! Cable Alabama will be getting it March 1<sup>st</sup>.

...And there was much digression throughout the land.

### CONVENTION BUSINESS

As of the meeting no additional guests are confirmed. (Though Julie Wall confirmed as Fan Guest of Honor a few days after the meeting.)

The new Con†Stellation web site had 301 hits in January.

*(continued on page 2)*

### Inside this issue...

NASFA Calendar .....2

Book Review .....2

Letters of Comment .....3

**Deadline for the April 2000 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 31 March 2000.**



than half the length of most of the other pieces in the book. Imagine what you would do if your ATM added a few new options — options that could change your life in unpredictable ways.

In “The Blue Love Potion” Lisa Goldstein asks what you would do if you had a real love potion available. Would you use it? On whom and when? And what effect would it have on your life? It’s not as simple a situation as you might think and the “right” answer may depend on just who you are.

Finally Connie Willis’ “Blued Moon” is a lighthearted tale of luck — unbelievable strings of luck both good and bad — and love. Things here quite literally happen once in a blue moon but in the end love triumphs.

None of the 10 stories are dogs and I suspect another reader would pick at most one or two in common with me if asked to point out favorites. Some of the stories I picked are humorous, some not. Some have happy endings, some not. There’s a lot of variety in this little volume with the theme of love being

almost all they have in common.

I was disappointed by one part of the anthology, though. In the introduction to each story the editors carefully point out not only what issue it appeared in but who illustrated the story. In several cases the story in question received the cover illustration as well as interior illustrations. But... having told us, for instance, that Dell Harris illustrated Tony Daniel’s “No Love in all of Dwingeloo” the illustrations are missing in action. I realize that arranging reprint rights to the illustrations as well as the stories themselves would have significantly complicated the production of the volume, and probably added to the cost as well. But I see no point in teasing us with talk of a Jim Burns cover (for Eleanor Arnason’s “The Lovers”) when they have no intention of showing it.

Despite this disappointment, the stories are more than enough reason to recommend *Isaac Asimov’s Valentines* to anyone interested in the subject of love. And don’t we all fit that category?

## Letters of Comment

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

Harry Warner, Jr.  
423 Summit Avenue  
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19 February 2000

The February issue of the *Shuttle* was particularly welcome for all the pages about Lois Bujold’s famous series of novels. I’ve read some of them, haven’t read the others, and my reading didn’t occur in the chronological order in which the series developed. So Jim Woosley’s summary of the previous novels cleared up some matters that I hadn’t quite understood while reading isolated volumes.

It occurs to me that something like this could be turned into a book. There are so many popular series of science fiction and fantasy novels by now that there might be a market for a book containing summaries of the action in all of them for the benefit of persons who decide to buy one book midway in a series with little or no knowledge of what has gone before. Of course, such a book would be outdated by the time it came off the presses by new sequels, but it would still be useful, just like the World Almanac which has an active life of only a year.

Come to think of it, such a book would need to be in three volumes itself if the compiler decided to include all the Star Trek and Doctor Who fiction that has been published over the years.

I’m always happy to learn about a new victory for the no-smoking forces, so that element in Randy Cleary’s Chattanooga report was particularly good to read. Attendance of 1,250 sounds quite impressive in this era of dwindling turnout for many con that aren’t aimed at media fans.

Alas, it may be a while until you can run another item about *The Geis Letter* in the fanzines-received list. Dick Geis tells me he has been forced to suspend publication because of a serious back problem which has him in extreme pain when walking.

My opinion of computer fandom drops even lower with the news that nobody bought Sheryl’s *Galaxies* at 50¢ apiece. Each issue from most years of that publication contains as much good science fiction as can be found in a paperback collection selling on today’s newsstands for \$6 or \$7.

[Your suggestion of a reference book that summarizes various fiction series is an interesting one, though I feel compelled to point out the obsolescence factor you mentioned might make this a project more suited to a web site than a printed book. (Of course, very few people have even yet figured out how to make money publishing on the web and such a colossal work as this would be is something that could only be undertaken for money or love.) I’m sorry to hear about Dick Geis’ back problems. I have a significant recurrence of back problems once a year or so but you appear to be implying his is expected to be much more long lived than the problems I have. -ED]

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

Sheryl Birkhead  
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Gaithersburg MD 20882

21 February 2000

Hmmm — there has been talk of condemnation of the house... one way or another it will be coming down.

Thank you for the two pieces on the latest Miles book — I think the name is *A Civil Campaign* (or is it *Conspiracy?*), but I’ll check the library to see if they have it.

Somewhere I have the Hugo ballot — need to find it and do some serious thinking.

I intended to see *Galaxy Quest* but the theater stopped cheaper matinees. One of these days...

The program booklet from Aussiecon got here a week or so ago — now to file it... somewhere.

I got no response from either my request in *File 770* or to Chicon publications asking for a bibliography for Ben Bova — any *Shuttle* readers who can help?

[Bujold’s latest is indeed called *A Civil Campaign* and I, for one, thought the title rather clever in light of it’s subject matter. I’m sorry you missed *Galaxy Quest*. While I was not as wild about it as many fellow fans, I do think it’s a very good movie. Convention fans will certainly recognize themselves — or at least acquaintances — in the convention scenes and Tim Allen certainly nails what he was going for. He does Bill Shatner better than Bill Shatner does Bill Shatner. -ED]



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