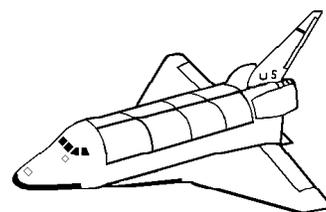


The



Our 20th Year of Publication



SHUTTLE
August 2000

The Next NASFA Meeting is 12 August 2000

Note that this is one week earlier than usual

Con†Stellation ConCom Meeting 17 August 2000

Oyez, Oyez

The next **NASFA meeting** will be **12 August 2000** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location** (room 130 of the Madison City Municipal Building). Note that this is one week earlier than usual.

The August program will be the more-or-less annual NASFA Auction. Bring cash <g> and donations of auctionable items.

The August after-the-meeting-meeting will be at Russell McNutt's house — 902 Drake Avenue SE. (Go east on Drake from the Parkway, past Whitesburg. The house is roughly across from Randolph School and has a circular drive. Call Russell at 650-3195 to get more exact directions.) Several people took advantage of the pool in July — come prepared to do the same this month.

August ConCom Meeting Set

The next Con†Stellation XIX: Virgo con committee meeting will be held Thursday 17 August 2000. The plan is to have it at Mike Cothran and Marie McCormack's place, though there is some possibility this may change. This will be an eating meeting with the eating starting at 6:30P and the meeting proper afterwards. The food theme will be "Virgin Sacrifice." Contact Mike or Marie at 880-8210 for directions and the gate code.

The plan continues to be that future monthly concom meetings will be held on the Thursday immediately preceding each month's club meeting. Stay tuned, of course, for changes from that schedule.

NASFA Picnic

There will be a NASFA picnic (well, it's really more like a cookout than a picnic) on Saturday 26 August at Mike Kennedy's house. Show up at 2P or anytime thereafter. We'll shoot for the "main feed" around 6P-ish. Bring your favorite drink, a dish to share, and something to pop on the grill. Call Mike at 256-883-5922 if you need directions.

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Deadline for the September 2000 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 1 September 2000.

July Minutes

by Samuel A. Smith, Here Today

The July meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, July 15, 2000 in Room 130 in the Madison City Municipal Building at 6:16P by a surprised Vice-President Mike Kennedy.

OLD BUSINESS

The annual NASFA Auction will be the program at the August meeting. *Bring out yer junk!*

NEW BUSINESS

“Do we want to do a picnic this year?” After much discussion, it turns out the answer to this question is: “Yes.” The annual NASFA picnic will be held the last weekend of August (August 26th), at Mike Kennedy’s house. The start time is TBA.

Mike Kennedy proposed setting up an *ad hoc* committee to clean up the *Shuttle* mailing list. After some discussion, a motion to that effect was made, seconded, voted, and passed. The committee members are Mike Kennedy, Sam Smith, Randy Cleary, Mike Cothran, and Marie McCormack.

Randy Cleary proposed that we get into e-stamps for our *Shuttle* mailings. The proposal was quickly shot down since e-stamps are still more expensive than regular postage.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

Con†Stellation now has an Artist Guest of Honor: Kenneth Waters! We have also been told that the first hotel room reservation for Con†Stellation has successfully been made.

It was announced that if you have function space requirements for this year’s Con†Stellation, now is the time to let us know.

Sam Smith announced that DeepSouthCon 40 volunteer forms are available, should anybody feel so foolish. It was also announced that the next DSC 40 meeting will be held on July 20th at BookMark (now past).

DSC 40 now has a full slate of guests: GoH Allen Steele, TM Connie Willis, AGoH Bob Eggleton, and FGoHs Nicki and Rich Lynch.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don’t forget: The August NASFA meeting will be held one week early (August 12th), to avoid conflict with The Jophan Family Reunion (August 18–20).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58P. The program was by Doug Lampert, on “Unfair Math Problems.” The After-The-Meeting Meeting was held at Russell McNutt’s house.

NASFA Calendar

AUGUST

- 08 BD: Jim Woosley.
- 12* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at the Madison City Municipal Building. ATMM at Russell McNutt’s house, come prepared to **use the pool**.
NOTE: Meeting date changed due to Jophan Family Reunion.
- 14 BD: Edward Kenny.
- 16 Zachary Mitchell.
- 17 Con†Stellation ConCom Meeting at Marie McCormack and Mike Cothran’s place. Eating at 6:30P, business following.
- 18–20 Jophan Family Reunion (relaxicon) — Anniston AL.

- 18–20 Armadillocon 22 — Austin TX.
- 19 BD: Ariane Mitchell.
- 21 BD: Deborah Denton.
- 26 NASFA Picnic (cookout) at Mike Kennedy’s house.
- 31–04 Chicon 2000/Worldcon 58 — Chicago IL.

SEPTEMBER

- 04 Labor Day.
- 09 BD: Mike Cothran.
- 11 BD: Ray Pietruszka.
- 16* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at the Madison City Municipal Building. ATMM at Nancy Cucci and Ray Pietruszka’s house.
- 26 BD: Jenna Victoria Stone.
- 29 BD: Nelda Kathleen Kennedy.
- 30 Rosh Hashanah.

OCTOBER

- 02 BD: Jann Melton.
- 06–09 Gaylaxicon 2000 — Arlington VA.
- 09 Columbus Day.
- 09 Yom Kippur.
- 13–15 Con†Stellation XIX — Huntsville AL.
- 15 BD: Robert Buelow.
- 20–22 Necronomicon 2000 — Tampa FL.
- 21* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at the Madison City Municipal Building. ATMM TBD.
- 25 BD: Marie McCormack.
- 26–29 World Fantasy Convention — Corpus Christi TX.
- 27 BD: Gabrielle Mitchell.
- 31 Halloween.

NOVEMBER

- 07 Election Day.
- 10–12 Tropicon 19 — Hollywood Beach FL.
- 11 Veteran’s Day.
- 11 Remembrance Day (Canada).
- 17–19 Exoticon — New Orleans LA.
- 18* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at the Madison City Municipal Building. ATMM at Mike Kennedy’s house.
- 22 BD: Nancy Renee Peters.
- 23 Thanksgiving.
- 23 BD: Michael D. Kennedy.
- 23 BD: Wilson “Bob” Tucker.
- 24–26 Concat 12 — Knoxville TN.
- 29 BD: Howard Camp.
- 30 BD: Richard Gilliam.

OoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoO

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 usually hold the meeting on the second or fourth weekend.) The regular meeting location is room 130 of the Madison City Municipal Building. The Executive Committee meeting (if scheduled) is held at 5P. The business meeting is held at 6P. The program begins 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.



NASFA Receivables

by Randy B. Cleary

The following items were received by NASFA in the past quarter year.

Challenger 11, Guy H. Lillian III, P. O. Box 53092, New Orleans LA 70153-3092; 504-821-2362; <GHLII@yahoo.com>; <<http://www.crosswinds.net/~GHLIII>> — This Hugo nominated zine had a cover by Lynne Taylor, an illo by me, and 100 pages of illos, essays, articles, photographs, and fannish stuffings.

ConNotations Summer 2000, Stephanie L. Bannon, Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society, P. O. Box 62613, Phoenix AZ 85082; <Editors@casfs.org> — This newszine had 16 newsprint pages of SF media news, reviews, and convention listings.

De Profundis 329 & 330, Marty Cantor, c/o The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, 11513 Burbank Boulevard, North Hollywood CA 91601 — 8 blue pages in each issue of club happenings.

Derogatory Reference 95, Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine Street, Yonkers NY 10704-1814; 914-965-4861; <hlavaty@panix.com> — 6 pages of personal updates and musings.

File 770 134 & 135, Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Avenue, Monrovia CA 91016; 626-305-1004; <Mglyer@compuserve.com> — Issue 134 had a composite computer graphics and hand-drawn image for a cover with 36 pages of the latest news of and about fandom. *File 770* now has a web site: <<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/mglyer/f770/index.html>>. Issue 135 had a 3-D computer graphics cover and 32 pages of the like.

Fosfax 199, June 2000, Timothy Lane and Elizabeth Garrott, The Falls of the Ohio Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, P. O. Box 37281, Louisville KY 40233-7281 — 86 packed pages of articles, features, con and trip reports, reviews, reviews, reviews, and lots of letters of comment with lots of spot illustrations.

Kronos April and May 2000, D. A. Hussey, Middle Tennessee Science Fiction Society, 115 38th Avenue North, Nashville TN 37209; <bemscribe_too@hotmail.com>; <<http://www.geocities.com/area51/dimension/4242/>> — These mini e-zines contained club information, event listings, and more.

Memphen 267, June and 268, July 2000, Greg Bridges, The Memphis Science Fiction Association, P. O. Box 820534, Memphis TN 38182-0534; 901-664-6730; <msfamemphen@hotmail.com> — June had 8 pages with a Sylvia Leung cover. July had 6 pages with a Tom Foster cover.

Nova Express Spring/Summer 2000, Lawrence Person, P. O. Box 27231, Austin TX 78755-2231; <lawrenceperson@jump.net>; <www.delphi.com/sflit/novaexpress/> — This 41-page one-time-Hugo-Nominee critical zine had card stock cover by GAK, a Neil Gaiman interview (part 1), author analysis, book reviews, and more.

OASFiS Event Horizon 154, 155, 156, May, June, July 2000, Leslie R. Hammes, The Orlando Area Science-Fiction Society, P. O. Box 940992, Maitland FL 32792-0992; 407-263-5822; <michaelhammes@worldnet.att.net> — May had an impressive 10 pages of club information and a short fiction piece by Dean Warren with several illos. June was a single page of Nebula Awards Winners and OASFiS people contact information. July was 4 pages of club information.

SFSFS Shuttle 141, April/May 2000, Carlos Perez, South Florida Science Fiction Society, P. O. Box 70143, Fort Lauderdale FL 33307-0143 — 16 pages of essays, reviews, club information, and letters of comment. Plus, I spotted three illos by me and a cover by Birk. Also included was an SFSFS 2000 calendar of events of fannish and club interest.

Three Dinguses, Two Yucky Things and a Soft Shell Crab that Went Squish, A DSC One Shot on Jekyll Island, May 20, 2000 — This one shot zine produced on site at DeepSouthCon 38 was sponsored by the infamous T. K. F. Weisskopf and including paragraphs from various attendees with photos also.

Twilight Zine 44, Yevgeniya Nusinovich, MIT Science Fiction Society, Room W20-473, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA 02139; 617-258-5126; <mitsfs@mit.edu>; <<http://www.mit.edu/~mitsfs>> — Back after six years, this club zine is a fine effort of 41 white pages with green front and back card-stock covers. It had club stuff, illos, book comments and reviews, essays, fiction, poetry, and the like.

Also received were a pre-publication listing of Erwin S. Strauss convention listings (with the wrong date for ours that I hope someone has reported to him by now), a couple of Cargo Cult Books & Notions mini-catalogs, and a Bridge Publications press release for *Battlefield Earth*.

Mini Movie Reviews

by Randy B. Cleary

Chicken Run; Rated G; Starring: Mel Gibson, Julia Sawahla, Miranda Richardson, Tony Haygarth, and, Phil Daniels; Directed by Nick Park and Peter Lord; Produced by David Sproxton, Nick Park, and Peter Lord; Written by Karey Kirkpatrick and Jack Rosenthal; Distributed by Dreamworks SKG; Comedy and Drama; 1 hr. 35 min.; <<http://www.chickenrun.co.uk/>>

I'm a big "Wallace and Gromit" fan so I eagerly awaited this film. While I enjoyed it, I felt it stretched the humor of one 30-minute W&G short into a movie-length feature. I'm told you need to watch old POW movies like *Stalag 17* or *The Great Escape* beforehand to get all the in jokes. I rate this at 80%.

The X-Men; Rated PG-13; Starring: Patrick Stewart, Ian McKellen, Hugh Jackman, Famke Janssen, and James Marsden; Directed by Bryan Singer; Produced by Richard Donner, Tom DeSanto, Stan Lee, Lauren Shuler Donner, Ralph Winter, and Richard Donner; Written by David Hayt, Christopher McQuarrie, Ed Solomon, Laeta Kalogridis, Blanche McDermaid, and Josh Whedon; Distributed by Twentieth Century Fox; Action/Adventure and Science Fiction/Fantasy; 1 hr. 33 min.; <<http://www4.x-men-the-movie.com/>>

Okay, I'm a big comic geek and have been reading *X-Men* comics since way back when they really took off for the first time with the modern characters. I enjoyed the movie and respect the changes to the characters and back-story done for the movie. I thought the action was good, the characters quickly but well drawn (which is hard to do in such a large cast of players), and there was definite plot and character points (instead of just being all action). I rate this at 90% for comic fans betrayed by the last few Batman films and 80% for Joe Average moviegoer.

Mini Book Reviews

by Randy B. Cleary

The Summer Queen, by Joan D. Vinge, Questar Science Fiction, Mass Market Paperback, 1992, 949pp, ISBN 0-446-36251-4, < <http://www.sff.net/people/jdvinge/x.htm> >

Ugh! I thought I liked *The Snow Queen*, but after reading this one, I'm not too sure. It just rubbed me the wrong way. It was massive, ponderous, and basically a painful read. It was an over the top, melodramatic, tragic, soap opera-ish mishmash. I'm probably being too harsh but it did leave a bad taste in my mouth. I rate it at 40%.



Armies of Light and Dark : Book II of Legions of Fire (Babylon 5), by Peter David, Del Rey, Mass Market Paperback, 2 May 2000, 252pp, ISBN: 034542719X

Babylon 5 books are the only media tie-in fiction that I regularly read. The quality really varies on these books. However, this one is one of the best. Peter David is a great writer and this second book in the trilogy really gets into the characters and expands on the off-stage events only mentioned in passing in the show. This book is Vir's coming-of-age story where he continues his transformation from bumpkin to resistance fighter on his path to his foretold role of Emperor. The book does suffer due to its transitional nature, but I look forward to the conclusion that has been set up here. I rate this book at 85%.



L Ron Hubbard Presents: Writers of the Future, Vol 15, edited by Algis Budrys, Bridge Publications, Mass Market Paperback, November 1999, 504 pages, ISBN: 1573181633, < <http://www.writersofthefuture.com/> >

I picked this up for half price at Dragon*Con. I have all the books in the series. This volume is about average. It has a few really good stories but most left me cold. Many of the stories were technically written well, but their plot and subject matter did not interest me. Still, its a good anthology of unknown writers. None of the illustrations were particularly powerful, but the black-and-white book-size pulp-page format is a hard one to rise above. I rate this book at 70%.



Dragon*Con 2000 Review

by Randy B. Cleary

Dragon*Con 2000 < <http://www.dragoncon.org/> > was held June 29 to July 2, 2000 in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel (programming and gaming), Atlanta Merchandise Mart (Art Show/Print Shop/Artist Alley/Art Programming), and the Atlanta Apparel Mart (Dealers and Exhibitors). This convention is mind bogglingly huge with over 20,000 attendees, over 22 separate themed tracks of programming, over 300 individual guests, and more! There's no way a single con-report of a single person can ever do justice to this convention. I'm just going to touch on the highlights for me. Overall, I had a good time and enjoyed myself but the spectacle for its own sake is wearing a little thin. For the next five years, Dragon*Con will be over Labor Day weekend and opposite Worldcon.

Thursday I got up early and drove in the rain down to Atlanta, arriving around noon. My friends and I stayed at the Sheraton, which was a few blocks away from the main hotel and a few more from the other facilities. I needed the exercise and it was nice to not have to fight for the elevators. We were not able to get a room at the Hyatt. There were a couple of other big conventions in town. The International Salvation Army Conference members shared many of the same hotels as Dragon*Con attendees. I wondered what they thought of all the strangeness going on.

The Art Show check-in went quickly. Since the Art Show Directors were new this time, I took this as a good omen. Teresa Patterson trained them well. My friends did not leave a key for me at the desk, like I had asked, so I had to get a new one (which invalidated theirs). This was only after the first key I was given did not work. Luckily, I was able to find them fairly quickly when I tried and give them the new keys. Based on the size of Dragon*Con, this should give you an idea of my powers of divination used to find them in a few minutes. Parking at the Hotel was \$12 per full day. Four of us shared a room (as far from the elevation as was possible at the other end of a U-shaped layout). The beds were more twin size than the reported king size.

The first panel I attended was on using human models, and only had one panelist show. She did a good effort but quickly ran out of on-topic discussion. The next panel I tried was "From a Splash of Paint to Another World" and was a no-show by all the panelists. I then ate a late lunch (the first of several meals at the Peach Tree Center Mall Food Court). The next panel I tried was "Visions of a Mad Artist," and was another no-show. Since that was a bust, I headed back to the hotel for the "How to break into comics" panel. The single panelist (comic book artist) there was very entertaining and had lots of good advice for comic book writers and artists. I attended Opening Ceremonies, which had Bag Pipes and a Chinese Dragon and Drums. Next, I hit a panel about the TV show *Farscape*, which a few of my friends were doing. Next, I hit a writers panel on "Why won't you buy my book?" which talked about the usual things to do to get published (like following guidelines and not pissing off the editor). I finished up the evening just wandering around and talking with friends.

Friday I attended a morning panel with Larry Elmore talking about himself and his career in SF Illustration. Next, I got a bidder number in the Art Show (since they don't have access to the membership database this is needed to keep track of the bidders). Next, I went to a panel on "Getting SF Art

respected by the Mainstream,” which really meandered way off topic and was mostly rants by the audience and the panelists. Then it was back to the Food Court for lunch. Then I went to a demonstration by “Sword Play Alliance.” This is my fencing school. Since I did not know about the demo beforehand (it was a last minute thing), I did not participate. I watched my friends do so and it seemed fairly well attended. Next I went to a painting demonstration by J. R. Daniels. It was amazing watching him do a full acrylic painting of a castle on a floating rock in less than an hour. He says he can do up to nine of those type paintings in a day!

Afterwards, I went the Artist Reception in the Art Show. I was fortunate to get there in time to get a few goodies. Apparently, the popular anime and video game artist Yoshitaka Amano was having an autograph session and his hoard of fans descended like locusts on the reception. Amano was apparently the big fish in the Merchandise Mart pond that weekend and he ruffled a few feathers with his demands and Prima Donna behavior. I only caught glimpses of the troubles, so I'll leave details to others. I finally got a good look at the entire show of over 80 artists. It was diverse and had some excellent pieces but did not seem as overwhelmingly good as some shows in the past (or perhaps I'm becoming jaded). The walk-through traffic seemed to be better than the year before, but being off in a whole different building by itself still probably hurt possible sales. I bid on (and eventually got at my first bid) a nice little Cosmo-themed cloth pouch by Earlynn Collier. When I paid, they did not want the attached bid sheet, so I assume all sales were automatically tallied by the cash register for each artist. Afterwards, the Food Court was closing, so I ate at the Hyatt Hotel buffet. It was not great but it was edible.

Then I caught the end of Bill Mumy's acoustic guitar (and harmonica, which he called “the band”) concert. It was very good. I especially liked his songs about his *Lost in Space* and *Twilight Zone* characters. He closed with his infamous *Fish Heads* song. Afterwards was the Dawn-Look-a-Like Contest. It was not as good as in the past, with only 13 contestants. The presenters did a lame job. The winner had the best costume and make-up, even if she was not the most attractive. I liked that because that's the whole point of contest, despite the rowdiness of the crowd over the more scantily-clad contestants. Then later I tried to hit a panel on Independent Comics. However, the panelists were a no-show. After walking about a bit, I turned in fairly early (for a convention). Two different cars slowed down by me as I walked back and the each woman driver asked me if I wanted a date. I assumed they were “Professional Daters” and declined.

Saturday I got up at 6:30 A.M. with one of my friends and worked out in the hotel fitness room. Little did I know that I would not get to sleep until 24 hours later. Then I went to a panel on artists methods and materials, where only one panelist showed. The panel didn't start for 30 minutes as the programming room was locked and the Art Show staff had to track down someone who could open up that section. Next, I caught a panel with a couple of the actors who will be in the *Lord of the Rings* movies (due out Christmas 2001, 2002, and 2003). They could not give away much detail but did impress that a lot of effort and love was going into the movies and on the screen. I got the impression that no one should fault them for a lack of effort when the movie eventually comes out. Next, I got the last half of the ASFA Meeting after grabbing some pizza slices at the Food Court. Next, I attended another panel with Larry Elmore. I learned that RiverCon was his

first convention. I hoped to see him again there (but was disappointed).

Next I went back to the hotel and I caught a panel of actors and producers of the upcoming *Dungeons and Dragons* movie. It looks to be a serious, if lower budget, effort. I then caught the tail end of a panel with Andreas Katsulas (G'Kar from *Babylon 5*). After another Food Court stop, I attended the Atlanta Radio Theater Company presentation. This was very entertaining and even had some media guests (from the *Hercules* and *Xena* TV shows) participate. I recognized some of the radio plays as adaptations of stories that I've read.

Then came the masquerade. I thought it was pretty good with some great costumes. I especially liked the Storm Troopers riding the air cycles. However, the stage seemed smaller than years pass and the few sketches and skits suffered for it. The presenters were Andreas Katsulas and Chase Masterson (*Deep Space 9*). They were quite entertaining but did ham it up a little too much (interfering with several presentations). One hilarious little novice fairy stole the show (and the microphone) from Chase when he was presented with his award. Unfortunately, none of my pictures turned out (zoom with no flash) and they did not have an official photo-session afterwards.

For the rest of the night I hung out with some friends in the bar and at the Misfits concert. Later, I attended the dance (which had lots of dance music that I enjoyed), wandered the hotel people watching, listened for a short while to a bizarre drum and dance circle that supposedly lasted all night long. This night was the most fun but I did pay for it the next day. I eventually made it back to my hotel around 6:30 A.M. and crashed on the floor (as it was more stable than the bed) for a few hours, before getting up, showering, and packing.

Sunday I made a great effort to attend a panel with Alexandra Tydings (the stunningly beautiful actress who plays Aphrodite on the *Hercules* and *Xena* TV shows). The room was packed and she ran late (due to the infamously overloaded elevators in the hotel). I stood for as long as I could but decided that I really needed to sit down. So I left and went back to the Food Court and ate lunch, which went a long way toward returning me to feeling better. The Art Auction was at 10:00 A.M. Sunday. I hope somebody was able to make it then as I sure could not. I did not have anything go to auction but did sell two pieces and hope to get a check next month or so (although I'm not sure for how much as they do not mark the sale amounts on the Artist Control sheet given to the artist upon check out).

I then wandered about and hit the huge dealers room (building) and bought a few books and comics. The dealers room had just about anything you could possibly want at a convention and more. I got a free neat light-up bouncing ball. The Art Show check out did not start until 5:00 P.M. (as planned)! They only have one person doing the paper work check out at the time, so there was a slight wait. After check out, I helped Ken Waters load up his panel display into his van and then I hit the road for home myself.

It was an exhausting weekend where I got to see lots of old and new friends. I also got to see in person lots of famous and not-so-famous media stars plus a world-class art show, dealers room, masquerade, concerts and presentations. I also got to miss lots of panels due to the overwhelming schedule and/or lack of participants. The constant crowds can be tiring also. Overall, I enjoyed myself, but hope to do Worldcon next year instead.

RiverCon 25: Saying Goodbye to a Class Act

by Samuel A. Smith

RiverCon 25 (“The Last”) was held July 28–30, 2000 in the Executive West Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. The guests were everybody who’s ever been a guest of RiverCon.

The first RiverCon was held in 1975 as DeepSouthCon 13. My first RiverCon was the 1980 edition, when Roger Zelazny was Guest of Honor. I still remember registering with the convention, picking up my badge, and wandering into the ballroom. The first two people I ever met in fandom were Wilson “Bob” Tucker and Khen Moore. Tucker was telling Khen the “Rosebud” story. (And yet I came back for more!)

This RiverCon was larger than usual (1276, according to Issue Number 3.01 of *The Riverboat Packet*) yet it didn’t feel all that much bigger to me. There did seem to be *more* of everything this year, however. (More room parties, more contestants in the masquerade, more dealers, etc.)

RiverCon started, as usual of recent times, with Opening Ceremonies followed by an Ice Cream Social. Dancing occurred almost immediately after, and a group of us retreated to a more quiet place for the camaraderie of spades.

Parties: Friday night was, If I Remember Correctly, a Moscow in ’95 bid party, a Charlotte in 2004 bid party, a LibertyCon/DSC 2003 bid party, Xerpes, ConGlomeration, Contact, and MidSouthCon. All were good, though I arrived too late at Charlotte for barbecue, and I was too late at ConGlomeration for hot dogs. So much for noshing at the room parties!

Saturday I got up late. (So what else is new?) There were ten tracks of programming to choose from, including two video rooms. Unfortunately, the one programming item that I was *really* interested in, Julie Schwartz talking about “My SFLife,” was canceled due to travel problems (his). I had to content myself with more cards and, later, Toni Weisskopf’s “Baen Books Slide Show.” It was a reasonable consolation — Toni’s much cuter than Julie.

I toured the Dealers Room and Art Show Saturday afternoon. Both were well stocked and excellent, as usual. Books and jewelry dominated the dealers room, but unfortunately I was unable to fulfill a friend’s request for an *X-Men* necklace and “half-naked pictures of Wolverine.” Maybe next convention.

The art show had some impressive stuff, including some artwork that looked to my untrained eye like it was made of thousands of individually cut and glued pieces of paper. It had to have taken hundreds if not thousands of hours to make. I don’t recall the artist’s name, but it was beautiful.

The masquerade was up to RiverCon’s usual high standards, with a larger than usual number of entries (thirty-something) compared to recent years. The MC for the masquerade was the Emperor Ming, garbed in black-and-white-and-grey splendor. The most memorable entries were “Mothra Stewart” by Esther M. Friesner (I should have seen that one coming!), “Chewbacca” by Dan Hyatt, and “Night Watch” by Chris Kramer. (I hope I’ve got all that right.) I’m not sure how to describe “Night Watch.” It was sort of a Sergeant Joe Friday meets *Lord of the Rings* crossover. You’ll probably see at least a couple of these at Worldcon this year.

Saturday parties: Baen Books, Boston in 2004, Charlotte in 2004, ConGlomeration, and Kubla Khan. There may have

been more, but these are all my tired little brain can remember right now. The Baen party was good, but watch out for Toni’s fudge! This time when I got to ConGlomeration they had hot dogs, but were out of buns. Oh well, maybe later.

I wandered off and played cards until 3A and then discovered Toni was still in business at the Baen party. When she closed down at four, I found that the Boston party was still going. Naomi cookies, yum! I finally folded at 4:30, since I had to get up and drive back to Huntsville later that day.

Closing ceremonies were at two Sunday, and before it was all over even Steve Francis was grabbing for the tissues. There were at least two standing ovations for all the work Steve and Sue and crew have done over the years.

ConGlomeration is the follow-on to RiverCon. It will be held the weekend of August 10–12, 2001, across the Ohio river from Louisville in Clarksville, Indiana. They’re starting it off right — their Fan Guests of Honor are Steve and Sue Francis.

I had a wonderful time. Wish you had been there.

LibertyCon 14 Review

by Randy B. Cleary

LibertyCon 14 < <http://www.libertycon.org/> > was held Memorial Day weekend, May 26–28, 2000 at the Ramada Inn South, East Ridge, Tennessee. The Literary Guest of Honor was C. J. Cherryh. The Artist Guest of Honor was Jon “Mr. Wonderful” Stadter. The Special Guest was Kenneth Waters. The Master of Ceremonies was Timothy Zahn. This was a small convention with a relaxed, friendly atmosphere, where I go to see friends more than anything else. I drove up Friday and had a room to myself for the weekend. While the hotel is old, the rooms are fairly well kept.

The dealers sold out of their rooms and mostly shared a single hallway. The number of book dealers at this convention is quite large. There were a few non-book oriented dealers also.

The Art Show was quite small and located behind the beer-serving con-suite. There was some confusion about fees when I checked in, as the flyer I had was an old one and they had apparently changed them later. Uncle Timmy was kind enough to honor the flyer I had. The Art Show only allowed originals to be hung. I understand the desire to see originals, but that probably contributed to the smallness of the show. I sold a few original inks and a few laser prints.

The con-suite served beer and usually had a few snacks out at all times, punctuated with periodic heartier fare. There was an Anime Video Corner and Con Video channel on the hotel televisions.

Friday’s programming was light with Opening Ceremonies and Casino Night. Apparently Casino Night play money could be used in the Charity Auction. I did not attend the Casino Night and did not realize the Auction was on Friday so I missed seeing if my donated print sold for anything. If I had been there, I could have defended its honor by purchasing it myself if need be. I mostly set up my stuff in the Art Show, wandered around chatting with friends, and went out to eat on Friday.

Saturday I went to the Jon Stadter slide show. However, he

did not have any slides (saying he did not know about the slide show until he got here and that he did not have any slides anyway). Due to the poor attendance, the panel was dismissed and he headed off to a local Flea Market. The next panel after lunch that I caught was about Print Making. Ken Moore displayed his latest efforts in that arena. The panelists discussed various related topics to prints and printmaking. Next I hit the Art Show Critic panel where just a few of the Art Show participants looked at people's work and made some comments. Mostly we just talked. I did not have anything in the Art Auction but did attend the Masquerade afterwards. The Masquerade was small but entertaining, thanks to Sue Thorn's efforts. The dance looked small when I stopped by. The rest of the night I hit some room parties and chatted with friends before turning in.

On Sunday I attended a morning panel with C. J. Cherryh and Jane Fancher. They discussed a wide range of topics on writing and their writer's lives. After a little more socializing, I checked out the room and the Art Show and headed back home.

Letters of Comment

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

Sheryl Birkhead
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14 July 2000

Hi — won't enumerate the happening\$ — but things, uh... move along. I need to buy at *least* one (if not two) desks and a *mess* of bookcases — but the selling price on new ones is prohibitive. So far I haven't seen any at yard sales I pass. Maybe back-to-school sales will be better. Until I have the spots stuff has to stay \$tored — I'm hoping for no longer than 1–2 months more.

I have (at least I think I do) a Hugo ballot around somewhere — need to fill it out and get it on its way.

Finally saw *Sixth Sense*... enjoyable. Planned to see *Chicken Run* and *X-Men* today but the "cheapie" matinee times were changed and I didn't want to wait... but RSN.

Ah, that *last* Rivercon is coming up soon, I know it will be a good one... a real blast. Hope all are having a great summer.

[Maybe you could try one of the unfinished furniture places for the desk(s) and bookcases — if you're handy with a paintbrush, that is. I was very impressed by *Sixth Sense* though I know people who clearly were not. *Chicken Run* was a hoot (but coming from Nick Park, the creator of the three Wallace and Gromit shorts, I expected no less). I haven't made it to *X-Men* yet because it's not playing at my preferred theater. (The Carmike here in town is much superior, at least in comfort, to the two in the Regal chain.) I may have to wait until it's on video. -ED]

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Harry Warner, Jr.
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15 July 2000

The July *Shuttle* doesn't contain much material that is

productive of comments. On the other hand, a big thunderstorm is coming up so I shall seize upon the opportunity to write a very short loc, lessening the chances of suffering a power loss before its completion.

This is the first time I've heard about food for deflowering. It probably would be hard to prepare baked goods for this purpose, because the recipes would need to be defloured.

Wasn't there a Dungeons & Dragons movie of sorts several years ago? I seem to remember watching a made-for-tv production that showed bad consequences for a bunch of kids playing the game. It runs in my mind that it resulted in much criticism in fandom for depicting the game as harmful to some participants.

I read enviously of the surplus books activity for NASFA. Around Hagerstown, the supply of books is drying up at the thrift stores. Month's ago, the Salvation Army store cut by about 90% its shelf space devoted to books. Last week I found the Rescue Mission store clearing out its book shelves and apparently intending to use most of the footage for display of other merchandise. Goodwill still has a fair amount of books for sale but it has raised prices preposterously. I found a \$3 price marked on a grimy cheap edition of a Hawthorne novel about a half-century old. And gas is so expensive that I've not wasted it to drive around to many yard sales this summer. At least, the date when every last crevice and corner of this house will be filled with books is being pushed back a few months.

[Last month's issue was a good example of the summer doldrums. Sometimes it's just hard to get people to write anything! According to my favorite web site for movie info, there was a 1982 movie variously known as *Dungeons and Dragons* and *Mazes and Monsters* that apparently was made for TV. It was about "real world" people *playing* D&D (or is that M&M?) while the movie to be released later this year is set *within* the D&D mythos. -ED]

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Carlo R. DeShouten
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26 July 2000

Of course you know that I moved to my own apartment and I'm not going to detail on it. But I'm here on the movies which I saw from Mike Kennedy's Movie News.

Now I *definitely* would love to see *Dungeons & Dragons* the movie when it comes out. (But why Marlon Wayans?? It's bad enough on *Scary Movie*!!)

But I'm very disappointed when the *Lord of the Rings* movie is going to be out. Because of one thing. Hollywood has gone stereotyped. Now I know I love the books and it's a big budget film and Hollywood would love to see people coming in and getting their big bucks. But why the *hell* they have to use *big actors* to play little people?! I mean I understand they want people to come see the movie and get big bucks but that takes the feeling out of everything!! Look at *Willow*. They did a good job on that movie and I liked it. But this [...] is a disappointment.

And this isn't the first time Hollywood has tainted films and telling lies. The movie *Patriot*. Now I haven't seen the movie but I did read a lot of British are complaining that it [has the] British lead by a tyrant Colonel captured and killed
(*continued on back cover*)



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innocent women and children. And the British and historians claims it isn't true. Hollywood [mavens] aren't commenting. I wonder why? Maybe Mel Gibson has something to say but he's Australian. Another movie *U-571* which is about American soldiers captur[ing] the German sub, sail[ing] it back to America and decod[ing] the U-boat invasion. Wrong again. It was the British that did it. Not only Hollywood's Glamorizing America but it's also stereotyping British as well. So in conclusion either Hollywood shapes up their image or they

could face another riot on their hands.

And finally I set up a concert at the civic center in town. It went OK and I wish we had more people (about 60) and I only made \$100 and that ain't bad.

And Mike, I hope you did notice I didn't use colorful metaphors this time.

[I understand your concern, Carlo, though I can't say I completely accept your premise. It's an interesting view — and well expressed — nonetheless. -ED]