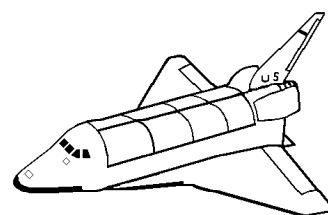


The



SHUTTLE May 2002

The Next NASFA Meeting will be 18 May 2002 at the Regular Time and Location

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next NASFA meeting will be **18 May 2002** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**. Call BookMark at 256-881-3910 if you need directions.

The **May program** will be trip to Southern Adventures. See the separate article below for more information. Due to the nature and probable length of the program, there is **no scheduled after-the-meeting meeting**.

The Birmingham Science Fiction Club has moved their website to <members.aol.com/bhamsfclub/>. Their new email address is <BhamSFclub@aol.com>.

DSC ConCom Meetings

The remaining DeepSouthCon 40 con committee meetings are scheduled for 16 and 30 May, and 13 June. The first two of these will be 7P-9P on their respective days at Sam Smith's place. Agendas will be emailed to concom members before the meetings. The last meeting will be at the hotel on the Thursday evening before the con.

May NASFA Program

The May NASFA Program will be a outing to Southern Adventures, 2150 Leeman Ferry Circle, Huntsville, AL 35801, (256) 382-PARK, <www.southernadventures.net>.

Interested parties will leave from BookMark after the regular meeting and meet at Southern Adventures for their choice of adventure golf, carnival rides, and/or arcade games. (The water park opens for the season on Memorial Day.) Single attraction tickets are \$.75 with discounts for packs of 30 (\$20) and 100 (\$60). Multiple tickets are needed for most attractions (see list below).

So come out and have fun. No reservations required. To reach Southern Adventures, take the Drake Avenue exit off South Memorial Parkway. Take Drake Avenue west-bound for one block. Turn left on Leeman Ferry Road. Continue on

Leeman Ferry Road for approximately 1/2 mile. Turn right onto Leeman Ferry Circle. Southern Adventures is located at 2150 Leeman Ferry Circle behind Joe Davis Stadium and the Iceplex.

ADULT PRICES

- Miniature Golf 18-holes 7 tickets; 36-holes 9 tickets
- Go Karts 7 or 8 tickets (single/double)
- Various Carnival Rides 1 to 4 tickets
- Max Flight Simulator (Virtual Rollercoaster) 7 tickets
- Bumper Cars 4 tickets
- Batting Cages cash only \$1 to \$20

Many items are somewhat lower priced for children 4-12.



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Deadline for the June 2002 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Monday, 27 May 2002.

April Minutes

by Samuel A. Smith, quack!

The April meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, April 13, 2002 in the upstairs meeting room at BookMark at 6:24:43P by President Mary Ortwerth, who had the Gavel and the Crickets and was not afraid to use them.

OLD BUSINESS

Randy Cleary: The annual NASFA Auction will be sometime in October, November, and/or December. Bring books (for trade), CDs, etc. any time between now and then.

Randy Cleary has checked, and there is no Huntsville Stars home game on a currently scheduled club meeting night, so going to a Stars game will not be a program this year.

Anita Eisenberg checked on what's available at Southern Adventures that we might be able to make a program out of, but forgot to bring the stuff. There was some discussion of how to get the stuff to Randy. [It must have eventually happened, since Randy has scheduled Southern Adventures as the site of the May Program. -ED]

Mike Cothran: The NASFA Brochure returns! He would like to get this out sometime Real Soon Now, but needs club member's input. Specifically, answers to these questions are desired: "Why do you like the club?" and "Why would you encourage others to join?"

NEW BUSINESS

Randy Cleary: The LibertyCon hotel has burned. They are meeting today to decide what to do. [They ended up having to cancel this year's LibertyCon, unfortunately. -Sec.]

Randy Cleary has pictures from this year's Galacticon. Sam Smith has received word that there will be a "Jophan

Family Reunion" down in Birmingham this year, and it will conflict with our scheduled August meeting date. The question was raised: "Do we want to move the August NASFA meeting date?" After extended discussion, and a motion with several amendments, it was decided to make the August NASFA meeting the annual NASFA Picnic, and to hold it on August 10th instead of the original August 17th meeting date.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

684 visitors to the Con†Stellation web site, 525 visitors to the DeepSouthCon 40 web site, 95 visitors to the NASFA web site.

Sam Smith announced that the DSC 40 meeting originally scheduled for May 2nd has been moved to April 29th, in order to be held at the Hilton hotel. A hotel tour has been scheduled for 6:00–7:00P, with the meeting proper in the Von Braun room from from 7:00–9:00P.

The DSC 40 Mass Mailing has been delivered to Tom Feller in Nashville, and will be arriving in mailboxes soon. There was a moment of silence for the two printers that gave their lives for the Mass Mailing.

Con†Stellation 2002 — no news.

Con†Stellation 2003 — no news.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51:10P. The program was a presentation on Hugo Award nominated films. Randy Cleary brought a DVD player, and we watched some of the extra goodies from these films that you get on DVD these days. The After-The-Meeting Meeting was held at Mike Kennedy's place.

NASFA Calendar

MAY

- 03 BD: Martha Knowles.
- 12 Mothers' Day.
- 14 BD: Debbie Hughes.
- 16 BD: Linda Bolgeo.
- 16 DeepSouthCon 40 ConCom meeting 7P–9P at Sam's.
- 18 Armed Forces Day.
- 18* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business at BookMark. Program to follow at Southern Adventures, see the article elsewhere in this issue.
- 19 BD: David O. Miller.
- 20 BD: Mike Glicksohn.
- 24–26 Oasis 15 — Orlando FL.
- 27 Memorial Day.
- 27 BD: Kathy Paulk.
- 30 DeepSouthCon 40 ConCom meeting 7P–9P at Sam's.

JUNE

- 01 BD: Glenn Valentine.
- 01–02 ConCarolinas — Charlotte NC.
- 02 BD: Lloyd Penney.
- 13 DeepSouthCon 40 ConCom meeting at hotel.
- 14 Flag Day.
- 14–16 DeepSouthCon 40 — Huntsville AL.
- 16 Father's Day.
- 19 BD: Julie Schwartz.

- 21 First day of Summer.
- 22* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. ATMM TBD. **NOTE:** This is one week later than usual due to DSC.
- 28–30 Science Fiction Research Association Conference — New Lanark, Scotland UK.

JULY

- 01 Canada Day.
- 02 BD: Deb Stone.
- 04 Independence Day.
- 20* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. ATMM TBD.
- 24 BD: Jay Johns.
- 26–28 LibertyCon 16 — Chattanooga AL. **NOTE:** This year cancelled due to a hotel fire. They will be back in 2003.
- 28 Parents' Day.
- 29 BD: Mark Paulk.

AUGUST

- 08 BD: Jim Woosley.
- 09–11 Crescent City Con XVII — New Orleans LA.
- 10* NASFA Meeting — Annual Picnic. **NOTE:** This is one week earlier than the usual meeting date, stay tuned for more details.

not all) of that was mailed in and simply not put up in time. The Art Auction Saturday evening was predictably on the small side but there was spirited bidding on some of the pieces. The Dealers Room did have a good mix of materials. There was a large display of new books, a used paperback dealer, t-shirts and other items from Fo' Paws Productions, costume items, and custom glass gifts from Steve Scherer.

Technically the Art Show/Dealers Room combo was in a different hotel from the rest of the convention. What had previously been the back building of the Day's Inn is now run as a residential hotel. It still has some function space, though I doubt it's normally used. Fortunately that space has its own entrance since non-residents couldn't get into the hotel itself. There were a couple of steps down into the room from the entry door, which the convention covered with a *very* steep ramp. The residential hotel was the site of one of the more, um, exciting events of the weekend — a second-floor defenestration Sunday morning. It didn't involve any con goers (at least not directly) and fortunately the injuries involved appeared to be non-life-threatening. Ask me about it later for more details.

Kubla had a pair of connecting hotel rooms set aside for gaming. A group of us managed to scrounge up enough chairs and a table Friday to play a game of spades. (My only game of the weekend, sadly.) The room was better equipped later on, but saw very little use as best I could tell.

The social scene was slow much of the time, at least for non-smokers. The Con Suite was split among two pairs of connecting rooms. The smoking rooms (which had the beer tap) had a fair crowd part of the time but the non-smoking side (which included the soft drinks) was less frequented except for con registration, which was set up in one of the rooms. There were two parties Friday. The fetish party looked interesting, but I never made it by before I was too tired and needed to go back to my hotel. The parties on Saturday night were delayed by the Secret Commonwealth concert getting a late start.

A large part of that was probably the time needed to clear the main function room after the banquet, so the band could set up. The convention had planned to have the banquet in the restaurant (as they had in years past) but the hotel had a different idea. The restaurant is under new management (it now serves Indian food). Though they catered the banquet, they may have objected to having it in their dining room. The hotel set up for the banquet on Saturday morning, apparently not understanding that programming was scheduled in that room starting at 1P. While the hotel allowed programming to take place in another part of the ballroom, no one thought to put up signs letting attendees know. Not everyone found it.

So what's the shape of Kubla's future? Chairman Khen Moore stated on at least a couple of occasions that next year's Kubla might well be a relaxicon, apparently meaning there would be fewer or no guests and little if any programming. His full intent was not clear — probably not even to him — it appeared at times that this might be the last Kubla. On the other hand, Khen showed up at Closing Ceremonies talking about all the things that needed to be improved about the hotel before next year. In my opinion — which I expressed to Khen at said ceremony as well as to other people during the weekend — the proper way to renovate that hotel is with a bulldozer.

Will I be back to Kubla 31 if there is one? I don't know. I will certainly hesitate if it's at that hotel unless I can get some independent assurance ahead of time that vast improvements have been made. Kubla is basically a one-man show (though Khen has a number of people who help make the con happen) so decisions about it are all up to Khen. I hope he thinks carefully about the direction he wants to take.

Nebula Awards Announced

The 2001 Nebula Awards were presented at the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) at its annual awards banquet at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City MO, Saturday 27 April 2002. The Nebula Awards are voted on, and presented by, active members of SFWA. Founded as the Science Fiction Writers of America in 1965, the organization has over 1,400 members, among them most of the leading writers of science fiction and fantasy. The Nebulas are thus the premier peer award in the science fiction and fantasy field. This year's winners are:

- Novel Catherine Asaro, *The Quantum Rose*
(Tor, December 2000)
- Novella Jack Williamson, "The Ultimate Earth"
(*Analog*, December 2000)
- Novellette Kelly Link, "Louise's Ghost"
(*Stranger Things Happen*, Small Beer Press, July 2001)
- Short Story Severna Park, "The Cure for Everything"
(*Sci Fiction/SciFi.com*, 22 June 2000)
- Script James Schamus, Kuo Jung Tsai and
Hui-Ling Wang, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*
(Sony Pictures Classics, December 2000)
- Special Award President's Award, Betty Ballantine

Additional information can be found online at <www.sfwaweb.org>. Numerous photos from the Nebula weekend can be found at <kcsfsciencefiction.org/02nebs01.htm>.

2002 Hugo Nominees Named

ConJosé, the 2002 World Science Fiction Convention, has announced the nominees for the 2002 Hugo Awards. Final voting will take place by mail and online, with a deadline of 31 July 2002. You must be an attending or supporting member of ConJosé to vote in that round. The Hugos will be presented at a ceremony at ConJosé Sunday 1 September 2002. Further information about the convention may be found online at <www.conjose.org>.

A total of 626 people cast Hugo Nominating ballots this year; 371 of whom cast their vote through the ConJosé web site. Three categories ended up with six nominees this year due to ties for the final ballot position. The 2001 WSFS Business Meeting, as authorized by the WSFS Constitution, extended the eligibility of works initially published in 2000 outside the USA and not published in the USA as of the end of January 2001. Several works nominated this year qualify under this extension. The nominees are:

BEST NOVEL (486 ballots cast)

- The Curse of Chalion* by Lois McMaster Bujold (HarperCollins/Eos)
- American Gods* by Neil Gaiman (Morrow)
- Perdido Street Station* by China Miéville (Macmillan (UK)(2000); Del Rey)
- Cosmonaut Keep* by Ken MacLeod (Orbit (UK)(2000); Tor)
- Passage* by Connie Willis (Bantam)
- The Chronoliths* by Robert Charles Wilson (Tor)

BEST NOVELLA (300 ballots cast)

- "May Be Some Time" by Brenda W. Clough (*Analog* April 2001)
- "The Diamond Pit" by Jack Dann (*Jubilee*, HarperCollins/

Voyager Australia; *F&SF* June 2001)

“The Chief Designer” by Andy Duncan (*Asimov’s* June 2001)

“Stealing Alabama” by Allen Steele (*Asimov’s* January 2001)

“Fast Times at Fairmont High” by Vernor Vinge (*The Collected Stories of Vernor Vinge*, Tor)

BEST NOVELETTE (292 ballots cast)

“Hell Is the Absence of God” by Ted Chiang (*Starlight 3*, Tor)

“Undone” by James Patrick Kelly (*Asimov’s* June 2001)

“The Days Between” by Allen Steele (*Asimov’s* March 2001)

“Lobsters” by Charles Stross (*Asimov’s* June 2001)

“The Return of Spring” by Shane Tourtellotte (*Analog* November 2001)

BEST SHORT STORY (331 ballots cast)

“The Ghost Pit” by Stephen Baxter (*Asimov’s* July 2001)

“Spaceships” by Michael A. Burstein (*Analog* June 2001)

“The Bones of the Earth” by Ursula K. Le Guin (*Tales from Earthsea*, Harcourt)

“Old MacDonald Had a Farm” by Mike Resnick (*Asimov’s* September 2001)

“The Dog Said Bow-Wow” by Michael Swanwick (*Asimov’s* October–November 2001)

BEST RELATED BOOK (252 ballots cast)

The Art of Richard Powers by Jane Frank (Paper Tiger)

Meditations on Middle-Earth by Karen Haber, ed. (St. Martin’s Press/A Byron Preiss Book)

The Art of Chesley Bonestell by Ron Miller and Frederick C. Durant III with Melvin H. Schuetz (Paper Tiger)

I Have This Nifty Idea... Now What Do I Do With It? by Mike Resnick (Wildside Press)

J. R. R. Tolkien: Author of the Century by Tom Shippey (HarperCollins (UK) (2000); Houghton Mifflin)

Being Gardner Dozois by Michael Swanwick (Old Earth Books)

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION (452 ballots cast)

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone (1492 Pictures/Heyday Films/Warner Bros.) Directed by Chris Columbus; Screenplay by Steven Kloves; David Heyman, Producer; Michael Barthan, Chris Columbus, Duncan Henderson, and Mark Radcliff, Executive Producers

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (New Line Cinema/The Saul Zaentz Company/WingNut Films) Directed by Peter Jackson; Screenplay by Fran Walsh, Phillipa Boyens, and Peter Jackson; Peter Jackson, Barrie M. Osborne, and Tim Sanders, Producers; Michael Lynne, Mark Ordesky, Robert Shaye, Bob Weinstein, and Harvey Weinstein, Executive Producers

Monsters, Inc. (Pixar Animation Studios/Walt Disney Pictures) Directed by Peter Docter, David Silverman, and Lee Unkrich; Story by Jill Culton, Peter Docter, Ralph Eggleston, and Jeff Pidgeon; Darla K. Anderson, Producer; John Lasseter and Andrew Stanton, Executive Producers

Buffy the Vampire Slayer “Once More, With Feeling” (Fox Television Studios/Mutant Enemy, Inc.) Written and Directed by Joss Whedon; Joss Whedon and Marti Noxon, Executive Producers

Shrek (DreamWorks SKG/Pacific Data Images) Directed by Andrew Adamson and Vicky Jenson; Written by Ted Elliott, Terry Rossio, Joe Stillman, and Roger S. H. Schulman; Jeffrey Katzenberg, Aron Warner, and John H. Williams, Producers; Penney Finkelman Cox and Sandra Rabins, Executive Producers

BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR (382 ballots cast)

Ellen Datlow (*Sci Fiction* (online) and anthologies)

Gardner Dozois (*Asimov’s*)

Patrick Nielsen Hayden (Tor Books; *Starlight* anthology series)

Stanley Schmidt (*Analog*)

Gordon Van Gelder (*F&SF*)

BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST (323 ballots cast)

Jim Burns

Frank Kelly Freas

Bob Eggleton

Donato Giancola

Michael Whelan

BEST SEMIPROZINE (283 ballots cast)

Absolute Magnitude, edited by Warren Lapine

Interzone, edited by David Pringle

Locus, edited by Charles N. Brown

The New York Review of Science Fiction, edited by Kathryn Cramer, David Hartwell, and Kevin J. Maroney

Speculations, edited by Susan Fry, published by Kent Brewster

BEST FANZINE (237 ballots cast)

File 770, edited by Mike Glyer

Ansible, edited by Dave Langford

Challenger, edited by Guy Lillian III

Mimosa, edited by Richard and Nicki Lynch

Plokta, edited by Alison Scott, Steve Davies, and Mike Scott

BEST FAN WRITER (248 ballots cast)

Jeff Berkwitz

Mike Glyer

Bob Devney

Dave Langford

John L. Flynn

Steven H Silver

BEST FAN ARTIST (177 ballots cast)

Sheryl Birkhead

Teddy Harvia

Brad Foster

Sue Mason

Frank Wu

BEST WEB SITE (365 ballots cast)

Locus Online, Mark R. Kelly editor/webmaster

SciFi.com, Craig Engler, general manager

SF Site, Rodger Turner, publisher/managing editor

Strange Horizons, Mary Anne Mohanraj, editor-in-chief

Tangent Online, Dave Truesdale, senior editor; Tobias Buckell, webmaster

(This is a special category sponsored by ConJosé.)

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD FOR BEST NEW WRITER OF 2000/2001 (272 ballots cast)

Tobias S. Buckell (second year of eligibility)

Alexander C. Irvine (second year of eligibility)

Wen Spencer (first year of eligibility)

Jo Walton (second year of eligibility)

Ken Wharton (first year of eligibility)

(The John W. Campbell Award, sponsored by Dell Magazines, is not a Hugo Award, but appears on the same ballot as the Hugo Awards and is administered in the same way as the Hugo Awards.)

2002 Hugo Nomination Statistics

ConJosé has published summary statistics on the nominating votes for the Hugo Awards. In the table below the “Ballots” column is the number of ballots that included at least one nomination in that category. “Votes” is the total number of nominations cast in that category (each ballot may contain multiple nominations in each category). “Nominees” is the number of individual works or persons nominated in that category. “Range” is the range of nominations required to make the final ballot in that category. “No Award” will appear as a candidate in each category on the final ballot. More

detailed statistics, including the number of nominations each person or work received, and the vote counts of the top fifteen candidates or those candidates receiving at least 5% of the nomination ballots cast in each category, will be released by ConJosé after the Hugo Awards are presented.

Category	Ballots	Votes	Nominees	Range
Novel	486	1469	226	44–121
Novella	300	738	58	40–55
Novelette	292	823	144	27–43
Short Story	331	929	63	21–35

Related Book	252	514	88	31–68
Dramatic Presentation	452	1303	130	89–343
Professional Editor	382	979	91	87–121
Professional Artist	323	862	156	36–83
Semiprozine	283	573	45	41–116
Fanzine	237	531	100	29–43
Fan Writer	248	601	164	26–51
Fan Artist	177	410	93	17–59
Web Site	365	941	240	36–75
Campbell Award	272	653	101	29–53

Upcoming Worldcons and Bids

2002

ConJosé, the 60th Worldcon, will be held 29 August–2 September 2002 in San José CA at the McEnery Convention Center and nearby hotels. Guests include Artist GoH Vernor Vinge, Artist GoH David Cherry, Fan GoHs Bjo and John Trimble, Imaginary GoH Ferdinand Feghoot, and MC Tad Williams. Attending memberships are currently \$180, effective through 31 July 2002. More information can be found online at <www.conjose.org>.

2003

Torcon III, the 61st Worldcon, will be held 28 August–1 September 2003 in Toronto ON Canada at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre and nearby hotels. Guests include George R. R. Martin, Frank Kelly Freas, Mike Glyer, and Spider Robinson. Attending memberships are currently \$145 (US), through 30 June 2002. More information can be found online at <2003.worldcon.org>.

2004

Noreascon Four, the 62nd Worldcon, will be held 2–6 September 2004 in Boston MA. Guests include Terry Pratchett, William Tenn, Jack Speer, and Peter Weston. Attending memberships are currently \$120, through 31 July 2002. More information can be found online at <www.boston2004.org>.

2005

Site selection for the 2005 Worldcon will be held at ConJosé. There is currently only one bid, for Glasgow UK. Their proposed dates are 4–8 August 2005 and the proposed

facility is the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre. There have been significant changes in the facility since the 1995 Worldcon held at the same site. More information can be found online at <www.uk2005.org.uk>.

Since the 2005 Worldcon will almost certainly be held outside North America, there may be a North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC) that year. Site selection for that would be held at Torcon III. There are persistent rumors of a Charlotte NC bid for that con, but their web site at <www.secfi.org> hasn't been updated since the changes following their loss for the 2004 Worldcon. Much more definite is a Seattle 2005 NASFiC bid — for information see <www.swoc.org/nasfic>.

2006

Site selection for the 2006 Worldcon will be held at Torcon III. There are at least two bids for that year — Kansas City (see their web site at <www.midamericon.org>) and Los Angeles (see their site at <www.scifiinc.org/2006/index.htm>). Dallas may also be bidding (see <www.rubberrodeo.com/dallas2006>) but their web site hasn't been updated for well over 18 months so they do not seem to be active.

2007

Site Selection for the 2007 Worldcon will be held at Noreascon Four. The most active, possibly the only, bid is for Japan. The location is still a bit up in the air, but will likely be in the Tokyo area. They have a web site at <homepage2.nifty.com/Nippon2007/eng/e_main.html>, though it yet has little in the way of details.

Letters of Comment

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

Lloyd Penney
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Etobicoke ON
Canada M9C 2B2

15 April 2002

I checked the website a little early, and found the April 2002 *Shuttle* waiting for me. Time is always short, but there's time for a quick loc on this issue.

A shame to hear about the death of R. A. Lafferty. I've read a good portion of his books, and Toronto was the home of one of Lafferty's biggest fans, Dan Knight, who produced essays and chapbooks highlighting Lafferty's work through his United Mythologies Press.

Thank you for listing Canada Day on the calendar... my

birthday is June 2, same weekend as the new ConCarolinas. We'll be celebrating Mike Glicksohn's birthday next month on the 20th, and as always, we're looking forward to it.

There's the feeling of being a little cheated when I hear that the DVD release of *LOTR:FOTR* will have more footage than what we saw in its initial release. Such is the marketing aspect of movies these days. More and more, I'm going to have to buy myself a DVD player. If we're lucky, there'll be a re-release of the first movie just before the second movie comes out, and that additional footage will be there... and there's the studios with more of our money.

Thanks for the awards roundup. Here's another set of awards I can tell you about... the 2002 Fan Activity Achievement Awards, or FAAns, were given out for fanzine activities at the fanzine convention Corflu Valentine, February 14–17 in Annapolis MD. The categories and winners...

Best Fanwriter — Alison Freebairn

Best Fanzine — *Wabe*, edited by Bill Bodden, Tracy Benton, and Jae Leslie Adams
Best Letterhack — Lloyd Penney
Best Fan Artist — Dave Hicks
Best New Fanzine Fan — *Max*

Greetings to PieEyedDragon! We know who's old when we know who Wendell Wilkie was, hm? Or maybe we just remember the Bugs Bunny cartoon about the Gremlins?

I appreciate Harry Warner's comment that fewer and fewer pros in SF today come up through the fan ranks. I know of lots of fans in Toronto who are trying to break into the market, like Michael Skeet, Stephanie Bedwell-Grime, and Rebecca Senese. Semi-pros, you might call them. There are so many other fans and other potential writers also trying their hand, and there are so few SF publishers of books and magazines (as opposed to the Web, which is still in its infancy when it comes to publishing), so it's tough to rise to the top and get your novel or short story published. Publishers are businessmen, and they would rather go with a known quantity instead of a new author who might not catch on with the SF-reading public. My initial exposure to SF was both books and television, but primarily books.

I have tried my hand at writing short stories, and I have my share of rejection slips tucked away in a filing cabinet. Who knows, I may soon have the opportunity to try it again. I did have three short stories published when I was in school, in the university's literary journal, the *White Wall Review*, in the 1980s. The *Review* editor who accepted my work first was Ed Greenwood, now the well-known gaming novelist, with whom I shared journalism classes. The second *Review* editor who accepted my work was Robert J. Sawyer. Wish I'd had the kind of career they've had...

Time to fold up and fire this off. Take care, and see you next issue.

[Congratulations on your FAAn award, Lloyd! And apparently you're still expanding your territory. You'll find other award news elsewhere in this issue. You and Harry both noted now the versions of Tolkien's works (or rather derivatives of them) seem to be proliferating. I expect I'll buy one of the two *LotR* DVD packages but it is a bit irritating to have to choose between timeliness and completeness. -ED]

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

Harry Warner, Jr.
423 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown MD 21740

27 April 2002

Congratulations on your honor as chair man of the next Con†Stellation, as chronicled in the newest *Shuttle*. It must be nice to know you won't need to make decisions on how to spend spare time for the coming year, since you won't have any of it.

Less happy is the word of R. A. Lafferty's death. I hope his mind wasn't clear in the final years of his illness. It would be terrible if such a great mind as his had been forced to know he couldn't express all the ideas because of inability to write in his last illness. I wonder if Lafferty will some day become an icon for the new generation of science fiction readers, after some of his stories come back into readily available print. I would think that his differentness would have a good chance of attracting much attention to those who know little of his fiction because so little has been published in recent years.

The item about sub-orbital trips for frequent flyers doesn't

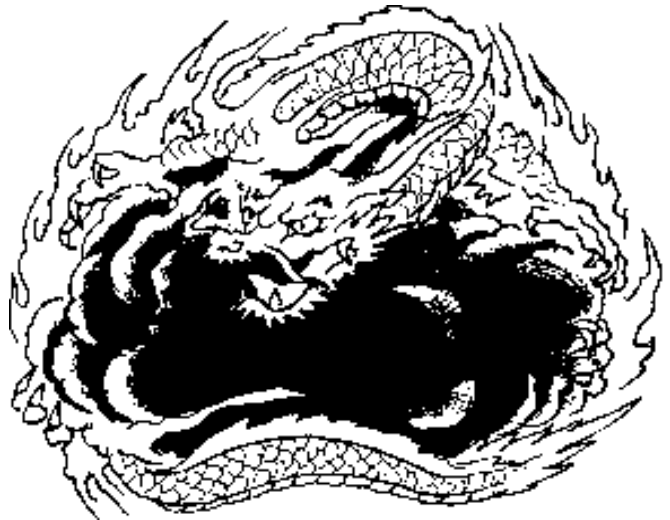
make completely clear whether the free trips are one-way or roundtrip. I certainly wouldn't want to use up my miles if I couldn't be sure at the outset that I would get back home free, too.

It must be growing quite expensive to be a Tolkien completest fan these past few years. I seem to have read about a dozen or more hardbound books with previously unpublished Tolkien writings over the years since his death, all of them retailing for \$30 to \$40 or thereabouts. Now comes the DVDs that expand on what was shown in theaters this past year from the ring cycle. And presumably when the other sections of the movie are released, the same merchandising will happen again. By the time all the movie merchandise based on the series of films has been issued, there will probably be some new electronics that will make the DVD obsolete and Tolkien fans will need to buy everything all over again in the new format to be Up To Date.

Maybe PieEyedDragon will eventually become as important a writer of skewed science fiction as Lafferty was. Is anyone in Hollywood nibbling at movie rights yet?

Why am I writing so cheerfully? My back still hurts and today I suffered the agonies of a visit from the house cleaners followed by the 473rd front porch repair project in the 42 years I've lived at this address. I must be splitting off from reality?

[My default assumption RE the sub-orbital trip would be that some sort of transportation would be provided to at least get one back to the starting point. Whether it includes getting to and from one's home is another question. I'm sorry to hear you are under the weather, Harry, and I hope your repair project went well. You're likely a braver man than I to undertake it. -ED]



Missing your PieEyedDragon? He'll be back next issue.



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The NASFA Shuttle is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the May 2002 edition (Volume 22, Number 5). NASFA Officers for 2002: President Mary Ortwerth; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Sam Smith; Treasurer Ray Pietruszka; Program Director Randy Cleary; Publicity Director Karen Hopkins. *Shuttle* Editor Mike Kennedy.

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