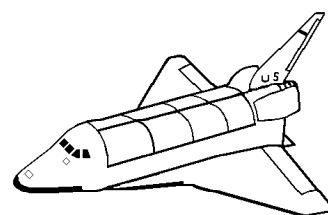


The



SHUTTLE
October 2003

Con†Stellation XXII 10–12 October 2003

*The Next NASFA Meeting will be 18 October
2003 at the Regular Time and Location*

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next NASFA meeting will be **18 October 2003** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**. Call BookMark at 256-881-3910 if you need directions.

The **October program** will be a Con†Stellation postmortem. The location of the October **after-the-meeting meeting** is undetermined at press time.

Note that the **November program** will be the more-or-less annual auction. Start searching your closets and bookcases now for donations.

NASFA Calendar

OCTOBER

- 02–05 Archon 27 — Collinsville IN.
 - 05 Con†Stellation Con Committee Meeting — Mike Kennedy's house.
 - 09 Con†Stellation Con Committee Meeting — at the hotel.
 - 10–12 *Con†Stellation XXII — Huntsville AL.*
 - 12 Columbus Day (Traditional).
- (continued on page 2)*

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Deadline for the November 2003 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 31 October 2003.

Alabama-Cuba Week Conference

Andy Duncan, University of Alabama Assistant Director of Student Media, has announced that the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa's Alabama-Cuba Week conference (17–20 November 2003) is scheduled to include appearances by Cuban science fiction writers Angel Arango and Michel Encinosa. Other scheduled participants include Juan Carlos Toledano and James Stevens-Arce. (The overall event covers many aspects of Cuban and Cuban-American culture, from poetry and photography to wastewater treatment and baseball.)

SF-related events scheduled for that week include an appearance at the Tuscaloosa Science Fiction Society's monthly meeting at 7P Wednesday 19 November and a panel devoted to Cuban science fiction at 10A Thursday 20 November. There will also be a party in the science fiction visitors' honor at the home of Andy and Sydney Duncan, with details still to be announced.

The registration fee for the conference is \$25. Details and registration forms were not available online at press time. Questions and suggestions regarding the science fiction events should be directed to Andy Duncan (<aduncan@sa.ua.edu>, 205-348-9298); questions about the overall conference should be directed to Carmen Taylor, associate dean of UA's College of Arts and Sciences (<ctaylor@sa.ua.edu>, 205-348-7007). Mr. Duncan notes that, given the nature of U.S.-Cuban politics, the issuance of visas is never certain so the final conference lineup is subject to change at the last minute.

Library Trek

by Mike Kennedy

As part of their ongoing Century of Flight series, the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library held a Star Trek themed event 6-9P Friday 3 October 2003 at the main branch in downtown Huntsville (aka Fort Book). Titled "A Salute to Star Trek; or, Not with my Yeomen You Don't, Captain Kirk," the evening was intended to be a light-hearted evening, and mostly succeeded.

The main meeting room at the library was pretty much filled, with over 100 people at the peak (though far fewer remained by the end of the evening).

Highlights included a Star Trek trivia contest, a small costume contest (three entries), and a "Klingon" buffet (which was actually much more edible than previous attempts at Klingon cuisine I've seen). The costume contest was won by a Klingon chanteuse, with other entries being a Picard lookalike and an original-series-era Starfleet Marine. The judges (also costumed) seemed to be library employees who had probably been



photo by Karen Hopkins

jollied into doing silly things on stage for the evening.

Door prizes and prizes for the various contests were furnished by a local collectibles store, who also had a sales area set up in a small meeting room near the main room. Information tables were (wo)manned by local fan groups, including NASFA/Con†Stellation (thanks, Mary and Karen!) and the local Starfleet chapter (the USS Wernher von Braun).

The centerpieces of the evening were a talk by Birmingham writer Lee Shackelford (a story writer for Star Trek: TNG among other credits) and a showing of original-series episode "The City on the Edge of Forever." (I would have thought that "All Our Yesterdays" might have been the choice, given the setting.) Shackelford's talk included a cold reading of the first few pages of an unproduced Next Generation script with half a dozen audience members (including NASFA's Steve Sloan) taking the various parts. Shackelford's script, which had reached a late stage of development before being



photos by Karen Hopkins



canned, ventured an answer to why the original series Klingons look nothing like those in the movies and later. Steve played an original-series-type Klingon being beamed onboard the Next Gen *Enterprise* in a rescue operation. His "materialization" (rising from a crouch) was priceless.

A number of events remain in the library's Century of Flight series. Details can be found on their web site <www.hpl.lib.al.us> or by calling the library at 256-532-5940.

British Fantasy Awards Nominations

Nominations have been announced for this year's British Fantasy Awards, given by the British Fantasy Society. Winners will be announced at the British Fantasy Convention <www.britishfantasysociety.org.uk/info/fantasycon.htm>, to be held 21–23 November 2003 at the Tillington Hall Hotel, Stafford. The nominees are:

AUGUST DERLETH AWARD (NOVEL)

The Darkest Part of the Woods, Ramsey Campbell (PS Publishing)

The Devil in Green, Mark Chadbourn (Gollancz)

The Facts of Life, Graham Joyce (Gollancz)

The Scar, China Miéville (Macmillan)

White Apples, Jonathan Carroll (Tor)

SHORT FICTION

Cape Wrath, Paul Finch (Telos Publishing)

The Fairy-Feller's Master Stroke, Mark Chadbourn (PS Publishing)

Firing the Cathedral, Michael Moorcock (PS Publishing)

"Open the Box," Andrew Humphrey (*The Third Alternative*)

#29)

The Tain, China Miéville (PS Publishing)

ANTHOLOGY

Art of Imagination: 20th Century Visions of Science Fiction, Horror & Fantasy, Frank M. Robinson, Robert Weinberg and Randy Broecker, eds. (Collectors Press)

Dark Terrors 6, Stephen Jones and David Sutton, eds. (Gollancz)

Fantasy: The Best of 2001, Robert Silverberg and Karen Haber, eds. (ibooks)

Keep Out the Night, Stephen Jones, ed. (PS Publishing)

The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror: Volume Thirteen, Stephen Jones, ed. (Robinson)

The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror: Fifteenth Annual Collection, Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling, eds. (St. Martin's)

COLLECTION

The Emperor of Dreams: The Lost Worlds of Clark Ashton Smith, Clark Ashton Smith (Gollancz)

Everything's Eventual, Stephen King (Hodder & Stoughton)

Ramsey Campbell, Probably: On Horror and Sundry Fantasies, Ramsey Campbell (PS Publishing)

Tales from Earthsea, Ursula K. Le Guin (Gollancz)

The Virtual Menagerie, Andrew Hook (Elastic Press)

SMALL PRESS

PS Publishing (Peter Crowther)

Roadworks (edited by Trevor Denyer)

Telos Publishing (David J. Howe)

The Alien Online (edited by Ariel)

The Third Alternative (edited by Andy Cox)

ARTIST

J. K. Potter

Randy Broecker

Les Edward (aka Edward Miller)

Dominic Harman

Laura Bandilla

Bob Covington

Chris Moore

2003 Rhysling Award Winners

The Science Fiction Poetry Association has announced the winners of the 2003 Rhysling Awards for achievement in speculative poetry. Winners are selected by a vote of the membership in two categories: Short Poem (up to 49 lines) and Long Poem (50 lines and over). The winners are:

SHORT POEM

First Place **"Potherb Gardening"** by Ruth Berman (*Asimov's*, December 2002)

Second Place **"A Ghost Story"** by Mike Allen (*Weird Tales*, Spring 2002)

Third Place **"meteor shower"** by David C. Kopaska-Merkel (*The Magazine of Speculative Poetry*, Spring 2002)

LONG POEM

First Place (tie) **"Epochs in Exile: A Fantasy Trilogy"** by Charles Saplak and Mike Allen (*Eotu Ezine*, February 2002) and

"Matlacihuatl's Gift" by Sonya Taaffe (*Dreams and Nightmares*, September 2002)

Second Place **"Medusa's Tale"** by David C. Kopaska-Merkel (*Mythic Delirium*, Summer/Fall 2002)

Third Place **"Not One of Us"** by Tyree Campbell (*Sex and the Single Alien*, Writer's Club Press, 2002)

SFWA Raises Medical Funds at Worldcon

SFWA, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, maintains an Emergency Medical Fund which offers interest-free loans to members facing unexpected medical expenses. Funds are raised through auctions and donations.

At Torcon 3 SFWA raised about \$2800 (US), primarily through an auction (about \$2000). There were also significant contributions from a tip jar in the SFWA suite plus about \$500 from the SFWA Musketeers — an unofficial group of SFWAs who also like to fence (and, apparently, touch people up for money).

Hugo Nomination Stats

Torcon 3 received 738 total valid Hugo nominating forms. Per the WSFS Constitution, they published a list of at least the top 15 nominees in each category. Nominees not on the final ballot were not validated or checked for errors.

Nominations for Best Novel 621 nominating forms, 219 nominees

97 *Hominids*, Robert J. Sawyer (Tor)

91 *The Scar*, China Miéville (Macmillan; Del Rey)

88 *The Years of Rice and Salt*, Kim Stanley Robinson (Bantam)

72 *Bones of the Earth*, Michael Swanwick (Eos)

69 *Kiln People*, David Brin (Tor)

— final ballot complete —

56 *Dance for the Ivory Madonna*, Don Sakers (Speed of C)

55 *Ruled Britannia*, Harry Turtle-dove (NAL)

43 *Night Watch*, Terry Pratchett (Doubleday UK; HarperCollins)

40 *Diplomatic Immunity*, Lois McMaster Bujold (Baen)

36 *Redemption Ark*, Alastair Reynolds (Gollancz; Ace)

35 *The Eyre Affair*, Jasper Fforde (Viking)

35 *Permanence*, Karl Schroeder (Tor)

34 *Coyote*, Allen Steele (Ace)

32 *Chindi*, Jack McDevitt (Ace)

32 *Light*, M. John Harrison (Gollancz)

32 *Probability Space*, Nancy Kress (Tor)

Nominations for Best Novella 374 nominating forms, 65 nominees

85 *Coraline*, Neil Gaiman (HarperCollins)

48 "In Spirit," Pat Forde (*Analog* 9/02)

47 "Bronte's Egg," Richard Chwedyk (*F&SF* 8/02)

45 "Breathmoss," Ian R. MacLeod (*Asimov's* 5/02)

41 *A Year in the Linear City*, Paul Di Filippo (PS Publishing)

41 "The Political Officer," Charles Coleman Finlay (*F&SF* 4/02)

— final ballot complete —

40 "The Potter of Bones," Eleanor Arnason (*Asimov's* 9/02)

34 "Veritas," Robert Reed (*Asimov's* 7/02)

32 "Router," Charles Stross (*Asimov's* 9/02)

31 *The Human Front*, Ken MacLeod (PS Publishing)

30 "Stories for Men," John Kessel (*Asimov's* 10-11/02)



- 30 "Unseen Demons," Adam-Troy Castro (*Analog* 8/02)
 29 *Turquoise Days*, Alastair Reynolds (Golden Gryphon)
 22 "A Democracy of Trolls," Charles Coleman Finlay (*F&SF* 10-11/02)
 22 "Jury Service," Charles Stross and Cory Doctorow (*Sci Fiction* 12/03/02)
 22 "Paradises Lost," Ursula K. Le Guin (*The Birthday of the World*)
 22 "The Drive-in Puerto Rico," Lucius Shepard (*F&SF* 10-11/02)
Nominations for Novellette 377 nominating forms, 149 nominees
 60 "Halo," Charles Stross (*Asimov's* 6/02)
 34 "Presence," Maureen F. McHugh (*F&SF* 3/02)
 32 "The Wild Girls," Ursula K. Le Guin (*Asimov's* 3/02)
 29 "Slow Life," Michael Swanwick (*Analog* 12/02)
 28 "Madonna of the Maquiladora," Gregory Frost (*Asimov's* 5/02)
 — final ballot complete —
 33 "Liking What You See: A Documentary," Ted Chiang (*Stories of Your Life and Others*)
 (*Ted Chiang declined his nomination*)
 27 "Tourist," Charles Stross (*Asimov's* 2/02)
 25 "First to the Moon," Stephen Baxter and Simon Bradshaw (*Spectrum SF* #6)
 24 "Ownz0red," Cory Doctorow (*Salon* 8/28/02)
 23 "Look Away," Stephen L. Burns (*Analog* 5/02)
 23 "The Passenger," Paul McAuley (*Asimov's* 3/02)
 18 "Isabel of the Fall," Ian R. MacLeod (*Interzone* 7/01)
 18 "Lull," Kelly Link (*Conjunctions* 39)
 18 "The Real Story," Alastair Reynolds (*Mars Probes*)
 17 "In Her Image," Michael A. Burstein (*Analog* 10/02)
 17 "The Old Cosmonaut and the Construction Worker Dream of Mars," Ian McDonald (*Mars Probes*)
 17 "We Come Not to Praise Washington," Charles Coleman Finlay (*F&SF* 8/02)
Nominations for Best Short Story 400 nominating forms, 263 nominees
 31 "Creation," Jeffrey Ford (*F&SF* 5/02)
 30 "Hello," Said the Stick," Michael Swanwick (*Analog* 3/02)
 29 "The Little Cat Laughed to See Such Sport," Michael Swanwick (*Asimov's* 10-11/02)
 26 "Falling Onto Mars," Geoffrey A. Landis (*Analog* 7-8/02)
 22 "Lambing Season," Molly Gloss (*Asimov's* 7/02)
 — final ballot complete —
 21 "In Paradise," Bruce Sterling (*F&SF* 09/02)
 21 "What I Didn't See," Karen Joy Fowler (*Sci Fiction* 7/19/02)
 20 "Knapsack Poems," Eleanor Arnason (*Asimov's* 5/02)
 20 "Reflections in Black Granite," Mike Resnick and Michael A. Burstein (*In the Shadow of the Wall*)
 20 "The Waif," Gene Wolfe (*F&SF* 01/02)
 19 "Flight Correction," Ken Wharton (*Analog* 3/02)
 18 "At Dorado," Geoffrey A. Landis (*Asimov's* 10-11/02)
 18 "Little Gods," Tim Pratt (*Strange Horizons* 2/4/02)
 17 "Social Dreaming of the Frin," Ursula K. Le Guin (*F&SF* 10-11/02)
Nominations for Best Related Book 262 nominating forms, 83 nominees
 51 *Better to Have Loved: The Life of Judith Merrill*, Judith Merrill and Emily Pohl-Weary (Between the Lines)
 50 *Ray Bradbury: An Illustrated Life*, Jerry Wiest (Morrow)
 39 *The Battle of the Sexes in Science Fiction*, Justine Larbalestier (Wesleyan University Press)
- 31 *Dragonhenge*, Bob Eggleton and John Grant (Paper Tiger)
 28 *Spectrum 9: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art*, Cathy Fenner and Arnie Fenner, eds. (Underwood Books)
 — final ballot complete —
 25 *The Science Fiction Professional*, Mike Resnick (Farthest Star)
 25 *Tomorrow Now: Envisioning the Next 50 Years*, Bruce Sterling
 24 *The Science Fiction Art of Vincent di Fate*, Vincent di Fate (Paper Tiger)
 19 *The Science of Discworld II: The Globe Emury*
 18 *The Art of Jeffrey Jones*, Jeffrey Jones (Underwood Books)
 18 *Bad Astronomy*, Philip Plait
 18 *Mapping Mars*, Oliver Morton
 12 *Adventures in the Dream Trade*, Neil Gaiman (NESFA Press)
 12 *The Making of the Movie Trilogy: Lord of the Rings*, Brian Sibley (Houghton Mifflin)
 9 *LOTR - TTT Visual Companion*
 9 *Paper Tiger Fantasy Art Gallery*, Paul Barnett, ed. (Paper Tiger)
Nominations for Best Long Form Dramatic Presentation
 529 nominating forms, 59 nominees
 428 *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*
 191 *Minority Report*
 183 *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*
 164 *Spider-Man*
 130 *Spirited Away*
 — final ballot complete —
 126 *Lilo and Stitch*
 43 *Star Trek Nemesis*
 38 *Signs*
 37 *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones*
 27 *Ice Age*
 21 *Metropolis*
 20 *Taken*
 18 *Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring extended version*
 18 *Solaris*
 13 *Men in Black II*
 13 *Treasure Planet*
Nominations for Best Short Form Dramatic Presentation
 284 nominating forms, 176 nominees
 72 "Carbon Creek" (*Enterprise*)
 62 "Conversations With Dead People" (*Buffy*)
 33 "A Night in Sickbay" (*Enterprise*)
 24 "Serenity" (*Firefly*)
 22 "Waiting in the Wings" (*Angel*)
 — final ballot complete
 19 "Con José Masquerade Half-time Show" (The Trans-Iowa Canal Company)
 19 "Lord of the Piercing" (*LOTR: FOTR Extended DVD Easter Egg*)
 19 "Selfless" (*Buffy*)
 18 "The Legend of the Rangers" (*Babylon 5*)
 18 "Objects in Space" (*Firefly*)
 14 "A Walk on the Windy Side" (*Windycon*)
 13 "Ryan" (*Smallville*)
 13 "Where No Fan Has Gone Before" (*Futurama*)
 12 "Unrealized Reality" (*Farscape*)
 10 "Normal Again" (*Buffy*)
Nominations for Best Professional Editor 399 nominating forms, 89 nominees
 131 Ellen Datlow

127 Gardner Dozois
 124 Gordon Van Gelder
 118 Stanley Schmidt
 104 David G. Hartwell
 — final ballot complete —
 79 Patrick Nielsen Hayden
 29 Mary Anne Mohanraj
 22 Warren Lapine
 21 Shawna McCarthy
 19 A.J. Budrys
 19 David Pringle
 18 Betsy Mitchell
 16 Ian Randall Strock
 16 Martin H. Greenberg
 13 Terri Windling
Nominations for Best Professional Artist 344 nominating forms, 141 nominees
 107 Bob Eggleton
 82 Donato Giancola
 57 Jim Burns
 56 Frank Kelly Freas
 49 David A. Cherry
 — final ballot complete —
 46 Michael Whelan
 30 Phil Foglio
 24 Thomas Canty
 22 Vincent Di Fate
 20 John Jude Palencar
 14 Kinuko Y. Craft
 13 Tom Kidd
 12 Ron Walotsky
 12 Stephen Youll
 11 Alan Pollack
 11 Don Maitz
 11 Jody Lee
 11 Omar Rayyan
Nominations for Best Semiprozine 314 nominating forms, 47 nominees
 136 *Locus*
 105 *Ansible*
 82 *Interzone*
 78 *The New York Review of Science Fiction*
 51 *Speculations*
 — final ballot complete —
 48 *SF Chronicle*
 35 *Artemis*
 30 *On Spec*
 29 *Absolute Magnitude*
 16 *Talebones*
 14 *The Third Alternative*
 13 *Spectrum SF*
 12 *Ideomancer*
 9 *Starlog*
 6 *Strange Horizons*
Nominations for Best Fanzine 289 nominating forms, 93 nominees
 58 *Mimosa*
 57 *File 770*
 56 *Plokta*
 49 *Emerald City*
 44 *Challenger*
 — final ballot complete
 39 *Bento*
 30 *The Voyageur*

24 *Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet*
 22 *SFRevu*
 15 *Bananna Wings*
 13 *Devniad*
 13 *Vanamode*
 12 *Wabe*
 11 *Steam Engine Time*
 10 *The Knarley Knews*
 10 *Tangent Online*
 10 *Twink*
Nominations for Best Fan Writer 315 nominating forms, 144 nominees
 51 Dave Langford
 44 Bob Devney
 40 Mike Glyer
 38 John L. Flynn
 38 Steven H Silver
 — final ballot complete —
 35 Cheryl Morgan
 32 Alex von Thorn
 32 John Hertz
 22 Lloyd Penney
 19 Evelyn Leeper
 19 Guy Lillian
 19 Jeff Berkwits
 17 Teresa Nielsen Hayden
 16 David Levine
 14 Kate Yule
Nominations for Best Fan Artist 243 nominating forms, 76 nominees
 83 Frank Wu
 53 Sue Mason
 50 Teddy Harvia
 30 Brad Foster
 27 Steve Stiles
 — final ballot complete —
 23 Alexis Gilliland
 23 Taral Wayne
 20 Sheryl Birkhead
 15 D West
 13 Kurt Erichsen
 12 Bill Neville
 12 Freddie Baer
 11 Alan White
 10 Marc Schirmeister
 10 Melody Rondeau
Nominations for John W. Campbell Award 259 nominating forms, 93 nominees
 60 Wen Spencer
 51 Charles Coleman Finlay
 43 Karin Lowachee
 40 Ken Wharton
 36 David D. Levine
 — final ballot complete —
 35 Benjamin Rosenbaum
 32 Jacqueline Carey
 29 Tim Pratt
 28 Cecilia Dart-Thornton
 19 Hilary Moon Murphy
 16 Alan DeNiro
 15 Alexander C. Irvine
 14 Jasper Fforde
 12 Ruth Nestvold
 12 Theodora Goss

Over, and Through, the Rainbow!

No Need for a Dragon with a Migraine Chapter 9
by PieEyedDragon

Many were the gods and goddesses visiting Asgard for the first time; having come in response to Puck's message on behalf of PED. Quetzalcoatl was there for his similarity of form. Amaterasu Ohmikami came, claiming a master's duty to her (former) servant.

When the little wooden ship descended again from the High Air, Thor accosted Puck; who was leading an entranced mortal woman. "This place is for gods and heroes, Old Thing!"

Robin just grins: "And gods have bred with giants and mortals. Some of those part-bloods, like Apollo, and you, are here represented. Some aren't (nodding meaningfully toward Mihoshi). This one is a berserker, and a great great granddaughter of the abdicated Juraian goddess of science and chaos, Washu! She bears some of *her* ability; as well as something much more important, and tangible."

— O — O — O —

Wotan: So, Puck. What's to be done?

Puck: First, we make use of the connections we have available. Mihoshi! What is PED's condition?

Mihoshi: (in a light trance) Frozen solid. No breath. No heartbeat, yet alive and dreaming. His spirit cannot depart.

Wotan: Why not?

Puck: True Immortality; he already died once. We must contrive to wake him. The Vanir taught you witchcraft. Let an image be made of the dragon, using your most potent weapons and talismans.

Wotan places his spear, Gungnir, on the ground for a spine. "Earthpower!"

Quetzalcoatl spreads mounds of tiny "bird peppers" in a serpentine line along the spear. "Earthpower, alive in it's most fiery form, barring lava!"

Mananaan Mac Lir places his paddle at the tail end. "Water, that the seas may move him!"

Amaterasu Ohmikami places silk fans, and razor-sharp war-fans in the wing positions. "Air, that he may rise up again, and fight!"

Frey and Heimdall both lay their giant-bane swords: Hundingsbana and Head, in the fore-claw positions.

Thor smites the ground with Mjollnir, generating thunder and lightning. "Fire, to confound the powers of Ice!" He places the short-handled hammer in the midst of the construct.

Wotan pours mounds of gold rings, which had been dropping for ages from his magic ring, Draupnir. The rings cleave together and cover the dragon-image with golden ring-mail.

Lugh, King of Tir-Nan-Og, places a large stone at the head. "I, ah, borrowed this from Blarney castle; for serpents are known also for the power in their tongues. A tongue can be sharper than any sword!"

Quetzalcoatl protests, "Hey, there. Snake-Oil is *my* department!" and exhales lightly upon the Blarney Stone.

The gleaming, golden dragon-image now seems almost complete; and completely still. Mihoshi now draws the little, hollow, dragon bone from her hair. Before PED's original body died, he had selected it from the ruin of his smashed wings. Polishing it as best he could, he had imbued it with a full quarter portion of his essence, later returned to his second

body. Holding it by one end, she touches the image's head.

— O — O — O —

Wotan: What now, master Goodfellow? We have a body. Do we hold a wake?

Puck: Why, not "A Wake," but "*Awake*"! Let there be *music*, to rouse the spirit!

The Dagda Mor places his great harp beside the simulacrum.

Amaterasu Ohmikami: And what song to begin (smiling slyly), *Rock the Dragon*?

Puck: (laughs) Perhaps later; but *Restoration* for now!

The magic harp begins playing, and a host of Pixies start singing in their tiny, bell-like voices. Puck pulls out a violin and adds a complementary theme. Not to be left out; Apollo strums his Lyre, and Pan blows on his pipes. Even that *other* Pan, who had followed the Pixies for the thought of Great Adventure, begins filling in short melodies of youth on a simple tin whistle.

The music builds, and builds, until it is a near-solid force. Wotan makes a sign to Thor; who smacks his hands together, creating a thunderclap. Everything stops as if being cut off with a knife.

Puck examines Mihoshi's face closely. Her eyes are glazed and finally, very slowly, blink once.

"We have *contact*!" He declares.

Letters of Comment

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

Lloyd Penney
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26 August 2003

It's been just crazy here, getting ready for Torcon 3. It's great to have a Worldcon that's local, but except for transportation, it really doesn't cut down on expense. The party equipment for the LA in '06 bid parties is ready, and we'll [be] picking up some people coming in from LA later tonight. So, in the meantime, there's time for a loc; in this case, for the August *Shuttle*.

Club minutes... I'll ask a question. Is there a feeling of apathy within the club? Are there a lack of things to do, or a feeling that the club is no longer relevant? These are problems clubs everywhere are having. The club in Vancouver is reported to be almost moribund, and other clubzines I receive say much the same thing. If NASFA is vital and moving about, good for you; you may be among the few clubs who are. Preserve it and nurture it.

In just a few days, as I write this, there will be a lot more award news, namely the winners of the Auroras, Hugos, Spectrums, Chesleys and many more. We have our fingers crossed, and we're hoping we can bring at least one sharp Aurora home. Thanks to Sheryl on her good wishes!

Greetings to PieEyed! I hate the winter, so I can sympathize with being flash frozen... I've felt that way just about every January. Great fun with the various pantheons. Reminds me of the Steven Brust novel *To Reign in Hell*.

I know Patrick Molloy and Naomi Fisher will be at Torcon; they've said so online. I see so many people selling

their memberships because of financial hardship. It's getting expensive to attend Worldcon, and Yvonne and I are discussing whether we should continue attending them, especially with places like Glasgow, Scotland hosting in 2005, and Japanese and Australian bids coming up for succeeding years. We expect to go to Boston next year, and possibly LA and Columbus should they win 2006 and 2007 respectively, but after that, I think we'll just be local fans, and attend local conventions.

Time to go... I must be heading to the airport shortly. Take care all, and Mike, hope to see you this week!

[Torcon has come and gone — mostly successfully — since you wrote this letter, Lloyd. Also successful was LA's 2006 bid. My own plans will likely have me missing the next several Worldcons, so perhaps I'll endeavor to recruit you as my intrepid reporter on the scene for Boston and LA if you do indeed make those. I can get a lot of factual info off the web during and after the con, but the personal touch is missing without *someone* who was there putting in their 200¢ worth. I think NASFA is still quite viable as a club. Our largest activity is clearly as "owners" of Con†Stellation — the local sf/fantasy convention — but meetings and social activities are pretty well attended and people seem to have fun. Of course, as one of the oldest of the old-timers I am probably biased, so comments from other club members would be appreciated. -ED]

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

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

13 September 2003

Hope all who traveled north for Torcon 3 enjoyed the con.

Ooh boy — Con†Stellation 2004 — Mike you must be a lutton for punishment. Also, Mike, congrats on the Rebel.

Just got the latest Harry Potter book on tape from the library — have yet to start listening. Hope Lloyd and Yvonne enjoyed Torcon 3.

I've heard various comments about Torcon, but have not actually seen any conreports. I'm sure that if I spent time on the Internet I might be able to unearth some. My congratulations to all the winners and nominees.

I hope the various fan lounges went smoothly — I know the Penneys put a lot of work into the con. Ah yes — now on to Noreascon.

[As it turned out, I got your postcard, Sheryl, just after the previous issue of the *Shuttle* was put to bed, though perhaps before I mailed it. Hopefully that overstuffed issue satisfied some of your desire for a Torcon report. -ED]

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

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19 September 2003

Just after Sam Smith announced the newest issue of the *Shuttle*, Volume 23, No. 9, I saw the deadline on it, and thought I'd better handle that immediately. It's tough to get back on schedule after a Worldcon, isn't it?

Our condolences go out to Larry Montgomery on the loss of PLCM, as well as to Southern fandom as a whole. Pamela was the first *SFC Bulletin* editor to send me copies of the Bulletin, and as I read the Bulletins, and any other fanzines I received from the southern US, I quickly saw how busy and involved she was; we could all have used a dozen of her. I'm sure she is keenly missed, and I'm sure there will be a special remembrance at the next DSC.

To other things... hello, Mike Kennedy, and it was a pleasure to finally meet you on my own home turf. I hope your visit (and everyone's visit) to Toronto for Worldcon... I'll see if there's anything I could add. Robert Sawyer had his dream come true... win the Best Novel Hugo in front of the hometown crowd. Emily Pohl-Weary is Fred Pohl and Judith Merrill's granddaughter, I believe, and she lives in Toronto. Also, Julie Czerneda won a Golden Duck award for her series *Tales of the Wonderzone*, she lives in the city where I grew up, Orillia, Ontario. So, Canadian authors got their share of all the various awards given out.

The senior committee gave the division heads and workers little time to get things ready, so the programming team deserves some credit for getting done what they were able to do. Unfortunately, that lack of time meant late programme books, and a pocket programme that bore no resemblance to reality. Yes, Nolacon came to mind for me as well. Ah, you were at the wedding, too! Yvonne and I were in the front row. Rev. diNovo did a fine job of putting everyone at ease, and with the legality of same-sex marriages here, four couples went home very happy. And, that's the main thing.

Much of our time at Torcon was spent working with the LA in 2006 Worldcon bidders, getting them the necessary food service equipment they couldn't have brought with them, and driving them all over Toronto to find all the hardware they needed to stage the space cadet academy they used to win 2006. I figure silly wins over sedate every time.

Spider Robinson helmed an upbeat and quick Hugo ceremony, and this generated some excitement for all in attendance. The climax came with Rob Sawyer winning his Hugo, and all Canadian[s] stood and cheered his victory. Afterwards, the now-traditional Hugo newsletter was handed out, with the full stats for those who made the ballot, and those who didn't. I finished ninth in Best Fan Writer, with 22 nominations, and I'm pleased with my showing. Rob will be having a party shortly, and we'll get a close-up view of the Torcon Hugo, which has been described by some as the most beautiful Hugo ever, with the maple leaf/jet exhaust hugging the fins of the rocket.

Anyway, I will get this out to you, and I look forward to more commentary on Torcon 3 in the next issue. See you then.

[Actually the short deadline for this issue was due more to Con†Stellation — less than a week away as I type this — than to Worldcon. I certainly intended no conclusion in the last issue as to who or what level of the Torcon organization should have the largest blame for the chaotic state of the program at Torcon and I certainly have no way or intent to contradict your judgement that the fault lies at fairly senior levels of the committee. -ED]

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

PieEyedDragon
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28 September 2003

Farewell PLCM. The wheel turns yet again.

Johnny Cash: "I fly a starship, across the universe divide. And when I reach the other side; I'll find some place to rest my spirit if I can. Perhaps I may become a highwayman, again; Or I may become a single drop of rain. But I will remain; and I'll come back again, and again, and again..." The Highwayman

Excerpt from chapters to come:

voice1: Will the corona of Bifrost hide *this* from the Humans?

voice2: Yes, and no. Doctor Martin Chandra's "Wise-Head" X-ray telescope spends part of its 2.6 day orbit above the shrouding "Van Allen" fog. If anyone used it to look *down*, instead of outward toward deep space, our many agents could not keep it out of the general news. Fortunately, the astronomers have it booked up for decades.

voice1: So who believes the *Enquirer*? Have you *read* what they print?

voice2: It wouldn't happen that way. Doctor Chandra might instead tell his daughter, Antonia.

voice1: So?

voice2: She is editor of "Bone Books," and married to "Hunk" Runeheart: a writer and sometime swordsmith. They would know who to talk to about this.

voice1: You are surely pulling at least one of my legs. Such coincidences do not happen in the real world. Not *naturally*, anyhow.

[As you can see, PED, we managed to fit another episode of your adventures into this issue. I'm sure there are many more of them to come. -ED]



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