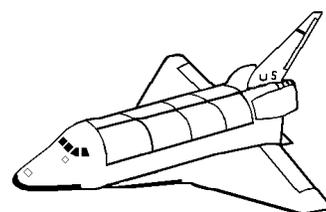


The



# SHUTTLE August 2004

*The Next NASFA Meeting will be 21 August  
2004 at the Regular Time and Location*

*The Next Con†Stellation XXIII ConCom Meeting  
will be 2P, 5 September 2004 at Mike Kennedy's House*

## 🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next **NASFA meeting** will be **21 August 2004** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**. Call BookMark (256-881-3910) if you need directions.

The **August program** will be "coin-struction." Hone your science fiction or fantasy imagination with building projects using **pocket change (bring a bunch!)** and special connectors (supplied).

The **August after-the-meeting meeting** will be the final club pool party of the summer at Russell McNutt's house. The usual rules (bring your favorite drink and a food item to share) apply.

The next Con†Stellation XXIII: Delphinus **concom meeting** is scheduled for **Sunday 5 September 2004** (2P, Mike Kennedy's house). Future concom meetings are scheduled for **19 September**, **3 October**, and **14 October**. All but the last of those are Sunday meetings at Mike Kennedy's house. The 14 October meeting is the last-minute Thursday meeting at the hotel.

Don't forget the **September NASFA meeting** will be the more-or-less-annual **NASFA picnic**. Marie McCormack and Mike Cothran will host (210 Vincent Road in Huntsville). We'll gather starting early afternoon (2P-ish) until we drop. Bring a drink and a dish to share. Grills will be available.

## NASFA Calendar

### AUGUST

- 06-08 ConGlomeration 2004 — Louisville KY.
- 06-08 Crescent City Con 2004 — Metairie (New Orleans) LA.
- 08 Con†Stellation XXIII ConCom Meeting — Mike Kennedy's house.
- 08 BD: Jim Woosley.
- 13-15 Armadillocon 26 — Austin TX.
- 14 BD: Edward Kenny.
- 21\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: Coin-struction. ATMM: Pool Party at Russell McNutt's house.
- 21 BD: Deborah Denton.

### SEPTEMBER

- 02-06 Noreascon Four/Worldcon 62 — Boston MA.
- 03-05 Outside Con 17 — Dickson TN.
- 03-06 Dragon\*Con 2004 — Atlanta GA.
- 03-06 Mephit Furmeet 2004 — Memphis TN.
- 05 Con†Stellation XXIII ConCom Meeting — Mike Kennedy's house.
- 06 Labor Day.
- 09 BD: Mike Cothran.

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**Deadline for the September 2004 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 3 September 2004.**



# SPACE ROCK CON 2004

featuring

Nik Turner and SPACESEED  
Sigmund Snopek III

Paul Angelostano and the melting  
poetry Collective

Valles Spaceship

Jones Ave featuring Bob Harvey of Jefferson  
Airplane

Subliminator and Superheaven

Friday September 24  
Cullman Civic Center  
Cullman Alabama \$ 10

Doors open @ 5 Contact Carlo for info  
strangemage57@hotmail.com 256-734-7496

I-75 from Chattanooga. LibertyCon moved to this hotel after losing their original choice a few months before the con.) Invited guests included Literary GoHs Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle, Artist GoH Steve Hickman and MC David Weber. Other notables expected to attend included Steven E. Cobb, David Deitrick, Eric Flint, Sharon Green, Dr. Les Johnson, Dr. Greg Matloff, Dr. Travis Taylor, Hank Reinhardt, and Toni Weisskopf.

LibertyCon is one of my favorite cons to attend for a relaxing, fun time. Though they did have a few teething problems in the new hotel (about which more later) they didn't disappoint this year.

Finding the hotel proved to be no bid deal. There's only the one Holiday Inn in Cleveland and it's quite near the Interstate.

Directions on the convention website provided the few clues one needed to get to the hotel with no missteps. The view from the hotel, which is on top of a good-sized hill, was quite nice.

Since I was going to run a room party for Con†Stellation Friday night and since I didn't get out of Huntsville as early as I wanted to, much of my time between arrival and Liberty-Con's Opening Ceremony was spent unloading the car, schlepping things to my second-floor room (no elevator, unfortunately), and setting up for the party. I did have one problem with my room — the air conditioner was completely iced over and thus functioning poorly — but the hotel promptly remedied it. Score one for the good guys.

I did get set up for the party (including posting notices, etc.) in time to take a breather for a while and make it to the

Opening Ceremony. This appeared to be the first time that David Weber had been a convention MC, but he did a nice job and got the convention off to an official start. The ceremony was scheduled for only a 30-minute slot (which was plenty of time) followed by a 30-minute autograph session. In the latter case 30 minutes was decidedly *not* plenty of time, especially since it has been quite a while since GoHs Niven and Pournelle have appeared in this part of the country. Fortunately they were able to schedule another session later in the convention to pick up the slack. Kudos to Sue Thorn and the rest of the crew that arranged this.

The Con†Stellation party may have been the only one Friday night, though I can't be sure. In any case, we had a good crowd during the three hours we had scheduled. I had established a nominal 11P end for the party on the signs I posted in part to accommodate playing in the first round of the spades tournament. I had arranged with most of the players on my table to meet at my hotel room after the party, but various holdups got in the way. In the end only one other of the originally-scheduled players (MC David Weber) made the game. I played just well enough to advance to the second round, though I subsequently lost out there and didn't make it to the finals. (It was cold comfort that the player I lost to in the second round went on to win the tournament.)

David Weber was late for the first-round table because he was finishing a reading in the Con Suite. (It had been moved there because one of the small function rooms the convention had counted on was unavailable Friday night. It had only two readings scheduled for that evening, and was available to the con the rest of the weekend; so they coped OK with this disruption.)

Saturday I took in one panel I particular wanted to get to (Toni Weisskopf, Sharon Green, and Elizabeth Barrette on the necessities of editing) and a trip through the Art Show. There were several pieces I would have like to have tried for, but all of them were beyond my price range. I never did make it to much of the dealer space. One of the drawbacks of this hotel for LibertyCon (noting that *all* venues have one problem or another) was that they had to have a "dealers alley" rather than a traditional single room. With each dealer set up in their own hotel room, it was less convenient to just wander from dealer to dealer and I never saw what the vast majority of them had on offer.

I also decided to go to the Banquet. It had a somewhat odd start time of 5P so they could have the speeches before the buffet line was thrown open. I got a great table for the speeches, but it turned out to be the last one to get in line for food. Nonetheless there was both plenty of food and pretty good quality.

Having no bids to defend, I didn't make it to the art auction. The masquerade, though, I always try to attend at any con. As it turned out, I got a dose of auctioning anyway as some of the non-art charity auction items (books and the like) were put up for sale during the judging interval at the masquerade. Interestingly, one of the better entries in the masquerade was a puppet show by a fellow I had seen at the furry con earlier this year in Huntsville.

Sunday was mostly a getaway day, despite the fact that I had taken some of the party supply boxes to the car the previous day. There was one panel I did want to attend (Con Economics 101) but it was at 11A and I was just too busy getting out of my room. Hopefully Huntsville's Sam Smith did a good job of representing the side as a panelist. (I had begged out on that when Kerry Gilley was looking for suckers, er, participants

earlier this summer.)

I did have time to make the rounds of the con, though, and say my goodbyes to many. I was already pulling out of the parking lot when Ken Moore flagged me down and told me that there was a major traffic jam on I-75 southbound, apparently caused by several wrecks earlier in the day. Rather than sweat that out, I decided to stay and ended up scratching up four for another game of spades. (Um, I didn't mention *all* the cards I played or kibitzed during the weekend, otherwise this review would have been much longer.) The traffic jam was still at full crawl when I left an hour or two later, but by then the hotel had maps available for a suggested back route. (And thanks to Judy Breitbach for letting me know about that.)

Early in the review I promised more about the facility. Some of that is scattered about above, but there are a couple of topics I wanted to address.

One of the distinguishing features of LibertyCon's previous facility (which they were in for a number of years) was a patio area that was in a corner between the hotel lobby and function space (including the Con Suite). For a con that was both good (giving great flow to the space and a place for smokers to gather that was still close to all the action) and bad (said place was often insufferably hot in July and the heat and smoke often invaded the Con Suite as the doors were opened quite often). In this year's hotel, LibertyCon tried to recreate this by adding some artificial shade to a patio area in the hotel courtyard. However, it was not located conveniently to much of the function space, and the Con Suite was on the second floor, so the flow was certainly not the same. (I never got to it once during the weekend.) This is nothing against LibertyCon, it's just a realization that the venue does affect many characteristics of a convention.

And speaking of the Con Suite, it was probably on the second floor because that's where the best suite was located. Unfortunately, the hotel has no elevator which meant all supplies (food, ice, drinks, etc.) had to be carried up by hand. I'm sure this was a major headache (or backache) for the staff. They coped with both this and a goof by the soft-drink supplier that had the fountains sent to the wrong place Friday and not available to the convention until Saturday. Hopefully if LibertyCon is in the same hotel next year they will find some way to have the Con Suite on the first floor as it would be both easier on the staff and potentially have better access from the programming areas. Nonetheless, I was *very* happy for the job the Con Suite staff did this year. Food from there (and the various parties and the banquet) sustained me for the weekend. I realized on Sunday that I hadn't bought a meal except for the banquet the whole weekend.

Wherever LibertyCon ends up next year, it'll remain on my list of cons to be attended. I don't make it *every* year, but I certainly go whenever I possibly can. I hope to see you there.

## Hey, Big Spinner, Spin a Little Web for Me

a Movie Review  
by Mike Kennedy

*Spider-Man 2*; PG-13; Starring Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, James Franco, Alfred Molina, Rosemary Harris, J. K. Simmons, et al.; Written by Alvin Sargent (screenplay), Stan Lee and Steve Ditko (comic book), and Alfred Gough, Miles Millar

and Michael Chabon (screen story); Directed by Sam Raimi; Produced by Avi Arad, Laura Ziskin, Joseph M. Caracciolo, Stan Lee, and Grant Curtis; Distributed by Sony Pictures Entertainment and Columbia Pictures; 127 minutes

It's probably futile to publish a review of *Spider-Man 2* in the *Shuttle* since by the time this gets in your hands the movie will likely have coasted to over \$360 million in domestic ticket sales and the majority of you will probably have seen it. Nonetheless, since I contributed by \$8 toward that all-time top-10 gross, I'll put in an additional 2¢ worth.

*Spidey 2* was, of course, one of the most hyped movies of the year. For the most part, it lived up to that hype, delivering a heaping plateful of action and special effects, and just enough character development to at least make a nice side dish.

Anyone who saw the first Spider-Man movie or who has at least a modest amount of familiarity with the comic book universe from which it was taken would find few surprises in *Spider-Man 2*. After all, it's pretty much a given that good will triumph in the end, but the personal life of Peter Parker aka Spider-Man will remain as screwed up as ever.

Tobey Maguire does a quite credible job in the dual role. It would have been unfortunate if, as was rumored before shooting started, physical problems had kept him out of the movie. (Or perhaps it was a contract dispute — depending on who you believe.) Kirsten Dunst also does a credible job as love interest Mary Jane Watson. Alfred Molina was suitably over the top as super-villain Doc Ock though less impressive in the pre-Ock obsessed-scientist aspect of Dr. Otto Octavius. Spider-Man's nemesis (and Peter Parker's supposed friend) Harry Osborn is played again by James Franco. Perhaps it's the material he's given, but I found Franco's performance less than great. I'm also less than enamored of Parker's Aunt May Parker as played by Rosemary Harris. On the other hand, J. K. Simmons seems to have been *born* to play newspaper editor J. Jonah Jameson and comes close to stealing every scene he's in.

The strength of the Spider-Man mythos in the comics — Peter Parker's angst and the trouble his dual nature causes for his loved ones — comes dangerously close to being a problem in the movie incarnation. For two movies now we've had Parker/Spidey *not* get the girl, have one problem after another with his Aunt, get browbeaten by his employer, and scrape by at school despite his reputed brilliance. In comic book form this seems to work better than on the big screen, perhaps because a two-hour movie lasts so much longer than reading a typical issue of a comic book. By the end it wears a bit thin that the character is *so* selfless most of the time. (The plot of this movie does attempt to address this as Parker tries to give up being Spider-Man for a while. In the end he fails, of course.)

Despite these shortcomings, *Spider-Man 2* is quite a good summer-action-no-thought-required movie, which is certainly reflected in the box office. A preliminary release date (4 May 2007) has already been announced for a third movie, though few rumors have reached the usual online sites. There's a broad hint near the end of this movie (which I won't relate here to avoid a spoiler for the few of you that still may plan to go for the first time) about who the villain (or at least one of the villains) may be. Personally I hope it's misdirection.

All in all it's a recommended movie, especially for those wishing to just relax and have a bit of fun. While some aspects of the human condition are addressed more by the Spider-Man series than most other comic-book-related movies, don't expect to take it *too* seriously. Just go and have a good time.

## Awards Roundup

### WORLD FANTASY AWARDS NOMS

Nominations for the 2004 World Fantasy Awards (for works from 2003) have been announced. Two nominees in each category reach the ballot via votes submitted by members of the World Fantasy Convention. The rest of the ballot is completed by a panel of judges. This year's judges are John Clute, Sherwood Smith, Michael Stackpole, Alain Nevant, and Scott Wyatt. The winners, including one or more winners in the Life Achievement category (candidates not announced in advance) will be selected by the judges and will be announced at this year's WFC, to be held 28–31 October 2004 in Tempe AZ. The nominees are:

#### Novel

*The Etched City*, K. J. Bishop (Prime Books)  
*Fudoki*, Kij Johnson (Tor)  
*The Light Ages*, Ian R. MacLeod (Ace)  
*Tooth and Claw*, Jo Walton (Tor)  
*Veniss Underground*, Jeff VanderMeer (Prime Books)

#### Novella

"A Crowd of Bone," Greer Gilman (*Trampoline: An Anthology*, Small Beer Press)  
 "Dancing Men," Glen Hirshberg (*The Dark*, Tor)  
 "The Empire of Ice Cream," Jeffrey Ford (*Sci Fiction* 02.26.03)  
 "Exorcising Angels," Simon Clark and Tim Lebbon (*Exorcising Angels*, Earthling Publications)  
 "The Hortlak," Kelly Link (*The Dark*, Tor)

#### Short Fiction

"Ancestor Money," Maureen F. McHugh (*Sci Fiction* 10.01.03)  
*Circle of Cats*, Charles de Lint (Viking)  
 "Don Ysidro," Bruce Holland Rogers (*Polyphony 3*, Wheatland)  
 "Gus Dreams of Biting the Mailman," Alex Irvine (*Trampoline*, Small Beer Press)  
 "O One," Chris Roberson (*Live Without a Net*, Roc)

#### Anthology

*The Dark: New Ghost Stories*, Ellen Datlow, ed. (Tor)  
*Gathering the Bones*, Jack Dann, Ramsey Campbell, and Dennis Etchison, eds. (Voyager Australia; Voyager UK; Tor US)  
*Strange Tales*, Rosalie Parker, ed. (Tartarus Press)  
*The Thackery T. Lampshead Pocket Guide to Eccentric & Discredited Diseases*, Jeff VanderMeer and Mark Roberts, eds. (Night Shade Books)  
*Trampoline: An Anthology*, Kelly Link, ed. (Small Beer Press)

#### Collection

*Bibliomancy*, Elizabeth Hand (PS Publishing)  
*Ghosts of Yesterday*, Jack Cady (Night Shade Books)  
*GRRM: A RRetropective*, George R. R. Martin (Subterranean Press)  
*More Tomorrow & Other Stories*, Michael Marshall Smith (Earthling Publications)  
*The Two Sams*, Glen Hirshberg (Carroll & Graf)

#### Artist

**Brom**  
**John Jude Palencar**  
**Jason Van Hollander**  
**Special Award, Professional**  
**Peter Crowther** (for PS Publishing)

**Donato Giancola**  
**John Picacio**

**John Howe** and **Alan Lee** (for artwork in *The Lord of the Rings*)  
**Kelly Link** and **Gavin Grant** (for Small Beer Press)  
**Sharyn November** (for Firebird Books)  
**David Pringle** (for *Interzone*/service to the field)  
**Sean Wallace** (for Prime Books)

**Special Award, Non-Professional**

**Deborah Layne** and **Jay Lake** (for Wheatland Press)  
**Paul Miller** (for Earthling Publications)  
**Ray Russell** and **Rosalie Parker** (for Tartarus Press)  
**Dave Truesdale** (for *Tangent Online*)  
**Rodger Turner**, **Neil Walsh**, and **Wayne MacLaurin** (for *SF Site.com*)

**MYTHOPOEIC AWARDS ANNOUNCED**

The Mythopoeic Society <www.mythsoc.org> has announced the winners of the 2004 Mythopoeic Awards. The winners are:

- Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature** .....  
*Sunshine*, Robin McKinley (Berkley 2003)  
**Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature** ....  
*The Hollow Kingdom*,  
 Clare B. Dunkle (Holt 2003)  
**Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies** .....  
*Tolkien and the Great War:  
 The Threshold of Middle-earth*,  
 John Garth (Houghton Mifflin 2003)  
**Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Myth and  
 Fantasy Studies** .....*The Myth of the American Superhero*,  
 John Lawrence and Robert Jewett (Eerdmans 2002)

**RHYSLING AWARDS ANNOUNCED**

The Rhysling Awards are sponsored by the Science Fiction Poetry Association and selected by its membership. The 2004 awards were recently announced in the two categories: "Best Long Poem" (50+ lines) and "Best Short Poem" (0-49 lines). The winners are:

- Long** ..... "Octavia Is Lost in the Hall of Masks,"  
 Theodora Goss  
**Short** ..... "Just Distance," Roger Dutcher

**BRITISH FANTASY AWARDS NOMS**

The shortlist for the 2004 British Fantasy Awards has been announced. Winners will be announced 26 September 2004 at the British Fantasy Convention at the Quality Hotel, Walsall UK. The nominees are:

**Best Novel**

(The August Derleth Fantasy Award)

- Simon Clark**, *Vampyrhic Rites* (Hodder & Stoughton)  
**Christopher Fowler**, *Full Dark House* (Doubleday)  
**Jon Courtenay Grimwood**, *Felaheen: The Third Arabesk*  
 (Earthlight)  
**James Herbert**, *Nobody True* (Macmillan)  
**Peter Straub**, *Lost Boy Lost Girl* (HarperCollins)  
**Liz Williams**, *The Poison Master* (Tor)

**Best Short Fiction**

- Ramsey Campbell**, "Fear the Dead" (*The Fear Within*, 3F Publications)  
**Mark Chadbourn**, *Wonderland* (Telos Publishing)  
**Simon Clark** and **Tim Lebbon**, "Exorcising Angels" (*Exorcising Angels*, Earthling Publications)  
**Christopher Fowler**, "American Waitress" (*Crimewave 7: The Last Sunset*, TTA Press)  
**Mark Samuels**, "The White Hands" (*The White Hands and Other Weird Tales*, Tartarus Press)

**Best Anthology**

- Andy Cox**, ed., *Crimewave 7: The Last Sunset* (TTA Press)

- Stephen Jones**, ed., *By Moonlight Only* (PS Publishing)  
**Stephen Jones**, ed., *The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror, Vol. 14* (Robinson/Carroll & Graf)  
**Joel Lane**, ed., *Beneath The Ground* (Alchemy Press)  
**Andy W. Robertson**, ed., *William Hope Hodgson's Night Lands, Volume 1: Eternal Love* (Wildside Press)  
**Jeff Vandermeer** and **Mark Roberts**, eds., *The Thackery T. Lambshead Pocket Guide to Eccentric and Discredited Diseases* (Night Shade Books)

**Best Collection**

- Ramsey Campbell**, *Told by the Dead* (PS Publishing)  
**Christopher Fowler**, *Demonized* (Serpent's Tail)  
**M. John Harrison**, *Things That Never Happen* (Night Shade Books)  
**Mark Samuels**, *The White Hands and Other Weird Tales* (Tartarus Press)  
**Michael Marshall Smith**, *More Tomorrow and Other Stories* (Earthling Publications)

**Best Artist**

- Dave Bezzina** **Deirdre Counihan**  
**Bob Covington** **Les Edwards** **Dominic Harman**

**Best Small Press**

- The Alien Online** (website, ed. Ariel)  
**Elastic Press** (Andrew Hook)  
**PS Publishing** (Peter Crowther)  
**Scheherazade** (magazine, ed. Elizabeth Counihan)  
**The Third Alternative** (magazine, ed. Andy Cox)

**Letters of Comment**

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

Sheryl Birkhead  
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 Gaithersburg MD 20882

24 July 2004

Congrats to the Clarke Award winner and the Bram Stoker awards! Then there is the website list — another round of applause — yes *I have* gone to the Locus site, but that's *it*. The Fountain Award is new to me — may need to go take a book and see how/what they are doing.

I went to see *I Robot* on its opening day — only two days after finding out it was *not* really Asimov's book incarnate. So, well... it is dark (remembrances of *Bladerunner*) and a lot of special effects... not bad, but I'd have enjoyed more movie and plot. I probably will see it again — but not until it is a lot cheaper or free.

Fingers crossed in the job arena for Lloyd.

Sheesh — the summer is halfway over and I'm waaay behind, just in general, with my contributions to the Worldcon — so I guess I'll fish out some old pieces to donate. I *do* need to pack up batches of fillos RSN.

Hope all who are eligible have voted for the Hugos and site selection.

[It seems there's no "season" for awards in science fiction/fantasy/horror. Every month there are multiple announcements of shortlists, final awards, or at least deadlines for nominations. I couldn't bring myself to go to *I, Robot* though I'm sure I'll eventually see it when it's available on DVD or

broadcast. It's a shame, since as far as I could tell from the previews it would be a perfectly acceptable popcorn movie, if only it didn't have *that* name. -ED]

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

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15 August 2004

I've got the July Shuttle, Vol. 24 No. 7, after a reminder from Mike Kennedy that I hadn't submitted a letter or anything like that... it has been busy, for the job search has entered the frantic phase. I will be calling Monday (tomorrow) to see if a job I had three interviews for is mine or not. I will take my mind off my troubles with a quick loc.

Worldcon is in [a few] weeks... unfortunately, we won't be going. We've sold our memberships, and we've also decided no more Worldcons for us. They are simply too expensive, and justifying the cost is getting tougher. Yvonne and I made some hard decisions, and one of them was to cut ourselves out of all convention committees, and officially retire (a few commitments to fulfill, and then we're gone), and to restrict our fanac to local projects and not to anything out of town. You've got to find the level of fanac you can afford, and that's what we've done. Of course, letters of comment to

fanzines are relatively inexpensive, so my activities there will continue. We just have to monitor the costs, in both money and time.

Good zine list... *SFSFS Shuttle* Vol. 1? Sounds like there was a wholesale change at that club, or maybe they didn't know how many volumes of *SFSFS Shuttles* there were before they took over. Fewer clubzines can afford to send out their paperzines, that's why I'm glad you .pdf the *Shuttle* for download. (I just need to remember to do it, that's all...)

Also, mucho award results. The deadline for nominating for the annual Aurora Awards has past, and the final ballot for this year should be shortly. When it is released, I'll pass on to you who gets nominated for what. Wish us luck!

Time to go, and get this in the e-mail so Mike can slip it in the back of the August *Shuttle*. See you then!

[As you can see, Lloyd, Sheryl has her fingers crossed for you jobwise. I'll do the same for that as well as for the Aurora Awards. Yes, Worldcons are expensive. For people not from the immediate area of the con, little of that has to do with the membership rate and a lot to do with travel and hotel costs. I suppose that's *part* of why I don't go every year, but the bigger part in my case is interest in the city and/or committee. I just couldn't scare up much enthusiasm for Boston this year, for instance — or for Glasgow next year. (That latter is a shame since I do love Scotland in general.) I am, however, curious about how the Seattle committee will do at their NASFiC and have liked the city since traveling there on business a number of times some years ago — so though I won't be at Worldcon next year at least I'll have a big end-of-summer vacation. -ED]



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