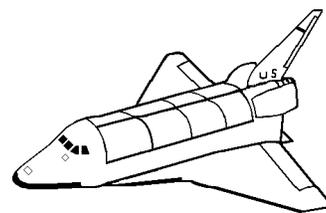


The



SHUTTLE
April 2005

*The Next NASFA Meeting will be 16 April
2005 at the Regular Time and Location*

ConCom Meeting Thursday 5 May 2005 at Marie McCormack's House

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next NASFA meeting will be **16 April 2005** at the **regular time and location**.

The **April program** is TBD at press time.

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

Andre Norton, RIP

Andre Norton died in the early morning hours of Thursday 17 March 2005 at age 93. She had earlier been hospitalized but was under hospice care at home at the time of her death. Per her wishes there was no funeral ceremony. Ms Norton was creamed with copies of her first and last books. In lieu of flowers, donations are requested for either Saint Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis TN or Veterinarian Services, c/o The Noah Fund, P. O. Box 10128, Murfreesboro TN 37129. Because of her love of animals, Ms Norton herself contributed to the Noah

Fund, which is for people who can't afford medical treatment for their pets.

Born Alice Mary Norton in Cleveland OH, she chose Andre Norton as her pen name at least in part because it was ambiguous as to gender, which she felt made her fiction more acceptable to teenage boys. She changed her name legally in 1934, the year of her first published book. She continued to write and, later, collaborate with other writers, throughout her life — a publishing career of over 70 years. Her final novel, *Three Hands* for



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Deadline for the May 2005 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 6 May 2005.

Our 25th Year of Publication!

March Minutes

by Steve Sloan, who has a Digital Recorder, and is not afraid to use it...

The March meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, March 19, 2005 in the BookMark upstairs meeting room at 6:15P by President Mary Ortwerth.

OLD BUSINESS

Sam introduced business that's both old and new at the same time, leaving the club almost as baffled as Sam. The bank strikes again. They want the same taxpayer ID number to apply to DeepSouthCon, in addition to NASFA and Con†Stellation. Two problems: that account was closed long ago, and if we do what they want, later DeepSouthCon groups can use the number as well. Sam moved to rename the account from just DeepSouthCon, to DeepSouthCon 40, to slightly decrease the bank's confusion. [Did I get that right? -SEC] [Pretty much. I don't recall the exact wording of the motion but I believe it authorized what Sam needed to straighten out the situation. -ED] The motion carried. Sam's preferred solution is to just ignore the bank altogether, while treating it like a mushroom.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike announced that DUFF ballots are due on Tax Day, April 15, a date that's probably not a coincidence. Mike explained the concept of fan funds, and we digressed to sillier fund ideas, including the Mid-Atlantic Fan Fund, and the inevitable joke about Homer's favorite beer.

Randy brought several flyers for upcoming conventions. Sam brought flyers for NovaCon, an upcoming Huntsville con put on by the people who created the game that we play-tested at an earlier meeting, and didn't like much. Some members will only consider attending if they can avoid a certain gamer.

Steve Sloan announced that the Von Braun Astronomical Society has scheduled Astronomy Day for April 16, and suggested that NASFA should man a table there. (As usual, VBAS has scheduled a major event against a NASFA meeting.) There were questions about the time (noon to about 7P), and the typical number of attendees (about 30 to 150, depending on the weather). There was a digression to the definition of "tabling." Steve described Astronomy Day activities, including science demonstrations, short planetarium shows, and model rocket launches. After a digression about Furry astronauts, the club decided that we should set up a table with flyers, but we would need volunteers to do more than that.

This brought up another issue: we have no club-level flyers to send. Sam would like club-level flyers to take to DeepSouthCon, as well. Mike could throw a generic club flyer together. As publicity director, flyers are Mia's responsibility.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

The first concon meeting was scheduled for the Thursday night after the club meeting, at Marie's house. [At that concon meeting, it was decided that future meetings will be the first Thursday of each month, starting in April. -ED]

No guests have been selected so far.

The late Andre Norton's recent passing, and her funeral requests, were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35P.

For the program, we discussed "72-Hour Sci-Fi Orgy: The Definitive Collection of Movies to Watch in a 3-Day Period." The magazine article gave a detailed reading and watching schedule of books, TV shows, and movies. There were some strange choices, but they showed at least some knowledge of

the genre. To follow the schedule it recommends, you would have to be a ridiculously fast reader, and if you weren't insane before, there would be a rubber room waiting for you at the finish line.

The After-the-Meeting Meeting was held at Mike Kennedy's house, and entertainment included a very active Boston Terrier named Bosco.

Hugo Award Nominations

Interaction, the 63rd World Science Fiction Convention <www.interaction.worldcon.org.uk>, has announced the nominees for the 2005 Hugo and Campbell Awards. The Hugo Awards are for work done in calendar year 2004; the Campbell Award (sponsored by Dell Magazines and administered by each year's Worldcon committee) is for the best new writer of the last two years.

Ballots will be distributed in Interaction's upcoming Progress Report. Votes may be submitted using those ballots or online at <www.interaction.worldcon.org.uk>. The deadline is 23:59 British Summer Time on 8 July 2005. You must be a supporting or attending member of Interaction to vote. Winners will be announced at a ceremony on 7 August 2005 in Glasgow. The nominees are:

BEST NOVEL (424 nominating ballots)

The Algebraist, Iain M. Banks (Orbit)

Iron Council, China Miéville (Del Rey, Macmillan)

Iron Sunrise, Charles Stross (Ace)

Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell, Susanna Clarke (Bloomsbury)

River of Gods, Ian McDonald (Simon & Schuster)

BEST NOVELLA (249 nominating ballots)

"*The Concrete Jungle*," Charles Stross (*The Atrocity Archives*, Golden Gryphon Press)

"*Elector*," Charles Stross (*Asimov's*, September 2004)

"*Sergeant Chip*," Bradley Denton (*Fantasy & Science Fiction*, September 2004)

"*Time Ablaze*," Michael A. Burstein (*Analog*, June 2004)

"*Winterfair Gifts*," Lois McMaster Bujold (*Irresistible Forces*, NAL)

BEST NOVELETTE (215 nominating ballots)

"*Biographical Notes to 'A Discourse on the Nature of Causality, with Air-Planes' by Benjamin Rosenbaum*,"

Benjamin Rosenbaum (*All-Star Zeppelin Adventure Stories*, Wheatland)

"*The Clapping Hands of God*," Michael F. Flynn (*Analog*, July–August 2004)

"*The Faery Handbag*," Kelly Link (*The Faery Reel*, Viking)

"*The People of Sand and Slag*," Paolo Bacigalupi (*Fantasy & Science Fiction*, February 2004)

"*The Voluntary State*," Christopher Rowe (*Sci Fiction* <scifi.com> 5/5/2004)

BEST SHORT STORY (269 nominating ballots)

"*The Best Christmas Ever*," James Patrick Kelly (*Sci Fiction* <scifi.com> 5/26/2004)

"*Decisions*," Michael A. Burstein (*Analog*, January–February 2004)

"*A Princess of Earth*," Mike Resnick (*Asimov's*, December 2004)

"*Shed Skin*," Robert J. Sawyer (*Analog*, January–February 2004)

"*Travels with My Cats*," Mike Resnick (*Asimov's*, February 2004)

land," John Farris (*Elvisland*)
"Just Out of Reach," Gary Braunbeck (*Cemetery Dance* #50)
"A Madness of Starlings," Douglas Clegg (*Cemetery Dance* #50)
"Nimitsehaph," Nancy Etchemendy (*F&SF*)
"Singing My Sister Down," Margo Lanagan (*Black Juice*)

FICTION COLLECTION

100 Jolts: Shockingly Short Stories, Michael Arnzen (Raw Dog Screaming Press)
Demonized, Christopher Fowler (Serpent's Tail)
Fearful Symmetries, Thomas F. Monteleone (CD Publications)
Fears Unnamed, Tim Lebbon (Leisure/Borderlands Press)
The Machinery of Night, Douglas Clegg (CD Publications)

ANTHOLOGY

Acquainted with the Night, Barbara and Christopher Roden, eds. (Ash Tree Press)
The Many Faces of Van Helsing, Jeanne Cavelos, ed. (Ace)
Quietly Now, Kealan-Patrick Burke, ed. (Borderlands)
Shivers III, Richard Chizmar, ed. (CD Publications)
The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror: Seventeenth Annual Collection, Ellen Datlow, Kelly Link, and Gavin Grant, eds. (St. Martin's Griffin)

NONFICTION

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Writing a Novel, Thomas F. Monteleone (Alpha Books)
Hanging Out with the Dream King, Joseph McCabe (Fantagraphics Books)
Hellnotes, Judi Rohrig (Wolf Moon Publications)
<Ralan.com>, Ralan Conley <RalanConley.com>
The Road to the Dark Tower, Bev Vincent (NAL)

ILLUSTRATED NARRATIVE

Aleister Arcane, Steve Niles (IDW Publishing)
Graphic Classics: Robert Louis Stevenson, Tom Pomplun (Eureka Productions)
Heaven's Devils, Jai Nitz (Image Comics)
Lost Loves, James Lowder (*Moonstone Monsters: Demons*)

SCREENPLAY

Dawn of the Dead, James Gunn (Strike Entertainment)
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, Charlie Kaufman, Michel Gondry, and Pierre Bismuth (Blue Ruin)
Hellboy, Guillermo Del Toro (Revolution)
Shaun of the Dead, Simon Pegg and Edgar Wright (Canal/Universal)

WORK FOR YOUNGER READERS

Abarat: Days of Magic, Nights of War, Clive Barker (HarperCollins)
Oddest Yet, Steve Burt (Burt Creations)
Robot Santa: The Further Adventures of Santa's Twin, Dean Koontz (HarperCollins)
Witch Season: Fall, Jeff Mariotte (Simon Pulse)

POETRY COLLECTION

The Desert, Charlee Jacob (Dark Regions Press)
Men Are From Hell, Women Are From The Galaxy Of Death, Mark McLaughlin (Kelp Queen Press)
Waiting My Turn to Go Under the Knife, Tom Piccirilli (Fairwood Press)
The Women at the Funeral, Corinne De Winter (Space & Time)

ALTERNATIVE FORMS

ChiZine, Brett Savory (Brett Savory)
The Devil's Wine, Tom Piccirilli (CD Publications)
Flesh & Blood (magazine), Jack Fisher (Flesh & Blood Press)
The Goreletter, Michael Arnzen <gorelets.com>

Awards Roundup

2005 PHILIP K. DICK AWARD

The winner of the 2005 Philip K. Dick Award <www.philipkdickaward.org> was announced Friday 25 March 2005 at Norwescon 28 <www.norwescon.org>, in SeaTac WA. The award is for a distinguished original science fiction paperback published for the first time during 2004. The winner is *Life* (Aqueduct Press) by Gwyneth Jones. Additionally, a special citation was given to *Apocalypse Array* (Roc) by Lyda Morehouse.

BSFA AWARDS

Winners of the British Science Fiction Association Awards were announced Saturday 26 March 2005 at Eastercon <www.paragon2.org.uk>. The Best Novel selection was Ian McDonald's *River of Gods*. Best Short Fiction went to Stephen Baxter's "Mayflower II." The Best Artwork award went to the cover of Ken MacLeod's *Newton's Wake* by Stephan Martiniere.

PROMETHEUS AWARDS

The Libertarian Futurist Society has announced the finalists for the 2005 Prometheus Awards <www.lfs.org/awards.htm>. Winners will be announced at this year's Worldcon in Glasgow. Winners will receive gold coins and plaques. The nominees for Best Novel (of 2004) and their Hall of Fame are:

Best Novel

State of Fear, Michael Crichton (Harper Collins)
Anarquia, Brad Linaweaver and Kent J. Hastings (Sense of Wonder Press)
Newton's Wake, Ken MacLeod (TOR Books)
Marque and Reprisal, Elizabeth Moon (Ballantine Books/Del Rey)
The System of the World, Neal Stephenson (William Morrow)
Hall of Fame for Best Classic Fiction
It Can't Happen Here, novel (1936) by Sinclair Lewis
V for Vendetta, graphic novel (1988-89) by Alan Moore and David Lloyd

A Time of Changes, novel (1971) by Robert Silverberg
The Lord of the Rings, trilogy (1954) by J. R. R. Tolkien
The Weapon Shops of Isher, novel (1951) by A. E. Van Vogt

SCIENCE FICTION HALL OF FAME

The 2005 inductees into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame have been announced. The winners are **Philip K. Dick**, **Steven Spielberg**, **Ray Harryhausen**, and **Chesley Bonestell**. The SF Hall of Fame is now associated with the Science Fiction Museum <www.sfhomeworld.org> in Seattle WA. An induction ceremony will be held Friday 6 May 2005.

AWARDS AT ICFA

Several awards were presented at this year's International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts <www.iafa.org>. The William L. Crawford Award for best new fantasy writer went to **Steph Swainston** for *The Year of Our War*. The Distinguished Scholarship Award went to **Damien Broderick**. The Lord Ruthven Society's fiction award went to **David Sosnowski** for *Vamped*. The International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts is a scholarly organization devoted to the study of the fantastic (broadly defined) as it appears in literature, film, and the other arts.

Xanadu, Du, Du, Du Me

Like You Dun, Dun, Dun Before
by Mike Kennedy

DeepSouthCon 43/Xanadu 8 was held 8–10 April 2005 at the downtown Holiday Inn Express in Nashville TN. Attendance was approximately 170. Invited guests included GoH Mike Resnick, MC Connie Willis, AGoH Darryl Elliot, and FGoH Tim “Uncle Timmy” Bolgeo. Others expected to attend included Mary Buckner, Melissa Gay, Todd Lyles, T. K. F. Weisskopf, Sharon Green, and Amy Sturgis. The late Jack Chalker had been scheduled to be the Master of Ceremonies. Various memorials were held in his honor.

A brief recap of Xanadu history might be in order. Xanadu ran for 7 incarnations (1, 1.5, and 2–6) 1983–1989 as a then-second Nashville con. A 1993 attempt was made to revive it that fell through due to hotel difficulties. Another revival was scheduled for spring 2004. During the buildup to that con, Xanadu had its share of challenges, including another hotel glitch that eventually caused a number of changes, including the date. Xanadu 7 was held in early May 2004.

This year’s Xanadu was the host for DeepSouthCon 43. As most *Shuttle* readers are aware, DSC is the rotating regional convention for the southeastern US. Xanadu had bid for DSC 42 in 2002 (site selection is two years in advance) and carried over their bid when they lost to MidSouthCon in Memphis. I go to DSC whenever I can and with Nashville only two hours away I certainly couldn’t miss this year.

Other than the bare basics (hotel and con registration, saying hello to a few friends, finding out where con functions were located) most of my afternoon and evening Friday was taken up by the Con†Stellation room party. We began pretty early (7P) to avoid starting opposite the opening ceremony (8P) or a Xerps party (9P) — and ran pretty late (it was after midnight before the last few people left the suite). With prep and clean up time, I spent over 7 hours on the party. Unfortunately, that meant I missed all the programming Friday evening, including the ice cream social that was part of the opening ceremony.

The social scene at the con was pretty active. There were at least three parties each night and gatherings of fen everywhere you looked. The hotel lobby had a couple of groupings of chairs what were often occupied by fans talking or playing cards. The free breakfast buffet was crowded both Saturday and Sunday mornings with fans (and other hotel guests of course) chatting and planning their days. Several of the tables in the breakfast area were used throughout the day and well into the evening for various games. But the real hub of activity — at least for people in search of sustenance — was the con suite. An absurdly-large amount of real food was served by con suite mavens Janet and Art Hopkins. My room was immediately adjacent to the con suite, which gave me great access (and probably helped maintain the flow of people into the room party Friday night).

Of course, there’s a lot more to conventions than socializing. Most of the programming I attended was more associated with the DSC part of the con than Xanadu proper. I made it to panels on the history of DSC itself and of the various awards (Rebel, Phoenix, Rubble) associated with DSC. I also made it to a panel with several past Down Under Fan Fund winners (and one current candidate) and the Masquerade. (Ask me about lutefisk and yams some time sometime — “I do not like them, Sven I Am.”)



Phoenix, Rebel, and Rubble Winners
photos by Sam Smith

I also made it to the presentation of this year’s incarnation of the above-mentioned awards. The Phoenix Award (for service to Southern Fandom by a sf/f professional) went posthumously to Jack Chalker. The award was accepted by his wife Eva Walker. The Rebel Award (for service to Southern Fandom by a fan) went to fellow Huntsvillian Naomi Fisher. The Rubble Award (for the fan who has done the most to Southern Fandom) went to retiring SFC treasurer Judy Bemis. Believe me, the Rubble was given entirely in good-natured fun this year (unlike last year when it went quite seriously to “the Charlotte eight”).

The con had all the usual trappings, of course. The art

show and dealers room were in a single ballroom that was rather too large for the relatively small numbers of dealers and artists. I personally didn't find too much to get excited by in either area, though I'm sure the copious displays of books did the trick for some attendees. (I seldom buy books at a con, preferring other sources, but then I seldom buy much, if anything, in any dealers room.) They also had two video rooms (one for classic sf movies and one for anime). Neither seemed terribly well attended when I passed by.

Of course, a con wouldn't be a con for me if I didn't try to scare up a card game or three. I passed on the official hearts tournament — it's not my game and when the tourney was starting up early Saturday afternoon I was feeling the effects of a lack of sleep the night before and a moderately-bad cold. I did manage to get in several games of killer cutthroat spades, but generally did miserably. (I'll blame it on the cold.)

For me, Sunday morning was mostly occupied by the Southern Fandom Confederation and DeepSouthCon business meetings. The SFC meeting was mostly uneventful, with all the officers except the treasurer standing for reelection. Janet Hopkins kindly stepped into that job. The DSC meeting did have a little business to cover. Two amendments that received first passage at last year's DSC (one to clarify site eligibility and the other to codify the Rebel/Phoenix Awards traditions) were ratified. The main order of business was, of course, site selection for DSC two years hence.

As of a week before this year's DSC no bids had surfaced for 2007. Kerry Gilley even let people know at a con in Memphis that he was going to contact the staff of the furry con in Huntsville to see if they were interested in bidding. Whether for that or other reasons, in the end there were *four* bids for '07, albeit none got paperwork in to be listed on a printed ballot. Spirited presentations were made for Atlanta (an *in absentia* bid by Irk Koch), Charlotte NC (ConCarolinas), Louisville (with Sue Francis coming out of retirement, as it were), and Outside Con (at Montgomery Bell State Park near Dickson TN). The latter squeaked out a bare majority in the first round, narrowly avoiding having to use the automatic runoffs provided by the preferential voting scheme. The ConCarolinas bid will likely surface again next year as the word was they had accelerated it from a 2008 bid when they heard that no one was bidding.

To the best of my knowledge, it was not announced whether Xanadu will continue next year, though there were at least some hints that it might. DeepSouthCon will continue, of course. DSC 44 will be held in conjunction with Trinoc*coN mid-July 2006 in Durham NC. Given the uncertainty, I haven't made any plans about whether I'll attend the next Xanadu if it does happen. I do plan to be at DSC 44, and hope I'll see you there.

Dragons and Castles and Dungeons, Oh My!

No Need for Doctor Drake (aka The Lizard of Oz) —
Chapter 7
by PieEyedDragon

(I feel a touch on my muzzle. Opening my eyes, I see Dorothy and Ozma. Dorothy stands by herself, with pink cheeks; at least twenty pounds heavier. Ozma looks... worried.)

Dorothy: See, I told you a kiss would wake him up.

PED: Just don't expect me to change into a Handsome Prince. How long have I slept? You are looking much better.

Dorothy: I feel much better; and you've been asleep for a month.

PED: I really do need to try to get back home; but I do not know the way.

Dorothy: I could send you. Ozma used this magic belt to send me back and forth between here and Kansas.

PED: That was once the case. The belt has been to that place where my power is absolute. It now has no power over me, and cannot send me home. Another way must be discovered.

Ozma: Can you advise me about Tip? Knowing he is there makes me a little uncomfortable at... ah... certain times. Can he be... erased?

PED: Not without doing your Kingdom, and your Self, serious damage. He is a chief source of your great courage and determination.

Ozma: His existence was cut short so that I could be restored.

PED: You could ask him what *he* would like. As a Fairy you are not quite the adolescent that you look. You have all the equipment needed to create a separate body for him. That is one option; there are likely more.

Ozma: (Silent for a few moments.) All magic comes with a *price*. If I birthed a body for Tip; birth, age, and death would be restored to the Land as the normal order of life. Everyone would once more begin to age and die. The *price* is too great, and would be paid by everyone. I will reach an accommodation with my inner boy; for the sake of my Country.

PED: The weight of a Crown is not always obvious. You are worthy of yours.

— O — O — O —

Ozma: There is a more immediate matter: Ruggedo has been seen near the Kumbria mountains of Winkieland. He seems to be heading for the old castle where the Witch of the West... died.

PED: Did she have a broomstick?

Ozma: Yes, but the remains of that are here. He must be looking for something else. My council is agreed that I ask if you will do a thing: go to Winkieland and destroy that castle. While you were looking through my mind, I was able to see yours. I believe you can do this.

— O — O — O —

Well, *getting* to the Witch's castle was no problem for a flying dragon. Getting *inside* Kiamo Ko, now, was another thing. When I flew over the top, the winds blew me away. Knocking, or banging, at the door and wall resulted in nothing but noise. I tried crawling in through the drains but they closed in front of me. This shield spell was tougher than anything I could produce. I needed a key. So, back to Emerald City.

— O — O — O —

Ozma: Her broomstick? We have it locked away, here.

PED: I need that; and one other thing to fulfill your request.

Ozma: What else do you need?

PED: There is a forest this side of the castle: a forest with a dark feel.

Ozma: That would be the Haunted Forest. No good thing lives there. Why?

PED: I have felt-out the defenses, which are very strong. With enough fire and air I can defeat them. For fire, I need the forest.

Ozma: You may have it. It is a secondary evil place anyway.

(The broomstick was delivered. I grasped it firmly and took off, again.)

— O — O — O —

I landed near the center of the Haunted Forest. I drew in a great breath, and started roaring. I repeated this at intervals for a full day. Then, holding my wings tight against my body, I summoned my *other* wings and narrowed them down into relatively short magical blades. I now proceeded to gallop through the forest in a widening spiral. Like a giant lawn mower, I shredded every tree and bush in my path until the entire forest was laid low. Then I returned to the center and waited, resting. For seven days the dry breeze worked on the vegetable debris; changing all greenery into brownery.

Starting from the center, I cleared a broad path northward with a slight clockwise curve. I threw the loose wood aside, making a chute up to 300 yards wide at the outer edge. I repeated this seven more times; creating a wooden galaxy with eight spiral arms.

I surveyed my preparations and found them satisfactory. It was time to call on the neighbors.

The winds lifted me up. Holding out the broomstick, I sailed easily all the way to the castle. The winds no longer rebuffed me as I overtopped the battlements and landed in the courtyard. I began prowling. The whole place was dirty and deserted. I came to one upper room which had a shifting glimmering of light.

— O — O — O —

Like a pearl of great price, it sat upon a small table near a window. The patterns shifted. My green face looked down, as another green face looked up at me from the orb.

[Some of the above beings and situations have been suggested by the works of L. F. Baum.]

Letters of Comment

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

Lloyd Penney
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1706-24 Eva Road
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Canada M9C 2B2

17 March 2005

Sure, an' it's the luck of the Irish me gettin' this letter done for the February *Shuttle*, or maybe it's that particular Irishman named Murphy preventin' me from gettin' it done sooner. Who knows? This letter is late, and maybe the March *Shuttle* is, too. (Just spotted the notification the March *Shuttle* is online... ah, well, one issue at a time...)

I've commented on the death of Jack Chalker in other zines... he died relatively young, and in poor health. I hope there might be more discussions of his work, now, but we should have done that when he was still with us. I should read more of his work.

Just got news today that a musical version of *The Lord of the Rings* will be coming to the stage soon. Its producers wanted to start it in London, but they couldn't find a stage big enough to hold it. They did find a stage big enough... in Toronto. Don't know more than that right now, but the production will start here soon, and I'll relay news as it becomes

available.

Award season is here, and it's no different in this country... the Auroras are in their nomination stage, and a final ballot should be available some time in May or so. As soon as the ballot is available, I'll relay the nominees to you.

Greetings, PieEyed... you meet the most interesting people, in the most interesting places. And Peter Pan in Oz is certainly not what I'd expect. There have been so many Peter Pan movies... *Hook* is still my favorite.

Hey, Mr. Glicksohn is here again. Fred and Gail's wedding was a great time, wasn't it? It's a shame that the newspapers remembered Kelly only as one of "usual gang of idiots" at *MAD Magazine*, one who sometimes drew the visage of Alfred E. Neuman.

Time to fold... I'll get onto the March *Shuttle* as quickly as I can. See you then.

[I heard about the *LotR* stage musical a month or more before you wrote. One has to wonder just how they will adapt the story. Certainly the emphasis will *have* to be different than the recent movie trilogy. One presumes they will compress the story a lot more, possibly drop all the large battle scenes, and likely reduce the number of settings. While it could be interesting, I doubt I'll be traveling to Toronto just to see it. On the other hand, one never knows... -ED]

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

Puck
c/o <pieeyedragon@yahoo.com>

26 March 2005

Subject: The dragon is out... *beep*
...but I have access to his mail.
He's been gone for months.

That earthquake, tsunami, and massive disappearance of people in the Sumatra area awoke suspicion of hatching monsters. He went to make a thorough, personal examination of the area. Gamera has burrowed-down to the moderately active crater of Vatna to "top off her tanks." If she does a scram blastoff up through the ice we will know that PED found what he hoped not to find. He has been watching for the Gyaos now most of his life. That is why he was created. Well, *one* reason anyhow.

I hope he comes back to see that Animal Planet special on dragons. He will probably hiss and say "Gorillas! All it lacks



art by Sheryl Birkhead

is Jane Goodall. Hogarth and Smithson sound like they have more than a passing connection with Nordic traditions.”

BTW, he *has* been to Middle Earth. It was a long time ago but still after the War of the Ring. Earendil the Mariner, another star sailor, picked him up from his Magic School in Alfheim.

Keep laughing. It’s the best medicine.

(signed) Ensign (Psych) Hrobben Gud Fiello (aka Puck),

Commanding the (grounded) Tri-Confederation Cruiser, *Naglfar*

[I must admit that the Boxing Day quake-and-tsunami was too big to seem entirely real, but magic?? I suppose that the big aftershock in late March must still be keeping PED checking things out. -ED]



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The NASFA Shuttle is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the April 2005 edition (Volume 25, Number 4). NASFA Officers for 2005: President Mary Ortwerth; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Steve Sloan; Treasurer Sam Smith; Program Director Karen Hopkins; Publicity Director Mia Smith. *Shuttle* Editor Mike Kennedy.

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Huntsville AL 35815-4857 — OFFICIAL ADDRESS

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NASFA Dues = \$15/year (Family rates available) Subscription only = \$10/year Single copy = \$1.50 each.
