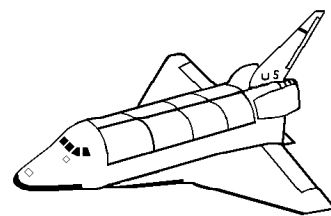


The



SHUTTLE
December 2005

*The Next NASFA Meeting is 17 December
2005 at the Regular Time and Location*

December ATMM at Sue Thorn's House

New Year's Eve Party at Ray & Nancy's House

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next NASFA meeting will be **17 December 2005** at the **regular time and location**.

The **December program** will be a random gift exchange. Those wishing to participate should bring an inexpensive gift (or more if you insist). Details of the process are TBD by Program Director Doug Lampert.

The **December after-the-meeting meeting** will be at Sue Thorn's house. To get to her house (147 Garden Brook Drive in Madison) from BookMark: head North on the Parkway then West on I-565; take the Wall-Triana exit (#8) and go North on Wall-Triana (aka Sullivan) about 2.2 miles; turn left on Brown's Ferry Road (there is a light) then take the first right on Park Meadow Dive (no light); take the first right again on Garden Brook Drive, which will bend sharply to the left before getting to Sue's house on the right side of the road. If you need better directions or get lost, call Sue at 256-325-8616.

There will be a **New Year's Eve party** at Ray Pietruszka and Nancy Cucci's house.

Irv Koch, RIP

by Mike Kennedy

Irvin Meyer (Irv) Koch died in his sleep during the day Saturday 19 November 2005. According to his wife, Kay Pinckney <kay.pinckney@juno.com>, he had no known serious health problems. His death was later attributed to an apparent heart attack. Irv was 58 years old. The family requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the charity of one's choice.

One of the worst parts of publishing a zine like the *Shuttle* is having to write obituaries for friends, and Irv was certainly that — not just a personal friend, but a friend of all fandom. Over the years he had been instrumental in the founding of several conventions (perhaps most notably Chattacon, but also WeaponsCon, UpperSouthClave, and many others), sf clubs, South East Convention Fandom, Inc., and the Southern Fandom Confederation. Irv was also fanzine publisher (*Maybe*) and at various times a book store owner (most recently the

(continued on page 2)

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Deadline for the January 2006 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 6 January 2006.

Our 25th Year of Publication!

Science Fiction & Mystery Book Shop and before that the Romance & Cookbook Bookstore) and independent bookseller. And none of that even touches on the innumerable other conventions and fannish activities in which he participated at all levels.

It has been noted by others, and I will not demure, that Irv was not always the easiest person to get along with. A good part of that stemmed from his passion for the endeavors that interested him — and how much of himself he gave to them. Irv was, not surprisingly, one of the earliest winners of both the Rebel Award (1970, at DeepSouthCon 8 in Atlanta) and the Rubble Award (1990, at DSC 28 in Chattanooga).

All of the above is a sadly inadequate attempt to say how much Irv will be missed. Though I ran into him only occasionally, all such occasions were memorable. The last time we had a long conversation he was brainstorming on how to bring more conventions to the Atlanta area — his home for the past several years — and what venues might work for them. That conversation will always remain for me a fitting memory of Irv and his many passions.

November Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary and Rosie's delivery boy

The November meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, November 19, 2005 in the BookMark upstairs meeting room at 6:29:30P by Vice President Mike Kennedy, filling in for President Mary Ortwerth. The crickets got to rest this month.

OLD BUSINESS

Nope.

NEW BUSINESS

Mia gave a report on the first NovaCon, which was held the previous weekend. Several companies had booths there, including Knology and Blockbuster. She suggested that we get those companies to attend future Con†Stellations. Mike Cotran says that if we charge vendors \$500 per table to attend, then they might come, and they might take us seriously. He then suggested that we pass the idea on to the appropriate con chair. [NovaCon's advertised booth price was \$500. What they actually charged Knology or Blockbuster is unknown. -ED]

Mia thought it was a great con, and well-run for a first con. It's almost entirely a gaming con. Steve added that there's a little media grafted onto it. Anita asked if it was a traveling convention. Mike Kennedy said it's not, and summed it up as a locally-run, corporate con. Mia was told they would have had a Con Suite, but the hotel wouldn't allow it. Mike said that was something they could have negotiated in the contract. There were only about 100–150 attendees [as estimated by Mia and Steve -ED], so the organizers probably lost their shirts. According to a reliable source, who they tried to sell a dealer's table, the organizers estimated that they would have about 2000 people during the weekend.

Sam ran through his spreadsheets that morning. Con†Stellation lost about \$500, after \$1000 was transferred from the Con†Stellation account to the NASFA account. The transfer was made to avoid the \$8 monthly fees the bank was charging because the NASFA account was below balance. This means that Con†Stellation actually made about \$500.

Currently, next year's Con†Stellation is about \$1000 to the good, thanks to preregistration fees. Currently, the regular Con†Stellation preregistration fee is \$30 until the end of the

year. The worker rate is \$25.

After Sam made the \$1000 transfer, he decided to run the NASFA numbers to see how the club is doing. To his surprise, he found that not counting the transfer, the net cash flow for NASFA will be -\$30 for the year. So, we're not doing nearly as badly as Sam feared. If we were down much more, Sam would be complaining about it, but \$30 is small enough that we just need to keep an eye on it.

Mike Kennedy wants to schedule a time to scrub the *Shuttle* mailing list, as a way to save some money. He'd really like a representative from the upcoming convention to participate. He suspects we can get a net 5–10 names off the list without any pain. The most recent *Shuttle* mailing required 93 US stamps, plus one mailing to Canada. [The number mailed varies a little from month to month depending on how many can be hand-delivered and the occasional mailing list addition or deletion. -ED]

Steve mentioned the Von Braun Astronomical Society's technique for decreasing their mailings. They asked for volunteers to only receive their newsletter electronically, then continued to mail out the newsletters to the ones that didn't volunteer.

There was some discussion of swans and costuming. Swans can be very nasty, territorial creatures. Will we see a reappearance of the infamous Björk swan dress? It's too early to be sure.

Mike believes that if we address the mailing list, and it goes down, then that will relieve any financial pressures on the club. If it goes up, that's when we'll start thinking about other ways to adjust the club finances.

Sam reminded us that Con†Stellation has a \$4000 CD that dumps interest money into the NASFA account every month. So far this year, it's added \$82 to the club account, so that amounts to roughly \$100 per year.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

We have a full slate of guests for next year's Con†Stellation XXV: Cygnus. David Drake is Guest of Honor, Stephen Hickman is Master of Ceremonies, Theresa Mather is Artist Guest of Honor, and Glen Cook is Special Guest.

Sam has put up a starter web site for Cygnus, with the current guest list, at <www.con-stellation.org>.

ELECTION BUSINESS

Mike Kennedy pointed out that, according to the bylaws, we've been handling nominations and elections incorrectly. Traditionally, we've taken nominations for officers at the November meeting, and held the vote at the December meeting. That gives people time to find additional nominations, or to back out. The bylaws call for the vote to happen at the next-to-last meeting of the calendar year. They say nothing about when nominations will be held. We need to either fix the bylaws, or start following them. We will continue with the tradition this year, but reality and the bylaws need to match up for next year. Fortunately, the change is not one that requires a lawyer, because the bylaws were largely written by Mike, with contributions from other members, early in the life of the club.

Sam moved that all current officers be nominated for reelection to their current positions, which was seconded. There were no additional nominations at that time. To recap, the nominees are:

President Mary Ortwerth
Vice President Mike Kennedy
Secretary Steve Sloan
Treasurer Samuel A. Smith

Program Director Doug Lampert
Publicity Director Mia Smith

Nominations will be reopened at the next meeting.

As our secretary, Steve took an action to look at the bylaws, and come forward with a suggested fix. The bylaws must reflect the way we actually handle nominations. Steve must make sure that the change does not introduce any unintended consequences, or inconsistencies with the rest of the bylaws.

The meeting adjourned at 6:49:58 PM.

For the program, we had the annual NASFA auction, with Randy Cleary serving as auctioneer.

The After-the-Meeting Meeting was held at Mike Kennedy's house, and featured a chocolate cake for Mike's birthday.

NASFA Calendar

DECEMBER

- 02-04 SMOFcon 23 — Portland OR.
02-04 East Meets South — Anniston AL.
07 Pearl Harbor Day.
09 BD: Maria West.
12 BD: Toni Weisskopf.
17* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: Gift Exchange. ATMM: Sue Thorn's house.
17 BD: Robin Ray.
19 BD: Yvonne Penney.
20 BD: Aaron Kennedy.
21 First Day of Winter.
25 Christmas Day.
26 Boxing Day.
26 First Day of Kwanzaa.
26 First Day of Hannukah.
26 BD: Michael R. Stone.
31 New Year's Eve Party at Nancy Cucci and Ray Pitruszka's house.

JANUARY 2006

- 01 New Year's Day.
02 New Year's Day (Federal Holiday).
03 BD: Jim Kennedy.
03 BD: Karen Hopkins.
06 BD: Rich Garber.
06-07 ShadowCon — Memphis TN.
06-08 GaFilk — Atlanta GA.
07 BD: Douglas E. Lampert.
16 BD: Bruce Butler.
16 BD: Martin Luther King (Observed).
20 BD: Larry Montgomery.
20-22 Chattacon 31 — Chattanooga TN.
20-22 MarsCon 15 — Williamsburg VA.
21* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD. NOTE: Could be moved due to Chattacon.

FEBRUARY

- 01 National Freedom Day.
02 Groundhog Day.
08 BD: Lin Cochran.
09 BD: Jack Lundy.

- 10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.
11 BD: Jeanna Woosley.
12 BD: Abraham Lincoln.
14 St. Valentine's Day.
17 BD: Nancy A. Cucci.
17-19 StellarCon 30 — High Point NC.
18* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
20 President's Day.
21 BD: Susan Stockell.
22 BD: George Washington.
24-26 SheVaCon 14 — Roanoke VA.
24-26 ConDFW V — Richardson (Dallas) TX.

MARCH

- 02 BD: Ronnie Lajoie.
08 BD: Bill Payne.
09 BD: Tracey Kennedy.
10 BD: Kerry Gilley.
13 BD: Anita Eisenberg.
15 BD: Carlo DeShouten.
17 St. Patrick's Day.
17 BD: JoAnn Parsons.
17-19 FantaSciCon 2006 — Chattanooga TN.
18* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
22 BD: Jayson Woosley.
24-26 MidSouthCon 24 — Memphis TN.
24-26 CoastCon 29 — Biloxi MS (NOTE: this was scheduled pre-Katrina, so change is very possible).
30 BD: Maurine Dorris.
31-02 Technicon 23 — Blacksburg VA.

Oo

The North Alabama Science Fiction Association meets on the third Saturday of each month. (Unless there is a large nearby convention being held that weekend — in which case we often move the meeting to the second or fourth weekend.) The regular meeting location is the upstairs meeting room at BookMark on South Memorial Parkway. The Executive Committee meeting (if scheduled) is at 5P. The business meeting is at 6P. The program is at 7P. Anyone is welcome to attend any of the meetings. There is usually an after-the-meeting meeting with directions available at the program.

News and Awards Roundup

IMAX MOVIES ANNOUNCED

The IMAX theater at the U. S. Space and Rocket Center has announced that the supersized-screen versions of both *Batman Begins* and *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* will open in Huntsville February 2006.

Both films are listed on the theater's web site <www.spacecamp.com/museum/imax/mu_imaxtext.php>, though at press time the links for further information were not working. Rumor has it that *Batman* airs the first two weekends whereas *Goblet* will be shown the third and fourth weekends. Tickets and further information should be available at the theater's regular telephone number 256-837-3400 x150.

METROPOLIS POSTER SETS RECORD

A rare poster from the classic silent sf film *Metropolis* set a record for posters when it sold for \$690,000 to a private

collector (believed to be California-based Ken Schacter). The other three known examples of this particular poster are respectively in New York's Museum of Modern Art, Berlin's Film Museum, and another private collection. The previous record price for a poster was held by another genre entry — \$453,500 for one from the 1932 film *The Mummy*, starring Boris Karloff.

The sepia-tone art deco *Metropolis* poster was drawn by graphic artist Heinz Schulz-Neudamm. His illustration, featuring the iconic futuristic skyline from the German film, is sometimes credited with helping make Fritz Lang's directorial effort famous.

SRI LANKA GIVES CLARKE HIGHEST AWARD

Sri Lanka recently awarded long-term resident Arthur C. Clarke its highest civilian award for his contributions to science and technology and his commitment to his adopted country.

Born in England in 1917, Clarke first came to Sri Lanka in the 1950s for diving and is quoted as saying he became a resident after he "fell in love with the place." Presidential spokesman Eric Fernando said it was very unusual for a foreigner to receive this award.

"He is an honorary citizen of Sri Lanka," Fernando said before the ceremony, presided over by outgoing President Chandrika Kumaratunga. "He is receiving it because of what he has achieved globally in the field of science and technology."

ONLINE SF MAGAZINES GO THROUGH CHANGES

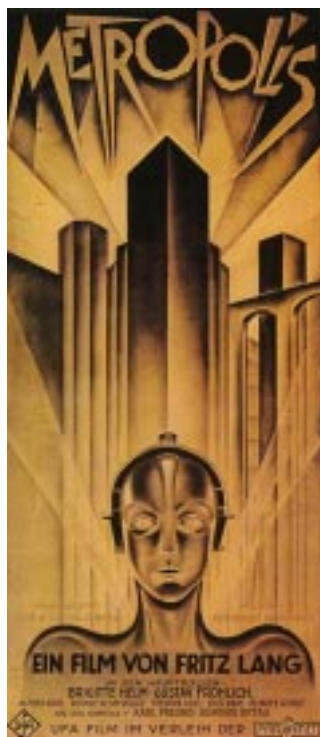
One is out, another to be in. Online genre magazine *SCIFICTION* (part of <scifi.com>) will cease publication at the end of 2005. An announcement from the editor Ellen Datlow can be seen online at <www.scifi.com/scifiction/message.html> though no reason is cited for the end of the magazine.

Meanwhile, print publisher Baen Books has announced that the first issue of an online bimonthly magazine — *Jim Baen's Universe* — will appear in June 2006. Submission guidelines can be found at <www.baensastoundingstories.com/subguide.html>. The editor will be Eric Flint, who we like to think of as a friend of Huntsville due to his numerous appearances at Con†Stellation over the years.

SFWA GRAND MASTER AND AUTHOR EMERITUS

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America has announced their latest selections for the honors of Grand Master and Author Emeritus; online at <sfwa.org/news/06aeagm.htm>. The honors will be presented at the next Nebula Award Weekend, to be held at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe AZ, 4–7 May 2006.

William F. Nolan (*Logan's Run*, et al.) was selected as the 2006 Author Emeritus. The Grand Master will be Harlan Ellison. More information about the Nebula Awards Weekend is available online at <www.sfwa.org/awards/2006>.



ONLINE WRITER'S WORKSHOP

The Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame (Seattle) has announced an eight-week genre writer's workshop to be conducted over the internet 23 January–19 March 2006. James Gunn will be the instructor. The cost is \$275, with a \$40 discount available to members of the museum. Further details, and a link to a registration form, can be found online at <www.sfhomeworld.org/education/eventsMuseum.asp?categoryID=361>. The class is limited to only eight students, so it may be filled before this announcement sees print.

NASFA Receivables

by Randy B. Cleary

Here are the items received by NASFA since last time.

ConNotations, Volume 15, Issues 3–5, June/July–October/November 2005. Editor: Stephanie L. Bannon, Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society, P. O. Box 62613, Phoenix AZ 85082; <Editors@casfs.org> — These news zines had 24, 16, and 20 newsprint pages each of SF media news, reviews, and club and convention listings. The first had an interview with Marv Wolfman. The second had an interview with Jacqueline Carey. The third had an interview with Catherine Book.

De Profundis, 390–394, July–November 2005. Editor: Marty Cantor, c/o The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, 11513 Burbank Boulevard, North Hollywood CA 91601; <www.lasfs.org> — These club zines have club minutes, event calendars, and member info.

File 770: #144, Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Avenue, Monrovia CA 91016; 626-305-1004; <MikeGlycer@cs.com> — 40 pages of news for and about fandom with essays, con reports, and more. Check out <Trufen.net> on Glycer's recommendation for fresh fan news.

Minicon 41 Flyer; April 14–16, 2006; P. O. Box 8297, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis MN 55408; Guests: Harlan Ellison, John Picacio, Doug Friauf.

Nice Distinctions, 10–11, Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine Street, Yonkers NY 10704-1814; 914-965-4861; <hlavaty@panix.com>; <www.livejournal.com/users/supergee> — These personal zines have six pages each with a report on the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, recently read books, and more.

OASFiS Event Horizon, Issues 214–219, May–November 2005. Editor: Juan Sanmiguel; The Orlando Area Science-Fiction Society, P. O. Box 592905, Orlando FL 32859-2905; <lhammes@cfl.rr.com>; 407-823-8715 — These five small club zines have club minutes, events, and info. The last has a Dragon*Con report.

ODD #9, 1951 — The fanzine *ODD #9* was published originally in 1951 by Raymond "Duggie" Fisher (deceased) and Richard Elsberry. Ned Brooks has helped Shelvy Vick <shelvy20012000@yahoo.com> to create three PDF files of the fanzine for modern enjoyment. There are 36 pages of illos and typewritten classic fannish goodness. I thought the discussion that major movie stars would probably not be doing SF films anytime soon was interesting.

Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin, Volume 8, Number 8, May 2005. Editor: R. B. Cleary; 138 Bibb Drive, Madison AL 35758-1064; <rbcleary@bellsouth.net>; <www.southernfandom.com> — This 32 page organization

zine has essays, convention reports, reviews, minutes, fanzine listings, news, convention listings, and letters of comments.

Valinor — Year 125, Fourth Age: Thunderbird, and Light-Wind

No Need for a Ring — Prolog
by PieEyedDragon

The ancient Dwarf feels no pain, but has little strength of body remaining. Of the Nine Walkers, six were no more. Soon all seven of the non-immortals would be dead. His thought wanders in that theme: Seven Stars and seven Stones; seven Rings for seven Dwarf-lords; the foundations for the seven great Dwarf-hoards, plundered by... His eyes wander, following the brightening light that moves downward toward the West. Eärendil the Mariner, bearing the Silmaril through the skies, was returning to port.

With a start, Gimli realizes that he is in a position to do something Important for all of his kin. He calls loudly for his friend Legolas to go find the wizard.

— O — O — O —

Gimli: Against Orcs we can fight, though at cost. With Durin's Bane gone, the chief enemy of Dwarves are the dragons.

Gandalf: I felled the Balrog. I never fought a dragon.

Gimli: Not directly, no. Eärendil defied the Valar's Ban, and sailed to Valinor. He begged the Valar to send aid to Elves and Men. Since I am here, I beg aid for Dwarves, the adopted children of Ilúvatar.

Gandalf: When the Valar went to war upon Morgoth, huge portions of Middle-earth were destroyed or drowned.

Gimli: You are the wisest of the Maiar. You chose one hobbit to go with Thorin; and that changed all of Middle-earth.

Gandalf: I cannot claim all the credit. I had dreamed of Thorin; but not that Bilbo would find the Ring.

Gimli: But these enemies are not so fell as Morgoth or even Sauron, yet they are the remnant of some of his evil. A lesser force should be enough.

Gandalf: We have no hobbits here able to go. Nor am I permitted to return, even as advisor.

Gimli: This is my dying request: Save my people. I put my faith in you, Mithrandir. You will find a way.

— O — O — O —

Gandalf sits quietly with Galadriel and Elrond. They converse mind-to-mind at great speed as they consider the plea of Gimli. There were yet several dragons left in Middle-Earth, of various shapes. None, fortunately, were the equal of the Great Calamities: Glaurung, Ancalagon, Scatha, and Smaug. Great Heroes and Dragonslayers were always in short supply. What terrible monster would be capable of destroying *all* the dragons; and would such a cure not be worse than the problem? Elrond recommended consulting his father, Eärendil, who had slain Ancalagon in a day-long aerial battle. He also brought up the memory of the ancient Ring of Barahir: showing two serpents facing each other. That ring, created by the mighty king Finrod Felagund, Aragorn gave to Arwen.

Gandalf surprises them with a tidbit of Ring-lore from a note found in his final visit to Saruman's library in Orthanc. Celebrimbor, after making the three Elemental rings of Fire,

Water, and Air; had been compelled by his Art to complete the set by creating a Ring of Earth and Stone: Gondya. This final Ring had been completed too late to be hidden and was one of the sixteen taken by Sauron. Given to the Dwarves as one of their Seven; Gondya was reportedly one of the four destroyed by dragons, and so was not retaken by Sauron. Saruman had obtained evidence that Gondya had been only damaged.

Galadriel asks why Sauron had been unable to find it. Gandalf replied that had he held the One again, he could have done so. Having only three of the dwarven Seven, he could not pierce the illusory nature of Gondya. When Eöl the Dark Elf had made two black swords from the iron of a fallen star; there was a small bit left over. Celebrimbor had obtained that, somehow, and imbued it with the Earth-power of Oromë and affixed as it's stone a bit of polished Pyrite — Fools Gold — that would never deceive a Dwarf or Dragon. Though also weakened by the destruction of the One, it remained... somewhere... with the dragon who stole it.

All three agree that these matters should be referred to the chief of the Valar, Manwë, Lord of Winds. Oromë, too; and Ulmo, Lord of Waters, should also be consulted.

— O — O — O —

Eärendil had been home only three days when Eönwë delivered the unusual sailing orders. Neither he nor his wife were particularly pleased, but bowed to the will of the Valar. The Mariner vowed to follow his instructions to the letter; and hoped it would be more of an adventure than a disaster. He had never sailed so far in *that* direction, before. and maintained cautious respect for the great Starless Void.

— O — O — O —

Gandalf sits in the garden, deep in thought. Manwë had heard their petition, and meditated, and spoke the Command of Ilúvatar to his herald, Eönwë; to take to Eärendil. He had also spoken a Riddle to Gandalf.

"Bilbo, old friend, you should have been there to hear the words of Manwë. When is a dragon, *not* a dragon?"

The ancient hobbit opens thoughtful eyes. "Why, when it's really something else, of course. That answer was under your own long nose: 'When is a bent old man, *not*?'"

"And have you been able to answer *my* riddle, yet? Why am I still alive? I was pleased to turn 131 and outlive the Old Took. Then I turned 150, and buried poor Frodo. Two hundred came and went. Now I've passed 250. This cannot be natural."

Gandalf: I am convinced that you were chosen as the Hand of Fate. You found the Ring, as you were obviously meant to do, and that was the saving of the world. Your work is not yet done... something Important remains.

Bilbo: But...why *me*?

Gandalf: You remember the stories about Melian the Maia, who took on a body and wed King Thingol; protecting the land of Doriath for ages? Their daughter, Lútien, wed Beren; after they had retrieved a Silmaril from Morgoth's crown.

Bilbo: Yes, I learned that in Elrond's house. And when Lútien put on the shape of Thuringwethil, the vampire-woman, even the servants of Morgoth were terrified. What is your point?

Gandalf: It is said, in other hobbit families, that one of the Took ancestors must have had a fairy wife, for them to be susceptible to having adventures.

Bilbo: It's nonsense, of course.

Gandalf: Yes, but with a grain of Truth. The five Wizards were only the chiefs of the Istari who went to support Middle-earth. Lesser members of our Order scattered to their very

different tasks. One, who called herself Heather, began as a supposed orphaned infant of the Plague years; raised by a farming couple whose own children died of that. Years later she married, and became Heather *Took!* Many years afterward, she was washed away by a flood, or so it seemed. Melian was *not* the only Maia to marry someone in Middle-earth and bear children there. Children, and later descendants, with exceptional destinies.

Bilbo: (Spluttering) You don't mean to say that...

Gandalf: Yes, Bilbo. You have a living ancestor here in this land...

— O — O — O —

Bilbo: And so, as I said, adventures never end: Someone else has to take them up and continue. Frodo did his turn. Who could it be now? I'm no good anymore for anything but telling tales.

Gandalf: And *that*, Bilbo, may be the key; since the matter of dragons has come up again. You, alone, are left alive, who ever really *conversed* with one.

Bilbo: So I get to tell the tale of Smaug to someone? Be sure I have plenty of beer and pipe-weed!

[Some of the above beings and situations have been suggested by the works of J. R. R. Tolkien. (But you already knew that, didn't you?)]

Letters of Comment

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

Michael D. Glicksohn
<mglick@interlog.com>

17 November 2005

Far too little and far, far too late but believe it or not I have just finished reading the August issue of the *Shuttle*. As has been the case for many years, your coverage of the worldcon provided me with the only knowledge of that convention that I have. It sounds like it was a pretty good worldcon and I wish I could have been there, if only because Greg Pickersgill and I have been friends for almost 30 years and I would have enjoyed being among those honouring him. (I also think their slogan "Once More With Ceiling" is probably the funniest line ever used to win a worldcon bid!)

The other thing that caught my eye was the mention of Charles Ross. We had the very real pleasure of watching him perform his One Man One Hour *Lord of the Rings* and it was quite literally a tour de force. A truly incredible performance during which he not only sounded like the characters but somehow managed to subtly distort his features to *look* like them too. I've never seen anything like it. (A friend we went with also saw his *Star Wars* performance and said it was entertaining but not up to the quality of his *LotR* presentation.)

Again, thanks for keeping this particular piece of dead-wood on the mailing list! (I retire at the end of June next year. If we are both still around you can expect better responses from here!)

[For those of us who suffered through the sound problems in the ceilingless breakout rooms at the previous Glasgow Worldcon, the slogan you mention was certainly on the mark. Though — one has to wonder what people who weren't there made of it... While I was sorry to miss the Worldcon this year, I just couldn't get excited enough by Glasgow the city to make

a return visit all that desirable. I'm well over a decade from nominal retirement age, but retiring early sounds really, really good lately — all of it except for the insufficient income part that would plague me. -ED]

GCOC-GCOC-GCOC-GCOC-GCOC-GCOC-GCOC

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

1 December 2005

[After an abortive start on a typewritten letter, Sheryl writes:] Well, so much for trying to use a "real" typer — I still need to go online and buy the manual for it... sigh.

Difficult to believe that another year is almost done. I presume one and all overindulged for Thanksgiving — with even more overindulgence down the line. Holiday wishes to all.

Well, I'm an equal opportunity avoider — haven't seen the *SW* movie or the latest *Harry Potter* film.

How soon the frills become necessities. I've been computerless for almost a month. The tale is convoluted and not over yet.

In the IHG Awards the name Gahan Wilson jumped right out — way to go.

I drove up to Hagerstown to see if anything is going on with Harry's collection. Short answer — no. So time will have to keep on and eventually something will arise.

Read online (I make an hourly/day trip to the local library until the computer decides to cooperate) that Irv Koch died. I had not heard a whole lot from him lately — I remember his zine *Maybe* and that he was... um... er... a unique personality.

Let me see — on regular TV we currently have *Surface*, *Threshold*, *Invasion*, [and] *Supernatural* as the "new" shows. Some shows came and went so rapidly I never even knew they were there — so I'm presuming there will be some new shows in January. I can always hope some of the newbies on the block will be sf in nature.

I haven't been paying attention — who are the current contenders in the Worldcon arena? Just wondered.

I am listening to the most recent Harry Potter book on tape and that's about as heavy as my "reading" (other than professional journals) gets these days.

Thanks for another ish.

[Yeah, naming Gahan Wilson a "Living Legend" in the horror field is a true no-brainer. His work is instantly recognizable, of course, but also is of consistently the highest quality. Thanks for mentioning Irv Koch. I was floored when I first heard about his death. Writing obituaries is never a fun part of being an editor, but I found writing his particularly trying. I hope I managed to convey both a sense of great loss and how important Irv was to fandom. RE Worldcons, I assume you know that LA and Yokohama are the seated cons for the next two years. Bids are more complicated of course. For 2008 we have a potential three-way race shaping up between Chicago, Denver, and Columbus — though there is some doubt that the Ohio bid will mount much of a challenge since they haven't been making much noise recently. For 2009, Kansas City and Montreal are the bidders. Montreal seems to have less visibility but they may be just biding their time — or perhaps their efforts have just been focused in places away from *my* mainstream. As far as I know, Australia (Melbourne) is the only bidder for 2010. There's an announced bid for Washington DC in 2011,

but few if any details have emerged. To the best of my knowledge there are no bids announced for 2012 or beyond. -ED]

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3 December 2005

Here I am riding the ragged edge of deadline! It's the day after December 2, so here's hoping. Here's a loc on the November *Shuttle*.

I've got a TAFF ballot; let's see if I can raise a few bucks for it. I hope more people would support the fan funds; Yvonne and I won CUFF some years ago, and our trip report is still available, hint, hint...

Yep, clubs are expensive, and few are making money. The club in Ottawa has an anonymous donor who ponies up a wad of cash every so often to keep the bank account and club afloat. I am pleased to receive a .pdfed copy of the *Shuttle*, and keep costs down to zero.

The awards list reminds me to tell you that the World Horror Convention will be held in Toronto in 2007. Don't know anything about the convention itself, other than it will be hosted by past Ad Astra chairman Amanda Foubister.

Hello, Mr. Glicksohn, who I can almost see from my balcony... conventions? I'm getting close to 200 myself. I've been to as many as 11 in one year, but these days, it's less. Last

year, I got to five, and most of those were local. I've already seen people ask why all these Canadian are in the local? Well, have they seen repro and postage costs up here? If they did, they'd understand! I can't see anything the size of a current Dragon*Con having a con suite. It would be like feeding the cattle, or Purina Fan Chow in the 100-pound bags...

Hi, Sheryl... I'm always trying to keep my options open for employment. I pester all the agencies I'm signed up with, I check websites continuously, I network as best as I can, and I am working with a company that employs me from time to time as a registration agent at conferences and trade shows. Do what you know, I guess, and it's nice to get paid for it for a change.

I hope somebody might produce a Best of Harry Warner publication... if it's already been done, I'll happily take a copy. If not, someone get with it; it's overdue.

Time to go and shove this in the e-mail. The best of Christmases and other holidays to you all, and let's hope for even better in 2006.

[I worked ops at the first World Horror Convention (1991, Nashville), but more as a favor to friends rather than out of any interest in horror as a genre. Your mention of buying 100-pound bags of food for a Dragon*Con con suite aren't that far from what I experienced those many years ago. In no way did we try to buy enough to run full-up hospitality, but we still did our shopping at a "warehouse" store using a huge flat-bed dolly as well as an oversized grocery cart. The single purchase that has most stuck in my mind all this time was the 50-pound bag of carrots — and the ghods know that wasn't nearly enough. -ED]



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The NASFA Shuttle is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the December 2005 edition (Volume 25, Number 12). NASFA Officers for 2005: President Mary Ortwerth; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Steve Sloan; Treasurer Sam Smith; Program Director Doug Lampert; Publicity Director Mia Smith. *Shuttle* Editor Mike Kennedy.

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