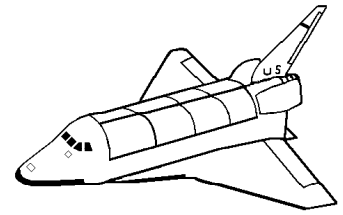


The



SHUTTLE August 2006

*The Next NASFA Meeting Will Be the Picnic,
Saturday 19 August 2006 at Marie & Mike's House*

ConCom Meeting at Sam Smith's Place, 7:30P Thursday 17 August

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next **Con†Stellation concom meeting** will be **7:30P Thursday 17 August** (two days before the club meeting) at Sam Smith's apartment.

The next **NASFA meeting** will be **Saturday 19 August 2006**, but most definitely *not* at the **regular time** or **location**. That day will be the more-or-less-annual NASFA Picnic. The picnic/cookout will be at Mike Cothran and Marie McCormack's house, 210 Vincent Road in Huntsville. Call them at 256-880-8210 for the start time (probably early-to-mid afternoon), directions, and any suggestions for what to bring.

The **deadline** for submissions to the **Con†Stellation Mass Mailing** is **Saturday 19 August**. All department heads should send a writeup to Mike Cothran.

Announcements

SAVE SKYLAB?

Jan Howard Finder (aka Wombat <wombat@sff.net>) has sent word of a fundraising effort to save Skylab — well, sort of.

In addition to the Skylab module that orbited from 1973 to 1979 and the flight-qualified module on display at the National Air and Space Museum, three full-scale training mockups were produced. One of those was used at Marshall Space Flight

Center and later moved to Huntsville's US Space and Rocket Center. For the last several years the display has been outside in their "rocket park" and has suffered the ravages of the elements.

The Alabama/Mississippi section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics has started the Skylab Restoration Project to help preserve the mockup. They are seeking both volunteers and monetary donations to aid the effort. Further information can be found online at <save Skylab.org> or by emailing <microgravityguy@yahoo.com>.

Donations are reportedly tax deductible and can be sent to AIAA, c/o Irene Willhite, Curator, US Space and Rocket Center, One Tranquility Base, Huntsville AL 35805.

SAVE ME A SLICE OF KIRK

The cable network Comedy Central has announced a William Shatner Roast for Sunday, 20 August 2006 at 9P Central Time. One presumes that his years as *Star Trek's* Captain James T. Kirk will be fair game as much as his commercials for <Priceline.com> and more recent (and Emmy winning!) work as Denny Crane on *The Practice*. Heck, someone could even dredge up his early movie, Broadway, and TV work. (Many of you might remember the *Twilight Zone* episode "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet," but did you know he also did *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *Thriller*, *The Outer Limits*, and dozens of other late-50's and early-60's TV series?)

NEW TV ANTHOLOGY

ABC TV has announced a six-episode pickup for anthology series *Masters of Science Fiction* for the 2006–07 season.

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Deadline for the September 2006 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 1 September 2006.

At least one online source reports that seven episodes are in various stages of production.

Executive producer Keith Addis dropped names like Isaac Asimov, Robert Heinlein, and Ray Bradbury when talking about the feel of the series and producer John W. Hyde said "We are focusing on the biggest-name science fiction writers." It should be noted, however, that no acquisitions from the various literary estates mentioned were announced. The first segment, "Watchbird," will be filmed in Vancouver, directed by Michael Tolkin (*The Rapture*) and written by Sam Egan — adapted from the Robert Sheckley short story. Writers Michael Cassutt (*The Dead Zone* and *Andromeda*) and J. Michael Straczynski (*Babylon 5*) had earlier been attached to the project. Straczynski has posted that he asked to have his name removed from the credits because the final product was based on Egan's draft.

Physicist Stephen Hawking will introduce each episode of the show. Actors reportedly signed for various episodes include Judy Davis, Sam Waterston, Anne Heche, Malcolm McDowell, James Cromwell, John Hurt, Sean Astin, Brian Dennehy, Terry O'Quinn, Elisabeth Rohm, Clifton Collins Jr., Kimberly Elise, and James Denton.

NASFA Calendar

AUGUST

- 04–06 DarkCon — Nashville TN.
- 08 BD: Jim Woosley.
- 11–13 ConGlomeration 2006 — Louisville TN.
- 11–13 Armadillocon 28 — Austin TX.
- 12 BD: Sue Thorn.
- 14 BD: Edward Kenny.
- 17 Con†Stellation ConCom Meeting.
- 19 BD: Khen Moore.
- 19 National Aviation Day.
- 19* NASFA Picnic at Marie McCormack and Mike Cothran's house.
- 21 BD: Deborah Denton.
- 23–27 L.A.con IV (64th Worldcon) — Los Angeles CA.

SEPTEMBER

- 01–03 Mephit Furmeet 2006 — Memphis TN.
- 01–04 Dragon*Con 2006 — Atlanta GA.
- 03 BD: David K. Robinson.
- 04 Labor Day.
- 08–10 Outside Con 19 — Burns TN.
- 09 BD: Mike Cothran.
- 10 Grandparents Day.
- 11 BD: Ray Pietruszka.
- 12 BD: Pat Butler.
- 14 Con†Stellation ConCom Meeting (Tentative).
- 16* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
- 17 Citizenship Day.
- 22 Atumnal Equinox (23rd UTC).
- 22–24 Anime Weekend Atlanta 12 — Atlanta GA.
- 22–24 FenCon III — Dallas TX.
- 23 Rosh Hashanah.
- 26 BD: Jenna Victoria Stone.

OCTOBER

- 02 Yom Kippur.
- 05–08 Archon 30 — St. Louis MO.
- 05 Possible Con†Stellation ConCom Meeting (Tenta-

- tive).
- 09 Columbus Day (Observed).
- 12 Columbus Day (Traditional).
- 14–15 Con-Sequential — Memphis TN.
- 14* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD. **NOTE:** Date changed due to Con†Stellation (though I'm not 100% sure we changed it to the 14th).
- 15 BD: Robert Buelow.
- 19 Final Con†Stellation ConCom Meeting (at the hotel).
- 20–22 Con†Stellation XXV: Cygnus — Huntsville AL.
- 24 United Nations Day.
- 25 BD: Marie McCormack.
- 27–29 HallowCon '06 — Chattanooga TN.
- 27–29 Necronomicon '06 — Tampa FL.
- 29 Daylight Saving Time ends.
- 31 Halloween.

NOVEMBER

- 02–05 World Fantasy Convention 2006 — Austin TX.
- 07 Election Day.
- 09–12 NovaCon — Huntsville AL.
- 10 Veterans' Day (Observed)
- 11 Veterans' Day (Traditional).
- 11 Remembrance Day (Canada).
- 18* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: Mike Kennedy's house.
- 22 BD: Nancy Renee Peters.
- 23 Thanksgiving Day.
- 23 BD: Michael D. Kennedy.
- 23 BD: Wilson "Bob" Tucker.
- 29 BD: Howard Camp.
- 30 BD: Joshua Kennedy.
- 30 BD: Richard Gilliam.

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.

July Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The July meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, July 15, 2006 in the Book Mark upstairs meeting room at 6:31:04P by President Mary Ortwerth and the Crickets. Buddy Holly was not in evidence.

OLD BUSINESS

Diddly-squat.

NEW BUSINESS

The time to elect a con chair for next year had arrived. Mike Cothran suggested voting by arranging stacks of money in some fashion, with no real idea of how it would work. Mike [C.] moved to do it with money. Marie moved that we vote in the traditional way, and Anita seconded. Mike [C.] called a

point of order, and moved to amend the motion by putting the word “non-” in front of “traditional.” Jim seconded the amendment, and the vote came out with 3 in favor, and 5 opposed. After that, we held a vote to decide which process to use. An overwhelming number voted to use the traditional election process to vote for Con Chair, with only 2 opposed.

Mary asked if we will hold the vote for Con Chair next month. Doug suggested that we railroad someone all in one night. Doug and Steve badly sang *Tonight* from *West Side Story*.

At that point, nominations for next year’s con chair were held. Sam nominated Joshua and Aaron Kennedy, and Doug seconded. Anita nominated Mike Kennedy, and was seconded. Anita nominated Mary Ortwerth, and Adam seconded. Mia nominated Marie McCormack, and was seconded. Mike Cothran moved to close nominations.

With both the President and Vice President running for the office, Treasurer Sam Smith took charge of the election, in accordance with the chain of succession. Mary declined to run, as did Joshua and Aaron. There was some digression about which constellation we’ll use for 2007. [In case it’s not obvious, Mary took over the chair again since she was no longer running for office. -ED]

The two remaining candidates were asked to give their campaign speeches. Both speeches were blissfully short: Mike said “No,” and Marie said “Sure.” The Con Chair vote was held, with 9 votes for Marie, and 6 votes for Mike. Marie McCormack is the 2007 Con†Stellation Con Chair.

Jack brought a flyer for the Bailey Cove Library’s SF Book Club. Mike Cothran proposed that we send an official delegation, but he didn’t get any interest from the club. The flyer’s mention of *Neuromancer* sparked a digression on the word count required for a work of fiction to be considered a novel. In the end, we just decided that whoever wants to go will go. The book club will meet in the Bailey Cove Library at 6 P, on the first Thursday of each month. They will be discussing *Neuromancer* on August 3, *Bellwether* on September 7, and *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* on October 5.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

Sam has “five stupid swans” available, for \$6 each.

The Con†Stellation mass mailing will go out at a specific time, in a specific sequence. The next regularly scheduled meeting (a.k.a. the NASFA picnic) on August 19 is the deadline for submissions. There were threats of choking, for anyone who misses that deadline.

Adam needed extra information about the mass mailing. Since he accepted the job of gaming chair, he’ll need to know what he needs to send. Mike Cothran got his contact information, so he can give him more information. Mike [C.] also determined that Adam is not related to the ever-lovin’, blue-eyed Thing from the Fantastic Four, Ben Grimm. Their last names are spelled differently.

The next ConCom meeting will be held two days before the picnic, on August 17.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue Thorn announced a book signing at BookMark, to be held on Friday, August 11, at 5P. Travis Taylor and John Ringo will be signing their new book, *Von Neumann’s War*.

Sam moved that we adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:55:30P.

The program was the NASFA *Highlander II* Memorial Awards. We discussed movie sequels that never should have been made. In Doug’s happy little world, they never were.

The After-the-Meeting Meeting was held at Adam Grim’s new house. Jack’s fun and fascinating Busby Berkeley DVD,

and horror stories about nuclear power plant failures, provided the entertainment.

A Review of *Doctor Who*

by David K. Robinson

The first season of the new *Doctor Who* I thought was quite smashing! I really and thoroughly enjoyed it! I love and adore *Doctor Who* and I have for over 20 years. My favorite Doctor before this season was Tom Baker. I love Christopher Eccleston though! I thought he and Billie Piper (who as you all know is leaving the show after this season) were excellent. I loved both of them! I am sorry that they are both leaving.

Well, overall *Doctor Who* is a great show. It comes on the SciFi channel [in the US] which as of this writing will most likely renew the show. Watch *Doctor Who* if you can. Grade A+

PS: If any *Doctor Who* fans would like more info on how to subscribe to *Enlightenment* which is a Canada-based *Doctor Who* zine, write to this address:

Doctor Who Information Network

P. O. Box 912, Station F

Toronto, Ontario

Canada M4Y 2N9

Membership cost is \$20 (US) per year and it come out six times a year! Postage cost to Canada is 63¢. [You can also subscribe via PayPal online, check out <www.dwin.org/article.php?sid=12> for full information. -ED]

An Overly-Long DeepSouthCon Report

by Mike Kennedy

DeepSouthCon 44 was held Friday 21 – Sunday 23 July 2006 in conjunction with Trinoc*coN VII at the North Raleigh Hilton in Raleigh NC. Invited guests included Literary GoHs David Drake and John Kessel, Literary TM David Hartwell, Special Guest Barry Malzberg, AGoH Patrick Meadows, and Musical Guest Three Quarter Ale. There were literally dozens of other guests expected to attend listed on the Trinoc*coN web site <www.trinoc-con.org>, categorized into Literary Guests (the biggest group), Comics Guests, Art Guests, Gaming Guests, and Costuming Guests. (Well, OK, it’s hard to compare the number of Costuming Guests to the other lists since over half their entries were for groups rather than individuals.)

CHAPTER THE FIRST: Wherein the trip begins far too early

Silly me, I could have sworn there was only one 5:00 each day — you know, the one when the sun is shining and the temperature is (lately, at least) around 100°F? But here I was



opening my eyes 10 minutes before 5:00 on Thursday and the sun wasn't up at all!

This would be the first DSC I'd get to by flying rather than driving. In order to get a semi-reasonable ticket price I had to settle for a less-than-reasonable flight schedule, including a 7A departure from Huntsville and long layovers in Cincinnati on both the outbound and return trips. But, it was worth it not to have to drive. I certainly spent more on the ticket and airport parking than I'd have been out-of-pocket driving — even at current gas prices — but figuring in wear and tear on both me and my car I think I made the right decision. At least the long layovers gave me time to find a somewhat decent meal in the airport both on the way out. Not a *nutritionally sound* meal, mind you, but a meal nonetheless.

One expects both similarities and differences when going to a con for the first time — especially when visiting a regional or sub-regional fandom for the first time. Though I've been to many DSCs over the years, this was the first time it had been hosted by a North Carolina committee and the first time I'd been to NC for a con. The outbound layover gave me a bit of time to study the pocket program for the con (downloaded on the fly via the free wireless connection at the Huntsville airport). Similarities (at least surface ones) to cons I'm used to included Friday startups at familiar times: noon for reg, mid-afternoon for the Art Show and Dealers Room, and late afternoon for programming. It also quickly revealed differences: very limited evening programming (especially compared to the multiple tracks during “prime time”), closing just about everything for a defined dinner break each day, no dance or other late evening programming (except for a video track), the Art Auction on Sunday afternoon, and a Con Suite that closes oddly early — 8P on Friday and 9P on Saturday. I wondered if that last might portend good or ill for the planned Con†Stellation party on Friday night. Would the Con Suite closing early mean people would flock to the party looking for food and drink, or would it mean that the social scene at Trinoc*coN was one that didn't support evening gatherings? (I would later find that the Con Suite staff was prevailed upon by some of the old DSC hands to stay open later hours.)

Eventually the day's torture (flying is *such* fun these days) was over and I was at the hotel. It took me longer than usual to settle in because I owed several people emails and Earthlink was giving me fits sending them (though I could receive just fine). Technical issues eventually were fixed, though, and by late afternoon I was starting to wonder what I'd do about dinner. Ah, I thought, I'd been corresponding with Judy Bemis about the con so I knew she'd likely be here on Thursday. I called the hotel operator and yes, Judy (and her hubby Tony Parker) were checked in. I let them know I'd be available if there was any setup work to be done in the evening and asked about dinner plans. It turned out we got together around 6P and they took me to a restaurant called Crazy Fire Mongolian Grill that had apparently been one of their favorite places when they lived here. (They moved to Florida just last November.)

The food was good (and plentiful — in the evening they run it as a buffet). Trinoc*coN had been Tony and Judy's “home” con before they left Raleigh and they still know the area, of course. After dinner they were kind enough to run me by a liquor store and a grocery store so I could pick up just a few things for the Con†Stellation party and for myself. That didn't eliminate the need for a Friday grocery store run for the bulk of the party supplies, but fortunately Randy Cleary had let me know he'd be at the convention with a car and would take me out to get party supplies.

Before settling in for the night I did take a quick tour

around the hotel function space and located the Art Show and a number of other rooms. There was a large crew working on setting up panels and they were more than half done with that by the time I discovered them, so I didn't feel bad about not — after all — helping. I also took a quick reconnoiter outside the hotel to get the lay of the land. The Hilton is not exactly in a suburban location, but neither is it a downtown hotel. Thus it's a pretty good stretch of the legs along (or across) a very busy street to any businesses. In one direction and on the same side of the street there are a couple of restaurants within a very long block, including the Bahama Breeze which has been recommended to me. In the other direction, but across the street, there's a CVS Pharmacy — which was open just late enough I could pick up a bedtime snack. Across the street there's a major hospital. Bedtime came around 11P; yeah that's Eastern time, but it was still a long day.

CHAPTER THE SECOND: Wherein the convention itself begins but all I do is throw a party

I spent some time Friday morning working on an article for the *Southern Fandom Confederation Handbook* and doing some other noodling on the computer, but eventually wandered out of my room around 10A — then came back almost immediately to get flyers when I discovered the freebie table was already set up. There were other signs of the convention coming to life — art being hung, reg setting up, fan tables being labeled — but there didn't seem to be anything where my pitching in would contribute more resources than it consumed. I ran into Judy and confirmed that she'd received a file that she was looking for. When I found out she needed it, I'd broadcast a request for DSC Hearts Tourney rules to some people who had been associated with such at past DSCs. After hanging around the lobby a while I decided that my time was better spent back in the room working on this report and the aforementioned *Handbook* article.

Randy showed up at the hotel a bit earlier than I expected and by a little after 11A we were moving the party supplies he'd transported from Huntsville into my room. Convention reg was open before the advertised time (a good omen) so we picked up our badges (and Randy bought one for his mother — her first con ever) then we went grocery shopping for the party. By 1P I was not only back in the room but had put the cold stuff on ice and started the prep. Randy volunteering his help this way was a real lifesaver.

I was pretty much through with prep for the party — excepting the things that needed to be done in the last 30–60 minutes — and had signs up advertising it by sometime after 4P. By 4:30P I was trying to talk Randy (who was ensconced at the SFC fan table) into dinner. Breakfast for me had consisted of a few Fig Newtons left over from my snack Thursday night and all I'd had for “lunch” was a few nibbles while prepping the party food. Randy was going to close up shop at 5P but pleaded a late lunch, so I ended up going to Bahama Breeze by myself. Dinner was good, but nothing to rave over. The broccoli was overcooked (but I still ate it) and the blackened chicken was, well, not bland but certainly not as spicy as it should have been. On the other hand the cinnamon mashed sweet potatoes were quite delicious. I ordered the smaller version of the meal, which still turned out to be a good-sized portion of everything (especially the sweet potatoes). That was to leave theoretical room for dessert; in point of fact I really wasn't hungry after the entrée but ordered the key lime pie anyway. That turned out to be the highlight of the meal. While not the *best* such I've ever had, it *was* quite yummy and a *huge* piece.

After dinner I walked back past the hotel and braved

crossing the street again (thank ghod for on-demand crossing signals) back to the CVS. I'd decided that I need a second cooler so I could stockpile enough ice for the party in one trip. Usually I have a couple of people helping during a party and an ice run is doable, but that wasn't the case at this con. If Randy doesn't have room for the extra cooler on the way back to Huntsville I can repack to get rid of one of the boxes he brought up for me.

None of the programs in the first few slots on Friday were interesting to me and the con didn't have any sort of opening ceremony were I could announce the party. (Unless they do that at the 8P Meet the Guests item. There were a few possibly-interesting items either just before the 9P start I'd chosen for the party (like the MtG thing) or during the expected run time. Such is life. A number of program items on Saturday and Sunday looked more interesting. So, lacking a program to go to I decided that putting my feet up for a while was a good way to rest my bad knees that had already taken a beating today — the better to pace myself to last through running the party. After all, I could see the Art Show and Dealers Room Saturday.

I opened the party just a few minutes early and soon had a small, friendly gathering. While I saw several old friends and had a number of "random" people drop in, by far the largest contingent over the course of the evening was from Stellarcon (High Point/Greensboro NC) — the group that's bidding for the DeepSouthCon two years hence. (I say "the" group because they're the only ones with a filed bid, though of course there's always the possibility of a last-minute write-in bid. In fact, Toni Weisskopf suggested that the amorphous we ought to come up with a bid in Irv Koch's memory. I frowned mightily at her when she suggested Huntsville for a site. I missed the opportunity, though, to suggest that such a bid would have to have *her* as the chair.)

Stellarcon is a university-based convention so the crowd skewed young, though probably not as young as their average attendee. I'd say most of their people who came to the Con+Stellation party were 20-somethings, with a few older folks ranging up to perhaps 40-something. I was impressed by their talk when it came to science fiction — quite a few of them showing depth of knowledge of some of the classic literature (albeit sometimes as it applied to movie adaptations like *LotR*). I figured that bode well for an interesting DSC, should it go to them in Sunday's vote.

The last people left the party about a quarter before 1A and I spent something over an hour getting the room and myself ready for bedtime, including picking and cleaning up well enough that I wouldn't run any particular risk of mystery smells assaulting me later in the weekend. I finally lay down around 2A with the hope of sleeping well into the late morning. I'd missed a Columbus Worldcon bid party and at least one other party Friday evening.

CHAPTER THE THIRD: Wherein our hero finally sees something of the convention

In fact, I managed to pull myself together Saturday morning in time to face the world just a bit before noon. I made my first foray into the Con Suite where some breakfast items were still available, then downstairs for a panel I was interested in, a bit after the scheduled start time. Unfortunately, the room setup was such that one had to enter the "front" of the room plus they had the door closed against a fairly noisy hallway (the noise emanating from a function unrelated to Trinoc*coN, but across the hall). I chose not to interrupt the proceedings by entering behind and just a few feet to the side of the speaker's table. Hopefully this will be a lesson learned and if Trinoc*coN uses this facility next year they will flip the room. It would be

easy to do.

So, I used the time instead to take a tour of the Dealers Room and Art Show. The Dealers Room was pretty much a bibliophiles heaven. At least half the dealers either carried books exclusively or as a major sidelight, so that nearly half the sales footage was awash in those peculiar rectangular assemblages of paper that many of us love. There were also two major T-shirt dealers (at opposite ends of the room) and another minor one. The merchandise selection of the two major dealers could hardly have been much different. One was all pretty pictures and bright colors. The other was all white text (in various appropriate fonts) on black tees. Comics were featured by about 1.5 dealers. An assortment of collectibles and about 1.5 anime dealers (one featuring mostly DVDs) filled out the rest of the room.

My tour though the Art Show was fairly brief. I did take advantage of a couple admiring Theresa Mather's display to talk up her appearance at the upcoming Con+Stellation, pointing out when they demurred at our location that there are direct flights from their home (in DC). Most of the artwork was fantasy prints, which is pretty normal for most cons. There was some more sfnal work but it was in a distinct minority. All the art panels and 3-D tables were arrayed around the perimeter of the room, with a large island of tables in the middle for an "artist's alley." I didn't count the tables but there must have been around a dozen different artists represented, many of them busy creating, on the spot.

I made (most of) two panels after that. The first was the well-attend perennial favorite Baen Traveling Slideshow. Toni was in good form and the audience was very responsive. She did run over time a fair amount, which turned out not to be quite the problem it could have been. The next panel I wanted to see was another slide show in the same room, this one by AGoH Patrick Meadows. Well, it was partly a slide show. What he did was interesting and it's a shame that the panel wasn't much better attended — especially by artists and wannabe artists. He used a series of photos of various stages of the Program Book cover to illustrate a talk about his technique which uses a combination of marker, colored pencil, airbrush, and more. The slideshow part lasted perhaps 20–25 minutes, with the remainder to be devoted to a live demo of the early stages of the technique.

While wandering around, I ran into Randy (and Julie Wall) at the SFC table. Randy suggested I make up a tray using some of the leftover party food for them to help entice people to the table — which I thought was a great idea. When I went by a few hours later the tray was picked almost clean so it must have worked. The prefunction area where all the fan tables were was quite busy so it probably wasn't too hard to find takers for the food.

I hung around in various places (including the quite comfortable Con Suite) and did some packing (preparatory to loading Randy's car with stuff to take back to Huntsville) between delivering that tray and the next panel I wanted to see — the Liar's Panel at 5P. It was moderated by Gene Wolfe so I knew it would be entertaining; I don't think he knows how to *not* be entertaining. The panel was in another room that was turned wrong, but this time I showed up early enough so I didn't have to disrupt the panelists by entering in back of them. There was some sort of miscommunication between the con and the hotel, as we ended up being run out of the room well before the scheduled end. Apparently the hotel thought they had the room back at 5:30P to set up for part of a wedding reception (most of which was in the ballroom across the prefunction hall).

Sometime later that evening I found a nice digital camera

that had been lost in the hotel business center. I managed to turn it on and deduced from one of the photographs (of what *had* to be a room party) that it must belong to a fan. Con reg didn't know anything about a lost-and-found for the con so I ended up turning it in to the hotel desk. I later found out it belonged to Bridget "Bug" Bradshaw — the TAFF delegate. She got it back, but it took two trips since the first time the hotel desk clerk didn't give her the case (including remote control and spare memory card).

The Costume Contest, at 8P, was something of a disappointment. I'm not sure how many attendees the con had, but I'd guess around 500. I'd have thought a con of that size could scrounge up more than 5 entries, but I'd have been wrong. The 4 adults and 1 child (Queen of the Kitty Fairies) had nothing approaching a high end costume or presentation, but at least none of them were actually embarrassing or cringeworthy. All 5 were given some sort of award, a practice of which I usually disapprove but given a fairly flat distribution of quality and such a small sample it was perhaps more understandable in this case. The contest started about 15 minutes late but was over (including awards) before 8:30P.

One oddity can't be blamed on the contestants (or lack thereof). The MC chose to stand *on the stage* along with the contestants. He literally upstaged them, standing so that they had to turn their back to the audience if they needed to interact with him. This is pretty close to an *inexcusable* setup. There was certainly *lots* of room to each side of the stage and the audio setup would have supported him being offstage. Somebody needs to brush up on some *basics* here. I heard mention that the number of contestants had been dropping over the years. If this is how they run the event every year I can't say I'm surprised.

The DSC Awards ceremony was scheduled for the same room at 9P so I just hung around rather than looking for something to do for 20 minutes or so. Besides, I had a prime seat. Check the sidebar for a list of award recipients, including a set of awards not directly associated with DSC.

After the awards I had time to drop by the Denver Worldcon bid party — which was right down the hall from my room — for a while. I also took care of some emails I owed people who wanted to be apprised of the awards, before heading to a 10P Jim Baen Memorial. By the time I got there (only a couple of minutes late) it was SRO. Standing through it all was rough on my knees, but I'm glad I did. Toni was there, of course, but so were a number of other people from the Baen Books office and quite a few authors whose lives had been touched by Jim Baen. The hour was brought to a close by a toast — they ran out of champagne (I expect they had not counted on quite so many people) but most of the rest of the crowd took still wine — I stuck to the dregs of my fuzzy navel since champagne is really the only wine I like. The entire tribute was rather moving and I came away with an increased respect for his contributions to the field. The only negative about the whole thing was the thump-thump-thumping soundtrack furnished by the non-con event across the hall.

After a memorial service, what better to lift one's spirit than a party? The Stellarcon DSC bid party was in a small suite. It was pretty well packed and had a high-energy buzz when I arrived. I did manage to snag a chair perhaps 10 minutes later and stayed ensconced there for the rest of my evening. I talked a good bit to the people running the party about their DSC bid, DSC traditions, conventions in general, and lots of related matters.

I left after midnight, knowing that there was at least one other party going on but too tired to make it by — Sunday was to begin too early or I would have been more tempted. I noticed

DSC Awards

Several awards are given by and at DSC each year. This year, for the first time, the Southeastern Science Fiction Achievement Awards (administered by *scifidimensions* online magazine) were announced at a physical ceremony and they chose DSC for the event. The winners of the SESFA Awards were:

Best Short Fiction of 2005 **"Bears Discover Smut,"** Michael Bishop (*SCI Fiction*)

Best Novel of 2005 ***Seeker*,** Jack McDevitt (Ace)

Lifetime Achievement **Jack McDevitt**

Jack McDevitt was present to receive his two awards; the award for Michael Bishop will be delivered by the administrators. The awards were presented by *scifidimensions* editor John Snider.

The **Rubble Award** is for the fan who has done the most to southern fandom. It was conceived by Gary Robe a number of years ago as a counterpoint to the Rebel Award (see below). Gary usually handles the event, but various others have done so from time to time in his absence. This year's award was presented with great pride and satisfaction by Toni Weisskopf. It seems that Gary and family had canceled their plans to come to DeepSouthCon with little notice. The award was given to "the **Entire Robe Family** for not coming to DSC and for not telling previous Rubble Winners what they needed to do to select a winner and present the award." Toni said she'd make sure that they got the traditional cold Krystal Happy Meal. Standing in for an "engraved" Krystal ash tray was a Hilton coaster with the award wording written in pen. I later suggested that the Happy Meal go by the slowest delivery method available.

The **Rebel Award** is for the fan who has done the most for southern fandom. It is a lifetime achievement award (as is the Phoenix Award below). The award presentation was by Judy Bemis and the award went in absentia to **Dan Caldwell**. It was accepted on Dan's behalf by fellow Nashvillian Tom Feller (who very quickly after the ceremony called Dan to congratulate him and rub it in that he wasn't there).

The **Phoenix Award** is for the sfnal professional who has done the most for southern fandom. It was presented by Dan Reid (Assistant Con Chair) to **John Kessel**, who was present to receive the award.



Award Photos Courtesy
of Judy Bemis

that the Denver party was still going when I got back to my room. It was after 1A by the time I wrapped up the day's business (you don't think I can write such long con reports without taking notes as I go along, do you?) and crawled into bed.

CHAPTER THE FOURTH: Wherein business is transacted and the dogs die

Sunday morning at a DeepSouthCon means not being able to sleep in as much as I might like to do. The Southern Fandom Confederation Business Meeting was scheduled for 10A with the DSC Business Meeting right after it at 11A. I nosed leftovers in the room before heading downstairs.

The SFC Business Meeting held no surprises. All the officers stood for reelection and were swept (back) into office by acclamation. (That's President Randy B. Cleary, Vice-President Julie Wall, Secretary Tom Feller, and Treasurer Janet Hopkins.) Randy talked about some plans for modest changes and updates to the SFC web site and once again warned that he wanted to find a successor. Income from dues are down somewhat and expenses (mostly copying and mailing of the *SFC Bulletin*) are up somewhat — but it wasn't felt that SFC needed to raise dues yet.

The DSC Business Meeting was also predictable, in outcome if not in detail. There were no motions to change the By Laws, so the only order of business was the site selection for 2008. And yes, one needs a vote even when there is only one filed bid — write ins are permitted. Stellarcon 32 did, however, win in first round of the preferential ballot. The final tally was 5 for Wigwam Village, 1 for Nashville, and 38 for Stellarcon. Note that Stellarcon is significantly earlier in the year than normal for a DeepSouthCon — 7–9 March 2008. They didn't have any guests to announce yet, but were set up to take memberships. The rate (available, as I understood it, until Stellarcon 31 in 2007) was \$25. I think I was the first to pay after their win, but since they weren't assigning badge numbers that doesn't really matter. You can get more info about Stellarcon online at <www.stellarcon.org> or via email at <info@stellarcon.org>. Snail mail should be sent to Stellarcon/SF3, Box I-1, Elliott University Center, UNCG, Greensboro NC 27412.

I took another quick tour of the Dealers Room but still didn't find anything that called to me. My next stop was the Art Auction at 1P. Since they had scheduled only an hour I assumed it would not be massive. I was right. The auction was slightly late starting but ran perhaps a half an hour, maybe less. There were very few pieces in the auction and a few of these were winners of Art Show awards that had received no bids. The audience was small, which should not have been surprising to the concom given the scheduled time — when many people were leaving or getting ready to do so. I heard that the number of pieces going to auction had dropped for the last several years. If they want to rescue the auction as an event, they should strongly consider moving it to Saturday and perhaps changing to a 2-bid-to-auction system (versus the current 3). Of course, that would likely require changes to their Art Show hours which run to *midnight* both Friday and Saturday.

On the other hand, there did seem to be a lot of art sold, just not at auction. I weakened in the auction and bought one piece for what seemed to be a very low price. (I was undecided when I bought it who I would give it to, but Sue Thorn turned out to be the next appropriate birthday so if you run into her you can ask her about *Pigasus*.) They were a bit disorganized taking payments back in the Art Show after the auction, so I decided to go back to my room and get my checkbook rather than pay

cash. There was quite a queue when I went back later to pay but it moved quickly (aside from a system that didn't seem to be set up to sell art and check out artists at the same time).

The Closing Ceremony at 3P was brief and rather sparsely attended (less than 20). It was a basic “thank you, thank you” love session which at least served to remind me why many cons don't bother to do a Closing Ceremony. There had been a “Town Hall” meeting earlier in the day for (among other things) gripes and that meeting may have been much livelier and more useful. I suppose I'll never know since I was tied up with the SFC meeting then, and most people I knew at the con were similarly unable to make it to the Town Hall.

By the end of the Closing Ceremony I was really fuzzing out due to the short nights and other abuses heaped on one when attending a con. The Con Suite had closed at 2P and the Dead Dog Party was scheduled to start at 6P — running until 8 or 9P. I decided that I *had* to take a nap, which turned out to be longer than I expected. I woke up somewhat after 7P and decided that I could still put in a token appearance at the Dead Dog — which I did. While out and about I also rescued the Con†Stellation flyer stand that I'd almost forgotten, then headed back to my room to pack for the next morning and work on this con report. By the time I left the Dead Dog (well before 8P) it was already thinning out — though the people who were still there averaged pretty young and seemed to have ridiculous amounts of energy.

CHAPTER THE LAST: Wherein the journey home occurs and things that fit nowhere else are proclaimed

On Monday I got up at 7A, probably earlier than necessary but I didn't want to have to rush.

The omelet and accompaniments I had for breakfast in the hotel restaurant was pleasant, unexceptional but tasty and filling. Actually, the best part of the meal may have been the toast — a very thick-sliced wheat bread that had a rough, interesting texture, almost as if it were homemade. The hotel shuttle left a few minutes after the 9A scheduled time but that proved to be no problem. RDU not a major hub after all (though certainly much bigger than, say, HSV) and I had only a very short wait at Delta's check-in counter.

The flights back to Huntsville, like those on the trip up, were almost completely full. They were made tolerable by each being short (around an hour) and my foresight in booking an aisle seat for all legs. I did have an obscenely-long connection in Cincinnati. I booked the flights months ago and my original CVG–HSV flight ceased to exist in the interval between purchase and trip. I still had nonperishable snacks left over and, having had such a large breakfast, didn't bother with airport food. (Then too, the layover gave me some time to work on, though not finish, this report.)

I actually got to Huntsville 20–25 minutes ahead of schedule, and I was able to get my dog Sally out of hock from the vet and home in good time. Not long after, I got a call from Randy saying he was in town and could drop by the party boxes, etc. that he'd driven home for me. Man, I was wiped out and marveling that Randy could stand up as well as he had, since he'd done a lot more work than I.

Now you may think my arrival in Huntsville should be the end of this report, but you'd be wrong. There's still various news and opinion that I couldn't easily work in above to relate... so herewith a series of mostly-unconnected paragraphs.

If you've read some of my other long (winded) con reports you may have noticed that I didn't talk much about the meals I ate. Well, between the Con Suite, the Con†Stellation party, the food *left over* from the Con†Stellation party, other parties (Saturday), and the Dead Dog, I just didn't have

the time, need, or inclination to eat out much. In fact I bought only three meals the whole five-day trip, and only two of those in Raleigh.

Pat Gibbs won the Hearts Tournament — the hosting of which is a long-standing DSC tradition. I was greatly amused to hear Hank Reinhardt complaining to Toni Weisskopf about how lousy his cards were. I'm sure Hank would claim that he was just reporting the facts, but I heard his tone of voice — he was complaining in his best whiny-little-boy voice.

The Con†Stellation party caused a noise complaint — it was the first time in a while we've had a lively enough crowd to justify one. Well, it was a fairly minor and very civil complaint, handled in a friendly manner, and the problem was easily addressed by mostly closing the door. It was late enough in the evening that we weren't going to get very many new people anyway. The Stellarcon people apparently took this to heart and kept their door mostly closed during their party. I've always appreciated leaving the door standing wide open, but I can see the wisdom of not doing so under some circumstances.

I didn't hear about the traditional DSC one-shot fanzine until after it was done, so I didn't get to participate. I understand it'll turn up online somewhere (Randy will probably know where) so I'll read it then. I did see Randy's cover art depicting Gary Robe and Guy Lillian (both of whom flaked out on coming this year) in a sort-of Brokeback moment...

I understand that this was a new facility for Trinoc*coN. It mostly worked out — though I mentioned problems with the way some function rooms were set up and noise coming from non-con functions in nearby spaces. If they could use all the hotel function space it would be better, but they'll have to grow by several hundred attendees before they will need the extra ballroom. There should be enough hotel rooms to accommodate that growth as a large number of them were being renovated and I heard no complaints about running out of hotel rooms. If necessary, there are a couple of other hotels close enough to be functional as overflow, though unfortunately none are on abutting properties.

The program schedule was pretty extensive. If you count a track of signings (in the Dealers Room on Saturday) and a track of readings, there were as many as seven tracks of programming. One of the tracks focused on comics (including webcomics) and one on workshops in the morning/afternoon and video in the evening/night. Note that subtracting the specialty tracks still leave three pretty-full general-interest tracks.

I enjoyed Trinoc*coN and am glad I went. It has a few quirks, but is generally well run and a good con. They are a young con and still have time to learn.

It was not, perhaps, such a good *DeepSouthCon*, though. Outside of the Program Book (which included at least seven full-size pages related to DSC or SFC) and scheduling certain DSC events (the two Business Meetings, Awards, and Hearts Tournament), the committee seemed to pay little attention to the DSC part of their presumably-dual-natured convention. I suspect that Judy Bemis did the large majority of DSC-related work for the committee. Heck, even the convention badge didn't acknowledge that this was a DSC.

Trinoc*coN VIII is scheduled for 3–5 August 2007, back at the North Raleigh Hilton. The Literary GoH will be George R. R. Martin. For more information you can check the web at <www.trinoc-con.org> or write Trinoc*coN, P. O. Box 10653, Raleigh NC 27605-0633. Information on the next DSC can be found in the article below.

DSC 45 Plans

DeepSouthCon 45 will be held 7–9 September 2007 in conjunction with OutsideCon 20 <www.outsidecon.com> at the Montgomery Bell State Park, Dickson/Burns TN. Yes, that's a state park and yes, the large majority of OutsideCon attendees normally either camp or stay in one of the "Rustic Cabins." Memberships are currently \$35 until 1 January; then \$40 until 1 August and \$45 at the door. Note that *includes* communal meals from Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast *plus* a space in a Rustic Cabin (beds first come first served). There may be a discount if you do not need a Cabin space.

The park is about 35 miles west of Nashville. There will be a Guest Writer and Artist thought they are currently TBA. (OutsideCon doesn't usually have guests but they are expanding their horizon a bit for DSC.). The con has an announced theme: "All things Holmes" as in Sherlock.

The park *does* feature a very nice hotel — the Park Inn (120 rooms, 5 suites, indoor pool, jacuzzi, outdoor pool (seasonal), exercise room, and laundry facilities) — though it's not close to the group camping area around which OutsideCon centers. You can make a reservation through the park's web site <state.tn.us/environment/parks/MontgomeryBell> starting about a year before the event. Note that you should *not mention* OutsideCon to the hotel or park — the event doesn't official exist as an entity to them. The hotel rate for next year is not set but the rate during this year's OutsideCon is \$78 for a king or double-double room (with some discount rates available for various classes of people).

There is info available on both the con's and park's web sites about what to bring if you are staying in one of the Rustic Cabins. The con web site also mentions additional things you may want to bring to enhance your enjoyment of con activities. You can contact <outsidebob@cs.com> or <stormwolf2001@cs.com> by email for more information, or write Arthur Hopkins, 308 Dunbar Cave Road, Clarksville TN 37043.

LibertyCon 19 Review

by Mike Kennedy

LibertyCon 19 took place 28–30 July 2006 at the Comfort Inn and Suites in East Ridge (Chattanooga) TN. Invited guests included Author GoH Ron Goulart, Artist GoH Pete Abrams, Special Guest Travis Taylor, and MC John Steakley. About a dozen other sf writers, artists, and editors were also expected to be at the con. Total attendance was about 400 (365 paid).

After the long-distance travel and fairly-packed schedule of DeepSouthCon, I found myself going to a second convention in as many weekends. I almost didn't go as the hotel sold out (as usual for LibertyCon) and I was ambivalent about staying offsite. At more-or-less the last minute a possible room share came to my attention and I committed to go. In contrast to DSC, though, my trip to LibertyCon was to be fairly relaxed. In contrast to the DSC review, this review will be relaxed, too. I promise you this won't be a massive trip report :-)

Well, OK, I did do *some* "business" during LibertyCon. Con†Stellation sponsored a party Saturday night (7P to about 10P). There were a number of Huntsvillans there, so the labor was spread out a bit; but I still did most of the shopping and prep, and ran the blender during the party. Doug and Mary Ortwerth volunteered their room which, fortunately, was just down the hall from mine — making setup and cleanup pretty easy.

In fact, the social scene is pretty important to a Liberty-Con. Besides the Con+Stellation party, there was a Xerps party on Friday night, a Chattacon party Saturday afternoon, and a HallowCon party late Saturday night. (There was at least one other sponsored party I failed to note the name of.) There was also a Baen Barfly suite open much of the weekend and the con provided function space for a Memorial/Reception in memory of Irv Koch Friday evening.

The Con Suite was another important social venue. Many attendees appreciated the beer and soft drinks, of course, but I saved my appreciation for the vegetable soup, pimento cheese, and peanut butter. (I love peanut butter a bit too much to allow myself to keep it in the house, so it provided a nice indulgence at the con.) The same staff was responsible for the food at the Dead Dog party (burgers, grilled chicken, and such).

The real social focus of LibertyCon, though, was the breakfast area of the hotel. Each morning the hotel-provided breakfast got a lot of people going for the day with hearty (if not particularly healthy or imaginative) eggs, sausage, biscuits, and waffles. The convention used the area for an ice cream social Friday evening. Mayfield Ice Cream also sponsored a taste-test for new flavors at noon Saturday. (It was originally scheduled for the breakfast area but ended up outside. There was plenty of ice cream from the two events left over for the Dead Dog.) The breakfast area was jumping, though, at all times of the day, not just during scheduled events. There was lots of general socializing (and occasional smoffing) and lots of casual gaming, including Killer Cutthroat Spades.

Speaking of the latter, I got knocked out of the Spades tournament in the second round. (I think I ranked fifth, so I just missed making the final table.) In pickup games, though, I did pretty well, winning about half or a bit better of my games; bidding and playing a bit more aggressively than is my wont.

By now you're wondering things like: "But what about programming?" and "Didn't this con have other things to do?" Well, yes, I suppose it's time I get to that sort of thing.

LibertyCon runs three plus tracks of programs — scheduled into various combinations of three function rooms plus other more-imaginative venues like the aforementioned breakfast area, poolside, and even one event set in a pre-function area outside the Art Show. (That latter was a pretty bad idea as it was a busy intersection of corridors and really obstructed traffic flow.) I wasn't at the con for programming and there really wasn't a huge amount that interested me anyway. I did go to one item at 3P Saturday — "The Worst Programming Ever." I probably wouldn't have gone, but I got a call just after 3P asking me why I wasn't there. Apparently I had been scheduled as a replacement panelist but someone had forgotten to tell me so. Sigh. It did turn out to be a good collection of programming horror stories and I had a fair amount to say on the topic. (And no, I won't repeat what I said in print.)

There were a number of events I *might* have gone to had I not had conflicts, including the Art Auction and Atlanta Radio Theater Company's presentation of *Rory Rammer*, *Space Ranger* and *Doom of the Mummy*. Those events took place opposite the Con+Stellation party Saturday evening. Some of the science programming would have been interesting, too, but I always seemed to have cards in my hand — or some other distraction — when it was going on.

The Art Show was in the hotel fitness center which had been 95% cleared of equipment. (The Comfort Inn makes several accommodations to fit the con, including letting them use a large service corridor for a Game Room and partially clearing out several hotel rooms.) The Art Show wasn't particularly large, but did have some interesting items I haven't

seen at other cons. A couple of pieces tempted me but I resisted. Someone named Odette had bid on some pieces I might have otherwise considered for the immediate purchase price. (Yes, the name is an inside joke. Familiarity with classical music or access to Google might help you figure out who Odette is in real life.) I'm not sure how many pieces went to auction from the Art Show itself, but a number of pieces must have been sold during the auction since the charity pieces reportedly raised over \$1800 for the Chattanooga Area Food Bank.

The convention's "Dealers Room" was actually a Dealers Alley — a string of a dozen hotel rooms where the dealers individually set up their wares. LibertyCon has used the Dealers Alley approach at some previous hotels as well as this one. Personally I've never liked this approach since it requires one to visit numerous rooms to see what kind of merchandise is on offer rather than the much easier task of looking around a single room. But then, I'm not really the audience for a Dealers Room anyway since I seldom buy much, if anything, there. The Comfort Inn is perhaps better suited than most hotels to the Alley method since there is a group of small suites along the hallway immediately off of the lobby, so traffic flow between the Dealers Alley and the rest of the convention is pretty straightforward. (Plus, the dealers typically can display their wares in the living room area and leave the bedroom free for them to use in the customary manner.) I did take one quick tour of perhaps 60–70% of the rooms, seeing lots of books and blades, along with collectibles, comics, jewelry, and tchotchkes.

Gaming is not a professed focus of LibertyCon, but they do have a significant variety. In addition to the Game Room and overflow casual gaming in the breakfast area (both mentioned above) they had a well-equipped Computer/LAN Game Room. The con also brought in a few old-style standup console games which were set on "free play" through the weekend. There was also apparently a series of convention-sponsored Laser Tag games, though I never saw where those took place.

I'm sure I missed a lot that I could have said about LibertyCon in this report, but then I *did* go to relax (and mostly succeeded in that). If you weren't at this one, you'll have your chance next summer when LibertyCon 20 comes around. As far as I know, no specifics have been made public; but you can expect the con to very likely be in late July and fairly likely back at the same hotel. You can stay tuned to <www.libertycon.org> for details as they develop.

Awards News

MYTHOPOEIC AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Winners of this year's Mythopoeic Awards <www.mythsoc.org/awards.html> were announced Sunday 6 August 2006 at Mythcon 37 in Norman OK. The winners are:

Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature *Anansi Boys*, Neil Gaiman
Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature *The Bartimaeus Trilogy*, Jonathan Stroud
Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies *The Lord of the Rings: A Reader's Companion*, Wayne G. Hammond and Christina Scull
Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in General Myth and Fantasy Studies *National Dreams: The Remaking of Fairy Tales in Nineteenth-Century England*, Jennifer Schacker

WORLD FANTASY AWARDS NOMS

Nominations for this year's World Fantasy Awards

<www.worldfantasy.org/awards> have been released. Winners will be announced at the 2006 World Fantasy Convention, to be held 2–5 November 2006 in Austin TX. The nominees are:

Novel

Kafka on the Shore, Haruki Murakami (Harvill; Knopf)
The Limits of Enchantment, Graham Joyce (Gollancz; Atria)
Lunar Park, Bret Easton Ellis (Knopf; Macmillan)
Od Magic, Patricia A. McKillip (Ace)
A Princess of Roumania, Paul Park (Tor)
Vellum, Hal Duncan (Macmillan; Del Rey)

Novella

Another War, Simon Morden (Telos Publishing)
“*The Imago Sequence*,” Laird Barron (*F&SF* May 2005)
“*In the Machine*,” Michael Cunningham (*Specimen Days*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
“*Magic for Beginners*,” Kelly Link (*Magic for Beginners*, Small Beer Press; *F&SF* September 2005)
“*UOUS*,” Tanith Lee (*The Fair Folk*, SFBC)
Voluntary Committal, Joe Hill (Subterranean Press)

Short Fiction

“*Best New Horror*,” Joe Hill (*Postscripts* #3, Spring 2005)
“*CommComm*,” George Saunders (*The New Yorker* 1 August 2005)
“*The Other Grace*,” Holly Phillips (*In the Palace of Repose*, Prime Books)
“*La Peau Verte*,” Caitlin R. Kiernan (*To Charles Fort, With Love*, Subterranean Press)
“*Two Hearts*,” Peter S. Beagle (*F&SF* October/November 2005)

Anthology

Adventure Vol. 1, Chris Roberson, ed. (MonkeyBrain Books)
The Fair Folk, Marvin Kaye, ed. (SFBC)
Nova Scotia: New Scottish Speculative Fiction, Neil Williamson and Andrew J. Wilson, eds. (Crescent Books)
Polyphony 5, Deborah Layne and Jay Lake, eds. (Wheatland Press)
Weird Shadows Over Innsmouth, Stephen Jones, ed. (Ferdogan & Bremer)

Collection

20th Century Ghosts, Joe Hill (PS Publishing)
In the Palace of Repose, Holly Phillips (Prime Books)
The Keyhole Opera, Bruce Holland Rogers (Wheatland Press)
Magic for Beginners, Kelly Link (Small Beer Press)
To Charles Fort, with Love, Caitlin R. Kiernan (Subterranean Press)

Artist

Kinuko Y. Craft **James Jean** **Dave McKean**
Edward Miller (Les Edwards) **John Jude Palencar**

Special Award, Professional

Susan Allison and Ginjer Buchanan (for Ace Books)
Lou Anders (for editing at Pyr)
Peter Lavery (for Pan MacMillan UK/Tor UK)
Chris Roberson and Allison Baker (for MonkeyBrain Books)
Sean Wallace (for Prime Books)
S. T. Joshi and Stefan Dziemanowicz, eds. (for *Supernatural Literature of the World: An Encyclopedia*, Greenwood Press)

Special Award, Non-Professional

David Howe and Stephen Walker (for Telos Books)
The Friends of Arthur Machen (for *Faunus, Machelialia*, and *The Life of Arthur Machen*) <www.machensoc.demon.co.uk>
Rodger Turner, Neil Walsh, and Wayne MacLaurin (for *SF Site*) <www.sfsite.com>

Leo Grin (for *The Cimmerian*) <www.thecimmerian.com>
Jess Nevins (for *The Encyclopedia of Fantastic Victoriana*, MonkeyBrain Books)

PARSEC AWARDS NOMS

Nominations have been announced for this year’s Parsec Awards <www.parsecawards.com> for SF and fantasy podcasting. Winners will be announced at Dragon*Con, to be held 1–4 September 2006, in Atlanta GA. The nominees are:

Best Fiction (Short)

“*Absolution Insured*,” Variant Frequencies, Matt Wallace
“*Hero*,” Escape Pod, Scott Sigler
“*Legacies*,” Brief Glimpses of Somewhere Else, Daniel Emery
“*The Trouble with Death Traps*,” Escape Pod, Daisy James
“*Truth Is*,” The Seanachai, Patrick McLean

Best Fiction (Long)

7th Son: Descent, J. C. Hutchins
Brave Men Run, Matthew Wayne Selznick
How to Succeed in Evil, The Seanachai, Patrick McLean
Infection, Scott Sigler
Morevi: Chronicles of Rafe and Askana, Tee Morris and Lisa Lee

Nina Kimberly the Merciless, Christiana Ellis

Best Audio Production

The Falcon Banner, Chris Snyder
The Future And You, Stephen Euin Cobb
The Seanachai, Patrick McLean
The Signal, Jill Arroway
Virgin Falls, Jeff Folchinsky

Best Writing Podcast

Holly Lisle On Writing, Holly Lisle
The Secrets, Michael A. Stackpole
The Survival Guide to Writing Fantasy, Tee Morris

Best Audio Drama (Long)

Children of the Gods, Cmack
Dismay, Sean McMinn
The Falcon Banner, Chris Snyder
Mister Adventure, Rich Sigfrit
The Stargate Café, Planet Retcon

Best Audio Drama (Short)

“*Decoder Ring Theatre*,” Stephanie Bickford, Andrea Lyons, and Gregg Taylor
“*Family Radio*,” Sound Stages
“*The Hoff*,” Planet Retcon
“*The Radio Adventures of Dr. Floyd*,” Grant Baciocco and Doug Price

Best Fiction (Non-Speculative)

Candy,” The Seanachai, Patrick McLean
“*Death of A Dish Washer*,” The Seanachai, Patrick McLean
“*The Great Puzzle*,” Brief Glimpses of Somewhere Else, Daniel Emery
“*Outsourcing a Chicken*,” The Seanachai, Patrick McLean
Port City P.D., Charles Stewart, Jr.

Best Fan Podcast

Kick Ass Mystic Ninjas, Summer Brooks, Joe Murphy, and David Moldawer
PotterCast, John Noe and crew
Requiem of the Outcast, Rich Sigfrit and Earl Newton
The Scapecast, Kevin Bachelder, Lindy Rae, and crew
The Signal, Jill Arroway, Les Howard, Kari Haley, and crew

Best News Podcast

The Future And You, Stephen Euin Cobb
Geek4x4, John M. Campbell
Requiem of the Outcast, Rich Sigfrit and Earl Newton
Sci Fi News, Lynne Gryphon
The Warp Zone, Patrick Murphy and Chris Murphy, with

“Gaming Guru” Rusty

SAPPHIRE AWARDS

Nominees have been announced for the 2005 Sapphire Awards by Speculative Romance Online <www.specromonline.com>. The Sapphire Awards honor published speculative romance authors with a readers’ choice process. The nominees are:

Sapphire Award for Best Speculative Romance Novel

Dark Lover, J. R. Ward
Sins of the Night, Sherrilyn Kenyon
Warprize, Elizabeth Vaughan
A Taste of Crimson, Marjorie M. Liu
Master of the Moon, Angela Knight
The Ravencliff Bride, Dawn Thompson

Sapphire Award for Best Speculative Romance Novella

“Road of Adventure,” Robin D. Owens
“Forever Mine,” Linda Winstead Jones
“Knightly Dreams,” Sherrilyn Kenyon
“The City of Cries,” Catherine Asaro

Letters of Comment

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

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

14 July 2006

I just found the June ish sitting in a stack of zines and no note that I have responded, so... With any luck I now have a portable typer... well, a modern one — an old laptop that I have finally made compatible with the desktop computer so I can actually type away from the desk. Ah, the more things change...

Gee, guess I have not been paying attention — I noticed online some email by “Bug” and guess I just did not connect the name with the TAFF winner — argh, bhad fan... bhad fan. You would think (or at least hope I would) I would pay more attention. So — congrats “Bug” and here’s hoping your visit across the Pond is a ghooed one. Enjoy the Worldcon!

What is the base t-shirt color? Although I do not go to cons, I think about adding to the shirt collection — but I have decided the lighter colors all show cat influences way to quickly — so I tend to hunt for those on black shirts. Just though I’d ask.

I’ve located a few of the shorter Hugo nominations online — but I will have to remember to go look at the *Whyte* site you mention.

Another RIP — rich brown. The list for LA, of those we have lost this year, is going to be a long one.

Not that it is of much interest outside the local area, but two of the three major electricity suppliers are dramatically raising their prices (one by about 75% and the other close to 50%) — my supplier, I am told, will be going the same route in a year or so. Combine that with the prices of gasoline and if the budget was not already stressed, it surely is now. Agh — I have not had a reason to replace windshield wipers for a verry long time and just did — was amazed to find they no longer are packaged by the pair and the couple of bucks for two is now long gone — agh, just waay out of the times. I am going to have to look and see if there are any inexpensive matinees around since I would like to see a few of the sf (or *sfish*) movies out there now but not at the almost double digit prices I have seen. Then I see the digital sign for the *Motel 6* place down the road — so they can

change the prices frequently — and see it is up to almost \$60/night — and realize that I have not even *looked* at the worldcon hotel rates — ah yes, yet one more reason not to make the trip. For those of us, like the government, living on deficit spending, one needs to plan digging such deep financial holes.

Okay, I waited long enough that I now have the July ish to hand — so you get two for the price of one even though one is just a tad late! It is supposed to be the thought that counts, but nobody believes that!

Ah, looking at the listing of the primetime Emmy nominations — it is obvious that being cable-less I am at a disadvantage. As far as the series go, I can now just wait for them to show up in the Netflix list. True, I’ll only be about a year out of date, but one can’t have everything.

Do you happen to know if both *Surface* and *Invasion* were dropped? Neither had any resolution, so I was hoping...

Hmmm — I don’t know the physics, but I am not sure I would automatically rule out a 108 foot bird being able to get lift — with their hollow bones, their density is not all that great. I’d guess it might be possible, but I would not want to bet a lot on it. I thought, there for a moment, that the Thunderbird was going to mention trying to gather the dust and reconstitute it to gems and gold — guess my mind is wandering toward the materialistic.

I thought I had located an Internet thread that had Bridget Bradshaw’s address, but when I poked around, found someone had posted some information for her... and that it went to a journal listing. Um... er... since I do not spend much time online, I was not all sure of the etiquette surrounding writing in — so I backed out the way I had entered. I just wanted to wish her the best of travels and a wonder-filled Worldcon.

You mention crossover between types of cons — I know a lot of fen like mysteries — do you happen to know if the same sharing is true with their conventions and sf? Just curious.

Now I have to remember to get the Hugo ballot filled out. I usually try to donate one or two pieces for the TAFF/DUFF auctions — but this year I have not gotten ideas for the small pastel pieces I usually work up. Well, there is still time, but it means I might have to actually sit down and *work* at it.

So — happy summertime to all — and to those heading to LA — safe travels — and don’t forget to send in a conreport to the *Shuttle*!

[Con t-shirts come in a variety of colors depending on the convention; ours are usually an array of medium-to-dark shades (including black) — we think white-ink silk screens look best on darker shirts. I watch relatively little genre television, so I have no first-hand knowledge on the fate of either *Invasion* or *Surface* but I believe that both were canceled. That’s not always final — shows do get picked up occasionally by other networks, but that’s pretty rare. I also have no direct knowledge of crossover between mystery cons and sf cons, but I have one tiny hint — next year’s DeepSouth-Con (to be held in conjunction with OutsideCon) has a theme of “All things Holmes.” Yeah, I know that detective fiction and mystery fiction aren’t *exactly* the same thing... -ED]

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

Ensign (Psych) Hrobben Gud Fiello (aka Puck) 28 July 2006
c/o <pieeyeddragon@yahoo.com>

First off, PED is alive.

PED left June 21, the day before her birthday, to investigate the Java disturbances. Mt. Merapi had erupted May 13,



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following killer earthquakes. Then four undersea quakes on July 17 triggered a tsunami that killed more.

July 20 at 1704 GMT, Gamera blasted up out of Vatanajokull at full burn. She crossed the north pole and headed south over the Pacific.

It was a long, long way to Indonesia.

For six thousand years, PED has been watching for the Gyaos monsters of Mu to make an appearance. In recent years, with help, many dormant nests have already been eliminated. At least one was missed. PED sent the warning and attacked.

Christmas Island, south of Java, is an Australian territory. It is also the top of an old seamount. It's largely a tropical rain forest with many birds and crabs, surmounted by the mountain peak. To the unfortunate short Jotuns who get assigned there as watchers, it's hell. The last one who got a bad batch of Total Eclipse (TM) Sun Block SPF 277 got petrified while mountain climbing.

When Gamera finally arrived, PED was down; along with nineteen of the monsters. The remaining four gave plenty of damage to Gamera before they died. Even immature, their

sonic beams can cut through anything.

Five suicidally brave Merfolk and Kelpies also died, trying to help PED.

The Jotun wizard corps finally arrived to do some memory erasures, sanitize the area and pick up the pieces — literally, in PED's case. Three legs were off and the tail was half-severed along with numerous smaller slices. They got her loaded onto Gamera's back for transport back here.

Surgery was a problem. PED has a lot of magic resistance, so we had to stitch. Making holes for sutures was difficult until Gamera started poking them with her claws.

PED was awake, and transferred the scepter to the Crown Princess despite Atali's advanced pregnancy.

"May you live in interesting times." - Old Chinese Curse.
 Keep laughing. It's the best medicine.

[Interesting Times indeed. I'm glad for this update about PED, since it'll probably be months before the next installment of his Middle-Earth adventure runs in the *Shuttle*. This issue is over-full, and next month will be the Worldcon issue. -ED]