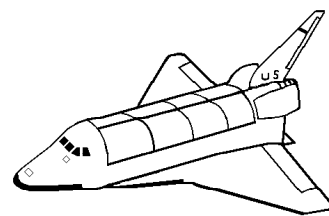


The



SHUTTLE
December 2006

The Next NASFA Meeting is 16 December 2006 at the Regular Time and Location

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next **NASFA meeting** will be **Saturday 16 December 2006** at the **regular time and location**. The program will be a random gift exchange. Bring one or more (inexpensive) gifts if you want to participate.

The December After-The-Meeting Meeting (aka Christmas Party) will be at Sue Thorn's house — 147 Garden Brook Drive in Madison. Call her at 256-325-8616 if you need directions.

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

Miscellaneous News

SFWA GOES GUNNING

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America has announced that James Gunn has been selected as the next SFWA Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master inductee. Selections are made by the SFWA Board of Directors and past presidents. The award will be presented during the 2007 Nebula Awards Weekend, to be held in New York, 11–13 May 2007.

Previously-named Grand Masters include Robert A. Heinlein (1974), Jack Williamson (1975), Clifford D. Simak (1976), L. Sprague de Camp (1978), Fritz Leiber (1981), André Norton (1983), Arthur C. Clarke (1985), Isaac Asimov (1986), Alfred Bester (1987), Ray Bradbury (1988), Lester del Rey (1990), Frederik Pohl (1992), Damon Knight (1994), A. E. van Vogt (1995), Jack Vance (1996), Poul Anderson (1997), Hal Clement (1998), Brian Aldiss (1999), Philip José Farmer (2000), Ursula K. Le Guin (2003), Robert Silverberg (2004), Anne McCaffrey (2005), and Harlan Ellison (2006).

BAB 5 UNIVERSE EXPANDING

Warner Home Video has announced plans for a direct-to-DVD *Babylon 5* movie. The movie, titled *Babylon 5: The Lost Tales*, will consist of two stories to be written and directed by series creator J. Michael Straczynski. Bruce Boxleitner (President John Sheridan), Tracy Scoggins (Captain Elizabeth Lochley), and Peter Woodward (Galen) are said to be set to appear.

Production has apparently already begun, with release projected to come in 2007.

JACKSON FORCED OUT?

In a posting on <theonering.net>, director Peter Jackson has announced he will not be directing *The Hobbit* or a possible *Lord of the Rings* prequel. The project is said to be moving
(continued on page 2)

Inside this issue...

NASFA Calendar	2
Minutes of the November Meeting	3
NASFA Receivables	3

TV Land 100 Greatest Catchphrases	4
Book Review by Nic Brown	4
<i>No Need for a Ring</i> — Chapter 10	5
Letters of Comment	6

Deadline for the January 2007 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 5 January 2007.

November Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary, and Your Source for Candy Showers

The November meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, November 18, 2006 in the BookMark upstairs meeting room at 6:21:32P by President Mary Ortwerth and the crickets.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Sam got two emails from Starship Lexington. They have a new Trek fan film series that needs assistance to fill the following positions as soon as possible: producer, associate producer, director, and director of filmography. These are non-paid, nonunion positions, due to Paramount legal constraints, but they do offer prerelease, special edition DVDs. They give an email address and phone number where they can be contacted. They also have additional open positions, including executive CGI producer, animation special effects team, video/audio editors, web designers, and programmers. So, if you can afford to move out of state to take on a full-time job (at least!) for absolutely no pay, you're their guy.

In October, Sam got an email from Craig Howarth, a freelance artist who wants to know if we need children's book illustrations or other art pieces. He left an email address, an international phone number, and a web address.

Anita has been corresponding with Bill Savage, who was a NASFA member in the mid-80's. He's planning to move back to the Huntsville area soon, and would like to attend our meetings. Anita will see him on Monday.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

For Program Director, Doug nominated Bruce Butler, who declined. Doug then nominated Jack Lundy, who also declined.

Sam moved to open nominations. (Yes, Doug jumped the gun.) The motion was seconded, and unanimously approved.

Anita nominated Marie Ortwerth for president, which caused some confusion, until we all realized that she meant Mary Lampert. Sam seconded the nomination.

Anita nominated Mike Kennedy for Vice President. Sam seconded.

Doug nominated Sam Smith for Treasurer, and was seconded.

Doug nominated Steve Sloan for Secretary, and was seconded.

Mary nominated Doug Lampert for Program Director.

While distracted by scrambling to take all this stuff down in the minutes, Steve threw a bag of candy across the table, showering people on the other side.

Doug nominated Jeff Freeman for Programming.

Anita nominated Amanda Freeman for Program Director, and was seconded. She didn't know what the job entails, so we described some of the previous programs we've had.

Marie nominated Doug Lampert for Publicity, which was seconded.

Anita nominated Jeff Freeman for Publicity.

"Any other nominations?"

Marie seconded Amanda's nomination as Program Director.

Sam moved to close nominations, and was seconded. We'll continue nominations next month. To recap, the current slate of nominees is:

President Mary Lampert
Vice President Mike Kennedy
Secretary Steve Sloan
Treasurer Samuel A. Smith
Program Director Amanda Freeman, Jeff Freeman
Publicity Director Doug Lampert, Jeff Freeman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jack talked about the Bailey Cove Book Club, which meets on the first Thursday of every month, at the little library branch on Bailey Cove. At December's meeting they will be discussing *Dragonflight* by Anne McCaffrey.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

According to Amanda, we need more creative people participating in next year's Con†Stellation Masquerade. You have a whole year to think of something. If you don't have a costume for your idea, just ask, and one will be provided for you. Some ideas came out of the last Dead Dog Party. We'll need a barbershop chair at next year's Masquerade, to make one of those ideas happen.

According to Sam Smith, the last Con†Stellation lost about a thousand dollars.

Amanda realized this was probably a bad time to borrow money to buy a barber chair. Steve hinted at why we would want one.

The meeting adjourned at 6:43:47P.

Doug made a programming announcement. Because Mike Kennedy wasn't at the meeting, we won't be watching the *Call of Cthulhu* video. So, we'll just adjourn early, and go on to Mike Kennedy's house for the After-the-Meeting Meeting.

NASFA Receivables

by Randy B. Cleary
additional reporting by Mike Kennedy

NASFA received the following items. Select issues are discussed.

ConNotations, Editor: Stephanie Bannon; P. O. Box 62613, Phoenix AZ 85082; <editors@casfs.org>; \$20/six issues — This is the bi-monthly science fiction, fantasy and convention newszine of the Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society printed on tabloid size newsprint with regular columns of media news, reviews for TV, movies, books, and conventions. The April/May 2006 issue featured a conversation with Dennis McKierman, an article in memory of Octavia Butler Rufo, and more. The June/July 2006 issue featured a conversation with L. E. Modesitt, Jr., an essay on 40 years of Star Trek, a Nebula Awards Photo montage, and more. The October/November 2006 issue included an interview with Jacqueline Lichtenberg and Jean Lorrain, photos from San Diego Comic-Con, and a preview of a talk by James Sallis.

De Profundis, Editor: Milt Stevens, 11513 Burbank Boulevard, North Hollywood CA 91601; 818-760-9324; <www.lasfs.org>; \$10/year (PDF versions at <bardgold.home.comcast.net/deprof.html>) — This fanzine is the official newsletter of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society. Issues 395, 399-402, 405, and 406 contain the club calendar, club minutes, and the usual.

Fanzine Fanatique, Editor: Keith A. Walker, 6 Vine Street, Lancaster, LA1 4UF, England — This zine consisted of a review of the Concussion convention.

File 770, Editor: Mike Glyer; 705 Valley View Avenue, Monrovia CA 91016; 626-305-1004; <Mikeglyer@cs.com>;

\$8/five issues — This fanzine is focused on news about and of interest to fandom. Issue 145, October 2005, has 49 pages of informative tidbits, con reports, and many illustrations and pictures. There are also many LoCs.

FOSFAX; Editors: Timothy Lane and Elizabeth Garrott; P. O. Box 37281, Louisville KY 40233-7281; \$4/issue — Published on behalf of the Falls of the Ohio Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, this issue, 212, December 2005, contained 76 pages of political commentary, book reviews, con reports, illos, and more.

Nice Distinctions, Editor: Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine Street, Yonkers, NY 10704-1814; 914-965-4861; <hlavaty@panix.com>; <www.livejournal.com/users/supergee>; <www.maroney.com/hlavaty>; \$1/issue — Issue 13 of this personal zine had six pages of discussion of various topics: health, politics, books, and philosophy. Issue 14 had six pages of discussion of various topics: health, oppositional defiant disorder, book reviews, and the International Conference on the Fantastic. Issue 15 was again six pages, with more on politics, books reviews, an essay on the nature of fandom, several obituaries, and more.

OASFiS Event Horizon, Editor: Jaun Sanmiguel, 1421 Pon Pon Count, Orlando FL 32825; 407-823-8715; <sanmiguel@earthlink.net>; \$12/year — This is the newsletter for the Orlando Area Science Fiction Society. Issue 220, December 2005, Issues 225–227, May–July 2006, and Issues 230–231, October–November 2006 contain four to twelve pages of club news. Issue 224 had a Megacon report. Issue 225 discusses Anime video making. Issue 230 had a long review of this year’s Worldcon.

Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin, Editor: Randy B. Cleary, 138 Bibb Drive, Madison AL 35758-1064; 256-772-3826; <rbccleary@bellsouth.net>; <www.southernfandom.com>; \$15/year — The June 2006 newsletter of the Southern Fandom Confederation contains convention reports on Chambanacon, Chattacon, Concave, and MidSouthCon, plus fanzine listings, southern fandom news, and letters of comment.

What’d He Say Again?

Cable TV network TV Land has selected their list of the 100 Greatest TV Quotes and Catchphrases. How did genre shows do in the list, you ask? Not bad, actually, though only one related item cracked the top 10 (not counting real-science quote — “One small step for [a] man...” — which came in at number 2, right after “Here’s Johnny!”).

OK, so it’s a little stretch to call *The Flintstones* genre-related, but only a little. Anyway, Fred Flintstone’s signature “Yabba dabba do!” was number 9 on TV Land’s list.

Perhaps not surprisingly, *Star Trek* (in a couple of incarnations) made the list. Kirk’s original series voiceover “Space, the final frontier...” placed 14th while Spock’s “Live long and prosper” was not too far behind at number 22. Bringing up the rear, at number 93, was Picard (in his Borg persona) intoning “Resistance is futile” from the Next Gen series. There’s also former Trek actor William Shatner in another spot on the list, but one can’t really count *Boston Legal* — or the character Denny Crane repeatedly saying his own name — as sf-related, even if it did come in at 76th.

For anthropomorphic fans, we have Ren (from *Ren & Stimpy*) with the number 82 item “You eeediot!” and any number of bad guys proclaiming “...if it weren’t for you

meddling kids!” to the *Scooby Doo* gang (at number 37). Two anthropomorphic commercials also made the cut, number 59’s “Silly rabbit, Trix are for kids” and number 31’s “It keeps going and going and going...” (Energizer Batteries).

Also in the vaguely-related category are “Would you believe?” (Maxwell Smart in *Get Smart*) in 39th place and number 24 “De plane! De plane!” (Tattoo, *Fantasy Island*). What, you thought they used *science* to grant fantasies? Naaah, had to be magic ;-)

More solidly, there’s Fox Mulder’s “The truth is out there” from *The X-Files* at number 84 and David Banner’s “Don’t make me angry...” from *The Incredible Hulk* at number 56. (Yeah, it should have been Bruce Banner, but we’re talking about the TV show, not the comic book.)

Then there’s number 53, occupied by a large number of related “Holy fill in the blank, Batman!” from Robin. Number 49 is an all-time favorite, “You rang?” as voiced by Lurch on *The Addams Family*. Finally, another classic came in at number 48 on the list, with *Lost in Space* Robot’s oft-heard “Danger, Will Robinson.”

So, counting all the marginal cases above that puts the count for genre-related quotes and catchphrases at about 15 out of 100.

Connect the Dots

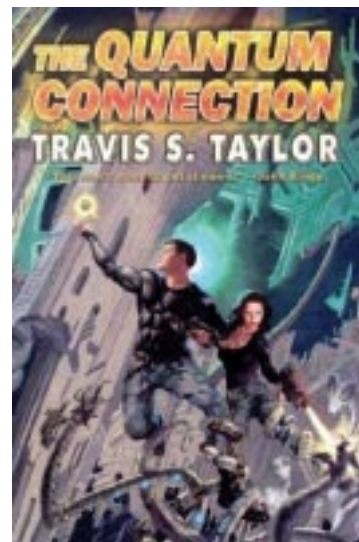
a book review by Nic Brown
<www.Bmoviemanager.com>

The Quantum Connection, by Travis S. Taylor, Baen Books, paperback, 1 January 2007, ISBN 1416521003, 432pp, \$7.99 (hardback, ISBN 0743498968, \$24.00)

Doc Taylor’s second solo novel, *The Quantum Connection*, follows on in the same world created by Taylor in *Warp Speed*. This time however, the novel doesn’t center around Dr. Clemons and his associates. Instead, Taylor introduces the reader to Steven Montana, a character whose life was profoundly changed by the events in the first book although we never new he existed in the first story.

Taylor shows Steven as a very human character. He’s a computer geek who finds that his whole family and all his friends have died as a result of a rain of meteors that killed millions around the world (readers of *Warp Speed* know the real story there). The first third of the book follows Steven’s ups and downs as he deals with this, with life, and finally with a great opportunity to work for a government think tank reverse engineering foreign and sometimes possibly alien technologies.

The relationship between Steven and his dog, Lazarus, is one of the most interesting and touching parts of this novel. There are two kinds of dog owners in the world, ones for whom the dog becomes one



of the family, and those for whom the dog is just another possession. Lazarus becomes Steven's only family, and a stabilizing force for him as he deals with erratic mood swings that the doctors tell him are part of dealing with his tremendous loss. Taylor's story uses the relationship between Steven and Lazarus as an underlying influence that helps guide Steven's actions and it allows the reader to understand his actions when tragedy does strike.

Of course at this point the novel sounds more like *Old Yeller* than a sci-fi action story, but the buildup of Steven's relationship with Lazarus is important to this story. Taylor blends this element neatly into the plot right along with the aliens, super-technology, action, and adventure that the book's cover art suggests. The move into the "meat" of the story is actually quite sudden as the book shifts gears radically with the introduction of the before-mentioned aliens and more advanced technology. This also leads to Steven's introduction to Tatiana, a young daughter of a Russian diplomat to the U.N. who is in almost the same situation. Their relationship provides the impetus for emotional growth that all the high-tech cannot.

As has become a trademark with Taylor's work, the technology becomes a driving force in the story. Unlike *Warp Speed*, which focused on the possibilities of faster-than-light travel, the technical focus in *The Quantum Connection* is nanotechnology and the theory of the quantum connection (hence the title of the book) between all things. Taylor brings the reader into these concepts through Steven's own process of discovery and as the human's understanding of the alien technology expands, so does the reader's understanding of the underlying concepts behind it.

I'm not big on giving away a lot of the story, you should read the book for that! But I will say that some of the most interesting scenes in the book involve the interaction between Steven and Tatiana and the principle characters from *Warp Speed* as the desire to protect Earth from an alien threat brings them together. The initial meeting is fraught with misunderstanding since Steven and Tatiana are using alien technology and another high speed battle ensues that lays waste to a good portion of Earth's moon base before it is all resolved.

Taylor's blend of imaginative characters, technology, and an optimistic view of humanity's potential make for a very good read. There is plenty of action and suspense to keep you turning the pages, but in the end the thing that makes *The Quantum Connection* stand out is not the science (and oddly enough, I do feel smarter for having read the book); it's not the action and adventure; it's the story of Steven and his dog Lazarus. Many times it is the simplest things that have the most profound effects on a person and in this case one could say that it was a man's love for his dog that saved the world. I recommend you check out *The Quantum Connection* for yourself and see what I mean.

The Elf and I; or, a Princess of Wars

No Need for a Ring — Chapter 10
by PieEyedDragon

I'm hungry. I've eaten all my old skin and it calls for the presence of more regular sustenance. Also, I am quite literally full of energy just now, after sucking in the mobile flammables from the coal mine.



ping

Well, I wanted to be seen, and let my supposed infamy be known far and wide. Someone is ranging me. I affect not to notice. It came from somewhere out eastward, not very close.

Time to go fishing. I spread my wings and lazily take to the air; heading west toward the sea.

— O — O — O —

Ranger Walker considered the farseer and frowned grimly. This monster was six and one quarter feet tall, and twenty feet long. Which would be worse — a second dragon, or one rapidly growing dragon?

— O — O — O —

The sun is low and west of the mountains when I land; moderately full and carrying a few extra large fish. I roar for my keepers, who appear quickly. I let them take one of the fish for their own. I retire to the mine and sleep for two days. When I come back out, they come forth and ask if I need anything. I allow as how I might be interested in some meat of a different sort — fixing them with my stare. They cringe back. I remark that I'm not currently interested in goblin-fruit. Do they know of anything else around here that might be convenient? They go into a huddle and say their chief has a captive elf. They were going to ransom her but they couldn't find anyone to present the demand to. I express a vague interest, especially if she might *also* be a virgin. They snicker, knowingly. The chief had planned a going-away party for her if she *had* been ransomed. This would change things.

Two days later, before dawn, the goons show up again. They are bickering and arguing; and two of them are toting a carrying pole from which a slight bundle hangs.

PED: And what have we here?

Mozzish: The elf, Your Wyrmholeyness! The Chief was reluctant to part with her; but finally decided this was the best investment.

PED: Unwrap the goodies, then. Go take shelter and return when I call.

Goons: Yes, Your Wyrmholeyness!

— O — O — O —

The elf is more dead than alive. I carefully pick her up with my mouth and carry her inside. Reaching a wider place, I put her down and pour some water onto her face. She splutters, weakly. She's very short, four feet tall at most.

PED: My name is Palantíri Eä Daedeloith — "PED" for short. What is your name?

Elf: ...blasphemy.

PED: Your name is Blasphemy?

Elf: No, yours is.

PED: So you say. What would you know about it?

Elf: What does anything matter. I'm going to be eaten.

PED: Not just yet; and maybe not at all... *if* you would rather live.

Elf: I have nothing to live for; no people — and no more dancing. I tried to run. (She looks down at her legs. Her left foot

is small and dirty. Her right leg ends at ankle, heel, and an unhealed wound.)

PED: Please answer my question.

Elf: Eä. That was the *word* of Creation. Melian told me. She was there. Her husband, Thingol, was an Elf. He had been west of the Sea; and seen the light of the Two Trees before they were destroyed. His eyes... (She looked now at my eyes. Something about them bothered her. Some quality that was... familiar?)

PED: Never mind. You've made a beginning. Now, tell your name.

Elf: Mee.

PED: Yes, you. Who else?

Elf: That *is* my name — Mee.

PED: You, and your name, have diminished. What was your name and family?

Mee: My brother was Denethor. He led us across the mountains into Beleriand. In Menegroth they welcomed us as distant kin. They gave us Ossiriand, the land of seven rivers. My brother was lord thereof until the goblin soldiers of Morgoth killed him and the rest of my near kin. We had no lords thereafter, and kept to the woods. Our father was Lenwë. I was Meena... Menathoris: nominal princess of the Green-elves.

PED: So, you are one of the Green-elves of Ossiriand.

Princess Mee: For a very long time now; I have been *the* Green-elf of Ossiriand.

— O — O — O —

I come to a decision.

PED: Princess, you were not part of my plans. Nevertheless, I shall do something for you that you may appreciate. (I cough out the contents of my stomachs: A box, a comb, a few gold and silver chains and armlets, an ear and a foot. I re-swallow the ear and the box; and hold the foot up against Mee's legs. It is in much better shape now. Good enough for a reattachment. She sees it and gasps. She shrieks as I rub her stump against my scales; making it raw and bloody. I press the foot to the stump and mutter healing charms I had learned. The edges reseal as the graft takes. It's only marginal, though, according to the disparate heat signatures. Her circulation must be boosted quickly. Some things I learned at school were not from classes; but from classmates. I had several very good friends among the shapeshifters, those who had mastered transformation spells, and a few others. I was socially quite popular. I begin blowing rhythmic puffs of warm air against Mee's upper thighs; adjusting the frequency and pressure as needed. Then my forked tongue flicks out. Once... twice... thrice.)

— O — O — O —

A long, thin scream drifts up out of the mine entrance, and reaches to the day shelter of the goblins.

Mozzish: *grinning* (To no one in particular) One for you, Snurley... and one less elf!

(Things aren't always what they seem!)

— O — O — O —

Princess Mee: Cruel beast! You spare my life, hurt me, heal me, and then... and then... (blushing scarlet).

PED: Birth is pain (I raise my left foreclaws) and death is pain (I interlock my right foreclaws with the left). They balance. With pain you were maimed... with pain you were healed. You are balanced. Wiggle your toes and try to walk. Do you hurt now?

Princess Mee: No. I am weak from hunger and... other things.

I scrape together a pile of earth and coal grit, add water,

and speak a simple spell. The fried apple pies are not the best I've ever made; but they are quite good. I eat seven, and the hungry little princess eats the other five.

The princess feels very alive and tingly, from the toes of both feet up to the hairs on her head. Seeing the comb by the dragon glow; she picks it up to use; and then stops. Studying the object; she sees the ornate monogram: an elvish L, and familiar. She had seen it before. She had seen this *comb* before! It belonged to...

Princess Mee: Lúthien Tinúviel! Where did you get this?

PED: I found these things not far away, on the bottom of the sea. It looked like an old river bed.

[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

Chris Garcia

16 November 2006

<garcia@computerhistory.org>

Another issue hits the Intarwebs and I'm on it like fen on the minor imperfections in popular media!

The note on the cancellation of the TAFF Race preceded the announcement of our running in the *Shuttle*. It's a strange world, but it also makes sense when you consider it was a race that I was involved in. I'm planning on running in 2007 for the 2008 Trip. It'll be interesting.

NovaCon was postponed. I might be able to make the trip this year with the relocated time. I'm always planning on making these trips, but I seldom get a chance, mostly due to time or money, but with no TAFF trip to save for or to take time off for, I can make more side trips.

I'd love to see *Last Girlfriend*. I make shorts (one called *The Last Woman on Earth* is at <medialab.ifc.com/film_detail.jsp?film_id=1285> and the SF film *The Chick Magnet* is at <redfootproductions.com/redfoot.asp?PageID=inCn0002&PickFile=2>). I usually watch a lot of shorts selecting films for Cinequest, but took this year off to concentrate on TAFF and writing incredibly many issues of *The Drink Tank*.

Enjoy *Call of Cthulhu*. I've never managed to see it, even though it's shown at five or six cons I've been at. The timing never worked out for me to get to see it. I love silent films, and I hear [...] *Call* is very very good. I must get around to seeing it.

Another strong issue from NASFA, but I expect nothing less.

[Well, we'd rather you come to Con†Stellation than NovaCon, Chris, since the former is sponsored by NASFA — but different strokes... (Con†Stellation is an all-volunteer general-interest sf convention. NovaCon is owned by DGA Games, a local Huntsville company, and concentrates on gaming and media.) The tipped-in insert about the TAFF cancellation was somewhat unusual for the *Shuttle*, but I felt the news was important enough to fandom to justify the adjustment to our usual production flow. If I'd gotten the news 12–16 hours earlier I'd have been able to incorporate it in the body of the issue. If you're interested, there's a download link for *Last Girlfriend* on <www.littlelostrobot.com>. It's a tiny bit gory

(zombies, duh) which I often forget when showing it to people — I think of it as a comedy and people expecting that are sometimes taken aback. (But then, a number of dark comedies are among my favorite movies.) There was a mixup over the location of the copy of *Call of Cthulhu* so we unfortunately didn't see it last month, even at my house when people came over after the meeting. It may still make an appearance as a program item at a future club meeting. -ED]

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

Lloyd Penney
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Canada M9C 2B2

3 December 2006

A quiet Sunday is a joy to behold, for it allows me to get a little caught up with writing. The fact it's a December Sunday usually means that I can indulge myself in activities like this one. Here's some quick words on the November *Shuttle*.

Well, so much for this year's TAFF race... Chris and Mary Kay will have to wait another year, what with the cancellation of the British convention one of them was to go to. Chris has had so much energy in this race, it's been amazing, but I am sure he will keep campaigning until fandom as a whole simply stuffs him in a box, and ships him to [the] British to rid of him for a while... :)

And, there's Yvonne's birthday listed... we do have plans to go out and party a bit, and have a quiet dinner with a present or two.

I believe that with the World Horror Convention coming to Toronto in 2007, I think the International Horror Guild will be awarding its IHG Awards for 2006 then. WHC has done some good work so far in getting its word out about its plans.

Hello to PieEyed again... I would very much enjoy an authorized further history of Middle Earth post-LotR. My favorite question at the end of a good story is, "And *then* what

happened?" The fact it's the end of the story never stopped me from asking that. Middle-Earth was such a fleshed-out, four-dimensional world, I enjoyed its history pre-Hobbit, and wanted more LotR.

Hello, Sheryl... I didn't see your loc until I came back from Rochester. The Trimblees were great in Anaheim, and just as good, if not better, in Rochester. We enjoyed their company, and I got to tell my story about sitting in the Trimblees' living room with Takumi and Sachiko Shibano way back in 1984 as the whole Trimble family was working away, getting mannequins and other things ready for the masquerade programming track at L.A.con IV. Which Canadian shows have been added to your Channel 20?

We are losing our friends very fast... Bob Tucker, Jack Williamson, and I shudder to think of who might be next. Stay healthy, all of you! I will endeavour to do the same... I will be seeing a retinal specialist tomorrow to confirm or deny suspicions on the part of my optometrist and ophthalmologist of a partially detached retina in my right eye. I hope treatment will consist of a few well-placed laser zaps, and nothing much more.

We wish you all a marvelous Christmas, Kwanzaa, Solstice, Hanukkah, and New Year. Choose what you like, or better yet, celebrate them all, and enjoy aspirin and Pepto-Bismol in the new year. Party on, dudes, and see you all in 2007.

[As you can see above, Chris has already proclaimed his willingness to stand for TAFF the next cycle, so perhaps we'll see how your "stuff him in a box" prediction works out... I'll confess I was a little surprised to see that the IHG Awards were given this year at World *Fantasy* Con. Was there some disagreement between the International Horror Guild and the 2006 World Horror Con, or is there no previous connection between the organizations, or what's the story? I see on the 2006 WHC web site that presentation of a Grand Master Award was scheduled as part of their Opening Ceremony in San Francisco, but apparently that's not an IHG award. -ED]



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