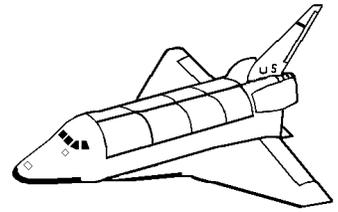


The



SHUTTLE  
February 2007

# The Next NASFA Meeting will be 17 February 2007 at the Regular Time at the NEW BookMark Location

## 🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next NASFA meeting will be **Saturday 17 February 2007** at the **regular time** and the **NEW regular location**. BookMark has *moved* and the NASFA meeting has moved along with it. BookMark's new location is in the Huntington Shopping Center, about 2 miles south of their former location. That's the southwest corner of Memorial Parkway and Meadowbrook Drive — 11220-J South Memorial Parkway SW, Huntsville AL 35803.

The February program will be a discussion of the new show *The Dresden Files* <[www.scifi.com/dresden](http://www.scifi.com/dresden)> (Sunday nights on the Sci Fi Channel). The title of the program is "Sci-Fi P.I. or P.U.?"

The February After-The-Meeting Meeting will be at Adam and Maria's house — 2117 Buckingham Drive SW, Huntsville AL 35803-2017. Directions should be available at the meeting.

## News Roundup

### RIP LEE HOFFMAN

Renowned fan Lee Hoffman died 6 February 2007 at age 74, reportedly of a heart attack.

Hoffman — an early fanzine fan — took advantage of her gender-ambiguous first name to deliberately let many people believe she was male, then used that to great advantage to surprise (among others) Bob Tucker at the 1951 Worldcon (NolaCon). You can read that story in the 1997 *Southern Fandom Confederation Handbook*, online at <[www.smithuel.net/sfchb/hbp4sil.html](http://www.smithuel.net/sfchb/hbp4sil.html)>.

Among many other achievements (including sf, western, and romance author; prozine editor; fanzine publisher), Hoffman founded *Science-Fiction Five-Yearly* which has published an issue every half-decade since 1951. The latest issue, #12, appeared in November 2006 with Hoffman as editor emeritus (as she had been since issue #10). You can see *SFFY* #12 online at <[www.efanzines.com/SFFY/SFFY12.pdf](http://www.efanzines.com/SFFY/SFFY12.pdf)>.

Lee was given the Rebel Award — some would say quite belatedly — at DeepSouthCon 25 in Huntsville in 1987.

### WORLDCON UPDATE

Nippon 2007, the 65<sup>th</sup> Worldcon, has published their *Progress Report Four* and announced several deadlines. The progress report is said to have been mailed (though not all may have been received at *Shuttle* press time). It includes the Hugo Nomination Ballot.

Speaking of the Hugos, the deadline for nominations is 3 March 2007. Members of both Nippon 2007 and last year's Worldcon (L.A.con IV) may vote. Votes can be sent in by mail

(continued on page 2)

### Inside this issue...

NASFA Calendar .....	2
Minutes of the January Meeting .....	3
Media Awards Roundup .....	4

Academy Awards Nominations .....	4
Golden Raspberry Awards Nominations .....	4
<i>No Need for a Ring</i> — Chapter 12.....	5
Letters of Comment .....	5

**Deadline for the March 2007 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 2 March 2007.**

(using either the ballot in the progress report or the equivalent printed from the web site) — or one can vote online. You will need a PIN from the progress report mailing label to vote online. The deadline for final Hugo voting will be 15 July 2007. Only Nippon 2007 members may vote in the final round.

Deadlines for Site Selection (for the 2009 Worldcon) have also been announced. Bidders for that convention must file the appropriate papers with Nippon 2007 by 3 March 2007. Once the ballot becomes available, the deadline for Site Selection voting will be 15 July 2007.

Nippon 2007 will be 30 August–3 September 2007 at the Pacifico Yokohama Convention Center in Yokohama Japan. Author Guests of Honor will be Sakyo Komatsu and David Brin. The Fan Guest of Honor will be Takumi Shibano. Artist Guests of Honor will be Yoshitaka Amano and Michael Whelan. Further information about the convention can be found online at <www.nippon2007.us>.

### THE DRINK TANK

Loccer Chris Garcia has sent work that the Second Annual Giant Sized Annual Issue of his zine, *The Drink Tank*, is available online at <www.efanzines.com/DrinkTank/DrinkTank115.pdf>. The issue's 27 pages are packed with contributions (articles, LoCs, and art) from Ed Green, Mark Valentine, Vanessa Van Wagner, Leigh Ann Hildebrand, Kurt, Selina Phanara, Brad Foster, Harry Bell, and more. (And, oh yeah, stuff from Chris himself, too.)

### LotR ONLINE GAME

Game publishers Turbine Inc. and Midway Games Inc. have announced that they plan to bring J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* further into the digital age by launching a massively multiplayer online game based on that epic. The game is titled *The Lord of the Rings Online: Shadows of Angmar*.

Players will be able to create characters from "the four good races" — humans, elves, dwarves, and hobbits. Characters based on races of "the forces of evil" will not be available to players, nor will they be able to step into one of the main roles from the Tolkien mythos.

Turbine holds licenses for Tolkien's literary works (including *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*). They are reportedly taking pre-orders for subscriptions and granting early access to the game so the first players can create characters and "enter Middle-earth" as early as 30 March 2007 — versus the official launch date of 24 April.

## NASFA Calendar

### FEBRUARY

- 01 National Freedom Day.
- 02 Groundhog Day.
- 08 BD: Lin Cochran.
- 08 Thursday Movie at the Main Library — *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*.
- 09 BD: Jack Lundy.
- 09–11 CorFlu — Austin TX.
- 10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.
- 11 BD: Jeanna Woosley.
- 12 BD: Abraham Lincoln.
- 14 Valentine's Day.
- 16–18 Furry Weekend Atlanta 2007 — Atlanta GA.
- 17 BD: Nancy A. Cucci.

- 17\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: *The Dresden Files*, "Sci-Fi P.I. or P.U.?" . ATMM: Maria and Adam's house.
- 18 Chinese New Year.
- 19 President's Day (Observed).
- 20 Tuesday Movie at the Main Library — *Forbidden Planet*.
- 21 Ash Wednesday.
- 22 BD: George Washington.
- 24 Flag Day.

### MARCH

- 02 BD: Ronnie Lajoie.
- 09 BD: Tracey Kennedy.
- 09–11 Stellarcon 31 — High Point NC.
- 10 BD: Kerry Gilley.
- 11 Daylight Savings Time begins.
- 13 BD: Anita Eisenberg.
- 14–18 International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts 28 — Ft. Lauderdale FL.
- 15–18 NovaCon — Huntsville AL. **Note new dates.**
- 15 BD: Carlo DeShouten.
- 16–18 FantaSciCon 2007 — Chattanooga TN.
- 16–18 CoastCon 30 — Biloxi MS.
- 17–18 MomoCon 2007 — Atlanta GA.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day.
- 17\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
- 20 First Day of Spring (21<sup>st</sup> UTC).
- 22 BD: Jayson Woosley.
- 22–25 AggieCon 38 — College Station TX.
- 23–25 MidSouthCon 25 — Memphis TN.
- 30–02 Costume-Con 25 — St. Louis MO.

### APRIL

- 01 April Fool's Day.
- 01 Palm Sunday.
- 02 Passover Begins.
- 05–08 Frolicon — Atlanta GA.
- 07 BD: Mary Ortwerth.
- 08 Easter Sunday.
- 13–15 Middle Tennessee Anime Convention — Nashville TN.
- 15 BD: "Uncle Timmy" Bolgeo.
- 16 Income Tax Day.
- 20–22 RavenCon 2007 — Richmond VA.
- 20–22 ShowMeCon 5 — St. Louis MO.
- 21–22 Atlanta Comics Expo — Atlanta GA.
- 21\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
- 21 BD: Randy B. Cleary.
- 22 Earth Day.
- 25 Administrative Professionals' Day.
- 26 BD: Chloe Airoldi.
- 27 Arbor Day.
- 30 BD: Mark Maxwell.

### MAY

- 01 BD: Russell McNutt.
- 03 BD: Martha Knowles.
- 13 Mothers' Day.
- 14 BD: Debbie Hughes.
- 16 BD: Linda Bolgeo.
- 18–20 Mobicon X — Mobile AL.



## Media Awards Roundup

The early awards have been announced in this year's TV and Film awards season. Genre works — while not shut out completely — have not done particularly well. Genre works were completely shut out in the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Screen Actor's Guild Awards (Sunday 28 January 2007), despite four nominations on the TV side.

### GOLDEN GLOBES

The 64<sup>th</sup> Golden Globe Awards were given out on Monday 15 January 2007 (and broadcast on NBC). Out of eight noms in the Film categories, genre films came away with two wins. *Happy Feet* took the Original Song trophy for "The Song of the Heart" while *Cars* won for Best Animated Film. Out of seven noms in the TV categories, genre shows came up dry.

### PRODUCER'S GUILD AWARDS

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual Producer's Guild of America Awards were presented on Saturday 20 January 2007. Two genre works had received nods in the Episodic Television, Drama category but did not win. On the Film side, all five of the Animated Theatrical Motion Pictures nominees were genre, so a genre win was inevitable — *Cars* came out on top.



## Oscar Noms Released

Nominations for the 79<sup>th</sup> annual Academy Awards, aka the Oscars, were announced Tuesday 23 January 2007. Nominations for most of the awards are made by members of only the relevant branches of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. All members may then vote on the final winners (though they are required to view all the nominated films before voting in certain categories). Winners will be announced Sunday 25 February 2007 at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre, with the ceremony televised live on ABC at 7P Central. More information can be found online at <[www.oscar.com](http://www.oscar.com)>.

Genre films are reasonably-well represented among the nominees, though they didn't get any nods in the headliner Best Actor/Actress, Supporting Actor/Actress, or Best Director/Picture categories.

Leading genre films with six nominations was *Pan's Labyrinth* (Picturehouse) — recognized in the Art Direction, Cinematography, Foreign Language Film, Makeup, Original Score, and Original Screenplay categories. *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* (Buena Vista) got four nods, in Art Direction, Sound Editing, Sound Mixing, and Visual Effects.

*Children of Men* (Universal) could walk away with up to three golden statues, in the Adapted Screenplay, Cinematography, and Film Editing divisions. *Cars* (Buena Vista) settled for only two noms, for Animated Feature Film and Original Song ("Our Town," Randy Newman).

Six other genre-related films received one nomination each — *Click* (Makeup), *Happy Feet* (Animated Feature Film), *Lifted* (Animated Short Film), *Monster House* (Animated Feature Film), *No Time for Nuts* (Animated Short Film), and *Superman Returns* (Visual Effects).

## Razzies Noms Announced

Do you love bad movies, or just need a counterpoint to the Oscars? Then the Razzies are for you. Nominations for the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Golden Raspberry Awards have been announced. The dishonors will be awarded at a ceremony to be held 7:30P at Hollywood's Ivar Theatre on "Oscar Eve" — Saturday 24 February 2007. "Winners" receive a gold-spray-painted, golf-ball-sized raspberry mounted on a mangled super 8 film reel and advertised as having "an estimated street value of \$4.97." More information can be found online at <[www.razzies.com](http://www.razzies.com)>. You can even become a Razzies voting member and help select the "winners" yourself.

Genre films often do "well" in the Razzies nominations and this year is unfortunately no exception, though both the "top" two films (with seven nods apiece) were non-genre — *Basic Instinct 2* and *Little Man*. However, most of the other films receiving more than one nomination were genre-related films (basically horror and fantasy films this year).

*Bloodrayne* eclipsed other genre films with six noms, in the Worst Picture, Worst Actress, Worst Supporting Actor, Worst Supporting Actress, Worst Director, and Worst Screenplay categories.

Both *WickerMan* and *Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause* were close

behind with five "honors" each — with *Wicker* recognized in the Worst Picture, Worst Actor, Worst Screenplay, Worst Remake, and Worst Screen Couple categories and *Clause* called out in the Worst Excuse for Family Entertainment, Worst Actor, Worst Supporting Actor, Worst Prequel or Sequel, and Worst Screen Couple categories.

*Lady In The Water* got four nominations, for Worst Picture, Worst Supporting Actor, Worst Director, and Worst Screenplay. *The Shaggy Dog* received three nominations, in the Worst Excuse for Family Entertainment, Worst Remake, and Worst Actor categories. *Garfield 2: A Tail Of Two Kitties* received a possibly-symbolic two nods, for Worst Excuse for Family Entertainment and Worst Prequel or Sequel.

Five other genre-related films received one nomination apiece — *The Omen* (Worst Supporting Actor), *Scary Movie 4* (Worst Supporting Actress), *Superman Returns* (Worst Supporting Actress), *Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning* (Worst Prequel or Sequel), and *Zoom* (Worst Actor).



# Rider in the Storm

No Need for a Ring — Chapter 12  
by PieEyedDragon

I break up through the clouds, and the world looks much different. The waxing moon is bright enough to make the snow clouds look so much like a fluffy mattress. That moon, like the sun here, is also a construct; shining by its own light on one side. The other side had been darkened by too close passage to the sun, and singed like the ship of Eärendil that brought me here.

Princess Mee: That man back there. He saw us.

PED: That's why I flew over him. I chose to let him see me, again. He has been watching me for days. He is unlikely to tell any goblins about your escape!

Princess Mee: Who do you suppose he is, then?

PED: A Man, alone, in winter, staying a few miles from a goblin stronghold, is either a suicidal idiot or a brave and loyal servant of some worthy Lord. He must also be fairly well supplied. That rules out most idiots.

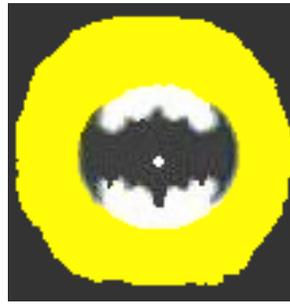
(My wing muscles are already getting sore. Since I have started growing everything is stretching into unfamiliar configurations. My flight is a little ragged. I will need to land soon for a rest. The princess will no doubt need to stretch herself, too!)

Flying southeast, we come to the River Lune and parallel it for a while. Spotting a promising sand bar, I land beside it and help the princess to dismount and cover up with the cloak and blanket. I wash off the coal mine smell and swim around until I find a couple of good-sized fish. I eat one and bring the other to my rider. Her actions prove she has no problem with raw fish.

Morning is not far off when we finally reach the northernmost of the Hills of Evendim. Going on to the next one, I search for signs of habitation to avoid. I locate a low bluff and settle in at its base. The princess wraps up next to the rock face and I curl around her. Laying a few branches and leaves on myself for physical camouflage, I alter my external coloration somewhat and go into mime mode. I become as difficult to see, for what I am, as any tiger standing still in a field of tall yellow grass. My bath helped somewhat about telltale scents, too. The princess keeps reasonably still throughout the day. Her people were very woods-wise.

There is no place for fishing here. When full dark comes, I do my little trick with dirt and some maple leaves. These pies taste more like oatmeal, but no one complains. I could easily make a fire but consider a cold camp to be much wiser, under the circumstances. We mount up again and fly for several hours south; following the line of hills until they begin to give out. We camp as before, being even more careful. We are not far from the borders of the Shire, and hobbits are very good at not being seen. My senses give me an edge in this situation but, there being no convenient crowd of dragons (and short elves) to blend into, paranoia was warranted in keeping our presence a *dead* secret. On the other side of these hills lies Lake Evendim. Annúminas, the rebuilt capital of Arnor, also lies in that direction. The Dúnedain, too, are good at hiding!

I wait out this day, as before, and keep waiting until moonset. Then we set off southeast. I soon begin discerning small fires and smoking chimneys, fallow fields and flocks of sheep, goats, cows, and chickens. I press on. Hours later I reach the Baranduin and turn south. I spot the place where a smaller river flows into it, and turn northeast to trace this one backward



through a dense forest. There is a little low fog, close along the river course.

I begin brushing against some wispy somethings that are not quite there. I think of tendrils of sea-anemone and jellyfish. There are sudden downdrafts, and at the same time the fog ahead quickly thickens and boils upward. With the next crosswind/downdraft combination, the princess's safety line parts with a *snap*! She screams and begins falling free toward the trees below. I duck my head and release a jet of flame that propels me down and under her. She grabs the harness with both hands and holds on as the blanket is lost in the darkness below. I rocket upward until we are above the region of the airy tendrils.

This forest just tried to murder a forest elf: someone under my protection! That is a fatal mistake.

I recognize the tendrils now for what they are: magical twig-extensions of a tree... a willow tree... a *particular* old willow tree! Non-evergreen trees should be dormant this time of year. I have my current side-errand to take care of, so I whisper into the wind: "Please be patient. Great Sickle Tree Trimming Service will get back to you as soon as possible. We will make all necessary payment arrangements. Good night."

— O — O — O —

The little river comes down a series of thickly-wooded slopes and plains. I finally fly up over a low waterfall, beyond which the forest ends quite sharply. A faint track becomes a white chalky path bordered with stone. It winds up onto the top of a grassy knoll. Down again the path went, and then up again, up a long smooth, gentle hillside of turf. There now was a house before us, up, down, under hill; with signs of garden areas and a stable and farmyard nearby. Behind it a steep shoulder of the land lay gray and bare, and beyond that the dark shapes of the Barrow-downs stalked away into the eastern night. Several paths wind away from the house, which is still dark. I am getting very tired and sore. I land beside the path and we settle in for the rest of the night. A *power* lives here, and it is better to await the dawn.

[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  
<garcia@computerhistory.org>

18 January 2007

Always good to see a new issue of *The Shuttle*. It's like a little ray of sunshine... only posted on the web!

BASFA has been at the same location for a bunch of years. There have been folks who have shown up at the old location (used up until 2001 or so) as recently as last year. We just had our big local con move this year, so it will be interesting to see how many folks just show up at the old hotel. I love these things!

That's a great list of 1950's films. I wish our Library would do a film series like that. My Mom's a librarian, so I

should tell her to make it happen!

The Shat's at Space Camp. It just seems so right. I always love it when people who are associated with space science fiction show up at real space-related things. My all-time favourite was Leonard Nimoy popping by NASA Ames Research Center and hanging out in the centrifuge.

If you ever get a chance to read LASFS's minutes of their meetings, they are a hoot. Martin Young did a wonderful send up of me when I was supposed to visit and had to cancel. Funny, funny stuff.

Hmmmm... I think that's a strange list of considered pieces for the Nebulas. Then again, I've never quite understood them. I get the Hugos, I get the PKDicks, I ever understand the Prometheus awards, but I just don't make the connect about the Nebulas.

No critically praised genre films in 2006? *V for Vendetta* did very well with most critics, as did *Children of Men*. OK, other than those two, there were no critically loved genre films... unless you're talking about noir.

Lots of coverage on the dozens of awards that drop this time of year. It's impressive that every group seems to put out their own list. Every year, in my other life as a wrestling writer, I give out awards on <fanboyplanet.com>. I just did it for fun and last year I saw that one of the wrestling magazines had quoted me! One of the films that should be mentioned as being a strong success is Frank Wu's *Guidolon* movie. It's a short that's played around the world and managed to win at the New York Indy and Conestoga Film Festivals. It's a wonderful film... even if I am the voice of the lead.

[You're right, Chris, that I overlooked *Children of Men* when I made the comment you quote, but *V for Vendetta* is in a class that could be labeled "yeah, they sort of liked it but there's no way anyone is giving it a major award" — so I don't feel at all bad about omitting it. The Nebulas are, in many ways, a prime example of the difference between peer and popular awards. The things that writers like about books (or directors about movies or artists about paintings...) are often not the same as the things liked by readers (or viewers). Juried awards might have more in common with peer awards, but of course it depends at least in part on the makeup of the jury. For an example of the disconnect between the taste of *juries* and popular taste — in the "mundane" world — is the popular disdain ordinarily shown to winners of the Turner Prize. For an example of the difference between *peer* and popular awards, compare the Oscars or Emmys to the People's Choice Award winners. -ED]

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

Puck  
c/o <pieeyeddragon@yahoo.com> 28 January 2007

The dragon is out.

We need to raise a crippled ship without incinerating half of Europe and North America, and raising global sea levels with what used to be the Greenland and Arctic ice packs.

PED is investigating a magically charged Scottish lake, which has a resident Merfolk population. She is looking for, ah, "But *that* may become *another* story!"

Sir Lloyd has a filthy mind; he reads the details between the lines. That might even be the way it happened. PED chose to be discreet and vague about "tender loving care." The energy (fire) was not why PED was growing. She had been holding at,

for lack of a better term, "pre-adolescence," for several centuries. She was now set to face seven dragons, all of whom were bigger. She made a deliberate choice to mature and grow, and so started eating larger portions of fish (and less usual mineral fodder). The winter temperatures of upper Middle-earth were bothersome. The animal kingdom has certain ways of dealing with cold: fur (not available without a major spell), feathers (PED knew feathered beings and knew of various problems), antifreeze (major blood chemistry adjustments), and increased mass (whales, mammoth, bears, etc.). The feather option would not have been terribly difficult but that had other, critical, drawbacks: PED's scaly hide contains trace amounts of elements that are rare, very rare, or almost downright nonexistent. I might name Orichalcum, the Actinide series, and that group of supernova-baked semi-stable transuranics we call "Dragonite." Feathers are made to be shed and lost. Molting and consuming the old skin conserves those rare elements. This also limits opportunities for half-baked sorcerers, with more chutzpah than common sense, to try and cast control spells using cast-off scales or feathers.

Go ahead, laugh!

[Yes, I can imagine that dragons would feel uneasy about leaving bits of themselves lying about — say, in the form of feathers. Anyway, Puck, wish PED our best with her Scottish quest. -ED]

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

Lloyd Penney  
<penneys@allstream.net> 3 February 2007  
1706-24 Eva Road  
Etobicoke ON  
Canada M9C 2B2

I've got another issue of the *Shuttle*, so it's time to say hello again, and to make some remarks, see what I've got to say, opinionated git that I am...

First of all, congratulations on the new slate of Directors. Once you've got some experience under your belt, this might be something good to put on your resume. But then, who knows what the boss will dump on you...

Groundhog Day was yesterday, and the various groundhogs I know of, Punxsutawney Phil, Shubenacadie Sam, and the one closest to me, Wiarton Willie, all said we'd get an early spring. And if we don't... well, groundhog might become an endangered species. At least, those three will be endangered... I'd like to see a list of all weather-prognosticating groundhogs.

Hello to PieEyed... got your e-mail, and while I have been accused of that several times, I am not (on purpose) a dirty old man. Some things just come naturally. Mee does have a charmed life, although PED wouldn't ordinarily eat anyone... would he/she/it? I guess goblins are expendable. Who is looking for Mee, and who wants to do her harm? The Ranger? Stay tuned, I guess...

I still want to see a *Hobbit* movie, and I'd rather see the *LotR* team create it, to make it look relatively identical to the *LotR* movies. However, what I'm wishing for may not take place. Let's hope that arbiter Chris Garcia is talking about works fast.

Yvonne visiting on the 19<sup>th</sup>? No, Chris, December 19<sup>th</sup> is her birthday. However, she'll be in Dallas, Texas for the 2007 International Space Development Conference Memorial Day weekend, and if we can swing it financially, I might be able to

go, too. I am finding that space conferences have just as many fanboys and star-struck characters as science fiction conventions; it's just that they're expected to dress better. Dockers and polo shirts are *de rigueur* for those conferences, and I will probably have to bring a suit with me.

My loc on my eyes... it is the beginning of February and I had an appointment with the operating ophthalmologist... the right eye is healing nicely, and my left eye shows no signs of degeneration for now, so I seem to have dodged the bullet on this one, and I can now go out and get a new prescription and new glasses. Sigh of relief, believe me. I will be visiting with the doctor every three months from now on, just to make sure nothing nasty is left undetected.

I agree with you on *B5*... the cohesive story arc made it great, and it was supported by interesting characters. I guess my anticipation comes from something I've said in these pages before, that the last television series I watched with any level of regularity was *Babylon 5*. I know I've missed some of the

sequel movies, and I would very much like to see this one.

Made the page, so I will wrap it up. Hope the weekend's been fun for all, and I start at least a week of jury duty on Monday. Colour me not pleased. Take care, and see you next month.

[Technically, it's a new slate of Officers — those are elected every year whereas our Board of Directors is mainly a requirement of being incorporated and we normally replace those only on rare occasion. (Our Directors do, of course, have the mandatory two meetings a year and obey all the other required rules.) As for weather-predicting groundhogs, there are dozens I'm sure. Alabama even has one — Smith Lake Jake at the Birmingham Zoo. I went to one ISDC, well sort of. Back in 1993 HAL5, the local chapter of the National Space Society, hosted the conference and a number of us in the local sf community helped a bit around the edges. I'm glad to hear your eyes are doing well. -ED]



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