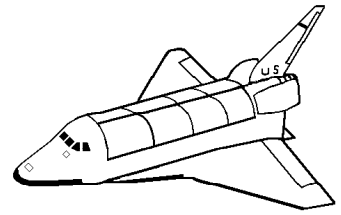


The



SHUTTLE  
March 2007

*The Next NASFA Meeting is 17 March 2007 at  
the Regular Time and New Regular Location*

## 🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next NASFA meeting will be **Saturday 17 March 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 March program will a showing of the 2005 silent movie *The Call of Cthulhu*. The movie will be shown at the After-The-Meeting Meeting location, Mike Cothran and Marie McCormack's house — 210 Vincent Road SE, Huntsville AL 35802-2330. Directions will be available at the meeting.

## News Roundup

### YET ANOTHER CHATTANOOGA CON

Another convention has been added to Chattanooga's already-somewhat-crowded sf convention calendar. Con Nooga — a "multi-genre convention" — has been announced for 22–24 February 2008 at the Chattanooga Choo Choo. More information can be found online at <www.connooga.com>.

Con Nooga joins Chattacon (January <www.chattacon.org>), FantaSciCon (March <www.fantascicon.com>), YeoGaCon (gaming, April <www.warhorn.net/yeogacon2007>), LibertyCon (July <www.libertycon.org>), and HallowCon (October <www.hallowcon.com>).

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**Deadline for the April 2007 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 6 April 2007.**

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## BOSTON GLOBE TOP 50 LIST

It's not exactly news, since the list was posted almost two years ago, but you might want to check out the *Boston Globe's* list of what they think are the Top 50 SF television series of all time. The list (which you can see at <[www.boston.com/ae/tv/gallery/topscifishows](http://www.boston.com/ae/tv/gallery/topscifishows)>) elicited a fair amount of discussion recently online, with many possible omissions and some, er, odd inclusions noted. Check out the list and judge for yourself.

## February Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The February meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, February 17, 2007 in the BookMark upstairs meeting room at 6:19:55P by President Mary Ortwerth. The crickets had to be shaken awake, and only worked while upside-down.

### OLD BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

Mike Kennedy gave a brief treasurer's report, in lieu of treasurer Sam Smith. There are no new financial statements to report, because they're sitting at someone's house. Sam is currently "stuck" in Orlando.

### CONVENTION BUSINESS

Alabama A&M has published their football schedule, so we can now plan dates for Con†Stellation around it.

Sam needs a flyer, a final date, and membership rates from the con chair, Marie, to put on the web site. The membership rate is top priority, because that can be set without a date. Please pass that on to Marie.

The tentative date is still the weekend of October 12.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Kennedy has free admission to the 2007 Building, Home, and Remodeling Show. Manda asked for it first, so she got it.

The History Channel has a series of Star Wars-, Star Trek-, et-cetera-themed shows coming up this week. Apparently, it's future history. We digressed into a discussion of exactly what Star Wars' "long, long ago in a galaxy far, far away" actually means, in terms of when the movies are set.

Mike Kennedy read the usual list of spam emails the club gets.

Jim@AllGamesList.com invites the Con†Stellation site to sign up as part of their games list web site. Con†Stellation has been on their list in the past. It's probably free, but someone should make sure before we agree.

Dracul466 ("two blocks down from the Beast") invited us to join the Southeastern Sci-Fi and Fantasy Con web ring.

SEPS (the Southeastern Paranormal Society) offered to give a presentation, probably at the convention. They're local "paranormal investigators," a.k.a. "ghost-hunters."

We got an email from consortium.staff@gmail.com. Consortium is a Denver-area group, possibly with with "delusions of grandeur." They want to provide services to other conventions, such as guest contacts, staff contacts, printing, badges, flyers, advertising, custom graphics, web design, etc. for a fee. Their mailing went out to everybody and their brothers, sisters, wives, what have you. They apparently don't know the difference between a professional convention and a fan-run volunteer convention.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42:12P.

The program was a discussion about *The Dresden Files* TV show. Those club members who had read the books it is based on were at least somewhat disappointed with the show so far. There are several differences between the books and TV series, and we speculated on the reasoning (if any) behind them.

The After-the-Meeting Meeting was held at Adam Grim and Mia West's house.

## NASFA Calendar

### 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. **DELAYED: the date has changed again, this time to an unspecified November weekend.**
- 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, at BookMark. Program (at ATMM): *The Call of Cthulhu*. ATMM: Marie McCormack and Mike Cothran's house.
- 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.
- 15 BD: Amanda Freeman.
- 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 Airoidi.
- 27 Arbor Day.
- 30 BD: Mark Maxwell.



Beware of friends bearing gifts.  
Or maybe not.

I received a surprise package from Baen Book's Toni Weisskopf the other day, with a bound uncorrected proof of *One Jump Ahead* by first-time novelist Mark L. Van Name. He's not a novice *writer* mind you — he's published a few short stories and has a long history of technical writing in the computer field — but a novel is of course a very different thing. Van Name is a Southern, er, boy (not so much of a boy given the length of his tech writing career) which is the reason that Toni cites for bringing him to the *Shuttle*'s attention.

*Jump* is in the well-established tradition of military sf. Since that's not particularly my cup of tea (though there have been notable exceptions) I might not be the best choice to review the book but I wasn't about to let that stop me from trying. The novel is a first-person story of Jon Moore — a man who is literally more than meets the eye — and, to a lesser extent, Lobo, an AI-run "Predator-class assault vehicle."

Jon is a man with a past, part of which he wants to keep well hidden even while trading on other aspects of it. He makes a living as a soldier of fortune with a reputation built in part on his experience in a private militia and in part on a history of success. What he doesn't want people to know is that his success is based to a significant degree on being the only survivor of an otherwise-disastrous experiment in combining humans and nanotechnology. He's spent many years working primarily alone by the beginning of *One Jump Ahead*, and probably doesn't think of himself as taking on a partner when he meets and acquires Lobo early in the novel. I'm not entirely sure if Van Name thinks of Jon and Lobo as partners, but by the end of the novel there are certainly indications that they could become so. (With, I must say, Lobo as very much the junior partner.)

The specifics of the missions and mixups that Jon (and Lobo) go through in *One Jump Ahead* are not really relevant to this review. To a degree they are pretty standard-issue action-adventure — the planning, fighting, scheming, mistakes, and ultimate successes are well plotted but hardly surprising. One early event in particular sets up (fairly obviously to the reader — who after all gets to be omniscient) the main conflict of the latter part of the book. What's more important than the details is that Van Name keeps the story moving with interesting style; rewarding the reader for continuing to read.

Which is not to say this is a perfect book. I don't know enough about what happens between an uncorrected bound proof like this and the final version, but this one could use an editor's hand. Some of the glitches could be fixed by a decent copy editor but there are a few points in the book that jarred enough to risk suspension of disbelief. Hopefully someone at Baen will take enough of a hand with Van Name to make some changes before the final book hits the presses.

Would I buy another book by Van Name based on *One Jump Ahead*? Possibly. In *Jump*, Van Name lingers overlong on the details of combat for my taste, but redeems that somewhat by also spending time examining the inner life of his protagonist. (For other people's taste, he'll be seen as spending too long on that aspect.) Baen has announced as forthcoming another "Jon & Lobo" novel — *Slanted Jack*, presumably based on the short story of that same name — and there are hints of a thriller in work by Van Name, possibly unrelated to *Jump*. I'll certainly at least give *Slanted Jack* a look when it comes out.

## Media Awards Roundup

### OSCARS

The 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Academy Awards were presented Sunday 25 February 2007 in a ceremony broadcast on ABC. Genre films had been nominated in 14 categories and walked off with a not-completely-shabby 5 Oscars.

The big genre winner was the Spanish film *Pan's Labyrinth*, which won for Cinematography, Art Direction, and Makeup. *Pan's* had been the top genre nominee also, with six noms. It lost in the Foreign Language Film, Original Score, and Original Screenplay categories.

In the Animated Feature category, penguin flick *Happy Feet* scored the win. *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* took home the Visual Effects trophy. *Happy Feet* had only the one nomination, but *Pirates* had also been nominated in the Art Direction, Sound Editing, and Sound Mixing categories. One other multi-nom genre film, *Children of Men*, struck out, going 0-for-3.

### RAZZIES

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Golden Raspberry Award "Winners" were announced at a ceremony on Saturday 24 February 2007. Genre films pulled off a few "wins" but were knocked off the top of the heap by *Basic Instinct 2* which took home four trophies (Worst Picture, Worst Actress, Worst Sequel, and Worst Screenplay).

Despite a big-league 30 (!) nominations, genre films were shut out in most Razzie categories this year. Big genre "losers" included *Bloodrayne*, *Wicker Man*, *Santa Clause 3*, *The Shaggy Dog*, and *Garfield 2* — all of which went home "disappointed" despite multiple nominations. "Fortunately," the "honor" of genre films was, um, upheld by *Lady in the Water*, which came away with "wins" in both the Worst Supporting Actor category and the "coveted" Worst Director category. Interestingly, both wins were for the same person, as director M. Night Shyamalan had been unable to resist taking a role in front of the camera in *Lady*.

### BAFTAS

The 2007 Orange British Academy Film Awards were held on Sunday 11 February 2007 at the Royal Opera House in London and broadcast on BBC One. Genre films did quite well, with at least seven winners (see below), including two films that went home with multiple awards.

*Pan's Labyrinth* was top of the class with three wins, for Make Up & Hair, Costume Design, and Film Not in the English Language. *Children of Men* did well also, winning for Cinematography and Production Design.

Two other solidly-genre films won one award each, *Happy Feet* (Animated Feature Film) and *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* (Special Visual Effects). One possibly-genre-related film took what some would count as an eighth genre win, with *Casino Royale* copping the Sound trophy.

### GRAMMYS

The 49<sup>th</sup> annual Grammy Awards were presented Sunday 11 February (covering the eligibility year 1 October 2005 through 30 September 2006). Genre nominees (and one winner) did well in the three Film/TV/Visual Media categories.

*Cars* roared to the front with a nomination in the Best Compilation Soundtrack category and a win in the Best Song category (for "Out Town"). *The Chronicles Of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe* didn't manage a win, but did get two noms, for Best Song and Best Score Soundtrack. *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* received one

nomination, for Best Score Soundtrack.

#### AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CINEMATOGRAPHERS

Genre works made a clean sweep at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual American Society of Cinematographers Awards. At a Los Angeles ceremony on 18 February 2007 the ASC gave out awards in three categories, Theatrical Movie, Television Movie/Miniseries/Pilot, and Episodic Television. Cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki took home the Feature Film trophy for *Children of Men*. John Stokes won for “Umney’s Last Case” (from the miniseries *Nightmares and Dreamscapes: From the Stories of Stephen King*, TNT) in the Television Movie/Miniseries/Pilot category. David Moxness got the Episodic TV nod for the episode “Arrow” from *Smallville* (The CW).

## Little House on the Barrow Downs

### No Need for a Ring — Chapter 13

by PieEyedDragon

The sky over the hill to the east begins to grow gray. Small sounds filter out of the house, and the chimney smoke gets thicker. A door bangs, and then another. A pony nickers and a cow moos. Chickens cackle. A man is singing:

“Old Tom Bombadil is a merry fellow,  
Bright blue his jacket is, and his boots are yellow.  
Scratch with care, here and there, biddies; are you laying?  
Cluck, cluck, some corn I’ll shuck. Oh, you are just playing!

Hey, there, a morning fair. My bossy-girl is lowing.  
The fields are dry, my Lumpkin guy. Shall we do some plowing?”

The northerly breeze shifts and begins blowing toward the house. After a minute or so, a pony starts screaming. A cow bellows. Both sounds are followed by different sets of receding hoofbeats, and a man calling after them.

“Hey! now! Come hoy now! Whither do you wander?  
Up, down, near or far, here, there or yonder?”

A funny little fellow, about four feet tall, capers around a corner of the house and stops; staring at us. I stare back. The princess cowers down shyly in her cloak. The little man stares some more; and starts laughing!

Man: (Choking on laughter) I saw the first raindrop! I saw the first acorn. I saw the elves passing westward. But now; now, *I have seen everything!* A dragon, harnessed like a riding-pony; curled around a slip of an elf! There are tales here; besides the one with scales!

PED: Master Forn; you are keeping two ladies waiting out in the cold. What would Goldberry say?

Goldberry: (From the front door) She would say that Old Tom is confused. Come in, girl.

Tom: What about *this* one? She won’t fit! Should I offer the hospitality of a stable?

PED: Your pony and cow have run away. If I go near your farmyard, your chickens will fly south; for the millennium!

Tom: (Laughs) Lumpkin remembered some urgent business out on the downs. Elsie decided to go and help!

Goldberry: Bring that one around to the garden corner by the kitchen door. We’ll think of something.

— O — O — O —

Goldberry takes charge of the princess; tending to her

scrapes and bruises and giving her a new gown and a pair of shoes like fishes’ mail. Tom hangs a wide cloth awning from the roof over the kitchen window, and places woven reed mats for walls at the sides. I scrape together a pile of earth and work my charm of making pies. Nothing happens. I rather suspected this would be the case, within *this* creature’s domain: “Master of the wood, water, and hill.”

Tom and I discuss spring plantings. In the absence of the pony, I use my claws to break up the soil in the kitchen garden and one field. We look over the stored produce and I select a bushel of turnips (most of which I successfully transmute into horseradish for that extra spicy taste I prefer), and a peck of apples. Tom waves his hand then in front of his face; laughing about my “dragon breath!”

That evening, Tom, Goldberry, and the princess sit around a small table in the kitchen. With my head through the open window, I make a fourth.

Goldberry: Now let the tales begin! Let us sing together:  
“Of sun, stars, moon and fog, snow and freezing weather,

Frost on the sleeping bud, dew upon the feather,  
Wind through the leafless boughs, ice on the water:  
Old Tom Bombadil and the River-daughter!”

So the host and hostess sing songs of the land and the water. Princess Menathoris gives the comb of Lúthien to Goldberry; and tells of seeing that most beautiful of elves. Lúthien had worn the Nauglamír: the Necklace of the Dwarves, within which shone the light of...

The princess breaks off here; and stares once more at me... at my *eyes*... and their *light*. The *same* light that Lúthien had borne!

— O — O — O —

Princess Mee: Dragon... where did you behold a Silmaril?

PED: The ship was small. Eärendil wore it upon his brow. By the Will of Eru; Manwë, Lord of Winds, gave the order to Eärendil. “Travel this course; find Thunderbird, and bring it back here.”

Princess Mee: And what, or who, is Thunderbird?

PED: You’re looking at her, darlin’. It was my newest name. I am sent here as the Sickle of the Valar, to perform certain tasks. The name I have given myself is a subtle sign of my authorization. It is *not*, therefore, blasphemy. I suppose it is my turn, now. I will sing a song I composed for my mother.

“I’m shaped like a great turtle. I swim through many seas.

A fearsome grin: with Man’s children, I’m gentle as you please.

My watch is stood, for Mankind’s good: destroy great enemies.

No help to beg; I made an egg: She’ll scan the deep, when I must sleep.

No common monster: A weapon of war.

Transgenic construct: Project M.A.N.T.I.C.O.R.E.”

Master Tom, I am much younger than you; younger even than this elf. But I, too, am “Ben-adar”: Fatherless... but not Motherless.

Princess Mee: The goblins thought you were a servant of Morgoth.

PED: That is exactly what I want them to think... until it is too late. A dwarf went to the undying lands, and prayed for help against dragons. I am the answer to that prayer. I pretend to be what anyone here would expect a dragon to be: vicious, voracious, and vain. My true prey is not Man, nor Elf, nor Dwarf. I am an anti-dragon, dragon! I turned aside from my

mission to rescue you. Our hosts here will not spread news of me. Can you keep the secret... as long as necessary?

Princess Mee: ... Yes. I can, and I will.

Tom: Who's been telling such tales of us, then?

PED: A wizard of many names. A Maiar known in these parts as Gandalf.

Tom: What, then, did he say of me?

PED: That you were an enigma: not to be understood; just only accepted for what you are. Whatever that is.

[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

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

Sheryl Birkhead  
25509 Jonnie Court  
Gaithersburg MD 20882

17 February 2007

Greetings for the chilly Mideast (um — that doesn't sound right but you know what I mean — the *North* is *really* cold — my best wishes to them and their *10 feet* of snow).

I have 2 issues of the *Shuttle* sitting here and absolutely no excuse for not having replied. (Um, I would use the laptop — but it is a very old model and is very big/unwieldy for a portable — and Pudge wants to be in the middle, so hand scrawl it is.)

Somewhere I think I have the Nippon PR with the nominating ballot — need to find it since the interval is fairly short. Hope all who are eligible are nominating.

*Heroes* is doing (ahem) fantastically well. A lot of people (myself included) enjoy it. I gauge my interest by how anxious I am to watch (rather than tape) the show [...] — and this is one I'd rather watch on the first "go round." Yeah — Sylar!

So far, the award shows have (at least to *me*) not had any "sf-ish" surprises. I just saw *Cars* (courtesy of Netflix) and enjoyed it — the music was a nice addition.

I just watched (again courtesy of Netflix) *Lady in the Water* — agh — that was supposed to be a child's tale? Yeah, I know, fairy tales are pretty vicious, but *that* movie went beyond [the] level I expect for kiddie tales.

Ah — so that's a Razzie — how tall is it?

PieEyed — hmmm — willow tree (weeping? I can't remember the name of the car "eating" willow tree in Harry Potter...) you're right, should be dormant right now. (Ah for the awards I was just going to mention — Golden Globe/Emmys/People's Choice — but I see you already did.)

I agree with Lloyd — that I'd like to see a *Hobbit* film but via the same *LotR* team — and as he points out, this does not appear to be likely. We'll see (or maybe not...).

Thanks for thish(es)!

[I had a little trouble with your handwriting in the bit about *Heroes* so I may have misread your comment about Sylar. I do agree with you that *Heroes* is pretty good stuff... and several award shows agree with you about *Cars*. I believe that the picture of the Razzie we ran is a logo more than a dead accurate representation of what the award looks like — but it's reasonably close. The actual award is not very large; if I can find a decent version I'll publish the photo of Halle Berry accepting



her Razzie two years ago and you can see how it compares to her Oscar, which she's holding in her other hand. (I must say, Ms Berry showed a lot of class and a good sense of humor in showing up to get her Razzie (for *Catwoman*).) Speaking of the Razzies and of *Lady in the Water*, you may have noticed that it won two Razzies this year. -ED]

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

Chris Garcia  
<garcia@computerhistory.org>

14 February 2007

Another wonderful issue of the *Shuttle* pops in, but sadly it opens with the terrible news of the passing of Lee Hoffman. She was a majorly important part of fanzine fandom and her zines were incredible. She started *Science Fiction Five Yearly* in 1951 and kept doin' it herself into the 1970s. She'd had a rough few years healthwise, but was still a force. She'll be missed. There was a fair amount of tribute to her and Bob Tucker at CorFlu.

I voted in the Hugos and am glad to hear that Nippon 07 is going full bore. There was some talk early in the bid process that the Japanese Worldcon might not be able to keep the regular pattern going for voting and so on, but I always knew they'd have a strong committee and keep things movin'.

Thanks for the plug of *The Drink Tank*. Always glad to see those words in print... when I'm not the one typing them. I thought it was the best issue I've done yet with all those great folks steppin' up to give me their great words.

Must resist *LotR* gaming. Must resist. Will failing... failing...

The Oscar nominations were OK, but the fact that they overlooked the incredible performance of Hugo Weaving in *V for Vendetta* was seriously grievous. I mean without seeing his face he managed to get every drop of emotion out of every line. He had amazing physical presence and a subtlety that you rarely see.

*Bloodrayne* better win every Razzie it's up for. It was so terrible. Just plain old fashioned crap!

Can't wait for the March issue to hit the net!

[Sadly — at least for you — *Bloodrayne* was skunked in the Razzies. In fact, there were very few genre "wins" in the Razzies this year, as you can see elsewhere in this issue. The Japanese Worldcon *is* blazing new trails. A very few Worldcons have been in non-English-speaking countries (only Germany in 1970 and The Netherlands in 1990 come to mind) but this is the first one completely outside Western cultural traditions. From what I can gather they are so far managing to fulfill the core expectations of what a Worldcon should be/do, but of course much of that will depend on execution, the quality and completeness of which won't be evident until the con itself. I only wish I could be there to find out first hand. -ED]

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

Michael D. Glicksohn  
<mglick@interlog.com>

23 February 2007

I'd only heard about the death of LeeH the day before the *Shuttle* arrived. Yet another major contributor to the history of fandom (or my fandom, anyway) no longer with us. I only met her once, in Chicago when she was Fan Guest of Honour, but we were in an invitational apa together for a couple of years and I'm delighted to have seven issues of *Science Fiction Five Yearly* in my collection. (I wonder if there will be another issue, with LeeH gone but I suspect there will be, to honour her memory and the way she helped shape fanzine fandom.)

Not much else to react to in the issue. As I very rarely watch movies in the theatre (recent exceptions being *LOTR* and *Harry Potter*) I know nothing about the films up for Oscars or Razzies and probably will skip most of the awards show two nights from now. (I do enjoy the retrospectives of performers being honoured either in death or for longevity and Susan can call me downstairs to view those.) That'll give me a few extra hours to read which is always a delight.

All best wishes for now.

[I hate running obituaries in the *Shuttle* but I had no real choice with Lee Hoffman. She was, as you say, a major figure in fandom. As you probably know, issue 12 of *SFFY* was published late last year. An announcement on eFanzines, which is hosting that issue, says that "The present editors of SFFY have announced that the run of the fanzine Lee started so long ago is now complete" (see <efanzines.com/SFFY/index.htm>) so it appears that issue 12 will be the last (see <efanzines.com/SFFY/SFFY12.pdf>). -ED]

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

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25 February 2007

I'm making sure I'm not late this time... the deadline date

is the date of our own big SF litcon in Toronto, Ad Astra. Time to work ahead this weekend so I can party next.

There are so many of our big names passing away, Lee Hoffman being just the latest. We need to remember them, and honour them by being fans worthy of their names. Create, communicate, make the good times roll, and have fun, and just be the best fan you can. And, that's just the start.

The Oscars are being presented tonight, and to be honest, I'm underwhelmed. Not having seen any movies for some time, the excitement over these awards is noticeably lacking in the Penney household. The Razzies were announced yesterday, and if Sharon Stone's career was in trouble before, it's definitely dead now.

Greetings to PieEyed! This is another fine adventure you've gotten yourself into. Still sounds good, but there's not much happening here; lots of foreboding background. Much more yet to come, and looking forward to it. Dirty mind? Me? Well... that[']s what it sounded like...

Have any of you seen our crazy cold weather here? Groundhogs must die!! C'mon spring, hurry up already, I'm far too cold.

The International Space Development Conference is in May in Dallas... still don't know who's all going yet. The year after the 1993 ISDC in Huntsville was '94 in Toronto, which we were supposed to work on, but didn't due to lack of money and backbone on the part of the chairman. Yvonne tells me that Huntsville was expected to place a bid for 2007, but no bid came through, and that's why it's in Dallas this year.

Not much of a letter this time... must be the fact it's getting late on a Sunday night. Take care all, and see you next time.

[Well, I rather doubt that Ms Stone's Razzies will really have much effect on her career. Many big names have "won" Razzies over the years — as, of course, have other lesser-known actors, directors, writers, etc. While I haven't made a study of career arcs following Razzie "wins," I haven't noticed any of them skulking away in shame never to be seen again. Ronnie Lajoie would presumably know if Huntsville had been or is planning a bid for ISDC, but I only see him a couple of times a year so by the next time I do I'll likely have forgotten the question and thus won't ask him. Besides, if I did ask and if Huntsville is planning a bid, he might try to suck me in... -ED]



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