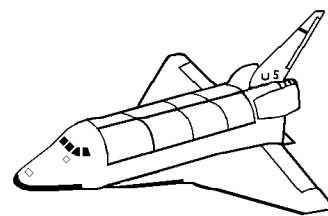


The



SHUTTLE July 2007

The Next NASFA Meeting will be 21 July 2007 at the Regular Time and the New Regular Location

Stay Tuned for the Next Concom Meeting

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next NASFA meeting will be **Saturday 21 July 2007** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **NEW regular location**. Meetings are at BookMark's new location in the Huntington Shopping Center (2 miles south of their old location) at the corner of the Parkway and Meadowbrook Drive — 11220-J South Memorial Parkway.

Watch your email for an announcement of the next Con†Stellation concom meeting.

The July program will be a group discussion on "Paranormal Public Relations" — how monsters and other paranormal beings have become the hot item, the hero, the tortured soul; one to be loved and even pitied, but not hated.

The location of the July After-The-Meeting Meeting is TBD at press time.

Worldcon Reporter Sought

The *Shuttle* is seeking an on-site reporter for this year's Worldcon, Nippon 2007. The issue after each year's Worldcon (typically the September issue) has traditionally included extensive coverage of the event, including one or more first-hand reports. When *Shuttle* editor Mike Kennedy can't attend the con himself, he can usually find someone fairly local to take over the on-site duties. With the convention being in Japan this year, efforts to date to find a reporter have been unsuccessful.

(continued on page 2)

Announcements and Info

This month we have three announcements of specifically local interest (including autograph sessions) and one for TAFF.

SIGNINGS AT LOCAL CONFERENCE

Toni Weisskopf sends word that John Ringo and Travis S. "Doc" Taylor will be signing at the 2007 Space and Missile Defense Conference <www.smdconf.org> at the Von Braun Center, Huntsville AL.

The conference is scheduled for Monday 13–Thursday 16 August 2007. Attendance for the entire conference sessions currently costs \$500 <www.smdconf.org/smdattendee.php>. Viewing of the exhibits and certain other events are free but one must still register either on site or at <www.smdconf.org/freeeventreg.php>. The conference and exhibition is sponsored by the National Defense Industrial Association (Tennessee Valley Chapter), the Army Space and Missile Defense Association, and the Air Defense Artillery Association (Huntsville Chapter).

The signings are scheduled for 9:30A Tuesday 14 August and 11:30A Wednesday 15 August.

SF MOVIES AT LIBRARY

The Main Branch of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library <hpl.lib.al.us> is running a second installment of their sf film series, "Keep Watching the Skies 2: Fifty Years of Hollywood Science Fiction." All films are shown in the auditorium at the downtown Huntsville library, at 6P, with a group discussion before and after each film. All but one of the films (*Dark City*) are on Wednesdays. *DC* is on a Thursday.

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Deadline for the August 2007 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 3 August 2007.

(Announcements and Info — continued from page 1)

The schedule is:

When Worlds Collide (1951) Wednesday 25 July

The Time Machine (1960) Wednesday 8 August

Andromeda Strain (1971) Wednesday 22 August

Blade Runner (1982) Wednesday 26 September

Dark City (1998) Thursday 11 October

War of the Worlds (2005) Wednesday 24 October

LIBRARY SF BOOK DISCUSSIONS

The Bailey Cove Branch of the HMCPL is continuing their monthly series of sf book discussion groups. The next meeting is scheduled for 6P Thursday 2 August 2007 and will discuss Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five*. The book for the Thursday 6 September meeting has not been announced as of *Shuttle* press time.

The Bailey Cove Branch is at 1409 Weatherly Plaza, Huntsville AL 35803, south of the corner of Weatherly Road and Bailey Cove Road. They can be contacted at 256-881-0257 or by emailing <bcove@hpl.lib.al.us>.

TAFF DEADLINE EXTENDED

Suzanne "Suzle" Tompkins (North American Administrator) and Bridget "Bug" Bradshaw (UK Administrator) have announced that the nomination deadline for the 2008 TransAtlantic Fan Fund race <taff.org.uk> has been extended from 16 July until 30 July to allow last minute candidates to get their paperwork and nominators.

The 2008 TAFF race will select a representative to travel from North America to attend Orbital 2008 <www.orbital2008.org>, the Eastercon (UK national convention) to be held 21–24 March 2008 near Heathrow Airport in London, England. Candidates for the race must provide five nominations from known fans (three North American, two European); a written platform, not to exceed 101 words; and a pledge that you will take the trip if you win (along with a nominal \$20 performance bond).

(Worldcon Reporter Sought — continued from page 1)

If you or someone you know is going to Nippon 2007 and would like to contribute to the issue, please contact the *Shuttle* at <nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org> or by snailmail c/o Mike Kennedy, 7907 Charlotte Drive SW, Huntsville AL 35802-2841.

Nippon 2007 will be held 30 August–3 September 2007. The normal deadline for the September *Shuttle* issue actually occurs *during* the convention. There is a small amount of leeway in the deadline, but the best way to get a report to us in time for to make it to press will likely be to send email from the convention — either on a daily (or other ongoing) basis or *very* shortly after the wrapup of the con. Reports need not be lengthy but should concentrate on your personal experience at the con and such factoids as may not be easily accessible online. (A fair amount of the "just the facts" stuff can likely be gathered from official... and semiofficial... and unofficial... convention sources.)

NASFA Calendar

JULY

01 Canada Day.

02 BD: Deb Stone.

04 Independence Day.

14 TimeGate 5 — Tucker (Atlanta) GA.

21* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: "Paranormal Public Relations." ATMM: TBD.

22 Parents' Day.

24 BD: Jay Johns.

25 Movie at the Main Library (6P): *When Worlds Collide* (1951).

27–29 LibertyCon 20 — East Ridge (Chattanooga) TN.

28 Alabama Comic Weekend — Huntsville AL.

29 Alabama Comic Weekend — Birmingham AL.

29 BD: Mark Paulk.

AUGUST

02–05 9th NASFiC/TuckerCon/Archon 31 — Collinsville IL (St. Louis area).

02 Baily Cove Library Book Discussion: *Slaughterhouse-Five*, Kurt Vonnegut.

03–05 Trinoc*coN 8 — Raleigh NC.

08 BD: Jim Woosley.

08 Movie at the Main Library (6P): *The Time Machine* (1960).

10–12 ConGlomeration 2007 — Louisville KY.

10–12 Armadillocon 29 — Austin TX.

12 BD: Sue Thorn.

14 BD: Edward Kenny.

18* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.

19 BD: Khen Moore.

21 BD: Deborah Denton.

22 Movie at the Main Library (6P): *Andromeda Strain* (1971).

30–03 Nippon 2007 (65th Worldcon) — Yokohama Japan.

31–02 Mephit Fur Meet — Memphis TN.

31–03 Dragon*Con 2007 — Atlanta GA.

SEPTEMBER

03 BD: David K. Robinson.

03 Labor Day.

06 Baily Cove Library Book Discussion: TBD.

07–09 DeepSouthCon 45/OutsideCon 20 — Burns TN.

09 BD: Mike Cothran.

09 Grandparents' Day.

11 BD: Ray Pietruszka.

12 BD: Pat Butler.

13 Rosh Hashanah.

14–16 Hub Con XV — Hattisburg MS.

15* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.

15 Games Day Memphis — Memphis TN.

17 Citizenship Day.

21–23 Anime Weekend Atlanta 13 — Atlanta GA.

22 Yom Kippur.

26 BD: Jenna Victoria Stone.

26 Movie at the Main Library (6P): *Blade Runner* (1982).

28–30 9th Annual Klingon Feast — Daytona Beach FL.

28–30 Atlanta Game Fest 12 — Atlanta GA.

OCTOBER

05–07 Necronomicon 2007 — Tampa FL.

05–08 Gaylaxicon — Atlanta GA.

08 Columbus Day (Observed).

08 Thanksgiving Day (Canada).

11 Movie at the Main Library (6P): *Dark City* (1998).

12 Columbus Day (Traditional).

12–14 Con†Stellation XXVI: Ophiuchus — Huntsville AL.

- naut trainer at Johnson Space Flight Center)
- Dr. James Rice (former staff member, current member of the Mars Rover Project at Arizona State University)
- Penny J. Pettigrew (Space Camp alumnus, currently working on the Ares program at Marshall Space Flight Center)
- Edward O. Buckbee (former Space & Rocket Center CEO, under whom Space Camp began)

LOCUS AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Locus Awards winners are selected by readers of *Locus* Magazine in the annual Locus Poll. Winners of the 2007 awards (for work in 2006) were announced the afternoon of 16 June 2007 at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Seattle as part of the Science Fiction Museum's Hall of Fame weekend. Complete results of the Locus Poll have been published in the July issue of *Locus*. The winners are:

- Best Science Fiction Novel** *Rainbows End*, Vernor Vinge (Tor)
- Best Fantasy Novel** *The Privilege of the Sword*, Ellen Kushner (Bantam Spectra)
- Best First Novel** *Temeraire* (comprising *His Majesty's Dragon*, *Throne of Jade*, and *Black Powder War*), Naomi Novik (Del Rey; Voyager); as *Temeraire: In the Service of the King* (SFBC)
- Best Young Adult Book** *Wintersmith*, Terry Pratchett (Doubleday UK; HarperTempest)
- Best Novella** "Missile Gap," Charles Stross (*One Million A.D.*)
- Best Novelette** "When Sysadmins Ruled the Earth," Cory Doctorow (*Baen's Universe* 8/06)
- Best Short Story** "How to Talk to Girls at Parties," Neil Gaiman (*Fragile Things*)
- Best Magazine** *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*
- Best Publisher/Imprint** **Tor**
- Best Anthology** *The Year's Best Science Fiction: Twenty-Third Annual Collection*, Gardner Dozois, ed. (St. Martin's)
- Best Collection** *Fragile Things*, Neil Gaiman (Morrow; Headline Review)
- Best Editor** **Ellen Datlow**
- Best Artist** **John Picacio**
- Best Non-Fiction** *James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon*, Julie Phillips (St. Martin's)
- Best Art Book** *Spectrum 13: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art*, Cathy and Arnie Fenner, eds. (Underwood)

CAMPBELL AND STURGEON AWARDS

Winners and runners-up of the John W. Campbell Memorial Award (for best science fiction novel of 2006) and the Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award (for best science fiction short story of 2006) were announced during the Campbell Conference, held 6–8 July 2007 at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. The 2008 Campbell Conference will be held either the first or second weekend of July 2008. Check <www2.ku.edu/~sfcenter/campbell-conference.htm> for details as they become available. The results of the 2007 conference are shown below.

Additionally, during the conference the Science Fiction Research Association presented several awards. The SFRA award for Graduate Student Paper went to Linda Wight for "Magic, Art, Religion, Science: Blurring the Boundaries of Science and Science Fiction in Marge Piercy's *Cyborgian*

Narrative." The SFRA Mary Kay Bray Award, for the "best essay, interview, or extended review to appear in the *SFRAReview*" went to Ed Carmien for his review of *The Space Opera Renaissance* (by David G. Hartwell and Kathryn Cramer). The SFRA Thomas D. Clareson Award, for "outstanding service activities — promotion of SF teaching and study, editing, reviewing, editorial writing, publishing, organizing meetings, mentoring, and leadership in SF/fantasy organizations," went to Michael Levy. The SFRA Pioneer Award, for "best critical essay-length work" went to Amy J. Ransom for "Oppositional Postcolonialism in Québécois Science Fiction." The SFRA Pilgrim Award for "lifetime contributions to SF and fantasy scholarship" went to Algis Budrys.



Sturgeon & Campbell Awards

John W. Campbell Memorial Award

- Winner** *Titan*, Ben Bova (Tor)
- Second Place** *The Last Witchfinder*, James Morrow (William Morrow)
- Third Place (tie)** *Farthing*, Jo Walton (Tor) and *Blindsight*, Peter Watts (Tor)

Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award

- Winner** "The Cartesian Theater," Robert Charles Wilson (*Futureshocks*, Roc)
- Second Place** "A Billion Eves," Robert Reed (*Asimov's*, October 2006)
- Third Place** "Lord Weary's Empire," Michael Swanwick (*Asimov's*, December 2006)

RHYSLING AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Winners of the 2007 Rhysling Awards <www.sfpoetry.com/rhyswin.html> (for best SF/Fantasy/Horror poetry of 2006) were announced Saturday afternoon 7 July 2007 at Readercon 18 <www.readercon.org> in Burlington MA. The winners and runners-up are shown below.

The Science Fiction Poetry Association, sponsor of the Rhysling Awards, has also announced the availability of the 2007 *Rhysling Anthology: The Best Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Poetry of 2006*, Drew Morse, ed. <www.sfpoetry.com/archive/rhysling07.htm>.

Rhysling Short Poem Category

- Winner** "The Graven Idol's Godheart," Rich Ristow
- Second Place** "god is dead short live god," Joe Haldeman
- Third Place** "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Hole," Lawrence Schimel

Rhysling Long Poem Category

- Winner** "The Journey to Kailash," Mike Allen
- Second Place** "The Eight Legs of Grandmother Spider," Catherynne M. Valente
- Third Place** "Sleepers," Samantha Henderson

IHG NOMS AND LIVING LEGEND

Nominees for this year's International Horror Guild Awards (for works published in 2006) have been announced. The IHG Awards <www.horroraward.org>, first presented in 1995, are juried awards for "outstanding achievements in the field of Horror and Dark Fantasy." The judges solicit potential nominees from the public as well as providing their own input. The

judges for this year are Edward Bryant, Stefan R. Dziemi-
anowicz, Ann Kennedy, and Hank Wagner. Nominees are
listed below.

Winners will be announced Thursday evening 1 Novem-
ber at this year's World Fantasy Convention <www.lastsfa.org/
wfc2007> in Saratoga Springs NY, to be held 1-4 November
2007. The ceremony will include the presentation of this year's
IHG Living Legend Award to Ramsey Campbell.

IHG Novel Noms

The Stolen Child, Keith Donohue (Doubleday)
The Pilo Family Circus, Will Elliott (ABC Books)
The Open Curtain, Brian Evenson (Coffee House Press)
Lisey's Story, Stephen King (Scribner)
The Unblemished, Conrad Williams (Earthling)

IHG Long Fiction Noms

"Hallucigenia," Laird Barron (*F&SF*, June 2006)
"Forced Perspective," P. D. Cacek (*Night Visions XII*)
Isis, Douglas Clegg (CD Publications)
"Blackburn and the Blade," Bradley Denton (*Lords of the
Razor*)
Dark Harvest, Norman Patridge (CD Publications)

IHG Mid-Length Fiction Noms

"The Old North Road," Paul Finch (*Alone on the Darkside*)
"The Muldoon," Glen Hirshberg (*American Morons*)
"Bainbridge," Caitlin R. Kiernan (*Alabaster*)
"Journey into the Kingdom," M. Rickert (*F&SF*, May 2006)
"Obsequy," David J. Schow (*Subterranean #3; Havoc Swims
Jaded*)

IHG Short Fiction Noms

"Cheat Light," Terry Dowling (*Basic Black*)
"The Box," Stephen Gallagher (*Retro-Pulp Tales*)
"Raphael," Stephen Graham Jones (*Cemetery Dance #55*)
"You Could Have It All," Joel Lane (*The Lost District*)
"The Disease Artist," Steve Rasnic Tem (*Dark Arts*)

IHG Collection Noms

Basic Black, Terry Dowling (CD Publications)
American Morons, Glen Hirshberg (Earthling)
The Lost District and Other Stories, Joel Lane (Night Shade
Books)
Map of Dreams, M. Rickert (Golden Gryphon)

IHG Anthology Noms

Night Visions XII, Kealan Patrick Burke, ed. (Subterranean
Press)
Lords of the Razor, William Sheehan and Bill Schafer, eds.
(Subterranean Press)
Masques V, J. N. Williamson and Gary A. Braunbeck, eds.
(Gauntlet Publications)
(Note: *Retro-Pulp Tales*, Joe R. Lansdale, ed. (Subterranean
Press) was listed in some online reports but was appar-
ently removed from the final official list)

IHG Periodical Noms

Cemetery Dance
The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction
Postscripts *Subterranean* *Weird Tales*

IHG Illustrated Narrative Noms

Hellcity, Macon Blair and Joel Flood (Gigantic Comics)
Impaler, William Harms, Nick Postic, and Nick Marinkovich
(Image Comics)
Sudden Gravity: A Tale of the Panopticon, Greg Ruth (Dark
Horse)
A.L.I.E.E.N., Lewis Trondheim (France: Editions Breal, 2004;
US: Firstsecond Books, 2006)

IHG Nonfiction Noms

Cinema Macabre, Mark Morris, ed. (PS Publishing)
Icons of Horror and the Supernatural, S. T. Joshi, ed. (Green-

wood Press)

Gospel of the Living Dead, Kim Paffenroth (Baylor University
Press)

The Freedom of Fantastic Things, Scott Connors, ed. (Hip-
pocampus Press)

The Darkening Garden, John Clute (Payseur & Schmidt)

IHG Art Noms

Exhibits from the Imaginary Museum, Aeron Alfrey
<www.ligotti.net/gallery/alfrey.html>

Camille Rose Garcia: Subterranean Death Clash, Camille
Rose Garcia, Jonathan Levine Gallery, New York

Chris Mars: Subderma, Chris Mars, Jonathan Levine Gallery,
New York

Cover Story: The Art of John Picacio, John Picacio (Mon-
keyBrain)

Cover and illustrations: *A Soul in a Bottle* (by Tim Powers),
J. K. Potter (Subterranean)

It Does Not Do To Leave A Live Dragon Out Of Your Calculations

No Need for a Ring — Chapter 16

by PieEyedDragon

Springtime: and a dragon's fancies turn to thoughts of...
food.

I've been making regular trips out to the treasure site. The
drowned river Ascar can no longer be called "Goldenbed." All
of that Elvish (and some Dwarvish) bling and booty is now
scattered (in proper dragonish fashion) around my bedcham-
ber. It is quite uncomfortable to lie on some of the more angular
items (some of which are hand weapons), and the metals are
colder than stone. I would actually like to take some of this stuff
to a marketplace and trade for something useful, like ten barrels
of triple-distilled brandy and pickled peppers, fresh produce
being out of season. Both options are unfortunately out of
"character" for any dragon. Nor are any peddlers to be ex-
pected to wander so near to an orcish city.

I've been sunning myself on the rocks above my lair, not
using the wing-extensions. Let any watcher go ahead and
watch. I have decided definitely that my best course for
combating these cool temperatures is to continue increasing
mass. I have grown a little. When the prey-creatures go into
high-gear growth I shall begin stuffing myself with a will. This
will really put a crimp in my flight dynamics. I will have to stay
mostly land- or sea-bound until I stabilize.

There is something I really ought to go ahead and take care
of, first. I will need better sources of long-range current
information. I shall go ahead and retrieve the two palantiri from
the waters of Forochel.

About an hour before dawn one morning, I launch into the
air and start flying north along the eastern side of the moun-
tains. I'm wearing some light gold necklaces around my
forelegs, for no definite reason, and stop at sundown. The next
day is overcast. I fly north-north-east toward the southwest
shore of the Bay of Forochel. Late in the afternoon, I espy the
distant glitter of the ice that yet covers the bay. I start flying
lower, and slower, looking for signs of the winter camps of the
Lossoth and their sleds.

With no warning, something strikes my back from above
with tremendous force! I'm down on the frozen ground with

several fractured ribs and a twisted left wing. Very long claws wrap around my body, squeezing, as a vast winged form squats upon me. A large, toothy mouth descends toward the base of my neck... and stops! The dragon attacker quivers from end-to-end, and strained noises issue from that mouth. It is screaming, wordlessly! The eyes are open, but they do not look at me. I am immobilized, and so all I can do is try to pick up the thoughts of this beast. I stare back at those eyes.

— O — O — O —

Hishaukah was bound in many chains, and being dragged by a gang of trolls. He had quarreled with one of his siblings over a choice morsel of the food; with long legs and arms and a good-sized liver. One of his smaller half-sisters tried grabbing some of the carcass away from them, and he had, accidentally, killed her! Morgoth was angry... at him. They dragged him into the largest arena and staked him down on his back. Hundreds of dragons were already there. The rest soon arrived. No one wanted to keep the boss waiting.

Morgoth came, then; wearing his brightly jeweled iron crown.

Morgoth: *How dare you! I put a lot of work into you miserable lizards! You who are to be my spears of terror to all the world! I have work for all of you!*

Now, he *really* focussed upon the bound Hishaukah!

Morgoth: *Hishaukah the hot-tempered, you shall become an example. From now on you will be Hishaukah the ever-cold!*

With that, Morgoth raised his arms over Hishaukah and drew the core of fire from his body, leaving an aching emptiness. A blast of cold air then entered that emptiness, and yet it remained empty.

Morgoth: *You will never kill another dragon!*

(Hishaukah felt utterly miserable; and that *geas* was a binding more powerful than any physical chains. He stared at those glowing jewels hanging over his head.)

Morgoth: *One thing more!* (He gestured to servants waiting near the edge of the ring. They came forward, bearing knives and saws, pincers and tongs, and a torture-master's forge full of glowing coals. They emasculated him!)

— O — O — O —

I bear this and much, much more, back from out of the huge dragon's memories. Hishaukah grows calmer. He moves aside, and casually breaks my forelegs as he removes the gold. Something about my eyes bothers him.

Hishaukah: Die now, if you will; or live. Begone in either case. Remove yourself from my hunting range!

With that, he takes a few flapping steps and rises raggedly into the air; flying east without a backward glance. I was not yet ready to meet *any* of the target dragons, least of all the biggest and oldest one. I had learned a valuable lesson... and survived. I cannot fly. I cannot walk. But, by the unintended grace of Morgoth Himself, I had received a second chance.

Since my bones were somewhat soft from my present path of growth, all the fractures are greenstick. That helped a little. I raise up on my chin and move my hind legs in a few shuffling steps, and then lurch forward. Waddle... and crump. Waddle... and crump. Foot by foot by chin, I measure the path toward the frozen bay. I can swim, if I can but get there. I hurt all over. The sun sinks behind the distant mountains.

— O — O — O —

Ranger Walker leans back in his seat and rubs his eyes. With the coming of night he was losing the image in the palantir. He places the cloth cover over the globe, takes a drink of his tea and then writes two more pages in his logbook. Exiting the tower room he greets the guards in passing and carefully descends the stairway, making his way toward the

king's chambers. It would soon be dinner time, and his lord was expecting the current report. Walker had pushed his surveillance as far backward in time as he was able. At the very limits he had seen, by the Goblin's firelight, this new dragon at Midwinter as it had climbed up out of the dark ocean. No other known dragon was so casual about water. It was also, definitely, a fire-breather — in more than one sense of the word!

Walker wondered if the king would order some riders to try and overtake the grounded beast while it was vulnerable.

— O — O — O —

I keep moving. It is getting colder. That dragon was so very cold. I stop to rest. I'm getting drowsy. My heart is pounding, seeming to shake the very ground.

Thump Ump Ump ump ump... Thump Ump Ump ump ump... Thump Ump Ump ump ump...

Something *is* shaking the ground, and it is not my heart! The sound stops. Then I hear a different sound... a waterfall... and then all is quiet, again. I am near the bottom of a steep gully which descends down toward the still-distant frozen bay. The air carries no untoward scent... just water and minerals and bark and... fish? Definitely fish.

Thump Ump Ump ump ump... Thump Ump Ump ump ump... Thump Ump Ump ump ump...

The noise starts again, closer, and stops. The lower end of the gully is blocked by a tower... no, two towers. Two leaning towers... Two... *Hairy*... Towers!

Here Endeth *The Fellow's* *Ship and the Thing* This Tale continues in *The Two Hairy Towers*

[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>

16 June 2007

I was reading another solid issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* and came across the list of the 15 Top Geekiest Vacations. My place of employ, the Computer History Museum, is listed #15. Of course, they failed to get the name right (They called it the National Computer Museum... *fools!*) And we're far geekier than going and visiting the headquarters of Yahoo!, Google or any of those places. Yahoo! I pass by when going back home from work. Google you can see from the Computer History Museum (not from my cube, but from the second floor balcony). We deserve much better. Pennsic and Worldcon should both be higher. I gotta find out who made the list!

As always, ABC presents interesting scheduling for the fall. *Cavemen* is one of those shows that has a terrible premise but could actually turn out to be kinda funny. I know some of the writers and they know the funny. *Eli Stone* looks OK, but I'm still not convinced. *Pushing Daisies* is a premise that's been around for at least a decade (I first heard about it when I was working the TV beat in the late 90s) and it's got a great pilot

and a good set of writers. Cast is OK, not the best they could have gotten if they'd been willing to throw HBO type money at it. And once again, NBC has crap that we'll watch because folks seem to love NBC, even when they feed us second-rate TV.

[I'm sure <eweeek.com> caught flack from a lot of people about their ranking in the list of Geekiest Vacations — mostly for their event not being ranked geeky enough (or not being ranked at all). Of course, geeky is in the eye of the beholder. I'm sure some participants in Burning Man, for instance, would tell you it's uber-geeky, while others would tell you it's completely *anti*-geeky. In a way I admire your optimism when viewing the potential of *Cavemen* and the following for NBC television. My own opinion is that *Cavemen* is absolutely Doomed — with a *very* capital D. And NBC has been a poor fourth (or is it fifth?) in composite rankings among the networks for some time now. Of course, my own TVs are typically tuned to NBC more often than any of the other broadcast networks since I watch news (both local and national) on the local NBC station and probably watch close to half of my prime-time fare on NBC. (But then I know my tastes don't reflect the national average very closely.) -ED]

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

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

4 July 2007

Happy Fourth of July (true, by the time you get this, the holiday will be long gone, but it is the thought that counts... right?) to all.

I finally remembered to fill out the Hugo ballot and complete the site ballot. I still feel terrible that I let my fannish duty lapse and not get the [Hugo] nominations in this year. I will try to do better next go-round... honest. I cannot remember which zine it is that has a loc by Taral about the ephemeral nature of the Hugo nomination. I have two nominations. The first one was from a con that did not produce any kind of a certificate for the nominees. Hence, there would be nothing tangible to any nominee who did not attend — at least that way you can get the little rocket pin. Taral actually did some heroic sleuthing and prodding to get me that same little rocket pin (while he got his own!) from my second nomination (where they *did* send a nice certificate — so I had *something*). I wish all Worldcons would produce such certificates — while the fame (such as it may be) is fleeting, at least there would be something to hang on the wall and remember when...

The *Mythic Creatures*... exhibit sounds interesting, sadly it is not going to be passing nearby. I hope that at least one or two of the *Shuttle* readers will get the chance to see it and write it up for you. Here, near DC, we are spoiled since all the national museums are free. Until my family went to Europe for a year I had no idea there were museums and zoos that actually *charged* admission! Yeah, spoiled...

I am sorry (not that I can do anything about it) that fans, regardless of their interests, would allow such damage to occur. I suppose that one other way to cover it would be to have any contract they sign indicate (does it already?) that should there be damage and their deposit not cover it, that the group(s) will be responsible for the costs to repair the damage. Of course the other way is to raise the deposit to cover almost any contingency (and I suspect that would make it rather steep!?) and see if they still want to use the equipment/facilities.

I hope you let us know if Catherine Hicks actually is interested in attending Con†Stellation. I have no idea if a personality can follow their own wishes, or if such things as appearances are truly controlled by someone else such as a publicist. I had forgotten that she appeared in *Star Trek IV*.

Hmmm, I guess you are in trouble when some of the Geekiest Vacations sound like really good ideas.

In case I have not written since you mentioned the Ursa Major (I think it was...?) Awards information — I went online and checked them out because I had never heard of the “fanzine.” Turns out the “publisher” is as small (is semi-pro an appropriate descriptor of such?) publishing house and that they describe their fanzine *as* a semi-prozine. I didn't feel quite so ignorant after that.

Looking at the fall TV lineup and times — I am guessing that you are an hour “behind” us — either that or shows are going to be starting an hour earlier than they have in the past. That is also a possibility.

PieEyed — why is it that dragons like to inhabit mines? Is it solely because there *might* be treasure around? Just curious.

I spent some more time trying to look at a few fanzines online. Neither my Mac nor the PCs would open them and once more I will stop trying. As you can tell, that doesn't last long. I read raves from one fan or another about a zine that is only available electronically and, with a sigh, try again. Heck, I still haven't figured out how to get my black and white printer to let me print one side even numbers and then flip the pages and print the other side with odd numbers. I am betting there is a way!

I've never heard of Embraer airline — not too surprising since I haven't been flying much lately. Uh... when I flew out for my niece's wedding last summer... uh... er... it had been quite a few years since I had flown — was it my imagination (I suspect it was a lot more tangible than that!) or have the seats gotten smaller?!

I actually have *Locus 1* — I think it was a onepage — most certainly a simple mimeo, I believe. I got it as a promotional gift for a subscription — thought it might be fun to have. I never suspected that it would turn into the shiny publication it is today. I have quite a few other issues collected... nice mimeod and eye-catching art issues. I was amazed, after having been away from it for a few years, to see what it had morphed into... the slick it is today.

That seems to be about it — I'll try to get this printed out and ready to hit the postal system RSN.

Thank you for all the work of putting out a regular and consistently “readable” zine!

[I don't believe I'd thought about the issue of honoring Hugo nominees who can't make it to the Worldcon. Certificates seem like a good minimum but it seems like sending the rocket pin and any other memorabilia available onsite would be a good thing too. Within our community a Hugo nomination is a *big deal* and providing some commemoration of that seems like a *de minimis* obligation. It'll be a long time until the *Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns & Mermaids* exhibit makes it to Atlanta. Even when it does, it's the better part of four hours away so wouldn't exactly be a spur-of-the-moment trip from Huntsville. Still, I thought it worth covering. Perhaps some of our readers in, say, Chattanooga (much closer to Atlanta) might take the trip more casually. The damage to our Art Show equipment was certainly inadvertent. Heck, we do some damage to it some years when we use it at Con†Stellation. What concerned *me* much more than the damage itself was that the

(continued on back cover)



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equipment was returned unsorted (there are several types of pieces that have to be separately bundled for storage) and with obviously damaged stuff mixed in with the rest. Believe me I understand that at the end of a convention everyone is tired and it's hard to be careful — but one must nonetheless do so, especially with borrowed equipment. I'd say that the likelihood of any media personality ever making it to Con+Stellation is small. On a small number of occasions we've had such a person express what seemed to be genuine, personal interest in coming but it's not worked out to date. We can't pay the appearance fees they would normally command and can't promise much (if anything) in the way of autograph income. Yep, Alabama is in the Central time zone. Many Easterners don't seem to realize that the largest geographical slice of the

contiguous US is in the Central zone. There *are* more *states* in the Eastern zone, but only because so many of them are quite small (geographically) compared to the rest of the country. Um, I guess we weren't clear about Embraer — it's an aircraft manufacturer (regional jets) not an airline. As for zines online, I'd think that the majority of them are in PDF format for which free readers are commonly available for all "modern" computers. (I have several old computers around the house that run obsolete operating systems. For one of them there might not be a PDF reader at all; for at least one other I'd have to scratch pretty hard to scare up an old-enough version of the reader.) Of course, not everyone is careful to use more-or-less universal formats. Just days ago I received a piece of advertising (from the local public library) in a format that was unreadable for me both at work (on PCs) and at home (on Macs). -ED]