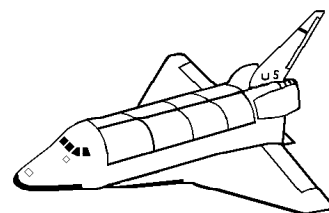


The



SHUTTLE  
October 2007

*Con†Stellation XXVI Concom Meeting 11  
October 2007 — The Day Before the Con Starts  
The Next NASFA Meeting will be Saturday 20  
October 2007 at the Regular Time and Location*

### 🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next **NASFA meeting** will be Saturday **20 October 2007** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **new regular location**. Meetings are at the new BookMark location, 11220-J South Memorial Parkway. That's about 2 miles south of their old location, at the corner of the Parkway and Meadowbrook Drive. The location of the After-The-Meeting Meeting are TBD at press time.

This issue of the *Shuttle* is being put to bed a week earlier than usual due to the timing of Con†Stellation relative to the NASFA meeting. If all goes as planned it will be in the hands of local folks before the **final 2007 Con†Stellation concom meeting on 11 October 2007**, the day before Con†Stellation. Stay tuned to email for details of activities on that day, including a group dinner that evening.

### September Minutes

The September meeting was the cookout, so there *are* no minutes. Pounds maybe, minutes no.

### NASFA Calendar

#### OCTOBER

- 04 Concom Meeting (Marie and Mike's house).
- 04 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Grass*, Sheri S. Tepper.
- 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).
- 11 Concom Meeting (at the hotel).
- 12 Columbus Day (Traditional).
- 12-14 Con†Stellation XXVI: Ophiuchus — Huntsville AL.
- 15 BD: Robert Buelow.
- 20\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: Con†Stellation Postmortem. ATMM: TBD.
- 20-21 Comic & Horror Festival — Nashville TN.
- 24 Movie at the Main Library (6P): *War of the Worlds* (2005).
- 24 United Nations Day.

*(continued on page 2)*

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

- 25 BD: Marie McCormack.
- 26–28 HallowCon — East Ridge (Chattanooga) TN.
- 31 Halloween.

**NOVEMBER**

- 01 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Stardust*, Neil Gaiman.
- 01–04 World Fantasy Convention 2007 — Saratoga NY.
- 02–04 Wicked Harvest Atlanta — Norcross GA.
- 03 Zine-A-Polooza '07 — Atlanta GA.
- 04 Daylight Saving Time ends.
- 06 Election Day.
- 09–10 Nerdacon — Columbus GA.
- 09–11 DarkCon of Nashville — Nashville TN.
- 11 Veterans' Day (Traditional).
- 11 Atlantic Comic Convention — Atlanta GA.
- 12 Veterans' Day (Observed).
- 17\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: Mike Kennedy's house.
- 22 BD: Nancy Renee Peters.
- 22 Thanksgiving Day.
- 23 BD: Mike Kennedy.
- 29 BD: Howard Camp.
- 29–02 CatchupCon — Atlanta GA.
- 30 BD: Joshua Kennedy.
- 30 BD: Richard Gilliam.
- 30–02 East Meets South — Oxford AL.

**DECEMBER**

- 01 Games Day Atlanta — Atlanta GA.
- 05 Chanukah begins.
- 06 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Time and Again*, Jack Finney.
- 07 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
- 07–09 SMOFcon 25 — Boston MA.
- 09 BD: Maria West-Grim.
- 12 BD: Toni Weisskopf.
- 14–16 Year End — Alcoa TN.
- 15\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD (Christmas party anyone?).
- 15 Bill of Rights Day.
- 17 BD: Robin Ray.
- 19 BD: Yvonne Penney.
- 20 BD: Aaron Kennedy.
- 22 Winter begins.
- 22 BD: Wolf (Wolfie) Freeman.
- 25 Christmas Day.
- 26 Kwanzaa begins.
- 26 BD: Michael R. Stone.
- 31 New Year's Eve — party anyone?

**JANUARY 2008**

- 01 New Year's Day.
- 03 BD: Jim Kennedy.
- 03 BD: Karen Hopkins.
- 04–05 ShadowCon XXI — Memphis TN.
- 06 BD: Rich Garber.
- 07 BD: Douglas E. Lampert.
- 10 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: TBD.
- 11–13 GaFilk 10 — Atlanta GA.
- 16 BD: Bruce Butler.
- 18–20 Atlanta Game Fest 13 — Atlanta GA.

- 19\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
- 20 BD: Larry Montgomery.
- 21 BD: Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 25–27 Chattacon XXXIII — Chattanooga TN.

OoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOo

The North Alabama Science Fiction Association meets on the third Saturday of each month. (Unless there is a large nearby convention being held that weekend — in which case we often move the meeting to the second or fourth weekend.) The **NEW** regular meeting location is the meeting room at *BookMark's new location* on South Memorial Parkway. The Executive Committee meeting (if scheduled) is at 5P. The business meeting is at 6P. The program is at 7P. Anyone is welcome to attend any of the meetings. There is usually an after-the-meeting meeting with directions available at the program.

## Asteroid Named for Takei

There's a new — well, newly named — Star Trek presence in the solar system. A asteroid, discovered by two Japanese astronomers in 1994, has been named 7307 Takei. At least two other asteroids had previously been named in honor of Trek-related persons, 4659 Roddenberry and 68410 Nichols.

The renaming was approved by the International Astronomical Union's Committee on Small Body Nomenclature, joining about 14,000 asteroids with names (about 165,000 asteroids have been identified and numbered).

The name was proposed by Mount Holyoke College astronomy professor Tom Burbine, reportedly out of appreciation for George Takei's work with both the Japanese American Citizens League and the gay rights group Human Rights Campaign. This particular asteroid was "available" to Burbine because the 10-year period had expired within which only the discoverers can suggest a name.

## OutsideCon 20/ DeepSouthCon 45

### A Review

by Samuel A. Smith

First, a word of warning. OutsideCon <www.outsidecon.com> is not for the faint of heart, nor for those addicted to Air Conditioning. As the name implies, OutsideCon is held outdoors, namely at the Montgomery Bell State Park just outside of Nashville TN. The con has "acres of function space." You can rent a cabin, or pitch a tent. Bathrooms are "over there."

(There is a hotel on the park grounds, but I never saw it, so I don't know what it's like. I'm told Guy Lillian and his wife Rosie stayed at a hotel in a nearby town.)

We (Judy, Shelly, and I) arrived shortly after three o'clock Friday afternoon. A quick recce\* led us to the main lodge where we were told we could pitch our tent anywhere we liked. So we did — right between the two main bathhouses.

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\* recce = reconnoiter; Sam, who has been watching Too Much *Dr. Who*, apparently thinks he's turning British



We had to wait a bit to pay for our memberships, so we continued scouting out the area. Xerps was in a large cabin (with a fireplace!) near us. The Black Wolf Tavern was down the hill a bit in a big pavilion. The Dealers Room was set up in a tent near the main lodge. And the Video Room was a laptop computer playing *Flash Gordon* (the 1980 movie version, which looks a whole lot better now than it did back then, thanks to the Sci-Fi channel) in the back of the main lodge.

Eventually everything was set up and we could pay. OutsideCon is a very low-tech proposition. The program book was nicely done, with a lovely piece of “Sherlockian” art on the cover (in keeping with their theme for the year “All Things Holmes”), but the badges were hand-drawn. (And apparently we did the Time Warp somewhere along the way, since I thought we were attending the convention in September, yet the badge reads “DeepSouthCon 45 OutsideCon 20 **June** 7-9 2007”.)



The kitchen attached to the main lodge was already open and serving food when we arrived, and it stayed that way all weekend long. There wasn't a time I didn't wander in and find something edible freshly put out. Bob Emblar (the Chairman and Chief Scapegoat of OutsideCon) quipped at the dinner Saturday night that he “guarantees you will gain weight” at OutsideCon. (I did.) Kudos to Janet Hopkins (“Queen of the Kitchen”) for a Job Well Done.

Judy realized pretty quickly that she was going to be miserable if we didn't get her a battery powered fan, so we asked around for directions to the nearest Wal-Mart. While we were at it I asked Janet if she needed anything for the kitchen. She said “Asparagus.” Yikes, a \*green\* food! Once we found the Wal-Mart we also picked up a neat little folding camp table. Group campsites don't have picnic tables.

Xerps had a, well, it's not exactly a “room party” when it's held outdoors, Friday night. We dropped in for a while, and I went looking for a spades game (unsuccessfully), and then we wandered around for a bit, and then we hit the bed early (around 10P).

Just a bit after 3A it started raining, which killed the filking that had sprung up over at the Xerps party. (See what I mean about “faint of heart”?) It rained off and on for the rest of the weekend.

Saturday morning I found that it doesn't pay to get up too early at OutsideCon. I was up around 9, and the place was pretty well deserted. Except for Janet and her kitchen staff. I got some food and hiked around a bit while it wasn't drizzling.

Saturday was occupied with gaming (Judy had brought Skip-Bo, but there were an assortment of other games made available, including Twister, Monopoly, Life, etc.; plus somebody set up an electronic drum set), reading, and hiking (when it wasn't raining).

I hiked down to the lake. I couldn't find the swimming area, but I did find the altar. I'm not sure what they sacrifice on it though.

Whenever I tried to find a spades game we were always short one player.

Saturday night the kitchen closed at six to get ready for the big Saturday night dinner. Two hours later Bob had us all line up and then we all chowed down. Several different kinds of meats and vegetables, mashed potatoes, corn on the cob, etc., and etc. I've lost track of what all there was now, but there was a lot of it. We all stuffed ourselves. Afterwards Bob announced



the awards.

Unfortunately, some of the invited guests didn't show. (It was raining, so they figured the con was called off. They don't know Bob very well, do they?)

OutsideCon also hosts Fishtrek, a science-fiction themed fishing tournament. I didn't get the name of the guy who won.

Guy Lillian claimed to have won the Hearts tournament. (I never saw him play. Does that mean I could claim to have won the spades tournament? — I never did find it.)

The Rubble Award went to Xerps (Frank and Millie Kalisz) for “the invention of ‘Skippy’ punch.”

The Phoenix Award went to Tom Deitz.

Three Rebel Awards were given out, one to Bill Payne, and one each to “Dutch” Stacy and Mickey Kilgore (of Hal-lowCon fame).

Door prizes were given out. I won a DVD of Sherlock Holmes *Dressed to Kill* and *Terror by Night*.

The big party Saturday night was the dance at the Black Wolf Tavern (run by the aforementioned Dutch and Mickey).

Sunday I got up and wandered over to the main lodge for a little breakfast and the SFC and DSC meetings.

The current slate of SFC officers was reelected for another term of service. This one will be a little short since the next DSC will be only six months from now in March. Randy Cleary announced that he has a ~~sueker~~ volunteer to take over as SFC president next March — Warren Buff (who if I understood correctly is also the chairman of StellarCon, which will be hosting the next DSC).

Hypericon, up in Nashville, bid for the right to host the 2009 DSC, and in the voting steamrolled a traditional, last-second write-in campaign for Wigwam Village (another venue with “acres of function space”) — thank goodness I didn't win!

I picked up a flyer announcing that Con-Carolinas, over in Charlotte NC, is bidding for the 2010 DSC.



After the meetings we skedaddled back over to our campsite to pack up between cloud-bursts. (I hate packing up wet, but what could we do?) As soon as we were packed, we drove one last turn around the campgrounds and then headed for home, where hot showers awaited!

The bottom line: If you're not afraid of the outdoors, and you like to eat, and you're fairly self-entertaining, then OutsideCon just might be for you!

And that's what I did on my summer vacation Mommy. Can I have a cookie?

# A Hero (Kind Of) For All Seasons

by Mike Resnick

Heroes have constituencies.

Wonder Woman will never appeal to male chauvinist pigs, at least until she pops out of her strapless top during a fight. Luke Cage will never appeal to white bigots. Superman will never appeal to intellectuals who wonder why a man with his powers takes past Page 2 to conquer the Bad Guys. Spider-Man will never appeal to middle-aged adults who have already come of age and are unimpressed by teen *angst*. Mighty Mouse will never appeal to anyone over the age of eight.

But there's one hero who has managed, at various times and in various ways, to appeal to just about everyone, which is why he's approaching his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and still going strong.

I don't think Bob Kane had this kind of longevity in mind when he sat down to write the first Batman adventure. Mighty few of us say, even very softly, "I think today I'll create a character who will outlive me and just about everyone else currently on Earth, who will captivate and fascinate men and women of all ages, here and abroad, and will stay in print damned near forever."

(Well, who knows? Maybe they *do* say it. But only a tiny handful of writers in the past century and a half made it stick: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with Sherlock Holmes, Edgar Rice Burroughs with Tarzan, Siegel and Shuster with Superman, Ian Fleming with James Bond, and yes, Bob Kane with Batman.)

Think about it. They're making another big-budget Batman film even as I write this. The comics still sell. He's in hardcover and paperback. Batman is more popular than ever. He's also older than I am — and I went on Medicare this year.

What is the reason for his seemingly-undying appeal?

That's the beauty of it. It depends on who you are, and just as importantly, it depends on *when* you are.

When I was a kid, first encountering the Batman well over half a century ago, what I liked about the comic books wasn't Batman at all. It was *Robin*. A kid with no super-powers, taking on the Joker and the Penguin? That was *my* kind of story. Other heroes had teenaged sidekicks. Green Arrow had Speedy, Captain America had Bucky, and so on... but everyone knew Robin was the first and the best, and besides, he was the only one whose name didn't end with an effeminate "y."

By the time I was in my early teens, I decided Robin looked kind of silly, racing all over the city in a pair of abbreviated swimming trunks, but by then I knew that if I applied myself, if I studied (especially chemistry, which is what a youthful Bruce Wayne was always shown to be studying) and worked hard at building my body, I could grow up to be the Batman. He didn't have super-speed like the Flash, or super-strength like the Atom, or super lungs (gills?) like the Sub-Mariner, or super-everything (including super-allergies to green rocks) like Superman. Batman, like Tarzan, was simply a man who made the very most of himself — and unlike becoming Tarzan, I didn't have to run around half-naked and differentiate hundreds of friends and enemies by their odors if I wanted to be the Batman.

So if you were a boy, you wanted to *be* the Batman. If you were a girl, you had a lot of choices. You could simply fall in love with Batman, who is certainly an impressive specimen of the species. Or, if you were a little more materialistic, you

could fall in love with Bruce Wayne, which is much the same thing except that you'll have a social life and more money than Bill Gates. Or if you didn't like being a love interest or an appendage, Batman had Catwoman and some other pretty dangerous females to cope with, and you could aspire to a life of crime as a costumed villainess, the best of whom could be found in the Batman comics.

A few years later I *took* those damned chemistry classes. It was a severe disappointment. Try as I would, I simply couldn't invent a nose filter that would let me breathe poisonous gas. I couldn't create a bomb that would fit inside a pill capsule. I couldn't create contact lenses that would enable me to see into the infrared or the ultraviolet spectrums. I began to think Bob Kane was just kidding us, and that he hadn't learned any more in chemistry class than I had. (Of course, Bob Kane wasn't writing Batman any more, he was simply collecting royalties and clipping coupons... but what did I know? After all, he still signed his name to every comic book.)

Another few years and I began to realize that what made Batman unique wasn't the Caped Crusader himself, but his incredibly colorful array of villains. All Superman ever fought was this bald-headed scientist and a little pixie whose name no one could pronounce... but Batman had the Joker, and the Penguin, and (sigh) the Catwoman, and the Riddler, and the Gong, and Two-Face, and as quick as he'd put half a dozen of them away, another even more colorful batch would come to take their places. It was hard to take them seriously (although Batman and the Joker played for keeps in the very early days of the comic book), but by then I was in college, and unlike the current generation, my generation looked down our noses at the comic heroes of our youth. We were busy reading Kerouac and Ginsberg and Ferlanghetti, and never picked up a comic book (except in the privacy of the bathroom, where we still devoured them voraciously, but of course we never admitted it).

Then an interesting thing happened, and for lack of a better word it was called Camp. And no, I'm not talking about the TV show. That came a few years later.

But around 1962 or 1963, some movie distributor got his hands on the Batman's first movie, a 16-part serial that pitted the Caped Crusader against the insidious Dr. Daka, who was played by J. Carroll Naish, probably the only actor in the film who was ever heard from again. The movie had a lot of verve, but no budget. Somewhere around episode 9 or 10 Batman's knee started peeking through his leotard, and no one thought of patching it (or could afford to) all the way through the end of the film.

Audiences laughed their heads off — and then went home and wondered what was really so funny about a man devoting his life to fighting evil in all its forms.

Then came Adam West and the television show, and that was one incarnation that appealed to everyone of every age group, gender, and political affiliation. But it wasn't the Batman we'd come to know over the prior quarter century, and within a couple of years the jokes became a little shopworn and the villains a little ludicrous.

So it was back to the comic books, but as comic books became Graphic Novels, a certain maturity crept into them, and suddenly Batman's secret was out there for everyone to see. Not that he was Bruce Wayne; we couldn't have cared less. But rather, that he was a vigilante who was mildly schizophrenic, and from time to time seemed to be tottering on the brink of insanity. Think about it, not as a kid but an adult: here is this guy who dresses up like a looneytoon and has absolutely no use for

the Bill of Rights when he's in hot pursuit of a villain. He'll break and enter, he'll stalk, he'll use illegal force. I mean, hell, he *always* had, but suddenly, the post-1970 writers seemed to understand that it is not necessarily (or at least not always) a Good Thing. And by handling it in a relatively mature and responsible way, they appealed to yet another constituency: the thinking adult.

A perfect hero, just like a perfect anything else, gets boring after awhile. But a flawed hero is something else again — and Batman is flawed in ways that affect not only himself but any reader who briefly joins the story in his imagination. It's great that he's on your rooftop, protecting the city — but what if a thief comes into your apartment? How much damage is Batman going to do, busting through a door or a window to get to him? What if you accidentally get between them? What if it's not a thief but your Uncle Saul who has a key to your apartment? Will Batman ask first or strike first? This leads to a lot more meaningful plots than Peter Parker's adolescent love life.

This approach reached its zenith when Frank Miller turned the Caped Crusader into the Dark Knight, possibly the most mature and important graphic novel of its era. The art and perspective was as far removed from "comic books" as one could get and remain in the format, and the writing was more sophisticated than any that had appeared before it.

I don't think Bob Kane had any inkling of what he was unleashing when he had Joey Chill ice Thomas and Martha Wayne one dark night in Gotham City, but after hundreds of comic books, a bunch of graphic novels, two movie serials, numerous radio appearance, a hit TV show, mass market novelizations, and a sixth big-budget movie on the way, I think it's pretty obvious that what he did was create a hero, not only for the ages, but for *all* ages.

## British Fantasy Awards

The winners of the 2007 British Fantasy Awards <[www.britishfantasy.org/awards.html](http://www.britishfantasy.org/awards.html)> were announced Sunday 23 September at a ceremony at this year's Fantasycon <[www.fantasycon.org.uk](http://www.fantasycon.org.uk)>, at the Britannia Hotel in Nottingham UK.

Most categories are decided by a vote of the British Fantasy Society membership. The Karl Edward Wagner Award is selected by the BFS committee. The Sydney J. Bounds Best Newcomer Award is selected by a panel of judges, comprised this first year of its existence of Stephen Jones, Marie O'Regan, Paul Kane, Jo Fletcher, and David Sutton. The winners are:

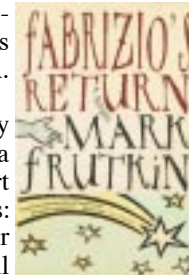
- August Derleth Award for Best Novel** ..... **Tim Lebbon**, *Dusk* (Bantam Spectra)
- Best Novella** ..... **Paul Finch**, "Kid" (*Choices*, Pendragon Press)
- Best Short Fiction** ..... **Mark Chadbourn**, "Whisper Lane" (*The BFS: A Celebration*, British Fantasy Society)
- Best Collection** ..... **Neil Gaiman**, *Fragile Things* (Headline)
- Best Anthology** ..... **Gary Couzens**, *Extended Play: The Elastic Book of Music* (Elastic Press)
- Best Non-Fiction** ..... **Mark Morris**, *Cinema Macabre* (PS Publishing)
- Best Artist** ..... **Vincent Chong**
- Best Small Press** ..... **Peter Crowther**, PS Publishing
- Karl Edward Wagner Award** ..... **Ellen Datlow**
- Sydney J. Bounds Best Newcomer Award** ..... **Joe Hill**

## Sunburst Award

The winner of the 2007 Sunburst Award <[www.sunburstaward.org](http://www.sunburstaward.org)> (for work during 2006) was announced Thursday 27 September 2007. The Sunburst Award for Canadian Literature of the Fantastic is a juried award with a prize of CDN\$1000 plus a handcrafted medallion incorporating a "Sunburst" logo, designed by Marcel Gagné. Eligible genres include science fiction, fantasy, horror, magic realism, and surrealism. Eligible works are novels and novel-length short story collections. The author must be Canadian, defined as a Canadian citizen or Landed Immigrant in Canada. They need not currently reside in Canada.

The jurors for the 2007 award were Steven Erikson, James Alan Gardner, Tom Henighan, Emily Pohl-Weary, and Caitlin Sweet. The winner is **Fabrizio's Return**, Mark Frutkin (Alfred A. Knopf Canada, ISBN 0-676-97727-8).

The 2008 award jurors will be Timothy Anderson, Kelley Armstrong, Barbara Haworth-Attard, Dena Taylor, and Robert Wiersema. In 2008, there will be two awards: for adult and for young-adult fiction. For more information about the awards email <[rebecca@sunburstaward.org](mailto:rebecca@sunburstaward.org)> or write to The Sunburst Award, 2 Farm Greenway, Toronto ON Canada M3A 3M2.



## WotF Wraps Up Year

The Writers and Illustrators of the Future <[www.writersofthefuture.com](http://www.writersofthefuture.com)> recently held a ceremony honoring their quarterly winners and announcing the annual winners — the 23<sup>rd</sup> L. Ron Hubbard Achievement Awards. The ceremony was held on the campus of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena CA.

WotF selects three quarterly winners in both the Writers and Illustrators category. Trophies and cash awards were presented to each of these winners and Gold Awards of \$5,000 was presented for the best story and illustration. The Gold



Award for Story of the Year went to **Steven Kotowych** of Toronto ON. The Gold Award for Illustration of the Year went to **Lorraine Schleiter** of Fort Branch IN. Additionally, a Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to **Charles N. Brown**, publisher of *Locus*.

The WotF web site lists star-filled lineups of judges. Writer judges are Kevin J. Anderson, Doug Beason, Gregory Benford, Algis Budrys, Orson Scott Card, Brian Herbert, Nina Kiriki Hoffman, Eric Kotani, Anne McCaffrey, Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, Fred Pohl, Tim Powers, Robert J. Sawyer, Robert Silverberg, K. D. Wentworth, and Dave Wolverton. Illustrator judges are Edd Cartier, Vincent Di Fate, Leo and Diane Dillon, Bob Eggleton, Frank Frazetta, Laura Brodian Freas, Stephen Hickman, Ron and Val Lindahn, Judith Miller, Stephan Martiniere, Cliff Nielsen, Sergey Poyarkov, H. R Van Dongen, and Stephen Youll.

# Quill Awards Announced

## Book of the Year Voting Opened

The 2007 Quill Awards category winners (for books published in North America from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007) were announced 10 September 2007. The Quills have a somewhat complex juried/industry voting structure, with a popular vote thrown in for Book of the Year. Nominees generally must have had a starred review in Publishers Weekly or appeared on the PW bestseller list. (As one online wag noted, we are all agreeing not to call these the Publishers Weekly Awards.)

Genre and related winners include *Flotsam*, David Wiesner (Children's Picture Book category), *The Road*, Cormac McCarthy (General Fiction category), and *The Name of the Wind*, Patrick Rothfuss (Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror category). Genre and related works had received nominations in several other of the 19 categories.

Selection of the Quill Book of the Year is by public vote, with the 19 category winners as the nominees. To vote, go to the Quills web site <[www.thequills.org](http://www.thequills.org)> and click on the Vote Now link. This takes you to an MSNBC web site where you can click a radio button to select your preference and click the Vote button near the bottom of the page. The deadline to vote is 10 October 2007.

All of the awards will be presented, and the Book of the Year winner announced, at a ceremony Monday 22 October 2007, at Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York NY. Tickets are available for purchase online at <[www.thequills.org/order](http://www.thequills.org/order)> for \$100 (ceremony only) or \$500 (ceremony and reception). The awards will later be televised by NBC-TV's Universal Stations on Saturday 27 October 2007.

## 2007 Prix Aurora Awards Noms

The Prix Aurora Awards <[www.sentex.ca/~dmullin/aurora](http://www.sentex.ca/~dmullin/aurora)> are popular awards selected by the Canadian SF and Fantasy Association and presented annually at Convention, the Canadian national sf con. The 10 divisions include 6 professional categories (3 for work in English, 3 for work in French), 3 fan awards, and an artistic achievement award (open to both pros and fans).

The host convention for Convention 27 is VCON 32 <[www.vcon.ca](http://www.vcon.ca)>, to be held 19–21 October 2007 in Richmond BC. All VCON/Convention members can vote for the Auroras (including onsite voting). There will also be onsite voting at Con\*Cept in Montreal's on Saturday 13 October 2007. All Canadian fans are eligible to cast Aurora ballots by mail with a deadline of midnight 10 October 2007.

There were 186 nomination forms received; 11 of those were invalid (improperly filled out, not eligible, etc.), leaving 175 total valid forms. The nominees are:

### BEST LONG-FORM WORK IN ENGLISH

#### MEILLEUR LIVRE EN ANGLAIS

(78 nominating ballots cast)

*Regeneration : Species Imperative 3*, Julie E. Czerneda (DAW Books)

*Children of Chaos*, Dave Duncan (Tor Books)

*Smoke and Ashes*, Tanya Huff (DAW Books)

*Sun of Suns : Book One of Virga*, Karl Schroeder (Tor Books)

*Blindsight*, Peter Watts (Tor Books)

*Righteous Anger : Part Two of the Okal Rel Saga*, Lynda Williams (EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing)

### MEILLEUR LIVRE EN FRANÇAIS

#### BEST LONG-FORM WORK IN FRENCH

(10 nominating ballots cast)

*Samuel de la chasse-galerie*, Michel J. Lévesque (Médiaspaul)

*Les îles du Zodiaque 3. Le maître des bourrasques*, Laurent McAllister (Médiaspaul)

*Reine de Mémoire 3. Le Dragon fou*, Elisabeth Vonarburg (Alire)

*Reine de Mémoire 4. La Princesse de Vengeance*, Elisabeth Vonarburg (Alire)

### BEST SHORT-FORM WORK IN ENGLISH

#### MEILLEUR NOUVELLE EN ANGLAIS

(148 nominating ballots cast)

"All the Cool Monsters at Once," James Alan Gardner (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)

"This Ink Feels Like Sorrow," Karin Lowachee (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)

"Marked Men," John Mierau (*Slipstreams*, DAW)

"Biding Time," Robert J. Sawyer (*Slipstreams*, DAW)

"Lumen Essence," Hayden Trenholm (*Neo-opsis SF Magazine* 9)

### MEILLEUR NOUVELLE EN FRANÇAIS

#### BEST SHORT-FORM WORK IN FRENCH

(12 nominating ballots cast)

«Le vol de l'abeille», Michèle Laframboise (*Solaris* 159)

«Stiletto», Julie Martel (*Solaris* 160)

«Le regard du trilobite», Mario Tessier (*Solaris* 159)

### BEST WORK IN ENGLISH (OTHER)

#### MEILLEUR OUVRAGE EN ANGLAIS (AUTRE)

(90 nominating ballots cast)

*The Hidden Path*, Heather Dale <[www.heatherdale.com/THP](http://www.heatherdale.com/THP)> [Music CD]

*Jousting with Jesters : An ABC for the Younger Dragon*, Martin Springett (Orca Book Publishers) [Children's alphabet book]

*Mythspring : From the Lyrics and Legends of Canada*, Julie E. Czerneda and Genevieve Kierans, eds. (Red Deer Press) [anthology]

*Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine*, Karl Johanson, ed. <[www.neo-opsis.ca](http://www.neo-opsis.ca)> [SF magazine]

*Tesseract Ten : A Celebration of New Canadian Speculative Fiction*, Edo Van Belkom and Robert Charles Wilson, eds. (EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing) [Anthology]

### MEILLEUR OUVRAGE EN FRANÇAIS (AUTRE)

#### BEST WORK IN FRENCH (OTHER)

(7 nominating ballots cast)

*La Décennie charnière*, Claude Janelle (dir.) (Alire)

*Solaris*, réd. Joël Champetier <[www.revue-solaris.com](http://www.revue-solaris.com)>

*Mario Tessier, Les Carnets du Futurible* (*Solaris* 157–160)

«Aux origines des petits hommes verts», Jean-Louis Trudel (*Solaris* 160)

### ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT

#### ACCOMPLISSEMENT ARTISTIQUE

(65 nominating ballots cast)

**Kenn Brown**, <[www.mondolithic.com](http://www.mondolithic.com)>

**Lar deSouza**, old: <[www.lartist.com](http://www.lartist.com)>; new: <[www.lfgcomic.com/page/1](http://www.lfgcomic.com/page/1)>

**Janet Hetherington**, <[www.best-destiny.com](http://www.best-destiny.com)>

**Jean-Pierre Normand**, <www.jeanpierreormand.com>  
**Martin Springett**, <www.martinspringett.com>  
**Ronn Sutton**, <www.ronnstutton.com>

**FAN ACHIEVEMENT (PUBLICATION)**  
**ACCOMPLISSEMENT FANIQUE (Publication)**  
**(14 nominating ballots cast)**

**Brins d'Éternité**, réd. Guillaume Voisine <www.alegracia.com/brins/faq/faq.php>

**MensuHell**, réd. direction: Francis Hervieux <www.geocities.com/mensuhell>

**Nocturne**, éditeurs: Jonathan Reynolds, Guillaume Houle et Fred Proulx <www.6brumes.com/fanzinenocturne>

**FAN ACHIEVEMENT (ORGANIZATIONAL)**  
**ACCOMPLISSEMENT FANIQUE (ORGANISATION)**  
**(63 nominating ballots cast)**

**Debbie Hodgins** (Avenging Dragon Squadron, KAG/Kanada)

**Roy Miles** (I.D.I.C.)

**Cathy Palmer-Lister** (Con\*Cept)

**Joan Sherman** (I.D.I.C.)

**Geoffrey Toop** (DWIN)

**FAN ACHIEVEMENT (OTHER)**  
**ACCOMPLISSEMENT FANIQUE (AUTRE)**  
**(52 nominating ballots cast)**

**Fractale-Framboise**, Éric Gauthier, Christian Sauvé, Laurine Spehner (blogue/blog) <www.fractale-framboise.com>

**Judith Hayman** (filking)

**Lloyd Penney** (fan writing/écriture fanique)

**Martin Springett** (filking)

**Larry Stewart** (entertainer/personnalité: amuseur)

**Peggi Warner-Lalonde** (filking)

## Letters of Comment

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

Michael D. Glicksohn  
<mglick@interlog.com>

20 September 2007

I'm going to take a chance and guess that the stated date for response to the September issue of the *Shuttle* is actually not September 1<sup>st</sup> but a typo. Are there no proofreaders in Huntsville?

As usual, the *Shuttle* provided me with my first account of the recent Worldcon. I did get the Hugo results courtesy of Chris Barkley, at which time I hit myself in the head with a 2x4 and said out loud "The Worldcon is going on!" I had completely forgotten about it. But thanks to the *Shuttle* I now have some idea of what it was like.

An issue mostly filled with data and a worldcon report doesn't lend itself to comment hooks but I'll say a couple of things anyway. (1) I think it sounds like a wonderful convention but I'm also glad I didn't spend the very large amount of bucks it would have taken for the two of us to be there. (2) I was stunned when I heard Montreal had won the bid for 2009 (a week ago) and trebly stunned when I saw in the *Shuttle* (today) how wide a margin they had won by. And I probably won't even go!

Sheryl talks about being a Hugo nominee. For the 1973 Worldcon, we printed up certificates for all nominees and I personally used LetraSet (anyone even know what it is anymore?) for the nominee's name. We tossed the one for the winner and either presented or mailed the others. Seems a

shame that this process no longer exists.

Sheryl also mentions "geeks." Well, count me in! I'm the guy who started FreeCell at #1 and am closing rapidly in to #40000!

Thanks for the look at Nippon.

All best wishes.

[Hmpf. A typo. Imagine that. I used Letraset for years, Mike, and still remember (if not exactly fondly) rubbing on headlines by hand, a letter at a time, over typewritten text. Heck, I might even have a few sheets lost somewhere in my house or office. The company still exists and still makes the dry-transfer lettering products though I don't think that's their concentration. Their web site implies their three current markets of concentration are Design, Crafts, and Manga. I can't say I was surprised at Montreal's Worldcon win, but then I wouldn't have been surprised if the vote went the other way. I don't know quite yet if I'll attend the con, though I hope to do so. I've missed four in a row (Boston, Glasgow, LA, and Yokohama) — the most since I started going to Worldcons; though I did make it to the NASFiCs in '05 and '07. I plan to make Denver next year and, as I said, have some hope for Montreal in '09. If Melbourne wins in '10 I'd love to go but strongly doubt it would happen. -ED]

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Sheryl Birkhead  
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21–27 September 2007

About the only comment I have about the meeting notes is who's on first? Just thought I'd ask.

By the time you get this, I suspect the season's opener for *Heroes* will have aired — be interesting to see which (of many tangents) they head out on first!

Ah, just now starting the Worldcon report — first thing I note is that there was, apparently, a newsletter available. I specifically hunted for it during the con, guess not in the right spot (I went to the main site and went to publications... did not find anything there — guess I was close but not close enough). Thank you for running the Worldcon report. So far it is still the only one I have read. I guess I am just not looking in all the right places.

I've only had one Japanese food experience and it was not a good one. Either I was not a good communicator (a very real possibility) or Japanese food is not vegetarian friendly (which I seriously doubt). So I will look at all comments, in conreports, on the cuisine with great interest.

Having Montreal win the worldcon for 2009 is a nice win. I think (ha) that going for the site selection gets me a cheaper supporting membership than buying one outright... and once started, the whole thing just keeps perpetuating itself each year.

It appears to me that a Hugo category for website will be arriving on the scene and it makes sense with the technology here to stay and marching on!

Of course this is a bit late, but my congratulations to the Hugo winners (and all the other awards given out) and I am still a bit envious of those who managed to make the trip. To this list we need to add congrats to Montreal and all their list of guests.

Ah yes, all you've succeeded in doing is whetting my appetite for more reports of the Worldcon. I will continue to look and read!

I had hoped to be able to say something intelligent (or at

least a pretense) about the new TV shows this season, but the only ones I have been able to watch (everything else resides quietly on tapes that I will get to RSN) are *Heroes* and *House*. I did tape both in case I got pulled away, but I did get to watch both all the way through. I have not been counting but it looks as if Sulu (so to speak) has come to the end of the seven or eight episodes for which he signed on. I hope there is a loophole for him to come back, but will not hold my breath. *House* on the other hand probably is not sf at all and is more like fantasy in that any physician that acted even slightly as he does would not have a license to practice for very long (or at the very least his malpractice insurance would have been canceled *very* quickly). I enjoyed both. I did not keep track, but there are a *lot* of new characters entering the *Heroes* list — so we are in for a whole new batch of talents along with, I am assuming, continuing the stories of those established last season.

Back to the mundane, got called for jury duty again. Over the years I think I have been called about 15 times. I have actually had to go to the courthouse only twice — my number was high enough that I did not need to show the other times based on the number of trials. Of those two visits, I served on one jury that lasted four days. It was a bit disconcerting to have the judge, when it was over, clear the courtroom and explain the back story to us and caution us to *not* go to our cars without a deputy accompanying us. Yeah, and in the jury selection process our names, addresses, and other “pertinent” information was announced — made for a bit of lost sleep for a while. We’ll see if I have to show up this time.

Thanks, as always, for this!

[The Nippon 2007 newsletters are at <[www.nippon2007.us/newsletters/newsletters.php](http://www.nippon2007.us/newsletters/newsletters.php)>. Part way through the con they put up a link on their English front page <[www.nippon2007.us](http://www.nippon2007.us)> — possibly in part because of me. After learning via someone’s blog that there were newsletters and unsuccessfully searching for them, I emailed the webmaster to ask about them. The reply indicated that they had missed that as a To Do but would check with the newsletter folks to see about getting them online. Most of the chain Japanese restaurants seem to be steakhouses so they only minimally serve the vegetarian market, if at all. You might have more luck at a non-chain restaurant. As for a Best Website Hugo, I’m currently agnostic but do see the truth in the “not” side’s argument that a website is a medium (like a book, a magazine, or a movie) and that Hugos are mostly given for content. Thus a short story or fan writing or a dramatic presentation or various other content on a website is already eligible for existing Hugos. -ED]

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29 September 2007

Got the September *Shuttle*, Vol. 27, No. 9, and I am working on my seventh loc of the day. Well, I needed to catch up. Let’s see if there any working brain cells left...

According to the calendar, the gamers are gaming in Atlanta, and the Klingons are feasting in Florida. In a week, it’ll be Canadian Thanksgiving, with turkey, various trimmings, and a jar of lingonberry sauce. Can you tell there’s an IKEA nearby?

World Fantasy will be in New York state... some years ago, it was in Montreal, and Yvonne and I ran the green room there. If anyone reading this was at that WFC, this is the main hotel for the Montreal Worldcon. I’ve never been to the Palais de congres, the convention centre, but with the two I think it will be a cosy, comfortable fit. We’ll be in Montreal for 2009, and I expect we will come out of retirement to work that one, last Worldcon.

Wow, it is getting to be awards season... I am a nominee for this year’s Aurora Awards in the category Fan Achievement (other) for fanwriting. I hope I will be blessed this year; it’s been some time since I was on the ballot.

My loc... yes, Montreal won. Shocked a lot of people, including lots of Canadians and Montrealais. But now, they have what they asked for, and it’s time to see if Canadian fandom can do it One More Time. We’ve decided to help out, Ghu help us, also One More Time. Because we did not go to Japan, and we were not pre-supporters, thinking that L.A.con IV was our last Worldcon, we have paid our C\$165 memberships, and we are now officially on board. Yvonne is bilingual, French is her first language, so a Montreal Worldcon might be interesting for her.

There are geeks and there are nerds... two computer repair companies are Nerds on Site and Geek Squad. Perhaps nerd and geek have become synonyms? Complementary? Not when someone calls you either term with a sneer on their face. Still don’t like either word.

And there’s the entire results and all calculations for the Hugos. I had hopes that Joseph Major would win for his research work on Robert Heinlein. And, there I am at 9 nominations, bless their hearts. Maybe I’ll do better in Denver, or even Montreal.

Latest news... finally got myself a full time job, working as an editor in the ePublications department at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in Toronto. Great office, great people to work with, and I can honestly say that I look forward to going back to work on Monday. When was the last time I could say that? I don’t remember...

It gets late, and I could pack my luggage in the bags under my eyes. Tomorrow is a big literary festival downtown, so we will be there with comfortable shoes and knapsacks, ready to swoop down on potential bargains. Take care, and see you all next issue.

[Seven locs in one day — is that a personal best, Lloyd? Yes indeed Montreal Got What It Asked For. I’ve tried to learn what I can about the site but don’t have a feel for it yet. I hope your prediction of “cozy” doesn’t foreshadow “overcrowded.” Getting the right size space for a con is always a crapshoot, if for no other reason than that one can’t be sure how many will show up. Worldcons are even more of a gamble since there is often little or no experience with using the space for a con. Nerd, geek, whatever... any label can be insulting when the delivery includes a sneer. Congrats on the job; but *major* congrats on actually liking it. -ED]

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PieEyedDragon  
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1 October 2007

Just a seasonal bit of trivia: Smaug was killed late on Monday, November 8, 1341 (Shire Reckoning) just after moonrise. (The really *odd* thing is: this was only two nights



after a New Moon!) There was much confusion, and it was near midnight; so it might actually have been Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup>. The Gregorian equivalents are October 30 and 31.

They celebrate on November 8 in Lake Town and Dale.  
Happy Halloween from Jotunheim!

[Happy Halloween to you too, though it's a bit early, (But of course by next issue that time of year will be past.) At this moment I don't think the next chapter of your adventure in Middle-Earth will appear in this issue though we should be able to take up the tale again next month. -ED]



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*The NASFA Shuttle* is the newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc. This is the October 2007 edition (Volume 27, Number 10). NASFA Officers for 2007: President Mary Lampert; Vice President Mike Kennedy; Secretary Steve Sloan; Treasurer Sam Smith; Program Directors Manda and Jeff Freeman; Publicity Director Doug Lampert. *Shuttle* Editor Mike Kennedy.

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Dues (\$), subscriptions (\$), and Official Mail to: NASFA, Inc., P. O. Box 4857,  
Huntsville AL 35815-4857 — OFFICIAL ADDRESS

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NASFA Dues = \$15/year (Family rates available)    Subscription only = \$10/year    Single copy = \$1.50 each.

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