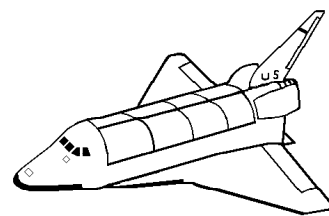


The



SHUTTLE
December 2007

The Next NASFA Meeting will be 15 December 2007 at the Regular Time and Location

The ATMM/Christmas Party will be at Ray Pietruszka and Nancy Cucci's House

The New Year's Eve Party will be at Mike Kennedy's House

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next **NASFA meeting** will be Saturday **15 December 2007** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **new regular location**. Meetings are at BookMark, 11220-J South Memorial Parkway — at the corner of the Parkway and Meadowbrook Drive, about 2 miles south of their old location.

PROGRAM

The December **program** will be a **random gift exchange**. If you want to participate, bring an inexpensive present (or more than one, if you wish). Details of the exchange vary from year to year, depending on the whim of the Program Director, but you should be sure of coming away with a **white elephant** geegaw or two.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The December **After-The-Meeting Meeting** (aka **Christmas Party**) will be at the Cucci-Pietruszka-Peters estate — 211 Evalyn Street in Madison. Volunteers for future ATMMs are always needed.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Mike Kennedy will be hosting the **NASFA New Year's Eve Party**. Sadly for y'all [and happily for me - ED] this will be unlike the blowout back at the turn of the millennium. Think

Chicken Wings, not Chicken Cordon Bleu. Standard NASFA rules will apply — bring a dish and drink to share. The party will start at 9P at Mike's house — 7907 Charlotte Drive SW in Huntsville.

News and Info

2009 WORLDCON ANNOUNCES RATE INCREASES

Anticipation, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention to be held in Montreal 6–10 August 2009, has announced that their membership rates in several categories will increase effective 1 January 2009.

The regular (adult) Attending membership will increase from \$CAD165 to \$CAD190 at that time. The current Supporting membership rate (\$CAD55) will not increase, but upgrades from Supporting to Attending will increase as the price difference between Supporting and Attending will have changed. Family memberships (good for 2 adults and 2 children) will increase from \$CAD400 to \$CAD450. The various increased rates will be effective until at least 31 July 2008. Child memberships will remain \$CAD75 until at least 30 April 2009,

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Deadline for the January 2008 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 4 January 2008.

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but it's worth nothing that additional Child memberships supplementing the Family rate cost less than a standalone Child membership.

Rates in other currencies, including US dollars, are available on the web site <www.anticipationsf.ca> or by emailing <registration@anticipationsf.ca>. Snailmail can be sent to Anticipation, The 67th World Science Fiction Convention, P. O. Box 105, Station NDG, Montréal, QC H4A 3P4.

ULTIMATE WEAPONS?

Web zine Wizard Universe has published their list of the 50 biggest, baddest fictional weapons at <www.wizarduniverse.com/magazine/wizard/006398688.cfm>. They draw from a number of media including movies, games, comics, television, and even the occasional book. Far from providing just a mere listing, the web site lays out the case for each weapon in a succinct paragraph and provides a picture of each weapon. They also give info to help you buy a replica weapon where such are known to exist.

Ground rules for their selections include that the weapon must be "wieldable," thus ruling out giant tanks, star-destroying spaceships, and all sorts of mechanized mayhem. The list, from badass to ultra-badass, is shown below. Start yer arguing.

- 50 Predator's Flying Disc — *Predator 2* (movie)
- 49 Master Sword — *The Legend of Zelda* (game)
- 48 Glamdring — *The Lord of the Rings* (book/movie)
- 47 Samaritan — *Hellboy* (movie)
- 46 Lancer — *Gears of War* (game)
- 45 Golden Gun — *The Man With the Golden Gun* (movie/book)
- 44 Cherry's Leg — *Grindhouse: Planet Terror* (movie)
- 43 Tron's Disc — *Tron* (movie)
- 42 Stormbringer — Michael Moorecock's Elric (book series/game)
- 41 Rail Gun — *Eraser* (movie)
- 40 Plasma Grenade — *Halo* (game)
- 39 Hitler's Handgun — *Marvel Comics*
- 38 Freddy's Glove — *A Nightmare on Elm Street* (movie)
- 37 Cloud's First Tsuguri — *Final Fantasy VII: Advent Children* (game)
- 36 The BFG9000 — *Doom* (game)
- 35 Target Seeking Bullet Gun — *Runaway* (movie)
- 34 Starman's Star Rod — *DC Comics*
- 33 Magik's Soulsword — *Marvel Comics*
- 32 Gravity Gun — *Half-Life 2* (game)
- 31 Goemon's Zantetsuken — *Lupin III* (manga/anime series)
- 30 Buffy's Slayer's Scythe — *Buffy: The Vampire Slayer* (TV/comics)
- 29 Ash's Chainsaw Hand — *Evil Dead II* (movie)
- 28 The Witchblade — *Witchblade* (comics/TV/anime)
- 27 The Ultimate Nullifier — *Marvel Comics*
- 26 Teleporting Sniper Rifle — *Star Trek: Deep Space 9* (TV)
- 25 Spread Gun — *Contra* (game series)
- 24 Sentinel Sphere — *Phantasm* (movie)
- 23 Ivy's Chain Sword — *Soul Calibur* (game)
- 22 Gunblades — *Final Fantasy VIII* (game)
- 21 Energy Sword — *Halo 2* (game)
- 20 Ebony Blade — *Marvel Comics*
- 19 Voltron's Blazing Sword — *Voltron* (TV/anime)
- 18 Excalibur — *Legend*
- 17 Dagger of Time — *The Prince of Persia* (game series)
- 16 Megatron — *Transformers* (toys/comics/TV/movie/etc.)
- 15 Lance of Longinus — *Neon Genesis Evangelion* (manga/

anime)

- 14 Proton Pack — *Ghostbusters* (movie series)
- 13 Maul's Lightsaber — *Star Wars* (movies series)
- 12 Mr. Freeze's Gun — *DC Comics*
- 11 Sword of Omens — *Thundercats* (TV/toys/comics)
- 10 Mjölnir — *Thor*
- 9 Vorpall Blade — *Fables* (comics)
- 8 Saint of Killers' guns — *Preacher* (comics)
- 7 Cosmic Cube — *Marvel Comics*
- 6 Cap's Shield — *Captain America* (comics)
- 5 Phaser — *Star Trek* (TV/movies series)
- 4 Lightsabers — *Star Wars* (movie series)
- 3 Iron Man's Armor — *Marvel Comics*
- 2 He-Man's Power Sword — *He-Man and the Masters of the Universe* (TV)
- 1 Green Lantern Power Ring — *DC Comics*



November Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The November meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, November 17, 2007 in the BookMark meeting room at 6:17:00P by President Mary Ortwerth. The crickets somehow sounded healthier than they have in ages, even though Mary had not gotten them new batteries.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Kennedy gave a report on the recent Board of Directors meeting held on Sunday, November 4. The Board usually does nothing at their legally-required meetings, but under the constitution, they are charged with providing non-binding advice to the club. This time, the Board met primarily to discuss the state of Con+Stellation as a whole. Con attendance has been decreasing over the last few years. The Board discussed this at the meeting, and decided that we need several long-term activities to improve things. Other NASFA members discussed their own ideas for growing the con.

Doug Lampert moved that we open nominations tonight for 2009 con chair at the same time we open nominations for other officers. Mike C. had a discussion question: When will we close 2009 con chair nominations? Doug amended the motion to say that we will hold elections for officers and 2009 con chair next month. Mike Cothran seconded. The club accepted the amendment to the motion, with only Doug opposed.

The motion is now, "Shall we open nominations for 2009 con chair, to be voted on next meeting, at the same time we vote on officers?" During the vote, only Doug opposed, but there were several abstentions.

Should we bid to hold a DeepSouthCon concurrent with Con+Stellation? DSC has typically been held concurrently with a hosting convention [in recent years], with the exception of Huntsville a few years ago. If we bid on DSC occasionally, we'd get additional attendees for the year we hosted, and

hopefully attract new regular Con†Stellation attendees in later years.

The next open slot for hosting a DSC is in 2010. According to Mike K., that would be too early, because we'd have to start bidding in the next five months.

Doug suggested that we bid for the 2010 DSC, just to kill the discussion. A side discussion broke out about Godwin's Law, Hitler, and Mussolini (thanks to Sam's brown shirt), then later, lemmings.

Doug moved that we con some person to be named later into making the bid for the 2010 DSC. Mike almost got staked by an auction item, triggering another side discussion about vampires. After that commotion, Anita seconded Doug's motion, then withdrew after she realized what she'd seconded. Mike K. suggested that we should wait and think about it.

There are a few requirements for hosting a DSC, the main one being the requirement to provide space and time for DSC and Southern Fandom Confederation business meetings. Most of the time, very little happens at those meetings, other than officer elections and the occasional minor constitutional change.

Hank Reinhardt died recently. Sam sent flowers and a card to Toni Weisskopf in the name of NASFA, and Toni sent a very nice thank you card in return, which Sam read to the club.

Sandy McDade also passed away recently. In lieu of flowers, she wanted people to donate to the Arthritis Foundation. Mike K. moved that we pass the hat for donations tonight. Doug moved that the club match up to \$50 of our individual donations. Mike K. seconded. During the vote, only Doug opposed. When Sam counted the money later on, the donations totaled \$77 from club members, plus \$50 matched by the club.

Sam brought the spammish emails, but decided not to read them, because the meeting was running late. He asked that they be added to the minutes instead. We got a *Planetary Stories* update, an email about an independent film festival, an ad for office furniture sent to the entire Huntsville Civic Group, a <Roddenberry.com> ad, and information about Capricorn in Chicago.

OFFICER AND 2009 CONVENTION CHAIR NOMINATIONS

Anita nominated the current slate of officers for next year. Doug declined to re-up for Publicity Director. Mike K. seconded those nominations that hadn't been declined.

Randy nominated Bill Savage as Publicity Director, even though he wasn't present, because he'd expressed some interest in the past. Doug seconded. Here is the list of officer nominees:

- President: Mary Lampert
- Vice-President: Mike Kennedy
- Secretary: Steve Sloan
- Treasurer: Samuel A. Smith
- Program Director(s): Jeff & Manda Freeman
- Publicity Director: Bill Savage

Nominations for 2009 Con Chair? Doug knows he won't do a good job two years in a row. Randy nominated Steve. Steve declined by shuddering.

Anita nominated Mike K. Mary seconded. Doug listed the few people at the table qualified to do it, since they have experience: Mike, Mike, Doug, Sam, and Mary. Anita then nominated Mike C. to serve as co-chair to Mike K. (M & M?) [I was under the impression that Mike C. declined. -ED]

Steve got the third degree about what he's volunteered to do for next year's con.

Nominations were closed for the night.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

Doug slyly told Steve he'd heard a rumor that we need someone to run Registration.

Mike C. has already arranged with Bill Savage to do publications. Mike K. pointed out that Mike C. doesn't have the authority to appoint someone. Mike C. revised his statement, saying he'd asked Bill to volunteer to help. Bill has also offered to take over the web site from Sam.

Sunn has volunteered to spend some time running the registration table. Mia has also volunteered to help with registration.

The person in charge of Registration must maintain the database of people who have registered, and make sure someone is always manning the registration table during the times when it's open. The person in charge of Registration must also contact the Convention Bureau, and arrange to get the freebies and stuff them in the bags. Some years, it involves production of the blank badges, and other years that's a Publications job.

Anita already has a job, doing the T-shirts.

We have two guests signed up for next year. Mike Resnick will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Bill Holbrook will serve as a Comics Guest, or possibly as Special Guest. He's originally from Huntsville, and he has family here, so he'll be driving in and staying with them. [Since the meeting Diane Duane has been added as Guest of Honor and it's been more-or-less decided that Bill Holbrook will be designated as a Special Guest. -ED]

We have sent out multiple invitations to potential guests. All have expired, with the exception of one artist guest invitation.

Mike C. mused that the last time we had Mike Resnick at Con†Stellation, he was the Guest of Honor, and Tim Powers was the MC. Maybe we can switch that, and get Tim Powers as Guest of Honor. [But see above RE Diane Duane. -ED]

Sam noted that he included the contents of Pat McAdams' thank you note in the con-com list, so he won't read it here. Doug got a couple of thank you notes from other guests.

Sam read traffic stats about the con web site. The PDF of the Con†Stellation 2007 program book got 61 hits during the month of October. That count excludes robots and web crawlers. Our main web site had 1,115 hits in October. *Locus Magazine* is our top referrer. We got some referrals from FavorStar.com (whatever that is.) We got 20 referrals from our web page on Wikipedia, 14 referrals from HAWGS, referrals from <SciFiConventions.com>, 11 referrals from <Scenic-City.com>, and 10 from the HAAS anime club site. CoastCon gave us 7 hits. There were some hits from <DactylManor.org>. We got 5 hits from <TravisTaylor.com>.

Sam reported that the con's final loss was \$1317.22.

Sam has been looking into getting the convention a Visa card, so they can charge purchases for the con when necessary. He's also looked into getting the con a merchant credit card account, so we can take credit card payments. Marie has a Visa merchant account for BookMark, so he will probably ask her for advice about getting one, and what sorts of charges we can expect. A lot of cons use PayPal, but there are drawbacks.

There was a digression about what taxes Con†Stellation pays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jack brought a list of books that the Bailey Cove Library Science Fiction Book Club plans to read and discuss in the upcoming months.

Anita moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:08:25P.

The program was the NASFA auction. The After-the-Meeting Meeting was held at Mike Kennedy's house.

NASFA Calendar

DECEMBER

- 01 Games Day Atlanta — Atlanta GA.
05 Chanukah begins.
06 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Time and Again*, Jack Finney; 6P.
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: Random Gift Exchange. ATMM: Nancy Cucci and Ray Pietruszka's house.
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 at Mike Kennedy's house.

JANUARY 2008

- 01 New Year's Day.
03 BD: Jim Kennedy.
03 BD: Karen Hopkins.
04-05 ShadowCon XXI — Memphis TN.
05 Alabama Comic Weekend — Huntsville AL.
06 BD: Rich Garber.
06 Alabama Comic Weekend — Birmingham AL.
07 BD: Douglas E. Lampert.
10 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *The Time Machine*, H. G. Wells; 6P.
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.

FEBRUARY

- 01 National Freedom Day.
02 Groundhog Day.
07 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Pigs Don't Fly*, Mary Brown; 6P.
08 BD: Lin Cochran.
08-10 Atlanta Comics Expo — Atlanta GA.
09 BD: Jack Lundy.
10 BD: Marcia Illingworth.
11 BD: Jeanna Woosley.
12 BD: Abraham Lincoln.
14 Valentine's Day.
15-17 Furry Weekend Atlanta 2008 — Atlanta GA.
16* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.
17 BD: Nancy A. Cucci.
18 President's Day.

- 21 BD: Susan Stockell.
22-24 ConNooga — Chattanooga TN.
22 BD: George Washington.

MARCH

- 02 BD: Ronnie Lajoie.
06 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Rendezvous with Rama*, Arthur C. Clarke; 6P.
08 BD: Bill Payne.
09 Daylight Saving Time begins.
09 BD: Tracey Kennedy.
10 BD: Kerry Gilley.
13 BD: Anita Eisenberg.
14-16 DeepSouthCon 46/Stellarcon 32 — High Point NC.
14-16 OmegaCon — Birmingham AL.
15-16 MomoCon — Atlanta GA. NOTE: Firm dates not available online.
15* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD. NOTE: Date may change due to conflict with DeepSouthCon, et al.
15 BD: Carlo DeShouten.
17 St. Patrick's Day.
19-23 29th International Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts — Orlando FL.
20 First Day of Spring (19th in Mountain time zone and westward).
20-23 Frolicon 2008 — Atlanta GA.
21-23 FantaSciCon 2008 — Chattanooga TN.
22 BD: Jayson Woosley.
27-30 AggieCon 39 — College Station TX.
28-30 MidSouthCon 26 — Memphis TN.
28-30 Jampron — Chattanooga TN.
28-30 EconoCon — Atlanta GA.

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.

Awards Roundup

CHESLEY AWARDS FOLLOWUP

It was noted in the September issue of the *Shuttle* that the “Service to ASFA” category of the Chesley Awards <www.asfa-art.org> was not announced with the other awards at this year’s Worldcon. That seemed puzzling to your editor at the time, but the lack of info might have been chalked up to the relative difficulties in gathering information from the first Worldcon to take place in Japan.

The actual answer, though, is that there was no award this year. According to a post by Mike Willmoth (current ASFA VP and Acting President) on the SF Awards Watch blog <www.sfawardswatch.com>, all the nominees for the award

declined nomination. Each was a member of ASFA's board of directors and presumably saw at least a perception of conflict of interest. Your editor is not familiar enough with the nominating and voting processes for the ASFA awards to have a firm opinion, but it seems somewhat of a shame that some of the people devoting the most volunteer time to ASFA could not be recognized for their contributions.

2007 ENDEAVOUR AWARD

The Endeavour Award <www.osfci.org/endeavour> honors a distinguished sf/fantasy book written by a Pacific Northwest author or authors and published in the previous year. The award is named for H. M. Bark Endeavour, the ship of Northwest explorer Capt. James Cook, and is presented annually at OryCon <www.orycon.org>, held in Portland OR. The award includes a \$1,000 prize.

At OryCon 29 (16–18 November 2007, Portland Marriott Waterfront) the 2007 award (for works published in 2006) was announced. The winner is *Forest Mage* by Robin Hobb. The other finalists were *Children of Chaos*, Dave Duncan; *Fortress of Ice*, C. J. Cherryh; *Horizon*, Mary Rosenblum; and *Spirits that Walk in Shadow*, Nina Kiriki Hoffman. Judges for the award were Adam-Troy Castro, Claude Lalumière, and John G Henry.

FIRST PGA NOMS ANNOUNCED

The first round of nominations for the Producers Guild of America Awards — the four TV Series categories — were announced 15 November 2007. Nominations in other categories, including the TV Long Form and Theatrical Motion Picture categories, will be released in early 2008. The awards will be presented at the 19th Annual Producers Guild Awards on 2 February 2008 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Two genre-related shows (*Heroes* and *Lost*) received noms in the TV Drama category.

AMAZON BEST OF 2007 LISTS

Though these lists aren't actually awards they may still be of interest to *Shuttle* readers. Online bookseller Amazon <www.amazon.com> has released a number of lists of "best of 2007" books in various categories. Two of the lists most of interest to our readers may be the "Top 10 Editors' Picks: Science Fiction & Fantasy" list available online at <tinyurl.com/2um82p> and the "Customers' Favorites: Science Fiction & Fantasy" at <tinyurl.com/2apes6>. Perhaps not surprisingly, those lists have little or nothing in common.

Several other of the Amazon lists include sf/f/h works (for instance in the Middle Readers and Teens lists). The full set of lists can be found starting at <tinyurl.com/2dmp3k>.

Invitations and Summonses

No Need for a Ring — Chapter 18
by PieEyedDragon

[Editor's Note: This is the second chapter in the second part of the NNFA trilogy — *The Two Hairy Towers* — and is thus numbered as Chapter 2 in some places. The *Shuttle* is serializing the entire tale and chooses to use the alternate sequential

chapter numbering system.]

Eldarion sits at an ornate desk and takes up writing instruments. He had scribes for this but, under the circumstances, he felt he should perform an overt act of faith. In a few lines he denotes an order to begin design of a new Tower of Amon Sûl on Weathertop, with a requirement that the spot where his father had held off five of the Nazgûl should be preserved. With this he included Council invitations to the co-Chiefs of the Dwarves of the southern Blue Mountains: Dufur of the Broadbeams and Lofar of the Firebeards.

Next, he wrote some letters for the Shire. In one he promoted the current Warden of Westmarch, Elfstan "Stan" Fairbairn — a grandson of Sam Gamgee — to become a Counselor of the North-kingdom.

Next, he writes summonses for him and the current three Hobbit Counselors.

Finally, Eldarion writes the dreaded invitation to his uncles in Rivendell: Elros and Elrohir. They were still touchy over the recent death of their little sister Arwen; his mother. Their grandfather, Celeborn, was there, too; having not yet chosen to go west and rejoin his wife, Galadriel.

Eldarion sets the first notice aside, being public; ties the remaining parchments with white ribbons, and seals them with his seal. He leans back and closes his eyes. He quietly says to no one: "I would give a pretty penny to know where that dragon had gone." Every day he had expected to hear the answer; in the form of reports about burnt-out farmsteads, wasted towns and villages, or destroyed herds.

Looking at the messages for the Shire, Eldarion thinks a moment and then rings a small handbell twice. For several minutes he sits very quietly, listening as hard as he can. This is a game he has played before. Finally, with no prior warning, he hears a double knock at his door.

Eldarion: Come in, Master Stock.

Eldarion's Esquire, Beerin Stock, enters the room; carrying a basket. Even at this close range, the king can hear the faint swish of the Hobbit's clothing more clearly than the soft sounds of his bare feet. His round, pleasant face is crowned by woolly blond hair.

Eldarion: What do you have there?

Beerin: (Swallowing) Cook sent you some apples. They are quite passable.

Eldarion: (Laughing) Are any left for me?

Beerin: (Aggrieved) Most of them, My Lord. You sent for me?

Eldarion: Yes. Tell me about the current Shire Counselors.

Beerin: Well, my Lord; the Master of Buckland is Kalimac Brandybuck. We all call him "Happy." The Took and Thain of the Shire is Barnabas Took, also called "Buster" because of a childhood mishap with a large, old wicker chair in his father's home. Fortibray Bolger, "Ray," is Mayor of Michel Delving. Their grandfathers had all stood firm thru the times of terror. Fredegar "Fatty" Bolger, though not one of the Nine Walkers, had remained in Buckland. He pretended to be Frodo Baggins in an attempt to decoy the Ringwraiths. He later led rebels against Saruman's ravagers at Brockenbores by the hills of Scary; until they caught him and locked him away, underground. Fatty married the widow Angelica Baggins-Boffin, shortly before the birth of her son, Fosco Bolger. She was a cousin of old "Mad Baggins" himself! Her first husband Fosco was one of the nineteen Hobbits killed at the Battle of Bywater.

Eldarion: Do you know the Fairbairns?

Beerin: Know them? Lady Elanor is my Great Aunt! Her sister Goldilocks Gamgee was my grandmother. Thain Pere-

grin the First was my great-grandfather, and I'm also related to the Tookers of Long Cleeve. Bandobras...

Eldarion: (Laughing) Yes, I know! Have you seen any of them lately?

Beerin: Last year, my Lord. I hoped to visit again at Midsummer; but they don't think Lady Elanor will last that long.

Eldarion: Lady Elanor is well known to us. (She changed my diapers.) I have messages to send in that direction. Are you available to go?

Beerin: (Excited) Most assuredly, my Lord!

Eldarion: Then go and pack. You will leave tomorrow or the next day.

Beerin: Right away, my Lord! (He hurries out, making scarcely more noise than when he entered.)

After several minutes, Eldarion hears familiar footsteps in the hall; he calls out: "Winnie, is that you?"

Crown Princess Eowyn Telcontar, a tall woman clad in boots and riding leathers, steps inside and says "Yes, Papa?"

Eldarion: How is Wingfoot?

Eowyn: He's a horse and it's springtime. He's bored and worse.

Eldarion: ...and, you?

Eowyn: Bored, too; I suppose. I'm forty two and an old maid.

Eldarion: Hardly! With the amount of High Numenorean blood we have, not to mention Elven; you are a teenager. I was over fifty when I married your mother; Finduilas.

Eowyn: I miss her. I know this is a long trip for an aging woman, and it is definitely warmer in Gondor.

Eldarion: I think you and Wingfoot need to take a trip... to the Shire.

Eowyn: What about the *law*? "Men may not enter the Shire."

Eldarion: First, it is *Our* law: decreed by my father. As King, it's enforcement is *Our* responsibility. If I choose *not* to enforce it, I am answerable only to myself. This exemption also applies to you, my Heir. Second, you are technically half-Elven. Third, you could say, as your grandmother Eowyn said to the Lord of the Nazgûl, "I am *not* a *man*!" right before she stabbed him in the face. She used more words than that, but that is the meaning.

Eowyn: Did she *really* say that?

Eldarion: She said as much to me, herself. I would not call her a liar. The late Master Brandybuck confirmed it.

Eowyn: Where must I go?

Eldarion: Several places; but first, go to the Tower Hills in the Westmarch. Lady Elanor is very, very old for her kind. Her health is failing. A Royal Visit would be properly respectful — before the end. I have messages here for her children, and other Hobbits. Some of the other Counselors may even be nearby. After that, well, use your own judgment.

The Hobbits are not *Our* subjects, being a free people, but they are under *Our* protection. Few of them have ever seen me; and very few have seen you. We do a lot of trading with them. In the original Shire Charter with the Fallohide brothers, the Hobbits must maintain all roads and bridges, and "speed the King's messengers."

Eowyn: There is more involved, though? The dragon?

Eldarion: Yes, and building plans for the Weather Hills that need to be published. It is also wise, just now, to put some distance between the King and the Heir. Just in case. This city is *not* dragon-proof.

Eowyn: Yes. I will go, and soon. Should many go with

me?

Eldarion: I'm sending Beerin. Take your Aunt: Princess Gilraen; and make it a very Royal Visit. Also take the house Elf. Glorfindel is looking restless and bored.

Eowyn: He should. He certainly bores me!

— O — O — O —

"Paperwork is a necessary part of the job."

[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

John Goodwin
<jgoodwin@galaxypress.com>
Galaxy Press
7051 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood CA 90028

11 October 2007

Just wanted to thank you for putting the results of the Writers of the Future awards ceremony in your latest issue [October]. It was a great event.

[De nada. -ED]

GCOC-GCOC-GCOC-GCOC-GCOC-GCOC-GCOC

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg MD 20882

26 October–9 November 2007

Greetings once again.

We complain when it's hot; but we complain when it's cold. We complain when it's dry; we complain... It's been raining for two days with one or two more to go. This won't erase the drought conditions but it most certainly will help.

One again I have to close out a credit card — after a call from my fraud detection (*agh*) to ask if I'd bought anything from London... um... no. So, card closed out. I still have no idea how the company got the number. So far that is the only unauthorized charge. Sigh.

Um — *Heroes* — surprised to see Uhura — but after we kill of Sulu... keeping it all in the family.

Congratulations (?) to the award winners (Rubble, Phoenix, and Rebel).

Lifetime Awards always sound a bit nefarious — but Charles Brown certainly has contributed often and well (subjective) for many years — arguably not yet a lifetime, but...

I presume the Auroras will be listed nextish.

It takes all kinds to make a horse race — I've seen comments about the Nippon Hugo base that run the gamut. Gee, I thought it just was a totally genuine and individual theme — and kinda liked it.

PED — Belated Halloween Greetings (as I write I have to go buy candy — it simply would not make the 4–5 days without "disappearing").

[Sheryl's LoC continues, after a hiatus, on 9 November 2007 -ED]

Sheesh.

Halloween has come and gone. I had 30 Trick-or-Treaters

stop by. For once I had plenty (read *waaay* too much) of candy on hand — but I even returned unopened bags the next day. Gee — so virtuous.

Just saw the sheet of Yoda stamps — but the PO said, here, they sold out in one day and no intention of getting more. So, if I want 'em — gonna have to go online/phone.

Unauthorized internet activity on my credit card again — so I had to cancel it again — such fun. I still have no idea how the number was leaked. It's difficult to plug holes, if you have *no* idea of where the hole is!

[The drought is pretty bad here, too. I haven't seen a map lately but back in the late summer and early fall the severity map for the southeast basically looked like a giant target with the bullseye almost right on top of Huntsville. Sorry to hear about your issues with credit cards (continuing into your next LoC) — I did have my main card reissued by the bank proactively a couple of years ago because of a possible security breach, but as far as I can recall I've never had any suspicious activity that did 't turn out to be explainable. Um, one can return candy? Somehow that just doesn't compute! I always make sure to buy stuff I like to make the "chore" of eating the leftovers more bearable ;-) -ED]



art by Sheryl Birkhead

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

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28 November 2007

Just got my supporter's packet from Nippon — another example that, essentially, the only thing that is spelled out for supporters is printed material. Some Worldcons send really nice mixes of things such as freebies that were available at the con. Nippon sent the convention book and the pocket program. The program book was an Ace double — with half in English and half in Japanese. Now I get a chance to peruse the publication at my leisure. I did notice that all the artwork seems to be from local artists — which is fine. I wish they had simply said that to me when I sent fillos and follow up requests for information. In all honesty, I thought it would be a nice touch to have all the artwork from their local artists, but never saw that spelled out anywhere.

My condolences to Southern fandom on their losses.

I have *Martian Child* on my Netflix list and need to remember to add *I am Legend* to that same list (and hope my sister gives me a year's subscription again — fingers crossed). There is not much sf-wise that I have seen lately.

Sounds as if Pie is on his way to healing.

I do not keep tabs on the state of the writers' strike in Hollywood, but I am guessing that the effects will trickle down to most shows... at least eventually. I persist in falling further and further behind in watching all the shows I have taped, but so far have not noticed any breakout blockbusters. Hmmm, is that real or just fallout from the scripts deteriorating? Then

again, I imagine your readers will correct me if I am wrong on the hit evaluation of the new shows. Locally, *The Dead Zone* is just now being shown on regular TV, so I *am* behind the times, but I catch up eventually. I've been, slowly, catching up on *Farscape* — but so far cable just is not a justified expense.

As usual, I knew that once Thanksgiving has passed that Christmas was right around the corner. Still and all, I feel that I, somehow, lost about a week and will not be able to recover. I really hate shopping, so I need to figure out what I intend to do and then stick to the plan. I am avoiding using the Internet. So, for the second time in two years (forgive me if I already complained about this), I have had to cancel my credit card due to unauthorized activity on the Internet (and ironically, once again in London). This all means that if I locate something online that I want, I need to call the company and relay the information over the phone. With any luck this will stop (or at least greatly slow down) leaks of that information. Obviously it is difficult to stop a leak when one has no idea where the source of that leak actually is. Time will tell.

I took advantage of feeling as if I am waaay behind to visit the local dollar stores — each year I peruse their wares, only to be told I was a few weeks too late. Naturally I was told I am a few weeks too early this time. Can't win.

In looking at the information on Con†Stellation, my question is kind off the topic of a conreport — what is the name of the symbol between Con and Stellation? It looks a bit like a sword but also being to mind the idea of stellate. Just wondered.

Here's hoping all have a pleasant holiday season and get all that nasty shopping out of the way RSN!

[Did you notice if the artwork (or at least the majority of it) appeared in both the Japanese and English halves of the Worldcon Program Book? At a quick glance it appeared to be so but I didn't check terribly closely when I got my copy. The writers' strike is indeed already affecting scripted prime time TV shows. Many of them have run through all finished episodes or will do so RSN. I've noticed several of the shows I watch (including *Heroes*) have signed off after their final in-the-can episode with a tag line promising new shows in the new year. That may be wishful thinking if they mean January or even February — but then even a year from today would technically make good on the promise. The last news I read made it seem quite unlikely that the strike will be settled this calendar year... and of course it will be weeks, more likely months, after the strike is settled before many new episodes could be finished. The symbol you refer to in the convention's name ("†") is a printer's dagger so you're not far off with the sword reference. However, in this case it's intended to suggest a stylized twinkling star with a long descending "tail," so stellate is right on the mark. When a dagger is not available (for instance when restricted to ASCII) — or if the font in question is so simple that the dagger is just a plain cross — an asterisk is often substituted. -ED]

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29 November 2007

I have fallen two issues behind, the October and November

Shuttles, so as always, it is catch-up time. The new job is keeping me very busy, as is the evening job, which I will keep until the new job says it wants to keep me. This job-and-a-half will carry on for just a little while longer, and here's a loc written in the rare idle periods.

October... Thanksgiving Day here was extremely warm! Some people were barbecuing their turkeys on the patio, because they could. As you might imagine, it's much colder now.

DeepSouthCon 45 was held outside? Is this an indication of how regional conventions, once so large, are becoming quite small? I'm not sure I could do an outside convention or a campcon, I need a decent bed for my often-sore back. Gone are the days when I could pull all-nighters on chips and Coke...

I know I'm out of the loop when I don't know who won the Sunburst this year, or knew that someone from Toronto won WotF. Oh, well, I'm not a pro writer, so I guess I don't get the word. As you can see, I didn't win the Aurora I was nominated for, but there have been great changes in the Auroras. The new website is <www.prixaurorawards.ca>, and it looks like long-time administrator Dennis Mullin has stepped down. I believe Vancouver fan Clint Budd is the new administrator.

My loc... I am informed that the Palais de congres in Montreal is more than large enough for what Anticipation needs. Seven locs in one day was indeed a personal best, and if I'm going to catch up with what I have, I'll need to do that number a few more times.

November... nope, we are not going to the Denver Worldcon. Even with new employment, the money isn't there. We do plan to devote our money and efforts to doing something of substance for the Montreal Worldcon. Yvonne will probably be working in finance or space and science programming or both, and I would like to run the fanzine lounge. We'll see what we get to do.

My condolences to those who knew Hank Reinhardt and Sandy McDade. Those numbers seem to be legion. Overall, all our numbers are dropping.

Greetings to Pie-Eyed! Hope you're recovering nicely. Imagine running into a friendly giant. (Canadian readers will get the reference.)

We hope your Thanksgiving was a fun time for all... we enjoyed it, too. Every year now for the past 8 years, former Toronto fans now resident in New Jersey return for a party and full Thanksgiving dinner for about a dozen ravenous locals. Just a great time was had by all.

Now that I am caught up, I hope this letter will appear in the locol because we'd like with wish all the members of NASFA the best of Christmases, New Years, Kwanzaas, Hanukkahs, Solstices, you know the rest. Party on, folks, and let's hope for a great 2008.

[Yet again I'm reminded how young you are compared to me — the very thought of 1.5 jobs exhausts me. Granted that Thanksgiving in the States is a month later than in Canada, but in Huntsville our T'day weather was certainly not of barbecue quality — except for the type of person who would cook out in a snowstorm. (Well, not too many of those in Huntsville, and not in several years now.) Yes, DSC 45 took place at an outdoor convention. The site selection back in 2005 was, um, interesting. Going into that con there were no bids announced. As I recall three bids surfaced at the last minute — two of them for standalone cons and one, the winner, to be held in conjunction with OutsideCon, an existing annual con. There was a great deal of politicking and I know who I blame for putting

OutsideCon over the top. I thought at the time of the selection that it was a bad idea and still do. OutsideCon is a fine thing and has a great place in the variety of cons available in this region but it is not a good fit for a traveling regional. Mind you, DeepSouthCon is not very large. The largest ever was just over 1000 when it was held in conjunction with MidSouthCon a few years ago, but the majority of DSCs in the last two decades have been under 500 whether as a standalone con or combined with an annual con. This year, however, set an attendance low not seen in perhaps 40 years and that can't help but be bad for DSC. I've gotten a little more comfortable that the Palais de Congres will be big enough for the Montreal Worldcon but now I've noted how far the main hotel — the Delta Montréal — is from the convention center. The maps I have available are not really up to a good estimate, but my bad estimate is at least 750 meters as the crow flies and probably more like a kilometer sticking to the surface streets. I know Montreal has an extensive network of underground walkways that might help, but the con's web site doesn't address any of this yet. (As an aside, I note that even as I struggle to put the December *Shuttle* to bed the Palais de Congres is the host site for the one-day Montréal Comic Con.) I'm not yet sure whether I'll be going to Montreal but I have pretty firm plans in place (including prepaid airline and hotel) for Denver; sorry you won't be there. -ED]

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4 December 2007

First of all, Rose-Marie and I greet our friends and hosts in Huntsville and wish each of you a splendid Christmas, Hanukah, or Arbor Day, depending.

Secondly, I want to thank you for keeping me on the mailing list for *The NASFA Shuttle*, which I sincerely find to be the most informative and comprehensive clubzine going — competitive with LASFS' *De Profundis* and NESFA's *Instant Message*. Not I you kid: your editors do a fine job of keeping your members connected with fandom and fandom connected with your members. Good show.

Tertiarily, I want to announce that my genzine, *Challenger*, will be placing its 27th issue online RSN at <www.challzine.net>, and I not only ask but *beg* Huntsvillians to read it and respond with letters or e-mail of comment.

Quadrophonically, I am aghast. Forget everything I just said. I quote your October Minutes: "Buster Douglas (whoever that is)." "Whoever that is"... Buster Douglas is the brave — nay, fearless — boxer who, several years ago, accomplished the impossible, and *knocked out Mike Tyson*. His victory over the brutal Heavyweight Champion stands as one of the greatest upsets in the history of sports, and also as one of the finest testimonials to the value of character in the pursuit of excellence. He was a zillion-to-one underdog, but went into the ring determined to — and this was apparently for-real — honor the memory of his mother. He went up against the sport's most formidable bully and beat the punkin' out of him. It was wonderful. "Whoever that is..." Maybe if he'd been an extra on *Buffy* his accomplishment would be appreciated more!

Fifthly, and most importantly, it is satisfying, in a sad way, to read your appreciation of our late friend, Hank Reinhardt, the wolflord. Rosy and I attended his late-November funeral in Athens, Georgia, as touching and meaningful a fannish gath-

ering as I have ever seen. Many were those who spoke of the wolflord's impact on their lives and on the life of the Southern fannish community — a community he was so instrumental in creating, building, and sustaining through his personality and his character. I will be placing a transcript of the 1975 Reinhardt Roast on the *Challenger* website, given above. Those of you who never got the chance to encounter Hank, the greatest

Southern fan of all time... do so now.

Sixthly, *Shuttlers*, keep up the good work, and with luck we'll see you often in the year to come.

[Guy, you make me blush. I'm pretty sure I've never heard the *Shuttle* mentioned as being in such august company — but who am I to argue with a many-time Hugo nominee? -ED]



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