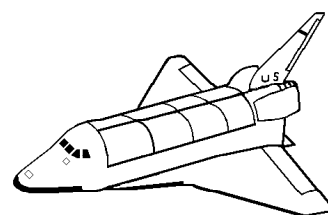


The



SHUTTLE
January 2008

*The Next NASFA Meeting will be 19 January
2008 at the Regular Time and Location*

*There will be a Concom Meeting 7:30P Thursday
17 January 2008 at Mary and Doug's House*

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next **NASFA meeting** will be Saturday **19 January 2008** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**. Meetings are at BookMark, 11220-J South Memorial Parkway — at the corner of the Parkway and Meadowbrook Drive.

CONCOM MEETING

There will be a Con†Stellation XXVII: Cassiopeia concom meeting **7:30P Thursday 17 January 2008** at **Doug and Mary Lampert's house** — 127 Autumn Glaze Drive in Meridiaville. That's in the far north of the metro area. For directions call Mary during work hours (256-955-9798) or Doug's cell phone on that Thursday evening (256-527-2879).

PROGRAM

The January **program** is TBD at press time.

ATMM

The January **After-The-Meeting Meeting** will be at Mike Kennedy's house — 7907 Charlotte Drive SW in Huntsville. Volunteers for future ATMMs are always needed.

News and Info

CORRECTION

In an editorial reply to one of the LoCs last month, it was incorrectly stated that the main hotel for the Montreal Worldcon (2009) is the Delta Montréal and approximations of the distance from that hotel to the convention center (the Palais des Congrès) of up to 1 kilometer were posited.

In fact, the main hotel is the Delta Centre-Ville — a different hotel in the same chain. The Montreal Worldcon web site at that time had the *correct name* of the hotel, but a web link to the *wrong hotel*. Once your editor discovered the error, the con was informed and their web site quickly fixed. The *Shuttle* apologizes for not better fact checking before publishing the wrong hotel information.

The Hôtel Delta Centre-Ville is, happily, closer to the convention center — it looks like the walk would be a fairly straight shot of around half a kilometer on either the surface
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Deadline for the February 2008 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 1 February 2008.

President Mary Ortwerth.

OLD BUSINESS

Sam Smith has convention old business. Doug Lampert is about to re-mail the check to Read Assist. We're hoping it will go to the correct address this time.

The last bank statement had an error. We lost 7 cents less money than we thought. One of the sales tax checks was for \$40.07, and the bank ran it as \$40.

Bill Savage is now in charge of the website. There was no need to twist any arms, beg, or plead.

OFFICER AND 2009 CONVENTION CHAIR ELECTIONS

Doug attempted to move that we close officer nominations. The chair either did not recognize the nomination, or just ignored it.

Steve Sloan read last month's nominations:

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

Jeff Freeman removed his name from the Program Director slot. Apparently, he's gafiating.

Sam nominated Doug for President, before nominations were reopened.

Mike Kennedy moved to reopen nominations. Sam seconded. Doug tried to move to close nominations. During voting to reopen nominations, only Sam opposed.

Sam nominated Doug for President, and Manda Freeman seconded. Mia "hell no'ed."

Reopening officer nominations includes reopening nominations for 2009 Con Chair.

Sam has agreed to co-chair the con with Mike K. for 2009. They haven't discussed a division of labor yet.

Doug moved to close nominations, and Manda seconded. There were no opposing votes.

There was only one contested office. Doug and Mary gave their campaign speeches: Doug wants even shorter meetings that start at six o'clock, so you suckers had better be here on time! Mary stands on her record — or the anti-Doug platform.

During the vote for President, there were eight votes for Mary, and one vote for Doug.

Doug moved that we accept all other nominations by acclamation. Manda seconded, and only Doug cast an opposing vote.

Here is the final list of officers for 2008:

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

NEW BUSINESS

We received Christmas cards from the hotel [Holiday Inn Express -ED] and from David Mattingly, which Sam passed around. We got a thank you letter from the Arthritis Foundation.

According to Sam, the website has a problem. Spam robots have figured out how to fill out the registration form and submit it. Sam and Bill went off into a geekfest about how to solve it.

We discussed the convention calendar for 2008, and decided which club meetings to move to avoid conflicts. We

ultimately decided to move just the March meeting, from the 15th to the 22nd, to avoid conflict with DeepSouthCon in North Carolina and OmegaCon in Birmingham. Sam moved to reschedule the March meeting to March 22nd. Doug seconded. Only Doug opposed.

Sam read various "spammish email crapola." We got an email from Julie Kraut at Random House. She has advance copies of the vampire novel *99 Coffins* available. Is anyone interested in writing a review for the *Shuttle*? Bill Savage volunteered. Someone named Derek or Dooniz invited us to join the "AMERICA biggest group" on <Facebook.com>. We got two emails from <Roddenberry.com>. One was selling assorted replica phasers, and the other was promoting their "first George Takei Signature Series prop." Oh, my.

We passed the hat for Karen Omel's father, who died recently. Doug moved that the club match up to \$50, just like last month. The money went to St. Jude Children's Hospital. Sam seconded, and only Adam opposed.

In addition to folding money, we got \$1.09 in change, including the first Wyoming quarter Sam had seen.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

We have confirmed three guests for the 2008 Con†Stellation: Bill Holbrook as Special Guest, Diane Duane as Guest of Honor, and Mike Resnick as Master of Ceremonies. We still need an Artist Guest. Doug got a suggestion from Randy, and he'll send out the invitation email soon.

Mike C. noted that Tim Powers is also an artist.

We're currently meeting with hotels, to try to find one that will let us set up a reservation more than eight months in advance — unlike Holiday Inn Express.

Marriott has over a \$10K setup fee, and they charge additional money for each vendor! However, after all that is paid, function space is free. Needless to say, we'll continue speaking to other hotels. [I thought that was the Holiday Inn Select (former Hilton) rather than the Marriott but I may have been confused. -ED]

We are losing attendance by having no date until six months ahead of the convention. Even if we solve that problem by finding a different hotel, it won't help until 2009, because it's already too late for 2008.

There will probably be a concom meeting in January, probably the Thursday before the club meeting.

Mike C. moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:47:57P.

The program was the annual random gift exchange. The After-the-Meeting Meeting (aka Christmas Party) was held at Ray Pietruszka and Nancy Cucci's house.

(News and Info continued from page 1)

streets or the tunnel network. Further, the hotel and the convention center are served by the same metro (subway) line, just one stop apart. One can enter the respective subway stations from inside both the hotel (the Square-Victoria station) and the convention center (the Place-d'Armes station). The convention center is directly over its station but the hotel is just far enough away from the actual Square-Victoria station that walking between the two venues would probably be as fast as the subway unless one's train leaves at just the perfect time. Taking the subway would presumably save some wear and tear on one's legs, even if it didn't save any time.

DUFF VOTING DEADLINE NEAR

The deadline to get your vote in for the 2008 Down Under FanFund is close — 31 January 2008. DUFF is a fan-supported fund that sends fannish representatives in alternate years from

Australasia to North America and vice versa. This year's race will select one or more delegates from North America to travel to Swancon, the Australian National Science Fiction Convention, to be held in Perth 20–24 March 2008. The delegates generally do a good bit of other fannish travel while in their host hemisphere. Each winner also serves as administrator for the fund until another delegate is selected for their direction of travel (generally, then, about two years).

Candidates for this year's race are southern fans Steve & Sue Francis and Canadian fan Murray Moore. Huntsville has some ties to both. Steve and Sue are, of course, well known to many Huntsville fans for, among *many* other things, their decades with Louisville's RiverCon. They were nominated by, among other folks, Huntsvillians Pat Molloy and Naomi Fisher. Mr. Moore was nominated by, among others, *Shuttle* loccer Lloyd Penney and his wife Yvonne.

Voting is by preferential ballot, with write-ins allowed. You can download a ballot at <www.fanac.org/DUFF2008.pdf> — and many Huntsvillians will be happy to provide a printed ballot to locals with limited or no computer access. To quote from the ballot, “voters must be natural persons who have been active in fandom on or before January 1, 2007.” Since all *Shuttle* subscribers are in North America, it's safe to assume you'd want to mail the completed ballot — along with a required minimum fund donation of \$5 — to the North American administrator Joe Siclari, 661 Hanover Street, Yorktown Heights NY 10598. You can also list someone (or a fan group) to vouch for your “active in fandom” (or your “natural person” ;-)) qualification if you're not personally known to Mr. Siclari.

HUGO NOMS OPEN

Nominations for this year's Hugo Awards (for work in 2007) have opened. All Supporting and Attending Members of this year's Worldcon (Denvention 3, to be held 6–10 August 2008 in Denver CO) and last year's Worldcon (Nippon 2007, held in Yokohama, Japan) are eligible to vote in this round. Only Denvention members will be eligible to vote in the final round later this year.

Eligible voters may nominate up to 5 works or persons in any or all of the 14 Hugo categories plus the John W. Campbell Award (for best new writer). Voting may be accomplished by mail or online. In either case, ballots must be received by Denvention by 1 March 2008. Members of Denvention received a paper ballot in Progress Report; mailed at the beginning of January. You can get a copy of the ballot, or vote online, at <www.denvention.org>. Do not email your ballot. To vote online you will need a PIN, which reportedly was mailed separately (on a postcard) to Denvention members.

FAAN AWARDS VOTING OPEN

Voting for the 2008 Fan Activity Achievement (FAAn) Awards (covering eligibility year 2007) has been opened. The FAAn Awards honor achievement in fanzines and associated activities. Voting will be by mail and email with a deadline of 23 February 2008. Winners will be announced during Corflu Silver <www.corflu.org>, the 25th incarnation of that zine-oriented con, on 27 April in Las Vegas.

If you want to vote by mail, a copy of the ballot can be found at <www.corflu.org/pdfs/2008faanawards.pdf>. Send your ballot to Murray Moore, 1065 Henley Road, Mississauga ON L4Y 1C8 Canada. You can also email your vote to <corflu25faan@yahoo.ca>. In either case you should provide your name and a reference if you're unlikely to be known to the administrator.

Voting takes place in seven categories, Best Fanzine, Best

Fan Writer, Best Fan Artist, Number-One Fan Face, Best Letterhack (aka the Harry Warner, Jr., Memorial Award for Best Fan Correspondent), Best New Fan, and Best Fan Website. You can vote for up to 3 persons/zines in each category, except for Fanzine and Fan Writer where you can vote for up to 5. Steve Stiles (a guest at this year's con) has asked that his name be removed from consideration in the Best Fan Artist category.

PEACE COMES TO HOBBITON

A protracted legal battle between New Line Cinema and *The Lord of the Rings* director Peter Jackson has been settled, with one result being that Jackson and partner Fran Walsh have signed on as Executive Producers for two *LotR* prequels to be based, at least in part, on *The Hobbit*.

MGM and New Line will co-finance and co-distribute the two films. The first is said to be based on *The Hobbit* while the second will be a “sequel to *The Hobbit*” and will therefore presumably be set in the time interval between the events in *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. No director has been announced for the films but publicly announced commitments for Jackson seem to make it nearly impossible that he could take up the directorial helm for these projects. It's been reported that Jackson, Walsh, and the two studios share approval on major creative elements and will start considering writers and directors this month.

AND YOU THOUGH 60'S BABY NAMES WERE WEIRD

When El Paso TX welcomed their first baby of the new year, they didn't expect a princess. Well, sort of. Abigail Leia Taber came into the world 11 seconds into 2008, born to proud Star Wars fans Susana and Roger Taber. Yep, her middle name is in honor of *that* Leia. The Taber household already had two boys, Lucas and Anakin.

You may now pick up your jaw.

Mom Susana says she plans to hold on to all the news items about her daughter's birth, in case she should “ever have political aspirations.” Hmmm, somehow Princess Leia and President Leia just aren't quite the same.

Awards Roundup

CRAWFORD AWARD WINNER

The winner of this year's Crawford Fantasy Award (for the best first book by a new fantasy writer) has been announced. The award is sponsored by International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts, <www.iafa.org>.



Winner Christopher Barzak (for *One for Sorrow*, Bantam Spectra) will have a chance to pick up the award when it is presented 22 March 2008 at the 29th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts (subtitled *The Sublime in the Fantastic*) in Orlando FL.

The other titles shortlisted this year were *The Imago Sequence* (Laird Barron, Night Shade), *God is Dead* (Ron Currie, Jr., Viking), *Portable Childhoods* (Ellen Klages, Tachyon), and *Flora Segunda* (Ysabeau Wilce, Harcourt).

NEBULA AWARDS PRELIMINARY BALLOT

The Preliminary Nebula Ballot has been released. The Nebulas, perhaps the best-known peer awards in genre fiction, are selected by members of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America <www.sfwaworld.org>. There will be a Final Ballot announced later and the winners will be announced at this year's Nebula Awards Weekend, to be held at the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown in Austin TX, 25–27 April 2008.

As this article was being compiled, the official press release had not been posted on the SFWA web site but several reliable sources listed the nominees shown below. Reportedly the Norton Award list was still under review with final info (possibly including items to be added by the Norton Jury) to be announced by Monday 14 January.

Nebula Novel Noms

- Ragamuffin**, Tobias Buckell (Tor, June 2007)
Vellum: The Book of All Hours, Hal Duncan (Del Rey, April 2006; Macmillan hardcover, November 2005 (UK))
The Yiddish Policemen's Union, Michael Chabon (Harper-Collins, May 2007)
Species Imperative #3: Regeneration, Julie E. Czerneda (DAW, May 2006)
The Accidental Time Machine, Joe Haldeman (Ace, August 2007)
The New Moon's Arms, Nalo Hopkinson (Warner Books, February 2007)
Mainspring, Jay Lake (Tor, June 2007)
Odyssey, Jack McDevitt (Ace, November 2006)
The Outback Stars, Sandra McDonald (Tor, May 2007)
Strange Robby, Selina Rosen (Meisha Merlin Publishing, July 2006)
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, J. K. Rowling (Scholastic Press, July 2007)
Rollback, Robert J. Sawyer (*Analog*, serialized October 2006–January/February 2007; Tor, April 2007)
Blindsight, Peter Watts (Tor, October 2006)

Nebula Novella Noms

- "The Helper and His Hero,"** Matt Hughes (*F&SF*, serialized February 2007–March 2007)
"Fountain of Age," Nancy Kress (*Asimov's*, July 2007)
"Stars Seen Through Stone," Lucius Shepard (*F&SF*, July 2007)
"Kiosk," Bruce Sterling (*F&SF*, January 2007)
"Memorare," Gene Wolfe (*F&SF*, April 2007)

Nebula Novelette Noms

- "The Children's Crusade,"** Robin Wayne Bailey (*Heroes in Training*, Martin H. Greenberg and Jim C. Hines, eds., DAW, September 2007)
"A Flight of Numbers Fantastique Strange," Beth Bernobich (*Asimov's*, June 2006)
"Things That Aren't," Michael A. Burstein and Robert Greenberger (*Analog*, April 07)
"The Merchant and the Alchemist's Gate," Ted Chiang (*F&SF*, September 2007)
"Sister of the Hedge," Jim C. Hines (*Realms of Fantasy*, June 2006)
"The Evolution of Trickster Stories Among the Dogs Of North Park After the Change," Kij Johnson (*Coyote Road, Trickster Tales*, Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling, eds., Viking Juvenile, July 2007)
"The Sun God at Dawn, Rising from a Lotus Blossom," Andrea Kail (*Writers of the Future Volume 23*, Algis Budrys, ed., Galaxy Press, September 2007)
"Safeguard," Nancy Kress (*Asimov's*, January 2007)

"Alastair Baffle's Emporium of Wonders," Mike Resnick (*Asimov's*, January 2008)

"Tonino and the Incubus," Peg Robinson (*Helix: A Speculative Fiction Quarterly*, William Sanders and Lawrence Watt-Evans, eds., Fall 2006 issue, #2)

"Pol Pot's Beautiful Daughter," Geoff Ryman (*F&SF*, November 2006)

"The Fiddler of Bayou Teche," Delia Sherman (*Coyote Road, Trickster Tales*, Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling, eds., Viking Juvenile, July 2007)

"Not of this Fold," William Shunn (*An Alternate History of the 21st Century*, Spilt Milk Press, September 2007)

Nebula Short Story Noms

"Unique Chicken Goes In Reverse," Andy Duncan (*Eclipse 1: New Science Fiction And Fantasy*, Jonathan Strahan, ed., Night Shade Books, October 2007)

"The Padre, the Rabbi, and the Devil His Own Self," Melanie Fletcher (*Helix: A Speculative Fiction Quarterly*, William Sanders and Lawrence Watt-Evans, eds., Fall 2006 issue, #2)

"Always," Karen Joy Fowler (*Asimov's*, April/May 2007)

"For Solo Cello, op. 12," Mary Robinette Kowal (*Cosmos*, February/March 2007)

"Titanium Mike Saves the Day," David D. Levine (*F&SF*, April 2007)

"The Story of Love," Vera Nazarian (*Salt of the Air*, Prime Books, September 2006)

"Captive Girl," JenniferPELLand (*Helix: A Speculative Fiction Quarterly*, William Sanders and Lawrence Watt-Evans, eds., Fall 2006 issue, #2)

Nebula Script Noms

"Blink," Steven Moffat (*Doctor Who*, BBC/The Sci-Fi Channel, September 2007)

Children of Men, Alfonso Cuarón, Timothy J. Sexton, David Arata, Mark Fergus, and Hawk Ostby (Universal Studios, December 2006)

"The Discarded," Harlan Ellison and Josh Olson (*Masters of Science Fiction*, ABC-TV, April 2007)

Pan's Labyrinth, Guillermo del Toro (Time/Warner, January 2007)

The Prestige, Christopher Nolan and Jonathon Nolan, based on the novel by Christopher Priest (Newmarket Films, October 2006)

V for Vendetta, Larry Wachowski and Andy Wachowski, based on the graphic novel illustrated by David Lloyd (Warner Films, March 2006)

"World Enough and Time," Marc Scott Zicree and Michael Reaves (*Star Trek: New Voyages*, <www.startreknewvoyages.com>, August 2007)

Andre Norton Award Noms

(for young adult sf/fantasy)

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, J. K. Rowling (Scholastic Press, July 2007)

Into the Wild, Sarah Beth Durst (Penguin Razorbill, June 2007)

Vintage: A Ghost Story, Steve Berman (Haworth Positronic Press, March 2007)

Flora Segunda: Being the Magickal Mishaps of a Girl of Spirit, Her Glass-Gazing Sidekick, Two Ominous Butlers (One Blue), a House with Eleven Thousand Rooms, and a Red Dog, Ysabeau S. Wilce (Harcourt, January 2007)

DICK AWARD NOMS ANNOUNCED

Nominees for the 2007 Philip K. Dick Award (for distin-

guished science fiction published in paperback original form in the United States) have been announced. The Dick Award <www.philipkdickaward.org> is presented by the Philip K. Dick Trust, sponsored by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society <www.psfs.org>, with the award ceremony sponsored by the NorthWest Science Fiction Society. First prize and any special citations will be announced on Friday 21 March 2008 at Norwescon 31 <www.norwescon.org> at the Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport, SeaTac WA. The nominees are:

- Grey**, Jon Armstrong (Night Shade Books)
- Undertow**, Elizabeth Bear (Bantam Spectra)
- From the Notebooks of Dr. Brain**, Minister Faust (Del Rey)
- Nova Swing**, M. John Harrison (Bantam Spectra)
- Gradisil**, Adam Roberts (Pyr)
- Ally**, Karen Traviss (Eos)
- Saturn Returns**, Sean Williams (Ace Books)

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

The People's Choice Awards <www.pcavote.com> is a popular vote award (online voting) covering about 40 categories in movies, television, and music. Results of the 34th annual PCAs were announced earlier this month. Discounting the categories dedicated to music or to persons (versus works), genre and related shows won in almost half the categories and made the short list in many of the others. Genre/related winners included:

- Movie Drama***Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*
- Favorite Movie***Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*
- Favorite Threequel***Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*
- Sci-Fi Show***Stargate Atlantis*
- Family Movie***Shrek the Third*
- Animated Comedy, TV***The Simpsons*
- New TV Drama***Moonlight*



GOLDEN GLOBE NOMS

Nominations for the 65th annual Golden Globe Awards have been released. Winners will be announced Sunday 13 January 2008, just a few hours too late to make this issue of the *Shuttle*.

The Golden Globes are awarded by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and cover works in film and television. This year's awards are notable in part because the traditional gala ceremony was canceled and replaced by a shorter but still televised press conference in large part due to the ongoing strike by the Writers Guild of America.

Genre and related works received perhaps fewer nominations than in some past years. In the film categories, *Enchanted*

was the only film to score multiple noms – for Amy Adams (Best Actress, Musical or Comedy) and for “That’s How You Know” (Best Original Song). The Best Animated Film category was dominated by genre and related works, *Bee Movie*, *Ratatouille*, and *The Simpsons Movie*.

In the Television categories, both *Medium* and *Jekyll* scored single noms for Best Actress, Drama (Patricia Arquette) and Best Actor, Miniseries or Movie (James Nesbitt) respectively. Your editor’s personal fave *Pushing Daisies* lead all genre/related works with three nods — getting recognition for both Best Actor, Musical or Comedy (Lee Pace) and Best Actress, Musical or Comedy (Anna Friel) plus a nom in the Best Series, Musical or Comedy category.

In the Hole of the Mountain-Thing

No Need for a Ring — Chapter 19

by PieEyedDragon

[Editor’s Note: This is the third chapter in the second part of the NNFA trilogy — *The Two Hairy Towers* — and is thus numbered as Chapter 3 in some places. The *Shuttle* is serializing the entire tale and chooses to use the alternate sequential chapter numbering system.]

The giant goes out every night to fish, returning toward dawn with another basket of fish. He shares it generously with me. I hope he is eating enough, himself.

I recognized him at first sight; through one of my “second-hand” memories. He had done some work for the wizard.

After a few days my legs and ribs feel strong enough to venture out; though my wing structure is still questionable. I am hearing my name spoken by goblins further and further away. I also hear Princess Mee speak it in the Old Forest.

One night I follow Kevin through the hills westward, down to a sheltered cove. He wades out into the cold water and starts flinging a net with ease of long practice. He gets only one or two moderate fish each time and puts them into his basket. I swim out further and, locating a school, herd them toward him. The catch improves greatly. By midnight the basket is already full.

Kevin: BIRDIE SWIMS GOOD! HAVE FISHIE!

(He tosses me one and then another, which I quickly eat. He eats several, too. After two more hours of fishing, we return to the cave with a full basket and full stomachs. He touches the sandal again, with a sad expression. I think I know somewhat of the problem. The wizard was never able to fulfill Kevin’s request for information.)

PED: Kevin is sad. Tell me why?

Kevin: BAYBIE BIRDIE TALKS!

PED: Yes. Whose sandal is that?

Kevin: IS BIG BROTHER JOHN’S. YOU KNOW JOHN?

PED: No. Where is John?

Kevin: ME NOT KNOW. WE COME HERE FROM MOUNTAINS EVERY TWO... THREE YEAR. ONE TIME ME GOT HURT LEG, SO JOHN GO AHEAD. SEVEN DAY LATER ME FOLLOW SLOW. ME GET HERE. ME FIND BASKET. ME FIND SHOE. ME NO FIND JOHN. ME LOOK. ME FISH. ME WAIT. WINTER COME AGAIN. ME GO BACK MOUNTAINS. UNCLE BELERUS, HE NO SEE JOHN. AUNTIE FENIA, AUNTIE MENIA; THEY NO SEE JOHN. ASK ALL YEAR. COME BACK WINTER. ME

COME HERE. NO JOHN.

SOME TIME AGOME MEET GADOFF; LITTLE GRAY WIZARD MANS. BLOCK UP GOBLIN HOLE. HE NO SEE JOHN. HE SAY HE LOOK, ASK, LISTEN, TELL IF FIND. HE NO FIND.

— O — O — O —

(There is an unpaid wizarding debt involved, here. I resolve to give it a shot. Gandalf had found some traces in this place.)

PED: Where was the shoe? Maybe I can spot some clues.

Kevin: WHAT MEAN?

PED: You helped me. I will try to help you. I will look for John. Show me where you found the shoe.

(Kevin takes the shoe and puts it on the floor, not far from the water. He turns over a stump seat and sets it near. I walk around, tasting the floor and the gravel... letting my magic sense wander around in several areas. Near the shoe is a place where the crystal structure of the stone had been deformed oddly; indicating a powerful burst of magic. There is no taste of death, not here.)

PED: Could John do magic?

Kevin: NO. NO GIANT DO MAGIC EVER.

PED: Is this John's hair in the cords of the shoe?

Kevin: YES. JOHN MAKE CORD FROM HAIR.

PED: (Well, this helped. Being well versed in the Law of Contagion, I knew that a shoe would long interact with the foot that wore it. An actual sample of hair was much better. I speak a simple spell of direction and address the shoe) *John! Brother of Kevin! By your hair and by your shoe: Tell me now, where are you?*

Nothing.

PED: (Trying another angle) *By this cord, your hairy thread. Tell me John, are you dead?*

Nothing. This should have worked if the subject were within several thousand miles. I must need more power. I take the shoe outside. The full moon is still fairly high in the west. I cup my natural wings to catch the non-visible radiations and try again, "plating" with the moonlight. This time, the shoe gives a very slight twitch. Feeding more power to the spell, the shoe now swings to the north and the toe points upward at a sharp angle... in the general direction of the Sickle, and Sol!

PED: John is alive, but very far away.

Kevin: ME WANT TELL HIM ME IS OK. CAN DO?

PED: I think so. (I work over the shoe, chanting spells of finding and protection. I add a final spell of sound reproduction. A ball of light slowly grows around it.)

Kevin: PRETTY! WHAT ME DO?

PED: When I give you the shoe, speak your message; then imagine you can throw it to John, and throw it very, very hard! (Returning to my spellwork) "Return to your owner, John is his name, *Aleph...*" (I hand the glowing shoe to Kevin.)

Kevin: MEMISS YOU, JOHN. BUT ME IS OK! CATCH THIS! (He hauls back and lets fly eastward. We watch the ball of light dwindle in the night. About four miles downrange, it reaches it's apex and begins to drop.)

PED: "...*Zain!*"

(The shoe heels hard left, northward, and begins rising steeply, picking up speed and really "stepping out." Before it is lost to my sight, a faint clap of thunder rolls down from where it has kicked through the sound barrier on it's way to, wherever. I hoped it would not hit John in the head when it got there in several months; or more likely, years.)

Kevin: HOOOO! ME NEVER SEE CURVE BALL LIKE THAT ONE!

PED: We should get inside. The sun will rise soon.

Kevin: DO BIRDIE KNOW RIDDLES?

— O — O — O —

"I must see if I can't find a more or less decent giant to block it up again," Gandalf said, "or soon there will be no getting over the mountains at all." — *The Hobbit*

[In "The Conjure Man," Charles de Lint introduces a rustic bicyclist named John Windle; who says he was originally a giant.]

[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

PieEyedDragon

13 December 2007

<pieeyeddragon@yahoo.com>

Errata: You're a strange one, Mister Glitch! (Gremlins again!) Arwen's brothers were Elladan (not Elros) and Elrohir.

Elros was their uncle: the long-dead (chose mortality) brother of Elrond.

Lady Sheryl forgot that I am female. (Too much candy?) Happy New Year!

[Ah, well, there's always one more typo, even for a dragon. As you can see below, Sheryl called me on a typo in one of the announcements in the same issue. -ED]

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

Lloyd Penney

22 December 2007

<penneys@allstream.net>

1706-24 Eva Road

Etobicoke ON

Canada M9C 2B2

One last *Shuttle* for the year... let's make some insightful comments (yeah, right), and go out in style! Here they come for December...

Looking forward to the Montreal Worldcon... we might even take the train, depending on how much stuff we'd have to bring with us to Montreal. We are making further inquiries, they haven't processed our memberships yet...

Diane Duane will be a very good guest, and I must assume that Peter Morwood will be coming with her. Peter and Diane mingle well, and will really add to the convention. Wish I could be there to see them, they're old friends. Say hello to them for me!

The calendar... Yvonne's birthday was a great time, we partied like mad, had a great dinner at a restaurant close to where I work, and got her some of her favorite rare perfume, Royal Secret. The reason I know not to combine her birthday with Christmas? My mother's birthday is on the 26th...

With changes in the Aurora Awards management, nominations have opened already for the 2007 Auroras, to be awarded at Keycon in May of 2008. And my greetings to PieEyed... Ray Bolger was a hobbit? That's news to those of us who remember *The Wizard of Oz*.

My loc... the job-and-a-half will continue for a while yet.

The great job I got in September evaporated, and [I] have a new assignment with Panasonic Canada. I hope that a local lottery will burden with untold wealth, and make all of this making-a-living stuff moot. Wish I didn't have to, but there is the security of having at least some employment, instead of being totally unemployed.

Yvonne and I hope your Christmas and New Year's was wonderful fun, and that you're all ready for another year of fannish folly. See you all next issue.

[The Montreal worldcon is still on my "maybe" list — I'd love to go but, you know, time and money... Last time I checked, Lloyd, both airplanes and roads still connect Toronto and Huntsville so you *could* come to Con†Stellation to tell Ms Duane hello for yourself. (Yeah, yeah, time and money, time and money...) -ED]

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

PieEyedDragon 26 December 2007
<pieeyeddragon@yahoo.com>

Sir Lloyd, does your "friendly giant" work in the timber industry? Bonjean by name?

Dragons and Giants have generic reputations... not all of them are individually deserved.

Also, happy birthday to the Capricorns.

[Speaking of birthdays, PED, do you have one we should list in the NASFA Calendar? Or was that too many calendar changes ago to translate to modern times? -ED]

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

Sheryl Birkhead 1 January 2008
25509 Jonnie Court



Gaithersburg MD 20882

Sigh — it took two years to get a laptop and last night it turned its toes up and is either dead, or doing a very good impression thereof. So, I have several choices and this is the last portable typer I bought. It is obvious that it has some problems, but... the laptop is an old one called a Wallstreet and I am asking around to see if anyone has any suggestions as where to begin... without the big outlay at an Apple store.

We'll see how far I can get and I hope you can read it.

Welcome to a new year. Here's hoping we can all do a better job with it than we did last year.

(Chuckle — read the first line on page two — "worth nothing"? — I think not.)

Oh yeah, now that it is a new year, it is appropriate to start thinking about Hugo nominations again — all who are eligible to do so.

Yeah, you can return unopened bags of candy. I try very hard to pick items that the kids will like but which I do *not* — or things that don't fit with my being a vegetarian (e.g., anything that has gelatin in it is not acceptable — so I read ingredient lists).

I am just now watching tapes from a month ago — and see that J. K. Rowling was one of Barbara Walters' 10 most interesting people of 2007. Ah, so the Potters were her neighbors! Ah, she was also the *most* fascinating of the 10.

((There has to be a way to get better type — well, yeah, go buy a new laptop — I priced the new Mac laptops — start at \$1099 and even then not sure how I would actually print anything since the new Macs do not communicate (I am told) with the older Mac — caught in a quandary. Hmm, being broke, I guess not — just have to muddle along.))

Went with some friends (and their 6 kids) to the movies. At the end of the year I am usually totally tied up with all the miscellany I have to file for the business at the end of the year. But, they chose one of the movies I wanted to see so I sacrificed



one day and went to see *Enchanted*. I found it enjoyable. The only criticism I had read about the movie was that the animation seemed flatter than we are used to. Well, yes, but that is both part of the movie's charm and part of what gives it the old fairy tale aura.

Let us know how the New Year's Eve party went — Happy New Year to all.

[The NYE party was fun and pretty-well attended, but I ended up with lots of leftover champagne. I'll just have to

find a reason to open a bottle or two now and again this year. Good luck with your dead laptop — repairing a several-year-old computer generally isn't worth it unless you can do the work yourself (and even then buying the parts can end up costing nearly as much — or more — than buying another used computer of the same vintage). RE typos — don't you just hate them? But, as I've often said, there's always one more. The place you, er, note should have course have read as “worth noting” instead of “worth nothing.” -ED]



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