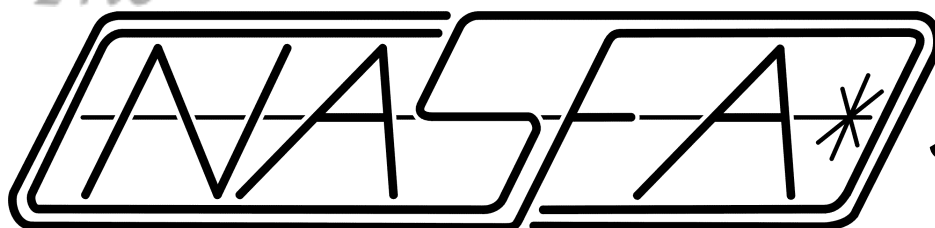


The



Shuttle  
July 2008

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

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

### ! Oyez, Oyez !

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be Saturday **19 July 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.

Note that this issue of the *Shuttle* is going to press a week earlier than usual due to your editor plans to go to LibertyCon. At press time it's undetermined exactly when the issue will be mailed, but it will likely be in people's hands quite a bit earlier than usual. Don't be fooled into showing up at BookMark a week before the actual club meeting.

#### PROGRAM

The July program will be a dry run of the *Name That Movie* panel being developed for this year's Con+Stellation. Be prepared for a few easy and hopefully more not-as-easy puzzles. Participants will be divided up into two or three teams to see if they can identify partially-observed stills from genre movies. Quickness counts!

#### ATMM

The After-The-Meeting Meeting will be at Russell McNutt's house (and pool) — 902 Drake Avenue SE, Huntsville AL 35802-1035. From the Parkway head east on Drake, past Whitesburg, and over the hill. Russell's house is the second one

on the right past Barcode Road (which goes off Drake only to the right).

Enter through the garage, then go straight through to the pool in the back. Please do *not* go in the upper level of the house (where Russell's elderly parents live). The lower level of the house is accessible from the pool area; if you want to swim you will be able to change there.

#### CONCOM MEETING

There will be a concom meeting at Doug and Mary Lampert's house (127 Autumn Glaze Drive in Meridianville) at 7:30P Thursday 17 July 2008. An email with directions will be forthcoming. If you miss the email or get lost on the day, call their home phone (256-829-9195) or Doug's cell (256-527-2879) for directions.

#### FUTURE ATMMs

Russell McNutt has also offered to host the August ATMM at his house. Since no one else has yet spoken up with another offer, it seems likely that's what we'll do — but remember that we can always use volunteers for any future month.

#### SHUTTLE TRANSITION PLANS

The transition of *Shuttle* production to different (newer) hardware and software is still ongoing. Eventually all the bugs in the process will be squashed (a few more each month :-), but in the meanwhile the fit and finish of the *Shuttle* will suffer a bit. We continue to ask your forbearance during the transition.

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**Deadline for the August issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Monday, 21 July 2008**

# News and Info

## METROPOLIS TO GROW

*Metropolis* will be getting quite a bit larger. No, not *Metropolis*, the home of Superman; the seminal 1927 German silent film *Metropolis*.

Reports of the original length of Fritz Lang's early masterpiece vary significantly, but it's not in doubt that it has been cut and recut over the years, with as much as a quarter of the original footage believed lost. Many restorations have been attempted over the years, but none could come particularly close to reviving the original director's cut because of the lost parts.

Now, most (by some reports, all) of that footage has been found in Argentina in the collection of a small film museum. The film stock is significantly degraded and will likely need much restoration before a new, virtually complete, cut of *Metropolis* can be made public. Something to look forward to.



## GWYNETH JONES WINS PILGRIM

The Science Fiction Research Association <[www.sfra.org](http://www.sfra.org)> has selected Gwyneth Jones <[homepage.ntlworld.com/gwynethann](http://homepage.ntlworld.com/gwynethann)> to receive this year's Pilgrim Award for lifetime contributions to sf and fantasy scholarship. In addition to her work as a critic, Ms Jones writes sf and fantasy under her own name and YA and juvenile books as Ann Halam.

## TRAGIC NEWS FROM THE WEST

If you're particularly squeamish don't read this section. Take a pass on letting the kids read it, too.

Tragic news has surfaced from the Seattle 2011 Worldcon bid. A group of five Seattle-area fans were involved in a roll-over automobile accident while traveling to Las Vegas to attend the Westercon there and to promote the Seattle bid. Treasurer of the bid Roberta "Bert" Carlson was killed in the accident. Fan Nick Navota is reported to have sustained severe damage to both hands and is still hospitalized at press time. It sounds like he'll at least lose several fingers on each hand. The other three fans (reported names: William Boyde, Nez, and Howitzer) were not hospitalized but are said to be traumatized by the accident. Understandably so, one must say.

Information about the event and aftermath is currently being posted online at <[community.livejournal.com/seattle\\_2011](http://community.livejournal.com/seattle_2011)>. Since that's the blog for general discussion of the Seattle bid, it would not be surprising if the info were moved at some time.

One of the people involved in the accident, William Boyde, is reportedly going to front the money to pay for air travel to get the survivors home. If you wish to donate to that cause, you can send him money via PayPal using his email address <[wboyde@eskimo.com](mailto:wboyde@eskimo.com)>. Excess funds, if any, after the travel costs are recouped are to be donated to Ms Carlson's family.

## June Minutes

by Steve Sloan, Secretary

The June meeting of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association was called to order on Saturday, June 21, 2008 in the BookMark meeting room at 6:24:40P by Vice

President Mike Kennedy.

## OLD BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

Sam discussed some of the snail-mails he had received. He got a bill for Mike Resnick's travel. He also got a strange charge on the Con†Stellation Visa account, for Smokey's Barbecue. Someone used the wrong credit card for lunch, and the account will be reimbursed. [Actually, it was for dinner, and I paid for the erroneous charge on the spot. -ED]

Sam also received a notice that the Con-Stellation.org domain name is up for renewal, and they want a \$30 annual renewal fee. That is much more expensive than typical domain renewals, which are usually closer to eight or ten dollars nowadays. Bill will look into finding a cheaper domain name registrar.

Paying for Mike Resnick's travel will put the con [checking account] below the minimum balance. Should Sam crack a CD? (That's certificate of deposit, not the music medium.) We would lose the CD's interest if we use it early. Sam wants the club to sell the CD to him, and he'll put the money into the club checking account.

Anita moved that we let Sam buy the CD. Alice seconded. Sam was the only opposing vote, but only because Doug wasn't there to fulfill that role.

## CONVENTION BUSINESS

There is a concom this Thursday, at 7:30P at Doug and Mary's house.

Bill got an email from a group doing LARP in honor of Pat at this year's Con†Stellation. Can they get a worker's rate? We'll ask the con committee, and see if that's OK. It's usually OK.

There is no new business for next year's con. The one guest is David Weber.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve mentioned a flyer he got for Crisis Con, to be held here in Huntsville this Halloween weekend. It's being organized by some of the same people as Persacon, the local anime convention. The club is aware of it.

Sam moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:37:55 PM.

The program was a talk by local author Scott Oden. He spoke about his published novels, *Men of Bronze* and *Memnon*, and he spoke about his upcoming novel. Russell McNutt hosted the After-the-Meeting Meeting/Pool Party at his house. We're happy that Mr. Oden was able to join us for the ATMM as well, and it was good to see Russell again.

## NASFA Calendar

### JULY

- 01 Canada Day.
- 02 BD: Deb Stone.
- 03-06 Play On Con — Birmingham AL.
- 04 Independence Day.
- 10 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Lord Foul's Bane*, Stephen Donaldson; 6P.
- 11-13 LibertyCon 21 — Chattanooga TN.
- 13 Atlanta Comic Convention — Atlanta GA.
- 17 Con†Stellation Concom Meeting — 7:30P at Doug and Mary's house.
- 19\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: *Name That Movie*. ATMM: Russell McNutt's house.
- 24 BD: Jay Johns.

- AUGUST**
- 06–10 Denvention 3 (66<sup>th</sup> World Science Fiction Convention)  
— Denver CO.
- 07 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Dead Until Dark*, Charlaine Harris; 6P.
- 08 BD: Jim Woosley.
- 08 Movie in the Park — *Dr. Strangelove*, sundown.
- 12 BD: Sue Thorn.
- 14 BD: Edward Kenny.
- 15–17 ArmadilloCon 30 — Austin TX.
- 16\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: Russell McNutt's house (subject to change).
- 19 BD: Khen Moore.
- 21 BD: Deborah Denton.
- 22 Movie in the Park — *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*, sundown.
- 29–31 Mephit FurMeet — Memphis TN.
- 29–01 Dragon\*Con 2008 — Atlanta GA.

01 Labor Day.  
03 BD: David K. Robinson.  
04 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *The Eyre Affair*,  
Jasper Fforde; 6P  
05-07 OutsideCon 21 — Burns, TN.  
09 BD: Mike Cothran.  
11 BD: Ray Pietruszka.  
12 BD: Pat Butler.  
17 Grandparents Day.  
17 Citizenship Day.  
19-21 Anime Weekend Atlanta 14 — Atlanta GA.  
20\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at  
BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD.  
26 BD Jenna Victoria Stone.  
27 Games Day Memphis 2008 — Memphis TN.

02 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Startide Rising*,  
David Brin; 6P.

03–05 Archon 32 — Collinsville IL (St. Louis MO area).

10–12 Necronomicon '08 — St. Petersburg (Tampa area) FL.

10–12 Classic Movie Monster Con — Kingsport TN.

10–13 Gaylaxicon 2008 — Bethesda MD (Washington DC  
area).

12 Columbus Day (Traditional).

13 Columbus Day (Observed).

15 BD: Robert Buelow.

17–19 Con†Stellation XXVII — Huntsville AL.

18\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at  
BookMark. Program: TBD. ATMM: TBD. **NOTE:**  
Date will almost certainly change due to Con†Stellation.

23–26 Atlanta HorrorFest — Atlanta GA.

24–26 HallowCon '08 — Chattanooga TN.

24–26 Wicked Harvest 2008 — Norcross (Atlanta area) GA.

24 United Nations Day.

25 BD: Marie McCormack.

31 Halloween.

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 regular meeting location is the meeting room at BookMark 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.

## A Movie Review

by Mike Kennedy

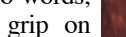
I could wrap up this review in three words: Go See It. But, I assume that *Shuttle* readers might want to know just a wee bit more, so here goes.

what's been shown in those and avoid any serious spoilers — but it almost doesn't matter. I think that, for *me*, I could have known the out-

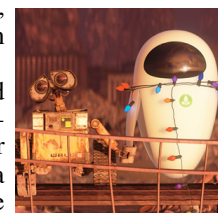
line of the whole film before I saw it and still thoroughly enjoyed it. The basic premise is pretty clear from the trailers — Earth has been temporarily abandoned by humans while robots clean up the mess humankind has made of things, but “temporarily” has stretched on far longer than planned. The title robot, WALL-E, is faithfully fulfilling his duties when EVE shows up and his whole world changes.

That is, of course, only the first act. Humans do show up in the second act but long before then WALL-E (and EVE) has stolen your heart.

WALL-E (the robot) is a hard worker, while *WALL-E* (the movie) works on many levels. Some critics (who almost uniformly *loved* the movie) expressed doubt about how the somewhat downer deserted-Earth opening would work with children. I think that for most kids it shouldn't be an obstacle. The amazing animation will hold the attention of many kids, never mind the deliberately drab setting. The deft character development — done with essentially no words, mind you — should keep a grip on slightly-older children (and adults, too).



Past the opening, the multifaceted nature of the film really begins to develop. There's action, of course. Or maybe you (like me) are a sucker for a love story. (Actually, more than one love



story, but I imagine you can guess which pair of characters comprise the main one.) Or you could look at *WALL-E* as a message film, though you might have a problem deciding which message is foremost. (Fortunately, none of them are handled in a heavy-handed or preachy fashion.)

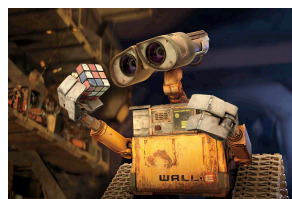
Then, of course, there are the Easter Eggs — fun little bits of whimsy or sly references to other films — sprinkled throughout. If you're like me you won't notice *nearly* all of them while watching the movie. Oh, occasionally one will catch your eye and I hope you aren't taking a sip of your drink at the time so you can avoid a spit-take. (Ask me about the "keyboard scene" if you want to know why I laughed loudly when most of the other audience members were just chuckling.) My recommendation — and your mileage may vary — is to watch the film for the first time without actively looking for the Easter Eggs. When you buy the DVD (and I predict that *many* of you will) you can step through the movie scene by scene, if you wish, and look for them then. (Or, if you can't wait for the DVD, check out the many online sites that list such things; I recommend <[www.slashfilm.com/2008/06/27/wall-e-easter-eggs](http://www.slashfilm.com/2008/06/27/wall-e-easter-eggs)> as a starting point.) And, yeah, if you're a Macintosh computer geek there are a few items in the movie especially for you. Check out the fifth-billed "star" in the credits above for just one example.

But the number one level on which *WALL-E* works is that the story is *involving*. Let me try to illustrate just how completely it sucked me in. As usual I stayed to watch the closing credits; as they were rolling, along came the first (of many) credits for the animators. Just for a split second I wondered "Animators? Why did they need animators?" I watched the *movie* and followed the *story* so closely that I had — on a conscious level — forgotten it was an *animated* movie. Yeah, the reaction lasted for just a split second, but that's all it took to convince me that (at least in my eyes) *WALL-E* managed to transcend the category of animated film and became just a film.

Yep, just a film... but a really, really good one. Several critics have been hinting, or downright stating, that *WALL-E* should receive a Best Picture nomination when Oscar time rolls around. I doubt that will happen. Both animation and sf start out with major handicaps in getting the full attention of the big boys at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Only one animated film (1991's *Beauty and the Beast*) has yet managed a Best Picture nom, and that was before the Academy established their special little ghetto (the Animated Feature Film category, starting in 2001) in which I suspect they will safely place *WALL-E*. (I can't actually fault the Academy for not giving the win to *Beauty*, since they honored what I believe to be a better choice instead. *The Silence of the Lambs* took home the big prize that year.)

Chicago Tribune columnist Michael Phillips calls *WALL-E* "the best science-fiction film so far this year, the best romance so far this year and the best American studio film so far this year." I won't see enough films this year to be able to back up such sweeping claims if I made them, but I'm glad someone did because I strongly suspect he's right. Indeed, if a film comes along that clearly surpasses *WALL-E* in those three categories this year, then 2008 might just go down in history as a very good year for film.

Oh, and did I mention that you should Go See It?



## 2008 Locus Awards

*Locus* Magazine has announced the winners of this year's Locus Awards at a ceremony Saturday 21 June 2008 at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Seattle. The event, MC'ed by Connie Willis, was part of the Science Fiction Museum's <[www.empsfm.org](http://www.empsfm.org)> Hall of Fame weekend.

Winners of the Awards are determined by the annual Locus Poll, the full results of which will be published in the July issue of *Locus*. The winners are:

**SF Novel.....***The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, Michael Chabon (HarperCollins)

**Fantasy Novel.....***Making Money*, Terry Pratchett (Doubleday UK; HarperCollins)

**Young Adult Book...** *Un Lun Dun*, China Miéville (Ballantine Del Rey; Macmillan UK)

**First Novel...** *Heart-Shaped Box*, Joe Hill (Morrow; Gollancz)

**Novella.....**"After the Siege," Cory Doctorow (*The Infinite Matrix* January 2007)

**Novelette..** "The Witch's Headstone," Neil Gaiman (*Wizards*)

**Short Story.....** "A Small Room in Koboldtown," Michael Swanwick (*Asimov's* April/May 2007)

**Collection.....***The Winds of Marble Arch and Other Stories*, Connie Willis (Subterranean)

**Anthology....***The New Space Opera*, Gardner Dozois and Jonathan Strahan, eds. (Eos)

**Nonfiction.** *Breakfast in the Ruins*, Barry N. Malzberg (Baen)

**Art Book...** *The Arrival*, Shaun Tan (Lothian 2006; Scholastic)

**Editor.....**Ellen Datlow

**Magazine.....***F&SF*

**Publisher.....**Tor

**Artist.....**Charles Vess

## Saturn Awards

The Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films <[www.saturnawards.org](http://www.saturnawards.org)> has announced its 34<sup>th</sup> annual Saturn Awards. The awards cover a number of categories in genre film, television, and DVD releases. Membership in the academy is open to the public (minimum \$40 annual membership fee) and the awards are selected by a vote of the membership. Higher levels of membership (minimum \$140) include admission to screenings held in the Los Angeles area. The annual awards shows are run under license from the academy to Mania Entertainment (*Cinescape Magazine*).

### FILM CATEGORIES

**Science Fiction Film.....***Cloverfield*

**Fantasy Film.....***Enchanted*

**Horror Film.....***Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*

**Action/Adventure/Thriller Film.....**300

**Actor.....**Will Smith (*I Am Legend*)

**Actress.....**Amy Adams (*Enchanted*)

**Supporting Actor...Javier Bardem** (*No Country for Old Men*)

**Supporting Actress.....**Marcia Gay Harden (*The Mist*)

**Performance by a Younger Actor.....**Freddie Highmore

(*August Rush*)

**Direction.....**Zack Snyder (300)

**Writing.....**Brad Bird (*Ratatouille*)

**Music.....**Alan Menken (*Enchanted*)

**Costume.....**Colleen Atwood (*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*)



**Make-Up**..... **Ve Neill** and **Martin Samuel** (*Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*)  
**Special Effects**..... **Scott Farrar, Scott Benza, Russell Earl,**  
**and John Frazier** (*Transformers*)  
**Animated Film**..... **Ratatouille**  
**International Film**..... **Eastern Promises**  
**TELEVISION CATEGORIES**

**Network Series**..... **Lost**  
**Syndicated/Cable Series**..... **Dexter**  
**Presentation on Television**..... **"Blue Harvest"** (*Family Guy*)  
**Actor**..... **Matthew Fox** (*Lost*)  
**Actress**..... **Jennifer Love Hewitt** (*Ghost Whisperer*)  
**Supporting Actor**..... **Michael Emerson** (*Lost*)  
**Supporting Actress (tie)**..... **Summer Glau** (*Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles*) and **Elizabeth Mitchell** (*Lost*)

#### DVD CATEGORIES

**DVD Release**..... **The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari** (remix)  
**DVD Special Edition**.. **Blade Runner** (5 Disc Ultimate Edition)  
**DVD Classic Film**..... **The Monster Squad**  
**DVD Collection**..... **Mario Bava** (Box Sets 1 and 2)  
**Television Series on DVD**..... **Heroes** (Season 1)  
**Retro Television Series on DVD**..... **Twin Peaks** (Definitive Gold Box Edition)

#### SPECIAL AWARDS

**Life Career Awards**..... **Robert Halmi, Sr., and Robert Halmi, Jr.**  
**George Pal Memorial Award**..... **Guillermo del Toro**  
**Filmmakers Showcase Award**..... **Matt Reeves**  
**Special Achievement Award**..... **Tim and Donna Lucas**  
**Service Award**..... **Fred Barton**

## Midsummer Madness: The Luck of the Elvish

No Need for a Ring — Chapter 23  
by PieEyedDragon

[Editor's Note: This is the seventh chapter in the second part of the NNFAR trilogy — *The Two Hairy Towers* — and is thus numbered as Chapter 7 in some places. The *Shuttle* is serializing the entire tale and chooses to use the alternate sequential chapter numbering system.]

I continue upstream, following a familiar scent in the water. On May 5 I lay over below the ford of Tharbad until late at night. I then move very carefully, with minimal outline and wake, upstream past the shallows (which are not terribly shallow due to the flood waters). On May 7 I reach the confluence of the river Glanduin. The scent comes from here, as I expected. I cautiously move through the flooded swamps and pools of Swanfleet. I know the moon will be very late rising the next evening, so, I decide to try a longer flight.

I follow the Glanduin upstream. My flying is not terribly efficient, but I manage. At the ruins of the Noldorin city, Ost-in-Edhil, I briefly land. Here, the Glanduin is formed by the confluence of Sirannon and Mitheithel. I taste both and determine that I must follow Sirannon, only.

Hollin is, or would be, a pleasant country. In the wee hours of the morning, just before moonrise, I reach the Stair Falls, above which lies the dark pool and the western wall of Moria. I settle in as quietly as I can for the day. I lay a trail of scent across the area so I will be less likely bothered. The next day is cloudy and the night will be moonless. I carefully climb the (almost) unclimbable escarpment and find a station where I can

look down at the dark pool, to plumb it's secrets. I cheat a bit, using the Palantír of Amon Sûl, to spot my large prey. The situation comes close to being the classic "fish-in-a-barrel." This is not sporting, but I need a very large quantity of ready meat to help achieve my goal of increasing my size. The toughness of my scales will suffer, but I believe I have an answer for that problem near at hand, in the form of certain very rare minerals. I may end up having to sift the waters for what I need, like a sponge does to obtain its food. The Watcher in the Water will certainly object to it's role in this plan. Even such a tiny, twenty-four-armed kraken will put up a fight!

Having spotted my prey, I cough up the contents of my stomach and carefully set aside both palantiri and the little box, using a stomach secretion to glue them together to large rocks. Next, I prepare my metabolic booster spell, extend gentle probes from my not-wings down into the pool, and proceed with my "fishing."

— O — O — O —

Haldir, Rúmil, and Orophin had spent the winter with the elves in North Ithilien. That spring they moved north to observe the lands of Rohan and Fangorn. They overheard the talk of the Gondorian detachment in the Firien-wood. Something strange had happened on the mountain shelf where the beacon stood. A shimmering veil had closed off the western half of the high, flat, green, hallowed area, beyond the Mound of Elendil. They went on to Lórien where they once lived. After a time, they made for the Dimrill Stair and so crossed by the Redhorn Pass. Arriving west of the Misty Mountains, they turn aside to visit the land of Hollin, where elves once lived. Suddenly, they stop. There are sounds on the air. There also are smells of blood and of an unknown predator. Moving cautiously, they approach the pool. There is an incredible stench in the air. The Watcher, like the core of a nightmare, is hanging above the water, writhing furiously. It suddenly drops back down, except for a single tentacle which hangs in the air, twitching, and then rises as though being hoisted on a string. It reaches the edge of the cliff and disappears.

The three brothers confer by sign language and decide to investigate further. They climb up by paths that maybe none but a wood-elf could travel and regroup above. They first see a scaly skin, tough as tough can be. They see another, but this one is only as hard as fingernails. A third one they reached was... different. The scales were as brittle as sun-dried feathers. Orophin points at something in the middle distance. Beside a rock are two fiery crystal globes, of dissimilar size. With them there seems to be a small, wooden box... possibly of elvish style. They move a bit closer. Haldir breaks off one of the scales as they pass. A scarce-noticed low vibration ceases, and a great quiet falls over them. The silence is broken by a voice:

"Well, thieves! I hear you and I feel your air. I smell your butts. Come along! Help yourself again, there is plenty and to spare!"

The elves decide that they have quite enough information and decide that discretion is, after all, the better part of valor. They scatter in three directions... or try to. They run into seemingly invisible walls of solidified air. The dragon comes out from around the rocks and moves closer to them. It is a motley, crude looking creature... looking badly sunburned or in mid-molt or both. Three bows are quickly raised and fired. Three arrows speed toward the creature and turn into flying ash before they get closer than six feet. The beast radiates an incredible heat, like the desert sun in Far Harad.

Dragon: And you *would* see me looking like this. Urrp! I hate kraken, but needs must. Drop the scale! Do you feel... lucky?

The dragon addresses them in the elf-tongue of Greenwood, but something about it's phrasing bears a Noldorin flavor, like their departed Queen, Galadriel!

Haldir: No, beast. Not at all, right now.

Dragon: In this you are mistaken. This is your lucky day. Midsummer's Day is my birthday, though I have had many. It may seem little enough to elves, but today I am exactly one thousand years old! There is a custom, in certain parts, of giving gifts. So be it. I shall give you three your lives! Glaurung forbore to slay Túrin at the sack of Nargothrond. What say you now to your luck?

Haldir: It does seem to perhaps be less bad that I thought. Though Túrin and his kin were under the curse of Morgoth.

Dragon: Furthermore, I will answer three questions, honestly. If I know not the answer, or choose to keep it secret, you shall ask another it it's place. Ask!

Haldir: Why would you bother?

Dragon: *One!* It pleases me to be magnanimous. Also, I have plenty to eat, though it tastes terrible.

Rúmil: (Raps his brother on the head for wasting a question) We have not heard of you. Who are you?

Dragon: *Two!* As I told the goblins of Shaborc-kun:

"I see all the World in a shadow of horror! And so,

That is my name: Palantíri Eä Daedeloth!" Last question!

Orophin: Where do you come from?

Dragon: Originally, or most recently?

Orophin: Originally.

Dragon: I will not answer that at this time. Ask another.

Orophin: Where are you headed.

Dragon: *Three!* Through the mines of Moria, up the Endless Stair, and then south... to many places, then elsewhere.

Orophin: The gate of Moria has been blocked for over a century!

Dragon: I will drain the lake, move the stones and the holly trees, and open the door. I know the *word!* Now, begone!

— O — O — O —

The elves regroup beside the Stair Falls.

Haldir: We must go straight to Lord Celeborn in Rivendell with our news. Two are enough. One should stay to watch. Bathing here will wash away my scent. I will stay.

His brothers also volunteer, so they play three sets of "stone/leaf/knife" to decide who will stay behind.

Orophin: Knife pierces leaves... I stay, you go.

They agree on a nearby place to leave hidden messages, clasp hands, and part company... perhaps for the last time.

[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

Michael Glicksohn  
<mglick@interlog.com>

23 June 2008

It is June 23<sup>rd</sup>. A while ago I sent you some US cash (only marginally worth more than the pretty money I have in my wallet) out of shame for my failure to reply to you more often. I hope the cash arrives before this note does.

June of 2008 will not be my favourite month. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> I had yet another cystoscopy. Preliminary results seemed okay but I won't know for sure until the 26<sup>th</sup>. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, my gall

bladder was removed.

I didn't get the easy-in-and-out home-the-same-day operation. Spent four days in the hospital and apparently it takes six weeks for the nine inch chest incision to heal up. I am coping.

During that time my computer died. A gifted friend came by, said he needed a longer look, took a week to do the look and said "Get a new one."

We did. It died after about a day. This is the second new one. It seems to be working. We shall see.

Had not heard that AJ had died. Our contact was minimal but pleasant. I regretted he connected with the Scientologists. One does what one feels is necessary to do, I guess.

I'll try to be more pro-active for future issues.

All best wishes,

[Always good to hear from you, Mike. The cash arrived, I'm told, safe and sound — though I don't know the relative timing of it and your email. It sounds to me like you've had at least a couple of year's worth of medical poking and prodding in the last month-plus; does that mean you can take some time off from that? I certainly hope so. My computer troubles are resolved, but having them also made me resolve to move away from dependancy on the older machines (and obsolete software) even though they're working fine at the moment — thus the ongoing fiddling with format of the *Shuttle*. -ED]

EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC

Toni Weisskopf  
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27 June 2008

Got the June *Shuttle* and read it with appreciation and sadness. Much as I hated to read them, you and Sue did a very good job on the three (!) obituaries.

Bests.

[Writing obits is, by a fairly wide margin, my least favorite thing to do for the *Shuttle*, yet I'm perversely pleased when they are finished. There are, of course, innumerable fans and pros whose contributions to sf and fandom should be honored at their death — forcing me to limit it to those who have been important to Huntsville fandom. And, oh yeah, I was very appreciative that Sue helped me out this past month. -ED]

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30 June 2008

Another *Shuttle* has arrived, and I've got some time before Canada Day tomorrow! It may be a Tuesday, but we'll be getting out to enjoy Canada's 141<sup>st</sup> anniversary, and enjoy some sunshine with a picnic lunch. But first, some comments on the June *Shuttle*.

I think we do need another Trek, especially one that had the optimism of TNG. However, I expect this will take a while... too much reality TV means lots of savings for producers. Making TNG and the subsequent shows was expensive, and nothing is cheap any more.

Once again, too many obits. Longtime fan Jack Speer died recently, and we are getting near-constant reminders of our own mortality. Long life to us all, but remember those

who have passed.

There's the Aurora winners... there's been a lot discussion about the Fan Achievement (Fanzine) Aurora, especially when there was only one nominee, and he lost to No Award. Either we must get rid of the category, or expand it to bring more nominees. It might also be the fact that so many fans are unfamiliar with fannish publishing like fanzines and newsletters... rather than vote for the only nominee, the majority of people voted No Award, and that's a little scary.

I would hope that Yuri's Night is more affordable in some places, but when you register with the Yuri's Night offices, it can cost to get all the materials they offer to stage the right party. We've run a couple of Yuri's Night parties (one in Toronto, and one in Niagara Falls NY), and we ran them without registering them. They were inexpensive, and lots of fun for all.

Recently enjoyed the Pride Market at Toronto's annual Pride Week... it rivals San Francisco in size and activity, and we also worked and attended the annual General Assembly for the

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada at York University. Next week is a tour of the massive Crown Royal plant in Amherstburg, Ontario, and after that, it's Polaris, our big local media SF convention. Because she was the founder of this big convention, and its first chairman, Yvonne has been awarded a lifetime membership in Polaris. So, we definitely are going.

Take care all, and see you next issue.

[I was a *bit* surprised at the No Award in the final voting in the Aurora Fanzine category, but not *that* surprised. Perhaps the bigger surprise was that only one zine made the nominating cut in the first place — but then I don't know the Aurora's rules well enough to understand what might have gotten some noms but not made the list. It sounds like your and Yvonne's dance card is pretty full at the moment; enjoy it. I seem to have plenty to do and, while a lot of it is solitary, at least I get to go to LibertyCon next weekend. (Which is why I'm having to put the *Shuttle* to bed a week earlier than usual.) -ED]



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