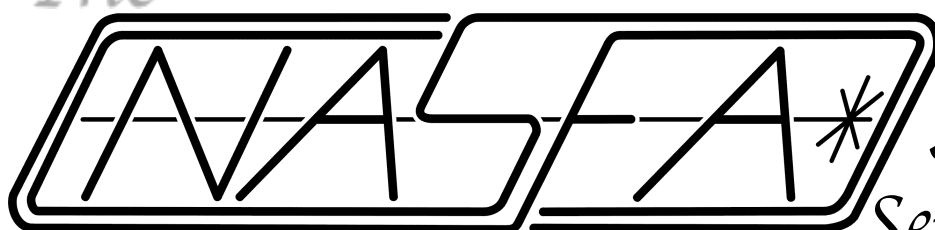


The



Shuttle

September 2008

The Next NASFA Meeting will be 20 September 2008, at the Regular Time and Location

There will be a Concom Meeting at Mary & Doug's House, 7:30P, Thursday 18 September 2008

Future Concom Meetings — 2 & 16 October

¡ Oyez, Oyez ¡

The next **NASFA Meeting** will be Saturday **20 September 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.

Please note that due to activities for Con†Stellation, the deadline for the next issue of the *Shuttle* is earlier than usual.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

The September program will be a presentation by members of the 501st Legion, a Star Wars costuming collective concentrating on the Imperial. They'll show us how they make authentic Stormtrooper (and other) costumes and let you know why you may not want to sleep in them.

There will be door prizes at the program and we will also be taking up a collection for one of the 501st's charities. You can see info about that at <www.501stlegion.org/charity.php>.

SEPTEMBER ATMM

The After-The-Meeting Meeting will be at at Ray Pietruszka and Nancy Cucci's house, in honor of various September birth-

days. Standard NASFA rules apply — bring your favorite drink and a dish to share.

CONCOM MEETINGS

The final three concom meetings prior to Con†Stellation are scheduled for 18 September, 2 October, and 16 October (all Thursdays). All but the last of these will be at Doug and Mary Lampert's house (127 Autumn Glaze Drive in Meridianville) at 7:30P. The final meeting will be at the Holiday Inn Express for setup and last-minute details. Dinner plans for that final meeting will be announced later.

Stay tuned to your email for announcements (changes to the schedule, directions to meetings, etc.). If you get lost on the way to a meeting at M&D's house, call their home phone (256-829-9195) or Doug's cell (256-527-2879) for directions.

PICNIC/COOKOUT

There will be a Pat McAdams Memorial cookout at Mike Cothran and Marie McCormack's house 27 September starting about noon and continuing until everyone leaves. Anyone who would like to come early to help set up would be appreciated.

OCTOBER MEETING DATE CHANGED

The regular third-Saturday date for the October NASFA

Inside this issue...

News and Info.....	2
Minutes of the August Meeting.....	2
NASFA Calendar.....	3
Book Review by Sunn Hayward.....	3
TAFF Nominations Open.....	4
World Fantasy Nominations.....	4
British Fantasy Awards Nominees.....	5
Endeavour Award Nominations.....	5
Awards Roundup.....	5

Letters of Comment.....	6
Special Worldcon Section	
Worldcon Trip Report.....	8
Worldcon and Denver, By the Numbers.....	9
WSFS Business Meeting Results.....	11
Masquerade Results.....	17
Worldcon Site Selection.....	20
Hugo and Campbell Award Winners.....	21
Other Awards at Worldcon.....	22
Future Worldcons and Bids.....	24

Deadline for the October issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 26 September 2008

meeting falls during Con†Stellation. That meeting date has been officially changed to the fourth Saturday (25 October).

FUTURE ATMMs & NYE

We need a volunteer for the October ATMM. Mike Kennedy has laid claim to the ATMM for November; Sue Thorn and Eva Walding will host the December ATMM/Christmas Party. Nancy and Ray have volunteered for the New Year's Eve party.

SHUTTLE TRANSITION PLANS

The transition of *Shuttle* production to different (newer) hardware and software is still ongoing. Changes are generally getting smaller and it is hoped that all significant tweaks will be complete by or before the end of the year. In the meanwhile the fit and finish of the *Shuttle* may suffer a bit. We continue to ask your forbearance during the transition.

News and Info

HUGO WINNER INTERVIEWED ON NPR

National Public Radio's <www.npr.org> All Things Considered interviewed Michael Chabon shortly after he won the Best Novel Hugo for *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*. Full audio (almost five minutes) is available on the NPR website at <tinyurl.com/67kmsb>.

PETITION TO STOP RHPS REMAKE

MTV has announced that they plan to remake the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* and that has some people up in arms. Details are lacking, but the production is far enough along to merit a placeholder page <www.imdb.com/title/tt1267299> on the usually authoritative Internet Movie Database. Early on, rumors flew that Richard O'Brien, writer and costar of the original, would be involved in the project. He has since denied any involvement. Lou Adler, executive producer of the original, will be reprising that role with the new production.

An online petition against the remake <www.stoptheremake.com> had gathered almost 15,000 "signatures" at the time this article was written.

BULWER-LYTTON CONTEST GENRE "WINNERS"

The annual Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest <www.bulwer-lytton.com>, for intentionally wretched prose, is named for Edward George Bulwer-Lytton whose immortal words ("It was a dark and stormy night") have "inspired" many writers. Entries consist of a single sentence and are judged in various categories. The "winners" in the fantasy and sf categories, plus a runner-up and a dishonorable mention in the sf category, were recently announced along with the results in the other categories.

Fantasy Fiction Winner, Alex Hall, Greeley CO — "Toads of glory, slugs of joy," sang Groin the dwarf as he trotted jovially down the path before a great dragon ate him because the author knew that this story was a train wreck after he typed the first few words.

Science Fiction Winner, Joe Schulman, Cartersville GA — Timothy Hanson, Commander of the 43rd Space Regiment in the 52nd Battalion on board the USAOPAC (United Space Alliance Of Planets Attack Carrier) and second in command to Admiral L. R. Morris of the USAOP Space Command, awoke early for breakfast.

Science Fiction Runner-Up, Mark Murata, Kirkland WA — Lightning flashed from the blue-black sky of this alien world and shattered the engines of the spaceship, destroying Reninger's last chance of escaping and reminding him of the time his sister returned from New York with the tips of her hair dyed blue, except for the part about the lightning and the spaceship.

Science Fiction Dishonorable Mention, Gregory Homer,

Sacramento CA — The dual-headed Zhiltoids from Beta Quadrant in the Crab Nebula, who lived entirely on a diet of steaming hot asphalt, thought they had died and gone to heaven upon landing in the Midtown Mall of Fresno, California on the planet Earth during the month they called "July."

August Minutes

The substitute Steve Sloan aka Aly

At 6:15:13P the meeting was opened as well as a box making cricket-like noises. Our guest, Dr. Cooke, immediately questioned the uses for the gavel and who it is used on. There was a digression on the history of the club's gavel.

OLD BUSINESS

There had been some discussion about moving the October meeting date because it is the same weekend as Con†Stellation, the question was whether it should be moved to the weekend before or after. Sue T. moved that the meeting be the weekend after the convention because the scheduled program is the convention's post-mortem discussion. Mike C. seconded the motion and a vote carried it, with the single obligatory oppose taken care of by Doug L.

Publicity/publishing were queried about their latest offerings the tearoff flyer pads and the bookmarks. The bookmarks were expected to be ready within the week.

A picnic and barbecue was announced by Mike C. to be held at his home, the date was discussed and September 27th chosen. It is to be Games Day in Memphis TN, but that is not expected to be a conflict. The picnic will start at 12P, though any who would like to come early to help set up are welcome, and continue until everyone leaves.

NEW BUSINESS

President Mary L. asked Sam S. if there were any of the usual "Spamish" emails, at which point Doug L. objected "Mary did you have to ask?" Of course there were a stack of the usual: A B-Movie Celebration September 27th, an auction benefit for the Johnson City Flood Relief, and the "World's Largest Beach Party" in Franklin Indiana. Douglas Ray brought to us the Mobil Trek SiFi call center, the USS Cell Force 1 Intergalactic call center, at which point the president instructed "You don't have to ready every word, every fifth or sixth would be OK." But there were no words left to be read.

CON BUSINESS

The tearoff pads were passed around to any who were willing to drop them off at their regular haunts. A request was made that all tearoff placements be brought to Bill Savage's attention so that he did not duplicate anyone's effort nor would any of the expected spots be missed, as he expects to sweep the town soon. Anita E. took 2, 2 for Sam S., 2 for Mike S., Doug and Mary L. took 2. At which point Mike K. instructed all to take as many as they would use as the printing process was relatively painless. A short digression about the printing process of the tearoffs ensued between a couple of the Mikes — C. and K.

Anita E. announced that she was ready to take pre-orders for T-Shirts the due date is September 2nd. Men's are available in the standard neck or V-neck. Ladies T's are available as well they are shorter and more fitted. Alice S. brought up the all important question "Is hot pink available?" After confirming that Hot Pink was an available color Anita E. was quickly overwhelmed with specific questions, and the crowd was instructed to see her after the meeting.

Mike C. ask when the mass mailing is going to be. Mike K. responded that he will be bugging people for more information

Mike C. brought up that the price of the T-Shirts will probably have to go up as our prices have gone up. Anita E. said our price has gone up 50¢, and we will need raise our own prices accordingly, it's likely no one will notice. [And we've absorbed a couple of years of price increases already. -ED]

The meeting was quietly adjourned at 6:35:13P.

SEPTEMBER

- 01 Labor Day.
03 BD: David K. Robinson.
04 Con†Stellation Concom Meeting — 7:30P at Doug and
Mary's house.
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.
18 Con†Stellation Concom Meeting — 7:30P at Doug and
Mary's house.
19–21 Anime Weekend Atlanta 14 — Atlanta GA.
20* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at
BookMark. Program: 501st Legion. ATMM: Nancy
Cucci and Ray Pietruszka's house.
22 First Day of Autumn.
26 BD Jenna Victoria Stone.
27 Pat McAdams Memorial Cookout — Marie McCormack
and Mike Cothran's house.
27 Games Day Memphis 2008 — Memphis TN.
30–01 Rosh Hashanah.

OCTOBER

- 24–26 Wicked Harvest 2008 — Norcross (Atlanta area) GA.
 24 United Nations Day.
 25 BD: Marie McCormack.
 30–02 World Fantasy Con 2008 — Calgary AB.
 31 Halloween.

NOVEMBER

- 02 Daylight Saving Time ends.
02 Atlanta Comic Convention — Atlanta GA.
04 Election Day.
06 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Land of Laughs*,
Jonathan Carroll; 6P.
11 Veterans' Day.
15* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at
BookMark. Program: More-or-less Annual NASFA
Auction. ATMM: Mike Kennedy's house.
22 BD: Nancy Renee Peters.
23 BD: Mike Kennedy.
27 Thanksgiving Day.
29 BD: Howard Camp.
30 BD: Joshua Kennedy.
30 BD: Richard Gilliam.

DECEMBER

- 04 Bailey Cove Library Book Discussion: *Swords and Deviltry*, Fritz Leiber; 6P.
05–07 SMOFcon 26 — Columbus OH.
05–07 CatchupCon — Norcross (Atlanta area) GA.
09 BD: Maria West-Grim.
12 BD: Toni Weisskopf.
15 Bill of Rights Day.
17 BD: Robin Ray.
19 BD: Yvonne Penney.
20* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at BookMark. Program: Random Gift Exchange. ATMM: Christmas Party at Eva Walding and Sue Thorn’s house.
20 BD: Aaron Kennedy.
21 First Day of Winter.
21–29 Hanukkah.
22 BD: Wolf (Wolfie) Freeman.
25 Christmas Day.
26 BD: Michael R. Stone.
31 New Year’s Eve Party — Ray Pietruszka and Nancy Cucci’s house.

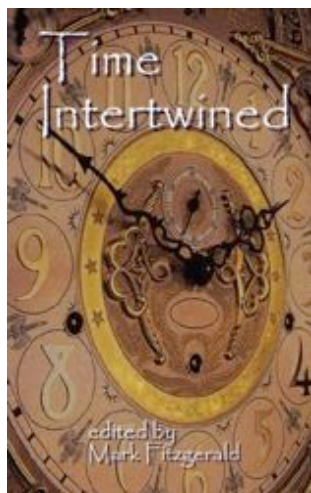
The North Alabama Science Fiction Association meets on the third Saturday of each month. (Unless there is a large nearby convention being held that weekend — in which case we often move the meeting to the second or fourth weekend.) The regular meeting location is the meeting room at BookMark on South 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.

by Sunn Hayward

The title of this anthology does not necessarily refer to time

travel, but rather to various aspects of time, as used by the authors. A couple of stories, for example, do involve time travel, while one is about waiting and still another involves split-second timing. Overall, most of these stories are quire readable, although I did find too many misspellings and grammatical errors, which serve to lower my reading pleasure. Whether or not this is the fault of Mr. Fitzgerald, or of his copy editor, I cannot say.

There were a number of very good stories, including "Patience is Waiting," by David-Matthew Barnes and "The Forgetful One," by Everette Bell, but by far my favorite story was "Darkness," by James Ferris. Mr. Fitzgerald has done a commendable job of choosing such a variety of interesting stories, and I would gladly read another anthology he might care to assemble.



TAFF Nominations Open

The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund sends fannish representatives from North America to Europe and vice-versa in alternate years. Nominations are now open for the 2009 Europe-to-North America TAFF race. The winner will attend the 2009 Worldcon, Anticipation, to be held 6–10 August 2009 in Montreal QC, Canada. Winners often also attend other cons and fannish gatherings during their travels. In addition to taking the trip, winners work as administrators for the following two TAFF races (one in each travel direction).

Candidates must provide: five nominations from known fans (three European, two North American), a short written platform, a £10 bond, and a pledge that they will take the trip if they win. All of this must be sent to an administrator (see below) by 5 November 2008.

TAFF is supported by fannish donations, including a small (minimum of \$3 or £2) voting fee; auctions; and donations by cons, clubs, and individuals. More information about TAFF's history, customs, and practices is available at an unofficial website <taff.org.uk>. Current TAFF administrators are:

Bridget "Bug" Bradshaw

103 Rustat Road

Cambridge

CB1 3QG

United Kingdom

<bugshaw@gmail.com>

— and —

Chris Garcia

962 West Weddell Drive #15

Sunnyvale CA 94089

USA

<garcia@computerhistory.org>

World Fantasy Award Noms

Nominees for this year's World Fantasy Awards <www.worldfantasy.org/awards> have been released. Winners will be announced at the 2008 World Fantasy Convention, to be held 30 October–2 November in Calgary AB, Canada. Nominees are listed by category below. Judges for the awards are Peter Coleborn, Robert Hoge, Dennis L. McKiernan, Mark Morris,

and Steve Pasechnik. In addition to the category awards, **Life Achievement** awards will be presented to **Leo and Diane Dillon** and to **Patricia McKillip**.

NOVEL

Territory, Emma Bull (Tor)

Ysabel, Guy Gavriel Kay (Viking Canada/Penguin Roc)

Fangland, John Marks (Penguin Press)

The Gospel of the Knife, Will Shetterly (Tor)

The Servants, Michael Marshall Smith (Earthling Publications)

NOVELLA

The Mermaids, Robert Edric (PS Publishing)

Illyria, Elizabeth Hand (PS Publishing)

"The Master Miller's Tale," Ian R. MacLeod (*F&SF*, May 2007)

"Cold Snap," Kim Newman (*The Secret Files of the Diogenes Club*, MonkeyBrain Books)

"Stars Seen through Stone," Lucius Shepard (*F&SF*, July 2007)

SHORT STORY

"The Cambist and Lord Iron: A Fairy Tale of Economics," Daniel Abraham (*Logorrhea*, Bantam Spectra)

"Singing of Mount Abora," Theodora Goss (*Logorrhea*, Bantam Spectra)

"The Evolution of Trickster Stories Among the Dogs of North Park After the Change," Kij Johnson (*The Coyote Road: Trickster Tales*, Viking)

"Damned if you Don't," Robert Shearman (*Tiny Deaths*, Comma Press)

"The Church on the Island," Simon Kurt Unsworth (*At Ease with the Dead*, Ash-Tree Press)

ANTHOLOGY

Five Strokes to Midnight, Gary A. Braunbeck and Hank Schwaeble, eds. (Haunted Pelican Press)

Wizards: Magical Tales from the Masters of Modern Fantasy, Jack Dann and Gardner Dozois, eds. (Berkley)

Inferno: New Tales of Terror and the Supernatural, Ellen Datlow, ed. (Tor)

The Coyote Road: Trickster Tales, Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling, eds. (Viking)

Logorrhea: Good Words Make Good Stories, John Klima, ed. (Bantam Spectra)

COLLECTION

Plots and Misadventures, Stephen Gallagher (Subterranean Press)

Portable Childhoods, Ellen Klages (Tachyon Publications)

The Secret Files of the Diogenes Club, Kim Newman (MonkeyBrain Books)

Hart & Boot & Other Stories, Tim Pratt (Night Shade Books)

Tiny Deaths, Robert Shearman (Comma Press)

Dagger Key and Other Stories, Lucius Shepard (PS Publishing)

ARTIST

Ruan Jia

Mikko Kinnunen

Stephan Martinieri

Edward Miller

John Picacio

SPECIAL AWARD, PROFESSIONAL

Allison Baker and Chris Roberson, MonkeyBrain Books

Alan Beatts and Jude Feldman, Borderlands Books

Peter Crowther, PS Publishing

Gordon Van Gelder, *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*

Jeremy Lassen and Jason Williams, Night Shade Books

Shawna McCarthy, *Realms of Fantasy*

SPECIAL AWARD, NONPROFESSIONAL

Midori Snyder and Terri Windling, Endicott Studios Website

G. S. Evans and Alice Whittenburg, *Cafe Irreal*

Stephen Jones, *Travelers in Darkness: The Souvenir Book of the World Horror Convention 2007*, ed.

John Klima, *Electric Velocipede*

Rosalie Parker and Raymond Russell, Tartarus Press

BFA Nominees

The British Fantasy Society <www.britishfantasysociety.org> has announced noms for the 2008 British Fantasy Awards. Winners will be announced at FantasyCon, 19–21 September 2008, Nottingham UK. Nominees are listed below; winners will be selected by a vote of BFS members. The Karl Edward Wagner Special Award and the Sydney J. Bounds Best Newcomer Award (each selected by jury) will be announced at the same ceremony.

NOVEL (August Derleth Award)

Ramsey Campbell, *The Grin of the Dark* (PS Publishing)
 Joe Hill, *Heart Shaped Box* (Gollancz)
 Michael Marshall, *The Intruders* (HarperCollins Publishers)
 Sarah Pinborough, *The Taken* (Dorchester Publishing Co)
 Dan Simmons, *The Terror* (Little Brown & Co)
 Michael Marshall Smith, *The Servants* (Earthling Publications)

NOVELLA

Eric Brown, *Starship Summer* (PS Publishing)
 Tim Lebbon, *After the War* (double novella) (Subterranean Press)
 Gary McMahon, *All Your Gods are Dead* (Humdrumming)
 Del Stone, Jr., *Black Tide* (Telos Publishing)
 Conrad Williams, *Rain* (Gray Friar Press)
 Conrad Williams, *The Scalding Rooms* (PS Publishing)

SHORT FICTION

Ramsey Campbell, "Digging Deep," *Phobic: Modern Horror Stories* (Comma Press)
 Christopher Fowler, "The Spider Kiss," *The Mammoth Book of Monsters* (Robinson)
 Joe Hill, "Thumbprint," *Postscripts # 10* (PS Publishing)
 Joel Lane, "My Stone Desire," *Black Static # 1* (TTA Press)
 Tim Lebbon, "Discovering Ghosts," *Postscripts # 10* (PS Publishing)

COLLECTION

Simon Clark, *Midnight Bazaar: A Secret Arcade of Strange and Eerie Tales* (Robert Hale)
 Paul Finch, *Stains* (Gray Friar Press)
 Christopher Fowler, *Old Devil Moon* (Serpent's Tail)
 Stephen Gallagher, *Plots and Misadventures* (Subterranean Press)
 Gary McMahon, *Dirty Prayers* (Gray Friar Press)
 Tony Richards, *Going Back* (Elastic Press)

ANTHOLOGY

Charles Black, *The Black Book of Horror* (Mortbury Press)
 John Grant, *New Writings in the Fantastic* (Pendragon)
 Stephen Jones, *The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror 18* (Robinson)
 D. F. Lewis, *Zencore!* (Meganthus)
 Ian Alexander Martin, *The First Humdrumming Book of Horror Stories* (Humdrumming)

SMALL PRESS

Andy Cox, *Black Static*
 Peter Crowther, PS Publishing
 Peter Crowther, *Postscripts*
 Andrew Hook, Elastic Press
 Steve Upham, *Screaming Dreams*

ARTIST

Vincent Chong Les Edwards (Edward Miller)
 Dave McKean Bryan Talbot Steve Upham

NONFICTION

Allen Ashley, *Planet Dodo Column* (Midnight Street)
 Peter Tennant, *Whispers of Wickedness*, Website Reviews
 Stephen Thrower, *Nightmare USA: The Untold Story of the Exploitation Independents* (FAB Press)
 Darren Turpin, *UKSF Book News*
 Mark Valentine, *Wormwood* (Tartarus Press)

Endeavour Award Noms

The Endeavour Award <www.osfci.org/endeavour/index.php>, for "a distinguished science fiction or fantasy book written by a Pacific Northwest author or authors and published in the previous year," has announced this year's nominees. The winner will be announced at OryCon <www.orycon.org>, Portland OR, 21–23 November 2008. The award is accompanied by a grant of \$1,000. Judges for this year are Ellen Asher, Steven Barnes, and Russell Davis. The nominees are:
The Silver Ship and the Sea, Brenda Cooper
The Book of Joby, Mark J. Ferrari
Bright of the Sky: Book One of the Entire and the Rose, Kay Kenyon
Powers, Ursula K. Le Guin
Not Flesh Nor Feathers, Cherie Priest

Awards Roundup

MYTHOPOEIC AWARDS

Winners of this year's Mythopoeic Awards <www.mythsoc.org/awards>, for fiction and nonfiction works of fantasy literature, were announced 17 August 2008 at Mythcon 39 in New Britain CT. The winners are:

Adult Literature..... *The Orphan's Tales*, Catherynne M. Valente (comprising *In the Night Garden* and *In the Cities of Coin and Spice*) (Bantam Spectra)

Children's Literature.... *The Harry Potter Series*, J. K. Rowling (Bloomsbury)

Inklings Studies *The Company They Keep: C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien as Writers in Community*, Diana Pavlac Glyer, appendix by David Bratman (Kent State University Press)

Myth and Fantasy Studies..... *The Shadow-Walkers: Jacob Grimm's Mythology of the Monstrous*, T. A. Shippey, ed. (Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies)

HEINLEIN AWARD

Winners of this year's Robert A. Heinlein Award(s), for achievement in sf and technical writings that inspire human exploration of space, have been announced: **Ben Bova** and **Spider Robinson**. The award, sponsored by the Heinlein Society <www.heinleinsociety.org>, includes a sterling silver medal bearing Robert Heinlein's image.

SEIUN AWARDS

The Seiun Awards, given by the Japanese National Convention, are sometimes referred to as "the Japanese Hugos." Most years that natcon occurs before Worldcon and the two translated-work categories are re-announced and presented at Worldcon. This year DAICON 7, the 47th Nihon SF Taikai (Japan SF Convention), took place after Worldcon. The full list of winners is available online, but for *Shuttle* readers typically only the original version of the translated works are accessible. The relevant winners are:

Foreign Novel.... *Brightness Falls from the Air*, James Tiptree Jr. (Translated by Hisashi Asakura, Hayakawa Publishing)

Foreign Story "Weather," Alastair Reynolds (Translated by Naoya Nakahara, *Galactic North and Other Stories*)

WSFA SMALL PRESS AWARD NOMS

The Washington Science Fiction Association <www.wsfa.org> has announced the nominees for their Small Press Award <wsfasmallpressaward.org>, honoring short sf/f/h published by small presses. A committee of WSFA members compiles this short list from submissions; the final vote is open to all WSFA

members. The winner will be announced at Capclave 2008, to be held 17–19 October in Rockville MD. The nominees are:
 “Bufo Rex,” Erik Amundsen (*Weird Tales* #347)
 “Orm the Beautiful,” Elizabeth Bear (*Clarkesworld Magazine*, January 2007)
 “The Wizard of Macatawa,” Tom Doyle (*Paradox* #11)
 “Harry the Crow,” John Kratman (*Aeon Speculative Fiction* #12)
 “Mask of the Ferret,” Ken Pick and Alan Loewen (*Infinite Space, Infinite Gold*, Twilight Times Books)
 “The Third Bear,” Jeff VandeMeer (*Clarkesworld Magazine*, April 2007)

Letters of Comment

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

Sheryl Birkhead
 25509 Jonnie Court
 Gaithersburg MD 20882

5 July 2008

[This letter *should* have run in the July *Shuttle* but was misplaced. With an apology to Sheryl, we’re running it now. -ED]

Sheesh, we are now officially into summer so I cannot complain about the weather heating up! I remembered to send in my Hugo ballot, hoping you all are the same. I do not pay attention to the dates of the Worldcon, presuming it will be over the Labor Day weekend. In the latest PR, I noticed it will not be over that weekend (and just now looked at the dates listed in the June *Shuttle* — it appears this is also true for ’09 and ’10). It looks as if the two current bids for ’11 are comprised of one over the Labor Day slot and the other one off that date... interesting... I have always wondered if such a change would help or hurt attendance, but I am not sure there is any accurate way to figure that out. For years some fen said that teachers and oftentimes parents could not attend (or at least not the full con and in some years not at all — depending on their school calendars) until another time slot was selected. Of course *this* year we might, somewhat legitimately, [say] that other financial concerns are more important. We’ll see.

To those attending the Worldcon have a ghreat time. To the rest of us... stay tuned to hear about all the happenings.

For the shortest meeting record, why not consider writing down the individual items and circulating them before the meeting, then all it would take is a motion to accept the actions and... all done. Um... er... I’m not sure that is quite in keeping with *Robert’s Rules of Order*, but it seems as if it shares the spirit of the idea.

As you probably know by now, fandom lost another luminary — RIP Jack Speer. I had always meant to get a copy of the NESFA publication of his writing and hate to admit it has taken this to get me back on track for the purchase.

Once again, there are far too many obituaries. This makes it all the more important to celebrate the lives of those you love while they can enjoy it. My mother always said that she, who loved flowers, did not want any at her funeral because she wanted to have had and enjoyed them every day while she was alive. Remember that egoboo is free! Spread it around.

Congratulations to the Aurora winners, but the listing is (to me at least) curious. Markedly absent is a fanzine winner and in the Fan Achievement (Other) is a publication (I am presuming a fanzine?) with which I am unfamiliar. Sigh, I’m just too insular, need to be more aware of the *world* presence.

The wonderfully long lists of awards and short lists for awards both pleases and depresses me — pleased in that so many exist and that there are so many worthy of mention and depressed that I seem not to have read any of the publications! Ah, but Ghreat for the field!

One name that jumped out at me as I scanned the list was Ruth Berman — am I right (or is the memory fading!) in thinking that this is a name going waaay back to *Trek* fandom — as in a fan entering via that route... or is it another Ruth Berman? When I get a chance I may amuse myself with googling the name and see what pops up.

No changes on the digital [TV] front. The one converter that was going to be produced that allows for different channel VCR programming has been renamed, gone up in price, and is not on the market as of the planned date. This breaking up image and then nothing is getting *really* old.

Yeouch, by nextish it will be/have been Worldcon time — enjoy!

Thanks for thish.

[I don’t actually *know* if the Ruth Berman mentioned in the Rhysling nominations is the same fan you’re thinking about, but looking quickly at <www.tc.umn.edu/~d-lena/RuthBermanPage.html> it seems likely. It’s been some years since Worldcon was “always” on the Labor Day weekend. The “if it’s earlier in the summer schoolteachers and parents can attend” argument may be part of the reason for that. However, as early as some Worldcons have been in recent years, many schools calendars have kept pace. Our three local public school districts all had their first student day on the same day Worldcon started — Wednesday 6 August. Teachers started on the Thursday before *that*. I don’t know what the national (or international) stats are like on first-day-of-school, but starting in early August (and no Worldcon since 1948 has started earlier than that) is no guarantee that one will avoid school conflicts. I note that in 2010 the con will be the Labor Day weekend, but it’s in Australia and I doubt very many people are planning to fly back the Monday the con closes so their kids can be in school on that Tuesday. The Labor Day bid for 2011 (Seattle) actually ends on Sunday of the Labor Day weekend, so it’s not *exactly* the traditional weekend either. -ED]

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

Sheryl Birkhead
 25509 Jonnie Court
 Gaithersburg MD 20882

5 August 2008

[This letter *would* have run in the August *Shuttle* had that issue been published on the normal schedule. It was put to bed two weeks early because of your editor’s Worldcon travel, so we’re running the letter now. -ED]

By the time this arrives the Worldcon will be either underway or over — in either event, hope all had a fannishly ghood time.

Wow, I *know* I am out of the fannish loop, but I somehow missed, as far as I can remember, the traveling to Westercon accident. It is tough enough when we lose fen one at a time, but this... My thoughts are with those who survived and all the families. Do you happen to have a mailing address for any donations? After having my credit card number compromised on the internet *twice*, I prefer to use snailmail if at all possible.

Ah — I am anticipating — I see *WALL-E* and now I will read and see what you thought of it (I gave in to financial constraints and put it on my Netflix list — means I have to wait,

but since I pay for Netflix anyway...). Why does an animated movie need a director? (Off topic — I was just thinking about your comment about buying the DVD and realized that for families of 3 or more, buying the DVD is actually cheaper than going to the theater around here — no \$1 theaters — which start at about \$7, *and* you can watch the movie as often as you wish.) It *did* look like one I want to see and, of course, your comments support that thought.

I did not read the whole thing, but I believe Borders is taking advance orders for a J. K. Rowling book to be out this fall — if I remember correctly (from my one quick read through) it is to be a group of tales Hermione has translated. Might be interesting.

Do you happen to watch *Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?* — um... er... one of the grammar answers involved its versus it's... and um... *Pie*...

In the Aurora awards do you happen to know if there is a % required to be declared a winner? The No Award in the fanzine category surprised me also, but I do not get a lot of the zines being pubbed (especially electronically) so I am never sure of a choice by others. I know there are a lot of electronic zines out there, I just don't have access to them. I've read that the response rate is lower in the electronic zines, but I am not sure of the actual numbers — for both "types" of zines.

That's about it for now — next time I'm at the library, if it is during the Worldcon, I hope to poke around and see if there is any live feed of the goings on. For the past few years I have hoped that the Masquerade and Hugos would have a live feed — but not yet...

[I'm 99.5% sure there were no con-sponsored live video feeds from Denvention 3, though I suppose it's theoretically possible someone could have arranged something privately. From what I understand, purchasing internet access from the convention center was very expensive and D3 was cutting it close enough to the bone that it wouldn't have been a prudent expenditure. There *was* at least one live blog from the Hugos — not the same as *seeing* it of course, but you'd have known the Hugo winners before the half or so of con attendees who didn't go. Post con you can watch a number of video clips on YouTube. Nope, I don't watch *Fifth Grader* — its premise is less irritating than many modern game shows but it's not a category in which I have any particular interest. I take it there was an "its" versus "it's" glitch in a recent *Shuttle* — not surprising if so. I know the difference between those two, but There's Always One More Typo. RE the Prix Aurora Awards, all I know about their voting is what I read online (e.g., at <www.prix-aurora-awards.ca>). They use a preferential ballot for the final vote (which always includes No Award. just like the Hugos) and they use a nominating-round procedure somewhat similar to the Hugo in that "n" equally-weighted noms can be made by each person. The Auroras allow three versus five for the Hugos, but I don't know what other differences there might be from the Hugo process. RE donations for the victims of the Seattle bid-committee Westercon accident, I am told that all future donations will be divided between the family of Roberta "Bert" Carlson (the fan who was killed) and Nick Novota (the fan who was most badly injured). As of my last update he still had surgeries in his future and in any case he'll need ongoing therapy for his hands for quite some time. Donations can be mailed to: Bert Fund, c/o SWOC, Box 1066, Seattle WA 98111. -ED]

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

Lloyd Penney

1 September 2008

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It's Labour Day, and I shall labour over a hot keyboard to write you a letter of comment for the August *Shuttle*.

Hope you all enjoyed the Denver Worldcon, and I hope you'll be coming up to my part of the continent next year for Anticipation in Montréal. You'll find Montréal a very metropolitan city, and I'll be going there next month for their annual convention, Con*cept, and to have a sneak peek at the Palais de Congress, if I've got the time. The committee knows to kick this into hyperdrive now, because they are next up. (As an aside, who's going to the World Fantasy Convention in Calgary?)

I had thought the Andre Norton estate had been settled long ago. This shows everyone the benefit of a clearly written will with stated preferences and demands on the disposition of the various parts of the estate.

Awards... congrats to Jo Walton, co-winner of the Prometheus for Best Novel. Jo now lives in Ottawa, and recently got her Canadian citizenship.

Greetings once again to PieEyed... more Middle-Earth-style history as your recovery continues. Is truesilver the same as mithril? Always interesting, and a pleasure [to those] who might read all of Tolkien's tales of Middle-Earth, and still ask, "And then what happened?"

My loc... my RASC job went away very quickly because I could not sufficiently learn their convoluted computer system, but c'est la vie. The job hunt continues, and I had an excellent interview with a printing plant not far from here, recently purchased by Southern Graphic Systems of Louisville. I'd be a proofreader for one of their ad agencies. Cross your fingers, because this is an 8-5, Monday-Friday job, just what I've been looking for. I've now seen *WALL-E* twice, and Yvonne has seen it three times. I'll definitely buy it when it comes out on DVD.

This may be a holiday weekend, but I must go to work tonight, so off this goes to you. Take care, all, and see you again next month.

[Good luck on the job front, Lloyd; I know it can be frustrating. I can't speak for PED, much less JRRT, but my memory is that truesilver, mithril, and Moria-silver were all names for the same thing. I also can't speak for the Huntsville fannish community as a whole, but I'd say the odds are very low on the WFC except maybe for Patrick Molloy and Naomi Fisher. Huntsvillains are a bit more likely to be represented at Anticipation — it's on my "maybe" list but there are a number of life events that could prevent attendance. Sadly for Montreal, I know of several Southern fans that will probably give them a miss because they're saving money, vacation time, etc. for the trip Down Under to Aussiecon 4 in 2010. Barring very unexpected events I've personally ruled Melbourne out. -ED]

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

Sheryl Birkhead
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16 August 2008

Ah, so Denvention 3 is now one for the history books. According to what little I saw (of comments) the fanwriter win was the item that evoked the most controversy. The Lynches (who attended) said the con seemed "fine" — at least they were not aware of any great problems. So, as conreports get churned

out we'll see.

Ah — as the *Shuttle* “morphs” — we will just sit on the sidelines and observe. So far, lookin' ghood.

I did get one quick look at a collection, on-line, of pics from (I forget which day of) the Worldcon. Without any title I was confused since one panelist obviously had the name “plate” of Andre Norton — and I thought, ah yes — according to our note on the estate I was right. Now I wonder who it was, why that name, and what the panel was...

[Sheryl picks up her missive on 28 August. -ED]

Ah, so PieEyed can now slow down on the metabolism... just relax.

WALL-E went on my Netflix list as soon as I saw the promo. I don't actually *have* many DVDs, but I many actually break down and buy it before I see it — once it comes out. I just looked so good and both you and Lloyd agree that it is superbly viewable!

Lloyd — ghood to hear you have two jobs now — *but* — how is the commute? May they last a long time.

[You can get one view of Worldcon from my travelogue herein — though describing a Worldcon is like describing the elephant. I suppose that a pro winning the Fan Writer Hugo was controversial for some folks. I don't claim that John Scalzi can be said to objectively be the Best Fan Writer of 2007 (that sort of thing is inherently a subjective judgment) but I don't think that him sully his hands with money for some of his writing should disqualify him from consideration when he writes other stuff as a fan. His blog Whatever <www.scalzi.com/whatever> and his writings elsewhere online are presumably what most people had in mind when voting for him. I don't know what fraction of that writing is “fannish” (versus, say, political or personal or, well, whatever) but there's little dispute that at least some of it is deeply fannish. Too, note that this year's Business Meeting ratified an amendment that removed a long-standing restriction preventing an artist receiving both Pro and Fan Hugo noms in the same year — the only such fan/pro restriction that was in the WSFS Constitution. Clearly, at least the Business Meeting has no problem with the concept of people operating as both a fan and a pro. About the nameplate, my only guess is that it was that the actual name was “Andrea Novin” — who was on two panels according to the pocket program — maybe the sign department typoed her name. As for the tweaks to the *Shuttle* format, they've been getting smaller each month. As I head into time for Con+Stellation — then recover from it — I'll have little time to devote to such considerations. There may be another mini-burst of fiddling by the time the year ends, but after that I hope to be able to let go of things I'd *like* to do and leave well-enough alone. -ED]

WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF-WAHF

We also heard from PED (very briefly) and Ensign Goodfellow (not quite as briefly). The former, commenting on the various names for truesilver said “...and also (maybe) Titanium.” The latter said “PED has to avoid rhyming, ordinarily; or you might see, well, try a round — to whit:

A ship, not tall, though higher than high;

Still needs a star for to steer it by.

A spot of cream in the northern sky;

Set course: the Mote in the Dragon's Eye!

To the Starless Void now make your turn.

Raise sails in the dark. Home shrinks astern.

Mountains, and seas; all Arda be gone!

A gold star draws the Mariner on.”

There's Con in Them Thar Hills...

a Convention Review

by Mike Kennedy

The 66th World Science Fiction Convention, aka Denvention 3, was held 6–10 August 2008 in Denver CO at the Colorado Convention Center and several nearby hotels. The Sheraton Denver (formerly know as the Adam's Mark) — though one of the furthest hotels from the CCC — was the HQ hotel, hosting parties, filking, gaming, and most evening programming. The Hyatt Regency Denver was nearest the CCC and hosted a few daytime program items. The Crowne Plaza Denver, roughly equidistant between the Sheraton and the CCC, hosted childcare. Several other hotels were used for sleeping space only.

Worldcon 66's Guest of Honor was Lois McMaster Bujold. Rick Sternbach was the Artist Guest, Tom Whitmore the Fan GoH, Wil McCarthy the Toastmaster, and Kathy Mar the Music Guest. The convention styled longtime Colorado resident Robert A. Heinlein as Ghost of Honor. This being a Worldcon, hundreds of other sf professionals plus many notable fans participated in the programming.

PRECON ACTIVITIES

This main report is in the form of a travelogue; which — along with the identity of the author — assures it's going to be rather longwinded. Feel free, nay *encouraged*, to skip any descriptions of shopping, meals, or other events that would bore you. For that matter, feel free to jump to Day 4 when the con actually starts if you don't care to know the rest of “What I Did On My Summer Vacation.”

I started serious planning for this trip in October when I ran into a good (albeit prepaid) package deal on <Priceline.com> for the main convention hotel and a nonstop United flight (OK, SkyWest Airline d.b.a. United Express) from HSV to DEN. At that time the hotel was still an Adam's Mark but I knew it was going to be rebadged as a Sheraton, which gave me slight pause in committing a sizable lump of money. Fortunately, the transition went flawlessly — at least for me. During the con I heard a couple of rumors of some other people having issues with non-prepaid reservations made with the Adam's Mark, for which the Sheraton did not want to honor the quoted rate.

The dates of Worldcon used to be more-or-less fixed on the Labor Day weekend. For a number of reasons (of which Dragon*Con being on that weekend is only one) many contemporary Worldcons pick times earlier in the year. D3 happened to pick a date that made me slightly rearrange my life; mainly necessitating putting the August issue of the *Shuttle* to bed two weeks early. I found it unlikely I'd want to complete an issue while in Denver then repro it and get it in the mail within 24–48 hours after getting back to Huntsville.

But, I completed that and most of my fairly lengthy list of more mundane To Dos (like boarding my dog Sally). I was even able to fit in a Saturday of cards at my house on the day before leaving town. I believe it's the first time I've had a “kickoff party” before leaving for a con.

The final planning item I took care of before the trip actually started was checking in online and paying \$49 to “upgrade” to Economy Plus. United offers this pseudo-class on many of their flights — extra knee room is the only upgrade involved (no extra seat width, no extra onboard service). I was unsure how it would work out but hopeful it would help enough fitting my 6'4" (and extra-extra wide) frame into an airline seat that I'd be willing to do the same on the return leg. I didn't even

know for *sure* how much extra knee room there would be since the airline's site didn't say, but <seatguru.com> (a *very* recommended site) said it would be three inches. Since I couldn't buy the DEN-to-HSV upgrade until I checked in for that flight (no more than 24 hours in advance) I would have had to wait even if I was sure I wanted to spend the extra money for both flights.

DAY 1

Sunday 3 August — In Which I Traveled to Denver

I had a mid-afternoon outbound flight and so had time to do last-minute packing and finish my To Do list; including practicing a bit with a camera that Sue Thorn loaned me for the trip. And speaking of Sue, she'd also volunteered to take me to and pick me up from the airport; the first half of which she started about 12N. That was early enough that we could swing by the Post Office to mail the aforementioned issue of the *Shuttle* then go get lunch. Both of us were somewhat eager to start that, me because I'd had a light breakfast several hours before and Sue because she'd skipped breakfast altogether. We settled on Ryan's buffet — uninspiring but certainly filling.

HSV is a small airport and there are usually no significant slowdowns when checking in with the airline or going through TSA security. Well... I was something of a holdup at the latter because I set off the metal detector about three times until I remembered to take my cell phone out of my pocket (smacks head). At the former, my early ticket purchase had grandfathered me in for two free checked bags on United (they were down to one free bag otherwise, and will have changed to zero free bags by the time this sees print). I needed only one (though it pushed the size limit) which I'd carefully weighed before leaving home to avoid weight penalties as well. Too bad I couldn't donate my unused bag allowance to someone else.

After the TSA holdup I had caused, I was still at my gate with the better part of an hour to wait before my 2:47P flight. I killed some of that time working on my laptop, thankful for the free wi-fi at HSV. I also tried to call my mother before leaving (yes, I know, I should have done so before the day) but was unable to get through. She called me back, though, with a few seconds to spare — I'd already boarded at that point but hadn't yet had to turn off my phone — so I got a reprieve of sorts.

At the time I'd purchased the extra knee room there had been no one assigned to the window seat on my side of the 2-and-2 configured craft. When I got onboard, there was. Well, at least she was cute. That may have been a factor in my next decision, but more important were the facts that I was already settled in with the inboard armrest raised and that there was an empty seat in front of me and that the First-Class seats appeared to all have fixed armrests (which I hate) — so I turned down a last-second offer of an onboard upgrade to First. Silly of me, probably, but it worked out. The flight was merely uncomfortable rather than excruciating, which is about as good as air travel gets for me.

About the time I expected descent to start in earnest, the pilot announced that we'd be in a holding pattern for 30 minutes due to stacking from earlier bad weather. Either he was exaggerating or planes were landing in record time since we were at the gate about 4:45P (Mountain), less than 15 minutes later than scheduled. Baggage claim wasn't fast but was reasonable (though the sign over the carousel never said my flight's bags were arriving even as I was walking away with mine).

I bought a round trip from DEN to the Sheraton on the Super Shuttle, which I came to regret, at least to a degree. Yes, it saved a few bucks over two one-way tickets, but the SS was *more* of a cattle car than the airplane had been. In Denver, at least, they use regular passenger vans with so many seats crammed in that there's less knee room, headroom, aisle room, etc. than any commercial airplane. The only seat (besides the

driver's) which was spacious in any dimension was the single front passenger seat; so of course by far the smallest person onboard was sitting there. After the driver had packed us in pretty solid, he pulled around to the opposite side of the terminal and *twice* picked up another passenger, telling them "last seat" each time. One wonders if the drivers are paid by the passenger rather than by the hour.

Though tedious, the trip did successfully get me to my hotel, but I was almost the last person off the shuttle. There was one other passenger who may have been a fan, but he was 2 rows in back of me and got off earlier so I never had a chance to talk to him. At the hotel desk I flashed my "Starwood Preferred Guest" Gold card, which got me "upgraded" to a "preferred floor." As far as I knew early on, that simply meant I was in an ordinary room but on an upper floor (the 16th out of 22). I found out later that they also coded my key for access to the Club Level (the top two floors), which came in handy a few times. Having a Gold card in Starwood's frequent guest program (covering Sheratons, Westins, Four Points, and the rest in the chain) was a total fluke — they'd sent me one out of the blue even though I've seldom stayed at a Starwood property and wasn't member of their program at all. My only thought is that they gathered my name from the reservations list when Sheraton took over the Adam's Mark.

By 6:45P I'd managed to unpack (mostly) and headed out to the 16th Street Mall in search of comestibles. The Sheraton is in two separate buildings taking up all of one and much of a second block. Both buildings are between 15th and 16th Streets, the latter of which is closed to almost all traffic in a (mostly) pedestrian mall that stretches about a mile through the heart of Denver's LoDo (Lower Downtown) district. There's a free MallRide shuttle bus service running the length of the Mall, with only emergency and service vehicles competing for space with the buses and pedestrians. The Mall is packed with restaurants and shopping, interrupted occasionally by an office building, hotel, or other such. I was looking for both dinner and a Walgreens that I knew the approximate location of. The reason for the former is obvious, for the latter I wanted to lay in a supply of drinks and snacks and that looked to be the best bet on the Mall.

Worldcon and Denver

By the Numbers

- 1: Number of Tornado Warnings during the con
- \$8: Cab fair from the Sheraton to a Doc-In-A-Box
- 14.85%: Denver hotel tax rate
- 32: Approximate maximum simultaneous Program Items
- 66th: This year's Worldcon ordinal
- 80: Number of Dealers in the Pocket Program
- 90 minutes: Length of most Program Item slots
- 160: Number of Art Show entrants listed in the Pocket Program
- 483: Number of valid ballots in the Hugo Nominations round
- 526: Number of Program Participants in the Pocket Program
- 674: Approximate number of Programming Items in the Pocket Program
- 895: Number of valid ballots in the final Hugo voting
- 3,000 pounds: Weight of pennies per bin at the Denver Mint
- 3,751: Final reported Total Warm Bodies at the con (not counting 36 Kid-in-tow passes)
- 4,618: Final reported Membership count
- ¥3,599,204: Reported loss from Nippon 2007, last year's Worldcon
- \$70,000,000: Promised renovation of Sheraton "Real Soon Now"

I walked the several blocks down to the Walgreens without finding a place that I just *had* to eat; and thus ended up at Chili's for dinner. Why? It was convenient (in the next block past the Walgreens) and it looked like they would have a table for me quickly (not the case at several other restaurants I'd passed). Chili's is a perfectly adequate chain restaurant if not exactly exciting. But hey, it's eating a lot higher on the hog than Ryan's. I was indeed seated quickly and ordered the Margarita Grilled Chicken (with black beans and rice) plus iced tea to drink. The tea was pretty good and my waiter (after an initial prompt) was very, *very* good at keeping my glass refilled. Geez I needed a lot of fluid; presumably I was dehydrated both from travel and from Denver's thin, dry air. I wasn't a fan of Chili's version of black beans and rice — too much juice from the beans made it sloppy to eat. The *pico de gallo* topping the chicken was, well, uninspired at best — chopped tomatoes with some spices waved vaguely in their direction is not *pico*. The chicken itself was nicely cooked and had a good grilled flavor, but the only thing particularly Margarita about it was the wedge of lime on the plate. I skipped dessert; I really wanted some, but it was getting late and I knew I'd nosh on whatever I found at Walgreens. So, the food was only adequate but the waiter got a very good tip because he kept my iced tea filled. Hmm... an object lesson to be had?

Walgreens was an respectable "grocery" store for my purposes. I ended up with some cheap fig bars (which were darn good), a bag of cashews, a box of Wheat Thins, a 12-pack of Diet Dr Pepper, and a plan to come back later in the week for more as required. I took my booty back to the hotel on the MallRide shuttle and congratulated myself for not picking up two 12-packs as I'd been tempted to do; it would have been a bit much to juggle on the bus which was SRO at the time.

Around 9:30P I wanted to check email and such before bed, but the Sheraton has no free internet option available in-room. I could've paid about \$10–\$20 a day (depending on speed) or about \$5 an hour for ethernet access; or used dialup for about a buck a call (up to an hour). However, they did promise free wireless access in the lobby, which sounded much more interesting. I first tried the disused lobby in my building (the Tower building) but couldn't get enough of a signal to connect. Later in the trip I occasionally picked up the Sheraton's signal or the free wi-fi from the Mall there, but not that night. I trekked over to the main lobby in the other building (the Plaza building) and spent perhaps 45 minutes resyncing my life to the net.

Back in the room I spent some time transcribing my notes from the day (if you've ever seen my handwriting you know why I needed to do that each day before memories faded) and otherwise futzed around for about an hour. I also did a little hand laundry (I'd decided that I wanted to wear the same shirt I'd worn on the plane for the trip back) and readied myself for bed. My mind still buzzing from travel, I got to bed just before midnight, one of the few times that would happen on the trip.

DAY 2

Monday 4 August — In Which I Played Tourist

I beat the 9A wake-up call out of bed by a few minutes. When the phone rang the recorded voice called for a high of 94°F and a 30% chance of afternoon rain. Wow, that sounded a lot like the forecast for just about any Alabama summer day, though the humidity should be lower than Bama's.

With no one's schedule to keep but my own, I took my time getting ready to face the day. I had a ticket for a Rockies baseball game in the evening and saw no reason to try to break the 12-hour tourist day. Eventually, though, I headed toward the Mall looking to break my fast, which I did at a nearby location of The Delectable Egg <delectableegg.com> — a Denver-

area chain. They serve breakfast and lunch only and I got there between the rushes. I was seated right away and service was quite good. The "specialty potatoes" were pretty good, though I'd have seasoned them somewhat more. The Mile High Omelet was also good (ham, cheese, onions, green pepper, topped with spring onions) but a tad greasy (unlike the potatoes). I finished off breakfast with the English muffin that came with the plate, with orange marmalade; altogether a satisfying meal. One major plus for the chain: they have a liter carafe of water waiting on each table — I drank the entire thing.

Afterwards I caught the MallRide bus from the corner (near one end of the Mall) all the way to the other end of the line at Union Station. I wanted around a bit to check out access to Coors Field for the ballgame, deciding that either of the two stops before Union Station, at Wazee or Wynkoop Streets, would do. From there it's a straight shot up the street for four blocks (almost 0.4 mile) to the field. This trek also gave me the chance to make a pilgrimage to the Mall location of Tattered Cover Bookstore, another Denver chain. You have to admire a bookstore that opens at 6:30A (M–F, somewhat later on the weekends) and stays open late (9P M–Th, 11P F–Sa, 6P Su). In that location they have two large floors of books (I'm not sure what's on the 3rd floor) but their sf section wasn't all that impressive, only one little alcove. Despite the name of the store, it's all new books (well, a few shopworn sale books might somewhat justify the name).

My plan had been to wander down the Mall back toward the Sheraton to see what interesting places I could find. It turns out that end of the Mall is largely restaurants with a sprinkling of high-end (or at least "medium-end") shops so there wasn't much to hold my attention. In the heat, and taking my time, I was still running out of steam around noon, so I decided to go to the CCC — a two-block walk off the Mall. Worldcon prereg pickup was to be open there (changed from the Sheraton at the last minute) beginning at noon. Just inside door, a CCC greeter was turning away Worldcon members saying that reg would be open Tuesday from noon but not Monday. Hot, tired, and dehydrated I walked back up to the Mall and took the MallRide back to the Sheraton to cool and dry off in the room and have something to drink.

After some diet Dr. Pepper and a little time, I was feeling a bit more human and decided to take advantage of being at the hotel to once



16th Street Mall in Denver

more trek down to the lobby to get on the net. One of the first things I did was post an entry on the con's LiveJournal blog site about the CCC greeter incident. It turned out I should have stuck to my guns and trekked back to the D Lobby as the CCC employee was, um, misinformed. Responses to my LJ post let me know that con reg *was* in operation and, perhaps more importantly, it let the con staff know they needed to straighten out the CCC staff.

So, after a fairly short rest, I headed out in search of both a belated lunch and my Worldcon badge and packet. Since I was going back to the CCC to do the latter, I decided to try out the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. which was conveniently located on

what I'd determined to be the best route there. (Walk half a block north (under 100 yards) to the Mall; take the MallRide four short blocks (about a quarter mile) to California Street; walk two longer blocks south (almost 0.2 mile) to 14th Street.) It seemed quite odd to come so far inland and eat shrimp, but

what the heck.

I again caught a restaurant at their slack time, between lunch and dinner this time. The stuffed shrimp I ordered was OK, but was an undersized serving for an oversized price. No, the shrimp weren't straight off the boat, but neither are they in

WSFS Business Meeting Results

The World Science Fiction Society is both the governing body of Worldcon and synonymous with it. Each member of a given Worldcon is a member of WSFS for that year and can (some would say *should*) attend the annual WSFS Business Meeting held in (usually) three daily sessions on the middle days of the Worldcon. There is some ambiguity about whether a Supporting member of a Worldcon can attend Business Meetings, or whether only Attending members can do so. That has never been tested and is unlikely to ever have any significant, practical effect.

The WSFS Constitution sets the rules for selecting the committee/site that will run each year's Worldcon and sets the rules (including the categories) under which the Hugo Awards operate. Changes to the Constitution require passage at two successive Worldcons and take effect at the end of the second one. Standing Rules govern conduct of the Business Meeting itself (essentially as exceptions to or expansions of Robert's Rules) and take effect at the end of the Worldcon at which they are passed. A small number of committees carry on WSFS business between Worldcons with powers delegated by the Business Meeting. Business conducted at the WSFS Business Meeting at Denvention 3 is listed below.

COMMITTEE AND CON REPORTS

The Business Meeting received reports from the Mark Protection Committee, the Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee, the Worldcon Runners' Guide Editorial Committee, the Hugo Eligibility Rest of the World Committee, the Formalization of Long List Entries Committee, the Taming the Digital Wilderness Committee, and the Hugo Awards Marketing Subcommittee. Technically the last of those did not need to report to the Business Meeting since it's a subcommittee of the MPC and reports to that committee.

The MPC, which protects the various Service Marks (think Trademarks) of WSFS (such as "Hugo Award"), is a standing committee and was thus continued automatically. All of the other committees, save one, were continued by vote of the Business Meeting. The Taming the Digital Wilderness Committee reported that their business was complete with the proposed amendment to the Constitution they'd put on this year's agenda.

The Business Meeting also received financial reports from most of the past and current Worldcon/NASFiC committees that still owed such a report. These cons are required to file an annual financial report until all accounts are settled and any surplus from the con is disbursed "for the benefit of WSFS as a whole." There is no mechanism (other than peer pressure) to enforce this requirement, but most cons do report. The only relevant con which did not do so this year was the 2007 NASFiC, which was held in conjunction with that year's Archon. Several cons filed Final financial reports, having either run at a loss or having disbursed all their surplus.

STANDING RULES CHANGES

A pair of Standing Rules were passed to explicitly allow recording Business Meeting sessions and distribution of those

recordings, subject to a motion to stop or restart recording. Video recording of sessions has become general practice in recent years; this formalized the rules under which that would operate. Though the rule change did not cover this year's Business Meeting, it was indeed recorded.

AMENDMENTS FOR RATIFICATION

Two amendments received first passage at Nippon 2007, last year's Worldcon. The first of these would eliminate the restriction that anyone making it onto the Hugo ballot in the Professional Artist category for a given year could not also be nominated in the Fan Artist category that same year. It was ratified many-to-2 and will be in effect for next year's Hugo voting. The second such amendment would modify the rules for reporting the list of items receiving Hugo nominations by allowing items that received fewer than five nominations to be dropped. It was ratified many-to-few and will be in effect for reporting on next year's Hugo nominations. Technically, the 90-day post-Worldcon limit already in the overall rule would have allowed the new cutoff to be in effect for D3's report, but they published the noms list under the old rules before the con was over.

AMENDMENTS FOR FIRST CONSIDERATION

Four new amendments to the Constitution were proposed. The first (listed below) was non-controversial, but all three others were met with some skepticism — at least as to form if not content — and were referred to temporary committees that met between the first and second sessions of the Business Meeting to "perfect" the wording. One of them, to establish a Best Graphic Story Hugo category, received further tweaks during that second session. In the end, all four received first passage and will be sent forward to next year's Worldcon for possible ratification.

The first new Amendment would add words to the section of the Constitution that defines the physical form of the Hugo Award to acknowledge the contribution of Peter Weston in refining the design of the rocket itself. This Amendment was proposed by the Mark Protection Committee as a prologue to registering the rocket design as a Service Mark. It passed unanimously.

The second new Amendment, proposed by the now-ended Taming the Digital Wilderness Committee, would make digital works (web sites, for instance) eligible in several Hugo categories (Related Book/Work, Short Form Editor, Semi-prozine, and Fanzine) rather than restricting consideration to works in print form only. It passed many-to-1.

The third new Amendment would eliminate the Semi-prozine Hugo category and add words keeping most or all items currently in that category out of the Fanzine category. This was probably the most contentious proposal at this year's Business Meeting. It passed 40-to-28.

The fourth new Amendment would add a Best Graphic Story Hugo category. The Amendment passed many-to-few after a proviso was added that the category would expire unless re-approved by the 2012 Business Meeting. Two non-binding resolutions were also tacked on to ask the next two Worldcons to do a trial run of this category (under the power of each Worldcon to add a single special Hugo category); passing unanimously for the first such and passing closely for the second such.

Huntsville. The service was good; but it's odd how my pretty young waitress was named Richard according to my bill. It seems the BGSC uses these slack times to train because not only was she accompanied by a ghost reminding her *sotto voce* to try to upsell me with a salad or alcoholic drink, but the waiter at one of the nearby tables was similarly accompanied by a female trainer. Again I skipped a dessert I wanted (knowing, in this case, that I'd be eating dinner at the ballpark). Both my servers (especially the male Richard ;-)) talked to me about the con; I might have sold a day pass for them.

The remaining half block from the BGSC to the CCC entrance was dwarfed by the two additional blocks from the entrance to Lobby D in the back, right corner of an enormous building. Prereg pickup was indeed there, though the only sign was — and I'm not kidding — handwritten on an oversized index card stuck to the top of a huge, blank chalkboard. I ran in to Louisville KY area fans Steve and Sue Francis who were also picking up their badges. I got mine, a pocket program, and a Denvention 3 Fan Hydration Device (a sports bottle, they were serious about it being easy to dehydrate at altitude). I didn't get a Souvenir Book or goodie bag — both still at the Sheraton — but I did get a ticket to turn in for those later. The only badge attachment available was a lanyard with a single-point swivel fastener. As I predicted then, about half of all badges were backwards at any given moment.

Sue and Steve were at D3 as part of a multi-con, multi-family-visit, multi-multi-state swing. If I understood correctly, they'd driven over 7000 miles since leaving home, and still had one con and one family visit to get to "on the way home." We chatted about this and that while we walked back toward their hotel, just a block down from the corner of the CCC opposite Lobby D. I left them near their hotel and headed once more back to the Sheraton, determined to stay in the room until it was time to leave for the ballgame. I spent some of the time downloading and organizing the few photos I'd taken so far and reading; but mostly I just lazed about.

About 5:45P I headed out the door to the ballgame and was in my seat by about 6:15P. The game was to start at 7:05P, but I'd wanted to get there early to have time to look around a bit and get in a baseball frame of mind. As expected, dinner consisted of overpriced ballpark food, which still cost me less than lunch had. It wasn't as good, mind you, so that counted in BGSC's favor. For the record, Colorado folk apparently have a *lot* to learn about what makes a good bratwurst. Also for the record, and for the handful of people reading this who might care, the Rockies were defeated by the Washington Nationals 9–4. While sad for the home crowd, I rather enjoyed watching a live professional ballgame where I had no stake in the outcome. I wouldn't have watched it on TV, probably, but in person it was an excellent experience. Coors Field seemed like a very nice park, but my impression may have been somewhat skewed by the fact that I'd sprung for a premium seat on their Wells Fargo Club Level. Too, the weather was nice, barring a 20-minute stretch of dazzling right-in-my-eyes sunshine after some clouds broke up and before the sun dipped below the top of the stadium.

The trip back to the Sheraton took quite a bit longer than the trip out. Some of the spring was gone from my step (not that there's much to begin with) on the walk back to the Mall, but the big difference was a longish wait for a MallRide bus to come along. The bus was absolutely packed, as was the one that left just moments before I'd arrived at the bus stop. Still, I was in my room and rehydrating a bit before 11P, less than an hour after the game ended. I took a while to cool off and download photos before heading on my lobby pilgrimage once again. The web is a harsh mistress. Bedtime came sometime near 1A.

DAY 3

Tuesday 5 August — In Which I Shopped

Late to bed, late to rise, or at least that was my intent. I left no wake-up call for Tuesday, figuring my aching legs and feet needed all they help they could get. I wasn't terribly successful in sleeping in, finally getting up just after 9:30A. Still, I could rest in other ways and decided to skip going out for a real breakfast in favor of a couple of granola bars (that had accompanied me from home) and some quiet reading. Thus it was nearing noon by the time I got out to face the world.

The first order of business being lunch, I headed back to The Delectable Egg to try their midday menu. This time I hit them

near a peak time, but there was still only a 5 minute wait. Service was again good and again I attacked the waiting carafe of water with glee. I ordered the Avalanche sandwich, roast beef and bacon with gooey melted cheese. I chose chips over their potatoes on a whim. The roast beef was nicely seasoned and the bacon moderately-thick sliced but still pretty crispy. A small leaf of lettuce and sliced tomatoes were on



the plate and both went on my sandwich. The only (very minor) flaw was that the roll it was served on had a hard time holding up to the hearty filling. A small fruit cup (listed in the menu as a garnish) finished off the meal. When I left it was nearing 1P and the place still had about 60% of it's tables occupied. Sadly they close at 2P each day so I wouldn't get to try them for dinner later in the week.

I had two places well away from the Mall marked on my "maybe" list for Tuesday. Being just a half block from the Sheraton, I bopped back there after lunch and used a computer in their Business Center to do some quick research on those two places. (Only the first 15 minutes of computer time was supposed to be free, but there seemed to be no enforcement of that. If anyone had been waiting in line for a computer the story may have been different.) I decided, though, that dealing with public transportation was going to be too much for me. So, I went shopping instead.

I spent about three hours strolling down the Mall, stopping in each tourist trap, er, gift shop; which were much more prevalent on the end of the Mall near the Sheraton than on the Coors Field end. I picked up some geegaws for almost everyone on my souvenir list, hoping that I wasn't forgetting anyone. My last stop was a quick one at the Walgreens to supplement my supply of drinks and snacks (knowing I'd have little time once the con was underway). The MallRide got me the 5 blocks back to the hotel where it was time to cool and dry off (another hot day in Denver) and generally relax for a while — and sort out the gifties I'd purchased. (Hmm... that takes longer than one might think.)

Eventually it was time to once again brave the trek to the lobby to resync to my email and such. For *some* reason the lobby was much busier at 5:40P than 12M. I spotted a few fans, but they were still far outnumbered by the other groups present — lots of young professionals but also members of a John Deere convention. Back in the room a bit after 6P, I managed to get hold of Sam Smith, who at that moment was on a shuttle on the way to the Sheraton; accompanied by Judy Breitbach and having hooked up with Jay Johns — all Huntsville-area fen. Since they were only 20 minutes away from the hotel, we made plans to do dinner, giving me a little time to catch up on transcribing my notes for this report.

When they arrived, we made arrangements to meet in the hotel lobby. Sam and Judy had checked in to their room, which happened to be in the Plaza building. Jay wasn't able to get in his room yet but had stashed his stuff in S&J's room. As we walked from the lobby toward the Mall, we discussed where to eat dinner. Several places were mentioned; I suggested the Cheesecake Factory which is pretty far down the Mall — in part so the new arrivals could get oriented to the MallRide and get a feel for distances. Off we went.

There was a wait for a table (maybe 15 minutes) and once seated the service was slow off the blocks — it took quite a while to just put in a drink order. The waiter, though, was a hoot which at least partially made up for it. Everyone enjoyed their dinner, but no one could finish everything. I came closest because I'd ordered a rather simple pasta marinara in order to leave room for dessert — which I then wasn't able to finish on the spot. The marinara sauce was adequate but nothing more. I also had a couple of the crab wontons that Jay ordered as an appetizer. Good enough, but not something I'd ever call a fave. The green iced tea, though, was *exquisite* as was the dessert. I wish I'd written down the name, but it's the chocolate cake with fudge icing and chocolate mousse layers. To die for, and I took more than half of it home for a late-night snack. Heck, even the whipped cream that came with it was good and that's so often not the case at a restaurant.

None of the rest of the people could finish their entrees; portions ran from largish to very large indeed. The chicken and biscuits dish Sam had looked very interesting and was also the largest entree at the table. Judy and Sam split a different chocolate cake and couldn't finish that either — so we all ended up with go boxes. Well, Jay sensibly donated his to S&J since they had a cooler which would make it safe to keep the entrees until the next day. All in all a very successful dinner.

By then it was after 8:30P plus the other three in the party were still operating on Central Time (making it 9:30P for them) and hadn't had the most pleasant flight over (delayed an hour in landing due to weather). So, even though it was a beautiful night out, we took the MallRide straight back to the hotel. Jay still had to check in and the rest of us stood around talking to him and each other to pass the time. The front desk was pretty busy and it was obvious that many of the folks in line were there for D3. Eventually, though, Jay got his room and by a stroke of luck it turned out to be on the same floor as S&J, so it would be easy to move his stuff. I said goodnight to them in the lobby and headed back to my room in the other building.

I thought about leaving the cake for breakfast, but wasn't too sure about the whipped cream keeping. Yeah, yeah, I could have left that behind in the restaurant but you do remember I said it was quite good. So I slowly munched my way through the cake for a good while, at the same time catching up with my earlier notes. I not only had to try to make sense of my chicken scratches but also took some time to try to flesh out those terse notes toward being a real report. I still left a pretty sizable piece of cake unfinished when I went back to the lobby to read some online posts I wanted to keep semi-current on.

I shortcut things a bit by taking a chance that a spot on the lobby level of my building might be close enough to the Mall to use the free wi-fi from there. It was, though it appeared to be at the fringes of the zone and likely not reliable for future nights. I almost wished I hadn't bothered to check the aforementioned posts; tempers were getting frayed and the "discussion" rather tedious. At least this realization let me skim rather than read almost all the posts; the signal-to-noise ratio was depressingly low.

Still, it was about 10:30P when I got through the piles of

posts and headed back in the general direction of my room. I took a detour through one of the levels of the hotel to be used for some con functions, but there was no reason to tarry there. I did see a sign advertising a bid party for Australia that night, and was tempted to seek it out — but I needed to put away my computer first and I knew once I was back in the room inertia and two days of playing tourist would catch up with me. Sure enough, once there I could think of nothing better to do than finish the last several bites of my cake and read a little before turning in. It was after 11P when my head hit first hit the pillow and about one chapter later when I turned out the light.

DAY 4

Wednesday 6 August — In Which the Con Began

The first day of a Worldcon doesn't start quite as early as the rest, but program events did start as early as 11:30A and many of the fixed functions were to be open by noon. I needed to "cash in" the ticket I'd received for my Souvenir Book and such, but there didn't seem to be much hurry there. Still, I knew I'd want to be up pretty early the three middle mornings to attend the 10A Business Meeting sessions, so I didn't want to sleep in *too* late. A 9A wakeup call was my compromise, knowing I'd have to push that to 8:30A or earlier the following days.

My wakeup call came about 45 minutes early. S&J were already out and about at the U. S. Mint hoping to get standby tickets for a tour later in the day and wanted to know if they should pick up one for me, too. Or at least so said the message; by the time I stumbled out of bed and across the room my cell phone had rolled over to voice mail. Being awake (well, *sort of* awake) so close to my target I figured I'd just push on.

The Denver Mint is located just a few blocks away from the Sheraton, but since I didn't particularly want to go it was fine that we didn't make connections. On my way to breakfast I checked out the route to the Con Suite (in a sub-sub basement of the Tower building) then headed to what was becoming my standby, the Delectable Egg. I had the Rooster Surprise, which was choice of meat, 2 eggs, and a short stack of pancakes. The sausage I had was very good and the eggs were quite dead (when I say over well I mean it). In fact, they were probably cooked just a bit too long but that's much better in my book than being runny. The pancakes were of only moderate size but also quite good. The only thing missing: I'd have liked to have had toast with it. Service was once again excellent, good enough that I decided I would be able to squeeze in breakfast on Business Meeting mornings.

As I was finishing, Frank Deitz and Roger Lee came in. After I paid, I joined them at their table for a while. As we were talking, Sam called; he and Judy done at the Mint, were thinking of going to breakfast, and wanted to know if I'd join them. I invited them to join me instead (albeit at yet another table since almost all of them were four-tops). Thus it was after 10:15A before I left to head to the CCC. S&J went to their room; they had been in such a hurry to get to the Mint (standby tour tickets go quickly) they'd had to leave before properly getting ready for the day.

Lots of setup was still underway at the CCC when I arrived, both by D3 and by CCC staff. The line for prereg pickup in the D Lobby area was very long — I overheard someone later say they had waited two hours, but I don't know if they were exaggerating. I heard a more reliable report of an hour wait, but I don't know what time of day that was. Sam told me that he had only a few people in front of him when he picked up his badge and packet, so however long the lines had been D3 successfully knocked them down. I took advantage of the open-plan Fanzine Lounge area set up not far from con reg to relax a bit before heading upstairs (see below). A two-sided countertop bordered

one side of the Fanzine Lounge, with electrical outlets above the countertop along the outside part — these were already in heavy in use before 11A charging laptops and other devices.

A bit later I headed upstairs (well, up escalator) from the D Lobby to Exhibit Hall D where the Art Show, Dealers' Room, and various exhibits were located. On the way I ran into Gay Haldeman who is perhaps one of the sweetest people in all of sf pro/fandom. She complimented me on the *Shuttle* (which I must say pleased me) and said she really *means* to LoC us occasionally. Perhaps my putting this in the report will tweak her the last little bit into sending us a short missive. (We all love you Gay, and *please* don't be embarrassed by my — I assure you — good-natured ribbing. We all understand you have a million other calls on your time.)

The hall was scheduled to open at noon and I still had a while (though the hall itself did open only about 5 minutes late) so I killed some more time checking out the Fan Gallery in the prefunction area. I recognized a number of folks and, yes, I did the vanity check to see if Con†Stellation was listed among the “credits” of our various guests, co-chairs, and others. Yep, it was. One bay of the exhibit was devoted to photos of some of the fans we've lost recently. Quite moving.

The Art Show, it turned out, was running a bit behind though they promised to open only an



Fan Gallery outside Hall D

hour late. I'd planned to do that section first, but happily enough diverted to do a circuit of the Dealers' Room instead. I stopped to talk to Kerry Gilley a while, but otherwise made a methodical set of passes so that I covered every aisle in the room — most of them twice (once for each side of the aisle) — taking about an hour in total. By the end of that my knees and feet were protesting badly — walking on a concrete floor will do that. A short rest meant I didn't make it over to the Art Show side of the hall until about 1:30P. A full pass through there also took about an hour. A noticeable few items had already sold for the immediate purchase (or, as they called it, quick sale) price. Perhaps 10–20% of the panels were either assigned but still blank or still being set up by the artist. I liked the way their hangings interlocked but it looked like they would take quite a bit more volume to store than the system Howard Camp designed for Con†Stellation mumbledy-mumble years ago. You can get a glimpse of a small part of the Art Show online at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJMiSdDxpcM>.

I saw a number of things in both the Dealers' Room and Art Show (more in the latter) that I admired for one reason or another (humor, intensity, sheer artistry) but none that I thought I couldn't live without. There were some examples of inflated Worldcon Prices in the Art Show; I didn't check prices in the Dealers' Room so there may have been there also. The Art Show, though, *also* had a surprising number of pieces priced from \$20 down, at least for the minimum bid and in not-just-a-few cases for the quick sale price.

While sitting for a while (the con supplied a number of comfy couches and chairs both in Hall D and elsewhere around the con) I hooked up with S&J for a late lunch. I'd spotted a couple of reviews for the Denver Diner on the web; it seemed to be reasonably recommended, inexpensive, close to the CCC, and open 24 hours a day. We hiked across the building (it was on a far side of the CCC relative to D3's area), then outside,

and found the diner relatively easily. Since we were in the middle of the afternoon the place was pretty empty and we were seated right away. I had the chicken-fried steak with mashed potatoes and corn, plus split-pea soup as a starter. The only thing that wasn't excellent was the iced tea, which was way too strong for my taste and somewhat bitter. Judy had the meatloaf, with the same starch and veg, but with a salad instead of the soup. Other than too much gravy on her meatloaf she said she enjoyed it all. Sam had a BLT and cherry pie and also enjoyed his. Neither of them cared for the tea, either.

There wasn't much programming that appealed to me this first day of the con, but Sam was interested in “Kip Russell's Slip Stick — The Slide Rule in life and science fiction” at 4P so Judy and I both tagged along. I must say that Dr. Courtney Willis was an entertaining speaker. While I (and indeed many in the audience) didn't *learn* a lot about slide rules, we did see some very interesting examples of the art. I was a member of the transition generation, starting college with a slide rule but buying a (very expensive!) HP scientific calculator while still an undergraduate. After the panel I finally cashed in the ticket I'd been given on Monday and picked up my full reg packet.

Opening Ceremonies (um, was there a second or third ceremony I failed to notice?) was (were?) at 5:30P in the largest program room. (Largest, that is, except for the theater which was to be used for the Masquerade and Hugos.) It wasn't quite big enough. Fortunately no one made a stink about the SRO crowd — and in my estimation there was still quite sufficient room to move in the rather wide side aisles so it really *shouldn't* have caused any heartburn had a Fire Marshal been present. I can't honestly say the Ceremonies were very, well, ceremonious, but they did serve to get the faces of the invited guests in front of a crowd — not all of whom may have otherwise recognized them.

OC was kept short, in part, because it (they?) was (were?) immediately followed by the Guest of Honor reception, styled as “Summerfair on Barrayar” in honor of Ms Bujold's most famous series of works. A number of people did dress the part, but were well outnumbered by folks like me in generic fan-nishwear. S&J and I ran into a number of old friends there including Nashville's Tom and Anita Feller, but didn't stay for long and were back at the Sheraton by about 7P. S&J headed off to their room to rest; I dumped my reg packet in my room and headed down to the sub-sub basement to find the Majestic Ballroom which housed the Con Suite.

I'm not generally a fan of Con Suites in hotel function spaces, but D3 did an OK job with this one. The food provided was rather sparse when I was in there, but they had a good selection of canned soft drinks as well as other cold and hot drinks. More importantly, they had tried to make it a good *social* space. There were 6–8 groupings of soft furnishings that made for good conversation or relaxation areas. They had a number of round tables in the rest of the space, but unlike a lot of such I've seen they were neither tiny bar tables nor banquet tables. The rounds were the size of a small four-top you might find in a trendy café, which made them small enough you didn't have to shout to the person across the table but large enough so everyone had a place to put a drink, a plate of food, and have room left in the middle for a couple of small bowls of munchies. Heck, they would've even made good card tables in a pinch. Also, the con had supplied inexpensive kid- and family-friendly games; a very nice touch I thought.

I went back to my room a while, where I worked on a couple of short restaurant reviews (the Denver Diner and the Cheese-cake Factory) to submit to the con newsletter then gird myself to face the parties. The official party floor (but see below for

more) was the top (22nd) floor in the Tower building of the Sheraton, which is one of their card-access-required Club floors. It took me a while to figure out my best route to access that floor. D3 provided people on the lobby level to swipe a card through the reader. That meant I would officially have had to go downstairs from the 16th floor to the lobby, waited in line, then ridden back up to 22. However, this was when I discovered that *my* room key card also worked in the reader, which came in handy not only this night but a number of times later.

In addition to the parties on 22, the Vail Room — on the same sub-sub level as the Con Suite, was the venue for some of the larger parties each night. In all, on this first night, I went to the Xerps 2010 “bid” party, separate Seattle and Reno 2011 bid parties, something called the Edge of Our Lives party, a Chernobyl 2011 “bid” party, a 1984-themed party, and a Friendly Scandinavians party on 22. I also made it to the combined Chicago in 2012 bid party and Friendly Texans (probable 2013 bid) party in the Vail Room. I skipped a couple of small press parties on 22 and didn’t try to make it to the ASFA (Association of Science Fiction & Fantasy Artists) suite, which was in the Plaza building.

All the parties had their plusses and minuses, but the Xerps party had the best food. I can’t say much about the drinks in any of the parties since I didn’t partake of any of them other than a smoothie proffered by the Chicago group. (That was OK, but nothing to write home about.) I did my duty in the Seattle and Reno bid parties by quizzing the representatives of the committees. I was invited by the Reno folks to come back Thursday night for a better answer to my “how far apart are these facilities anyway” question.

By 10:30P I’d made it back to my room because I knew I needed to check email (involving yet another lobby trip) and such — and to transcribe my notes before memory failed completely. It was around 12:30A before I made it to bed.

DAY 5

Thursday 7 August — In Which SMOFish Stuff Occurred

I’d determined on Wednesday that I *should* be able to get up at 8:15A; get showered, dressed, and out the door; get breakfast at the Delectable Egg; and still make it to the CCC in time for the 10A Business Meeting... so that was the plan, and it worked. I had the Early Riser skillet breakfast (potatoes, ham, green peppers, onions, melted cheese, topped with eggs, and a side of toast). I had the eggs scrambled — while they could have been fluffier they certainly weren’t bad. I choose wheat toast, which was made with some quite good bread. Overall it was a pretty good (and certainly very hearty) choice to start what promised to be a long day.

As regular readers should know, I’m one of *those people* who go Business Meetings at a Worldcon. I won’t go into detail here (see the separate sidebar for Business Meeting results) but if you care about the Worldcon, and in particular about the Hugo Awards, you should be thankful that at least a few of us attend these things since that’s the place that sets the rules. (And it *is* only a few. Per the draft minutes of the meeting, attendance over the three days varied from 80 to 94, well under 3% of the people at the con.)

I had time before the Business Meeting to drop off Con+Stellation flyers at the freebie table and talk briefly when I ran into Grant Kruger (about whom more later), South African expat, former Con+Stellation Fan GoH, and late of Mississippi. After the Business Meeting I had time to vote in Site Selection for the 2010 Worldcon and poke around a bit at this and that before the 1P Fannish Inquisition. I spent a little time looking at the standing exhibits in Hall D in front of the Dealers’ Room and Art Show. Perhaps I’d grown jaded from previous Worldcons, but it

seemed like there was little of interest in the exhibits. (Looking ahead, I did find some interesting items later on in D3.)

The Fannish Inquisition is a panel where bidders for upcoming Worldcons (and NASFiCs) can present their bid and take questions (thus the “inquisition” part) — D3 chair Kent Bloom moderated. Bids are taken in order by year (and randomly within a year) so the 2010 Australia bid went first. They were unopposed (except for the Xerps and other hoax bids) but had obviously put just as much effort into getting their ducks in a row (for the bid, not just for this presentation) as if they were in a fully-competitive race.

2011 has two bids, Seattle and Reno. Reno won the coin flip and presented first — it’s apt somehow that a game of chance determined the order. Reno is bidding for 17–21 August while Seattle is bidding for 31 August–4 September; both of those Wednesday–Sunday. Note that the Seattle dates end on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. They went that way in part because the city’s free Bumbershoot Music and Arts Festival climaxes on that Monday, providing attendees a chance to squeeze in a mini-vacation after the con would close. Reno’s bid is much younger than Seattle’s but Reno has a *lot* more “heavy hitters” on it’s bid committee so Seattle probably has quite a battle on their hands.

Chicago officially announced they are bidding for 2012 and that their bid web site is live at <www.chicagoin2012.org>. Chicago had bid, under the same bid chair, for 2008, which they lost to Denver. (A third site, Columbus OH, also bid for 2008.) They are still negotiating with several facilities. While they’d strongly prefer one of several downtown locations, there’re negotiating with an airport-area facility too. The dates chosen will depend in part on the facility chosen, but they’re looking in the range of the first weekend of August through the first weekend of September. They’ve chosen a bid theme of pulp magazines and the bid will be producing nine new pulps, the first of which was available at D3. Chicago is structuring bid financing differently from most past bids. Standard bid presupposing “memberships” are the currently-customary \$20 but that money does *not* get you a discount on a convention membership should they win. This means that the con would not owe the bid committee several tens of thousands of dollars at the time of selection. Yes, it means that bid supporters “get less” for their money than has been traditional, but the general sentiment among convention runners seemed to be that this is a more fiscally-responsible and overall more desirable way to structure bid-versus-con finances.

Several other groups announced a “statement of interest” for various outwears. Texas is looking at, though not quite fully committed to, a 2013 bid. They intend to choose between three candidate cities (Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio) in the next few months. A European group is looking at a total of five cities in two nations for a 2014 bid (with a deprecated backup of 2015). The cities are London (Docklands), Liverpool, and Glasgow in the UK; and Amsterdam and The Hague in the Netherlands. They hope to have a final site by Autumn 2009. San Diego is looking at a 2015 bid (deprecated backup, 2016). They have a prime and backup site in mind. After all potential Worldcon bids were handled, there was about 5–10 minutes left for the (at that time still potential) Raleigh 2010 NASFiC bid, but they didn’t have a representative present. I gave Warren Buff a hard time about that when I saw him later in the day — hopefully it came across in the lighthearted manner I intended; I always have trouble pulling that off.

After the Fannish Inquisition I talked a few minutes with Grant Kruger and his fiancée Theresa Pridemore. Grant has volunteered to head an effort (and he intends to get Theresa, a

graphic designer, involved too) to revamp the <worldcon.org> web site. As it stands it's rather static and of both limited appeal and limited usefulness to anyone but the most hardcore current Worldcon attendees. Note that this site hosts info about Worldcons in general, but points to committee-sponsored web sites for specific existing and past Worldcons.

Many people (though they wouldn't necessarily put it this way) believe the Worldcon "brand" needs to be strengthened and a better web presence certainly could help in that. I bent Grant and Theresa's ears for a few minutes saying that, yes, absolutely, the site needs to be appealing and to have great content, but it also shouldn't become a super-heavyweight that takes forever to load and works right only on systems with all the latest gizmos downloaded and enabled. I think they agree, and I've found Grant's judgment to be good in the past.

By then even the substantial breakfast I'd eaten was gone, so I headed (solo this time) back over to the Denver Diner, arriving about 2:30P. I tried out the meatloaf, with mashed potatoes, green beans, and a salad. The salad was plain but of good quality; except for the dressing which was mediocre. The portions were substantial (huge in the cases of the meatloaf and potatoes), but I thought the meatloaf rather dry (perhaps why they add a lot of gravy as Judy noted the day before) and could have used lots more onions and green peppers. So, my experience wasn't as good as the day before but I still enjoyed the meal. I stayed away from the tea, sticking to water.

Their service was quick and I was back inside the CCC well before the 4P Bujold reading that was next on my agenda. I wasn't sure I'd make it to her GoH speech on Friday (and indeed did not), and wanted to be sure to get to *something* featuring her. Thus I'd decided to sit in on a reading from the fourth (and last) book in her magical fantasy Sharing Knife series. I don't think she convinced me to pick up the series (there are too many books more to my taste I'm already not reading) but she did convince me she's a *major* trooper. She was very hoarse but managed to read and answer questions for the entire 75-minute panel, even when she had to speak up to be heard over the sound effects from the film running next door. During the post-reading Q&A she brought up a very interesting point about different structures that can be used for a book series. In that structural aspect she likened the Sharing Knife series to LotR because it's a single story told in multiple volumes. She mentioned several other ways — ways she's used and ways she hasn't — to structure series, but didn't have time to go into any great depth. With the right panelists this topic could make a fascinating program item.

Another GoH item followed for me, Kathy Mar's GoH concert at 5:30P. (D3 used "Guest" and "Guest of Honor" somewhat interchangeably for the invited guests.) I was alternately amused and moved by her songs. Denver must be a filking nexus; Ms Ma attracted what seemed to be a very knowledgeable crowd. They used the same large room that had been used for Opening Ceremonies (because of the stage, I expect) — the audience didn't fill the room, but it did make a sizable dent in the available chairs. And, a good half of the audience seemed to recognize and sing along with a good half of the numbers she did. In an interesting coincidence of scheduling, one of those numbers was a world premier, "Everybody Knows," inspired by Bujold's Sharing Knife series.

I'd wanted to stay at the CCC for ASFA's Chesley Awards ceremony that evening, but I gave in to the realization that a Worldcon is a marathon, not a sprint. I had plans to be out late at the CCC the next two nights — for the Masquerade and Hugos respectively — and was already quite a bit tuckered out. I had about a 30-minute break before the start of the 7:30P

program and figured I might just fall asleep if I sat down with nothing to do. So, I reluctantly headed back to the Sheraton where I had a light bite in my room and got some of the day's notes transcribed. I also went out to resync my email, by which time all of the night's parties were well underway (some starting as early as 8P). I realized later that the Chesley ceremony was only to present the nominees as the final round of voting had just started (unlike many previous years when the winners were announced at Worldcon). So, I probably made better use of my time the way it turned out.

It was my intent to get to several parties that night, but I ended up spending more time in the Australia 2010 party (in the Vail Room) than I might have done because I once again ran into Warren Buff and we chatted for a good while about his "potential" NASFiC bid for 2010 and about the future of DeepSouthCon. In the first instance I wanted to talk about the hotel suite situation since I have a vague idea I might be able to talk a number of NASFAns into going to a NASFiC within a day's drive from Huntsville. In the second instance, Warren is all for trying to rebuild the "DSC brand" and we talked about some of his ideas for doing that. While it seems unlikely that NASFA would play a significant role — if indeed any role — in that in the foreseeable future, I have some personal interest (and a bit of obligation to uphold what interests NASFA might have) so it did take some time.

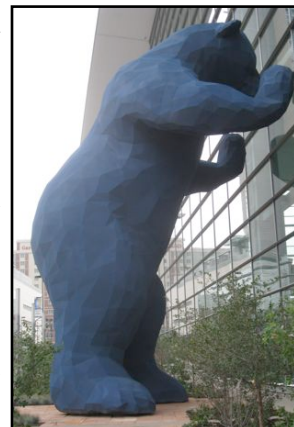
I left the Aussie party with the intent of making it to one or two parties up on 22, but faded as I went and chickened out. That put me back in my hotel room quite early (around 10:30P) but still with things to do. I spent time doing a quick proofing on my earlier transcriptions and organizing my notes from that day's session of the Business Meeting so as to get that sidebar underway while it was still in living memory (as it were). I also wanted to decompress a bit from a fairly packed day by reading a bit. So, it was easily midnight before I turned out the light for the night.

DAY 6

Friday 8 August — In Which a Masque Occurred

As much as I'd enjoyed mornings at the Delectable Egg, large cooked breakfasts were getting repetitive for someone more used to a bowl of cereal upon arising. So, I planned to have some of the snack foods I had in the room for breakfast. That let me sleep in a *tiny* bit (all the way to 8:30A!) and still make it to the 10A Business Meeting in time to read some new material before the meeting was called to order. Again, you can check the details in the sidebar. I took more snack material with me to the CCC for what would have to pass for a light lunch.

Though each day had a double (3-hour) block, the expectation was that each Business Meeting session would be over before noon. It was more like 12:20P for the Friday version. Nonetheless I had a little time to kill before the next panels starting at 1P, which proved to be no problem. I ran into Martha Knowles, who was just finishing a stint at the reg table, and exchanged a few words before she headed off to find her husband. As she was walking away I was hailed by Gary Shelton, the first time during the con I'd run into any of Timmy's gang that drove (!) up from Tennessee and vicinity. Good chats, both.



*The Big Blue Bear
outside the CCC*

What was to be my one science panel of the con, “SF in CSI,” was my 1P choice. I would have gone to Bujold’s GoH Speech scheduled for that same slot, but I was planning to sneak out a bit early from the 90-minute block to make it to another item. The panelists all had medical, police, and/or criminologist credentials — as did several people in the audience. There was pretty uniform disapproval of the science in CSI, medical shows, and the like. (Though I think that many of them miss one of the main points, that the best of the shows are really about the people and the relationships as much as the putative plots — which is why I rather like the original CSI and rather dislike the two spinoffs.) When asked what test or device they would like to have that doesn’t currently exist, the most interesting answers were a way to actually tell if people are telling the truth and a way to separate mixed DNA samples.

The Down Under Fan Fund (DUFF) auction was an added program item at 2P. The auction was in the Fanzine Lounge (which, recall, was open to the whole of Lobby D) which meant it was hard for the auctioneers to hear the bidders and vice versa. I missed the first several items even though I had left the CSI panel early. While I was there the two things that went for the most were a 50th-Anniversary NASA T-shirt (available from NASA to their employees and contractors only) that went for \$50 and a Tuckerization by Harry Turtledove that went for \$350. I bought two small items, rather overpaying for them of course — it’s a charity after all. DUFF funds support travel for elected fannish representatives traveling in alternate years to/from North America from/to Australia/New Zealand.

My plan for the day had been to skip out on the 4–5:30P and 5:30–7P panel blocks and go to a sit-down dinner somewhere before returning to the CCC for the Masquerade. I figured I deserved a semi-nice restaurant for my only real meal of the day. (Yeah, yeah, I was violating the middle part of the 5-2-1 rule. Sue me.) But, since I’d bought the DUFF items I knew I’d have to head back to the hotel rather than going directly to a restaurant and back. OK, that changed things a bit. I decided to take the easy way out and buy some takeout, which turned out to be a 5-Meat Stack sandwich from a Quiznos just down from the Sheraton. Not quite what I was thinking of, but there was something to be said for eating with my feet propped up after several days of much more walking that I’m used to.

Coming back to the hotel did have two other advantages, I got to check email (and throw away a hundred or so spams)

and could “dress” for the Masquerade. I luvs me my fannish T-shirts for routine wear at a con, but at a Worldcon I’ll at least change into a nicer shirt for the big evening functions when I can. I struck out for the return trip to the CCC before 6:30P.

That trip proved a bit more difficult than most had been. The MallRide bus was delayed a couple of times in the short trip and was very crowded. Still, I finished up the walk from 16th to 14th Street and was at the CCC 10 minutes or so ahead of the promised 7P doors-open time (for a 7:30P start time). I made connection via cell phone with S&J and we arranged to look for each other in the queue. But... there was no queue, so we didn’t actually hook up until I went into the Wells Fargo Theater where the Masquerade was to be held. Apparently they’d opened the doors *well* before 7P, which is a very good stratagem. As it turned out, the theater is so large (seating about 5000) that the fans in attendance filled well under half the seats.

The Masquerade did start pretty much bang on time. There were 31 entries (3 in the Young Fan division, 28 in the Novice, Journeymen, and Masters divisions combined). I was impressed with pretty much all the costumes (some much more than others, of course) and most of the presentations. Some of the novices and perhaps a few journeymen did too little on stage to really call it a significant presentation, but they comprised a minority of the entrants. Perhaps more significantly, none of the entries were, well, embarrassing — in my opinion at least. While it’s typically a low percentage, there *are* entries in some Worldcon Masquerades that just don’t belong on stage at that level yet — who should spend some time working on their craft at smaller events. None of this year’s entries made me cringe in that way. One person commented later that he believed the Masquerade had screened entrants more thoroughly than usual which reduced the number of entries but perhaps weeded out some that would have been, um, cringe-worthy. I don’t know, however, if the vetting was in fact more stringent.

Judging for the Young Fan entries took place after the three of them had made their presentations and before the other categories. MC Wil McCarthy vamped admirably, especially considering that he claimed to have essentially no experience at MCing Masquerades. That delay ran on for a good 5–10 minutes, after which the Young Fan award presentations were made and the rest of the Masquerade got underway.

The other 28 entries finished at just about 9P. The judging

Masquerade Results

Worldcon masquerades, including Denvention 3’s, are typically judged using the Division guidelines of the International Costumers’ Guild. As implemented by D3, young fans (those under 13 at the beginning of the convention) competed in their own division. Adults were divided into Novice, Journeyman, and Master Divisions. Competition, except for Best in Show, is within division — all entrants are considered for Best in Show (both Workmanship and Presentation).

In simplified terms, professional costumers, anyone who has won any Master Division award, anyone who has won Best in Show or Best Journeyman, and anyone who has won three or more major awards in the Journeyman Division must compete as a Master. Similarly, anyone who won any Journeyman Division award, anyone who has won Best Novice, and anyone who has won “numerous” Novice Division awards must compete as a Journeyman or, if they choose, in the Master Division. Others may compete in any of the three divisions. Awards are given separately for Workmanship and

Presentation in each division.

A DVD of Masquerade still photos is available at <www.lensman.com/Denvention3.htm>. There are rumors on the web that an actual video DVD will be available.

Post-con there has been some chatter on the web tut-tutting the judges for giving awards to most of the contestants. Disregarding the Young Fan entrants, 22 of the 28 Adult entries (79%) won some sort of award, which is too high by most standards. (Consider, also, how crushed the six entries that won nothing would be and that they might well be less so if fewer awards had been given.) In partial defense of the judges, Presentation and Workmanship judging *is* separate and they selected different sets of winners. A total of 16 entrants (57%) won some sort of Workmanship Award, or 36% if you discount the six Honorable Mentions. On the Presentation side of the house, a different, but overlapping, 16 entrants won a Presentation Award (again, 57%). Arguably 57% is still too high, but it’s certainly more defensible than 79%.

YOUNG FAN AWARDS

The Dancing Fools Award — “Young Anime Fans;” Designed and made by Megan Thorn; Worn by Corwin Thorn and

Random Thorn

Special Transylvanian Award — “Blue’s Friend Magenta;” Designed and made by Joyce Carroll Grace; Worn by: Edwin Grace, Eleanor Grace, and Niall Grace
The “9 is Fine Award” — “Alien Ellie;” Designed, made, and worn by Ellie Brodrick

NOVICE DIVISION AWARDS

Novice Workmanship

Honorable Mention, Electrical Engineering — “Here Comes the Sun;” Designed by Mark and James Shallcross; Made by Eliza and James Shallcross; Worn by James Shallcross
Honorable Mention, Tailoring and Embroidery — “Princess Mariam Suzetta;” Designed, made, and worn by Christina Dube
Honorable Mention, Construction of Wristlet and Gun — “Barbarella and Pygar;” Designed, made, and worn by Brianna Spacekat and Frank Wu
Honorable Mention, Dyeing — “Silk Moth;” Designed by Kevin Roche; Made and worn by Carole Parker
Structural Engineering — “The Black Dalek;” Designed, made, and worn by Bernadette Lee
Soft Sculpture — “A Nightmare in Denver;” Designed, made, and worn by Leann Runyanwood and Mark Runyan
Best Workmanship, Novice — “War Machine;” Designed, made, and worn by Karl A. Nordman

Novice Presentation

Intoxically Beautiful Award — “Dragon Wine;” Designed, made, and worn by Bethany Anderson
The Magellan Award — “Princess Mariam Suzetta;” Designed, made, and worn by Christina Dube
The Roy G Biv Award — “The Calm After the Storm;” Designed and made by Mary Ann Westfield; Worn by Alyssa Westfield
Duran Duran’s Choice — “Barbarella and Pygar;” Designed, made, and worn by Brianna Spacekat and Frank Wu
Rising Star Award — “Here Comes the Sun;” Designed by Mark and James Shallcross; Made by Eliza and James Shallcross; Worn by James Shallcross
Best Novice — “Chairman of the Borg;” Designed, made, and worn by Mark Cantrell

JOURNEYMAN DIVISION AWARDS

Journeyman Workmanship

Fabric Manufacture — “Jadis, The White Witch;” Designed by Rebecca Tinkham; Made by Rebecca Tinkham, Allan Tinkham, and Jamie Hascall; Worn by Rebecca Tinkham
Skilled Wire-Knotting — “Elvish Armor;” Designed, made, and worn by Loren Damewood

Journeyman Presentation

Excellence In Adaptation — “Jadis, The White Witch;” Designed by Rebecca Tinkham; Made by Rebecca Tinkham, Allan Tinkham, and Jamie Hascall; Worn by Rebecca Tinkham
Excellence In Re-Creation — “Shimabara Jinju Redux: A Tribute to Chiyoko Fujiwara, Millennium Actress;” Designed, made, and worn by April Faires
Best Journeyman — “Grave Robbers;” Designed, made, and worn by Charles Orndorff, Jennifer Strand, Michael Bruno, and Tauni Orndorff

MASTER DIVISION AWARDS

Master Workmanship

Honorable Mention, Clarity of Execution, Banners — “Schoolhouse Rock Presents: A Reconsideration of the Astronomical Status of Dwarf Planet Pluto;” Designed by Susan de Guardiola; Made by Susan de Guardiola, Keira

Sokolowski, Marc Hartstein, Serge Mailloux, Rae Bradbury-Enslin, Marty Gear, and the blog Making Light; Worn by Adina Adler, Ben Yalow, Elspeth Kovar, Harriet Culver, Irene Urban, Jeanne Buss, Joseph Meltzer, Joshua Kronengold, Lance Weber, Lori Meltzer, Mary Aileen Buss, Morris Keesan, Serge Mailloux, Susan de Guardiola, Tania Clucas, Tim Walters, and Vicki Warren

Honorable Mention, Engineering — “The legendary Black Beast of Arrrghhh!” Designed by Daren Bost and Marian O’Brien-Clark, with credit to Terry Gilliam; Made by Daren Bost, Marian O’Brien-Clark, and Stephen M. Clark; Worn by Daren Bost and Marian O’Brien-Clark
Papier-Mache Sculpture, Headpiece — “The Great Garuda;” Designed, made, and worn by Vandy Vandervort
Lace-making and Embroidery — “Touch of Winter;” Designed, made, and worn by Sionna Neidengard
Creative Use of Found Materials — “A Midsummer Night’s Dream;” Designed and made by Elaine Mami and Pierre and Sandy Pettinger; Worn by Joni Dashoff and Pierre and Sandy Pettinger
Best in Class, Master — “The Dream Time;” Designed by Stephen M. Clark; Made by Marian O’Brien-Clark and Stephen M. Clark; Worn by Stephen M. Clark

Master Presentation

Award For Mythic Presence — “The Dream Time;” Designed by Stephen M. Clark; Made by Marian O’Brien-Clark and Stephen M. Clark; Worn by Stephen M. Clark
Holy Hand-Grenade Award Sponsored By Plavix — “The legendary Black Beast of Arrrghhh!” Designed by Daren Bost and Marian O’Brien-Clark, with credit to Terry Gilliam; Made by Daren Bost, Marian O’Brien-Clark, and Stephen M. Clark; Worn by Daren Bost and Marian O’Brien-Clark
Retro-Rocket Award For Scientific Activism, First In a Series — “Schoolhouse Rock Presents: A Reconsideration of the Astronomical Status of Dwarf Planet Pluto;” Designed by Susan de Guardiola; Made by Susan de Guardiola, Keira Sokolowski, Marc Hartstein, Serge Mailloux, Rae Bradbury-Enslin, Marty Gear, and the blog Making Light; Worn by Adina Adler, Ben Yalow, Elspeth Kovar, Harriet Culver, Irene Urban, Jeanne Buss, Joseph Meltzer, Joshua Kronengold, Lance Weber, Lori Meltzer, Mary Aileen Buss, Morris Keesan, Serge Mailloux, Susan de Guardiola, Tania Clucas, Tim Walters, and Vicki Warren

Award For Detail and Precision — “Touch of Winter;” Designed, made, and worn by Sionna Neidengard
Best Presentation — “Humuhumu;” Designed, made, and worn by Cordelia Willis, Isabelle Anderson, Jennifer Anderson, Kelly Bolton, and Lea Anderson
Best Master — “A Midsummer Night’s Dream;” Designed and made by Elaine Mami and Pierre and Sandy Pettinger; Worn by Joni Dashoff and Pierre and Sandy Pettinger

BEST IN SHOW: WORKMANSHIP

“Grave Robbers;” Designed, made, and worn by Charles Orndorff, Jennifer Strand, Michael Bruno, and Tauni Orndorff. This group entered the Masquerade as Journeyman.

BEST IN SHOW

A Nightmare in Denver;” Designed, made, and worn by Leann Runyanwood and Mark Runyan. This couple entered as Novices. They also received the Costume-Con 27 and 28 Awards for Best in Show.

interval entertainment was a slide show of Worldcon Masquerade entries (mostly, but not exclusively, winners in one category or another) from the last 30 years. The International Costumers' Guild <www.costume.org> supplied the slides from their archive. That ran until just about 9:40P. Judy had left right after the contestants finished to catch a shuttle bus supplied by the con back to the Sheraton. Sam and I stayed until 10P, hoping that the judges would be somewhat sensible about hurrying things along, but gave up and left. Results of the judging, gleaned from the web later, are available in the sidebar above.

On the way along the concourse from the theater into the rest of the CCC, we overheard someone saying that the judges had finished their deliberations. Of course, there could have still been delays (such as getting the list of winners into a



*Masquerade Best in Show
(photo from D3 newsletter)*

form for the MC to read) and by then neither Sam nor I were in much of a mood to go back and check. Besides, Sam hadn't eaten since a 2P-ish lunch and was in need of sustenance. The two of us headed back to the Sheraton to get to the room parties; not the best way to eat but better than nothing by far. We stopped by my room first so I could change out of my long-sleeved dress shirt into a short-sleeved T-shirt before hitting the 22nd floor. There was quite a queue on the lobby level waiting to be keyed up to the Club Level, but people going to their room (as I was) skipped the line. (The rule was presumably established because non-Worldcon guests could hardly have been expected to wait in the party queue — nor would it be particularly fair to non-party-going con folks to do that.) After changing, I used my key to get us from 16 to 22. A dodge, perhaps, but one I felt only marginally guilty about taking.

Sam cut out earlier than I did, having had only partial success in finding suitable food. I managed to visit four parties, albeit only briefly for all but Xerps. I stayed there for quite a while, but also visited two nameless parties and a party for that was signboarded as "Peggy Rae's House in 2010." Yeah, that's a long story — but in any case it was *really* the Capclave/SFRevu/Washington Science Fiction Association party — they'd forgotten to flip the pad of paper comprising the sign over to the next page. I took a finger of Maker's Mark at that party which, given the way I sip it (basically, just let it wet the tip of my tongue), lasted me for quite a long time. I chose not to head downstairs to the Nippon 2007 we-more-or-less-survived-a-Worldcon party in the Vail Room and made it back to my room around 11:45P. Between one thing and another it was closer to 1A before I hit the sack.

DAY 7

Saturday 9 August — In Which Things Were Revealed

Though I knew I'd be tired after a long day and a short night, I'd left an 8:15A wakeup call for Thursday. I didn't figure the extra 15 minutes of sleep I might be able to get by eating in the room was worth it and I wanted to hit the Delectable Egg again, which I reached by 9A. Their service might have been a little slower than previous days, but I chalked it up to a more laid-back weekend crowd. I had the Mexican Sunrise — a 3-egg frittata with chorizo sausage, chilies, onions, and "Spanish-style" salsa; all topped with melted cheese and sour cream. It came with their potatoes and toast for accompaniments. It was spicy enough to be interesting, with just a tiny bit of lingering heat.

By a little after 9:30A I was on my way down the 16th Street Mall and across to the CCC for the Business Meeting. The main order of business for this third (and normally final) session is the report on Site Selection for the Worldcon two years hence. Details of Site Selection can be found in a sidebar; details of other business transacted can be found in the Business Meeting sidebar. I was slightly disappointed that the fine Xerps in 2010 hoax bid didn't break the 10% mark in the voting, but they did come in second. A much more recent hoax bid for Peggy Rae's House came in third — between the two they polled either just under or just over 12% of the vote; depending on whether you count the No Preference and None of the Above votes in the denominator.

Neither votes for these two "active" hoaxes nor those for the several other non-qualified sites were likely intended to cast any particular aspersions on the inevitable winner, Australia. Because they *were* inevitable (being the only real bid — that is, the only bid that filed the required paperwork and the only group who actually wanted to *run* a Worldcon) people likely felt free to express their whimsy. It would have been nice, in my mind, for Xerps to have polled a bit higher as an homage to the almost-decade that Frank and Millie have been throwing their fine Xerps parties and promoting their "bid." Ah, well — initial details of Aussiecon 4 appear in the Future Worldcons sidebar.

In addition to the business of the 2010 Worldcon selection, the third session of the Business Meeting makes available time for bidders for future years. Most of the bids that presented in the Fannish Inquisition (see Day 5) showed up here, and there were two additional groups heard from. Warren Buff gave a pretty-well-received presentation for the Raleigh 2010 NASFiC bid. Some Worldcon regulars are not happy about the very idea of NASFiC existing, but everyone received the presentation politely. Also, a young lady (well, young in comparison to my decrepitude) presented a bid for Zagreb, Croatia for the 2013 Worldcon. This came as a surprise to me, and I believe to the large majority of those present. I wish I'd recorded her name, but I'm sure I would have mangled the spelling — since the bid does not yet have a web site (and as well is not yet taking pre-supports) I wouldn't have been able to check the spelling before press time. Later in the day I heard from one of the Texans associated with their nascent 2013 bid that Zagreb throwing it's hat in the 2013 ring was unexpected to them. Post-con, rumors have floated around the web that Zagreb is not necessarily focused on 2013 as their *only* possible bid year.

By 11:30A the Business Meeting had been adjourned for the con and I was headed to the brand spanking new Raleigh 2010 NASFiC bid table to throw presupposing money at them. OK, to fill out a form and gingerly hand money to them. With Australia officially declared the 2010 Worldcon site, the Raleigh bid was finally official.

That took only a few minutes (including hassling Warren again — gotta love his craziness ;-) which let me get to the 11:30A "Pubbing Your Ish" panel less than 20 minutes after it had started. It was a very fun and energetic group but if I learned much new I failed to write it down. Being there, though, meant I could easily come along on the "Fan Ed Feed" after the panel. I claim that my editorship of the *NASFA Shuttle* isn't really quite the same thing as traditional fanzines or apazines or other more-deeply-fannish publications, but collectively their editors demure and invite us clubzine editors to be part of the group. About 20 folks made the trip from the CCC up to the Mall and a block over to the Appaloosa Grill. I had the Eggplant Marinara, which was an interesting variation on Eggplant Parmesan with less emphasis on the cheese and sauce plus the

addition of spinach and grilled tomatoes. I've enjoyed some other, more-traditional, versions of Eggplant Parmesan more and some less — it was a worthy choice and I'm glad I had it. The iced tea was passable if not great and certainly helped with fluid replacement.

Lunch ran long enough that I was several minutes late slipping in to the "20 Essential SF Books of the Past 20 Years" panel which started at 2:30P back at the CCC. I didn't even try to take notes of the books listed, of which there were well more than 20 since the five panelists made their lists independently. I don't think the tastes of the panelists align very well with mine, and I'm a bit skeptical that they align all that well with fandom as a whole — perhaps being a bit more highbrow than average. It should be noted, though, that more than one panelist emphasized that such choices are always subjective and informed by one's personal taste as well as one's experiences in the field. The time one started reading sf was cited as a particular influence.

One question from the audience was about the lack of military sf on any of the lists. Several panelists said that this-or-that book has a military or political/military element — but I heard none listed that I recognized as out-and-out military sf. If you're interested in that and many other questions, the lists of all the panelists (as well as some ancillary information) has been posted on moderator Cheryl Morgan's blog at <www.cheryl-morgan.com/?page_id=1645>. Of the group, only Charlie Brown (of *Locus*) expressed strong exception to some of the other panelist's choices — but even he joined in agreeing on a number of works and a larger number of authors.

When that panel broke up at 3:45P I once again mounted shank's mare and headed back out of the CCC, this time to the Sheraton. The Raleigh bid was hosting an afternoon (4P start)

party for their bid. I finally ran into Tim Bolgeo on my way there — or rather he ran into me, successfully hailing me from the better part of a block behind me. He was headed to his hotel (one of the more distant ones) to rest up before helping Toni Weisskopf set up the Baen Books party scheduled for that evening.

The Raleigh party was still struggling to its feet when I got there a little after their nominal start time, but things soon got in full swing. Their main party food was barbecue brought from North Carolina (frozen in transit and reheated on site). I didn't have any of that since I'd had lunch so recently, but much was eagerly and appreciatively devoured by others. I did hear one complaint later, that they ran out of sauce. I think that Warren, being from a part of North Carolina that almost exclusively uses a vinegar-based sauce, may not appreciate well enough that other people strongly prefer other sauces. I'm sure he'll learn from it as (rightly or wrongly) bids are judged in part by how much people like the food at parties.

I left the party about 5P to have time to resync my email (and little else — I was at that point falling further and further behind on some of my normal online pursuits) and change for the Hugo Awards ceremony. I left the hotel for that rather earlier than I really needed to, but that may have been a good thing since the MallRide buses were out of service for some reason and I had to walk the four blocks along the Mall I'd normally have ridden. Nonetheless, I got to the CCC in plenty of time to take a breather in the Fanzine Lounge and cool off a bit before heading into the Wells Fargo Theater. Sam caught up with me there; Judy was feeling under the weather and had stayed at the hotel.

We were seated in the capacious theater well in advance of the nominal 7:30P start time. D3 was running a slide show of

Worldcon Site Selection

Each Worldcon administers a vote to select the site/committee for the Worldcon two years later. Denvention 3 thus administered the vote for the 2010 Worldcon. To be listed on the ballot, bids had to submit certain paperwork (proof of a committee, facilities, etc.) 180 days before D3. As expected, only the Melbourne Australia bid did so. Bids not listed on a Site Selection ballot can still qualify to win as a write-in candidate, but must submit the the relevant paperwork before the close of voting (which seldom, if ever, happens).

There is a long-standing Worldcon tradition of hoax bids (by groups that have no actual desire to host the Worldcon) seeking write-in votes. Generally these are good-natured activities, more an excuse to host a party (or series of parties) than a statement about the actual qualified bids. This year, there were two active hoax bids: the Xerps bid <www.xerps.net> which has been throwing great parties for the better part of a decade and "Peggy Rae's House" which is a much more recent hoax that apparently started as a joke among a few friends. Both these hoax bids threw parties at D3, Xerps for several nights and PRH for one night. Both garnered a number of votes. Several other non-eligible bids got from one to four votes each.

Not surprisingly, Aussiecon 4 <aussiecon4.org.au> won the day without having to invoke the automatic runoff inherent in the preferential balloting used for Site Selection. (Had the runoff system been necessary, all the ineligible "bids" would have been eliminated in one swoop, leaving Australia even more clearly the winner.) Full voting stats are shown below.

As many *Shuttle* readers are aware, to vote in Worldcon Site Selection you have to be a member (Attending or Sup-

porting) of the current Worldcon (D3) and you have to pay an "advance membership fee" (informally called a voting fee). That fee buys the voter a Supporting Membership in the winning convention (no matter who they vote for). This mechanism assures that voters are stakeholders in the just-elected Worldcon, perhaps easing tensions after closely-contested races and giving even supporters of the losing side(s) motive to support the winner. It also discourages ballot-stuffing by people who may not care about Worldcon as a continuing entity and are only interested in a particular city for a particular year.

Something around 20% of D3's total membership voted, giving Aussiecon 4 over 800 initial memberships. Many voters, of course, will pay to upgrade their Supporting Membership to Attending — some doing so at D3 as soon as the official result was announced.

Bid	Mail-in	Wed	Thur	Fri	Total
Australia	69	138	179	272	658
Xerps	0	11	19	28	58
Peggy Rae's House	1	9	11	18	39
Minneapolis in '73	0	3	1	0	4
Liechtenstein	0	0	0	2	2
Other*	3	2	1	8	14
None of the Above	0	6	7	6	19
No preference	5	2	9	16	32
Total Votes	78	171	227	350	826
Total With Preference					794
Needed to Win (majority of votes with preference)					398

*One vote each for: Casa De Fruta, Columbus 2008, Kansas City, Kodacon, Miles Boss's House, Monkey's Eyebrow KY, No Dams, Perth WA, Rochester, St. Pierre & Michilon Island, Southgate, Spuzzum BC, Sunnydale CA, and Takoma Park MD.

pics taken around the con, which cycled several times while we waited. The nominees (and designated acceptors for nominees who couldn't be there) started straggling in close to 7:30P and the house lights dimmed maybe 5–10 minutes later. Before getting to the Hugos, several other awards were given out, those are included in a sidebar overleaf. They also ran an In Memoriam list which sadly took up several minutes. Apologies if I've missed anyone, but I wanted to note a list of Southern fans (many of whom were important to Con†Stellation) on the list this year: Nelda Clark (Kennedy), Joey Gril-lot, Pat McAdams, Sandy McDade, Bill Payne, and Hank Reinhardt.

See also the sidebar below listing the Hugo winners. Space and time does not permit the *Shuttle* to print a rundown on all the Hugo nominating and voting stats as has been done most recent years, but the lists are available online at <www.denvention.org/hugos/Final-Report.pdf>.

The show, ably MCed by Mr. McCarthy, was over about 9:30P. Sam and I parted company on the way back; he wanted to pick up flyers and I was going to take the con-supplied bus back to the Sheraton. However, the bus was full so I headed back the normal way rather than wait for the shuttle to complete the circle route — walking back though the at-least-two blocks of the CCC itself, then from 14th Street up to the 16th Street Mall. The MallRide was running again (I never found out what the problem had been earlier) and I got to ride the four blocks along the Mall back to the Sheraton.

Once “home,” I bypassed the line in the lobby and took advantage of one of the hotel's auxiliary elevators (that served only a few lower floors) to find the con newsletter office. I wanted to pick up a prize I'd won for helping suggest the name of the at-con newsletter. It turned out to be a CD by Music Kathy Mar, which they offered to have autographed and mail to me. I took them up on the offer, though at the time this article was written the CD had not arrived.

That office was on the hotel's Mezzanine level, essentially the 3rd floor. I had a bit of luck with the regular bank of elevators and made it from there up to my room pretty quickly. There had been a significant queue in the lobby though technically that was only for people going to the party floor who needed to be “keyed up” — had I been in the lobby I'd have theoretically gotten priority again, since I was going to my room on 16 rather than all the way to 22.

After having a soft drink and cooling off a bit, though, I did make a brief foray up there. I was gone a whole 15–20 minutes, during which I made blitz runs at the Reno and Seattle bid parties and what I thought was going to be the Baen Books party. In the Reno party I finally re-asked my question about how far apart the convention center is from the larger, secondary hotel. The “six blocks” I'd been quoted earlier turns out to be 0.8 miles. As I thought, they are pretty long blocks. (I don't want to seem overly negative, but a bid that quotes distances exclusively in blocks or something other than a recognized unit like feet, miles, meters, or kilometers always strikes me as seeming deceptive. A block is a pretty much meaningless thing as they vary so much from place to place.) I liked the food in the Seattle party much better, but didn't have an opportunity to ask them any questions that night as the place was loud and packed. I did run into old friend Dan Caldwell of Nashville (and now of the Raleigh bid) there and managed a few sentences of shouted conversation before moving on.

The “Baen” party, well, wasn't. It being sort-of by invitation, I wasn't surprised to find a closed-door party going on at the 22nd floor room I'd been told was to be the venue. I talked my way in (it wasn't hard), but it turned out that neither Toni nor

her usual bartending crew was there — nor did the available drinks and food look *at all* like a typical Baen party. A dazzling array of pros was there, but I really had no interest in trying to engage any of them in conversation and left quickly. The only other fan identifiable to me was Jan Howard Finder, and he has professional credentials, too. It wasn't until the next day that I confirmed that the Baen party had been moved from room 2215 to room 2236 at the last minute. Ah well, such is life. I suppose I might have briefly been the talk of 2215 after I left (“Who was that very large man with the long red (and gray) hair?”) but I doubt I was much more than a momentary disturbance. Too, not finding the Baen party may have been a well-disguised blessing since I could easily have been tempted to stay longer than my body would have appreciated the next day.

So I ended up in my room for the night earlier than some nights. That didn't translate to getting to bed early since I had lots to do in transcribing notes, including catching up on some corrections I'd noted for previous days. It was after 12:30A before I gave up on the computer for the night and later than that before lights-out.

Hugo & Campbell Winners

Winners of this year's Hugo and Campbell Awards were announced at Denvention 3 on Saturday 9 August 2008 at a ceremony MCed by Wil McCarthy. The Hugo Awards are generally considered the premier popular awards in sf/f. They are selected in a two-step process, starting with nominations by members of the current and previous year's Worldcon, followed by a final balloting of members of the current year's Worldcon only. The John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer, sponsored by Dell Magazines, is not a Hugo but the vote is administered in the same way by the Worldcon on behalf of Dell. Hugos are for work in the previous calendar year while the Campbell covers a two-year sliding window. The winners are:

Novel.....*The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, Michael Chabon (HarperCollins; Fourth Estate)

Novella.....*“All Seated on the Ground,”* Connie Willis (*Asimov's*, December 2007; Subterranean Press)

Novelette.....*“The Merchant and the Alchemist's Gate,”* Ted Chiang (Subterranean Press; *F&SF*, September 2007)

Short Story.....*“Tideline,”* Elizabeth Bear (*Asimov's*, June 2007)

Related Book. Brave New Words: The Oxford Dictionary of Science Fiction, Jeff Prucher (Oxford University Press)

Dramatic Presentation, Long Form.....*Stardust*, Written by Jane Goldman and Matthew Vaughn, Directed by Matthew Vaughn, Based on the novel by Neil Gaiman Illustrated by Charles Vess (Paramount Pictures)

Dramatic Presentation, Short Form.....*Doctor Who “Blink,”* Written by Steven Moffat, Directed by Hettie Macdonald (BBC)

Professional Editor, Long Form.....David Hartwell
Professional Editor, Short Form.....Gordon Van Gelder (*F&SF*)

Professional Artist.....Stephan Martiniere
Semiprozine.....*Locus*, Charles N. Brown, Kirsten Gong-Wong, and Liza Groen Trombi, eds.

Fanzine.....*File 770*

Fan Writer.....John Scalzi

Fan Artist.....Brad Foster

Campbell Award.....Mary Robinette Kowal (2nd year of eligibility)

DAY 8

Sunday 10 August — In Which a Major Shift Occurred
To sleep in or not to sleep in... that was the question. I didn't

expect to see a lot of my friends on Sunday as most of them were heading back either by plane or by car and would likely not be around the con much, if any. That argued for sleeping in.

Other Awards at Worldcon

This year the world of "other awards at Worldcon" was a little unusual. The Prometheus Awards were announced *before* Denvention 3, though there was a ceremony at the con. On the other hand, the Seiun Awards, usually announced at the Japanese National Convention and re-announced (for the two Translated categories) at Worldcon were not represented at D3 because the Japan Natcon was *after* Worldcon. Also, the start of the Chesley Awards voting was apparently delayed, so only the nominees (rather than winners) were presented at D3. Nonetheless, on with the list of awards that *were* represented in some way at D3.

PROMETHEUS AWARDS

The Libertarian Futurist Society <www.lfs.org> held a ceremony presenting the Prometheus Awards (see the August *Shuttle* for more details) to the winners — well, as much as possible. **Jo Walton** (*Ha'Penny*) and **Harry Turtledove** (*The Gladiator*), who had tied, were both present to receive their **Prometheus Best Novel** awards and give thank you speeches. The late **Anthony Burgess** (*A Clockwork Orange*) was of course not present for his **Prometheus Hall of Fame** award.

CHESLEY AWARDS

The *Shuttle* is not privy to the full story, but apparently there was a delay releasing the ballot for the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists' Chesley Awards until just three days before D3. ASFA did host a ceremony presenting a slide show of the nominees and made ballots available (then, later, corrected ballots). They also announced a voting deadline of 8 September 2008. The list of nominees is pretty lengthy (as many as 10–12 persons/works in several categories); time and space pressures prevent it being listed in the *Shuttle* but the full list is available online at <www.asfa-art.org/admin/ches.php?chesyear=2008>.

Supposedly informed sources have said that ASFA will announce the winners online and attempt to make presentations to some of the winners at other conventions during the year. The *Shuttle* has no independent confirmation of the latter but takes the former as a given.

SIDEWISE AWARDS

The Sidewise Awards for Alternate History <www.uchronia.net/sidewise> have been awarded annually since 1996 for English-language works from (primarily) the previous calendar year. Awards are given in Long Form and Short Form categories, with the cutoff being 60,000 words. Long Form works can include series as well as individual novels. This year's winners, for works released in 2007, are:

Long Form..... **The Yiddish Policemen's Union**, Michael Chabon

Short Form (tie)..... **"Quaestiones Super Caelo et Mundo,"** Michael Flynn and **"Recovering Apollo 8,"** Kristine Kathryn Rusch

GOLDEN DUCK AWARDS

The Golden Duck Awards <www.goldenduck.org>, for Children's and Young Adult sf literature, are sponsored by Super-Con-Duck-Tivity (Dupage County IL), which also sponsors the sf con DucKon <www.duckon.org> as a fundraiser. The awards were announced and presented at D3. One winner, David Brin, was present and is reported to have made

"an impassioned plea for fan groups to do more to encourage young people to read SF" in his acceptance speech. In addition to the regular three categories, two special awards were given this year. The winners are:

Special Award Graphic Novels... **Stone Arch Books** for quality SF graphic novels to attract young SF fans

Special Award Nonfiction **World of Science Fiction** — 12 titles by John Hamilton

Picture Book **Mars Needs Moms**, Berkeley Breathed

Eleanor Cameron Middle Grades (tie) **Shanghaied to the Moon**, Michael J. Daley and **Gravity Busters**, Frank Asch

Hal Clement Young Adult **Sky Horizon**, David Brin

BIG HEART AND FIRST FANDOM AWARDS

The Big Heart Award (originally the E. Everett Evans Big Heart Award and now known as the **Forrest J. Ackerman Big Heart Award**) is for service to the sf community. This year the award went to **Suford Lewis** and was presented at the start of the Hugo Awards ceremony at D3.

Also at that ceremony, First Fandom <www.firstfandom.org> presented awards in two categories (or perhaps three, depending on how you count them).

First Fandom Hall of Fame Award (tie)... **Mike Ashley** and **Ray Harryhausen**, plus a posthumous award for **Isaac Asimov**

Sam Moskowitz Award for Excellence in Collecting (tie)... **Frank Robinson** and **Bob Peterson**

AWARDS BY DENVENTION 3

Denvention 3 gave two **Special Committee Awards**, presented during the Hugo Awards ceremony, honoring **NASA** on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and **NESFA Press** <www.nesfa.org/press> for their continuing service in publishing classic science fiction and related works. The D3 Art Show also announced a set of awards for works entered in the show, in several categories as listed below.

D3 Art Show Awards, Color

John Berkey, *Star's End*

Stephen Daniele, *Wind of War*

Bob Eggleton, *Springtime of the Mammoth*

Todd Lockwood, *Bitter Chivalry*

Theresa Mather, *Forest Heaven*

Margaret Organ-Kean, *Masque*

Richard Sternback, *The Moonbow*

Jeff Sturgeon, *To Heaven Below*

A. B. Word, *Neither Here Nor There*

D3 Art Show Awards, Monochrome

Rory Clark, *In, Through, Beyond*

Kelly Freas, *Telzey Toy*

Karen Johansen, *The Guardian*

John Picacio, *Son of Man*

Mark Roland, *Hydra*

D3 Art Show Awards, 3-D

Peri Charlifu, *Mordred's Fountain*

John Douglas, *Freighter S60*

Jim Humble, *Greater Gargoyle Downspout*

Lannie Pihajlic, *Arden the Ent*

Vincent Villafranca, *The Celestial Itinerant*

D3 Art Show Awards People's Choice Awards

3-D..... **Butch Honeck**, *Quest Isle*

Monochrome..... **Karen Johansen**, *The Guardian*

Color..... **Jeff Sturgeon**, *Porthole 17*

Also, the Business Meeting sessions were over and I had no interest in attending the Mark Protection Committee meeting. Again, no reason to arise early. But, there were a number of panels as early as 10A on my “maybe” list; so I somewhat-reluctantly left an 8:30A wakeup call; and ended up beating that out of bed by about 20 minutes.

I took additional advantage of my access to the Club Level and had breakfast there — fruit, an English muffin, croissants, and orange juice. They also had various pastries, cold cereal, yoghurt, coffee, and other things I didn’t partake in. I got there when Warren was also eating; it seemed like I ran into him several times most days. As we ate I made a half-assed suggestion or two he might want to consider should the Raleigh bid win the NASFiC — all of which he’s free to ignore of course.

I made it down the Mall and over to the CCC in plenty of time to kick back and cool off from the walk before my first panel of the day, “Working with Science and Science Fiction Museums” at 10A. None of the panelists had experience with *sf museums*, per se, but collectively they did cover many other types of *sf* collections (video and other art, plus paper-based collections) as well as science museums. It took a while for all the panelists to show up (10A on the fifth day of a con *is* asking a lot) and for the audience to make it up to the more than 20 they eventually reached. I wondered if I’d invalidated an earlier part of this report, but decided that this wasn’t quite what I mean when I say “science panel.” Two resources that might be of some general interest were mentioned. The site <www.aboutsf.com> includes, among other things, a 4–5 year old list of *sf* collections at various libraries and museums. Also, those who have extensive, eclectic, and possibly expensive collections of their own might want to know about the curatorial software package PastPerfect <www.museumsoftware.com>. It’s expensive (base price \$870 with several additional-cost options) but also said to be extremely flexible and easy to use for indexing collections of just about any sort (including mixed collections). There’s a free trial version available at their web site.

After the “Museums” panel I ran into Mark Paulk for the first time at the con. We stood in the hallway (he was headed to a panel one way and I was headed to Hall D in the opposite direction) and talked for 15 minutes or so. I filled him in on some of the happenings at the Business Meeting and such, and we talked about what cons we might be going to over the next couple of years. Mark mentioned he had been in the Raleigh party the day before and presupposed in appreciation for the barbecue; though whether he’d go (should they win) would depend in large part on whether he ends up going to Aussiecon 4 and what his travel plans might be surrounding that.

Up in Hall D, I made my second (and last) tour of the Dealers’ Room but still didn’t see anything I “needed.” I ran into several friends, including Mike Townsend (for the first time at



Exhibits, Hall D



Bujold Autograph Session in Hall D



Dealers’ Room in Hall D

the con). I also spent some time looking at some of the exhibits. I still couldn’t say I was overwhelmed by the *quantity*, but there were some things of *quality* there that were well worth taking time to look at.

I made it back downstairs about 10 minutes early for the 1P Sunday version of the Gripe Session, something they’d been holding each day. Chair Kent Bloom and one of the co-chairs of next year’s Worldcon (René Walling of Anticipation in Montreal) ran the panel and took notes. Yep, there were gripes — about things D3 meant to do but fell short on, about things they couldn’t do for various reasons, and about expectations that were not met (some of which may have been a matter of miscommunication) — but there were also compliments. One recommendation that I particularly liked was a Bag Check area for cons that use a both a hotel and a convention center (that includes most Worldcons). Such an arrangement could save many people either several trips back and forth between the two facilities or lugging around a bag (often loaded with books) an entire day so as to have what they actually need for only a short time. One member of the *sf* press was there and offered a couple of suggestions that could help onsite press do their job better during the con while costing the con relatively little in “people points.”

In response to a question, Bloom said that D3’s total attendance at that point was believed to be around 3750 whereas they had been expecting about 4000 and hoping for more like 4500. He commented that there had been what was apparently a Worldcon record for the number of late hotel room cancellations. His speculation was that attendance and room shortfalls were both tied to the state of the economy. Post con, some on-line reviews opined that there had been more double-booking of rooms for various reasons and it was these extra rooms that accounted for the extra late cancellations. There is probably no way to ever know.

On the other hand, D3 had a late burst of preregistrations that pushed the con into the black (pending final accounting, of course) and enabled them to do things like add coffee and food to the Kaffeeklatsches. Worldcons are an effectively a series of one-shot conventions, so budgeting is a tough problem. You have no local history to use in predicting the reg curve and counting on last-minute prereg or at-the-door reg numbers can easily lead to buckets of red ink. Then, if extra folks do show up late in the game, that leaves the con with “extra” money too late to spend on many items that need an earlier commitment. Food and beverages is one category of thing that *can* often be added at the last minute.

The Gripe Session was over about 2P to give the panelists time to get ready for the Closing Ceremonies at 2:30P. I got to *that* early and got a good inner-aisle seat. I more-fully-realized just how long and hard a con it had been as I fought nodding off right there in that only-semi-comfortable chair. The “Ceremonies” got started maybe five minutes late and were over in perhaps twenty minutes. Notwithstanding the short duration,

they managed to honor the guests again (and made the audience happy when a very hoarse Bujold insisted on saying a few words of thanks) and to thank all of D3's workers from division heads on down to the volunteers. Many of these folks, were, of



Closing Ceremonies, on the big screen

course, at work elsewhere, busily striking the con. The ceremony closed with a short skit which served to introduce many of the key players for Anticipation.

And so the con was officially over.

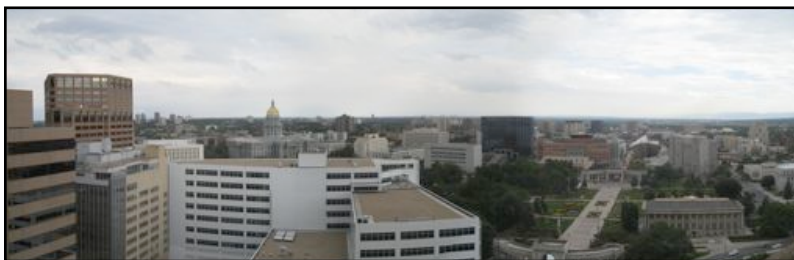
I took my time walking back toward the Sheraton, looking for some place to eat a combo late lunch/early dinner. I ended up in the Denver Pavilions shopping area a block or two from the hotel at Maggiano's Little Italy — I'd never eaten at one before but it looked promising for a good square meal. I got there at a very slack mid-afternoon time and was seated right away. Beyond that, I was mostly unimpressed by the service. The staff were all friendly (when you could find a staff member) and ready to be helpful (though I needed little help) and the time between ordering and receiving food was good. Other than that each step was slow. After a long delay without ever *seeing* a server, I nearly left. Before I'd *quite* gotten to that point, a waitress came by and said she'd be with me shortly. Well, a different waitress did show up, though I'd hardly call it shortly. There were other delays too. When the bread came it was OK but nothing to write home about. It had been a long time, though, since a relatively-light breakfast and I attacked it almost ravenously. The iced tea was too strong but otherwise pretty good.

The entree more than made up for the only-fair quality of the bread. The baked Chicken and Spinach Manicotti was absolutely heavenly. The entire dish was wonderfully seasoned and the filling was melt-in-the-mouth smooth while still having some body to the chicken. The cream sauce was wonderfully flavorful as well, without being heavy. I also ordered dessert — the Warm Apple Crostada (with vanilla bean ice cream and a drizzle of caramel sauce). It was good, but the too-small amount of apple filling was overwhelmed by too much crust. It might have seemed better had I not just had that wonderful manicotti. Bite for bite this was probably my most expensive meal of the trip, but unlike the BGSC the high price-to-quantity ratio was justified by the quality, at least of the entree. (I should mention

that, though pricey by my day-to-day standards, Maggiano's is certainly not in the true "high priced spread" market; you're probably not going to have to take out a second mortgage to eat there.) If you haven't tried one I recommend trying Maggiano's unless perhaps you're allergic to Frank Sinatra or Dean Martin music.

After dinner I went by the hotel's Business Center to check in for my flight home the next day and to upgrade (hey, it's only money) to an extra-knee-room seat. It made me a bit grumpy that I could only get a window seat (and I wondered if it would make my seatmate grumpy too) but that was my first opportunity of the day to get online. I could have checked in starting 24 hours before the flight, but that was past the time I had to be at the CCC if I was to go to a 10A program. After printing my boarding pass I swung by my room, grabbed my computer, and headed out to resync email and check on other

online activities. At that point I *finally* realized I could be doing that in the comfort and relative closeness of the Club Level rather than traipsing down to the lobby. I worked in the Club from about 5P to maybe 6:30P (and ate bar snacks I didn't need) before



View from Sheraton Club Level

wanting a break. By then I'd caught up on everything I thought I "needed" to do online anyway. Later in the evening, sitting in my room, I managed to transcribe the day's notes.

I knew there would be several parties that evening, but didn't even check where they would be because I knew I needed to get to bed early — in part to start shifting my body clock back toward normal (and back toward Central time) and in part because I'd need to get up early to make it to the airport in time. Packing for the trip home comprised most of the rest of what I did that evening. Lights out came just after 10:30P, later than desired but earlier than feared.

DAY 9

Monday 11 August — In Which I Was Homeward Bound

The indignities of air travel in this age require lots of compromises. Since the airline, airport authority, and hotel concierge recommended getting to DEN two hours before one's flight, I left a 6:45A wakeup call. I managed to gulp down a soft drink (and abandon the last three cans out of the two 12-packs I'd bought) before throwing the last of my things in the suitcase and leaving the room. Hotel checkout took approximately zero time, and I made it to the front of the hotel in time to pick up the 7:30A Super Shuttle versus the 7:45A version I'd been shooting for. The Sheraton was their last pickup and my (I'm sure, based on his driving, technically insane) driver got us to the airport by just after 8:00A; 15 minutes faster than promised on their printed schedule. The combo, then, put me at the airport about two and a half hours before my flight instead

Future Worldcons and Bids

Worldcon committees/sites are selected two years in advance. When the site for a newly-selected Worldcon is out of North America, the committee/site for a North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC) is selected the next year, either at NASFiC (if there is one) or Worldcon. Sections below give information currently known to the *Shuttle* on seated Worldcons, on Worldcon bids for future years, and on

one known extant NASFiC bid.

2009 WORLDCON

The 67th World Science Fiction Convention, known as Anticipation, will be held in Montreal QC Canada on 6–10 August 2009 at the Palais des congrès de Montréal (convention center). The headquarters and party hotel (500-room block) is the Delta Centre-ville, located about a quarter to half a mile as the crow flies from the convention center (depending on whether you measure closest or furthest corners). Other hotels with rooms blocked are as close to the convention cen-

ter as across the street.

The rate at the main hotel will be \$CDN159 plus tax (single/double). Most hotel rates are said to be similar, though some are less (as low as \$CDN47 for student housing) and some are more (as much as \$CDN199 — presumably more than that for suites). The convention will be using a housing bureau for hotel reservations, with bookings opening about 1 January 2009.

Invited guests are Neil Gaiman (GoH), Élisabeth Vonarburg (Invitée d'honneur), Ralph Bakshi (Artist GoH), Taral Wayne (Fan GoH), Tom Doherty (Publisher GoH), David Hartwell (Editor GoH), and Julie Czerneda (MC).

This will be the first Worldcon held in city with French as the native language. The convention has announced that the majority of programming will be in English, but they intend to have at least one French-language program at all times when there are multiple programming tracks.

Anticipation has announced that they will be using their authority under the WSFS Constitution to have a Special Hugo Category. As requested by the Business Meeting at D3, this will be for Best Graphic Story. Per Anticipation's web site the category covers "comic books, bandes dessinées, manga, and any other stories where artwork plays a significant part in the telling of the tale."

For further information check out Anticipation's web site at <www.anticipationsf.ca> or email <info@anticipationsf.ca> or write Anticipation, C.P. 105 Succursale NDG, Montréal QC, Canada H4A 3P4.

2010 WORLDCON

The 68th Worldcon, known as Aussiecon 4, will be held in Melbourne, Australia on 2–6 September 2010 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre in Melbourne's central business district. Specific hotels have not been announced officially; some of the anticipated hotels are said to be currently under construction.

Guests of Honor are Kim Stanley Robinson, Robin Johnson, and Shaun Tan. Aussiecon does not appear to be using more specific titles than GoH, but these three are best known as a writer, fan, and artist respectively.

For further information check out Aussiecon 4's web site at <aussiecon4.org.au> or email <info@aussiecon4.org.au>. Their Australian address is listed on their web site but most *Shuttle* readers will be more interested in their US/North American agent's address: Mark Linneman, P. O. Box 221878, Sacramento CA 95822.

2010 NASFiC BID

With the 2010 Worldcon out of North America, there will be an election administered by Anticipation in 2009 for a 2010 NASFiC. There is currently one active bid known to the *Shuttle* — for Raleigh NC. The bid started taking presupporting memberships at D3 once the election of Aussiecon 4 was official.

The Raleigh bid is headed by Southern Fandom Confederation prez Warren Buff. They are bidding for 5–8 August 2010; the dates selected in part to make it easy for people who want to attend both their prospective NASFiC and Aussiecon 4. Announced facilities plans include the brand new Raleigh Convention Center, the attached Downtown Marriott, and the adjacent Sheraton. At press time Raleigh's bid web site was live at <www.raleighnasfic2010.org>, but info was still a bit skimpy.

It should be pointed out that there is the possibility that there will be no NASFiC. If "None of the Above" wins the NASFiC Site Selection (NotA is always on the ballot), the con

will not be held. (FYI, if NotA wins a Worldcon Site Selection, the decision is thrown into the WSFS Business Meeting. To your editor's knowledge, this latter event has never come close to happening.)

2011 WORLDCON BIDS

There are two active bids for the 69th Worldcon, for Seattle WA and Reno NV. Seattle is bidding for 31 August–4 September, which is Labor Day weekend. They are bidding for Wednesday–Sunday to allow attendees to tack on Seattle's free Bumbershoot Music and Arts Festival, which climaxes on Labor Day itself, as a mini-vacation after the Worldcon. Reno is bidding for 17–21 August, also Wednesday–Sunday.

The sites for the bids are somewhat of a study in contrast. Seattle <seattlein2011.org> is bidding a fairly compact downtown location — the Washington State Convention and Trade Center with the Sheraton Seattle Hotel as the HQ hotel. The back of the Sheraton is across the street from the convention center. Other hotels are not as close, but there are quite a few within about a quarter-mile radius (say, four blocks) of the convention center. All these facilities are within or near the edge of a free-public-transit zone that serves many of downtown Seattle's tourist sites. Reno <www.rcfi.org> is bidding a much more spread out urban (but not downtown) location — the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa (adjacent to the convention center), and the larger Peppermill Reno Hotel Casino (about 0.8 miles away, albeit a straight shot down the main drag of that part of Reno).

The bid committees are also a study in contrast, with Reno having by far more Worldcon experience, but with Seattle being concentrated in and near the prospective host city. The Reno committee currently has only one person who lives in Reno, or even Nevada; their nexus seems to be Portland OR.

Site Selection for the 2011 Worldcon will be administered by Anticipation.

2012 WORLDCON BID

There appears to be one active bid for the 70th Worldcon, Chicago IL. The bid became official at D3 and their web site is live at <www.chicagoin2012.org>. As of D3 they had not settled on a specific site or dates, the latter depending at least in part on the former. They are negotiating with several sites, most downtown but one in the airport area. They've stated they prefer to be in a downtown location, but must do due diligence in checking out all the reasonable possibilities.

In addition to the web site, you can email <info@chicagoin2012.org> or write Chicago Worldcon Bid, P. O. Box 13, Skokie IL 60076 for further information.

2013 AND OUTYEAR WORLDCON BIDS

Two committees have expressed interest for the 2013 Worldcon, Texas (to be in Fort Worth, Houston, or San Antonio) and Zagreb, Croatia. The latter was a surprise bid that surfaced at D3, whereas the Texas bid has been foreshadowed for some time. Neither committee/site had a live web site as of D3. There are rumors of unknown veracity that Zagreb may consider a different bid year. The Texas committee seems homed in on 2013.

A European group is looking at a total of five cities in two nations (the UK and the Netherlands) for a 2014 bid, though there is a possibility they will slip to 2015. A San Diego CA group is looking at a 2015 bid, with a possible slip to 2016. Both these two groups strongly prefer the earlier years.

If either the Croatian or UK/Netherlands bids are successful, there will be the possibility of a NASFiC in the corresponding year.

of the planned two. I did have time on the SS to drink a bottle of water and eat the last of the fig bars I'd bought, which was supposed to serve as breakfast.

From curbside I followed directions from some signs, a few live persons, and various video displays; but mostly followed the rest of the cattle though airline check in, through the various stages of TSA screening, and down many corridors, aboard trains, and along slidewalks until I got to my departure gate — still well over an hour and a half before my flight.

On the positive side, DEN had free wi-fi; albeit supported by forcing your browser to display ads in a separate frame on each page. But (yay!) I could get my email and check various online info. Heck, I even found a power outlet so I didn't fear running the battery down before my flight departed. My gate was also next to a small "deli" so I cut my computer geeking a bit short and wandered over to see if there was anything to supplement my meager breakfast. That proved unsuccessful due to the combination of a long line and shortage of tables. Fortunately I had brought along the last of the Wheat Thins, which tided me over both before and during the flight home.

Speaking of the flight, there were no empty seats (in fact they were overbooked by about five) so I wasn't able to switch to an aisle seat as I'd have vastly preferred. They were looking for volunteers to be bumped, promising to put them up in a hotel overnight plus give them a ticket for the next day. Apparently the several remaining United flights to Huntsville that day — one more nonstop and several connections — were also booked solid. I think there was other compensation (like a free ticket in the future) involved, but I was tired, I wanted to go home, and I was out of my various meds; so I paid little attention to their cajolery.

Despite the packed plane, the extra knee room I'd paid for and the relative shortness of a nonstop flight made the trip more tolerable than I expected. We pushed back from the terminal at DEN more or less on time and touched down at HSV 5–10 minutes early. I called Sue to arrange a pickup (thanks again, Sue!) while still onboard; which proved to be a bit, um, over-eager on my part. Getting my checked bag (and no, I could not possibly have traveled with just a carryon) proved to be the biggest cockup I've seen in that regard in a *long* time. First there was an interminable delay for any bags to show up. Then the conveyor stopped when enough bags for maybe 10 people had been disgorged. Then an airport representative tried to sell us on the idea that all the bags were out and if we (85% of the passengers) didn't have our bag we should go stand in line and tell United. Several minutes later another airport (or maybe airline) rep came out of the back and told us the conveyor had

malfunctioned and they would use the other one (HSV has only two) for our bags. Several minutes, and finally that conveyor started up. A couple more minutes and finally bags began to trickle out. A couple *more* minutes and the first conveyor *also* started up — so now folks had to watch both of them, not knowing which would finally spew forth their bag.

Whew.

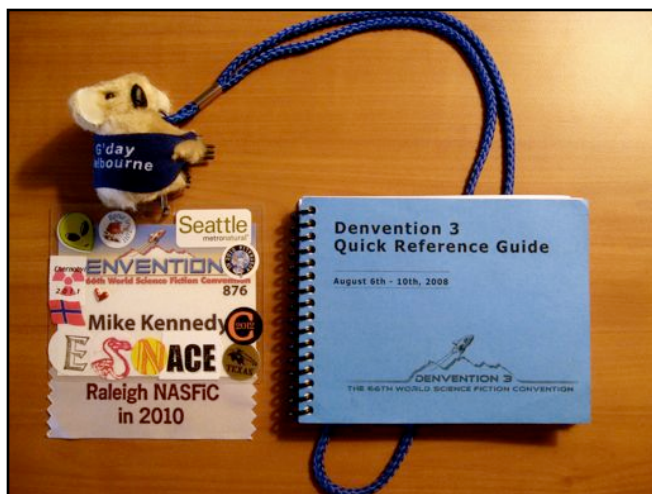
I did finally get my bag (and in the meantime saw an agent taking the tattered remnants of what might have been a hanging bag out of the "backstage" area — I guess we know what jammed the first conveyor).

So, I went through a moderately-stressful (but less torturous than it could have been) flight and lots of baggage-claim drama (successfully resolved for me, but alas not for the owner of that hanging bag) — and found Sue still waiting for me when I finally did get outside. She'd had to move a couple of times because each waiting spot at HSV has its own countdown clock to make sure the terrorists don't overstay their welcome. In the end I had been deposited at home, had ventured back out to get Sally out of hock at the vet and to buy some minimal groceries, and had settled in for good by about 4:30P (Central). The groceries included something for dinner — by then I was looking forward to that! I was exhausted. I was buzzed. I was very happy I'd made the trip.

POSTCON WRAPUP

Believe it or not there are some aspects of my trip and the con I might not have sufficiently addressed in the many thousands of preceding words. Here are some of those in bullet form.

- I had a mild headache off and on for much of the trip. D3 warned people that this might be a side effect of altitude for those not acclimated, but I didn't put their warning and my headaches together until midway through the con. As I was walking down the concourse on arrival at HSV I could swear the air I was breathing felt thicker. Yeah, it was probably a psychological effect but the headaches did finish going away after a few days.
- Significant rain is said to be unusual for Denver in early September, but that didn't stop it from raining at least a little all five days of the con and heavily for parts of at least two of them. We also had a bonus tornado warning. I missed most of the rain, happening to be indoors for all but some moderate sprinkles and the tornado sirens. The rain did lower the temperature from the hot, dry weather the two days before the con. It also raised the humidity, but not to Alabama levels.
- Having to key the elevators for party goers headed to the 22nd floor was *far* from an ideal situation, but it was apparently made tolerable for most attendees by D3's elevator lobby hosts who were praised (by more than one person) as unfailingly cheerful.
- The iPod Shuffle I bought a while back pretty much paid for itself on the two plane trips. On the way out it helped mask a screaming child a few rows away and on the way back it helped distract me from the not-quite-insanely crowded conditions. Strike that last — coach class is always insanely crowded, even after buying extra knee room.
- Speaking of insane, I can't really recommend the Super Shuttle in Denver as one leg had insanely crowded conditions and the other had an insane driver. (I truly don't believe it's sane to drive considerably faster than prevailing traffic while steering with one wrist as one's only contact with the wheel.) Had I the chance for a Do Over, I'd check into some other shuttle service.
- Attendance was rather lower than most North American Worldcons, but it often seemed even lower than it was because the huge CCC, and spread out spaces therein, easily swallowed



up even very large crowds — and of course having the headquarters hotel so separated from the convention center spread the crowds out even more. That also may have discouraged some people from attending the evening events in the CCC.

- Anticipation, the 67th Worldcon, will be held 6–10 August

2009 at Montreal's Palais des congrès de Montréal (convention center) and several hotels. Invited guests are Neil Gaiman (GoH), Élisabeth Vonarburg (Invitée d'honneur), Ralph Bakshi (Artist GoH), Taral Wayne (Fan GoH), Tom Doherty (Publisher GoH), David Hartwell (Editor GoH), and Julie Czerneda (MC).





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