

Murphy Makes a House Call

a string-saver of sorts by Sheila Strickland for

SFPA mailing #228 July, 2002



I was on my way to a really nice zine this time around. I had finished my DSC report, worked my way through the mailing comments; and was just about to finish. I got ready to print the almost done version this morning to check for typos and last minute changes. Two pages printed, then the print cartridge ran out of ink. No problem, I thought, just put in that new one I bought last weekend---which turned out to be the wrong size. Okay; I'll do a little more here before work, then print it out at work. Put the disk back in---and the computer refuses to read it. Take it to work---same thing. How a disk manages to get itself damaged over the course of less than one hour I don't know; but I've been unable to rescue my work. Of course I know you're supposed to back your work up, save it to the hard drive, and not rely on disks---I've now learned the truth of that the hard way. I haven't quite given up on getting it back; but if you're reading this, I didn't get it in time for the mailing. If I get it back before the next mailing, I'll include it there. I have bits and pieces from my DSC report and mailing comments printed up, but I'm too frustrated and mad at myself for not taking more care to try and re-do them now.

So here's my DSC report in capsule form: Had a fairly good time at the con, enjoyed the Space Museum; loved having a vacation from work. Cons of the future: Crescent City con, maybe; Con Jose is out of the question. I'll be going to Toronto in August, leaving right after Crescent City Con and getting home about a week before I start grad school. I'll take only one class this fall; an introduction to the subject. It's been a long time since I was in school; I'm trying not to think too much about it!

Movies---Men in Black II is a good "popcorn" movie. Leave your brain behind, go, eat some popcorn, and have fun. I still haven't seen Spiderman, but maybe I can get there before it leaves.

Books---I've read almost all of the Hugo nominated novels. I tried with *Perdido Street Station*, but just couldn't make it through. *The Curse of Chalion* was a pleasant surprise; I had tried to read one of Bujold's Miles books and so disliked everyone in it I couldn't finish it. *Chalion* started out seemingly as a standard medieval fantasy, but became interesting just about the time I was ready to call it quits. I enjoyed the setting although I kept getting distracted trying to decide if this was Earth in an alternate reality, or just some "magic" place that sounded a lot like our world. I still haven't decided which is the best of the lot.

So, having used most of a page, I'll call it quits for now. I hope to be back next time in a longer format!