

# THE SOUTHERN FANDOM CONFEDERATION BULLETIN



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## Policies

The *Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin* Volume 8, Number 2, March 2003, is the official publication of the Southern Fandom Confederation (SFC), a not-for-profit literary organization and information clearinghouse dedicated to the service of Southern Science Fiction and Fantasy Fandom. The *SFC Bulletin* is edited by R. B. Cleary and is published at least three times per year. Membership in the SFC is \$15 annually, running from DeepSouthCon to DeepSouthCon. A club or convention membership is \$75 annually. Donations are welcome. All checks should be made payable to the Southern Fandom Confederation. Our web site is: <http://www.southernfandom.com>.

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The editor encourages submission of lengthy written material and art – covers and illos. Contributions and LoCs via electronic means are highly desirable. If you wish to use the Internet, you may send the article as electronic mail or an attachment. If you wish to send the editor computer media, 3.5" floppies, 100 MB Zip disk, CD and DVD-ROMS are acceptable. IBM compatible file formats are acceptable. Media will be returned if requested. The *Bulletin* is laid out in Microsoft Word 2000 on a Pentium III based PC. Ink and typewritten submissions are also graciously accepted. If you're not sure what all this means, get in touch to work out a solution.

Throughout the *Bulletin*, you will find comments in italics and enclosed by curly brackets {like this}. Those are comments from the editor, R. B. Cleary, unless otherwise noted.

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## SFC Handbooks

This amazing 196 page tome of Southern Fannish lore, edited by T.K.F.W. Reinhardt, is now available to all comers for \$5, plus a \$2 handling and shipping charge if we have to mail it. The Handbook is also available online, thanks to the efforts of Sam Smith, at <http://www.smithuel.net/sfcbh/>.

## T-Shirts

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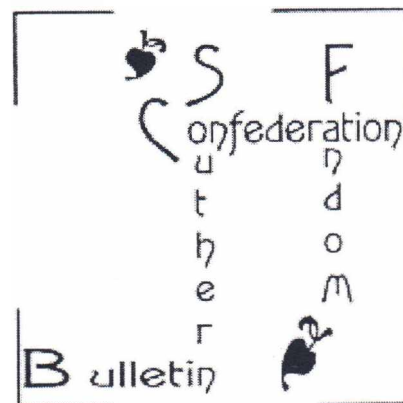
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## CLEARY COMMENTS

by R. B. Cleary

Okay, this is my second *Bulletin*. Thanks to everyone who helped make this possible. Keep those articles, fillos, and LoCs coming! I hope my editorship continues to improve. I've sent out a few request copies of last issue so the word is out.

### WEB SITE EDITOR WANTED

Mike Rogers has resigned as SFC Web Site Editor. If anyone is interested in maintaining the fine web site that Mike Rogers created, let me know. I'm the acting web master for the moment. I have basic web skills but not lots of time to devote to it.

### WEBER WINE AND DINE

On the fannish front, since last time, I got to eat dinner with **David Weber**, **T.K.F.W. Reinhardt**, **Julie Wall**, **Naomi Fisher**, and others at a nice restaurant, The Ocean, in Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. **Weber** was in town for a book signing and **Julie** arranged a dinner afterwards. He was quite entertaining as a speaker (I already knew he was entertaining as a writer). Just don't offer him anything from the squash family.

### CON†STELLATION

In October, the parties largely responsible for DeepSouthCon40, felt they had not suffered enough, and also put on Con†Stellation in Huntsville, Alabama. It was on the smallish side but it went fairly smoothly for a new venue. I really enjoyed meeting **Darrel K. Sweet**, the Artist Guest of Honor. He sold a lot of his original artwork at amazingly low prices, much to the joy of us collectors. I spotted SFC Officers **Julie Wall** and **Tom Feller** tearing up the dance floor.

The holidays were pleasant and I took a lot of vacation time (to help recover from running two art shows and putting out my first *SFC Bulletin*). Then in January, I attended Chattacon in Chattanooga, Tennessee. It was largely enjoyable except for the lack of hot water in the showers. We got to help **Julie Wall** celebrate her birthday the Saturday of the convention. She looks even younger now that she no longer has to put out the *Bulletin*. I even sold a SFC patch.

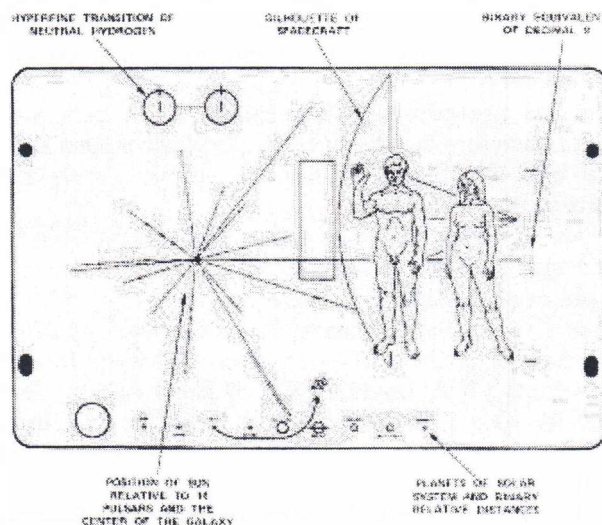
### CONCAVE

In February, I attended ConCave in Horse Cave, Kentucky. **T.K.F.W. Reinhardt**, **Julie Wall**, **Bill** and **Linda Zielke** threw a wonderful SFC Circle de la Lune party on Saturday. It was one of the best ones there (and that's saying a lot). The decorations were wall to wall and the spirits were high. The Art Auction ran three hours and much art was sold. I even sold a two-year membership (actually due to brow beating by those who shall remain nameless, but whose names appear in this paragraph).

### FINAL FRONTIER

On a somber but proud note, I would like to mark the passing of Pioneer 10 on Tuesday, February 25, after a mission

of nearly 31 years, the first spacecraft (as far as we know) to leave our solar system. It fell silent after its last signal traveled 11 hours and 20 minutes to Earth (7.6 billion millions away). Pioneer 10 carries a gold plaque engraved with a message of goodwill and a map showing the Earth's location in the solar system. The spacecraft continues to coast toward the star Aldebaran in the constellation Taurus. It will take 2 million years to reach it.



On a sad note, Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> was a very tragic day as the space shuttle Columbia broke up on re-entry after what had been a very successful 16-day mission. There is still no definitive answer to the root causes. They were all the finest we had to offer and I consider them true heroes of mankind. These amazing people lost their lives pushing the boundaries of man's knowledge and abilities:

Col. Rick Husband, United States Air Force, Commander, Cmdr. William McCool, United States Navy, Pilot Col. Ilan Ramon, Israeli Air Force, Payload Specialist, Cmdr. Dr. Laurel Clark, United States Navy Flight Surgeon, Mission Specialist, Lt. Col. Michael Anderson, United States Air Force, Payload Commander, Capt. Dr. David Brown, United States Navy Flight Surgeon, Mission Specialist, Dr. Kalpana Chawla, Doctor of Aerospace Engineering, Mission Specialist



## CONVENTION REPORTS

### My Trinoc-coN Report: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly by Laura Haywood-Cory

THE GOOD: I'm proud of what the valiant Trinoc-coN staff accomplished this year:

1. Record attendance – almost 600 people!
2. Record donation to the literacy council – over \$1600!
3. Every bit of feedback from our guests has been positive. **Bud Webster** likes us. **Dave Arneson** repeatedly said he had a fantastic time. The **Wappels** obviously liked us; they stayed for the dead dog party and beyond. **Bob Snare** and his wife **Carolyn** love us. The **Klingons** love us (is that scary, or what?). :)
4. Panels and presentations were, for the most part, well attended this year – in spite of being a new father, **Dan Reid** did a bang-up job on creating the literary panels and organizing the schedule.
5. The kids' room was a big hit – kudos to **Margaret Coin** for both suggesting it, then making it happen.
6. We had over 30 authors, both a record for Trinoc-coN, as well as a record for any con in North Carolina, I believe. They included lit Guest of Honor **Lois McMaster Bujold**, **Orson Scott Card**, **David Drake**, **Michael Bishop**, **Jack McDevitt**, **Kelly Link**, **John Kessel**, **David B. Coe**, **Brett Cox**, **Andy Duncan**, **Bill Barton**, special guest **Fred Chappell**, etc.
7. Baen Books threw wonderful parties on Friday and Saturday nights.

Given that as con chair I didn't actually get to "attend" much of the con, the highlights for me were:

1. Meeting **Lois Bujold** in person and telling her how much I enjoy her books.
2. Being \*very\* pleasantly surprised by how incredibly nice the **Wappels** are – they are truly wonderful folks. It was fantastic having them at this year's con, and I'm glad I got to spend time with them. If anyone is looking for Art Guest of Honor recommendations, I wholeheartedly recommend **Jim Wappel**.
3. Ditto for **Dave Arneson**, our gaming Guest of Honor, who was quite touched that the slots to play in the game he ran raised over \$400 in our Charity Auction.
4. The Sunday afternoon roast of **Dave Drake** was a hit. Particularly memorable was the bit about **Jim Baen** starting a new line of children's books, with **Drake** as the lead author – **Mark Van Name** made up a few fake book covers, and the supposed new kids' book by **Drake** was called "*Molly and the M-1 Amphibious Assault Vehicle*." The room cracked up.

THE BAD: Some game masters backed out on us (one or two then had the nerve to complain about the gaming). That reflects badly on them, certainly not on our hardworking gaming staff who then was left scrambling to fill the unexpected vacancies.

We had lots of issues with the hotel. We will be going over those concerns so that the same problems don't happen next year.

Service in the hotel restaurant was incredibly slow at dinner, and several people waited over an hour for food. Some people had trouble getting our room block rate of \$89/night. Getting

function space doors unlocked in the mornings was a problem, and water refills had to be repeatedly requested.

The cheap sandwiches we requested they provide at a sandwich stand were a great idea, poorly executed. They offered corn dogs, bologna, and salami and cheese. No ham, no turkey, no roast beef. I stopped voluntarily eating bologna sandwiches when I was 10 years old. I did buy several bottles of water from them, a couple bags of chips and some M&Ms.

Navigating downtown Durham sucks, particularly when the directions on the hotel's very own website are apparently wrong.

For next year we will be writing up our own set of directions, as well as a dining guide to downtown Durham, as well as perhaps making large-print signs directing people to the food stand in the lobby where the Marriott was selling cheap food – several gamers repeatedly failed their perception rolls and didn't notice the sandwich stand, then were complaining about "no cheap food."

THE UGLY: As usual, a few folks felt a need to express their gripes in an unconstructive manner.

I am honored to have been the Con Manager for Trinoc-coN 2002. We had a fantastic, hardworking bunch of folks who deserve more thanks than I or any other one person can give, and we put on one helluva con. ☺

### OASIS 15 by Joy V. Smith

We got a late start Friday, May 24, 2002, but the drive to Orlando wasn't too bad – some congestion; we missed some panels, the space station update, meeting **Ben Bova**, a painting demonstration, and *Creature By Committee*, which I always enjoy. (Several artists work on two paintings, which are auctioned off later.) We registered quickly; there was no line. After dropping off our luggage, I dumped my yearly collection of SF stuff at the freebie tables and at the charity auction table.

We checked out the Art Show; the selection was wonderful – not just paintings and prints. I loved those cute kitten (already sold) prints; the lovely winged leopard (you have never seen so many winged creatures!); the cartoon, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (just their feet and tails are showing in adjoining toilet stalls); **Michael Conrad's** *Adam's Quest* (Michelangelo's creation painting adaptation with space ship – very impressive); *Garden Gateway* (cat looking into space through a tunnel). There were lots of dragons, horses, cats, wolves, fairies, some furry art, also *Angel*, *Buffy*, *Xena*, *Dr. Who*, et al. The art was mostly fantasy. Since it was still setting up, we couldn't vote yet.

At the freebies tables, I picked up *Evolution* stickers (left over from last year, I believe), flyers, an issue of *Locus*, and a number of other things. Later, there were *Scooby Doo* pins (four designs). Then I checked out the Dealer's Room. They had books (I got some theme anthologies), jewelry, signed trading cards (not sports, but comics, pulp magazines, SF & Fantasy), videos (I got the *Buffy* musical episode – with *Hush*), DVDs, tee shirts, some comics, and the occult – packs of tarot cards, runes, even brooms (cobweb and hearth brooms, actually).

I also stopped by the Sun Quest table. They run the games at Oasis, which I'm not into, but what I found fascinating was the computer program they have for creating characters. This program, which is being tested, cuts down the time for creating characters from about two hours (on paper) to three-quarters to



an hour. It helps them make choices and develop their characters. The most popular characters are humans, elves, half-elves, and dwarves. There is a wide selection of games, including cyber punk and a primitive culture. (They're described in the program.)

We also zipped up to the con suite, where they had snacks, seafood linguini, and drinks. The chili contest was upcoming, and I never miss a chili contest if I can help it, so we went back to our room for a short while. Back at the chili contest, I sampled *Road Kill*, *Fowl Wind II*, and *Biohazardous Waste* (very hot). There was also an *I Hate Chili* category: a delicious fudge brownie.

Next we voted in the art show contest (hard choices), and then we went to the Opening Ceremonies at 7:30 PM. These are always refreshingly brief (would you believe, 15 minutes). The co-chairs, **Terry Dahl** and **Jim Rogers**, announced that the con is dedicated to the memory of **Bill Resnick**, a longtime fan and active member of OASFiS (There is a great tribute to him in the program, written by his son, **Mike Resnick**.) and introduced the GoH, **Ben Bova**; the artist GoH, **Mike Conrad**; and the Filk GoH, **Michael Longcor**, also special guests **James P. Hogan** and **Barbara Delaplace**.

Next up was the *Filk Concert* at 8 PM. There were other things to do too; the gaming rooms were available 24 hours, and the video room (**Arthur's Oasis 15**) was open till after midnight with a diverse selection (cartoons, *Dr. Who*, *The Tick*, *Wallace and Grommit*, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, *Black Adder: Back and Forth*, and lots more. (I'm sorry I couldn't finish *Daria/Is It College Yet?*)

**Michael Longcor** started off his concert with *The House of the Rising Sun*, but with different lyrics, including *Itsy Bitsy Spider* and the *Mickey Mouse Club* and *Gilligan's Island* themes – very funny. He continued with a **Von Helsing** song (written for a vampire album that never happened); *The Lycanthrope*, *Lowdown Silver Bullet Blues*; *Tecumseh*; a song about an aged swordsman, which I loved; *Chain Mail Mama Blues*; *The Truck-Driving Vampire* song (country western horror); *When I Was A Boy* (classic written by **Frank Hayes**); a song about the first world con (sung to *Will You Still Need Me*); *Imagination*; and others. He wrote most of them. And I must share this Florida joke – Why did the chicken cross the road? To show the armadillo it could be done.

After that was one of my favorite panels, *Alien Artifacts*. The panelists were **Mike Conrad**, **Jeff Mitchell**, **Mike Resnick**, **James P. Hogan**; it was moderated by **Barbara Delaplace**, whose job it is to keep these feisty professors in line. **Conrad** used his funny telepathic persona again. The first object was surrealistic. **Conrad** said it was a petrified booger; **Resnick** disagreed and used his shoe to demonstrate that it was an alien shoehorn. The next artifact was a glass with lid. **Resnick** showed how it was a flashlight. **Conrad** said that it was a petrified tornado, which was worshipped as a god.

Then there was a flexible plastic thingy. Do not attach to the frontal lobes, warned a panelist (*Forbidden Planet* reference). The phone with cord was described as a small slave ship, a game, and a medical instrument, which you swallowed and then pulled it out by the cord. (**Conrad** started out with *Hello, Miss Cleo*.) The wood, pointed thingy led to a number of phallic jokes.

The water pistol was described as a primitive weapon by **Conrad**, who filled it with water from the pitcher on the table, to show how the water added weight. **Mitchell** demonstrated how it was used as an ear cleaner; and **Hogan** said that it measured IQ

and showed how that was done. The big jar of macaroni was given a fun twist by **Conrad** who used a lot of spaghetti terms to describe it. (I loved that!) **Mitchell**, however, said that it was explosives, which were hollow for the fuse; and someone said it was a brain. The small elbow pipe was a space periscope for the Hubble telescope, **Conrad** said. The wooden spoon was used in a game on asteroids, said **Conrad**, describing it. **Hogan**, in an aside, said that hemorrhoids should be called asteroids. Possibly a golf club, suggested someone. Funny sexual references abounded. **Delaplace** said that there would be no cylindrical objects next year.

After this panel, we checked out the con suite (a veggie tray had been added) before dining out. There were always people eating and talking there.

Saturday morning we had breakfast (selection of doughnuts, cookies, fruit, the makings of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, and orange juice and soda) in the con suite. There was a short line at the registration table when we passed by on the way to the Art Show, where I put a bid on a framed wolf print. (I passed the con committee workers frequently; they were always busy somewhere with something.) There I saw the two *Creature by Committee* works: a dinosaur attacking and being attacked in the city and *Neither Fish Nor Fowl Nor Good Red Herring*. (I'd have loved to see them being created; the artists and audience have lots of fun.)

In the hallway I met **Ernest Hams** carrying a partially finished chain mail top, which he makes from split key rings. (I believe there were 11,000 of them in the top.) It's lighter, but just as strong as the regular mail, he told me, and doesn't limit movement. He let me try it on; it's fairly heavy; I've love to compare it to the regular mail used in the SCA. It's an expensive hobby, he said.

I had to wait for the *Blast Off! Propulsion Methods* panel to finish up before *Tough Chicks*, my next panel. The panelists were **Will Ludwigen**, **Jack McDevitt**, **Linda Evans**, **Diana Gallagher**, **Barbara Delaplace**, **Adam-Troy Castro**, and **Colleen O'Brien** (moderator). She asked for favorites. **Delaplace** said her favorite tough chick is Sara Pezzini of *Witchblade*. **Gallagher** said that up to this year, it was *Buffy*. **Evans** said any Heinlein heroine. **McDevitt** chose *Sheena* (1941). **Ludwigen** picked Scout Finch (*To Kill A Mockingbird*), and **Castro** chose Irene Adler (Sherlock Holmes).

"Is the current crop of tough chicks just a passing fancy?" asked the moderator. **McDevitt** thought that characters with no fear wouldn't last because real courage involves being bright too. **Ludwigen** said that too often they're just men with breasts. Someone mentioned Robert Parker's new female PI as an example. **Castro** said that they need personality. Hollywood has just gone to the other extreme.

Other examples of tough women: Judi Dench as M in James Bond. **Castro** mentioned the old woman (Lillian Gish) in *Night of the Hunter*. **McDevitt** pointed out that the early heroines in films, such as Dale Arden in *Flash Gordon*, who fainted a lot, were not good role models for little girls growing up – too limited. **Delaplace** said that Diana Rigg in *The Avengers*, whom she saw when in her teens, was tough, smart, and beautiful; she widened her horizons.

And she pointed out that Pearl S. Buck's women were really strong; **Evans** mentioned the mother in *The Bad Seed*. There were some other great examples, including Ripley in *Aliens*, plus some interesting contributions from the audience. **Ludwigen**

had a good question. What kind of man do you pair a touch chick with? And an audience member mentioned the resistance of other women to tough women. Lots of good discussion here.

After the panel, we had lunch at the restaurant (expensive), took half to the room for supper, and then browsed the dealers' room and the Art Show again. (Someone topped my bid!) Besides the registration (which continued through the day), freebies, Sun Quest, and the charity auction/*Star Trek* tables, there was the USS Guardian Starfleet table in the hall. They sold \$5.00 grab bags to benefit The Enchanted Forest Nature Sanctuary near the Kennedy Space Center.

Later I caught the end of the trivia contest, which preceded the Andre Norton scholarship charity auction, next on my agenda. The categories included Damon Knight and Spiderman, and the winners got dealers' bucks: 20, 30, and 50 bucks. (Hey, if I'd known that...). The auction started late because the items had to be brought in, so the chili contest winners were announced while we waited. *Fen's Choice* was *Road Kill* chili by **Bonny Beall**. *Cthulhu's Choice* (the hottest) was *Biohazardous Waste* by **Tammy**. (No contest there!)

There was no scholarship winner this year, and you got to choose whether to donate your purchase price to the medical fund of **Jeanette Spencer** or the scholarship for next year. The auction was long, as auctions are, and not everything was sold. (There were some disappointed people.) Items included paintings, prints, books – many of them signed, old con tee shirts, jewelry, *Star Trek* plates (beautiful colors) and action figures. (I got *Miles*, *Mystery*, and *Mayhem* by **Lois McMaster Bujold**. I'd been wanting that.)

I stopped by the *Hot Media Picks* panel next. The panelists were **Frank Dowler**, of *Radio Sci-Fi*, **Steve Parady**, **Castro**, **Gallagher**, and **Juan Sanmiguel** (moderator). The best recent genre movie was *Spiderman* (interesting early script anecdote) – the consensus, as I recall. Re TV shows, **Gallagher** reiterated her opinion of *Buffy* – not this year; she no longer loves it. Someone said that *Alias* is overly complicated. In *Smallville*, Lex Luthor is interesting. There will be books based on *Smallville*, including one by **Gallagher**. More media background, which is always interesting.

After the supper break, we went to the costume contest. **Mike Conrad** was the emcee again 'cause he's great at it. The judges were **Linda Evans**, **Richard Lee Byers**, and **Steve Parady**. (**Conrad** picked **Parady** out of the audience because **Hogan** had been delayed.) **Ann Morris** was responsible for the costume contest, btw. (The con people work their tails off doing everything!) Before the contest, the Art Show winners were announced. In the Fantasy category, *Phoenix* by **Stan Morrison** was first; *The Catalyst* by **Conrad** was second; and *Tropical Temptation* by **Morrison** was third. In the SF category, *Adam's Quest* by **Conrad** was first; *Guinness World of Records* by **Conrad** (it's a mural on the Guinness World of Records building on International Drive, btw) was second; and *Star Wars I* by **Stevens** was third. Best of Show was *Alien Attack!* by **Conrad**. (I have the print, and I'd love to have the original.)

While we waited for the costume contest to begin, we were entertained by filker **Longcor**. (I loved his swashbuckler outfit.) After the parade of entrants, **Longcor** sang again as the judges made their decisions. We sang the *Sing Along Song*, and he sang *When I Was A Boy* by request. (Great song.) There was also a drawing for three prizes by the *Enchanted Forest* group.

And the winners of the costume contest are: First: **Amber Strongbow** (she wore a beautiful Scottish warrior costume), Second: **Egraine** (lovely lady), Best in Show: **Senator Amidala**, Special awards went to **Esmerelda**, **Arthur Dent** (nice towel, **Arthur!**), and **Pythos**.

And then was more filking. **Longcor** loves being in Florida, btw, and he loved visiting the space center, where **Jim Rogers** took him, as I recall. (*Space Port*, *Space port!*) More great songs, including the old wizard's song from the **Mercedes Lackey** companion album to *Owlflight*, the *Mowgli* song, a couple dog songs (I read about a dog song in his program bio and requested one), and *Imagination* (by request). We bought two of his CDs; one is *Rudyard Kipling poems* (I love Kipling) set to music.

My last panel was **Barbara Delaplace's Mystery Hour**. Here the panelists, **Conrad**, **Resnick**, **Ann Morris**, **Rick Wilber**, **Jeff Mitchell** and **Vince Courtney** tell two truths and one lie. Panelists and audience try to figure out which is the lie. (We vote at the end.) These people have fantastic truths and lies. (The lie is usually partially true.) The panel ran overtime. There was so much background to fill in! Then I headed straight for bed, but not *Sex at 11*, the latest and lustiest panel.

Sunday morning people were still registering for the con. The gaming rooms were busy every time I walked by. After breakfast at the con suite (chili, cheese sauce, donuts, snacks, and drinks), we loaded the car and checked out. Then we traipsed back, visited the Art Show (my wolf print is heading to auction because it has three bids) and congratulated **Mike Conrad** on his win. The dealer room isn't open yet. I pre-registered for Oasis 16. (I save some money by doing that.)

While I was busy, my companion bought three little **Conrad** prints AND then she upped her bids on some art. The next panel is *Books to Movies*, but it's not ready yet, so she headed for the Dealers' Room. The panelists were **Bova**, **Hogan**, **Evans**, **Owl Goingback**. **O'Brien** is the moderator. Her first question: Did a movie ever do justice to a book? **Evans** says *Logan's Run*, which was better than the book. **Hogan** says *Hunt for Red October* (better ending than the book). He adds that movies don't handle depth or complexity well and that mysteries don't adapt well.

This panel covered a lot of territory with a *Maltese Falcon* anecdote, background on writing (rights, contracts, agents, the aborted **McCaffrey** project...). There were a number of good audience comments and questions. (So much more I'd love to share, but there's not enough space – what **Clarke** said about the meaning of the ending of *2001*, the kid wishing they'd make movies PG so he could see them, how **Hogan** became a writer, etc.)

While waiting for the Art Auction, I visited the Dealers' Room (a tireless con worker is there picking up dealers' bucks) and came across some CDs of poetry from *Master Harper of Pern* set to music. ([www.directorshut.com](http://www.directorshut.com)) My companion bought some jewelry. I noticed a new flyer on the bulletin board for the *14th Annual Crystal Reel Awards* (Florida the Future of Production) held in June at Walt Disney World.

At the Art Auction I learned that the art is mostly mailed in and must be shipped back to Oklahoma, Texas, Ohio, etc. And I learned that there were a few glitches in the con program – some times were wrong. (Not bad considering some of the problems I've read about at different cons.) The auction begins – so many beautiful works of art and jewelry. I got my print, *Spirit of the North*, for only \$6.00. Other works by the same artist went



higher. Lots of good buys and some spirited bidding. After the art auction, they sold some leftover charity auction items, but I headed off for my next panel.

I was fortunate enough to catch the end of **Steve Parady's** demonstration: *Bryce Instant Art for the Lazy Artist*. It's about computer art. *Bryce 4* (5 is the latest version) is a software program. Beautiful artwork and colors and useful for animation. Some enthusiastic people there.

*It's Not Only Harry* panelists are **Owl Goingback** and **Richard Lee Byers** (moderator). (**Elenora Sabin** was scheduled, but she was in the hospital having surgery; it would have been her first panel, and she had been looking forward to it and the con.) They discuss writing for children and young adults. **Goingback's** work mostly isn't targeted for kids, but he doesn't use big, complicated words because the education level is lower today, so young readers can read his work. Interesting background on their reading and the limitations imposed by some editors, also writing advice. Respect their intelligence; don't talk down to them. **R.L. Stine** is a stepping-stone. Fascinating discussion with audience input.

But finally it's time to go. I've never stayed for the closing ceremonies because I have to get home and get to work. I'd like to sometime. And there were still things happening. I'm looking forward to next year. ☹

#### Conjose by Tom Feller

As is our custom, **Anita** and I attended the World Science Fiction Convention in San Jose, California.

Transportation – Our two main criteria for choosing an airline this year were price and financial stability. (Between the times we bought our tickets and the convention, U.S. Airways filed for bankruptcy, United filed in November, and I just read an article saying American is on the verge of filing.) Accordingly, we chose Southwest. On Thursday morning, we arrived at the ticket counter and listened as the agent made the sounds, “Aha!” and “Oh, Ho!” He then explained that I had made a mistake on the tickets. Having purchased them through Southwest's web site, I had entered our last names into the first name field and vice versa. We were OK to fly, but had to fill out a form after the trip to get frequent flyer credit. Finally boarding our flight, we flew from Nashville to Ontario, California, a city about 80 miles east of Los Angeles, where we connected to our flight into San Jose. The flight home was longer, because we had an intermediate stop in Burbank before continuing on to Phoenix, where we connected to Nashville. I was able to read *Primary Inversion* by Catherine Asaro flying to San Jose and *The Doomsday Book* by Connie Willis on the flight home.

Because neither of us had ever flown Southwest for such a long distance, we brought our own sandwiches. We discovered that the airline provides a snack pack consisting of gelatin, cheese and crackers, and Oreo cookies. We had enough time during our layover in Phoenix on the way home to visit a sports bar and order sandwiches and beer.

The San Jose airport is only a short distance from downtown, and the cost of a taxi was very reasonable. I noticed on our descent that it appeared we were going over the downtown area. From the con-suite on the top floor of the Fairmont Hotel, we could see jets flying between the skyscrapers.

Facilities – We stayed at the Fairmont, where the consuite, Fan Lounge, and all parties were located. Some programming,

such as the filk, took place there as well. We had a luxurious room, although for \$129 per night we missed having a coffee maker in the room. After all, I wrote the first draft of this report in a Fairfield Inn, a chain that is in the economy market, and there was coffee maker in the room there.

A fountain across the street from the hotel provided the backdrop for a photo of a group of fans from a now defunct apa. Although I didn't join the group until 1986, the rest have been meeting at Worldcons for 25 years. We gathered on Sunday morning to visit and take group photos.

The art show, dealers room, exhibits, and day-time programming took place a few blocks away in the McEnery Convention Center, which is an excellent facility. The big nighttime events such as the Masquerade and Hugo Awards ceremony were held in the civic auditorium. It accommodated more people than we needed, so there was no problem getting a seat. The Hilton hosted the Green Room and the Kaffeeklatches, but we only visited it once to eat.

We took a detour between the hotel and the convention center one day to walk through the Tapestry Arts Festival, which was set up on several streets. We stopped only long enough to listen to a guitar player for a few minutes.

Restaurants – There was an abundance of restaurants within walking distance of the convention center and the hotel. The City Bar and Grill was inside the Hilton Hotel next to the convention center. We ate there Friday night with **Andy Dyer** and **Joe Perry** between **Patrick Stewart's** presentation and “*The Adventures of Luke Skywalker*”. The food was OK, but the service was slow.

Johnny Rockets was across the street from the hotel. We ate there Thursday night with **Joe**, **John Andrews**, **Skip Ward**, and **Ruth** and **Rickey Shields**. It is a 1950s theme restaurant with adequate food.

At the House of Siam, we sat Japanese style, sitting on the floor. The food was good and spicy. The Chinese Gourmet Express was fast, but OK. We never did eat in any of the Fairmont restaurants, although we had room service deliver breakfast on Friday morning.

Programming – **Ellen Kushner** did a presentation on her upcoming *Sound and Spirit* show for National Public Radio that she devotes to *Lord of the Rings*. She got off to a slow start, because technical ops was late with a boom box to play her CD of the show. It includes some filk and an interview with **Michael Swanwick**. I heard the show two months later on Public Radio in Mississippi while on a business trip.

There will be a new *Wild Cards* anthology soon, announced **George R.R. Martin** at the start of a panel on the series. The series began when **Martin** received the *Superworld* role-playing game as a Christmas present. He was spending so much time playing that he decided he had to find a way to make some money out of it. **Walter Jon Williams**, who was one of **Martin's** fellow *Superworld* players, wrote “*Witness*”, the only *Wild Card* story nominated for a Nebula. **Martin** and **Williams** got reality checks when they learned that their newest contributor first read the series when he was in high school and that the woman writing the game manual first read the stories when she was twelve. **Martin** also mentioned that they only allow established writers to participate in the series, so years ago he turned down an offer from the then unknown Neil Gaiman to write a story. **Gaiman** won the Hugo for best novel later that weekend.

**Karen Anderson**, her son-in-law **Greg Bear**, **David Nordley**, **Robert Silverberg**, and **Diana Paxson** held a panel on **Poul Anderson**. Paxson cited *Broken Sword*, Nordley *War of the Wing-Men*, and **Bear Tau Zero** as the first books by **Anderson** that they read. I found it interesting that **Nordley** mentioned the surprise ending of *Wing-Men*, because the ending took me by surprise, too. I also noticed that these books show the breadth of **Anderson's** writing ability from fantasy to hard science fiction. **Silverberg** emphasized **Anderson** was both a good writer and a good person.

**Patrick Stewart** made a presentation Friday night to promote his next two movies: *Star Trek: Nemesis* and *X-Men 2*. He was taking a short vacation from filming the latter. His next project after *X-Men* will be *The Lion in Winter*. After a brief dinner, **Anita** and I attended "*The Adventures of Luke Skywalker*", a radio play in the style of the 1940s with sound effects. Seven actors played all the parts in the voices of famous Hollywood actors of the period. It was great fun.

*Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring* won the Best Dramatic Presentation Hugo, and **Sean Astin**, who played Sam, accepted it. Next year this award will be divided into two categories: Long Form (longer than 90 minutes) and Short Form. Our friend **Debbie Allen** entered the Masquerade as "*Girls Just Want to Have Fun*", and she received an Honorable Mention for Pattern Drafting. There were 46 entrants.

**Social Functions** – We spent a lot of time in the Con-Suite on the 20<sup>th</sup> floor of the Fairmont, because of the high quality of the food. It was also thoroughly decorated with aliens and balloons and open whenever we visited.

We also spent some time in the Fan Lounge down the hall, where we were likely to see people we knew. The party for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association took place there Saturday afternoon, and seven current members attended: **Murray Moore**, **Art Widner**, **Laurraine Tutihasi**, **Jack Speer**, **Ray Nelson**, **Fred Lerner**, and me. **Art** and **Jack** tried to remember the words to the FAPA song but could not recite all the words, which was probably for the best.

We visited the rock and roll dance on Saturday night only long enough to dance one dance. Since **Anita** and I met at a Worldcon dance, we try to dance at every Worldcon.

Since the UK in 2005 bid was unopposed, the parties did not have the intensity that they did last year. Nevertheless, UK did throw a very respectable party each night with varieties of cheese and Scotch whiskies. Next year's bid and the 2007 Nasfic are contested, and Kansas City, Los Angeles, Charlotte, and Seattle all hosted good parties. We don't remember the particular party, but **Anita** loved a chocolate cat and talked about it for weeks afterward.

We ended every night with a nightcap at the Cincinnati Fantasy Group suite, where was always good food, drink, and conversation. We usually found **Mike Resnick**, **Steve and Sue Francis**, **Dick Spelman**, **Roger** and **Pat Sims**, and others in attendance.

**Conclusion** – We enjoyed ourselves immensely and would be glad to return. I read reports of infighting among the top members of the con committee, but it did not affect those of us who simply attended. ♡

### Con†Stellation by Tom Feller

This convention was in a new hotel, a Holiday Inn-Express, which had originally been a Holiday Inn, so it had meeting

rooms. The hotel is located on University Drive, which is one of the main streets in Huntsville, so we had no difficulty finding it and checked in well before opening ceremonies.

After registering with the convention, we found the con suite. However, we discovered that people tended to congregate in the pre-assembly and hotel breakfast area, so we found ourselves spending more time there. There wasn't much programming Friday night, except for a belly dancing demonstration, and no parties, so we went to bed relatively early.

The hotel provided a complimentary breakfast, so I walked down to the breakfast area each morning and brought food back to **Anita**. There was a coffee maker in the room, so I did not have to make a coffee run.

We finished breakfast Saturday in time to attend the Roast for **Sandy McDade**, the fan guest of honor. Her sister **Phronsie** and brother **Bucky** told stories about her, especially about her dealings with her ex-husband. She believes that you should get even, not get mad. **Sandy** also told us that she worked as a hotel reservations manager for 10 years before becoming a travel agent (now a travel "consultant"), which is how she makes a living.

After spending some time in the breakfast area talking to people, we joined **Robert Edwards**, **Pat James**, and **Adrian Washburn** in search of a real meal. We walked a few blocks down the street before finding an Olive Garden restaurant, where we had our lunch. This was a big advantage over the Sheraton Four Points inside the Huntsville airport terminal, where the convention took place for the previous five years. Unless you ate in the airport itself, you had to drive miles to find a restaurant.

I attended two presentations later on Saturday. The first was by a NASA representative, **Brad Carlson**. He himself is working on the third generation space shuttle engine, but admitted that it would be only an incremental improvement over the ones currently in operation. Instead, he informed us that NASA is funding at a low level some research into Faster-Than-Light travel. He mostly talked about wormholes, which appears to be the most promising line, but also discussed a concept called a "warp drive", which involves "carrying" a piece of space with the vehicle to get around Einstein's theory.

**Bruce Gehweiler**, head of Marietta Books, talked about small press publishing. He is a print-to-order publisher and said he can make money on a print run as low as 500 copies. A member of the audience said that he prefers to read books on his Palm Pilot, which is a hand-held computer, and subscribes to Baen's service that allows him to download four books a month for a fee that he describes as reasonable.

The masquerade was small, but lively, and **Anita** and I could dance to the music at the dance. We have found this to be increasingly rare at conventions. The following morning, I thanked **Pat McAdams**, the disc jockey. There was one party Saturday night, an elaborate one thrown by some Huntsville area fans who are not members of the con committee. They decorated extensively and served beer and a lot of food. We finished the night by watching the last 30 minutes of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

Ironically, there would have been one big advantage of last year's hotel inside the airport terminal. This year, I had to be in the Atlanta area early Monday morning for a meeting. After saying our good-byes to the other fans, **Anita** dropped me off at the Huntsville airport before heading home to Nashville. ♡



## CHARLOTTE SPINS

by Charlotte Proctor

I've always liked end-of-the-world stories, for the triumph of human spirit and ingenuity of our race. Larry Niven's *Inconstant Moon* is one of my favorites. David Brin's *The Postman* was also about a post-apocalyptic time when the remnants of the population struggled to survive. Stephen King's *The Stand* approached the problem from a metaphysical point of view. Frederic Brown wrote *Knock*, which began with the lines: "The last man in the world sat alone in a room. There was a knock on the door."

But the other night The Discovery Channel aired a program that scared me to death! It was about volcanoes – in particular, the caldera volcano under Yellowstone Park. I learned about calderas, which are mega volcanoes caused when the gases in the big reservoir of magma just under the earth's crust (five miles or so) reach critical temperatures and explode. Usually, the magma, gases or ashes pushed up from the earth's core just follow the path of least resistance and we have an ordinary, garden-variety volcano. A caldera is formed when the magma finds or makes a place to spread out beneath the surface and continually seeps up from the core into this repository, growing bigger every century, every thousand years, and every hundred thousand years. When the gases reach critical temperature and force the explosion, the magma is released all at once, and the surface of the earth falls in upon itself where the magma pool once was. Rather than a mountain with a fiery hole in the top, or a cone of ashes, a caldera volcano leaves a huge depression in the earth.

This doesn't sound so bad until one begins to grasp the magnitude of the magma pool, and the force with which the gases and everything else are spewed into the atmosphere. The AD 186 eruption at Taupo in New Zealand is the most recent of this type of volcanic activity. It made Mount St. Helens look like a walk in the park. Then the narrator began to talk in terms of global disaster.

After examining the wall of the Yellowstone caldera, it was determined it has exploded three times, about every 600,000 years. Guess what? It has been 600,000 years since it last blew up. You may think if you don't live near Yellowstone, you don't have to worry about it. Think again. A caldera volcano this size would put so much poisonous gases, ashes, chunks of the earth, rocks, magma, etc., into the atmosphere that the world would be covered in a haze for years to come. No sunlight, global cooling, no crops, no animals – and that's all for us, folks.

The reason for all this interest in the Yellowstone caldera is that a stand of trees near a lake in Yellowstone is slowly getting its feet wet. It appears that the lake is spilling out of one side, as if the earth were rising and tilting the lake. Unfortunately, this appearance is confirmed by new sea level measurements being compared with those taken in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Then the narrator, having scared the bejesus out of me, called in the geneticists to talk about the anomaly they had found in human DNA. I don't really understand this part, but they seemed to, so I'll pass it along. It seems the geneticists have reason to believe there was, in the distant past, a much

larger variety of genetic components available to mankind. Then, X number of years ago – coincidentally about the time of the most recent caldera volcano explosion, our DNA was radically simplified. It was almost as if the earth's population was reduced to a few thousand, at most. And now we all share only the DNA of the survivors of Earth's most recent global disaster.

Cosmic time being what it is, we may have another fifty thousand to hundred thousand years before Yellowstone explodes and the world as we know it ends. This is one science fiction theme that I am not in any hurry to see come true!

Check out the Yellowstone web site for more information: [http://spot.pcc.edu/~mhutson/cas112\\_final\\_project/yellowstone.htm](http://spot.pcc.edu/~mhutson/cas112_final_project/yellowstone.htm)

And on the lighter side, I went to see *The Two Towers* this afternoon. The scenery is so beautiful, the architecture so right. The arms and armor looked medieval, which seems right, too. The Battle at Helm's Deep was horrendous, and the Ents saved the day! Treebeard lives! It has been a while since I read the books, and after the first movie I was wondering just why Merry and Pippin were in the Fellowship. They seemed to be troublemakers. But before *Towers* was over, they had more than earned their keep!

I was a little peeved at Peter Jackson for changing Faramir's character. I seem to recall Faramir was not tempted to use the power of the ring as his brother Boromir was. And on a purely personal note, I love Legolas! He runs along so lightly, so effortlessly. He is so Elfin! The bit where he leapt on horseback behind Gimli didn't work though. It was too obviously a dismount on film run backward.

Now we will have to wait a year for *Return of the King*, and a year after that for it to be released on DVD so we can enjoy a LOTR festival at home. I just hope Yellowstone doesn't explode in the meantime! ☹

## TREASURER'S REPORT

by Judy Bemis

BALANCE (as of 9/25/2002)	\$2,299.62
INCOME	
Individual Memberships and Renewals	\$90.00
Handbook sales	\$7.00
Ads in <i>Bulletin</i>	\$50.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$147.00
EXPENSES	
<i>Bulletin</i> Vol 8 #1 Printing	\$330.48
Bulk Postage	\$61.89
First Postage	\$122.10
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$514.47
BALANCE (as of 2/23/2003)	\$1,932.15



## ANNOTATED FANZINE LISTINGS

By Tom Feller

Please send zines for listing to me at PO Box 68203, Nashville, TN 37206. All these zines are available for trade unless noted. Also unless otherwise specified, when writing for a sample issue, send \$1 to cover postage. A SASE is likely to be too small.

Alexiad, #'s 3-6 published by Lisa and Joseph Major, 1409 Christy Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204-2040. Besides book and movie reviews and letters, Lisa discusses Seattle Slew, Joe and Lisa report on Kublakhan and a visit to the Space Center in Huntsville, Alabama, Joe and Johnny Carruthers discuss the Hugo Awards, and Joe describes his health problems in #3; Lisa writes about her love of cameras and last year's Triple Crown and Nancy Basile reports on Creep Con in #4; Joe reports on ConGlomeration in #5; and Sue Burke reports on Hispacon (Spain's national fantasy and SF convention) and Marty Helgesen reports on Conjose in #6.

Anime Sacramento Newsletter, August-September, October-November, 2002, & December-January, 2003 edited by Laurine White, 5422 Colusa Way, Sacramento, CA 95841-2304. Available for \$1.80 for 3 issues. Club and anime news.

Ansible, #'s 179-186, published by Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AU, UK. Dave's U.S. agent is Janice Murray, PO Box 75684, Seattle, WA 98125-0684. Dave reports on the Arthur C. Clarke awards in #179. Last year's Hugo Award winner.

Argentus, #2, published by Steven H. Silver, 707 Sapling Lane, Deerfield, IL 60015-3969. Available for \$5 per issue. Bart Kemper discusses the state of fandom, Fred Lerner describes the value of re-reading books, Lloyd Penney compares the fan Hugo and FAAn awards, David Truesdale comments on the state of short SF, Bill Roper reports on a major league baseball game, Mike Glycer describes card playing at the LASFS clubhouse, Steven reports on his back surgery, Rich Horton argues why certain stories should have won the 1973 Hugos, and Cheryl Morgan, Guy Lillian, Joyce Scrivner, and Marc Ortlieb report on an alternative Worldcon in Minneapolis in 1973.

Baker Street Dispatch, Vol. 12, No. 4, published by Thomas and Janet Biblewski, Box 5503, Toledo, OH 43613. No trades; available for \$9 annually. Reviews, analysis of Sherlock Holmes stories, and calendar.

CAR-PGa Newsletter, Vol. 11, #'s 6-11, published by the Committee for the Advancement of Role-Playing Games, 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418. Edited by Paul Cardwell. Available for \$10 annually or 85 cents per copy; no trades. Each issue has a convention calendar. Carsten Obst reviews the *Perils of Gor* (John Norman) RPG in #7, and Paul reports on his dealings with Pyramid, an on-line gaming magazine, in #8 and attacks on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* by fundamentalist Christian organizations in #12.

Challenger, #16, published by Guy Lillian, PO Box 53092, New Orleans, LA 70153-3092. This issue is a memorial to R.A. Lafferty. Guy, Dan Knight, Robert Whitaker Sirignano, and John Guidry eulogize him, Guy reprints a speech by him, and Fred Chappell reviews one of Lafferty's books. Otherwise Greg Benford describes a meeting with Steven

Hawking, Richard Dengrove discusses the concept of extra-terrestrials in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, Mike Resnick reviews museums, Terry Jeeves describes a meeting with a spiritualist, Joe Major imagines what *The Lord of the Rings* would look like if published today, and Guy discusses the insanity defense in criminal law and eulogizes Bruce Pelz and George Alec Effinger. There are also zine reviews and letters. Number two in last year's Hugo nominations.

Con-Temporal, Vol. 9, #'s 7-11, & Vol. 10, #1, published by Pegasus Publishing, PO Box 1845, Sherman, TX, 75091-1845. Edited by Scott Merritt. Monthly subscription: \$40 per year; Bi-Monthly subscription: \$30 per year. No trades. This zine has the most comprehensive listing of conventions that I have seen.

De Profundis #'s 353-361, official newszine of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (LASFS), 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601. Edited by Marty Cantor. Club news, calendar, and meeting minutes. #353 contains several remembrances of Bruce Pelz, although #354 is the official memorial issue with remembrances by Marty, Ed Green, Mike Glycer, and others. Marty contributes an essay on apas in #360. Ted White reviews the fanzines SFFF in #353, Quasiquote in #354, Sleight of Hand in #355, Mimosa #28 in #356, Chunga in #357, Littlebrook and Floss in #358, They Made Us Do It in #359, Banana Wings in #360, and Wassamatta U in #361.

Derogatory Reference, #'s 99-100, published by Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine Street, Yonkers, NY 10704-1814. Available for \$1 per issue. In #99, Arthur reports on Lunacon, the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, and Minicon. In #100, he reflects on the year 1968 and comments on other subjects.

Fantasy Commentator, Vol. X, Numbers 1 & 2, published by A. Langley Searles, 48 Highland Circle, Bronxville, NY 10708-5909. \$5 per issue. Besides poetry and book reviews, Andrew Darlington writes about Edgar Rice Burroughs, Everett F. Bleiler speculates on Tarzan's birthplace, Eric Lief Davin and Norman Metcalf discuss women SF writers between 1926 and 1949, Searles analyzes Asimov's early attitudes towards women, Eric Leif Davin writes about SF and Anti-Semitism in the Thirties, and the late Sam Moskowitz describes working for Hugo Gernsback.

Feline Mewsings, #'s 8 & 9, published by R-Lauraine Tutihasi, 29217 Stonecrest Road, Rollings Hills Estates, CA 90275-4936. (This is an apazine written for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA) and contains Lauraine's mailing comments. However, it is available outside the apa as well.) Lauraine reports on Con-Dor and reviews plays in #8 and reports on Westercon in #9.

Fosfax, #'s 205-207, published by Timothy Lane on behalf of the Falls of Ohio Science Fiction Association. Besides reviews of books and poetry, letters, and political commentary from a libertarian point of view; Tim, Joe Major, Lisa Major, and Leigh Kimmel report on Millennium Philcon; Dale Speirs writes about anthrax in the mail; Rodford Edmiston comments on technology; Joe, Lisa, Elizabeth, and James Dorr write about their cats; and Leigh reports on Archon in



#205. Taras Wolansky reports a little late on Millennium Philcon, Leigh Kimmel reports on Conglomeration, Archon, Invocation, and Conjose, and James Dorr reports on Inconjunction in #207. Number 12 in last year's Hugo nomination voting.

Future Times, Vol 5. #'s 4-11, the fanzine of the Atlanta Science Fiction Society, PO box 98308, Atlanta, GA 30359-2008. Edited by Jayne Rogers. Available for \$12 annually. Besides book, TV, and movie reviews, club news, and convention listings, #4 has an eulogy for R.A. Lafferty and a listing of important non-fiction books about SF by Lewis Murphy; #6 has an interview with Severna Park and listing of recommended summer reading by Laurie Anderson; and #11 has an obituary for Charles Sheffield and an interview with Albert Cowdrey.

Instant Message, # 701-713, newsletter of the New England Science Fiction Association, PO Box 809, Framingham, MA 01701-0809. Edited by Pam Fremon. Club and Boskone news. #701 contains an obituary for Bruce Pelz, and #708 includes obituaries for Lloyd Biggle and Robert Forward.

It Goes on the Shelf, #24, published by Ned Brooks, 4817 Dean lane, Lilburn, GA 30047-4720. Ned comments on the books and other items he collects.

The Knarley Knews, #'s 94-97, published by Henry "Knarley" Welch, 1526 16th Avenue, Grafton, WI 53024-2017. Available for \$1.50 per issue. Besides letters, zine listings, and book reviews, John Welch reports on a trip to Korea, and Rodney Leighton reflects on reviewing fanzines in #94. In #95, Knarley reports on the remodeling of his house, Al Bouchard reports on a trip to Milwaukee for the Bead and Button Show, Charlotte Proctor comments on "Days of Infamy" such as 12/7/1941 and 9/11/2001, and Rodney Leighton reflects some more on fanzines, including the SFC Bulletin. In #96, Steven Silver reports on his flooded basement, and Todd Bushlow reflects on 20 year life cycles. In #97, Sue Welch reports on a visit to a tea plantation in Africa, and Rodney reviews Challenger. Number 11 in last year's Hugo nomination voting.

Lofgeornost, #67, published by Fred Lerner, 81 Worcester Avenue, White River Junction, Vermont 05001. (This is another apazine written for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA) and contains Fred's mailing comments. However, it is available outside the apa as well.) Fred discusses the art of William Morris.

Memphen, # 279, official publication of the Memphis Science Fiction Association, PO Box 820534, Memphis, TN 38182-0534. Edited by Greg Bridges. Available for \$12 per year. Greg describes the first Memphis convention, Halfacon, from 1977. Number 13 in last year's Hugo nomination voting.

Mimosa, #'s 28-29, published by Rich and Nikki Lynch, PO Box 3120, Gaithersburg, MD 20885. Available for \$5 per issue. #28 reprints some of the Lynch's favorite articles from the first 16 issues, and #29 reprints articles from 17-27. Among the articles, they reprint an interview with Bob Tucker and Bob Bloch, Bob Shaw expounds on lessons from *Star Trek* in #28 and wrote about the connection between SF writers and beer in #29, Roger Sims remembers Lynn Hickman, Guy Lillian recalls advertising his and Dennis Dolbear's services as a lawyer, Forrest Ackerman describes meeting Fritz Lang and Bela Lugosi, Lowell Cummingham explains

the origin of *Men in Black*, Dal Coger describes the Slan Shack, and Dave Kyle recalls the 1940 Worldcon in Chicago in #28 and the 1939 one in New York in #29. Number four in last year's Hugo nomination voting.

Mutterings at Midnight, published by Karen Johnson, 35 Mariana Avenue, South Croydon, Victoria 3136, Australia. Karen explains why she no longer teaches school, then reviews movies, videos, and books, and updates us on her health and her marriage plans.

NASFA Shuttle, Vol.22, #'s 6-12, & Vol. 23, #1, newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, PO Box 4857, Huntsville, AL 35815-4857. Edited by Mike Kennedy. Subscription: \$1.50 per issue, or \$10 for 12 issues. Besides club and Constellation news, movie, zine and book reviews, and letters; Jim Woosley reviews the recent *Star Trek* tribute in TV Guide in #6; David Robinson and Randy Cleary report on DeepSouthCon in #7; Mike Kennedy reports on the Jophan Family Reunion and prints extensive information about Conjose, and Sue Thorn reports firsthand on the Worldcon in #9; Mary Ortwerth reports on Archon in #10; and Mike reports on Constellation in #11.

The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 2, No.1, official newsletter of the National Fantasy Fan federation, edited by Janice G. Stinson, PO Box 430314, Big Pine Key, FL 33043-0314. No trades. Available for \$18 annually. Make checks payable to William Center, c/o Dennis Davis, 25549 Byron St., San Bernardino, CA 92404-6403. This is the Donald Franson Memorial Issue, and Susan VanSchuyver and Catherine Mintz contribute remembrances. Club news, book and movie reviews, letters, and reprints of Ted White's columns from De Profundis.

Nova Express, # 22, edited and published by Lawrence Person, PO Box 27231, Austin, TX 78755-2231. Available for \$15 for 4 issues, but Lawrence told me at Conjose that he will retire the zine after two more issues. Besides book reviews, Fiona Kelleghan and Lawrence interview Paul Di Filippo, Chris Nakashima-Brown and Kelleghan analyze Di Filippo's writing, Bruce Gillespie comments on the short stories of Avram Davidson, and Bruce Sterling reviews four books by Zoran Zivkovic

Opuntia, #'s 51.1B, 51.5A, & 51.5B, published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Almost all issues contain letters and book reviews. Dale writes about the use of algae in fiction and lists mail art and zines in #51.1B, about his life in #51.5A, and the G-8 summit in #51.5B. My condolences to Dale about the death of his mother.

Peregrine Nation, Vol. 2, #1, published by J. G. Stinson, PO Box 430314, Big Pine Key, FL 33043-0314. Available for \$1. Besides letters and zine reviews, Earl Kemp describes the influence of E.E. Smith upon him, Lyn McConchie eulogizes Cherry Wilder, Will Allan Hogarth salutes graphic novel writers, and John Teehan reports on Millennium Philcon.

Plokta, #'s 26-28, published by Steve Davies, 52 Westbourne Terrace, Reading, Berks RG30 2RP, UK; Alison Scott, 24 St. Mary Road, Walthamstow, London, E17 9RG, UK, and Mike Scott, 38 Fitzroy Court, 6 Whitehorse Road, Croydon, CR0 24X, UK. #26 also doubled as the program book for Plokta, the convention, with an article on GOH John Meaney, a description of the program, and some suggestions

for behavior in lieu of a set of rules. In addition, Sue Mason describes her cat Spookie and her experiences as a belly dancer, Giulia de Cesare reports on the health of her cat George, and Julian Headlong describes a dune buggy trip in Saudi Arabia. In #27, Steve reports on exhibits of computer games and Chihuly glassware, Giulia describes her back problems, Alasdair Hepburn writes about the Boomerang cable TV channel, and Kip Williams analyzes the View-Master versions of famous movies. In #28, Alison reviews a video dancing game, Steve reports on a museum and a fair, and Mike reports on a tourist attraction in Cornwall. This zine finished fourth in the final Hugo Award voting last year.

Quokka Quest, #1, "a shameless DUFF Campaign zine," published by Mike and Linda McInerney, 83 Shakespeare St, Daly City, CA 94014-1053. Dick Lupoff and Rich Brown explain why the McInerneys are deserving of the Down Under Fan Fund award.

Royal Swiss Navy Gazette, #'s 8 & 9, published by Garth Spencer, PO Box 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, BC Canada V6B 5B1. Besides letters and zine reviews, Garth writes about various subjects, contributes a poem about fandom, and reports on Canvention, Jacqueline Bartels comments on fandom,

SFFF #3, published by Mike McInerney, 83 Shakespeare St., Daly City, CA 94014-1053. Besides letters, Lee Hoffman analyzes *Dances with Wolves*, and Steve Stiles reports on the Chicon III.

Terminal Eyes, #'s 6 & 7, published by Tim Marion, c/o Kleinbard, 266 East Broadway, Apt. 1201B, New York, NY 10002. Tim reviews movies and TV writes about the deaths of his cats in both issues. He prints a portfolio of Grant Canfield's art in #6 and one of Rick McCollum's in #7. Tim also reports on Lunacon in #6, and Walter James Wentz describes a collecting nightmare in #7.

Thyme, #'s 134 & 135, published by Alan Stewart, PO Box 222, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, Victoria, 8005, Australia. Available for \$15 per year. Besides fanish and SF news, letters, and book and movie reviews, Alan interviews Cameron Rogers, and Rose Mitchell reports on Millennium Freecon (not to be confused with Millennium Philcon) in #134; and Edward McArdle reports on Millennium Philcon, Lyn McConchie reflects on what is necessary to become a professional writer, and Alan interviews Kate Forsyth in #135.

Three Pipe Problem Plugs and Dottles, May-August 2002, official newsletter of the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem (Sherlock Holmes). Edited by Gael Stahl, 1763 Needmore Road, Old Hickory, TN 37138. No trades. Besides club news, Marino Alvarez reports on the Morley-Montgomery Award Reception sponsored by the Baker Street Journal in New York City, and Gael and Brad Keefauver report on the Arthur Conan Doyle symposium in Dayton, Ohio.

Twenty-Eight Pages Loving Bound with Twine, #4, published by Christoph Meyer, PO Box 106, Danville OH 43014. This zine is quite literally bound with twine. He prints copies of two consumer complaint letters and the responses they received, and discusses his experiences with libraries, the kinds of twine he uses, and his writing career.

Twink, #'s 26 & 27, published by E. B. Frohvet, 4716 Dorsey Hall Drive, #506, Ellicott City, MD 21042. Besides reviews of books, TV shows, movies, and zines and a letter column, E.B. analyzes the use of caves in SF and fantasy, Gene Stewart discusses escapism, and Lyn McConchie relates how she began to write about trolls in #26; and Mark Plummer discusses SF awards, Sue Bursztynski reports on Convergence. Number nine in last year's Hugo nomination voting.

Tyndallite, #'s 102-104, published by Norm Metcalf, PO Box 1368, Boulder, CO 80306-1368. Originally intended for the Southern Fandom Press Alliance, but is available outside the apa for \$1 per issue. Each issue contains mailing comments, but 102 and 104 include letters from fans outside the apa.

Vanamonde, #'s 458-482, published by John Hertz, 236 South Coronado Street, No. 409, Los Angeles, CA 90057. These 2 page perzines were originally published for APA-L, the weekly apa. They all have John's mailing comments to other members of the apa. John reports on the African-American Firefighter Museum in #458 and Millennium Philcon in #'s 468-471; and eulogizes Chuck Jones in #461, the Queen Mother and Milton Berle in #465, Damon Knight in #480, and R.A. Lafferty in #485. #'s 462, 467, 472, 477 481, 482, and 487 contain comments from people outside the apa.

Visions of Paradise, #'s 91-92, published by Robert Sabella, 24 Cedar Manor Court, Budd Lake, NJ 07828-1023. In addition to his diaries for January through June and reviews of books, movies, and fanzines, Robert lists what he considers the dominant SF writer of each decade since 1900 in #91.

Xenolith, #'s 46 & 48, published by Bill Bowers, 4651 Glenway Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45238-4503. Besides letters, Bill describes his cataract surgery in #46.

Yngvi is a Louse, #'s 76-79, published by Toni Weisskopf, 196 Alps Road, Box 2-385, Athens, GA 30606. (This zine was originally intended for the Southern Fandom Press Alliance and includes her mailing comments to the other members.) All issues feature Charlotte Proctor's reviews of books and movies. In #76, Jon Stopa reviews books, Toni discusses *The Lord of the Rings*, and Patrick Gibbs discusses the Elian Gonzales controversy. In #78, In #79, Toni reports on DeepSouthCon and Westercon, Toni and Hank Reinhardt comment on various subjects, and Terry Jeeves contributes a "Man of Copper" pastiche.

### Electronic Zines

ANIME SACRAMENTO NEWSLETTER, November, 2002, & January, 2003, edited by Laurine White, [lybwhite@concourse.net](mailto:lybwhite@concourse.net). Club and anime news.

BARYON #'s 87-89, published by Barry Hunter, [barry@baryon-online.com](mailto:barry@baryon-online.com). Book reviews. Number six on last year's Hugo nomination voting.

DISTRICT MESSENGER #'s 223-228, published by Roger Johnson, [roger\\_johnson@hotmail.com](mailto:roger_johnson@hotmail.com). Sherlock Holmes news.

EMERALD CITY, #'s 82-89, published by Cheryl Morgan, [Cheryl@emcit.com](mailto:Cheryl@emcit.com). Requires Adobe Acrobat Reader. Besides book reviews, Cheryl reports on Wiscon in #82, Westercon in #83, a trip to Australia in #84, Conjose in #85, Silicon in #86, the World Fantasy Convention in #87, and



Smofcon in #88. Number seven in last year's Hugo nomination voting.

JAMES HOGAN NEWSLETTER, published by James P. Hogan, [newsletter@jamesphogan.com](mailto:newsletter@jamesphogan.com). Personal information and news about forthcoming books. His official web site can be found at <http://www.jamesphogan.com>

THE REVENGE OF HUMP DAY!, published by Tim Bolgeo, [tbolgeo@att.net](mailto:tbolgeo@att.net). Jokes and fannish news, especially Libertycon. The September 4 e-issue reports on Conjose.

WOSSNAME, Newsletter of the Klatchian Foreign Legion. Pub. by Joseph Schaumburger, [JSCHAUM111@aol.com](mailto:JSCHAUM111@aol.com). Terry Pratchett and Discworld news. In the July e-issue, Manu Viciano reports on a Discworld convention in Madrid, Spain.

ZINE DUMP, published by Guy Lillian, [ghlii@yahoo.com](mailto:ghlii@yahoo.com). The electronic version section of Challenger that contained zine reviews.

### Web Sites

ATLANTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ASFS>. Club news and message postings.

BAEN BOOKS at [www.baen.com](http://www.baen.com). Catalog, schedule of new releases, calendar of convention appearances by Baen authors, sign-up form for electronic subscriptions, and message boards.

BOOKVIEW at <http://hometown.aol.com/bookviewzine>. William Tienken reviews non-fiction books and publishes his daily journal.

FAR SECTOR SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY, AND HORROR at <http://outside.clocktowerfiction.com>, maintained by John Cullen. A web-only magazine of short SF, fantasy, and horror.

E-Fanzines at [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com). Electronic versions of well known fanzines.

GEGENSCHEIN #92 at <http://www.ericlindsay.com/sf/geg92.htm>, #93 at <http://www.ericlindsay.com/sf/geg93.htm>, and #94 at <http://www.ericlindsay.com/sf/geg94.htm>, published by Eric Lindsay, [fiawol@ericlindsay.com](mailto:fiawol@ericlindsay.com). Eric reports on his life, comments on whatever subjects interest him, reports on Convergence in #93 and on a motorhome trip in #94, reviews books, and prints letters. His GUFF (Gone Under Fan Fund) reports can be found at <http://www.ericlindsay.com/guff/index.htm>. His wife Jean Weber's travel site can be found at [www.avalook.com](http://www.avalook.com).

JANICE GELB at <http://www.smofbabe.net>. This is Janice's personal website.

KAJIKIT'S CORNER at <http://www.kajikitscorner.com>. This is Karen Johnson's personal web site with poetry and photos. Her Christmas Greeting page is on <http://www.jagcon.com/kajikitscorner/christmas2002.html>, and her Christmas letter on <http://www.jagcon.com/kajikitscorner/christmasletter2002.html>

LE ZOMBIE at <http://www.kcsciencefiction.org/lez09.htm> and <http://www.kcsciencefiction.org/lez10.htm>. Keith Stokes has reprinted these and other issues of Bob Tucker's classic fanzine. Issue #9 was published just in time for the first Worldcon in New York City in 1939. #10 contains Bob first hand report of the convention as he saw it at the time.

LOS ANGELES SCIENCE FICTION AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION at [www.liveavatar.com/lasfapa](http://www.liveavatar.com/lasfapa). Official web-site of the apa.

MARY BUCKNER AT [www.mmbuckner.com](http://www.mmbuckner.com). Official web-site of an author who lives in Nashville.

SCHOLARS OF THE THREE PIPE PROBLEM (Sherlock Holmes) at <http://www.nashvillescholars.net>. Maintained by Jim Hawkins. Club news and other items of interest to Sherlock Holmes fans.

SCI-FI DIMENSIONS at <http://www.scifidimensions.com>, published by John C. Snider. Interviews, reviews, articles, and fiction. Number 18 in the Hugo nomination voting for best web site.

TOONOPEDIA at <http://www.toonopedia.com>, published by Don Markstein. On-line encyclopedia of cartoons.

VIDEOVISTA at <http://www.videovista.net>, published by Tony Lee. Video reviews and articles about movies. ♡

{Also received: THE ZINE DUMP #2 Guy H, Lillian III, P.O. Box 53092 NOLa 70153, 504/482-7083, [GHLIII@yahoo.com](mailto:GHLIII@yahoo.com), GHLIII Press Pub #947, Oct. '02 - Feb. '03}

## THE SPEW GOES

by R.B. Cleary

In keeping with the U.S.'s politically incorrect interpretation of Saint Patrick's Day (March 17), here is a list of Hugo Award winning novels since 1980 but from an alternate universe of only Irish writers.

- ❖ 2002 *A Merry Can Goods* by Neil O'Gaiman
- ❖ 2001 *Hairy Potato and the Goblet of Ire* by J.K. O'Rowling
- ❖ 2000 *A Dampness in this Guy* by Vernie O'Vinge
- ❖ 1999 *To Say Nothing of the Hair of the Dog* by Connie O'Willis
- ❖ 1998 *Forever Potato* by Joey O'Hadleman
- ❖ 1997 *Blue Bars* by Kimmie O'Robinson
- ❖ 1996 *The Pot O' Gold Age* by Neal O'Stephenson
- ❖ 1995 *Mirror of River Dance* by Lois O'Bujold
- ❖ 1994 *Green Bars* by Kimmie O'Robinson
- ❖ 1993 *A Pyre Upon the Sheep* by Vernie O'Vinge
- ❖ 1992 *Bar Rye Are* by Lois O'Bujold
- ❖ 1991 *The Bore Game* by Lois O'Bujold
- ❖ 1990 *Hyper Ryan* by Danny O'Simmons
- ❖ 1989 *Canteen* by Shea O'Cherryh
- ❖ 1988 *The Up Lift Fight* by Davie O'Brin
- ❖ 1987 *Speaker For the Drunk* by Ors Irish O'Card
- ❖ 1986 *In 'ers Game* by Ors Irish O'Card
- ❖ 1985 *Spew Romancer* by Billie O'Gibson
- ❖ 1984 *Bar Tide Rising* by Davie O'Brin
- ❖ 1983 *Foundation's Hedge* by Issie O'Asimov
- ❖ 1982 *Down Bellow Station* by Shea O'Cherry
- ❖ 1981 *The So Green* by Jo O'Vinge
- ❖ 1980 *The Whiskey Fountains of Paradise* by Artie O'Clark
- ❖ 1956 **Retro Spew Go: The Bars My Destination** by Alfie O'Bester ♡

## NEWS

### FRIENDS OF ROBERT L. FORWARD

by Clark W. Hawk

I am writing to ask you to join the "Friends of Robert L. Forward." The purpose of creating this group is to support the archiving of the collected science fiction, original or copy as may be available, and technical works of Dr. Robert L. Forward at The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH). Bob has graciously offered to donate his works to UAH, where it will join other valuable research tools such as the Willy Ley Collection, the Saturn V Collection, and other related archives, which you can find described at [www.uah.edu/library/archives/](http://www.uah.edu/library/archives/). The organization of his works and their maintenance would require an endowment of \$10,000. At present, we have an anonymous challenge grant of \$5,000 – so for every dollar you donate, its impact will be doubled.

Additionally, we are seeking \$2,000 for the purpose of purchasing a set of lockable bookcases with glass fronts that will provide an appropriate storage of his work. Our plan is to place a plaque on the bookcases identifying the works and acknowledging the gift from the "Friends of Robert L. Forward."

I hope you will join me in this tribute to Bob, recognizing his contributions to the propulsion community and the world of science fiction.

You should make your check to the "UAH Foundation," identifying its use for the "Friends of Robert L. Forward." Dr. Forward will be notified of your gift, and it will also be recognized individually by UAH for your tax purposes. If you work for a matching gift company or foundation and include your completed paperwork with your contribution, the proposed endowment will make even greater progress toward its goal.

I thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,  
Clark W. Hawk, Director  
UAH Propulsion Research Center  
5000 Technology Drive, Th S-226  
Huntsville, AL 35899 ☺

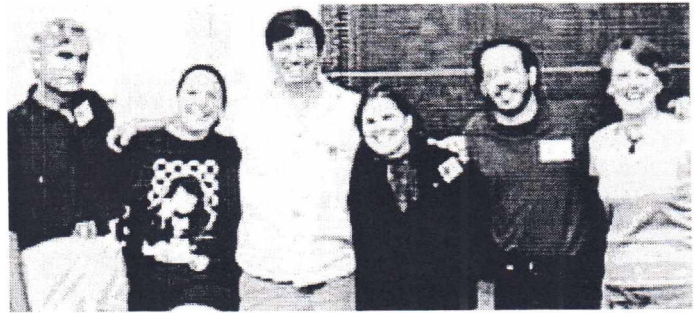
### DUFF 2003 WINNERS

by R.B. Cleary

The Down Under Fan Fund is a fund that helps send an Australian/New Zealand science fiction fan to attend either a Worldcon or NASFiC in North America and, in alternate years, helps send a fan from North America to attend an Australian Worldcon or National Convention. Once again, southern fans have won. **Guy and Rosy Lillian** are the 2003 North American DUFF delegates. They garnered 101 first place votes (84 North American, remainder Australian) out of 173 valid ballots (141 North American). **Mike and Linda McNerney** received 58 first place votes (45 North American). Southern fans, **Naomi Fisher & Patrick Molloy** are the current DUFF North America Administrators. A list of voters is provided at this web link: <http://home.pacbell.net/jgelb/2003voters.html>. ☺

### SOUTHERN FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

by T.K.F.W. Reinhardt



This photo was taken October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at the *recent Southern Festival of Books* in Nashville of **David Drake, John Ringo and David Coe**. The ladies intertwined are **Alethea Kontis, Kristi Gillis and Leigh Ashford**, all from *Ingram Books*. **David Weber and K.D. Wentworth** also did panels at the Festival, but are not in the photo. Many Southern fans attended the panels and signings. This was the first year they emphasized SF & fantasy programming. ☺

### A GOOD SITE

by Jim Woosley

The web-site <http://www.pagebypagebooks.com/title.html> has free downloads of classic books and items, though stored page by page, such as:

- ❖ Inaugural speeches and other historical documents
- ❖ H.G. Wells (all the major novels)
- ❖ Jules Verne
- ❖ Sax Rohmer
- ❖ Frederick Douglas
- ❖ Emily Bronte
- ❖ Samuel Clemens/Mark Twain (a variety of his novels)
- ❖ L. Frank Baum (all sixteen Oz)
- ❖ Charles Dickens (several, lesser known works)
- ❖ Arthur Conan Doyle
- ❖ Harriet Beecher Stowe
- ❖ W.E.B. Dubois
- ❖ Numerous others ☺

### The SF and Mystery Bookshop Open for Business!

by Mark Stevens

I bet some of you didn't expect to hear from me again. Well, thanks to a lot of great people, we are still in business and now that we have settled down in our new location at Shallowford Rd. and I-85, everything is getting back to normal. New books are coming every day and while it may take a while to get our back stock back to acceptable levels, we have plenty of new books.

Come on down and see why every one who has made the trip thinks the new location is worth the extra drive.



Once again, the address is:

2558 Shallowford Rd. Suite 202  
Atlanta, Ga. 30345  
404-634-3226. ☹

**Southern Locations of the John Ringo Signing Tour  
for *Hell's Faire***  
by T.K.F.W. Reinhardt

Check out the Baen Books web site (<http://www.baen.com>)  
for complete itinerary.

**Thursday, May 15, 6:00 PM**

The Open Book  
110 South Pleasantburg Dr.  
Greenville, SC 29607  
Contact: Duff Bruce (864) 235-9651

**Friday, May 16, 3:00 PM**

BooksAMillion  
10 Hunting Rd. Ste. D  
Athens, GA 30606  
Contact: John Curry (706) 369-3900

**Saturday, May 17, 2:00 – 4:00 PM**

Science Fiction and Mystery Bookstore  
2558 Shallowford Rd. NE  
Suite 202  
Atlanta, GA 30345  
Contact: Mark Stevens (404) 634-3226. ☹

**R.I.P. Thomas E. Fuller**  
by Brad Strickland

Thomas E. Fuller, one of the best loved figures in the Atlanta science-fiction community, died at about four P.M., November 21, 2002.

Thomas suffered cardiac arrest on the morning of November 15 while driving his youngest son, John, to school. He cracked up the van, but neither he nor John was injured. Everything possible was done, and Tom was rushed to John Glancy Memorial Hospital in Duluth, but he never regained consciousness. The family made the difficult decision to take him off the ventilator at about ten A.M. November 21, 2002, and as I say, Tom died peacefully at about four. He was surrounded by his family, and his old, dear friend Doug Kaye was at his side at the end. Tom is survived by his sons Edward, Anthony, and John, by his daughter Christina, and his former wife Berta, as well as a brother and sister.

Thomas was the Head Writer for the Atlanta Radio Theatre, and fans will remember his work onstage at DragonCon and other area conventions. Most recently, Tom appeared in two ARTC productions at the 2002 DragonCon, including his original audio drama "*Dancer in the Dark*." He was also a storyteller at the Stone Mountain Southern Tour of Ghosts, as "Captain Tom," and AudioCraft Entertainment has just released a CD, "*Warm and Blue-Green as Teal Blood*," of the ghost stories that Tom told at Stone Mountain over the past five years. Tom and I also co wrote ten books in the *Wishbone* series for

children. We recently finished an original series, *PIRATE HUNTER*, for *Simon and Schuster/Aladdin Books*. The first of these, *Mutiny!*, was published in October, and Tom and I had three very successful autographings. We also have an acceptance for a YA SF series, *MARS: YEAR ONE*, which we have fully outlined and which I intend to complete. They will come out under our joint by-line.

We have lost a wonderful man. Barbara and I are heart-broken, but it's comforting to know that Tom died at a time when he was enjoying success as a performer and a writer and that he was full of optimism for the future. ☹

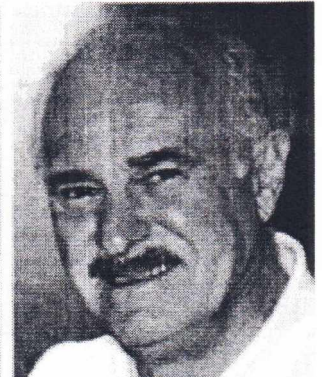
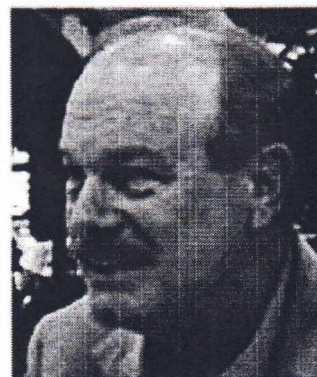
**R.I.P Harry B. Warner Jr.**  
by Mike Kennedy

Harry B. Warner Jr., 80, of 423 Summit Ave., Hagerstown, died Monday, Feb. 17, 2003, at his home. Graveside services were to be held the following Friday at 10 a.m. at Rose Hill Cemetery, Hagerstown ☹

**SEPARATED AT BIRTH?**

by R.B.Cleary

Author Joe Haldeman and Actor Dabney Coleman



## SOUTHERN CONVENTION LIST

Convention listings are as accurate as possible at the time they are published. We cannot and do not guarantee the absolute accuracy of any item printed in this section. You should check with the convention organizers to verify that the information is correct and current. E-mail addresses and telephone numbers (if given) are for convenience and should not be used for any other purpose than obtaining convention information. If you know of an upcoming convention or corrected information on any listed convention, contact the editor by one of the methods listed on the colophon. Also, this list is not exhaustive. It contains conventions in the South that your editor has been to or heard of or have made themselves know to him.

### March

1	SpartaCon III	Spartanburg	S. Carolina
1	Star Trek Con 3	Fayetteville	Arkansas
7-9	Starfleet Region 2	Madison	Alabama
7-9	ChaosCon	Clarksville	Tennessee
7-9	Galaxy Con	Baltimore	Maryland
13-16	Sleuthfest 9	Deerfield Beach	Florida
14-16	Stellarcon 27	High Point	N. Carolina
14-16	Stormie-Con 1	St. Charles	Missouri
14-16	Technicon 20	Blacksburg	Virginia
14-16	Enlightenment 6	Hunt Valley	Maryland
15-16	Kansas City Comicon	Kansas City	Missouri
19-23	ICFA 24	Ft. Lauderdale	Florida
19-23	Festival of Books	Charlottesville	Virginia
20-23	Aggiecon 34	College Station	Texas
21-23	Galacticon	Chattanooga	Tennessee
21-23	CoastCon 26	Biloxi	Mississippi
21-23	Anime Express 6	Daytona Beach	Florida
27-30	Gothcon	New Orleans	Louisiana
28-30	Madicon 12	Harrisonburg	Virginia
28-30	MidSouthCon 21	Memphis	Tennessee

### April

5	Northern Virginia Gamecon	Tysons Corner	Virginia
11-13	Atlanta Comic Con	Duluth	Georgia
11-13	RoundCon	Columbia	S. Carolina
11-13	Son of Fanex	Timonium	Maryland
11-13	Battle of Cowpens	Clemson	S. Carolina
17-20	Fantasm	Atlanta	Georgia
17-20	World Horror Convention	Kansas City	Missouri
19-20	Imperial Quartermaster	Greensboro	N. Carolina
19-20	Imperial Toy Show	Greensboro	N. Carolina
25-27	Recon	Busch Gardens	Florida
25-27	PlagueCon 1	Kansas City	Missouri
25-27	Starfleet Region 1 Conference	Pigeon Forge	Tennessee
18-20	Fantasm	Atlanta	Georgia

### May

2-4	Malice Domestic 15	Arlington	Virginia
2-4	Chibicon	Madison	Alabama
16-18	RocKon 26	Little Rock	Arkansas
16-18	Starfleet Region 12 Conference	Hot Springs	Arkansas
16-18	MobiCon 6	Mobile	Alabama
18-25	SeaTrek 2003	Caribbean	
23-25	ConQuest 34	Kansas City	Missouri
23-25	Balticon 37	Baltimore	Maryland
23-25	Nashcon	Nashville	Tennessee
23-25	Oasis 16	Orlando	Florida
23-25	Animazement 6	Durham	N. Carolina
23-25	Rocket City Furmeet	Huntsville	Alabama
23-26	Krypton Con 1	Kansas City	Missouri
24-26	Florida Conquest	Ft. Lauderdale	Florida
30-June 1	ConCarolinas	Charlotte	N. Carolina
30-June 1	AdventureCon 2	Knoxville	Tennessee
30-June 1	Jacon 4	Orlando	Florida
30-June 1	Vulkon	Tampa	Florida
30-June 1	Sci-Fi Summer	Atlanta	Georgia

### June

6-8	Conjuration	Columbia	Maryland
6-8	SinCon	Metairie	Louisiana
7-8	Wonderfest	Louisville	Kentucky
13-15	Anime Mid-Atlantic	Richmond	Virginia
13-15	Heroes Convention	Charlotte	N. Carolina
13-15	Bayou Wars 11	Metairie	Louisiana
19-22	Courts of Chaos Con	Raleigh	N. Carolina
20-22	Kryptoncon	Kansas City	Missouri
20-22	Starquest	Winston-Salem	N. Carolina

### July

3-6	Haven	Montgomery	Alabama
11-13	Shore Leave 25	Hunt Valley	Maryland
11-13	ShowMeCon	St. Louis	Missouri
13-14	Lexington Sci-Fi Comic Convention	Lexington	Kentucky
18-20	Vulkon	Tampa	Florida
18-20	Metrocon	Brandon	Florida
25-27	LibertyCon 16 / DeepSouthCon 41	Chattanooga	Tennessee
25-28	Mythcon 34	Nashville	Tennessee
31-Aug 3	Starfleet International Conference	Greensboro	N. Carolina
31-Aug 3	SERE	Tampa	Florida

For a more complete list, go see **Kelly Lockhart's** web site, the *Southern Fandom Resource Guide*: <http://scenic-city.com/sfrg/>





## SFC BY-LAWS

SECTION 1 (a) The Southern Fandom Confederation is a non-profit organization of, by, and for science fiction and fantasy fans residing in the states of the Confederacy (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia), existing for the purpose of promoting fan and professional activity within that area. (b) The President shall have the discretion to name as "Southern Sympathizers" persons or groups outside the South for the purpose of membership and participation in the SFC.

SECTION 2. The SFC shall meet once a year, simultaneously and at the same place as the DeepSouthCon, hereafter DSC. This meeting shall be open to all dues-paid and dues-exempt SFC members, plus interested parties. Only Dues-paid or -exempt members may speak or vote except through dispensation by the presiding officer. Each meeting shall consist of: (a) a review of the year's activity, (b) election of officers, and (c) suggestions from the membership for activities in the year ahead.

SECTION 3. The officers of the SFC shall consist of (a) President, (b) Vice President, (c) Secretary, and (d) Treasurer. All officers of the SFC must reside within the Confederacy. All are elected to one-year terms of office. Other than the President, any two (2) offices may be combined for one year at the option of the membership present and voting at the meeting at which officers are elected. Without specifically voting to combine two offices, the membership may effectively accomplish the same result by electing the same person to two offices; however, no person shall be allowed to be elected as President if already elected to serve in another office during the same or overlapping term(s) of office and no person elected as President shall be allowed to be elected to serve in another office during the same or overlapping term(s) of office.

(a) The President shall run the annual SFC business meeting, present a summary of the year's activities, set SFC policy on matters of controversy, publish the official SFC bulletin on a *quarterly {tri-annual}* basis, and represent the SFC at all fannish functions.

(b) The Vice President shall serve in the place of the President should the President be absent. The Vice President shall also assist the President in special projects and other duties as requested by the President within reason.

(c) The secretary of the SFC, in conjunction with the other officers, shall maintain a file of all active Southern fans, clubs, amateur press alliances, conventions, and related fannish enterprises (including those available only electronically) and shall work to disseminate information about these persons, publications, organizations, and events to interested parties, especially members of the SFC. The Secretary shall also maintain the minutes, records, and other documents of the SFC created and/or used during the Secretary's term of office, and shall turn over said minutes, records, and other documents to the Archivist upon completion of the Secretary's term of office. The Secretary shall take minutes of the SFC Business meeting and the DSC Business Meeting held at DeepSouthCon during her or

his term of office and shall prepare a report of same to be submitted to the president for publication in the Bulletin. The Secretary shall also assist the President and the Vice President upon request within reason. In the event of the absence of the President and the Vice President, the Secretary shall preside.

(d) The Treasurer shall collect dues for the SFC and maintain an account at a convenient bank on which only the Treasurer or the President may draw. The Treasurer is responsible for mailing the official Bulletin at the cheapest possible rate. The Treasurer shall also assist the other officers at request within reason. In the absence of all other officers, the Treasurer shall preside.

SECTION 4. Dues for the SFC are \$15.00 per year for an individual, with institutional dues being five times that amount, a year being defined as the period between successive DeepSouthCons. The following are dues-exempt: (a) Winners of the Rebel and Phoenix Awards presented at the DSC, (b) Individuals who have performed such service to the organization that the President feels they merit exemption, (c) SFC officers during their term of service.

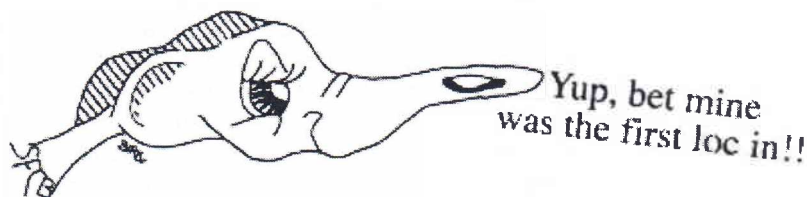
SECTION 5. The official SFC Bulletin shall be published at least every four months. The contents of each issue shall be left to the discretion of the President/editor, but shall include the following: one issue each year shall include a comprehensive list of Southern SF clubs, apas, fanzines, and/or dues-paid and -exempt SFC members. Other material in the bulletin shall be concerned with Southern fandom's history, present activity & future plans.

Editorial policy: (a) The bulletin shall concern itself freely with controversial matters confronting Southern Fandom. All editorial opinions shall be signed by the author and shall not be considered reflective of the opinions of any officer of the SFC itself. (b) The bulletin shall maintain a neutral position between and among competing bids for DSC, or between and among Southern contenders for a Worldcon. (c) A letter column shall be printed in each issue containing a comprehensive spectrum of opinion on any matter before the SFC. (d) The SFC shall promote the candidacy of Southern fans and professionals for fAndOm-wide honors such as the Hugo Award. (Capitalization courtesy Guy Lillian, as reported by Tim Gatewood, SFC Secretary.)

SECTION 6. This set of by-laws may be amended or replaced by the SFC members in attendance at the DSC meeting. Any amendment proposed in writing and signed by 20 or more SFC members must be brought before this meeting and voted upon. A majority of members at the meeting may cause an amendment to be brought to a vote. A 2/3 majority of members voting shall be sufficient to cause an amendment to pass.

SECTION 7. All previous by-laws, rules and constitutions of the SFC are henceforth null and void. (As amended at the SFC 1993 meeting, 1997 meeting, 1998 meeting, 1999 meeting, and the 2000 meeting. Published for the annual Southern Fandom Confederation Meeting June 16, 2002, DeepSouthCon 40/FanHistoricon 12 in Huntsville Alabama.)

## LETTERS OF COMMENT



October 7, 2002: **Tinlay Khadro**, P.O.Box 240934, Brown Deer, WI 53224 USA; [trin63@dias.net](mailto:trin63@dias.net)

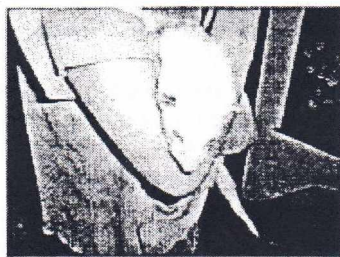
It's been an *interesting* summer. I got laid off, but I also got a new job and I like it much better. My 15-year-old daughter has taken up CHEERLEADING! She's terribly cute. Their coach is intolerant of meanness and clique behavior and that's a big plus.

Thanks for including so many photos. I finally know what **Julie** looks like! :-)

I'm enclosing a "silly ad" you may use if you like.

**ELRIC INC.**  
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- ☐ Odd Item Removal
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Elric is my owner; a 3-year-old albino ferret gib. As you may guess "Gravity Maintenance" includes knocking stuff off the bathroom counter.

**Julie:** Yeah! Nifty trophy! Nifty awardee!

**Tom:** I didn't get to Wiscon this year due to lack of employment. I'm still not sure whether I'll get to much of anything this year.

Orange **Mike** is a member of a local APA (a teeny APA but great fun) so I know him, **Kelly** (Little pixies!) and **Cicatrice**.

Last time I went to Wiscon there was some gaming – in part because certain fans (**Todd Voros**, **Lee Schneider**, etc.) brought some games. **KT** dressed up as *Buffy*...

I also mangled my ankle with a bad sprain at **Lee's** house one Friday in August. I went to a job interview about a week later with my interview suit, house slippers, an air cast on my ankle and a dragon cane. They hired me anyway. :-)

Aren't parties **NORMALLY** in the pocket program? :-)

To support faanish habits; I am also offering some of my work and photographs as small posters 11x11-ish to 11x17-ish. (\$13/poster) (e-mail or drop a line for more info). I'm also selling some origami dragons (\$2) of my design and I'm considering also producing peace cranes for sale. (They're fancier paper so I'm yet pondering rates.)

**Yuri:** Your students amaze me – I doubt there is any serious Academic discussion of SF at all over here – (outside of fans and cons...). I'm glad that someone is looking at English language SF as serious literature.

Hi **EB!** I just mailed you a LoC! Thanks for mentioning me – a nice Egoboo!

Yeah!! **Julie!** Do a per-zine!!! {Yes, Julie!}

The "*How to Kill a Gamer*" panel was quite useful to me. :-) It resolved (by means of a Medical Pro on the panel) a running discussion between myself and a GM friend as to whether or not a (fictional) prisoner "crucified" *ala Jaiponaise* would live for "several days" or not. (I WAS right since I'd used period accounts...so there!)...and here you had thought I was "sweet and harmless." (No really: this is research for a bit of fiction...)

**Michael:** Sounds like you could use a plate of cookies!

Here are some virtual ones!



I think Thylacines get called "Tasmanian Tiger" because 1) easier to SPELL 2) They had (have?) sharp teeth and stripes.

Is a "road train" the same as a "convoy" or "caravan"? Why doesn't anyone out an Australian/American bilingual dictionary?

**Joy:** As for my journal – do whatever pleases you! Key thing is for contributors to HAVE FUN, and for me to have a touch point reminding me of my friends when I'm lonely or dismal.

Also since my last LoC, Uncle had Electroshock Therapy and is doing MUCH better. Care giving SVC left me high and dry again twice in 2 WEEKS – I wonder what is going on with them.

**Hank:** I've quite enjoyed using a PLASTIC katana and Wakisashi as garb details (bought at the drug store @ Halloween!) :-)

Would item/rule #4 include women who are Martial Artists?

IMHO Hall costumes are great fun – I may eventually get up the ambition/courage for masquerade...

*Buffy* fans – look out on-line for MOONLIGHT RISING...their con is next summer and my sister is on the committee.

Hi **Henry!** (Waving)

**RB:** My art production has slowed somewhat, but I think Julie must still have some of my doodles on file and I'll send more as inspiration arises. {Thanks!}



October 8, 2002: **Lewis Murphy**, [lmurp02@mindspring.com](mailto:lmurp02@mindspring.com)

The Vol. 8, No. 1 issue of the *SFCB* arrived yesterday. My compliments to **Randy** on an excellent first outing as President/Editor. My congratulations to **Julie** upon winning the Rebel Award, as well.

Regarding the comments about convention weapons policies, I agree with **Toni** in that most of those policies are intended to pacify nervous hotel personnel. Weapon policies at cons in general have become more restrictive in recent years. Past incidents during the heyday of laser tag and paint-ball might be somewhat to blame. In these post 9/11 times, I would expect even more "no weapons" conventions. However, I doubt that strict weapon policies have a serious effect on the attendance of younger fans, as **Hank** implies. Most of the young people I see at DragonCon (a con with a relatively loose weapon policy) are not wearing costumes with weaponry, anyway. (Heck, many of them aren't wearing much clothing of any kind, for that matter.) Computer & video games, the Internet, and television are more likely to be the reason for low attendance. Many younger fans aren't reading the genre, but are only attracted to the gaming that uses the genre as a backdrop. I think anime has also had an effect. I am curious to see what the "Harry Potter" generation (currently 8 - 14 year-olds) does when they are old enough to attend cons on their own.

I will conclude by stating that I am dismayed by the large number of LoCs, which focus on mundane political topics. I personally prefer genre and fannish related subjects in an SF fanzine. For political debate, I'll turn on the television. {Ah, but where's the fannish spin on political issues on TV?}

October 8, 2002: **Teddy Harvia**, 12341 Band Box Pl., Dallas, TX 75244

The girl in your cover art looked familiar. I think I dated her in a previous life.

The photos were the best part of the issue. I loved the one of **Tom Feller** standing in front of the genetically engineered chicken. But the ones of **Don Knotts** and **Jeri Ryan** were eerie.

**Rosie Lillian's** Rubble was well deserved for living with Guy. Is the actual award big enough to use as a weapon?

October 9, 2002: **Charlotte Proctor**, [charproc@bellsouth.net](mailto:charproc@bellsouth.net)

I can't tell you what a shock it was to receive the *Bulletin* in the mail, when I had neither proofed it nor help fold, tape and address the mailing. It's like watching your child grow up and not need you anymore. \*sniff\*

I was suck(er)ed right into your editorial's scratch-and-sniff mystery smell, but couldn't smell anything but fanzine. It's good to know from whence you sprang, as in my little fannish circle you just appeared! As from under a cabbage leaf. {Some say I definitely crawled out from something.}

I don't mean to challenge your Presidency at all, or doubt your right to hold the office with all its attendant duties, responsibilities and perks... but... try as I might I could not find in the SFC Business Meeting minutes (page 4) where you were nominated for the office. I was there and I seem to remember (though I have reached the age where my memory is not that reliable) your name being mentioned as one willing to assume the mantle of leadership, and I definitely remember the

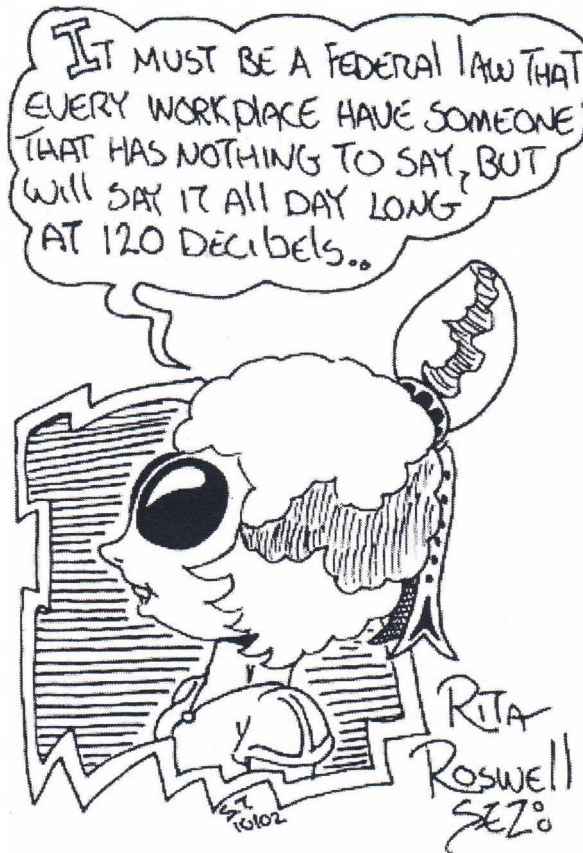
whole slate being elected by acclamation. But if it's not in the Minutes, are you sure it's official? Maybe you really did crawl out from under a cabbage leaf. {I was absent during that portion of the meeting due to Art Show duties. Hopefully next time, someone can properly nominate me. Hint. Hint.}

(From some of the things said in **Julie's** last issue, perhaps people assumed your presidency was a foregone conclusion. **Lloyd Penney** picked up on it, anyway.)

Thank you for the ten ways to remember **Toni's** new, longer, complicated initials.

Liked **Julie's** article on winning the Rebel, and I'm glad you were able to run the photo that ran in the July *Shuttle*. She may not have dressed for the occasion, but she still looked good!

Interesting convention reports, but who took the picture of **Tom Feller** and the giant chicken on page 8? {Anita?}



October 8, 2002: **Joy V. Smith**, [Pagadan@aol.com](mailto:Pagadan@aol.com)

Very nice first issue (under your editorship) with a lovely cover, photos & illos, reports. I loved the *American Gothic* cartoon; and I enjoyed your busy bio.

Congratulations to **Julie** for winning the Rebel Award.

I enjoyed **Tom Feller's** con reports and gleaned a few tidbits from them for posting in AOL folders.

Thanks for the Hugo, Campbell, Chesley, & Locus Award winners listings. I also appreciated the con bid backgrounds, the **David Weber** book signing list (got that anywhere so I can copy it for posting? {[www.baen.com/blurbs/calendar.asp](http://www.baen.com/blurbs/calendar.asp)}), the SESFA award notice, the Southern convention list & con notices, etc. The Letters of Comment were interesting, as usual, especially with all those rebuttals...

Like the news pages. After all, when **Meade Frierson** began the *Bulletin* it was primarily to list fans so they could find one another, and relate news they might not otherwise hear. It's good to see one's beginnings honored without being restricted by them. LoCs and articles are A Good Thing.

As for the member list, I seem to belong to a not-too-exclusive club of those with nine digit phone numbers. It would appear that everyone with an email address is only allowed nine digits in his phone designation. Those without email are allowed the full ten digits. {*Sorry about that! Word glitches.*}

Enjoyable first issue. Keep up the good work.

October 9, **PieEyedDragon**, [pieeyeddragon@yahoo.com](mailto:pieeyeddragon@yahoo.com)

Now that the *NASFA Shuttle* has printed (all?) of the first story, I give you permission to post this link to the illustrated history on the *SFC* webpage (and the *SFC Bulletin*), under the pen name "**PieEyedDragon**". If you absolutely HAVE to have a "real" name, reply and I will submit it; preferably not to be noised abroad just yet. The *Shuttle* had to leave out almost all of the pictures. (NASFA knows who I am. This writer is known in the *SFC*. Southern references sometimes creep in.)

"No Need For A Dragon" can be found at:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~allenfamily/n/nfad00.htm>.

This link is also listed with the Sci Fi Top 100 sites.

<http://www.scifi100.com/sites.html>

October 9, 2002: **Lloyd Penney**, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON, CANADA M9C 2B2, [penneys@netcom.ca](mailto:penneys@netcom.ca)

Thank you for *Bulletin Volume 8 No. 1*, and thanks to you, **Randy**, for keeping us Northerners informed about what's going on in your part of the continent. And, thanks for keeping it coming to me. Now for some comments in return...

Welcome to your first issue, **Randy**, and it looks just fine. Any rough edges on it must have fallen off in mailing. As I browse through the issue, it looks like you've reproduced the *Bulletin* just fine. Now to put your own mark on it, and I look forward to seeing what you do.

There's a picture of that cute **Julie Wall** on page 5, cute feet and everything, with a well-deserved Rebel Award. I hear complaints in other fanzines that there are just too many awards in SF, but for those who receive them, they feel so good, and that can't be bad. And now that you have it in an honored place at home, do you have plans post-SFC president and *Bulletin* editor? I certainly don't mean to put pressure on you, and neither do **Guy Lillian** and **E.B. Frohvet**, but...?

Lots of good con reports, and of course, they're of conventions I can't possibly get to, so I will ask right here...who is intending to come to Toronto for Torcon 3? {*I believe Julie plans to go.*} Given the differences in dollars, it should be very affordable for just about everyone. I couldn't get to San José, but I really look forward to a Worldcon I can take the subway to.

On page 12 is an itinerary for **David Weber**'s book signing tour. I don't know if it's an official part of the tour, but **Weber** will be the Author GoH at Astronomicon '02, the annual convention in Rochester, NY, November 1-3. We'll be there to

enjoy the usual laidback style of convention Rochester fandom produces.

These days, as I observe American media from the other side of the border, any ridicule of public figures, such as **Bush**, **Cheney**, **Ashcroft**, **Powell**, **Rice** and the rest of them, is regarded at least in poor taste, and at most treasonous. Even the late night shows like **Letterman** and **Leno** are losing audience because they take a poke at the **Bush** regime from time to time. As **Pamela Boal** implies, in Britain, and certainly in Canada, ridicule of public figures is fair game and sport, and those public figures expect it. I think we all believe that such people deserve respect; we just differ in how much to give them. **Joseph Nicholas** is right in one thing...the US government must pay more attention to how non-Americans view the world. Taking a "Fer us or agin us" attitude is too confrontational, and even friends can disagree from time to time. It's not treason. Even **Dubya** has realized he's gone too far, and has toned down the anti-Iraq rhetoric. Just a little. (Sometimes, I think the only reason **Bush** wants war with Iraq and **Saddam** is that, as a political cartoon put it, "He dissed my daddy!".)

Re my LoC...the CD I worked on is now available, or at least will be as of October 15. **Yvonne** and I will be going to a launch party for the CD on the 17th, and they will be for direct sale after that. For more information, check out [www.fearsforears.com](http://www.fearsforears.com). All information about the CD, the stories on it, and the authors' bios, are there.

Made the page, just barely. Many thanks for a great first effort, **Randy**. I shall be sending badges with your artwork on it to you from Ditto 15, which takes place in a couple of weeks. So, as I always did with **Julie**, I'll say thanks, and I look forward to the next issue. {*Thanks!*}

October 9, 2003: **E.B. Frohvet**, 4716 Dorsey Hall Dr #506, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Congratulations, if that's the word, for winning the *SFC* presidency and taking over as *Bulletin* editor. You will do well if you keep up to the standard of your predecessor **Julie Wall**. Congrats to **Julie** also for receiving the Rebel Award.

One's first impression is that the visual look of the zine is slightly different; a regular reader might have guessed that it was prepared on a different machine. Two things struck me about the lettercol in particular. First, that editorial comments were far fewer than was **Julie's** habit. {*I'm trying to comment more this issue. Hopefully people will not take offense where none is meant. Just think of me winking and smiling when I comment.*} This probably a matter of your comfort level in dealing with people, like myself, who you don't know personally. Second, it seem as if the editing of LoC's was a little dodgy, with words like "a" and "the" omitted where ordinary grammar would have suggested them. {*I try to edit LoC's as little as possible to retain the "voice" of the writer. Plus I ain't much of a grammarian.*} I don't at all remember writing the remark about hitting gamers with a hammer; it must have been a feeble attempt at humor on my part. {*It went over with a bang.*}

**Tom Feller**, in reporting on Wiscon, notes that black Canadian writer **Nalo Hopkinson** "was a big fan of **Samuel R. Delany** even before she discovered he is black." So was I,



though as I commented elsewhere (my one-shot *We're All African Anyway*, about black characters in SF, a few copies still available, pardon the plug), there is surprisingly little about race in *Delany*. At least until *Dhalgren*.

Interesting to note that Seattle has returned to large convention bidding. (I assume we all know the story behind the collapse of a Seattle Worldcon bid a few years ago.) {Nope.}

The estimable **Harry Warner Jr.** comments about there having been no protest in his area about **Tolkien** having been "anti-religious". That's patently absurd; no one who has skimmed *The Silmarillion* could fail to see the religious aspect. Admittedly it is less obvious in *LOTR*. But then fanatics never bother to read the books they attack. Recently libraries and bookstores around here feature "*Banned Book Month*". Among the most commonly protested books: The Bible. (There are a horde of different translations, of which every one has some aspect offensive to someone. The Catholic Church excommunicated the man who first translated the Bible into English, apparently because they did not want lay people to read it for themselves.

I disagree with **Hank Reinhardt** about weapons policies, but he's entitled to his opinion. Doubtless we'll all send him cards in the hospital after he gets shot by a police officer with no sense of humor. {Or even one with one.}

I again elected not to read one LoC, for apparent reasons, and the other long LoC, which responded to it, as being unproductive. {That's okay. I don't read any of them.}



October 10, 2003: **Joseph Nicholas**, 15 Jansons Road, Tottenham, London N15 4JU

Thank you very much for the latest issue of *Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin*, although the return address on the envelope surprised me at first – why, I thought, has this fanzine relocated to Wisconsin? Then I looked more closely at the postal code, and realized that there must be two Madisons.

I see that **Hank Reinhardt** has written two responses to me. There are other things to which I wish to respond as well, but feel I should answer him first.

I'd say at the outset that the sneering tone he adopts in framing both responses, although characteristic of US Conservative rejoinders to those who dissent from their worldview, does him no favors. I suppose they adopt it, and the ad hominem abuse which usually accompanies it, because they think it strengthens their arguments; instead, it undermines them, suggesting an attempt to distract from the fact they have nothing substantive to say. And making them appear to have massive chips on their shoulders into the bargain.

But, to take his first response first, concerning my reply to his argument about weapons at conventions: "I was most impressed," he says, "with the reasons you listed for missing a

convention." So he is aware that there are many reasons for not going to conventions. Fine. But in saying this he appears to have forgotten the very specific claim he was originally advancing: that people are avoiding conventions because they're not allowed to carry weapons. Should we therefore take his response as an admission that his claim is and always was a complete non sequitur?

In this second response, **Reinhardt** complains about the shortness of my letter, suggesting its brevity was due to "lack of substance and knowledge" rather than lack of time. No. Unlike **Reinhardt** – assuming that the **Hank Reinhardt** writing here is the same weapons expert **Hank Reinhardt** I found on the web via a Google name search, who certainly looked old enough to be retired – I'm in full-time employment, and with all the other demands on my time haven't the leisure to write immense letters to fanzines refuting each and every point uttered by another. (And even if I did have the leisure, writing immense of that kind would probably be a disproportionate response in any case. Who, except the complete obsessive, needs to have every I crossed and T dotted?) {Not I.}

He begins his second response by claiming that my comments about a death threat "were a special treat and oh so Liberal! If you take a Liberal to task for anything, they immediately bleat with terror that they have been attacked and are in danger!" Actually, I was pulling his leg – {That's now solely **Toni's** job.} my stated amusement with it and the reference to execution with

a plastic blaster should have been a give-away – but I guess this only proves yet again the British truism that Americans Just Don't Understand Irony. {"I love irony," he said sarcastically. Or is it: "I love sarcasm," he said ironically.} **Pamela Boal** also responded to **Reinhardt's** comments about British society, making many of the same points as I. One might have thought that, faced with two Brits pulling his alleged "facts" to pieces, he'd have begun to grasp that he could be in error – but instead he elects to plug grimly on. The words "hole", "digging" and "stop" coming to mind...

For example, he produces a lengthy list of instances under British law where individuals who've resisted attack have been prosecuted – but what he's actually managed here is to muddle together two entirely separate issues: self-defense, and carrying an offensive weapon. {What would be the point of carrying an inoffensive weapon?} (His dismissal of the question of proportionality ignores the point that this would be decided by the courts after the event.) The muddle is compounded by his claim that farmer Tony Martin shot one of his burglars because he felt scared; this makes the shooting even less defensible. {How should have he felt when he shot?}

Despite being corrected about Catholic emancipation, **Reinhardt** demands to know how many of them "run for

office" in the UK. The question is unanswerable, since – other than the ten-yearly census, in which the data is anonymized prior to publication – information on religious affiliation simply isn't collected. *{For the American free press, everything about a politician is fair game and soon becomes public knowledge.}* Apart from Northern Ireland, no one in this country gives a damn *{Nice pun.}* what religion anyone might be, and only a quarter of the population claim to be regular church-goers anyway. Perhaps he could be prevailed upon to explain why he appears so obsessed with this non-issue?

He also mentions the existence of religious conflicts around the world. I don't deny that such conflicts exist – in the Moluccas, in India, in the Middle East – but to argue from this that the September 2001 attacks on the US must be religious because they were cloaked in the language of extremist Islam is a non sequitur. Osama bin Laden doubtless believes his own rhetoric about expelling the infidel from the holy places, but it's more likely that many of his followers see in his movement a chance to express not religion but a political activism that is denied to them by their own repressive governments – governments supported by the West. Another reason, then, to strike back at the West, and its unequal *{but deserving}* grip on the world's resources.

Reinhardt makes a number of remarks about my knowledge of the developing world, but they are so smothered in sarcasm that it's difficult to extract any meaningful content. *{Perhaps this just proves yet again the American truism that the British just don't understand Sarcasm.}* I can only repeat my point that he should read up on some development issues – I can supply a list if he wants, but anything by Susan George would be a good place to start (*How the Other Half Dies* remains a classic, 25 years on; *Faith and Credit: The World Bank's Secular Empire* is another).

He in turn recommends some texts on alleged Liberal bias in the US media. If the complaints voiced by their authors are anything like the complaints about the BBC by the Conservative governments of the 1980s and 1990s, then they're unlikely to be substantive – tedious squabbles about the amount of airtime given to government ministers vis-à-vis that allowed their opposition shadows on Radio 4's *Today* program, for example. The US media landscape is of course significantly different, having no tradition of nationally funded public service broadcasting, *{Is this an ironic slam against America's PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) network? Being American, I can't tell.}* but this in fact undermines the claim that there is any left-wing conspiracy to suppress alternative views because the voices of proprietors and advertisers are automatically more dominant; there is no requirement to provide a counterbalance. As Edward Herman and Noam Chomsky show in *Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media*, it's the left, which is marginalized, not the right.

"Hitler was a Socialist," concludes Reinhardt. He wasn't, not by the commonly accepted definition; but even if he were,

this is the sort of smear-by-association – Hitler was a vegetarian; therefore all vegetarians are Nazis – that responsible adults should have grown out of.

In all this, however, there is one thing he and I can agree on: the idiocy of a military assault on Iraq, which would destabilized the entire Middle East (perhaps bring down the House of Saud and replacing it with an Islamist regime which would cut off supplies of oil to the West) and probably provoke the very use of the weapons of mass destruction which the US (and Britain – whenever I think of Tony Blair these days I have the image of furiously yapping *{French?}* poodle scampering excitedly along behind its master) claims to want to prevent. It would also set the precedent that any state which desired regime change in another, or to interfere in its internal affairs in any way, is at liberty to override the UN and set aside international law in order to do so, so destabilizing the entire world. Thus, in acting to – supposedly – defend the US against future attacks, Dubya will only make them more likely, by allowing other states to behave towards the US as it does to them.

(I've just noticed that Reinhardt's second letter is trailed by a squib from Timothy Marion about my allegedly "long, vitriolic letters". I can only suppose that, twenty years on, Marion is still choked up with wrath over some mildly derogatory remarks I made about his drug habits in the early eighties. Get over it, chum!)



But I said there were other things I wanted to comment on. Viz: congratulations to Julie Wall for her award. It's always nice to see someone get a presentation out the blue as a reward for just being themselves and enhancing everyone else's experience; *{That's Julie, the experience enhancer.}* so much more satisfying. I think, than the sense of competition, which attends other awards, like the Hugo. We have a similar "good egg" award in the UK, called the Doc Weir Award after an iconic sixties fan and balloted on at each year's national Easter Convention. It went through a rocky patch in the late seventies, when it seemed to have fallen under the control of a cabal of largely inactive older fans who, because the results of the balloting weren't announced, seemed to be awarding it to themselves; on one occasion, one of their friends was rumored to have been given it because it was her birthday. (Questions on that occasion to the then-administrator about the voting produced a shifty-eye acknowledgement that it have been "close", followed by his rapid escape.) In consequence, at least one Eastercon committee refused to allow ballots to be circulated unless some transparency was brought to bear on the process; it eventually was. Anyway, Julie shouldn't feel bad about having to accept her award while wearing a t-shirt and shorts; it surely made a change from the boring parade of evening wear sported by everyone else. Who ever said there had to be a dress code for awards ceremonies? *{Joan Rivers?}*



Michael Hailstone refers in his letter to a "well-known American fan" who "got so incensed by a letter that he went out, bought an airline ticket, and flew across the country to punch the offending letter writer in the face". The fan in question was **Leland Sapiro**, then as now editor of *Riverside Quarterly*, but I forget the other details (although I think he was responding not to a letter he'd received but an article he'd read in another fanzine, and event then not on any fandom-related subject).

I was going to ask you what Ultimate Frisbee was, but then realized that Google might provide the answer; it duly did. It looks less of an extreme sport than might be imagined from the name, but then many activities which sound as though they might risk the players' life and limb turn out to be less dangerous in practice (event though you still have to be physically fit to play them {Which is why I no longer play.}). Have a look at Extreme Ironing, for example ([www.extremeironing.com](http://www.extremeironing.com)), which aims to combine the thrills of "an extreme outdoor activity such as rock climbing with the satisfaction of a well-pressed shirt" – i.e., participants go somewhere strange, but take their ironing boards and some laundry with them. {Well, it is "extremely" rare that I iron. Does that count?} (The website of the German Extreme Ironing Section ([www.extreme.de](http://www.extreme.de)) has some very silly photographs of this.) And note that British teams were placed first and third in the Extreme Ironing World Championships in Munich last month – yay! {I would be hard pressed to comment.}

In closing, can I ask what Randy is short for (assuming that it is not itself an uncontracted appellation)? {"Randy" is my legal first name. Here's the historical derivation:

RANDY (m,f English) Pronounced: "RAN-dee". Short form of RANDALL, RANDOLF or MIRANDA

RANDALL (m English) Pronounced: "RAN-dal". Medieval form of RANDOLF.

RANDOLF (m English) Pronounced: RAN-dawlf. From the Germanic elements "rand" meaning "rim (of a shield)" and "wulf" meaning "wolf".

So it really means "shieldy".} And were you aware that in British English "randy" is a slang term, for, er, those of satyriasis-like persuasion? {"Randy" is a fairly common name

in America but the British English slang is becoming fairly well known. Were you aware that over here "a cup of Joe" means "a cup of coffee"? And please feel free to send LoC's by e-mail (as it does save on the retyping.)



October 14, 2002: **Henry L. Welch**, [welch@msoe.edu](mailto:welch@msoe.edu)

Thanks for the first in, hopefully, many *SFC Bulletins* from you.

A hearty congratulations to **Julie Wall** on her recent Rebel Award.

I wonder if "George's Killer Croquet" was played obstacle course style. This is the style we favor in Milwaukee where the goal is to make the wickets hard to get to and get the ball through. A good game can last hours as the players range up and down and around the field based on the whim of the evil mad genius who set up the course up. We even adapted it for indoor use with out-of-round foam balls and plastic flamingos as mallets.

What a disturbing thought you've put in my head. I keep alternating between hearing **Scooby Doo** say "Don Knotts" and thinking of him as the original **Borg**. {"Resistance will be nipped in the bud!"}

October 15, 2002: **Pamela Boal**

Of course I will miss **Julie** but have no fear your first ish is well up to standard. As I don't get out and about to meet fans in person any more I do appreciate a biography with photo. I like to have an image in my minds eye when I write to people.

I like your art work but keep on the cases of the *Bulletin's* other art contributors don't let them get out of the habit of sending to you just because you can do it yourself. {Thanks, fortunately I did not have to run anything of my own this time.}

I always enjoy **Tom's** Con reports though have no comment except thank you. As ever a lively Lot of LoCs and echo I **Harry Warner's** sentiment of relief that paper though the mail zines are still around.

I even read the business section it gives me a flavor of you all but I hardly have the right to comment.

October 17, 2002: **Sheryl Birkhead**, 25509 Jonnie Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882

{Missive 1}

Well, I have totally lost the letter I wrote so I will, grumble, grumble, have to try to recreate what I said, and I am far too lazy to re-read the *Bulletin* to re-locate the comment hooks!

Kudos to **Trinlay** on her illos, I am seeing them more and more...looking better and better!

I, once upon a time, joined ASFA, but quickly realized it was for professional or want-to-be professional artists. I still look at the Chesley results and recognize it is a valid forum and source of contacts...just on a much higher level of artistic endeavor than my doodlings. {Pshaw.}

Every time I see LoCs from **Harry Warner, Jr.**, I realize it has been far too long since I wrote or called to say hi, so, until I can get to it, "Hi, **Harry**!"

The amount of energy that fans have and expend toward the most unlikely topics never ceases to amaze me. I will continue to, merely, sit on the sidelines and watch the volleys and potshots as they are exchanged. {Sound choice.}

I don't recall having LoCed a **Hlavaty** zine lately, so I hope I have not fallen off **Arthur's** mailing list.

Well, that is the best I can do right now – hope I touched on a few of the things I had the first time around...

{Missive 2}

Ah yes – it's obvious there's a new editor in town! Ghodd luck **Randy** with your ishes!!

I have tried, lately, sending small fillos electronically. Unfortunately, I'm not, technologically, well educated and I have had far more failures than successes. I've also found varied amounts of faithfulness in print, when the illo was sent electronically rather than on paper (in those cases, I'm not sure if the fault lies on my side or the other) but I digress. To be more certain, until I figure things out, I ought to do both forms of submission and then see what happens. Eventually I should figure it out, I hope. (The shading has been the worst, I've taken to tracing my pencil originals onto computer files so I lose, to start with, all the texture pencil can provide, sigh, it's a trade.)

Before I even say this, I know the answer is no (otherwise you have), but is it possible to widen the page gutters a bit? Yeah, I know, that would increase the page count...but just thought I'd ask.

Thank you for running the picture of **Julie Wall**; she served the *SFCB* well.

Hmm, SFC Web Site, asking for writers. Does that imply the coverage there will be totally different from the *Bulletin*? If so, what are the "leanings"? {For now, that's on hold.}

Any idea if there are other bids for 2005 NASFiC? {Nope.} Already we have two sides and the country represented. Facts I've not seen before, voting in 2003 for 2005, I'm assuming that means there is a two year lead time whenever there is a WorldCon out of the US, right? {Seems so.}

Are the SESFAs to be presented at a con or is the \$7 solely a fee (or for that matter, is it open voting or by some

committee?), interesting concept to give regional awards. {I don't think there is an official convention presentation (yet). I think anyone who pays \$7 can vote. Here are the latest results:

### Winners of the 2002 SESFA Award

Lifetime Achievement:	Andre Norton
Best Novel of 2001:	Deepsix by Jack McDevitt
Published by Eos	
Best Short Fiction of 2001:	"The Chief Designer" by Andy Duncan, Originally published in Asimov's Science Fiction, June 2001}

Curious, in the roster, what is the significance of a name being all in caps? I counted 12, but could not see what they have in common. {That's the way I got them but I don't think there's any significance to it.}

I have had (and enjoyed) red velvet cake, but no idea why there is so much red coloring in it, after all, it ends up so dark, why not "just" chocolate?

Wow, your letter col could have been turned into a series of articles! You have a multitude of global responses! {Thanks to Julie.}

December 9, 2002: **Yuri A. Mironets**, Oktyabrskaya St. 2 Apt. 15, Vladivostok, 690000, Russia

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and all the members of the Southern Fandom Confederation!

Also, Randy, my congratulations on your being elected the President of the Southern Fandom Confederation! I've read your autobiography in *SFCB* Volume 8, number 1, and it was very impressive. You accomplished amazingly much in various fields, and you're obviously a man of many talents. I wish you and *SFCB* prosperity in the coming year 2003! {Thanks!}

Not much of interest happened in Vladivostok lately. Beside the fact that this year winter has come to Vladivostok very early and quite unexpectedly. Since the middle of October Vladivostok has been repeatedly hit by the heavy snowstorms, and very strong Northern winds begin blowing incessantly. As the temperature in my room dropped drastically far below comfortable, I began sleeping fully clothed and in my fur-coat, like a Polar Bear...(There's still 7 months till summer and we have to endure it. {Yikes! Winter has not been too bad here in most of the Southern United States but I'm glad to see spring.})

This year I have two graduate students, writing their research papers on science fiction. One of them, Alina analyses the *Foundation* trilogy by Isaac Asimov, the other, Elizabeth, writes her paper on the theme of time travel in British SF, comparing H.G.Well's *The Time Machine* and Steven Baxter's *The Time Ships*. They will defend their papers in June, and I hope they'll do excellent works.

Well, once again I wish you everything good in the coming year 2003, and hope we'll stay in touch. {Ditto!}

{I hope everyone's spring brings renewal and warm weather (and peace)! See y'all at DeepSouthCon41!} ☹



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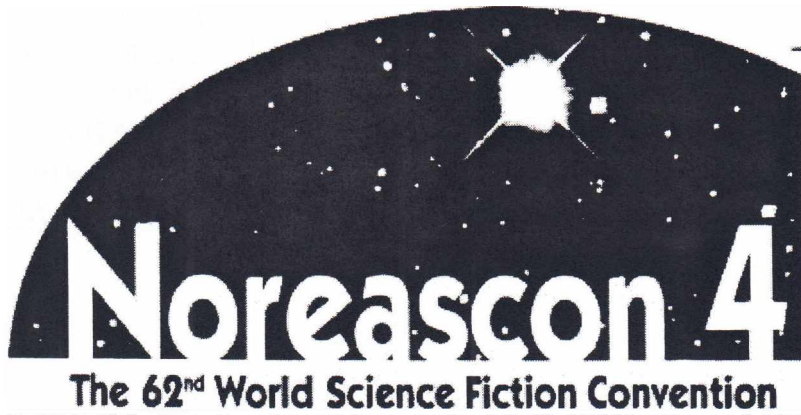
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