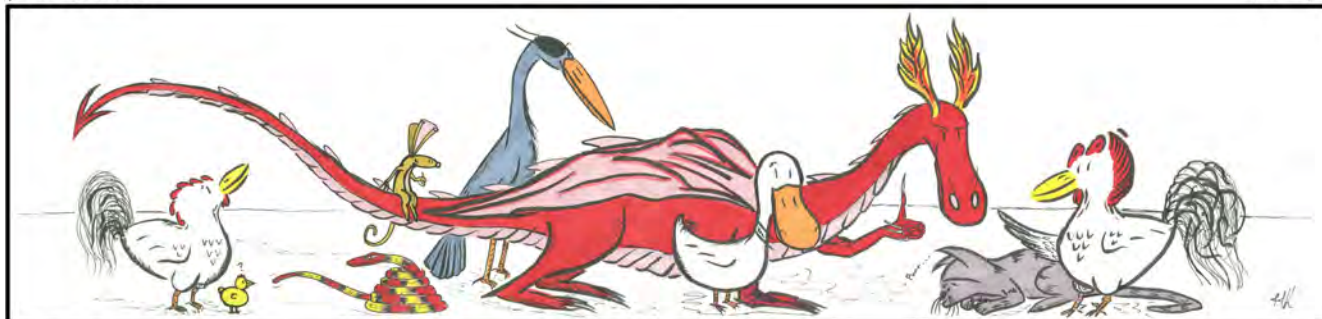


THE SOUTHERN FANDOM CONFEDERATION BULLETIN

Feral Chicken

by Komejo



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CON†STELLATION XXVII: CASSIOPEIA

17-19 OCTOBER 2008

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS – HUNTSVILLE AL

GoH: Diane Duane *Also Expected to Attend*
Artist GoH: Bill Holbrook *Lou Anders*
MC: Mike Resnick *Julie Cochrane*
Special Guest: Peter Morwood *William Drinkard*
Special Guest: Laura Resnick *Allan Gilbreath*
Special Musical Appearance: Jeff Ugly Shoes & The Cemetery Surfers *Les Johnson*
Stephanie Osborn
Bill Snodgrass
Dr. Travis S. "Doc" Taylor

HOTEL INFORMATION

The Holiday Inn Express is located near the intersection of University Drive and Jordan Lane, at 3808 University Drive NW. Standard rooms (king or double-double) are \$75 (+ taxes), suites are \$105 (+ taxes), for 1-4 people per night. For reservations, call 800-345-7720.

PROGRAMMING

As this is written it's too soon for a final schedule, but here are some things you won't want to miss. On Friday come schmooze and nosh at the Meet the Guest reception. Think you know movies? Then be a contestant in Name That Movie, but you'll need to be faster than your opponents. Or if you like your movies in smaller bites, check out Short Attention Span Theater.

Panels in planning include subjects like What Not To Submit, Mentoring, and It's All In The Details. Bill Holbrook will be conducting a Docent's Tour of the Art Show.

Did you know Rocket Scientists are Busy People™? Nevertheless, we're pursuing them for panels on the upcoming Ares 1-X test flight, space debris, and more to come. There are also fan faves like Anime Trivia for Chocolate & Make It and Take It being planned.

MASQUERADE

As an incentive to enter the Masquerade, \$100 in Cash will be awarded. Our Masquerade is always entertaining, with some unusual costumes and skits, and a fun-filled and entertaining "half-time" during judging. Get busy with those sequins and glue guns now!

GAMING & LARP

The Gaming schedule is coming together nicely. Confirmed events include The Republic of Rome, Dungeons & Dragons 4th Edition adventures, Scion: Hero, Munchkin, and the madcap Killer Bunnies and the Quest for the Magical Carrot. Of special note we're hosting Huntsville's very first World of Warcraft TCG Realm Qualifier. The top four players will receive an invitation to play at the national championships!

Live-Action Role Playing at the con is "A Kind

of Magic" — really! Jenn, Liv, Roxy, & Brandy will guide you through this Living Theater in Three Parts. Meetings Friday (Intro to the World), Saturday (Magic 201), and Sunday (The End... Or Maybe Not) anchor a weekend of magic.

VOLUNTEERS

Con†Stellation is run by volunteers and we'd love you to join us. Write to the general convention address or call Mary Lampert at 256-829-9195, 6-9pm (Central), no collect calls please.

T-SHIRTS

David O. Miller has outdone himself with this year's T-Shirt art, so if you want one you'd better get your reservation in before they're all gone. Shirts are \$13 (M-XL), \$17 (2XL-3XL), & \$19 (4XL); check the web site for further details.

WEAPONS POLICY

We're somewhat relaxing our former No Weapons Policy, primarily asking (and we know this is shocking) everyone to Use Common Sense: no functional projectile weapons (even water pistols); edged weapons to be sheathed & peace tied; no horseplay or careless weapon handling. Violations may result in loss of membership (with no refund) and expulsion from the convention. In short: Don't Be Stupid.

DEADLINE EXTENDED!
Mark Your Check "SFC Bulletin" and
pay the \$35 rate through 3 October

Membership Rates

\$35 Through ~~26 September~~ 2008

\$40 Thereafter and At the Door

Children's Rates: Ages 4-10, \$20; 0-3, Free

To Join: Just send payment plus your name & address to the convention address at the right.

For More Information
Mike Kennedy 256-883-5922
(Call before 9:30pm Central Time please)
<<http://www.con-stellation.org>>
<constell@con-stellation.org>
P. O. Box 4857
Huntsville AL 35815-4857

Con†Stellation is sponsored by NASFA — The North Alabama Science Fiction Association

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Policies

The Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin Volume 9, Number 2, September 2008, 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. This issue of the Bulletin is edited by Warren Buff 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 \$50 annually. Donations are welcome. All checks should be made payable to the Southern Fandom Confederation. The Bulletin is also available for trades, published contributions, and letters of comment. As we are switching from bulk mailing to first class, I will be trimming the mailing list at the end of the year. I'll give y'all several more reminders before I start trimming, though.

Permission is granted to reprint all articles, lists, and flyers so long as the author and the Bulletin are credited. All art is copyrighted by the artist, unless otherwise specified. An exception is granted in the case of art that appears in a convention flyer.

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, 100/250 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 OpenOffice 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 brackets [*like this*]. Those are comments from the editor, Warren Buff, unless otherwise noted.

Web Links

The SFC web site is:
<http://www.southernfandom.com> Convention listings are from the Southern Fandom Resource Guide: <http://www.scenic-city.com/sfrg>
Southern Fandom Classic Yahoo! Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthernFandomClassic/>

Ad Rates

Type	Full Page	Half Page	¼ Page
Fan	\$40.00	\$20.00	
Pro	\$80.00	\$40.00	

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 shipping and handling charge if we have to mail it. The Handbook is also available online, thanks to the efforts of Samuel Smith, at www.smithuel.net/sfcbh/. The SFC Handbook Errata page is: www.smithuel.net/sfchb/hberrata.html.

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T-Shirts

Sizes	Quantity (Animals)	Quantity (States)
Medium	0	3
Large	1	1

T-Shirts are \$10 each plus \$3 shipping and handling fee if we have to mail it. The first selection has a color design of cute animals on white fabric. The second selection has black design of cute icons of states on peach fabric.

SFC Patches

These snazzy color SFC Patches are only \$5 plus \$1 shipping and handling fee if we have to mail it.

Art Credits

Cover: Various strips of *Feral Chicken* by Joe Komenda, available at <http://feral-chicken.com/>
Page 22: Mike Moon

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Buff's Broadside

Alright, I've hit upon a dilemma. It's expensive to print the Bulletin, but still necessary. I want to keep this an active forum for Southern Fandom, with a good loccol, lots of conreports, and other articles as they come in.

Lastish, I made the decision to publish the zine in miniscule 9-point font. I caught a little hell for that, since not all of our readers have perfect vision. So I'm going to attempt a compromise here. The online version of this zine will be in

12-point font. The print version will be in 10-point. This editorial will be printed in 12-point font, as an exception to my rule, just in case someone reading this really can't handle the squinting. The 10-point version will do just as nicely in your collection. The 12-point online will be plenty easy to read. If you both have vision difficulties and limited internet access, send me a letter (or give me a call), and we'll arrange to have a 12-point print version made for you. Please let this be the exception, rather than the rule.

Also, if your mailing label has an old date on it, like, say, anything ending in 2006 or earlier, I'll be purging you from the mailing list and just sending you an email when we post this to the website, unless I hear from you between now and then.

In other news, I've been meeting fans from all over, and hopefully, we're beginning to see a resurgence of Southern Fandom. My generation has a whole ton of active folks, and we're just starting to discover each other. I blame these recent discoveries on observant members of the elder generations who've been pushing us towards each other. You know who you are. Thanks.

To my generation: I'm glad you're reading this zine, whether in print or online. I encourage you to read the Southern Fandom Confederation Handbook, which documents the glorious past of Southern Fandom. And I have something important to note about it: today can be our glorious past. I hope you'll share it with me.

One final note: I'll try not to take much time with this, but I'm working on a bid to bring the 2010 NASFiC to Raleigh. The website is www.RaleighNASFiC2010.org – check it out.

Southern Fandom News & Such

New Southern Fandom Google Group

Laura Haywood-Cory has started up a new Google Group for fans across the South (and in

the border states, of course) of all persuasions. We're trying to keep an open feel to it, like the RTSFS list all are welcome who would call themselves fans and want to communicate with others who do. The group is called Southern Fandom (easy, yeah?) and can be found at <http://groups.google.com/group/southern-fandom>

Adventures in Speerology, Part 1

by Patricia Rogers

[Patricia did indeed write up a series of these anecdotes. This is the first part, and further installments are slated to appear in Askance #10, Planetary Stories #12, and Challenger #29. These originally appeared as posts on mailing lists, and are reprinted with Patricia's permission. I encourage y'all to explore the other zines and read the rest. - Warren]

If y'all don't mind I will share with you my adventures in helping Ruth sort through Jack Speer's papers. Maybe I should be writing this up as a continuing saga for a fanzine, as this process is going to take awhile. If y'all have suggestions on a fanzine vs. posting it here - please let me know. I will forward this over to Mike Glycer too. In my heart I think every day I spend with Ruth, and going through Jack's papers on my own, will bring amazing discoveries. Today was packed full of them and all in the space of about 3 hours.

I had told Ruth I would drop by around 3pm, and out of respect for Jack's noted punctuality I arrived at 3pm on the nose. Ruth had 3 boxes of papers waiting for me in the living room. In the first box there were half a dozen envelopes of photos labeled with dates ranging from 1938 to 1951. The first one we opened was chock-full of treasures, wonderful photos of Jack and several that looked to me like folks at SF meetings. I stared at them thinking: Is that Ed Hamilton? - Is that Henry Kuttner? (And, YES! I am going to scan them for y'all to see.) The next envelope contained photos from Jack's years in Algeria, the envelope was dated 1945. The small black-and-

white photos transported me to Rick's Cafe and had all the energy of a street bazaar. Photos of camel caravans, narrow streets with a Moroccan feel, marketplace scenes, Bedouin traders having afternoon tea, ancient ruins crumbling into the desert sand, and a few lovely ladies - one even in a belly-dancing costume. I was completely enchanted. Every envelope held treasures, both for Jack's family and for SF Fandom. Ruth told me stories and we laughed a lot; it was lovely. We especially had fun trying to figure out who all the shapely young ladies were in the photos, and one in particular who was in many of the photos. (These photos were taken long before Ruth met Jack!)

The next box was full of fanzines - no surprise there. But wait...there was a surprise: they were all addressed to Roy Tackett! Several of us in the SF club here had wondered what happened to Roy's fanzines. We thought maybe some of his collection went to the Williamson Collection at ENMU in Portales but no one was sure. Ruth said to me, Jack was the executor of Roy Tackett's estate. Oh My! I thought as my brain reeled. Is it possible that Roy Tackett's fanzine collection is here too? Certainly the bag after bag of fanzines that had been mailed to Roy make that a real possibility.

Next we went into Jack's office. There was a five-foot-tall stack of large boxes, each in the shape of a filing cabinet drawer. Written in pencil on each one was my name: Pat. Ruth said Jack had started writing my name on boxes of SF papers he wanted to make sure I found. That was the only moment of the afternoon that really had me close to tears. I had no idea he had been doing that and it made me think, Wow - he really did trust me to do the right thing. I have to work very hard not to let him down.

Ruth took me to an outbuilding and in the afternoon heat we unlocked and slid the doors open to reveal (in the words of Howard Carter) Wonderful Things, and many more boxes. Some

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were labeled FAPA, but Ruth said that is not necessarily what is in them now. I had already seen all the boxes in the garage but have not been up to the attic yet, where Ed (Jack's son) tells me there are even more boxes. We have our work cut out for us, but for me it is a labor of love to make sure Jack's papers are preserved and stay together for future Science Fiction fans to study and enjoy.

Ruth did tell me about the two Great Floods. When they were living in Washington State around 1950-1960 the basement of their home flooded on two occasions. Ruth said Jack did not throw a thing away but as I picked up a file folder of papers that had been glued together with ancient mold I flashed on how the first researcher of the Dead Sea Scrolls must have felt... Just how are we going to unscramble this?

Ruth and I talked photos some more and she told me about some she knew they had of Jack Williamson sitting under their apple tree in the backyard of their first home in Albuquerque. I'll let you know when we find those. We also went into the closet and looked for Jack's beanie hat. We did find one but not the one we were looking for.

Finally I loaded 4 boxes of stuff into the car and headed home. Ruth said it would help her if I would take the boxes home and store them as she goes through stuff, so she has work space. That is fine... I will just make my guest room into Speer Storage Land until we get stuff packed up and out to the library.

Half way home I got waylaid by a traffic jam caused by an accident. I-25 became a parking lot and we all just sat in our cars for close to an hour. I thought, Gee - what shall I read? I reached over my shoulder into the backseat and like the Claw of a carnival game machine grabbed what was on top and brought it up to see what prize I had won.

In the inch of papers I picked up was -
CORFLU progress report #1 1993
Trans Atlantic Fan Fund newsletter 1992
The Space Collectors Catalog

Scientifiction

First Fandom Report Fall 2001 and Winter 2002

ASFACTS NM newsletter May 1993

Notes for Bob Peterson #49 March 1993

First Fandom Membership Roster 2002

DUFF Corroboree #4 February 1993

WABE #1 and #5

File 770 #53

Minutes of 1984 WSFS Business Meeting

Terry Hughes eulogy

Science Fiction Five Yearly Nov 2001

I started reading the Science Fiction Five Yearly and found an article by Greg Benford entitled How to Write a Scientific Paper. At one point, I was laughing so hard I wondered if my fellow waylaid travelers were worried about the crazy lady in the car beside them, laughing hysterically. That didn't slow me down... I just kept reading and laughing.

I can see that sorting Jack's papers is going to be a wonderful learning experience for me. I'm just sorry he is gone and I can't share my joy with him.

Every zine had pencil corrections by Jack of punctuation and spelling errors. It made me smile every time I saw one.

The Rise and Fall of Lois Lane (part 1)

by Jeff Thompson

The year 1970 brought about a major upheaval in the structure and format of almost every comic book published by National Periodical Publications—DC Comics. Virtually no DC title was left untouched by the company's radical campaign to modernize its magazines and characters in an effort to maintain and increase reader interest—and to keep ahead of the already eminently modern Marvel Comics Group.

At DC, the early 1970s were the halcyon years of the powerless Diana Prince and her imaginative adventures with I Ching, Jonny Double, Catwoman, Fafhrd, and the Grey Mouser; of the

more human, albeit less powerful, Superman and his strange, power-sapping duplicate of sand; of Supergirl's updating, variety of costumes, and on-and-off super-powers; of Robin the Teen Wonder's solo work at college and the Batman's lone adventures in urban Gotham City; of Superman's non-Batman team-ups in *World's Finest Comics*; of the hip, plain-clothed Teen Titans; of Jack Kirby's New Gods, Forever People, Darkseid, Mister Miracle, and Kamandi; and of Kirby's dazzling revitalization of *Superman's Pal Jimmy Olsen*. Perhaps most memorable is Denny O'Neil and Neal Adams's award-winning *Green Lantern/Green Arrow* saga—as well as the similarly exciting “realism” and “relevance” surrounding *Superman's Girlfriend Lois Lane*. Beginning in 1970, Lois Lane, along with the new heroine Thorn, appeared in stories that brought an unprecedented new peak of creativity and believability to the then-12-year-old *Lois Lane* comic book and to the 32-year-long Lois Lane character. Editor E. Nelson Bridwell, writers Cary Bates and Robert Kanigher, and artists Werner Roth and Vince Colletta worked together to make Lois Lane truly come alive for modern audiences. Soon, however, after the 1973 death of Roth and the 1974 cancellation of *Superman's Girlfriend Lois Lane* in favor of the overcrowded *Superman Family* anthology, that early-1970s moment of excellence vanished forever.

DC Comics published 137 issues of *Superman's Girlfriend Lois Lane* (dated March-April 1958 to September-October 1974). The group of issues which will be discussed in this article are #105 (October 1970) to #130 (April 1973)—the first through last of the original appearances of Rose and the Thorn. The *Lois Lane* issues featuring the Kanigher-created Thorn seemed to book-end the rise in quality of Lois's stories, her pinnacle of brilliance (the early-1972 issues #118, 119, 120, and 121), and her unfortunate decline back to—as I wrote in a fanzine in 1978—“her well-worn rut of mediocrity.”

In 1970, for the first time since *Superman's Girlfriend Lois Lane* had begun in *Showcase* #9-10 (July-August & September-October 1957) and continued a few months later in its own magazine, its title was fully realized. After the turn of the decade, readers began to see Lois Lane in stories spotlighting *her* and *her* abilities, with Superman in the background, instead of vice versa. Furthermore, readers saw Lois in situations that made them know what it was like to be Superman's girlfriend—Lois and the Man of Steel kissed much more frequently, they had candlelight dinners, and they occasionally had a lovers' quarrel. Superman became much more human and “realistic,” and Lois—adorned in Werner Roth's beautiful renderings of fashionable clothes and new hairstyles—did, too.

The old format of *Lois Lane* stories seemingly was gone for good after issue #105 (October 1970). No longer did Lois wear frumpy dresses and outdated hairdos, daydream about Superman at her desk at the *Daily Planet*, and either become endangered by criminals or get “turned into” something (e.g. Super-Lois, Elastic Lass, Old Lois, Centaur Lois)—only to have Superman fly in at the end and explain, in a series of lumpy flashback panels on the last page, that it was all a hoax because Supergirl, a Superman robot, or a Legionnaire had been there all along. (Members of the Legion of Super-Heroes made cameo appearances in issues #33, 47, 50, and 56.) Beginning with issue #105, Lois liberated herself from Superman and her own wishy-washy stereotype and began a triumphant series of either realistic, poignant dramas or credible science-fiction/supernatural adventures—always at the height of fashion and feminism (or, at least, what passed for feminism in the male-dominated comic-book industry of the early 1970s).

Two of the more realistic elements in Lois's stories in 1970-1973 were The 100, Metropolis's own Mafia family (beginning with #105), and Lois's involvement with Dave Stevens, his girlfriend Tina, and the other black residents of

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Metropolis's "Little Africa," a ghetto for whose improvement Lois crusaded (beginning with #106)—sometimes on her own WGBS-TV documentary program *People, USA*. In *Lois Lane* #105, Lois learned of the existence of The 100, witnessed a violent jailbreak, and actually married Johnny Adonis, a condemned criminal whose last wish was to marry the *Daily Planet*'s star reporter. (Much to Superman's unspoken relief, Adonis was killed before the day-old marriage could be consummated.) In the famous "I Am Curious (Black)!" in *Lois Lane* #106 (November 1970), the widowed Lois Adonis used a machine at Superman's Fortress of Solitude to turn herself temporarily black in an effort to understand the hardships of the residents of Little Africa. In a similar "relevant" vein, Lois examined the problems of the Pueblo Indians in issue #110 (May 1971) almost simultaneously as Superman memorably encountered the Navaro Indians in *Action Comics* #401 and 402 (June and July 1971).

Another outstanding quality of *Lois Lane*, as well as many other DC comic books circa 1971, was the stories' Marvel-style continuity. Not only did Lois and the Thorn guest-star in each other's stories (most notably in #114 and 122), but Lois's adventures also tied in with current situations in *Superman* (e.g. *Lois Lane* #107 [January 1971]), *Superman's Pal Jimmy Olsen* (e.g. *Lois Lane* #111 [July 1971]), *New Gods* (e.g. *Lois Lane* #115 [October 1971]), and *Forever People* (e.g. *Lois Lane* #116 [November 1971]).

Through all of these exciting developments, the Thorn battled The 100 in the back of Lois's magazine and made *Superman's Girlfriend Lois Lane* a must-read comic book. The origin of Bob Kanigher's Rose and the Thorn was similar enough to Batman's beginnings to characterize the Thorn as a female Batman or another creature-of-the-night type. Rhosyn "Rose" Forrest was so devastated when her detective-father Phil Forrest was slain by The 100 that her personality split in two. Every night, the gentle Rose left her bed in a

somnambulistic state, traversed a secret passageway to an adjoining abandoned costume shop known only to her nocturnal personality, donned a wig and a revealing green costume, and prowled the Metropolis streets as the vicious Thorn, archenemy of The 100.

With Ross Andru, Mike Esposito, Dick Giordano, and Rich Buckler as her primary artists, the Thorn was a plausible, human heroine with a Freudian origin that made her unique—and the many teenage and young-adult male readers thrilled to her trademark dressing-in-the-shadows panels in almost all of the Thorn's 23 solo stories in her early-1970s run. Rose and Thorn's secret passageway to the dilapidated costume shop was even explained sufficiently in *Lois Lane* #109 and 110 (April and May 1971).

A Golden Age antecedent to Rose and the Thorn was Rose Canton, a psychotic young woman suffering from a split personality, in *Flash Comics* #89 (November 1947) and 96 (June 1948). In the end, Flash and Green Lantern relegated Rose's evil alter-ego Thorn to the Amazons' kinky Transformation Island. Both stories were written by Robert Kanigher, but his third and final Thorn story for *Flash Comics* was never published in its entirety. Decades later, Rose Canton, again suffering from a split personality, killed herself in *Infinity, Inc. Annual* #1 (December 1985). [*To be continued next ish!* -Warren]

A Brief Anecdote from Mary Pack:

Reminds me of the time a friend was scheduled to speak at a conference in Atlanta. His speech was to be held in the Sherwood conference room. Pressed for time, he stopped to ask the concierge directions to the meeting room and inadvertently asked for the Sherman room.

The elegant Southern woman smiled sweetly and replied with her most tony Southern accent, Sir, I believe you could search from one end of Atlanta

to the other and you will nevuh, EVUH find a *Sherman* room.

Convention Reports

Hypericon 4 (June 27-29)

By Tom Feller

Although this convention was right here in Nashville, our preparation for this convention began a little early. On Monday, I printed out the tentative schedule from the convention's web site and gave it to Anita. Since our friend Debbie Hussey was to be the fan guest of honor, Anita decided that we needed to give her some moral support. Anita had me scan and print out a few pictures of Debbie from which she made four fans. "Debbie Fans," she called them. She also made a poster listing Debbie's fannish accomplishments. Debbie was on two panels for which the panelists were listed as "Debbie Hussey, Others", so Anita had me make a sign that said "The Others".

Debbie's first panel was scheduled for 5 PM on Friday, so I wrapped up my work by 3 PM. After running a few errands, we arrived at the hotel, the Days Inn-Stadium, by 4 PM. It was probably a good idea that we got there early. We were sharing the hotel with an antique car show all weekend, and parking places were at a premium until Sunday afternoon. We registered, met up with Adrian Washburn who was to be our house guest for the weekend, and visited the con suite for Diet Cokes before proceeding to the panel room, which was just down the hall. The title of the panel was "Why do we do this?" referring to running SF conventions. We distributed the "Debbie Fans" to more friends of Debbie. Co-Chairman Fred Grimm conducted the panel like an interview, and Debbie told how she discovered fandom while attending Western Kentucky University, the Bowling Green Gopher Squad, who volunteered at area conventions, and the origin of Con-Cave. Anita presented Debbie with her poster and the "fan club" cheered and waved their "Debbie Fans".

Opening ceremonies took place immediately afterward in the same room, so we kept the "Debbie Fans" and waved them when Debbie was introduced. There were no major events on Friday night, but there were several panels on another floor that I attended. They included "My First Novel", "What you need to know about the publishing industry?" and "Heroes of the Small Screen". Glen Cook revealed that his first novel was a 1,000 page Tolkien imitation that has never been published, which he considers fortunate. In the last panel, the participants observed that the George Reeves *Superman* series never had the colorful villains featured in the Adam West *Batman* and that *Smallville* has gone on too many years.

I then returned to the main room in time for a belly dancing performance. The hotel features an accessible roof, and the con sponsored a Middle-Eastern picnic there. Anita and I visited it before going home.

As I mentioned earlier, we hosted Adrian Washburn from Birmingham for the weekend. I was the first one to awaken Saturday morning and was outside on the patio reading a book when Adrian got up and joined me. Then Anita got up, and we ate breakfast and read the morning paper. We planned to be back at the hotel in time for Debbie's other panel on Nashville fandom. Anita and Adrian had a mild disagreement on the year of the first Kubla-Khan, so I went on the Internet to Sam Smith's Southern Fandom web site and printed out the 15 page history of Nashville fandom that Dan Caldwell and others wrote in 1996. (The first Kubla-Khan was in 1973, by the way.)

We returned to the hotel in time to do a walk-through of the dealer's room and the art show before Debbie's panel. Fred recruited Anita, Dan Caldwell, Ray Jones, and Eric Jamborsky to join Debbie. Anita anticipated that there would be no table tents, so she got out her "The Others" sign and placed it before them on the table. They

discussed the origins of the Nashville club and Kubla-Khan. It was so interesting that we continued the panel in the con suite for a least half an hour later. We made a space for ourselves that we stayed there until Adrian got hungry and decided to order pizza.

About 6 PM the con suite shut down so that they could prepare dinner. Anita and I attended a panel on writer's block in which several authors shared their strategies, which mostly consisted of relaxing and letting go. By that time, the costume contest was ready to start, and there were seven entries. While the judges were making their decisions, a Lavergne, Tennessee acting group "The Known World Players" did a pirate skit.

Afterward, the con suite reopened, where they served spaghetti and tacos for dinner. After eating, Anita and I visited two parties before going to see Sideshow Bennie and the Music City Burlesque. Bennie takes the tradition of fire-eating and sword swallowing to an extreme. He pounds nails and screwdrivers into his nose, lets audience members staple five dollar bills to his chest, and lifts weights using piercings on various body parts. The burlesque show featured the strippers Monique Honeybush, Lucy De Lovely, Diletta Delight, and Miss Lolly Pop. Only people eighteen and older were allowed to view it.

There was a dance afterward with music by the local band Zombie Bazooka Patrol, but their music was not to our taste, so after thirty minutes, we drove home in the rain.

We slept a little bit longer Sunday morning, but were still up in time to drive back to the hotel for breakfast, sponsored by Chattacon. It was too wet for me to cut the grass, anyway. Breakfast featured fresh fruit that they had purchased that morning in the nearby farmer's market. A magician, Big Daddy Cool, performed a little street magic in the panel room and discussed the influence that *Star Wars* and *The Matrix* had on magic performers. The former inspired a lot of magicians to perform mentalist tricks and the

latter tricks like spoon-bending.

Finally, Anita and I visited the video room, where we watched some short films. My favorite was one in which Superman and Bizarro act the parts of George and Lenny from John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. By this time, I felt too tired to cut the grass, so we went to see *Wall-E*. It was one of the best science fiction films I've seen in a long time, and you forget that it is a cartoon until the human characters appear.

Westercon (July 3-6)

By Tom Feller

This is not one of our regular conventions. In fact, neither Anita nor I had ever attended one before. However, the announcement that it was to be held in Las Vegas got my attention two years ago. Anita had never been to Las Vegas, and I had only been there once before. I brought up attending Westercon when we began planning our vacations for this year. We received a fairly sizable refund and would also receive the maximum tax rebate, so the funds were available, and we decided to give it a try.

Actually, I turned out to be the weak link in my scheming. Less than a week before leaving, I contracted bronchitis, although I did not realize this until after the convention. I started coughing the Monday before the con but thought I was coming down with a cold. I took the precaution of buying Claritin, which I have used in the past with some success, and Ricola cough lozenges. (I'm a sucker for ads that use Swiss yodelers.) We left Thursday, and the coughing was very minor until Saturday afternoon, when I had a coughing fit. However, Saturday night was the worst, when I had a hard time breathing. I got through the night, but found it difficult to sleep from then on.

Nonetheless, we went. We took a direct Southwest flight there on Thursday and arrived while it was still in the middle of the afternoon. After picking up a rental car from Avis, we drove to the Luxor. This is a hotel and casino built in

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the form of a pyramid, and there are a sphinx and an obelisk in front of it. All Las Vegas casinos provide free parking, although here we had the most difficulty finding a place than in any casino that weekend. After driving around for about 10 minutes, we finally found one way, way in back. The high temperatures were above 100 each day, and the parking garages connected to the major casinos are huge. After we got inside, we were disappointed to find that the King Tut exhibit was closed, and from what we heard from people who live in Las Vegas, there are no plans to re-open it. Southwest did not provide a meal, so we were hungry and visited a McDonald's in the Luxor food court. Then we started a tradition that we would sacrifice \$1 to the casino gods every time we visited one. All the slot and video poker machines accept \$1 bills so we would play as long as our dollar lasted. Sometimes we were able to play for as long as five minutes! We then walked outside so that we could take pictures of the sphinx and obelisk. We were also disappointed that the tram to the Mandalay Bay and Excalibur casinos was not running. (Later we found out that it was really running, but did not stop at the Luxor any more.) By this time, we were getting tired and decided to drive to the convention hotel, although we took our time and first drove the length of Las Vegas Boulevard, aka "The Strip". Traffic was heavy, so I had to watch the road, but Anita enjoyed looking at the various casinos.

Westercon took place at the J.W.Marriott Las Vegas Resort and Spa at Summerlin. This was about as far away from the Strip, as you could get and still be in Las Vegas. From the Strip, we took Sahara Boulevard to I-15, then to U.S. 95, then Summerlin Parkway, and exited at Ramparts Boulevard. The Marriott has over 500 rooms and is spread out. We and most of the fans were in the Palms Tower, one of two room towers on the property. All the room parties and the con suite were there as well. After checking in and unloading our luggage, we proceeded to the

hotel's convention center. We immediately discovered that to get from one part of the hotel to another, you had to walk through the casino. Imagine that! There was no line at registration, and we quickly picked up our badges. We saw Milt Stevens shortly afterward and spent about an hour talking to him before opening ceremonies. After the ceremony, we found the con suite and attended one room party, Pasadena for Westercon in 2011. In all there were two Westercon bid parties (the other one was San Jose), and two Worldcon bids, Seattle and Reno, holding parties. There were a few other parties as well through the weekend.

The time change worked against us, so we woke up and fell asleep early. We decided to do our tourist stuff in the mornings and spend the rest of the day at the convention. Friday morning we drove back to the Strip and first visited Paris Las Vegas. There are replicas of the Eiffel Tower and the Arch de Triumph in front of the casino, and we took pictures. From the parking garage to the casino, you walk down a promenade of shops and restaurants which were decorated in a Parisian style. We stopped at one restaurant for coffee and pastries. After sacrificing our dollar, we drove to the Venetian. As the name indicates, the theme is Italian. They also have gondola rides, and this was one of Anita's highest priorities for the trip. The Venetian also has a promenade of shops and restaurants with a canal running down the middle. We were there early enough that the line was short, and we had our ten minute ride.

Returning to the convention, we visited the dealer's room and art show. There was supposed to be a fannish discussion of the TV show *Lost*, but there was no moderator and it did not come off. However, two local fans were there and gave us some advice on what to see and do. We then attended a panel on "Classic Science Fiction" featuring Ben Yalow, Jacqueline Lichtenberg, and Milt Stevens. Ben somewhat arbitrarily limited the discussion to works written between 1926 and 1968. Then we went to "Star Trek – To Boldly go

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WHERE?" The panel was dominated by a fan who had worked for Gene Roddenberry, and he revealed the next *Star Trek* movie would involve time travel.

Lynn Gold gave a concert that night in the Valencia room, which is on the convention center's second floor. It opens out into an outdoor area from which many fans watched the Independence Day fireworks. The Marriott is uphill from the strip, which we could see, and several of the casinos had fireworks. The Eiffel Tower was very distinctive, and the fireworks almost made it look like it was on fire. From another direction, we could also see fireworks in the Red Rock Canyon area, and they were close enough to hear them as well. Then we visited more room parties before turning in.

Saturday morning, we visited Caesar's Palace, where we walked through the Forum Shops to the Atlantis show. It features the animatronics technology common in Disneyland. We had a late breakfast at Planet Hollywood before driving down Las Vegas Boulevard just in time to see the fountain show at the Bellagio. Then we returned to the convention.

Our first panel was "Core Fandom: An Outside's View", moderated by Mike Glyer and including Lynn Gold, John Hertz, and Kevin Roche. The term was coined by Arnie Katz, and John telephoned Arnie before the panel. According to John, Arnie did not mean for the term to be exclusionary, although some fans have taken it that way. He only meant for it to describe fanzine fans, both active and inactive. People commented that fans have the unfortunate tendency to be exclusionary. One woman in the audience felt looked down upon because she liked Dragoncon, for instance.

We then attended the DUFF auction by Steve and Sue Francis. Anita bought a stuffed flying monkey. We had a little time, so Anita and I went into the casino. Anita likes to play roulette, and there was no one else at the table, so I sat down

and played as well. I had some beginner's lunch and won \$52. However, we gave it back to the hotel by using it to pay for dinner that night.

There were only seven contestants in the costume contest, but the organizers were so creative that it felt like more. While the judges were out, they had a very entertaining talent contest. Then we attended more room parties.

I had a coughing fit that night, so we rested Sunday morning by watching a *Law and Order* marathon on the USA network. We ordered room service for breakfast and stayed in the room until it was 24 hours before our flight was scheduled to depart the next day. We then walked over to the business center and printed out our boarding passes. Anita wanted to try the swimming pool so we made a visit. To her surprise, the water was too cold for her, despite the 110+ temperature outside. After cleaning up, we drove to the strip and visited the Treasure Island casino. One of my main goals for the weekend was to see the pirate ship sink during the free show, *The Sirens of Treasure Island*, in front of the casino. There was a strong breeze, and several announcements that they might have to cancel the show, which involves fires and aerial acrobatics. Fortunately, they went through with it. The sirens are played by 10 Las Vegas showgirls in skimpy costumes. They lure a pirate on board their ship. When his companions sail their ship close by to rescue him, the sirens sink it. The pirates then swim to the sirens' ship, where they dance with the sirens. It's hard to say who captures whom.

We then took a tram to the Mirage, but the exploding volcano show was shut down for renovation. Our next stop was the Sahara, which is an older casino and not as impressive as the new ones. Finally, we drove downtown to Fremont Street but did not stop. We were getting tired and returned to the convention hotel. There was a dead dog party in the con suite, and we talked to Milt Stevens, John Hertz, and Larry Niven before calling it a night.

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We checked out of the hotel the following morning and drove back to the strip en route to the airport. Since Mandalay Bay is the casino closes to the airport, we had breakfast there before turning our car in. Then we took the shuttle to the airport and flew home.

After returning from Las Vegas, I went to my doctor who diagnosis was acute bronchitis. She prescribed an anti-biotic and a special cough medicine. I did have to be careful about driving and operating heavy machinery. I was also forbidden to drink alcoholic beverages while taking the meds.

Libertycon 21 (July 11-13)

By Tom Feller

The Libertycon hotel, the Comfort Inn and Suites in East Ridge, Tennessee, was booked up by Sunday afternoon of the convention the previous year, and Anita and I were on the waiting list. About ten days before this year's con, we got an e-mail from Brandy Spraker, Uncle Timmy's daughter, that there were rooms available, and we made a reservation. We appreciated getting a room in the convention hotel and not having to drive to and from the overflow hotel.

We did not attend any programming Friday night, because Constellation had a room party at 7 PM. We paid them a visit and ate a lot of their food. Then I went to the lobby for the ice cream social before we proceeded to the Xerps in 2010 party.

We took it easy Saturday morning, but got up early enough for me to take in a noon panel on giant gorilla movies in honor of *King Kong's* 75th Birthday. The discussion leader, Mark Berry, has written a book on dinosaurs in movies. I asked him about a man who claimed to play the original *King Kong* in a gorilla suit, but Mark reassured me that it was a hoax. All the scenes with the title character featured stop motion animation by Willis O'Brien. He also briefly discussed the sequel, the remakes, and *Mighty Joe Young*. He has a pet theory that the character played by Robert Armstrong in *Mighty Joe Young* is really

his *King Kong* character under a different name to avoid lawsuits. If you ever saw the sequel *Son of Kong*, you may remember that at the beginning he is fleeing from process servers, and everyone in New York is suing him.

Chattacon's party was serving lunch by the pool, so that is where Anita and I ate. I talked with Ken Moore for a while. He has had health problems in recent years, but is feeling better. I then visited the dealers alley without buying anything before attending the guest of honor speeches. Uncle Timmy and Mark Paulk, a friend of Timmy's from Huntsville, hosted a panel on the ten books a "real" science fiction fan must read, except that Mark's list had far more than 10 books. He listed far more military science fiction than I would have.

We rested until the performance by the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company's of four new radio plays. They were all new plays: Katherine Kurtz's "The Gargoyles Shadow", "The Atomic Graveyard" (a Rory Rammer episode), Desmond Warzel's "Wiki History" and Thomas Berry's "Haunted Hunters". Daniel Taylor reprised his role of a chaplain with too much another imagination from one of last year's plays and was hilarious. We then visited more parties.

We were out of the room Sunday morning by 11 AM and each attended a panel. Anita went to "Our changing understanding of the solar system", and I went to a panel on editing. Toni Weisskopf revealed that Baen only looks closely at about 1% of the manuscripts they receive. Then we got on the road for the drive home.

Denvention 3, the 66th World Science Fiction Convention (August 6-10)

By Warren Buff

Everybody's gotta have a first time. This was my first Worldcon. I found myself being stopped by friends from around Southern Fandom before I even made it to Registration. I was handing out copies of the SFCB before I even got my badge. And I had twenty pounds of Eastern NC barbecue

in the minifridge in my room.

My first stop was the fanzine lounge, where I not only met Chris Garcia and Hope Liebowitz, but got to participate in a one-shot (which I still haven't seen). Guy and Rosy Lillian showed up, and I seem to recall seeing Tom and Anita Feller, Gary and Corlis Robe, and Richard and Nicki Lynch in there over the course of the weekend, though the exact order escapes me.

See, the timing of things is a bit of a blur. I got my first real taste of bid politics, my first fanzine lounge, my first exposure to Denver's elevation, my first WSFS Business Meeting, and my first stint staffing a Worldcon, all in one weekend, combined with the urge to see absolutely everybody who was there. Oh, how I tried.

But that's the greatest and worst thing about Worldcon there's so much going on that it's just not possible to spend time with everyone you want to, even if you trim back your sleep. And the way I was trimming it back, I was barely making my 5-2-1 most days.

Which brings me around to badge ribbons. The first ribbon I was given, right there in the fanzine lounge, was one reading "Lather! Rinse! Repent! Hygiene 6:2:1" from Kevin Roche. Chris Garcia was quick to give me an "I'm Just Talking About TAFF" ribbon, too. Andy Trembley gave me a "Snoo-Snoo" ribbon, and I got one promoting Eric in the Elevator. I added one of my own for the NASFiC bid, and picked up one for San Jose's Westercon bid. The other one I got, which was my favorite after Kevin's, was "not an Official Ribbon." The only one I saw which I really coveted and couldn't get was "The Wrong Sort of Fan." Maybe some year I'll be cool enough to be the wrong sort of fan.

These were, by no means, the only decoration my badge received. I added my staff ribbon and a koala, and was nearly covered in stickers by the hosts of various parties. Chicago in 2012 did me a disservice by slapping theirs onto the final F of my last name, leading to a spate of "Oh, like

Warren Buffett?" jokes. I also collected stickers for the Reno and Seattle in 2011 bids, Australia in 2010, San Jose in 2011, Nippon's thank-you party, CapClave, the Brave New Worldcon 1984 party, Texas Fandom, Xerps, my own party for the NASFiC bid, Scandinavian Fandom, and three stickers which I can't identify, one of which came from the WSFA suite. My name, the convention name, and my hometown all got somewhat obscured.

The hardest part about the elevation was that even drinking far more water than I ordinarily do, I still got a killer hangover off of only a few sips of liquor on the first night. It made the Business Meeting the most headache-inducing use of my Philosophy degree ever, and I completely understood what Janice Gelb meant when she turned around and said, "You see, this is why I say the Business Meeting makes me want to gouge out my eyes with a spoon."

Other prominent Southern Fans I got to see included Judy Bemis and Tony Parker, Naomi Fisher and Pat Molloy, Steve and Sue Francis, Toni Reinhardt, Joel Zakem, Julie Wall, Uncle Timmy, Kerry Gilley, Lee Martindale, Joe Siclari, Tim Miller, and there must have been others who got lost in the rush. Oh, and I was rooming with Dan Caldwell, who bears mentioning, and we were right next to the Xerps party suite. I certainly met some new folks. And it wasn't just the South, of course I also met Dina and Sydnie Krause, from Chicago. Sydnie's in school down here in NC, and so they wanted to get involved with the bid. I got to spend a lot of time talking to folks from various bids, including Ben Yalow, Theresa Renner, Ruth Sachter, and most of the others from Reno, and Bobbie DuFault and her crew from Seattle. I was also introduced to Dave McCarty of Chicago and Petra Bulic from Zagreb. I spent some time talking with Bill Parker, though he was busy most of the time, and Rene Walling, who had a few details to go over about the bid process at Montreal.

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I was so busy talking about fandom and what is a fan and things like that all weekend that the only program items I got to attend were the Opening Ceremonies, the Business Meetings, and the Hugos. I shamefully missed the Fannish Inquisition because I was out shopping for my bid party. I heard from a lot of folks who wondered why I hadn't been there. I just honestly hadn't realized it would be on Thursday.

There are, of course, many more things I could tell you about Worldcon. But I won't bore you with the details of how I got there and what I ate. Instead, I'll keep it simple: Worldcon was absolutely amazing. If you haven't been to one yet, I highly recommend it. I'll be organizing a carpool/caravan, if folks want to do the drive, for those of us east of the Appalachians, for those who want to go to Montreal. I give you my word it'll be a good time.

Annotated Fanzine Listings

By Tom Feller

Please send zines for listing to me at PO Box 140937, Nashville, TN 37214-0937. 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, Vol. 7, #'s 3 & 4, published by Lisa and Joseph Major, 1409 Christy Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204-2040. Book, magazine, candy, horse race, television, and movie reviews and letters. Joe reports on Conglomeration in #3 and their trip enroute to Worldcon in #4. Taras Wolansky reports on the Heinlein Centennial Convention in #4

Ethel the Aardvark, #135, newsletter of the Melbourne Science Fiction Club, PO Box 212, World Trade Centre, Melbourne VIC 8005 Australia. Available for \$40 (Australian) per year. Club calendar, SF news, television and book reviews, letters, and zine listings. Merv Binns eulogizes Ken Slater.

File 770, #153, published by Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016. Available for \$8 for 5 issues. Fannish news, obituaries, reviews, letters, and feature articles on fandom. Mike compares the skills of Robert Silverberg and Mike Resnick as masters of ceremonies, Larry Niven and John Hertz reports on the Eaton Conference, Mike reports on Corflu, and Bill Warren remembers Walt Daugherty.

Feline Mewsings, #31, published by R-Laurraine Tutihasi, 2173 East Rio Vistoso Lane, Oro Valley, Arizona 85755-1912. (This is an apazine written for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA) and contains Laurraine's mailing comments. However, it is available outside the apa as well for \$1.50 per issue.) Book and movie reviews

Instant Message, #'s 803-806, newsletter of the New England Science Fiction Association, PO Box 809, Framingham, MA 01701-0809. Edited by Rick Katze. Club and Boskone news.

Living Free, #140, published by Jim Stumm, PO Box 29, Buffalo, NY 14223. Available for \$12 for six issues. Book reviews, reprints of and quotations from news articles, and essays from a libertarian point of view.

Lofgeornost, # 91, 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 reports on his activities, books he has read, and trips he has made.

Memphen, Summer 2008, newsletter of the Memphis Science Fiction Association. Edited by Greg and Dana Bridges, 141 Stonehaven Circle, Jackson, TN 38305. Book and film reviews and a fanhistorical article on MidsouthCon by Greg.

NASFA Shuttle, Vol. 28, #'s 6-8, newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, PO Box 4857, Huntsville, AL 35815-4857.

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Edited by Mike Kennedy. Subscription: \$1.50 per issue, or \$10 for 12 issues. Besides club and Constellation news, there are reviews of movies, zines, and books, and letters. In #6, Mike eulogizes Algis Budrys and Pat McAdams, and Sue Thorn eulogizes Nelda Clark. Mike reports on Libertycon in #8.

Nice Distinctions, #17, published by Arthur Hlavaty, 206 Valentine Street, Yonkers, NY 10704-1814. Available for \$1. Arthur updates us on his job situation, reports on the International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts, eulogizes Kurt Vonnegut and others, and comments on various subjects.

OASFIS Event Horizon, Vol. 21, #2, newsletter of the Orlando Science Fiction Society, PO Box 592905, Orlando, FL 32859-2905. Edited by Juan Sanmiguel. Available for \$12 per year. Club news and reviews.

Opuntia, #'s 64.5 & 65, published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2E7. Available for \$3 per issue. Dale writes on a variety of subjects.

Probe, #137, official fanzine of Science Fiction South Africa, PO Box 781401 Sandton 2146 South Africa. Edited by Gail Jamieson and Kyle Brunette. Fiction, book reviews, and an interview with Lois McMaster-Bujold.

Vanamonde, #'s 748-756, 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 and illustration by artists such as Brad Foster, Marie Regensterff, Alexis Gilliland, and Connor Freff Cochran. John eulogizes Johnny Hart and Brant Parker in #751 and Marcel Marceau and Luciana Pavarotti in #755 and discusses the steps featured in the Laurel and Hardy short film "The Music Box" in #753.

Visions of Paradise, #'s 125-127, published by

Robert Sabella, 24 Cedar Manor Court, Budd Lake, NJ 07828-1023. Book reviews, articles, and excerpts Robert's diaries for January through March.

Electronic Zines

COSMIC CORRAL, published by Maurice Lewis, abcequalmwl@yahoo.com. Maurice writes on a variety of subjects of interest to him.

NASHVILLE SF CLUB NEWSLETTER, edited by Reece Moorehead, skywise@bellsouth.net. (Plain text format.) Club and SF news.

THE REVENGE OF HUMP DAY, published by Tim "Uncle Timmy" Bolgeo, tbolgeo@att.net. (PDF format.) Jokes and fannish news, especially Libertycon.

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY, published by Arnie Katz, crossfire4@cox.net. (PDF format.) Las Vegas Fannish news, letters, and fanhistorical articles by long time fans.

WOSSNAME, Newsletter of the Klatchian Foreign Legion. Edited by Annie Mac, WOSSNAME@yahoogroups.com (Plain Text, but requires participation in Yahoo groups.) Terry Pratchett and Discworld news.

Web Sites

Baryon at www.baryon-online.com. Published by Barry Hunter. Book reviews.

Challenger at www.challzine.net. Published by Guy Lillian. On-line version of Guy Lillian's Hugo-nominated fanzine.

eFanzines at <http://efanzines.com>. Published by Bill Burns. Downloadable versions of many of today's leading fanzines, archives of older fanzines, and links to many fannish sites.

File 770 at www.File770.com. Published by Mike Glycer. On-line version of Mike's Hugo Award-winning fanzine.

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It Goes on the Shelf at <http://home.sprynet.com/~nedbrooks/home.htm>. Published by Ned Brooks. Includes back issues of Ned's fanzine by that name and other sites of interest to Ned.

Mike and Laurraine's Home Page at <http://www.weasner.com/>. Published by Laurraine Tutihasi and Mike Weasner. Personal web site.

The National Fantasy Fan Federation's Fan Dominion at www.FanDominion.com. SF news and reviews.

The New England Science Fiction Association at www.nesfa.org. Club and Boskone news.

Research Triangle Science Fiction Society at <http://www.rtsfs.com>. Official club web-site.

Scifi Dimensions at www.scifidimensions.com. Published by John Snider. Reviews and interviews.

Sherlockian E-Times at <http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>. Sherlock Holmes news.

Stargate Atlanta at www.stargateatlanta.com. Club and Stargate news.

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

VideoVista at www.videovista.net. Video Reviews.

Web Logs

The Fantasy Amateur Press Association at http://community.livejournal.com/fapa_forum/

Arthur Hlavaty at <http://www.livejournal.com/users/supergee/>. Arthur writes on a variety of subjects.

Eric Jamborsky at <http://causticly-speaking.blogspot.com/>. His film oriented blog is <http://cinemaventure.blogspot.com/>

Rafe McGregor at <http://rafemcgregor.blogspot.com>. This crime fiction author writes on Lovecraft, Poe, Doyle, and other related subjects.

Robert Sabella at <http://adamosf.blogspot.com/> and <http://visionsofparadise.blogspot.com/>. The former is more personal and the latter more serious.

Joy V. Smith at <http://journals.aol.com/pagadan/JoysJournal/>. Personal journal.

Southern Clubs

ALABAMA

Huntsville Anime Appreciation Society basil@haasonline.net; www.haas-online.net; Meets at Haven Comics on Slaughter Rd in Madison every Saturday, 6:30 PM

North Alabama Science Fiction Association PO Box 4857, Huntsville AL 35815-4857; www.constellation.org/nasfa/index.html; Meets in BookMark, 11220-J South Memorial Parkway SW, Huntsville, every 3rd Saturday, 6 PM

ARKANSAS

Little Rock Science Fiction Society Little Rock, Arkansas; info@lrsfs.org; www.lrsfs.org; Meets at the coffee shop of Barnes & Noble Bookstore, on Chenal Parkway in west Little Rock every 1st Saturday, 7:30 PM

FLORIDA

The Guardians of Gallifrey 170 Broadmoor Ave, Lake Mary, FL 32746; 407-321-5953; drwhoville2001@yahoo.com; www.angelfire.com/space/ntime; Meets somewhere every 3rd / 4th Saturday/Sunday.

Orlando Area Science Fiction Society PO Box 592905, Orlando, FL 32859-2905; oasfis@sff.net; www.oasfis.org; Meets in the Orange County Public Library every 2nd Sunday at 1:30 PM

South Florida Science Fiction Society PO Box

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70143, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143;

sfsfs@sfsfs.org; www.sfsfs.org;

Meets somewhere every 3rd Saturday at 2 PM

Stone Hill Science Fiction Association PO Box 2076, Riverview, FL 33569;

raggedyann@stonehill.org; www.stonehill.org;

Meets somewhere every 2nd Sunday.

GEORGIA

Atlanta Gallifreyans Meets 3rd Saturday, Doraville Community Center, 3770 Central Ave, Doraville, GA 30340;

www.atlantagallifreyans.org

Atlanta Science Fiction Society PO Box 98308, Atlanta, GA 30359-20098; 770-844-2256;

info@asfs.org; www.asfs.org; Meets at Sandy Springs Library every 2nd Saturday at 2 PM

Georgia Filkers Anonymous (GaFiA)

sffilk@bellsouth.net;

www.geocities.com/sffilk/gafia.htm; meets monthly in Georgia.

Outworlders president@outworlders.info;

www.outworlders.info; Atlanta, GA; Meets various places weekly.

Southern Organization of Live-Action

Reenactment c/o Scott Neeley, 4835 Baker Plantation Drive, Acworth, Georgia 30101;

president@solarinc.org; www.solarinc.com

KENTUCKY

Burroughs Bibliophiles George T. McWhorter,

Curator, Edgar Rice Burroughs Collection, Ekstrom Library, University of Louisville,

Louisville KY 40292; 502-852-8729;

www.taliesan.com/panthans/erb2.htm;

george.mcwhorter@louisville.edu

Falls of Ohio Science Fiction and Fantasy

Association PO Box 37281, Louisville, KY 40233-7281. Meets every 2nd Sunday.

Lexington Science Fiction and Fantasy

Association 1825 Liberty Road #418, Lexington, KY 40505. lexfa@lexfa.org; www.lexfa.org;

Meets somewhere in Lexington every 2nd Sunday.

Louisville Science Fiction And Fantasy Readers Group Meets 4th Monday at Hurstbourne Barnes and Noble, 801 S. Hurstbourne;

www.sfreader.oseland.net; sfreader@oseland.net

Western Kentucky University Speculative Fiction Society Annette Garrico, WKU Chem Dept, #1

Big Red Way, Bowling Green, KY 42101;

www.geocities.com/Pentagon/5813/wkusfs.html;

Meets weekly.

LOUISIANA

Babylon 504 5109 Oak Bayou Ave, Marrero, LA 70072-4962; eric_benson@compuserve.com;

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/eric_benson/babylon504.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/area504/>; Meets at members house every 3rd Saturday.

Science Fiction Xchange Contact Harriet;

318-798-1277;

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SFXchange>;

dupuy@shreve.net; Meets at Podnabs BBQ (1146 Shreveport/Barksdale Hwy) every 1st Sunday at

2-4 PM

Star One Delta PO Box 45577, Baton Rouge, LA

70895; StarOneDelta@yahoo.com;

www.staronedelta.org; Meets in Bluebonnet

Library every 3rd Sunday at 2 PM

NORTH CAROLINA

The Guild: The UNCC Sci-Fi & Fantasy Club

Charlotte, NC; <http://www3.uncc.edu/theguild>

Research Triangle Science Fiction Society

www.rtsfs.org; Meets in the Triangle and

maintains a mailing list.

The Science Fiction Fantasy Federation SF3, Box

I-1, Elliott University Center, UNCG Greensboro,

NC 27412; www.uncg.edu/student.groups/sf3/;

Meets 7:30 PM every Wednesday night during academic year in Elliott University Center.

TENNESSEE

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Anime Nashville 615-883-6677;
anime@animenashville.org;
www.animenashville.org; Meets every 2nd
(Tower Records, Opry Mills location) and 4th
Thursday at 7 PM (members home).

Knoxville Area Speculative Fiction Association
Knoxville, TN; kasfa@yahoo.com;
www.kasfa.org

Middle Tennessee Science Fiction Society C/O
Anita Feller, PO Box 68203, Nashville, TN
37206-8203; Meets in Green Hills Public Library
(3701 Benham Ave., Nashville, TN 37215) every
2nd Wednesday at 7 PM;
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MidTennSFF>;

Mid-South Science Fiction & Fantasy Association
Meets every 2nd Monday at the Main Public
Library (3030 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN);
www.mssffa.org

Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem 5017
Maywood Drive, Nashville TN 37211;
615-327-1047;
nashvillehawk@nashvillescholars.net;
www.nashvillescholars.net; Meets in The
Sherlock Holmes Pub downtown Nashville
monthly.

TEXAS

Fandom Association of Central Texas PO Box
26442, Austin, TX 78755; forinfo@fact.org;
www.fact.org; Meets monthly somewhere.

Friends of Fandom PO Box 541822, Houston,
TX 77254-1822; 713-790-0707;
CandaceVP@aol.com; www.caminfo.net/fof.html

MSC Cepheid Variable PO Box J-1, Texas A&M
University, 1237 TAMUS, College Station TX
77844-1237; jaran625@yahoo.com;
<http://cepheid.tamu.edu>; Meets Tuesdays 8:33
P.M. in Rudder Tower, room 501.

Several Unlimited PO Box 1766, Bellaire, TX
77402-1766; jamie.ritchey@att.net;
www.severalunlimited.com; Meets every 2nd
Friday.

Ursa Major Science Fiction Literary Association
PO Box 691448, San Antonio, TX 78269-1448;
UrsaMajorSciFiowner@yahoo.com; [http://
groups.yahoo.com/group/UrsaMajorSciFi](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UrsaMajorSciFi); Meets
monthly.

VIRGINIA

Hampton Roads Science Fiction Association PO
Box 9434, Hampton VA 23670; 757-930-2301;
tgray@norfolk.infi.net; ghnat@aol.com

Northern Virginia Anime Association Meets
monthly at the Fairfax County Government
Center, generally from Noon-

11PM; president@animeclub.org;
www.animeclub.org

Virginia Tech Science Fiction and Fantasy Club
PO Box 256, Blacksburg, VA 24063;
president@vtsffc.org; www.vtsffc.org; Meets in
Randolph 209 every Thursday at 7:30 PM that
classes are in session.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

501st Legion Vaders Fist Star Wars Imperial
costuming organization; www.501st.com

Committee for the Advancement of Role-Playing
Games (CAR-PGa) c/o Paul Cardwell, 1127
Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418;
<http://members.aol.com/waltonwj/carpga.htm>

Christian Fandom www.christian-fandom.org

International Costumers Guild Corresponding
Secretary c/o Karen Heim, 2845 Lemp, St. Louis,
MO 63118-1713; corr-secretary@costume.org;
www.costume.org

International Fantasy Gaming Society PO Box
3577, Boulder CO 80307; clerk@ifgs.org;
www.ifgs.org

International Federation of Trekkers PO Box 242,
Lorain OH 44052-0242; ops@iftcommand.com;
www.iftcommand.com

The Klingon Assault Group Star Trek fan
organization; www.kag.org

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Mythopoeic Society PO Box 320486, San Francisco, CA 94132-0486;
correspondence@mythsoc.org; www.mythsoc.org

National Fantasy Fan Federation 25549 Byron Street, San Bernardino, CA 92404-6403;
n3f_info@yahoo.com;
www.simegen.com/fandom/n3f

National Space Society 1620 i Street NW, Suite 615, Washington, DC 20006; 202-429-1600;
nsshq@nss.org; www.nss.org

The Rebel Legion Star Wars Rebel costuming organization www.rebellegion.com;
info@rebellegion.com;

Romulan Star Empire PO Box 5271, Terre Haute, IN 47805; info@rsempire.org; www.rsempire.org

Society for Creative Anachronism PO Box 360789, Milpitas, CA 95036-0789;
directors@sca.org; www.sca.org

Starfleet International PO Box 94288, Lubbock, TX 79493-4288; CompOpsHELP@sfi.org;
www.sfi.org

United Federation of Planets Internationale P.O. Box 3157, Chula Vista, CA 91909-3157;
ccom@ufpi.org; www.ufpi.org

Convention Listings

By M. Lee Rogers

Welcome to the Bulletins convention list. This edition covers from September 2008 through the end of March 2009.

If you are interested in science fiction, fantasy, comics, gaming, anime, mystery, or related genres, you should try a convention to see if you like the experience. Talk to others who have attended to find out what a particular con is like.

If you would like your convention listed, please send an E-mail to your humble scribe, whose address is mleerog@bellsouth.net until AT&T finally changes the domain name.

Please accept your scribes apologies for not

participating in the last edition of the Bulletin. He was recovering from the aftereffects of surgery in mid-May to remove an abdominal abscess on his side. While the surgery was minor, the aftermath was, shall we say, messy. Further we shall not say in a family publication. While that was inconvenient to handle, the much worse part was the antibiotic, which is normally given to people who have contracted staph infections. It would make for a very good diet pill if it did not also make you feel half dead while you take it.

Fortunately, the recovery went normally and the scribe lost a few pounds which he could easily afford. Thanks to Warren for covering for me during my indisposal. As fall approaches in the Northern Hemisphere and we look forward to the season of changing leaf colors, lets get back to work.

September 2008

5-7: OutsideCon 21, Montgomery Bell State Park, Burns, TN. \$40 at the door. \$10 off if you bring a tent, which is probably the only space left in the park. The con offers cabin space, but those beds are probably taken by now. You could also try commuting from a hotel in Dickson. This is a camping SF convention held west of Nashville. Last year it co-hosted Deep South Con, almost drowning the con and earning Bob Emblar the Rubble Award at this years DSC in High Point at Stellarcon. The theme for 2008 is Medieval. A Queen for a Day contest will be held--they've already thought of the smart-alecks and limited the contest to the female sex. As you would expect at this type of event, there are lots of outdoor activities available to the participants. Lots of food is provided, but BYOB. Info: <http://www.outsidecon.com>.

6: Librari-Con 2008, Headquarters Library, Fayetteville, NC. No mention of any fees. Held in conjunction with the East Coast Anime Society. A one-day minicon for the anime world. Guests: Carolina 501st Garrison, Nick Capiot, Will Hays. Panels, art exhibits, CosPlay. Libraries did not do

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things like this in your scribes youth. Times have changed, havent they? Info:

<http://www.cumberland.lib.nc.us/ccplyouth/teens-Librari-Con2008.htm>.

12-14: ProtoCon 10, Memorial Student Center, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. \$15 at the door. All-genre gaming convention. This is the same location as the SF convention Aggiecon. ProtoCon emphasizes independent publishers and prototype games. Info: <http://www.protocon.com/con/>.

19-21: Anime Weekend Atlanta 14, Renaissance Waverly Hotel and Cobb Galleria Center, Atlanta. \$35 to 9/6, \$45 at the door. One-day memberships are available. Numerous guests who are probably well known in the anime field but mean nothing to your scribe. Lots of anime-related programming. Looks like a pretty big one. Info: <http://www.awa-con.com>.

October 2008

3-5: Archon 32, Gateway Center and Holiday Inn, Collinsville, IL (St. Louis area). \$55 to 9/15, \$60 at the door. GoH: Laurell K. Hamilton, Artist GoH: John Kovalic, Fan GoH: Rich and Michelle Zellich. Special guests: the creators of Mystery Science Theater 3000 will be celebrating their 20th anniversary at the con. Archon hosted the 2007 NASFic. Info: <http://www.archonstl.org/32/index.php>.

3-5: Fencon V (5), Crowne Plaza North Dallas, Addison, TX. \$40 at the door. GoH: Greg Benford. Artist GoH: Real Musgrave. TM: Howard Waldrop. This SF convention also has a filk component. Hosted by the Dallas Future Society.

9-12: DomCon 5, DoubleTree Hotel, I-75 at Windy Hill Road in Cobb County, GA (Atlanta area). \$99 after 9/1. For those interested in the S&M dominance field, a few of whom may also read these listings. Info: <http://domconatlanta.com/Home.htm>.

10-12: Necronomicon 27, Hilton Bayfront, St.

Petersburg, FL. \$30 to 10/1, \$50 at the door. GoH: Frederik Pohl, Julie E. Czerneda, Rick Wilber. Tampa Bays long-running SF and horror convention. Info:

<http://www.stonehill.org/necro.htm>

10-12: Classic Movie Monster Con, Meadowview Marriott Conference Resort and Convention Center, Kingsport, TN. \$45 at the door. GoH: Sara Karloff. Theme: Boris Karloff: The Man Remembered. Definitely aimed more at the horror audience. Info:

<http://www.moviemonstercon.com/>.

17-19: Con*Stellation XXVII: Cassiopeia (27), Holiday Inn Express, University Drive and Jordan Lane, Huntsville, AL. \$35 to 9/26, \$40 at the door. GoH: Diane Duane. Artist GoH: Bill Holbrook. MC: Mike Resnick. As long as there are constellations in the sky, the concom will keep borrowing their names for each years edition. Info: <http://www.con-stellation.org/constell/index.html>.

17-19: Capclave 2008, Rockville Hilton, Rockville, MD (Washington, DC area). \$50 through 9/30, \$60 to 10/16, maybe higher at the door. Writer GoH: James Morrow. Critic GoH: Michael Dirda. Where Reading Is Not Extinct (And Satire Alive and Well). The WSFA-sponsored annual SF convention for the District. Info: <http://www.capclave.org>.

24-26: Hallowcon 08, Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, East Ridge, TN (Chattanooga area). \$35 to 9/30, \$50 at the door. Attendance limited to 400. The guests include an astrologer. Dont know the exact count, but this con has been running for a while now. They are also doing a New Years Eve party. The catch is that you must attend one of the Chattanooga-area cons to get in the party. Info: <http://www.hallowcon.com>.

30-2: World Fantasy Convention 2008, Calgary, AB, Canada. C\$150, US\$150. GB75. Guests: David Morrell, Barbara Hambly, Tom Doherty. As the name notes, the emphasis here is more on fantasy than science fiction per se. If that is your

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cup of tea or hemlock, this may be your kind of con. Info: <http://www.worldfantasy.org>.

November 2008

2: Atlanta Comic Convention, Marriott Atlanta Century Center, I-85 at Clairmont Road, Chamblee, GA (Northeast Atlanta area). \$5 at the door. The 15th annual convention. A one-day show aimed at comics fans looking to add to their collections. Info:

<http://www.atlantacomiconvention.com/>

7-9: Mace 2008, Radisson Hotel, High Point, NC. \$25 to 11/5, \$35 at the door. Gaming convention. They use the same downtown hotel as Stellarcon. Info:

<http://www.justusproductions.com/mace.php>.

21-23: Janicon MMVIII (2008), Hyatt Regency Hotel, Jacksonville, FL. 2nd annual anime and gaming convention. No other info because the Web site sends the bytes by Pony Express. They apologize for the slowness of the site.

Unfortunately, too many people will have little sympathy. Try to fix the problem, please, before we all die of boredom. Info:

<http://www.janicon.org>.

28-30: Darkover Grand Council Meeting XXXI (31), Holiday Inn Select Baltimore, Timonium, MD. \$45 to 11/1, \$50 at the door. GoH: Patricia Briggs. Other guests include Katherine Kurtz. For fans of Marion Zimmer Bradleys popular fantasy series. Offers a Regency ball. Info:

<http://www.darkovercon.org>.

December 2008

5-7: SMOFCon 26, Drury Inn and Suites, Columbus, OH. \$60 to 11/1, \$70 at the door. If you dont know what the bow tie on the home page refers to, you probably should not bother with this one. On the other hand, a lot of SMOFs do read the Bulletin and know exactly what theyre looking at. Okay, heres the lowdown. SMOF refers to Secret Masters of Fandom. Its a partly ironic term for veteran convention fans who end up running regional cons and departments of

World SF Conventions over and over again. SMOFCon is their time to get together and focus on running conventions. The bow tie refers to a New York fan named Ben Yalow who negotiated most Worldcon hotel contracts for many years and may still be doing so. Info:

<http://www.smofcon.org/>.

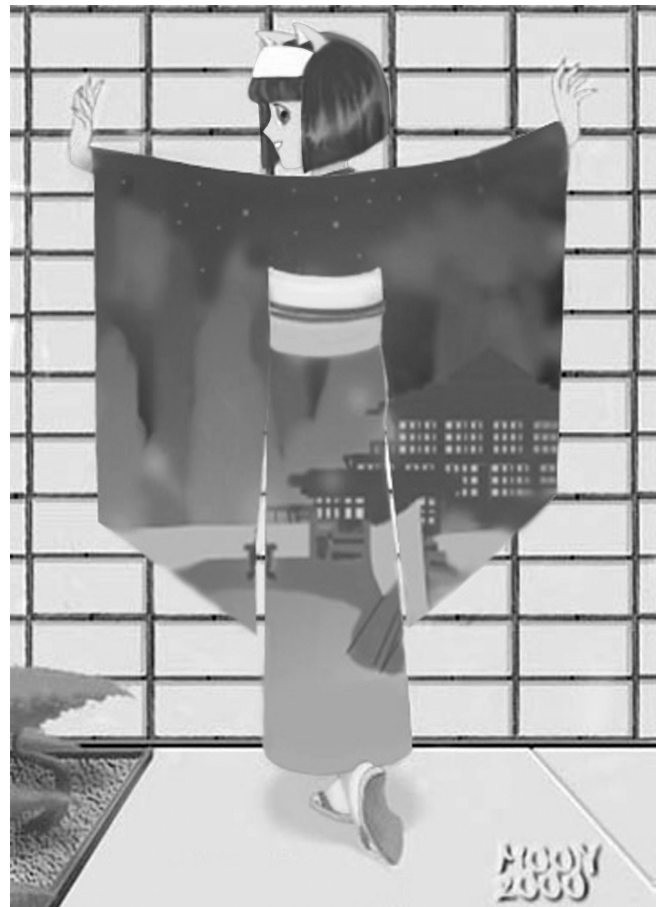
January 2009

9-10: Shadowcon XIII (13), Holiday Inn Select (airport area), Memphis, TN. \$25 to 9/30, \$30 to 12/1, \$35 to 12/25, more after. GoH: M. R.

Williamson. Combination SF and SCA convention. More belly dancing. Info:

<http://www.shadowcon.org/index.html>.

9-11: GAFilk 11, Crown Plaza Atlanta Airport Hotel, College Park, GA. \$30 to 11/30, \$50 at the door. GoH: Barry and Sally Childs-Helton. For fans of filk music, SF fandoms version of indigenous music. Info: <http://www.gafilk.org>.



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23-25: Chattacon 34, Chattanooga Choo-Choo (no longer a Holiday Inn), Chattanooga, TN. \$40 to 12/31, \$50 at the door. GoH: David Weber and Katherine Kurtz. Artist GoH: Rowena. Chattanooga's longest-running SF convention just keeps chugging along. Irv would be proud. Info: <http://www.chattacon.org>.

February 2009

20-22: ConNooga 2009, Chattanooga Choo-Choo (still no longer a Holiday Inn), Chattanooga, TN. \$25 for now, more later. ConNooga aims to please all SF and related fandoms. Info: <http://www.connooga.com>.

27-1: SheVaCon 17, Holiday Inn Roanoke Tanglewood, Roanoke, VA. \$35 to 12/31, \$40 at the door. GoH: Larry Niven. Artist GoH: Ernie Chan. Fan GoH: Carla Brindle. Traditional SF convention with plenty of other activities. Info: <http://www.shevacon.org>.

27-1: Concave 30, Horse Cave, KY. GoH: Marcia & Tim Illingworth. \$20 to 1/15, \$30 at the door. As of the last info received, the hotel has not been finalized. This is the traditional small relaxicon in the cave section of Kentucky. There may or may not be a hotel lottery this year. Info: No web site, so send E-mail to ccaveman1@earthlink.net. Snail mail can go to Gary Robe, P.O. Box 3221, Kingsport, TN 37664.

March 2009

13-15: StellarCon 33, Radisson Hotel, High Point, NC. \$33 to January 1, 2009, \$38 at the door. GoH: Sharon Lee and Steve Miller, Artist GoH: William Stout, Gaming GoH: John Wick, Fan GoH: "Uncle Timmy" Bolgeo. The Carolinas' oldest con is back for another great year with your editor as chair. www.stellarcon.org

19-22: Furry Weekend Atlanta: Safari, Hilton Hotel, Atlanta, GA. \$35 to 3/6, \$40 at the door. GoH: Matthew Ebel. Minors must have special paperwork and some events are restricted see the Web site for details. More fun and games with the furry fandom crowd. Info:

<http://www.furryweekend.com>.

20-22: FantaSciCon 09, Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, East Ridge, TN (Chattanooga area). \$35 to 2/28, \$50 at the door. This con is run by the same group as Hallowcon. Info: <http://www.fantascicon.com>.

20-22: MidSouthCon 27, Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center, Memphis, TN. \$35 to 12/1, \$40 to 3/1, \$45 at the door. GoH: Mike Resnick. Artist GoH: Vincent Di Fate. Another classic SF convention rolls down the river. Info: <http://www.midsouthcon.org>.

20-22: CoastCon XXXII (32), Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum, Biloxi, MS. \$35 to 2/24, \$40 at the door. Author GoH: David Weber. Fan GoH: A. J. Brockaway. As this is written, it looks like Biloxi has been spared a direct hit from Hurricane Gustav. Get those reservations in now before the next hurricane hits! Info: <http://www.coastcon.org>.

Later

6-10 August: Anticipation, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention, Palais des congrs de Montral, Montreal, QB, Canada. C\$215, US\$215, A\$215, GB110, 135 for now. GoH: Neil Gaiman, Elisabeth Vonarburg, Tom Doherty, David Hartwell, Ralph Bakshi. Fan GoH: Taral Wayne. If you have any interest in science fiction or related genres, you should try to attend a Worldcon before you teleport off this planet. Info: <http://www.anticipationsf.ca>.

Letters of Comment

Alright, folks, your editor here briefly. I've taken up the editorial policy of not changing a lick of what we have in our LoCs, on the assumption that I'd have to draw a line between corrections for spelling and grammar and over-correcting the fannishness out of them. Also, because I realized that I needed to take the SFCB to press in the same weekend as my SFPA-zine. Thankfully, most of y'all are good writers, and the typos are

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minimal. First, we heard from Laura Haywood-Cory:

Hey Warren,

Good job on your first SFC Bulletin! We need to de-conflate the RTSFS and Trinoc-coN info in the club listings, though, if we can, and split them out into the two separate entities that they are.

RTSFS doesn't have a PO Box, for one thing. ;) And the website is <http://www.rtsfs.com>. The website for the CON is <http://www/trinoc-con.org>. The PO Box in the listing is I *think* the con's, but you should check with the current concom to make sure that's still the right box number.

For the fanzine listings, if individual zines in SFPA count, please feel free to add mine to the list: Get off my lawn! by Laura Haywood-Cory, perzine with occasional convention reviews and book and movie reviews, plus a photo or two thrown in for good measure. Published every two months, usually runs 6-8 pages. Email version is free, send requests to laurahcory@yahoo.com; for a hard copy, please send \$1 to cover postage to Laura Haywood-Cory, 5100 McCormick Road, Durham NC 27713.

Whoever's putting together the revised Southern fandom history, please ping me and I'll be glad to help out with the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area of NC and can also provide a little insight into the early '90s Charlotte scene as well, pre-ConCarolinas.

Many thanks to folks for the RavenCon reports; I literally did a drive-by on Saturday afternoon, driving up from Durham -- and note to self: Richmond is *three* hours from Durham, not two! -- and back in the same day. I didn't make it to any panels; my job was to deliver Baen Books swag to the con for the Barflies, the concom, and the charity auction. After several strong, able-bodied, and kilted (yum!) Barflies unloaded my car for me, I mostly crashed in Barfly Central.

Concom was going to try and find Katherine

Kurtz for me so I could finally meet one of my favorite authors, but alas, they weren't able to locate her before I had to hop in my car to trek back home. As with the grizzly bears in Glacier National Park this past week, I kept *just* missing her. I'd walk down a hallway and people would say, I saw her, she was going thataway. In both cases -- the bears and Ms. Kurtz -- I was disappointed. Ah well, now that she lives one state over instead of an ocean away, there will be other opportunities, I hope.

Again, a very solid first ish, Warren.

Laura Haywood-CoryDurham, NC
laurahcory@yahoo.com
<http://laurahcory1.livejournal.com/>

The handbook revision project currently resides with M. Lee Rogers. He's recently posted about it on the Southern Fandom Classic Yahoo Group.

Next, we heard from Joy Smith:

Dear Warren,

Congratulations on your first issue!- Good cover.- Does CAV stand for cavalry?- And my admiration goes out to M. Lee Rogers also, for taking on the revision of the handbook.

I enjoyed Tim and Mary Miller's article on Texas fandom.- We have to remember and look forward.- I haven't visited the Virtual Fan Lounge yet, but I appreciate the periodic invitations to The Wasted Hour, and I-must do my part in spreading the word.- (Let's see--I can put it in at least one of my blogs.)-

Thanks to Tricia Overkamp for her Conflation report.- The theme was Firefly!- And I missed it!!- It sounds like you all had a lot of fun there.- I bet those Reavers were scary.- And thanks to Lynn Bailey for her RavenCon report.- Sounds like a very eclectic con.- Davey Beauchamp's con reports from the viewpoint of a guest were interesting and fun.- I'd love to see a Tardis ice box.-

Thanks to Tom Feller for the fanzine listings--

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print and electronic; also to Warren Buff for the additional zines.- The club and con listings are always appreciated too.

Appreciatively,

Joy V. Smith---

We'd have to ask Mike Moon what the CAV in his picture stands for. Thankfully, he's on the mailing list, and may be able to respond in a LoC of his own nextish.

We then heard from the elusive Tim Marion:

Hi Warren

Excellent first issue of the SFC Bulletin, but of course, you had good teachers.

Also excellent con report by Joy Smith; her detailed report gave me a very strong sense of being there, which is good, as I don't plan to attend any conventions in the near future (main reason being, as I've said before, at home I'm attending a convention of nine cats where I am the Guest of Honor).- Perhaps, as reported by Peter Sullivan, I (and many other hermit-minded individuals) will attend conventions in the future via the Virtual Fan Lounge.- Perhaps we will even be able to send holographic representations of ourselves to interact with the other fans.- (This would be fine as long as those holograms do not develop wills and actions of their own, independent of us, then leaving us to be responsible for their behavior.)

I was concerned by three media items, however, mentioned in Joy Smith's con report.- In the first place, I was only mildly intimidated when Joy called Oasis a literary convention.- I was thinking to myself that, despite being involved in an invitational apa of the same name so long ago (no connection I'm sure), that I might never attend an Oasis (even if I were in the convention-going mood) due to fear that I might not be as up on the literature as many of the other, better-read fans who might be attending.- But then Joy mentioned a 40 Years of Star Trek panel which was full

(emphasis mine) and the showing of episodes of Buffy and (hack!ptui!) Torchwood.- Obviously there was a lot of visual media at this literary convention.

Joy mentions Laurell K. Hamilton's Anita Blake series and says that the fan consensus was that there was too much sex.- I read the first graphic novel adaptation (which I define as several consecutive comic books compiled into one volume) of the series and, altho the art was perfectly acceptable, I found the story somewhat boring.- Perhaps if there had been some sex in it (as one woman author in the audience mentioned her publisher said that's what makes books popular), I indeed, sorry to say, would have found it more interesting.- But also, more could have actually happened in the story without a lot of talking heads and intrigue about things a new reader wouldn't know about.- (Obviously I felt this novel could have been more graphic.)

Then Joy says there was an aikido demonstration.- Obviously Oasis is quite a bit like a regular convention, in that you don't know quite what to expect, except that it will definitely go in tangents separate from the literature.

As for the other con reports:- Tricia Overkamp obviously had a better time than I would have had at Conflation maybe a better time than I've had at any convention!- I got the feeling from Lynn Bailey's con report that I would have had to have attended the con in order to understand almost anything she's writing about.- It was also good to read con reports from a guest's point of view (Davey Beauchamp).- ConCarolinas sounds like a lot of fun.

Well, I've wasted lots of time (looking thru Yahoo! for movies and the year 2012), so now I have to finish this and get into the email to you.- Thanks for giving this born again neo a chance to learn a little more about (current) fandom.

TiM

Thanks for writing in, TiM! I definitely got the

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impression that Tricia enjoyed Conflation, much as I enjoy the cons I attend, and much as I hope you enjoy publishing So It Goes and LoCing. I enjoy editing the SFCB because it allows me to interact with fans of such diverse interests.

Next, we heard from the fan no LoC column would be complete without, Lloyd Penney:

1706-24 Eva Rd.
Etobicoke, ON
CANADA M9C 2B2

July 20, 2008

Dear Warren:

Thank you for Vol. 9, No. 1 of the SFC Bulletin. Its a hot, humid, rainy day in Toronto, and while I sit and sweat, Ill write a quick loc to keep my mind off things.

I must purchase a Southern Fandom handbook, plus an SFC patch. Im not sure how Id get the cash to you, but Id like to get that. US\$13 total, but it would probably take up more postage to get it to Canada. Maybe I could send you \$20, and send me the change with the next issue, or something like that? Let me know what can be done. It looks like the Handbook will be revised, so I might wait for that.

Well, Warren, you walked into this one, didn't you? Expressed the least bit of interest, and you were press-ganged. Well, serves you right, and I think you'll enjoy yourself. Be careful what you ask for in the future, 'kay?

Congratulations to Texas fans for fifty years of fun. We were in Dallas a couple of years ago now for the International Space Development Conference, and thats where me met lots of Texas fans, including Bill Ledbetter, who ran the volunteer office there. And, you've got one of ours--we miss Kim Kofmel!

The Virtual Fan Lounge is a stroke of genius. Now, Im on dial-up, so I cant watch the proceedings, but I can take part in the bulletin board part of things, and we were a rowdy bunch

last night. Its great fun, and a virtual chat is a new fanac we can enjoy. I should jump into one of the Southern Fandom Classic chats, to see who's there, and whats the topic.

Steampunk seems to be the next big interest, so much so that we might be putting together costumes, and we havent really costumed at conventions for about 20 years. Theres a lot of creativity involved, and thats caught our interest. I gather a steampunk convention is happening in the Bay area around San Francisco in October--Ill be looking for details about what happened, and we might use that as inspiration for a steampunk event in Toronto. Well be doing a little research into steampunk fashion to see what we can make for ourselves.

Good lists of zines, websites and blogs--I keep copies of all my letters of comment to many of the zines listed at lloydpenney.livejournal.com. And then, you'll find out what I do in my spare time, ha, ha

Going to wind it up and get it going. Tomorrow is the second day on the new job, being trained to be the next membership and publications clerk for the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Wish me luck, and off this goes to you. Take care, and see you next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

The thing that interests me most about the chat sessions in the VFL is that this sort of room was the first sort of interaction I enjoyed online, in the dark ages of the 90s. Then, they just sort of faded out. Now, I see Fandom embracing them. Weird, but I'll take it. I, too, look forward to more steampunk events. Maybe I'll even throw a small one myself someday.

And finally, we heard from Sheryl Birkhead via the papernet:

Dear SFCBers,

Out of curiosity, what is the medium for the cover illo lastish? Just wondered.

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Welcome to the helm, Mr. Buff. Long may you reign. See what happens when you open your mouth?!

May Ghu smile on you in the handbook revision project. Raise a glass to all those volunteers that are going to be lining up to help you out.

Nice to hear from Sue and Steve (Francis)--I look forward to their Trip Report. I was, selfishly, hoping there would be a sneak preview in this of SFCB, but I'll just have to wait.

Very nice fillo by Brad about Texas fandom...then again, all of Brad's work is nice. Oh, yeah, congratulations Brad on the fanartist Hugo from Denvention 3. (Of course congratulations to all the winners!)

Thank you for the conreports--look forward to mutterings about Denvention 3 nextish. It has been many years since I attended a con. These days I get vicarious conventional (well...) rushes by just reading the reports from others.

Well, I get 8 of the 12 (traditional)+6 electronic zines (not too sure what to do about the sites listed) or about 50%--not too bad.

Wow, take a look at the convention listing--conventional fandom (so to speak) appears to be alive and well.

Pamela- thank you for the kind words (albeit waaayyy too charitable!) about my computer knowledge. Just last night my printer refused to do just that. I won't go into the details since I have no idea what I'm talking about--suffice it to say that when I bought my system, I just talked to people at the Mac Mall and ordered what they told me to- so you need to make it work. As a result I have some connections I do not understand and after a power outage it sometimes goes nuts. We had a very short power outage. I followed the directions I had to get things working again--nope, zip, nada, nothing. So, this morning I called the printer people (who said my 8 year old printer and computer were so old I really needed to replace them and here was what

they could do on the printer side...) I tried to call the manufacturers of various other bits of hardware but hung up at the recorded messages of \$3.95/minute. So, out of desperation (well, if the printer truly was dead I would have to get a new one, but it had been perfectly functional before the power outage...) I called the local Mac guy who takes pity on my lack of money and I try to keep my calls as short as possible. Anyway, he told me to yank out a power cord and wait two minutes (not the 5-10 seconds I had in the directions that had worked up to now...). While I was waiting (I promise you, you are going to LOVE this) for the two minutes, I noticed this innocuous little cord just sitting there and wondered...hmm--where did that come from? I had no idea. Finally, after taking a flashlight and looking at all the spiderweb-like cords going all over the place, I just broke down and looked for any place the cord would fit. Um...er... back in business-- whatever the cord was, it was the problem and must have just.... Yeah, and for that I was considering having to buy a new printer (at the very least having to cough up the tech charge and being chagrined when/if anyone figured out a cord must not have been plugged in. So- trust me...most of it is dumb luck. (But I must also admit that I think Mac people, in general, tend to be more try-to-do-it-yourself than PCers, but I could be wrong--more for self-preservation than anything else since there are not that many of us out there.)

I just found out that I may be able to get DSL after all (affording it is a totally different question) The biggie here is that if I do this, then I will have a sufficiently efficient Internet connection to be able to actually utilize things cyber, If I do that, the Mac guy said that is when I should go for that loovveerly new Mac (last price check \$3000) I was drooling over. The new OS is not compatible to most of my software, so I would have to get (and learn how to use!) software to replace what I have been using for about 15 years or so. Then, I would have to buy a

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new printer (aha!) and scanner to go with the new system. SO, before all is said and done, the cost of the DSL would be a minor percentage of the total, Sigh

Isn't technology grand? Gotta start buying lottery tickets.

So, once again, thank you for a nice issue!

Sheryl

Mike, that question about the medium medium of your cover illo sounds like a good one to pass off to you. A Denvention report? Well, looks like I actually had to write one myself I was hoping to get away with bringing in diverse voices to make reports, but it looks like for once, I'll be doing the talking. So here's my challenge: anyone who sees me at a convention, you're welcome to come up to me and offer up a conreport. I'll use one I get for each con I get them for.

We also heard from T.K.F.W. Reinhardt, Charlotte Proctor, Tom Feller, Julie Wall, Rich Dengrove, Mandy Pack, Mike Moon, Allegra, Henry Welch, and a few others, especially at conventions.

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