

THE SOUTHERN FANDOM CONFEDERATION BULLETIN



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Policies

The *Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin* Volume 8, Number 1, October 2002, is the official publication of the Southern Fandom Confederation (SFC), a not-for-profit literary organization and information clearinghouse dedicated to the service of Southern Science Fiction and Fantasy Fandom. The *SFC Bulletin* is edited by R. B. Cleary and is published at least three times per year. Membership in the SFC is \$15 annually, running from DeepSouthCon to DeepSouthCon. A club or convention membership is \$75 annually. Donations are welcome. All checks should be made payable to the Southern Fandom Confederation.

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The *Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin* is also available for trades, published contributions, and letters of comment.

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

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

Ad Rates

Type	Full Page	Half Page	¼ Page
Fan	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$12.50
Pro	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$25.00

SFC Handbooks

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

T-Shirts

Size S to 3X
Price \$10
Plus \$3 shipping and handling fee if we have to mail it.

Art Credits

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Page 8: "Irish Gothic" by Wade Gilbreath
Page 13: "GA-Filk V" by R. B. Cleary
Page 29: "Vampire Drama Masks" by R. B. Cleary

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CLEARY COMMENTS

by R. B. Cleary

Okay, this is my first *Bulletin*. Even though it has been created from scratch on a PC instead of a Macintosh, I have taken care not to change the style too much from that established by my talented and wonderful predecessor, Julie Wall. Speaking of scratch, this issue's scratch-and-sniff mystery smell will be revealed at the end of my column. Just scratch my image below and sniff to try to guess the mystery smell before continuing. Now allow me tell you a little about myself in the form of my brief bio below.



Randy B. Cleary was born. The end. Okay, maybe you want a little more. Randy was born in 1966 in Mooresville, North Carolina, or so they tell him. However, he left after a few days and never looked back, spending a few years in Kannapolis, before moving to Lexington, North Carolina to grow up. Somehow, all on his own, Randy became a Fan long before he discovered Fandom. His fondest memories are of time spent reading as much genre fiction and comics as he could find. When he was not reading genre related material, he was watching it, delighting in the reruns of *Space 1999*, *Star Trek*, *Dr. Who*, and movies like *Star Wars*. He formed neighbor clubs with SF themes, created costumes of *Space Men*, *Monsters*, and *Knights* (not just at Halloween). These influences were often felt in his other hobbies of illustration and writing, which were usually genre related, including many illustrations for mimeographed school newspapers. He graduated from Lexington Senior High School in 1984 and headed to North Carolina State University. Along with reading and art, Randy's other passion is computers. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science with a Computer Graphics specialization in 1988. He then moved almost sight unseen to Huntsville, Alabama to work at Intergraph, a leading computer graphics company, on mapping related applications. In Huntsville, Randy took up role-playing, martial arts and Ultimate Frisbee. It was also in Huntsville that Randy began to learn of organized Fandom through friends and began to attend local and regional conventions. There he had the amazing experience of being in the company of others who not only had similar interests (a rarity growing up) but who also enjoyed sharing them. Randy decided it was "a good thing" and

committed to a life-long way of life. Since the early 1990s, he has attended two to five conventions a year, including a few World Cons. Along the way, he was introduced to fanzines and he joined his first Amateur Press Association (APA). He also joined the North Alabama Science Fiction Association (NASFA), where he served as President once and Program Director twice.

Randy is also an amateur illustrator whose work has appeared in many fannish venues. His strong graphic style and precise technique are used to illustrate a wide range of science fiction, fantasy, and horror themes with the occasional hint of humor. Both his black and white and color works are for sale at various fan convention art shows. He is a member of the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists (ASFA) and has been an Artist Guest of Honor, Masquerade Judge, and Art Show Director at various conventions. His illustrations appear regularly in various fandom related publications, such as program books, progress reports, flyers, fanzines, and bookmarks. His work has also been used on awards, buttons, hats, and t-shirts.

In 1994, Randy graduated from the University of Alabama with a Masters of Computer Science, specializing in Artificial Intelligence while working on mapping and terrain modeling applications. In 1996, Randy moved back to Raleigh, North Carolina to work for a small start-up web company. Although he enjoyed living there and playing Ultimate Frisbee often, he was not able to find local Fandom. When the job did not work out, Randy moved to Atlanta in 1997 where he also enjoyed living, working, and playing Ultimate Frisbee. Again, in Atlanta, Randy had trouble finding organized Fandom, so this time he decided to help organize some. He helped to found the Atlanta Science Fiction Society (ASFS) and was their first President. He also helped organize the first GA-Filk convention in Atlanta.

In 1998, Randy returned to Intergraph in Huntsville, working on applications for the visualization of designs for large-scale manufacturing and processing plants. He also continued to play Ultimate Frisbee and took up fencing as a martial art. He joined the Southern Fandom Confederation and the Southern Fandom Press Alliance (SFPA). Although he is no longer active in Ultimate Frisbee and fencing, he continues to read, role-play, attend conventions and contribute to various fanzines. His latest accomplishment and challenge is becoming President of the Southern Fandom Confederation.

That brief but boring life history aside, I warn y'all to that I'm just a simple small town Southern boy who is a product of various public educational systems, so don't expect any erudite and/or learned banter and commentary from me in these pages. It should be obvious that I'm definitely not capable of trying to fill Julie's shoes (and not just because she has smaller and cuter feet). However, I will be trying to develop my own style and have fun while hopefully accomplishing all that is required for the *Bulletin* and the Presidency. Feel free to let me know what you think. Thanks to everyone who helped on my first issue, where I ended up with more material than I could use. Apologies for any mistakes in advance. Forgive my rough edges for a little while. Finally, as promised, the mystery scratch-and-sniff smell this issue is "paper". ♡

SFC BUSINESS MEETING

June 16, 2002 Huntsville, Alabama
by Tom Feller

10:05 AM: Julie Wall walked in while eating a doughnut.
10:09 AM: President Julie Wall called the meeting to order.
10:10 AM: Pat Molloy made an announcement about late checkouts, DUFF, and discounts coupons to the space center.
10:11 AM: Mike Rogers announced the existence of the SFC web site.
10:12 AM: Julie announced that Tom Feller would not be renewing his bulk mail permit. Tom explained about the costs of a bulk mail permit. People discussed the advantages and disadvantages of first class vs. bulk mail. Consensus was that the permit saved the club a considerable amount of money.
10:18 AM: Sue Francis made a motion for the SFC to obtain a bulk mail permit. Mike Rogers seconded the motion. The motion passed.
10:19 AM: Julie read the treasurer's report into the minutes.

SFC Annual Financial Report 5/3/2001-6/12/2002

Balance 5/3/2001 (checking \$1,068.05 plus \$30 cashbox)
\$1,098.05

Income

Individual Memberships	\$855.00
Club/Convention Memberships	\$150.00
Donations	\$1,035.00
Merchandise Sales	\$20.00
Handbook	\$5.00
Handbook postage	\$2.00
Bulletin Advertising	\$150.00
Total Income	\$2,217.00

Expenses

Bulletin #9	
Printing	283.84
Foreign postage	45.97
Bulkmail	56.25

Bulletin #10	
Printing	428.64
Foreign postage	46.30
Bulk Mail	61.99
Bulletin #11	
Printing	366.24
Foreign postage	46.30
Bulk Mail	61.99
Bulletin #12	
Printing	320.46
Foreign postage	41.60
Bulk Mail	60.47
Envelopes	10.79
Total Expenses	\$1,833.56

Balance 6/12/2002 \$1,481.49
(\$1,451.49 checking plus \$30 cashbox)

10:19 AM Julie commented about poor t-shirt and handbook sales.
10:20 AM: Mike Cothran volunteered to create errata to the handbook in PDF format.
10:22 AM: Guy Lillian asked about the *Bulletins* sent outside the country. The consensus was that this was goodwill.
10:23 AM: Mike Cothran asked about the publication schedule. One section of the by-laws says quarterly and another three times a year. Mike made a motion to amend the by-laws to make the by-laws consistent. The motion passed.
10:27 AM: President Julie Wall officially announced that she would step down as President and run for Vice-President. She read an e-mail from VP Bill Francis saying he would not stand for re-election as VP. Tom Feller and Judy Bemis stood for re-election. All were elected by acclamation.
10:30 AM: President Randy Cleary took the podium. Sam Smith made a motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned. ♡

TOP TEN WAYS TO REMEMBER T.K.F.W.R.

by R.B.Cleary

As readers of the *SFC Bulletin* know, Toni Weisskopf married Hank Reinhardt earlier this year. Among many other changes in the Cosmos, this resulted in the addition of a new letter to her abbreviated name. I was having great difficulty remembering this new acronym (see my earlier editorial for explanation of my mental abilities). Fortunately, I, and those whose shall remain nameless, came up with an astonishing number of descriptive phrases as memory aids. Here are the top ten that can be printed in mixed company:

1. Toni Kills Felons With Revolvers.
2. Toni Knocks Foolish Wankers Readily.
3. Toni Keeps Far Way Right.
4. Toni Kills For Writer Rewrites.
5. Toni: Known For Witty Rejoinders.
6. Toni Knows Fine Whiskey. Really!
7. Toni Knows Fans Win Rebels.
8. Toni's Kisses, Fully Woo Reinhart
9. Toni Kowtows For Wanton Ruffians (see 8).
10. Toni'll Kill Fan Writer, Randy. ♡

THE REBEL AWARD

by Julie Wall

The Rebel Award. It doesn't mean much to the world outside of fandom. In fact, it's kind of hard to explain. Because you've got to start by explaining the fannish activities that could lead to getting a Rebel—mostly convention organizing and fanzine publishing. And then there's the concept of "Southern" fandom—which makes you realize that the Rebel probably doesn't mean much inside the world of fandom, either, except in the South. And unfortunately, even there, as fandom becomes larger, but more fragmented, its significance is probably waning. But it's part of the traditions of Southern Fandom that are worth preserving. If I didn't believe that, I wouldn't have been president of the SFC for the previous four years. The continued existence of the SFC and the DSC are crucial to the future of our traditions.

I certainly was surprised and honored to receive the Rebel. Surprised is something of an understatement. I hadn't really considered the possibility at all until the day of the ceremony. Since the physical award is selected each year along with the honoree, it is always fun to see what they have chosen. When I saw this year's award in the art show at DSC on Friday, I loved it. A striking sculpture of natural oak, there is a Plexiglas window covering a niche containing a piece of the Space Shuttle tile material, so appropriate a symbol of Huntsville. I thought that whoever got it and the similar Phoenix Award would have quite a trophy.



Julie Wall and Rebel Award

That Saturday was a busy one for me. I had brought *Bulletin Volume 7, No. 13*—my last as editor—to be folded, taped, labeled and bundled, and I was helping Judy Bemis at the SFC table. So except for a brief sojourn to the dealer's room, I was mostly there in the hall where registration and the

fan tables were all day. A couple of people asked me when or where the Awards Ceremonies were going to be, and if I was going. I didn't wonder about it until I did go upstairs to the con-suite to get a Coke to go with the sandwich that Gary and Debbie brought me from when they went out for lunch. Then Steve and Sue Francis asked me if I would be there. "You need to be there because you are president of the SFC." As if I ever miss the Award Ceremonies at DSC anyway! But I just thought, "Could it be? Naaahhh...."

Because if I had really believed it, I would have changed clothes, for one thing! Instead of wearing a UK in 2005 shirt and shorts at my proudest hour. And, maybe I could have thought of a few more endearing words of thanks to utter at that moment rather than quoting Allen Steele, who had been awarded the Phoenix a few minutes before, "Shit, I didn't expect this!"

I truly didn't. And I was in a fog of happiness and gratitude for the rest of the weekend. The first half of my Saturday was all work, and the second half was all fun. The first made the second possible and I think that is what has been so wonderful in my fannish career so far. It is a lot of work, if you really get involved, but you work with great friends that make it fun and you feel like you've accomplished something worthwhile. I got to dress up and go out to a fabulous dinner with friends that I've had for 20 years now because of fandom. When we got back to the hotel, I changed again into a really award-receiving-worthy slinky blue spangled number that I would never have reason or opportunity to wear elsewhere—in fandom you still get to play dress up! And I partied and danced the night away after that with still more friends, old and new. Who could ask for more out of a hobby?

So to be recognized for having fun by such a wonderful group of friends is an absolutely terrific bonus for doing something I would do anyway. The Rebel has been awarded for over 30 years to some of the people I admire most in all of fandom, let alone the Southern branch. I won't enumerate them all here; go to <http://www.smithuel.net/sfchb/> for the most up to date list. I will say that am very proud to be in the company of the two other women from Birmingham to receive it, Penny Frierson and Charlotte Proctor. I know I wouldn't have the Rebel without the SFC, so thanks to all of you out there who support it and who encouraged me so much during my tenure. Guy Lillian always quotes to the most recent winner, "After you have the trophy, then it's time to *really* earn it." The origin of this quote seems to be lost in the mists of time, but Guy certainly has lived up to it, starting production of his Hugo nominated fanzine, *Challenger*, well after he received his Rebel. I don't know if I will be that successful in my post-Rebel fannish career, but I hope to see you all there, whatever I am doing. ☹



CONVENTION REPORTS

by Tom Feller

Wiscon—

Anita and I have gotten in the habit of attending a convention over Memorial Day weekend. Kublakhon took place on that weekend for a couple years and then Libertycon. The latter convention moved to July this year just in time for its hotel to burn down. Another consideration was our desire to visit my grandfather in Wisconsin. There have been no weddings, graduations, reunions, anniversaries, and, fortunately, no funerals in my family this year, so we decided to combine a visit with a convention.

Years ago when there was a little convention in Meridian, Mississippi, I stopped by to visit someone with whom I used to work and who had worked with the all-male con committee. “Do they let girls in?” she asked me. Of course, they did, but its strong gaming orientation attracted mostly males. Wiscon markets itself as the world’s foremost feminist SF convention, so I was curious to see how it differed from the ones Anita and I attend in the South.

We almost didn’t get there. Our Com Air (Delta) jet out of Nashville had mechanical difficulties, and they finally had to book us on the next flight to Cincinnati, where we had an even longer layover than we had planned. We did not reach the Concourse Hotel in downtown Madison until 10 PM on Friday night. Fortunately, registration was still open, and there were still panels scheduled. Anita and I visited the con suite, parties, and the dance before calling it a night. To his credit, Dick Russell was still manning registration at Midnight.

We found that Wiscon is not so much feminist as it is sercon. Panels started at 8:30 AM, broke for lunch and dinner,

and continued until 1 AM. They ran for an hour and 15 minutes with a 15-minute break between. The panels included an academic track in which scholars read papers. There was no costume contest and no gaming. There were videos, but only during the lunch and dinner breaks and late at night. The dealer’s room and the art show were good, but nothing special. A lot of the attendees we met were wannabee pro writers. They had an excellent, although dry, con suite where they served pizza and hot dogs, among other things. Anita especially liked a cheese spread, which is not surprising considering that we were in cheese-head country. Unlike Kublakhon and Libertycon, Wiscon takes advantage of the extra day in the weekend to extend programming to Monday morning.

We did know a few people at the convention. Michael “Orange Mike” Lowrey used to live in Nashville, and he was a program participant. I’ve been in an APA with him as well as Ben Schilling and Andy Hooper. We found the people to be very friendly and had no trouble striking up conversations.

The first panel I attended on Saturday was “The Problem of History in Historical and Time-traveling SF” in which Karen Joy Fowler, Kage Baker, Jeanne Gomoll, Ellen Klages, and Justine Larbalestier explained the importance of doing research but then not overwhelming the reader with it. Bill Humphries, Gregg Noggle, and James Leinweber are all computer professionals and SF fans who discussed “Technologies of Freedom, or Big Brother.” They especially recommended John Brunner’s *Shockwave Rider* as amazingly prescient. Lee Schneider, Carl Marrs, Kathleen Massie-Ferch, Kay Kenyon, and Winifred Halsey debated “Will Plagues

Replace Bombs as Weapons of Terror?" They felt smallpox would be the most effective disease for terrorists to use, but mostly felt that bombs were still the most dangerous weapons.

In "Fantasy Religions from Conan to *Curse of Chalion*" on Sunday, Cynthia Joyce Clay, Gregory Rihn, Leah Rose Cutter, Magenta Griffith, and Naomi Kritzer discussed how religion is used or not used in fantasies and complained about stories in which religion plays little part in the lives of the characters. Jed Hartman and Mary Anne Mohanraj answered questions about electronic magazines in "Electronic Magazines Q and A". They operate the *Strange Horizons* web site that was fifth in the Hugo Award nomination voting. They pay for stories through donations, including their time for maintaining the site. Jan Schubert, Carol Emshwiller, Ellen Klages, Karen Joy Fowler, Kristine Smith, and Lauren Ann Yourke discussed the use and overuse of detail in "The Devil in the Details."

Also on Sunday, Anita and I watched the original British version of *Max Headroom*. Neither of us had ever seen it, only the American version, which kept the original concept but substituted American actors and had slicker production values.

The parties all took place in parlor rooms on the 6th floor, where the con suite was also located, and there were about 5-6 each night, including Sunday. To show you how well organized the convention was, the parties were listed in the pocket program. TOR books on Saturday night had the best food, and the Club Vampire party that night had the best atmosphere and a place to dance. They also had door prizes, and both Anita and I won paperbacks. At the Apa-Alpha party, a Madison-based APA, I discussed apas with people and looked at some of their old mailings.

All weekend Laurie Marks had been handing out quizzes in honor of her new book *Fire Logic*. The quiz determined what kind of logic your personality followed. Mine was Earth Logic, which means that I like to fix things. Anita responded, "Since when?" The other logics were water and air, after the four elementals.

Because of our diets, Anita and I skipped the dessert buffet on Sunday night but instead drove to the Madison suburb of Middleton to have dinner with my Aunt Roberta. My grandfather was there, too. The last time we had seen them was for my grandmother's funeral, so our visit was much more relaxing this time around.

We returned in time for the guest of honor speeches by Nina Kiriki Hoffman and Nalo Hopkinson. Hoffman spoke of the camaraderie of the on-line service of Genie, especially how she became friends with Jo Clayton before her death. Hopkinson, a black Canadian woman born in Jamaica, spoke about race issues. When she was a girl, she read the *Daredevil* comic book and imagined that the character became black when he put on his costume because of the way he moved and talked. She was a big fan of Samuel R. Delany even before she discovered he is black.

We noticed that several of the parties had beer brewed in nearby New Glarus. After a quick breakfast in the con suite on Monday morning, we drove to that village to visit my grandfather. As we expected, he became tired by the late afternoon so we drove over to my brother Tim's house for dinner. We left for Madison before dark and did not find any dead dog parties when we got back to the hotel. We had an uneventful flight home to Nashville the following morning.

DeepSouthCon/FanHistoricon—

I took the entire day off Friday so that we could get an early start. We had lunch at the Shady Lawn Truck Stop just north of the Alabama state line. It is the home of the Big Chicken. We arrived around 3 PM and, unlike others, had no trouble getting into our hotel room. After picking up our badges, I touched base with Sam Smith, Mike Kennedy (who used my Confederate cavalry saber for an exhibit of Rebel Awards), and Doug Lampert, who was in charge of programming. I myself was running the FanHistoricon portion of it.

Doug showed me where the room was, and it turned out to be just about ideal. It was big enough that we never ran out of seats but small enough to be intimate. Sam and I figured out how to run Kerry Gilley's video camera. Once started, it operated itself, but occasionally I need to pan to either the right or the left. Ken Moore once had to get up to demonstrate a story, and the people at the "Tribute to Meade Frierson III" stood up and talked about how fine a person Meade was.

Most of the panels repeated information already found in *The SFC Handbook*, but the one that featured new information was one that Anita suggested, so I made her moderator. "Tales from the Nashville Sardine Can" gave her, Allen Steele, Dan Caldwell, Ray Jones, and Ken Moore the opportunity to tell stories from the days when they crowded into hotel rooms at conventions. Allen's first published article, for instance, concerned a flat tire and a dead possum and appeared in a zine of Irv Koch's. In the "History of Huntsville Fandom", Toni Weisskopf described her first encounter with Harlan Ellison. In "The Legend of Wigwam Village", Guy Lillian revealed that he has actually stayed at the motel, and Patrick Molloy said that they stopped making bids before they actually won one. Attendance was strong until Sunday. Unfortunately, no one came to the last panel on the origins of the SFPA, DSC, and SFC, but the subject matter had already been covered in previous panels. My only disappointment was that Ned Brooks, who has been attending DSCs since the sixties, was unable to attend due to illness. I'm sure he would have made some solid contributions.

In other programming, Anita and I attended Opening Ceremonies and the Meet the Guests party in which they served a cake in the form of a space shuttle. We also attended the dance on Friday night, but overdid it as Anita had sore knees when we got up Saturday morning. Our favorite parties on Friday night were the Memphis in 2004 DSC bid and Baen Books. The Huntsville Hilton turned out to be more than adequate for a DSC. With only four floors, elevators could keep up with demand.

Anita and I only left the property once during the weekend. Since George Wells does not have any Arby's restaurants near where he lives in New York, we drove him and Rich Dengrove to one to have lunch on Saturday.

In the guest of honor speeches Saturday afternoon, Allen Steele took a clue from the congressman who represents the Huntsville area. The congressmen suggested taxing science fiction to fund NASA. Allen recommended taxing Tom Clancy novels for homeland defense, Dale Brown for the Air Force, and Susan Sontag for mental health. Allen Steele and Julie Wall won the Phoenix and Rebel Awards, respectively. Rosie Lillian won the Rubble for transforming Guy Lillian, her new husband, from a windbag to a giddy windbag.

Then we went up to Toni Weisskopf's suite for an SFPA party where we drank beer, ate cookies, and produced a one-shot fanzine. Anita and I went back to our room to rest and

then attended the masquerade. The highlight occurred when Jim Woosley and Carlo Deshouten appeared in a martial arts contest. The highlights of the Saturday parties were the Xerps in 2010 party and the Charlotte in 2004 DSC bid.

In the DSC site selection, Greg and Dana Bridges from Memphis made a better presentation and won. Many people thought the Charlotte bid had a better date, but Dan Caldwell, the presenter, could not answer basic questions such as whether the con suite would be dry or wet, the amount of square footage of the hotel's meeting rooms, and what the membership rate would be.

Anita and I left around 2:30 PM and had lunch again at the Shade Lawn Truck Stop before getting home about 4:30. ♡

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Judy Bemis

BALANCE (as of 5/23/2002)	\$1,421.53
INCOME	
Individual Memberships and Renewals	\$720.00
Club Memberships (MCFI)	\$75.00
Donations	\$120.25
Ads in <i>Bulletin</i>	\$300.00
Patch Sales	\$5.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,220.25
EXPENSES	
<i>Bulletin Vol 7 #13</i> Printing	\$287.76
Postage	\$54.40
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$342.16
BALANCE (as of 9/25/2002)	\$2,299.62



Tom Feller and Giant Chicken

FAMILY IS A STATE OF MIND

by Mike Kennedy

The latest edition of the Jophan Family Reunion (sponsored by the Birmingham Science Fiction Club, aka BSFiC) was held 16-18 August 2002 in the metro Birmingham AL area. Jophan is an ultra relaxacon that styles itself as, well, as a family reunion. (That came about many years ago because the hotel they were using at that time didn't really understand what conventions were all about, but *did* understand family reunions, having hosted many of them.) The Relative of Honor was Huntsville's Sam Smith (who may well have looked on this honor as a way of decompressing from chairing DSC 40 earlier in the summer ;-). About 30-50 "relatives" (mostly from B'ham fandom but with a significant admixture of others) joined Sam for the weekend.

Jophan was forced to change venue at the last minute—something I can sympathize with since Huntsville has gone through much the same thing with Con†Stellation this year. They ended up at the Quality Inn On The Lake just off I-65 in the southern Birmingham burbs. The location was extremely easy for me to find, as I lived in that area as a teen, but should have been a cinch for anyone. Unfortunately, the hotel experienced a glitch with a boiler (the gas had to be shut off because of a leak) which meant one of their two buildings was not usable due to not having hot water. There were still plenty of sleeping rooms

available, though their location was no longer the best (about which a little more later).

For me, this type of con lives or dies on its con suite. Overall Jophan did a pretty good job in that area. The suite was on the top (third) floor overlooking a modest-sized (4-acre) but very pleasant lake. The lake is actually owned by the hotel and features a nature walkway as well as sun decks and fishing piers. There was always a good spread of snack food and drinks available in the con suite, and more substantial food (including some fresh off the grill) was often present. Between all that and the continental breakfast available from the hotel, few people would have *needed* to venture outside the hotel for food the entire weekend. I only got out once myself, with a small group that went for pizza. Even then I was using a coupon for a free buffet I received as runner-up in the Killer Cutthroat Spades "tournament" (which was only one game), so my hotel room and the \$15 membership fee were almost my only expenses that weekend.

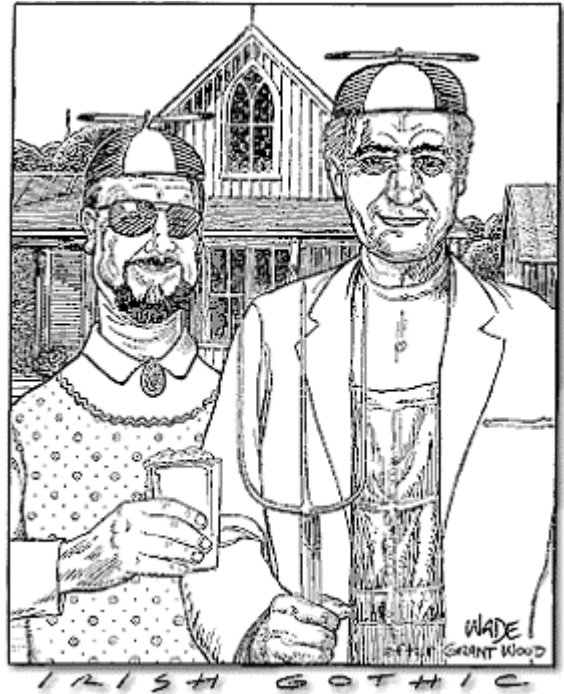
The atmosphere in the con suite was quite genial. There were minor conflicts between the people who wanted to watch the tube (including some fairly esoteric movies) and those who wanted to chat or play games, but nothing of any major consequence. Since it was the only (indoor) gathering place, a

slightly larger suite might have been nice but probably not justified for this size crowd. The location of the suite (the only one in the hotel) would have been just perfect if it hadn't been for the hot water problem mentioned above. The plan was for everyone's room to be on the same floor and building as the con suite. As it was, that building couldn't be used for sleeping rooms. For most people, getting to the con suite from their hotel room involved two different elevators and a bridge between the two buildings. A lot of effort for a three-story hotel.

There were a few things going on besides talking, cards, other games, and eating. A number of people took part in the many games of "George's Killer Croquet." George Little set up the course just below the balcony in front of the con suite, so some of those who didn't want to participate—and who wanted to stay out of the summer sun—had an eagle's eye view. A number of people also took advantage of the pool, though some expressed disappointment that the outdoor hot tub was out of order. George also treated the Saturday evening crowd to a viewing of his latest short film, before the auction—the only scheduled event. In addition to being Relative of Honor, Sam Smith acted as auctioneer and managed to raise a tidy sum for BSFiC. I bid on a few items but was always overbid.

Con chair Paulette Baker and all the BSFiC members who participated did a fine job on Jophan 2002. It is likely that the con at least broke even, since their expenses were lower than expected—the suite was free because the hot water situation meant the hotel couldn't technically rent that room. There hasn't been a Jophan every year lately and I think the success or failure of this one was expected to strongly influence whether Jophan will again become an annual event. I expect they would have

liked a good bit more attendance, but perhaps that's something that will come in time. Will there be a Jophan 2003? I don't know, but if there is I'll probably be there. ♡



THE SFC WEB SITE—CHECK IT OUT!

by M. Lee Rogers, Web Site Editor

Hello, all you guys and gals out in Web land. The World Wide Web has (almost) everything you could possibly want. But finding it is a different matter.

It works the same for a Webmaster. If you're supported by a major corporation, people will know where to find your site. Otherwise, no one will hear your tree as it falls in the metaphysical forest. In other words, you must publicize your Web site so people will know how to find it and want to see it.

This article is a first step in that direction. Many of you have either never heard of the SFC's new Web site available at <http://www.southernfandom.com> or have not checked it out recently. The site is still small, but it has a few things worth a look.

Everyone wanted the basic info about the Southern Fandom Confederation and Southern fandom to be included in the site's editorial material or on linked sites. We've included a link to Toni Weisskopf's *SFC Handbook* and have included supplemental material in a few places. We link to Kelly Lockhart's list of Southern SF conventions.

We also try to be a resource for SFC and Southern fandom in general. Since the site was launched about a year ago, it has included PDF versions of the back issues of the *Bulletin*. The site also presented its tribute to Meade Frierson upon his untimely death.

But an "intro to Southern fandom" Web site for neofans, while necessary, is not enough. We've tried to add features that would appeal to the general fannish audience. You might enjoy

seeing pictures from Southern fan events in the "On the Scene" page. We've recently added a poll question that would interest most SFC members since it ties directly into one of SFC's annual awards. "What is the question?" you ask. You'll have to check out the Web site.

So what's coming in the future? As Web site editor, I have a few ideas. The Web site would be more appealing if it contained more material from other fans. If you would like to write for the Web site, contact me. Articles should be related to science fiction or SF fandom; a Southern fandom angle would be better. News tips about Southern fandom or fans would also be highly appreciated.

We would also like to include some artwork, if the fan artists would not mind another poor editor begging their time and talent. The artwork can be in electronic or paper format since scanners are available.

If you already draw or write for Randy and/or the *Bulletin*, please do not interpret this as an attempt to take you away from the *Bulletin*. But there's plenty of atoms in the universe, so there should be enough room for both publications to have original material.

The Web site also needs your feedback. We've heard a strong suggestion for a guest book, and will try to add that in the medium-term future. If you want other features to be added to the site, or if you don't like something about the site, please let us know. Either send a LoC to the *Bulletin* or send an E-mail to sfcwebeditor@smithuel.net

All of SFC should give a special "Attaboy!" to two people who contribute to the Web site's existence. Sam Smith provides the free server space at smithuel.net. Steve Hughes provides the domain name, which is a lot shorter and easier to remember than the other choices with which we had to work.

The SFC Web site could easily serve as a sort of permanent bulletin board for Southern SF fandom in between

Bulletin mailings and conventions. With your interest and help, we can make it a great place to hang out. Give it a scan.

To view the SFC Web site or contact us:
<http://www.southernfandom.com>
sfcwebeditor@smithuel.net ☺

NEWS

THE 2002 HUGO AWARD & CAMPBELL AWARD WINNERS—Presented at ConJosé, September 1, 2002 in San José, California

- ❖ **Best Novel:** *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman (Morrow)
- ❖ **Best Novella:** "Fast Times at Fairmont High" by Vernor Vinge (*The Collected Stories of Vernor Vinge*, Tor)
- ❖ **Best Novelette:** "Hell Is the Absence of God" by Ted Chiang (*Starlight 3*, Tor)
- ❖ **Best Short Story:** "The Dog Said Bow-Wow" by Michael Swanwick (*Asimov's* 10-11/01)
- ❖ **Best Related Book:** *The Art of Chesley Bonestell* by Ron Miller & Frederick C. Durant III, with Melvin H. Schuetz (Paper Tiger)
- ❖ **Best Dramatic Presentation:** *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* (New Line Cinema/The Saul Zaentz Company/WingNut Films) Directed by Peter Jackson; Screenplay by Fran Walsh & Philippa Boyens & Peter Jackson; Peter Jackson, Barrie M. Osborne and Tim Sanders, Producers; Michael Lynne, Mark Ordesky, Robert Shaye, Bob Weinstein and Harvey Weinstein, Executive Producers.
- ❖ **Best Professional Editor:** Ellen Datlow (*SciFiction*)
- ❖ **Best Pro Artist:** Michael Whelan
- ❖ **Best Semiprozine:** *Locus*, edited by Charles N. Brown
- ❖ **Best Fanzine:** *Ansible*, edited by Dave Langford
- ❖ **Best Fan Writer:** Dave Langford
- ❖ **Best Fan Artist:** Teddy Harvia
- ❖ **Best Web Site:** *Locus Online*, Mark R. Kelly editor/webmaster
- ❖ **John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer of 2000 or 2001:** Jo Walton ☺

The 17th Annual Chesley Awards— Presented at ConJosé, September 1, 2002 in San José, California by the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists (ASFA) recognizing works & achievements in the period from January 1st to December 31st, 2001.

- ❖ **Award for Artistic Achievement**—Donato Giancola
- ❖ **Best Cover Illustration: Hardback Book**—Donato Giancola for *Ashling* by Isobelle Carmody (Tor, September '01)
- ❖ **Best Cover Illustration: Paperback Book**—Donato Giancola for *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien, Charles Dickson, Sean Deming & David Wenzel (Ballantine Del Rey, June '01)

- ❖ **Best Cover Illustration: Magazine**—James C. Christensen for *The Leading Edge* #41, April '01
- ❖ **Best Interior Illustration**—Tom Kidd for *The War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells (*Books of Wonder*, '01)
- ❖ **Best Color Work, Unpublished**—Anne Sudworth for *The Snow Tree*
- ❖ **Best Monochrome Work, Unpublished**—Tom Kidd for *The Faeries of Spellcaster*
- ❖ **Best Three-Dimensional Art**—Johnna Klukas for *Hall of the Mountain King*
- ❖ **Best Gaming-Related Illustration**—Donato Giancola for *Shivan Dragon* (card art for *Magic: Seventh Edition*)
- ❖ **Best Product Illustration**—Kinuko Y. Craft for *Die Walküre* (Poster for The Dallas Opera)
- ❖ **Award for Best Art Director**—Paul Barnett for *Paper Tiger*
- ❖ **Award for Contribution to ASFA**—Geoffrey Surrence for *ASFA web page redesign & management* ☺

2002 Locus Awards Winners—Presented at Westercon, July 5, 2002 in Los Angeles, California

- ❖ **SF Novel:** *Passage*, Connie Willis (Bantam)
- ❖ **Fantasy Novel:** *American Gods*, Neil Gaiman (Morrow)
- ❖ **First Novel:** *Kushiel's Dart*, Jacqueline Carey (Tor)
- ❖ **Novella:** "The Finder", Ursula K. Le Guin (*Tales from Earthsea*, Harcourt)
- ❖ **Novelette:** "Hell Is the Absence of God", Ted Chiang (*Starlight 3*, Tor)
- ❖ **Short Story:** "The Bones of the Earth", Ursula K. Le Guin (*Tales from Earthsea*, Harcourt)
- ❖ **Collection:** *Tales from Earthsea*, Ursula K. Le Guin (Harcourt)
- ❖ **Anthology:** *The Year's Best Science Fiction: Eighteenth Annual Collection*, Gardner Dozois, ed. (St. Martin's)
- ❖ **Nonfiction:** *Being Gardner Dozois*, Michael Swanwick (Old Earth Books)
- ❖ **Art Book:** *Spectrum 8: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art*, Cathy Fenner & Arnie Fenner, eds. (Underwood Books)
- ❖ **Editor:** Gardner Dozois
- ❖ **Magazine:** *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*
- ❖ **Book Publisher:** Tor
- ❖ **Artist:** Michael Whelan ☺

Campbell and Sturgeon Awards Winners—Presented July 5, at the University of Kansas

John W. Campbell Memorial Award for Best Science Fiction Novel of 2001

- ❖ **First Place:** (Tie) Terraforming Earth by Jack Williamson and The Chronoliths by Robert Charles Wilson (both Tor)
- ❖ **Third Place:** Probability Sun by Nancy Kress (Tor)

Theodore Sturgeon Award for Best Short SF of the Year:

- ❖ **First Place:** "*The Chief Designer*" by Andy Duncan (published in Asimov's, June 2001).
- ❖ **Second Place:** "*Lobsters*" by Charles Stross
- ❖ **Third Place:** "*Undone*" by James Patrick Kelly ☹

CHARLOTTE IN '05 A Bid for the North American Science Fiction Convention

Mail Charlotte NASFiC 2005, PMB 2004, 401 Hawthorne Ln. Suite 110, Charlotte, NC 28204
Email nasfic2005@secfi.org
Web <http://www.secfi.org/nasfic/>

Our facilities are located in Marvelous Uptown, Charlotte. Easily accessible by an International Airport, Amtrak, Interstates and a Bus terminal. There is also a free shuttle service.

Adam's Mark Hotel

555 South McDowell, Charlotte, NC 28204
Tel: (704) 372-4100 Fax: (704) 348-4646

From association or corporate meetings to social events, the *Adam's Mark Charlotte* has the space you need. The flexibility and versatility of our layout accommodates groups from 10 to 2,000. Larger groups prefer our Symphony Ballroom; with 16,000 sq. ft. divisible into seven sections and featuring an 11,000 sq. ft. pre-convene area.

Sheraton Four Points

201 S McDowell St, Charlotte, NC 28204
Tel: (704) 372-7550 Fax: (704) 372-6504

The *Sheraton Four Points* offers flexible convention and catering facilities to suit your every need. A total of 10,000 square feet of meeting space is available on a single floor. Included is a 6,000 square foot ballroom and 3,300 square foot ballroom. There are a variety of smaller rooms with a total of eight meeting rooms available. The Sheraton Four Points can accommodate from 8 to 1,000 attendees in a variety of set-ups which include classroom, conference, exhibit, theater, and reception. ☹

SEATTLE IN '05 A Bid for the North American Science Fiction Convention

Mail Northwest NASFiC, PO Box 1066, Seattle WA 98111
Web <http://www.seattle2005.org/>
Email nasfic@cs.com
Mailing list Seattle_in_05-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
Contact: Bobbie DuFault, Chair, bobbiedu@hotmail.com
Alex von Thorn, Vice-Chair & Media Relations,
avt@worldhouse.com +1 416 879 3307

SEATTLE IN '05 NAMES BID CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR, COMMITTEE

The Seattle in '05 North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC), operating under the sponsorship of the Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee (SWOC), is pleased to announce the selection of Bobbie DuFault as Chair of the NASFiC bid and Alex von Thorn as Vice-Chair.

Chair: Bobbie DuFault has been active in Seattle fandom for thirteen years, serving as chair of Rustycon twice and C-Cubed (aka "ConComCon", the Northwest Convention Runner's Convention) once. She is also currently on the executive of Westercon 56, to be held in Seattle in 2003, and has served in committee and staff roles at Worldcons, Westercons, and several Northwest area conventions. She has helped several Worldcons develop their Reading for the Future and Developing Young Readers programs. Bobbie is an active artist, costumer, and LARPer, and she has been active in other Seattle-area fan organizations. Outside fandom, she has twenty years management experience.

Vice-Chair: Alex von Thorn has been in fandom for twenty years as a dealer, gamer, costumer, filk fan, conrunner, media fan, fanzine writer, and other roles. He came to fandom from gaming, as founder of The Worldhouse, a popular Toronto game store during the '80s and '90s. This is his third bid in the SF convention community, having worked on Chicago in 2000 and Toronto in 2003. He has worked on Toronto Trek, Primedia, the World Fantasy Convention, and several Worldcons in a variety of roles. Outside SF fandom proper, he was also Webmaster for Bloody Words, a mystery convention, and chair of the Mensa Canada Annual Gathering in 1995. Alex was nominated for an Aurora award (the Canadian science fiction awards) for fan writing in 2002, as a contributor to The Voyager fanzine and the Hugo-nominated SF Site. As a game designer, he is known for writing "The Politics of Hell", contributing to "GURPS Cyberpunk" (involved in a landmark case against the United States Secret Service), and other works. Professionally, he is a manager of the technical support team for a national network service provider in Canada and has sixteen years of management experience, as well as certifications in programming and networking. His personal Web site is <http://worldhouse.com/alex/>.

Treasurer: Pat Porter was chair of the well-regarded Worldcon bid for Seattle in 2002. He has spent twenty years helping at local, regional, and Worldcon conventions as the military transferred him around the country. Recently he has worked at Norwescon and Westercons.

Party Diva: Marjorie Rosen attended her first convention in 1971. Since then she has worked with Bjo Trimble and other prominent LA fans at several Los Angeles area conventions, including Loscon, LACon (II and III), Genericon, Equicon, Phantasmacon, and Westercon in a wide variety of roles. Outside fandom proper, she helped organize Merry Meet, the National Convention of the Covenant of the Goddess. She moved to Seattle in the early '90s and has been active in Anglicon, Foolscape, and Westercon, and she has served as Chairman of the Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee.

Webmaster: Jerry Gieseke works at Microsoft maintaining their network backbone. He has worked in registration, doing websites, publications, and other roles at

conventions over the past five years. He is a gamer, avid reader, and "general all around trouble maker".

Membership Director: Dave Schaber's bio will be found on the web site shortly.

Hotel Liaison: Sally Woehrle has been Chair and Vice-Chair of past Westercons and held several other staff positions. She was Vice-Chair of Smofcon and has also worked at Buccaneer and Intersection. She is currently Chair of the Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee. She was a founding member and past chair of Anglicon and ConComCon (C-Cubed) and has also helped with Norwescon and Dreamcon.

Secretary: Melanie Schrabner's bio will be found on the web site shortly.

Ambassador-at-Large: David-Glenn Anderson has been on the concom of Conduit, Con2it, Millennium Philcon, and Life, the Universe, and Everything. He is an active advocate of Reading for the Future. He is retired from a civilian support position at Hill Air Force Base where he worked in maintenance, logistics, computer operations, and administration.

SEATTLE IN '05 FACTS

Pre-supporting memberships for Seattle in '05 will be sold for US\$15.

Pre-opposing memberships are available for US\$30. Individuals may become Friends of the Bid for US\$70.

The Seattle NASFiC will be held at the SeaTac Hilton Convention Center on September 2-5, 2005. This is the site for Sakuracon, a large popular Anime convention. (In the event that Seattle does not win the NASFiC site selection vote, the contract may be cancelled without penalty.)

The Pacific Northwest has been the site of two Worldcons and nine Westercons, and many local conventions. The local fan community has extensive experience in organizing large and small conventions.

Seattle in '05 will be hosting bid parties at ConJose in San Jose on Labor Day weekend this year, and at other conventions across North America, to be announced. The NASFiC vote will be held at Torcon III in Toronto on August 28-September 1, 2003. A group from Charlotte, North Carolina is also bidding for the 2005 NASFiC.

SWOC is a Federal 501(c)3 and Washington State registered charitable organization that promotes literacy and the arts through science fiction, and is the organizing group hosting the 2003 Westercon on July 3-6, 2003 in Seattle. More information on SWOC can be found at our Web site <http://www.sfnorthwest.org/swoc> or by contacting the bid at nasfic@cs.com or calling (425) 869-9160.

NASFiC FACTS

The North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC) is held under the auspices of the World Science Fiction Society during years when the World Science Fiction Convention is held outside the United States or Canada. If the bid for the Worldcon in 2005 is won by the unopposed Glasgow bid at the 2002 Worldcon in San Jose (Go Brits!) *{They won.}*, then the location of a NASFiC be voted on at the Worldcon in 2003 in Toronto by the World Science Fiction Society members. More information on Worldcon or NASFiC can be found at

www.worldcon.org. More information on Worldcon or NASFiC can be found at <http://www.worldcon.org>.

The NASFiC is also the location of the Chesley awards. The Chesley awards are peer awards in science fiction and fantasy art as determined by the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists (ASFA). More information on the Chesley awards or ASFA can be found at <http://www.asfa-art.org>.

Worldcon, World Science Fiction Society, World Science Fiction Convention, NASFiC, and North American Science Fiction Convention are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society. More information about these is available at <http://www.wsfs.org/>. ☹

David Weber Book Signing Tour

- ❖ Monday—October 7 —Greenville, SC—Launch Party and Signing (David's hometown) **The Open Book**, 110 South Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville, SC 29607 Contact: Duff Bruce (864) 235-9651
- ❖ Tuesday—October 8—Columbia S.C.—5 - 7PM **The Happy Bookseller**, 4525 Forest Dr Ste B, Columbia, SC 29206 Contact: Andy Graves (803) 782-2665
- ❖ Wednesday—October 9—Atlanta GA—6:30 - 8:30 **The Science Fiction Mystery Book Shop**, 200-F Cheshire Bridge Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30324 Contact: Mark Stevens (404) 634-3226
- ❖ Thursday—October 10—Birmingham, AL—12:00 - 2:00 PM **Books & Company**, 757 Brookwood Village, Birmingham, AL 35209 Contact: Barbara Cole (205) 870-0213
- ❖ Friday—October 11 - Nashville, TN—Late Afternoon/Evening, **Southern Festival of Books**—Panelist The Humanities Council of Tennessee, 1003 18th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212 Contact: Serenity Gerbman 615-320-7001 ext 12
- ❖ Saturday—October 12—Lexington, KY—2:00PM **Joseph Beth Booksellers**, 161 Lexington Green Circle, Lexington, KY 40503 Contact: Melanie Hilpp (859) 271-5330, ext. 103
- ❖ Sunday—October 13—Cincinnati, OH—1:00PM **Joseph Beth Booksellers**, 2692 Madison Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45208 Contact: Meg Cannon (513) 731-7770 x114 ☹

Southeastern Science Fiction Achievement Award

John C. Snider and the online science fiction magazine, *scifidimensions*, published monthly since February 2000, are pleased to announce the creation of the Southeastern Science Fiction Achievement Award (the SESFA)—a new regional award designed to honor achievement in science fiction, fantasy or horror by those born or living in the Southeastern United States.

For 2002, SESFA Awards will be given for Best Novel of 2001, Best Short Fiction of 2001, and Hall of Fame for lifetime achievement in SF/F/H. Winners will receive a check for \$100 and an attractive presentation plaque.

To help fund the Award, they're offering memberships at a modest fee of \$7. For more information visit <http://www.scifidimensions.com/sesfa/sesfa.htm> - they've started a list of potential nominees. Feel free to send them the name of anyone they may have overlooked.

They're accepting memberships and nominations through October 1st, 2002.

www.scifidimensions.com
410 Roswell Farms Road
Roswell, GA 30075 USA
Phone: (678) 585-0406
Email: editor@scifidimensions.com
List: scifidimensions-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

{Yes, it's too late by the time you read this but now y'all know about this for next year.} ☹

SOUTHERN CONVENTION LIST

Convention listings are as accurate as possible at the time they are published. We cannot and do not guarantee the absolute accuracy of any item printed in this section. You should check with the convention organizers to verify that the information is correct and current. E-mail addresses and telephone numbers (if given) are for convenience and should not be used for any other purpose than obtaining convention information. If you know of an upcoming convention or corrected information on any listed convention, contact the editor by one of the methods listed on the colophon. Also, this list is not exhaustive. It contains conventions in the South that your editor has been to or heard of or have made themselves know to him. For a more complete list, go see Kelly Lockhart's web site, the *Southern Fandom Resource Guide*: <http://scenic-city.com/sfrg/>

2002

October

- ❖ 4-6 **Intercon 17**—Baltimore, Maryland
- ❖ 4-6 **TrinocCon 3**—Durham, North Carolina
- ❖ 4-6 **Necronomicon**—Tampa, Florida
- ❖ 5 **Autumn at Oz**—Beech Mountain, North Carolina
- ❖ 18-20 **Con†Stellation 21**—Huntsville, Alabama
- ❖ 18-20 **CapClave 2**—Silver Spring, Maryland
- ❖ 18-20 **Wargamers Reunion**—Shelbyville, Tennessee
- ❖ 19-20 **Kansas City Comic Con**—Kansas City, Missouri
- ❖ 26 **Halloween Horror Fest 2**—Winter Park, Florida
- ❖ 26-27 **Baltimore Comic Con**—Baltimore, Maryland
- ❖ 26-27 **Vulkon**—Baltimore, Maryland—Cancelled

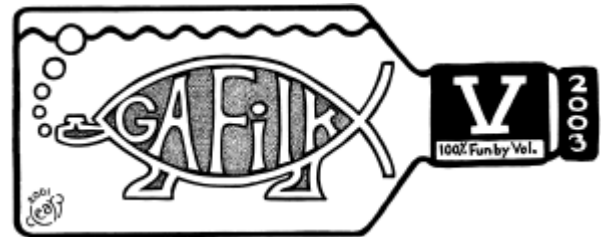
November

- ❖ 1-3 **Nekocon 5**—Virginia Beach, Virginia
- ❖ 1-3 **Contraception 14**—Independence, Missouri
- ❖ 8-10 **BeachBash**—Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
- ❖ 8-10 **Rising Star 11**—Salem, Virginia
- ❖ 8-10 **Spartacon**—Spartanburg, South Carolina
- ❖ 15-17 **MACE**—High Point, North Carolina
- ❖ 15-17 **CommandCon 4**—St. Louis, Missouri
- ❖ 15-17 **Vulkon**—Orlando, Florida
- ❖ 16-17 **Coastcon, Jr.**—Gulfport, Mississippi

- ❖ 22-24 **Conjurations 2**—Kennesaw, Georgia
- ❖ 23-29 **Julie Caitlin Brown Cruise**—Tampa, Florida
- ❖ 29-30 **Darkover Grand Council 25**—Timonium, Maryland

December

- ❖ 27-29 **Evecon 20** - Reston, Virginia



2003

January

- ❖ 10-12 **GaFilk**—Atlanta, Georgia
- ❖ 11-18 **Celebrity Cruise**—Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
- ❖ 17-19 **Chattacon 28**—Chattanooga, Tennessee
- ❖ 24-26 **Marscon**—Williamsburg, Virginia

February

- ❖ 14-16 **FarPoint**—Hunt Valley, Maryland
- ❖ 14-16 **Katsucon 9**—Arlington, Virginia
- ❖ 21-23 **PrezCon 10**—Charlottesville, Virginia
- ❖ 21-23 **SheVaCon 11**—Roanoke, Virginia
- ❖ 21-23 **Conflation**—Clayton, Missouri
- ❖ 28-March 2 **Megacon**—Orlando, Florida

March

- ❖ 7-9 **Starfleet Region 2**—Madison, Alabama
- ❖ 7-9 **ChaosCon**—Clarksville, Tennessee
- ❖ 14-16 **Stellarcon 27**—High Point, North Carolina
- ❖ 14-16 **Stormie-Con 1**—St. Charles, Missouri
- ❖ 14-16 **Technicon 20**—Blacksburg, Virginia
- ❖ 21-23 **Galacticon**—Chattanooga, Tennessee
- ❖ 21-23 **CoastCon 26**—Biloxi, Mississippi ☹

Con†Stellation XXI: Pavo

October 18-20, 2002

Holiday Inn Express

Huntsville, Alabama

Don't Run Afowl
of Rising Rates
Preregister Now
Before The Rates
Rise Like A High
Flying Bird!

PeaFen & FenHens
Join Us In Celebrating
The Exotic and Splendid
Peacock Constellation

Guest of Honor
Eric Flint

Artist Guest of Honor
Darrell Sweet

Fan Guest of Honor
Sandy McDade

Mistress of Ceremonies
K.D. Wentworth



Cutoff Date
Extended!

Membership Rates: *October 6*
\$35 through ~~30 September~~ 2002
\$40 thereafter and at the door
Children's Rates Available

To Register or Request Information Write to:
(Please Send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope)

Con†Stellation XXI: Pavo
P.O. Box 4857
Huntsville AL 35815-4857

Call Marie at 256-880-8210, no collect calls, please.
visit us at <http://con-stellation.org/> or email constell@con-stellation.org

Con†Stellation is presented by NASFA, the North Alabama Science Fiction Association

Rev 2.1a - 020910 - MassMail

NASFA, the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, is proud to present

Con†Stellation XXI: Pavo

Hotel Information

Our hotel this year is new to SF conventions, the Holiday Inn Express has recently remodeled and has interesting function space. The hotel is located near the intersection of University Drive and Jordan Lane in Huntsville proper, at 3808 University Drive, Huntsville AL 35816. Rooms are \$62, suites are \$89, (plus all applicable taxes) for 1-4 people per night. For reservations, call them at 256-721-1000 or 1-800-345-7720 (which connects directly to this hotel). You will need to mention Con†Stellation for the convention hotel rate. A variety of shopping locations and restaurants are nearby, with easy access to the hotel from most major roads in and through Huntsville. Before making reservations, those planning a room party should write (please include SASE) to the general convention address, mark your request **Attention Room Party Coordination**, so that we can assist in blocking you into the room party area. The closer to the convention dates we get the more we LOVE Email. Let's Party Hearty!

Children's Information

Children fees, accompanied by adult:

Ages 0 to 3 (by 18 Oct 2002) Free

Ages 4 to 10 (by 18 Oct 2002) \$20.00

These rates apply regardless of when the membership is bought. Any child not accompanied by an adult will be charged the adult rate regardless of age.

Dealers Room

All dealers (and helpers) **must** purchase convention memberships. Table Rate: \$60 for the first 6' table (includes 1 membership), \$40 for each additional 6' table (no membership). Your requests for further information (please include SASE) and payment for tables should be mailed to the general convention address, marked **Attention Mike Kennedy, Dealers Room** or for faster response, you may wish to email him at dealers@con-stellation.org. We're sorry but we can't hold tables without payment.

Art Show and Auction

There is a \$15.00 hanging fee per 4' by 4' panel, or for each 6' table in the art show; this fee will be \$10 for attending artists. There is a \$1 fee per print series entered in the print shop at the art show. No commission is charged for sales in the art show or art auction sales tax will be collected from the buyer. Pros may qualify for a free panel or table by sending 4 original pieces of art. Request further information or send payments to the general convention address (include SASE), marked **Attention Randy Cleary** or email rbcleary@bellsouth.net or call 256-772-3826. For mail-in art **only** the address is BookMark, 7500 South Memorial Parkway #133, Huntsville, AL 35802. Please do not mail art to the convention P.O. Box!

Convention Policies

Con†Stellation has a **no weapons** policy with two exceptions. Weapons may be used as a part of a costume in the Masquerade, if approved **in advance** by the Masquerade staff. Dealers may also sell weapons in the Dealers Room, but all weapons must be wrapped securely and taken by the purchaser directly to her/his room or off hotel property. Please tell us if your mailing address has changed since your last Con†Stellation, please provide us with a current email address.

Programming

As always, we'll have programming sure to satisfy a wide variety of tastes. Whether it's a Science Panel, an Author Roundtable, or the Art Auction, you will surely find something of interest at Con†Stellation. And, of course, don't forget our Dance, filking till late into the night, and other treats we have in store for you. There's always something that's entertaining to do! ☺

Masquerade

Again this year, as an added incentive to enter the Masquerade, **\$100 in Cash** will be awarded, and we'll have other surprises to be presented as well. Last year's Masquerade was truly interesting, with some unusual costumes. Get busy with

those sequins and glue guns now! There is no Entrance Fee for the Masquerade, zip, nada, it is free to all paid convention members.

Gaming

This looks to be a stellar year for gaming at Con†Stellation, featuring a variety of RPGs, CCGs, and Miniature Wargaming. Living Greyhawk returns with some special events. We will have several LG scenarios, including a Premiere Event and LG Interactive. If you have never played Living Greyhawk find out more at our website. We require preregistration for LG so sign up now at the website; follow the links. There will be Killer Cut-Throat Spades, Board Games, and open tables for you to bring your own games. If you want to run a game write to the general convention address marked **Attention Wayne Brown**. Come early, stay late, win often!

LARP

Pat McAdams' sixth annual LARP adventure is titled **Fall's Promise**. Registration will be \$7. For more information, send a note to gamemaster@emsoc.org.

Volunteers

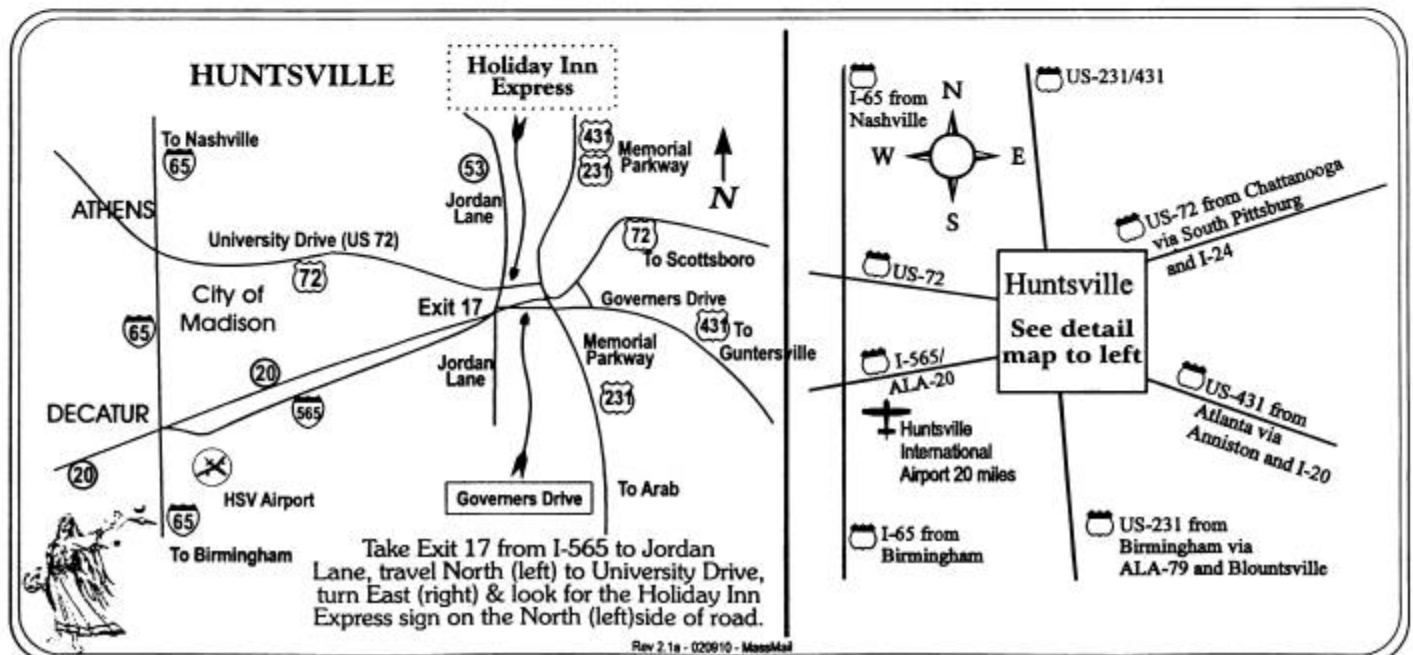
Con†Stellation is run by volunteers and we would like you to join us. We need people with various levels of convention experience, including none. We're as busy as a hive in summer around here. We want **you** as a worker bee. Write to the general convention address or call Marie McCormack at (256) 880-8210.

Advertising Rates

Program book size and rates are available at www.con-stellation.org/adrates.html or via email by contacting Jim Woosley at jimwoosley@aol.com.

Con Suite Treats

We serve one of the best selections of munchies in Southern fandom. What delicious surprises will appear on our tables? Bring on the crock pots! Smoker's Con Suite, too.



LIBERTYCON 16 REGISTRATION FORM

THIS FORM CANNOT BE PROCESSED UNLESS YOU SPECIFY YOUR AGE AND PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY SO WE CAN READ IT!

Please send this form to: LibertyCon 16
P. O. Box 695
Hixson, TN 37343-0695

NAME: _____ AGE: _____
NAME TO APPEAR ON BADGE: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
PHONE: () _____ - _____ EMAIL: _____

Others at this address attending the Con and being registered on this form. For other attendees not at this address, please copy this form and send in additional memberships on copies.

NAME: _____ AGE: _____
NAME TO APPEAR ON BADGE: _____
NAME: _____ AGE: _____
NAME TO APPEAR ON BADGE: _____
NAME: _____ AGE: _____
NAME TO APPEAR ON BADGE: _____

Number Registering _____ X \$ _____
\$30.00 (till July 12, 2003) (6 and under \$0) (7 to 12, \$15.00)
\$45.00 (after July 12, 2003) (6 and under \$0) (7 to 12, \$20.00)
Liberty Bucks (donation) \$5 US for 5,000 Liberty Bucks

TOTAL FEES AND DONATIONS ENCLOSED: \$ _____
(Sorry, there will be a \$10 charge on all returned checks.)
Do you want your receipt sent to you? Yes [] or No [] If Yes, Email [] or USPS []

YOU MUST PRODUCE A VALID PICTURE ID AT CON REGISTRATION TO GET AN ADULT BADGE!

For additional departmental information, send a self addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to the address for LIBERTYCON 16 listed above or contact us at <http://www.LibertyCon.org>.

For general information, please contact us at our Webpage or call us at 423-842-4363.

No registration will be processed if received after July 18, 2003.

Publication date: May 21, 2002: Information contained in this flyer supersedes any previous information.

REGISTRATION: LibertyCon 16 will be limited to 450 paid attendees. Registration will be \$30 if postmarked by July 12, 2003 and \$45 thereafter. Children 7 and 12 years of age will be charged half price rates. Children 6 and under are free. **Children under 18 must be accompanied by a PARENT or LEGAL GUARDIAN TO ATTEND LibertyCon 15. All Children under 7 must be accompanied by a Parent at all times. You must have a picture ID for an Adult Badge.** If you have further questions about registration, **contact us directly at registration@LibertyCon.org or bspraker@LibertyCon.org.**

PROGRAMMING: LibertyCon 16 will have 2 tracks of Programming on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This includes autograph sessions and Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, Science, Costuming and Art discussion panels. If you are interested in participating in programming or have some interesting ideas to share with us, please contact **Kerry Gilley at the LibertyCon P. O. Box or directly at programming@LibertyCon.org.** Also LibertyCon will again host Susan Brady's highly successful Make-It & Take-It handicraft session on Saturday of the con. If you have any ideas or would like to help Susan out, you can contact her at Kitara64@aol.com

STARSHIP LIBERTY CASINO: Friday evening LibertyCon will present a **NIGHT OF GAMBLING AND REVELRY ON THE STARSHIP LIBERTY!** The gambling will start promptly at 8:00 p.m. and will feature Black Jack Tables, Roulette Wheels and Craps Tables. At the end of the evening, lucky winners will have the opportunity to bid on items in the Charity Auction using their Liberty Buck winnings. The Chattanooga Area Jay Cees and Andre Norton's High Hallack Genre Writers' Research and Reference Library will be the worth causes that LibertyCon will support the year.

MASQUERADE: Sue Thorn will be the Mistress of the Masque. Costumers judged to be the **BEST IN SHOW** will receive a free membership to LibertyCon 17. For more information on the Masquerade, please send a SASE marked, **"Attention Sue Thorn, Masquerade"** or contact Sue directly at sthorn@LibertyCon.org.

DANCE: Shannon Allen and Charles Summers will again be hosting dances on Friday and Saturday Evenings. The **GOLDEN OLDIES DANCES** will be in the Ramada Inn Bar/LibertyCon Consuite and feature old-fashioned Rock-&-Roll from the ages!

KILLER CUTTHROAT SPADES TOURNAMENT OF THE KNOWN UNIVERSE: This year, Master Card Player Mark Paulk is in charge of the Killer Cutthroat Spades Tournament. Come and pit your skills across the card table against some of the most fearsome opponents in the country. Do you feel lucky punk? Now do ya? For more information on the tournament and/or to sign up, check out LibertyCon's webpage at <http://www.LibertyCon.org>.

ART SHOW: While most conventions charge as much as 15% commission on art sales and a hanging fee to show your work, LibertyCon is happy to be different. Our convention charges only a hanging fee of **\$12 for each 4' X 4' panel** reserved by the artist. There is a **table fee of \$6 for each half-table** used to display 3D Art. A **\$5 handling fee for Mail-In Art will be charged.** A **\$5 fee per artist for prints** in the print shop with a \$1 fee for each series of prints will be charged. For more information about the Art Show, please send a SASE to: **Kelly Lockhart, 208 Hillcrest Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37411**, or contact Kelly directly at klockhart@LibertyCon.org.

LIBERTYCON INTERNET WEB PAGE: CHATTANOOGA DATA CONNECTION and CHATTANOOGA ONLINE have sponsored a web page on the Internet for LibertyCon. It contains all types of interesting information about LibertyCon, the LibertyCon family, copies of the LibertyCon Gazette and many other features for your information. Please join us at <http://www.LibertyCon.org>. Let us hear from you!

COMPUTER GAMEROOM: One of the high points of recent years has been LibertyCon's Computer Gamerooms. Popular computer gaming tournaments on the Master and Novice levels are planned. Console gaming will also be available for our younger guests. For more information about the Computer Rooms, please contact Derek Spraker, our computer guru, at weslocke@LibertyCon.org.

PEACE BONDED WEAPONS POLICY: LibertyCon believes that fans are mature and responsible people. Therefore, weapons are permitted but they must be peacebonded at all times. The only exceptions to this policy are Masquerade Presentations, Programming and Hucksters displaying their wares. LibertyCon Security Forces will peacebond your weapons for you at the registration desk.

PROGRAM BOOK ADVERTISEMENTS: Advertising space is available in the LibertyCon Program Book. The cost for Professional advertisers is: \$100 per page, \$60 per half page, and \$40 per quarter page. Amateur advertisers and fan conventions will be given a 50% discount off the Professional rates. *Tentative page size for the Program Book* will be 5.5" x 8.5". For more information, send a SASE to the LibertyCon Post Office Box marked "Attention Program Book Dept" or email us at LibertyCon@LibertyCon.org

PARTIES: LibertyCon loves parties, but some people do not like room parties next door to them. To accommodate those who wish to party all night, as well as those who actually want to sleep, LibertyCon is specifying that **ONLY certain sections of the main building of the Ramada Inn will be used for parties**. All other areas in the hotel will be considered "QUIET AREAS." To hold a party, you must request a "PARTY ROOM" when making your reservations. The drinking age in Tennessee is 21 and all party hosts are required to observe Tennessee laws. We are making a special request of the hosts of room parties this year. **"Please card anyone receiving alcoholic beverages at your party!"**

GENERAL HOTEL INFORMATION: LibertyCon 16 will be at the Ramada Inn South, located just off of I-75 Exit 1 in East Ridge, Tennessee. The room rates for the weekend are \$56 plus tax per night for 1 to 4 people for regular rooms. Parking and local telephone calls are free. Due to the understanding management of the Ramada Inn South, LibertyCon checkout time on Sunday has been extended until 2:00 p.m. To make confirmed reservation for LibertyCon, please contact: Ramada Inn South, I-75 at U.S. 41 at East Ridge Exit, East Ridge, Tennessee 37412 or call them at 423-894-6110.

PETS AT THE CONVENTION: Due to Tennessee state law, no pets are allowed in food preparation areas. Therefore, because of the layout of the convention facilities at the Ramada Inn, PETS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE FUNCTION AREAS OF LibertyCon 16. However, PETS WILL BE ALLOWED on the patio and in the hotel lobby.

LibertyCon 16 was originally planned to be held at the end of July in 2002, but due to circumstances beyond our control [the hotel partially burnt down], we have had to reschedule it for July 25-27, 2003. Sorry for the inconvenience. Tim Bolge Chairman

Publication date: May 21, 2002. Information contained in this flyer supersedes any previous information.



DSC 41/LibertyCon 16

July 25, 26, & 27, 2003

Literary Guest of Honor:
S.M. Stirling

Arist Guest of Honor:
Larry Elmore
Steve Hickman

Special Guest: John Ringo
Master of Ceremonies:
Darryl Elliott

Art Show & Print Shop, Dances, 2 tracks of Programming
Large Dealer's Room, Masquerade, Fully Stocked Consume,
Computer Gaming, SiFi Video Channel, Killer Cutthroat Spades
Tournament, & Gambling for Charity in the Star Ship Liberty Casino

Retgistration \$30 until July 12, \$45 thereafter. For more information:
LibertyCon16/DSC 41, P.O. Box 695, Hixson, TN 37343-0695 or
email us at LibertyCon@LibertyCon.org

Ramada Inn South, I-75 Exit #1 @ Eastridge, Tennessee
East Ridge, Tennessee 37412, ph: 423.894.6110

LETTERS OF COMMENT

{Please note that I will not automatically run anonymous LoCs/articles without a byline (that is without a name—e-mail addresses do not count as names). Also, if you do not wish your contact information to be printed with your LoC, please note so.}

June 27, 2002: **Pamela Boal** {E-mail address withheld.}

Dear Julie,

Just popped back home (mostly for laundry) and there you were waiting for me. Thank you and for all your previous efforts. Is it really four years? Oh dear is that a sign of old age creeping on, that time does seem shorter than the calendar indicates?

As ever much of interest but no time to give any in depth comments. My skin is far too tender for me to risk getting between Joseph and Hank in an argument. I would point out to Hank that indeed Roman Catholics can and do hold high office in Britain.

Where on earth did you get the rubbish about plain clothes police detailed to listen for racist remarks? Yes we do have a law against making speeches designed to inflame racial prejudice and racial harassment. Unfortunately too often the flouting of those laws have to be blatant and frequently repeated before action is taken.

Sorry wrong again Hank, last figures I saw, unemployment per head of population is higher in America than in Britain just now. Not that that is anything to be complacent about. On what do you base your opinion that personal freedom is down the tubes? We are certainly free to criticize the actions of our government and seem to do so far more vigorously than my American friends.

We are permitted to defend ourselves but we do rather draw the line at shooting an unarmed malefactor in the back as he runs away. It would be foolish to expect that American citizens behave as portrayed on the silver screen but my liking for Clint Eastwood was considerably diminished when the opening sequence of one of his films showed him taking careful aim on the back of and shooting an assailant who had thrown down his gun and was running away. I honestly don't think my American friends are really in favor of such individual abolishment of due process of Law.

There are different interpretations of the Koran by Muslims as there are different interpretations of the Bible by Christians. Yes in some countries the religion is the law (law rather than the political system) then again one could say that the religion is the law in the Republic of Ireland. One of the laws I find most offensive is that which forces a girl to bare the child resulting from rape. Then again I feel that the people are beginning to demand change and it will come about in their time not mine.

Might it not be possible to stop child labour if multinationals actually paid the parents a fair price for their produce?

Come now Hank I often disagree with Joseph but hope I can do so without name-calling and misrepresentation of facts.

Thanks again Julie, Regards Pamela.

June 30, 2002: **M. Lee Rogers**, mleerog@bellsouth.net

Randy:

The SFC Web site has short biographies of the officers and a picture. You can see examples on the site. When you get a chance, I'd appreciate it if you would write or ask someone to write a biography. The site also needs a head shot picture. {Done!}

Wish I'd had more time to work on the site during the first part of this year, but the work schedule killed me. Anyway, I hope to provide some more interactive features and some articles from others in the weeks to come. I hope everyone will check out the Web site at southernfandom.com (end of commercial).

Now to the *Bulletin*. Julie was lucky to see the Olympic ice hockey men's final at a bar in the Nashville area. If it were on at the same time as a NASCAR race in these parts, the race would command all the screens.

I shudder to think about having to move the function rooms like the folks at MidSouthCon.

As to *LOTR* not getting an Oscar, how many non-PC films have won Best Picture in the past 20 years? The Academy would cancel the Awards before they'd give Best Picture to a (gasp) family flick.

Ah yes, another discussion of the terrors of Monteagle Mountain. For a rock that only rises about 1,500 feet above the valley floor, some may wonder what all the fuss is about. First, remember that folks from the Mid-South do not know how to drive in snow and ice, both of which are very wet here compared to more northerly climes. The ice is totally undrivable in southeast Tennessee, even on the mountaintops. You have the rockslides every once in a while, but they are not an everyday concern. The most realistic fear is of some idiot driver, probably in a heavy truck, losing control coming down the mountain. It's not as bad now that the area around the eastbound lanes has been opened up and the curves are no longer blind. I have never had a problem driving the mountain. But I still respect it. It has teeth.

Mr. Cardwell can complain about the shredding of the Constitution. I probably would not agree with him on very many of these topics, especially not his views of the 2000 election. But to borrow a line from a columnist, we now live in the post-Constitutional era. We still pretend to honor and observe the Constitution, but it's all a bad joke. We've been slowly losing our freedoms for a long time, and the situation is getting worse now that we have to adopt a domestic wartime posture in response to the Muslim attackers. Personally, I'd like to see someone—anyone—pay attention to the Tenth Amendment. But most of the American sheeple no longer care.

As for Messrs. Nicholas and Reinhardt, let them discuss their issues. I will only second Reinhardt's call for Nicholas to move to the Third World if he believes so strongly in the issues he discusses.

July 1, 2002: **Yuri A. Mironets**, Oktyabrskaya St. 2 Apt. 15, Vladivostok, 690000, Russia

Dear Julie!

I was glad to receive the *SFCB* vol.7 no. 13—I always find a lot of interesting information in the issues of this fanzine.

May and June were rather hectic months for me—the end of the academic year at Far Eastern University, students taking their summer exams, graduates giving the last polish to their graduation theses, etc. This year I had three graduates writing their theses on science fiction. All three of them defended their papers successfully. The first one, Tatyana, was writing her thesis on the genre of “space opera” in general and the *Lensmen* series by E.E. “Doc” Smith in particular. Her paper was the best of the three, and she received an excellent grade. The second graduate, Iana, wrote her paper on the theme of vampirism in English-Language Literature. She chose for the analysis two novels—“*Dracula*” by Bram Stoker and “*Hotel Transylvania*” by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro. She also received an excellent grade. The third graduate, Natasha, wrote her paper on the theme of interaction of Man and Nature in Harry Harrison’s trilogy “*Deathworld*.” She worked rather slowly and at first I had some apprehensions whether she could do her work in time, but finally she mobilized herself and handed her thesis in time. She received a good grade.

Summer has come to Vladivostok, and it’s becoming warmer every day. Students (and the professors, as well) are on vacation till September, and I plan to devote most of my free time to reading science fiction books which I wasn’t able to read during the last months due to the shortage of time.

Well, I wish all the members of the Southern Fandom Confederation to have a pleasant and relaxing summer and to attend as many conventions as possible.

Your friend from the opposite side of the Globe, Yuri.

July 12, 2002: **E.B. Frohvet**, 4716 Dorsey Hall Drive #506, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Dear Julie,

Since you alertly covered the point, I will send my LoC to you, to be forwarded as necessary. Naturally, you will remain on my mailing list. Although my familiarity with the *Bulletin* is limited to the last five or six years, I think it is a safe opinion that you more than held your own as editor. That might be as much as one could expect in a situation where many things normally left to an editor’s discretion are dictated in the by-laws. Too soon to speculate on whether you will take the opportunity to do your own personal zine?

There was brief obituary for Damon Knight in, of all places, *TV Guide*—naturally it focused almost entirely on this being the author of “*To Serve Man*”. Reassuring that at least we know he contributed more to world than one bad joke.

Interesting to know that more nominating ballots were cast for The Langford Award (née “Fan Write Hugo”) than for “Best Fanzine”. I don’t know how that relates to the fact that in the Langford/Fan Writer and Fan Artist categories, there were nominees I had never heard of. Not that it makes any difference.

My question about the duct tape was influenced by a recent experience involving an electrocardiogram, which electrodes stuck in places where those of use of the male persuasion often have body hair. It was not so much the removal of any one, as the cumulative effect.

I do like red velvet cake. Once in my childhood there was some sort of function at my school for which students (read:

their mothers) were asked to provide baked goods. My mother brought a package of white cake mix and a bottle of green food coloring and made green cake—from that hint, I guess it might have been Saint Patrick’s Day. Green cake with chocolate icing. It was quite popular.

Many buildings, and virtually all restaurants, in Howard County prohibit smoking. Much cheaper than the cost of renovation (all smoking areas must have completely separate ventilation).

Trinlay Khadro describes a panel, “How To Kill A Gamer”. My suggestion: walk up behind and smash him with a hammer. If he’s anything like the gamers I’ve seen, chances are he’ll never notice... I am the beneficiary of two examples of Trinlay’s origami, a (green) dragon which is on the counter, and a (pink) peace crane which hangs from the lamp. Visitors often comment.

No, Tom Feller, I did not know that Monteagle is the highest point between Nashville and Atlanta—though I have the vague recollection of a mention of it in a country song. Sorry to hear that Anita does not like driving through high country. It does not bother me.

As a matter of policy I declined to read one LoC in this issue. It should not be too hard to guess which.

Well, Picasso had a Blue Period; so did Richard Greene. (Jazz violinist who played briefly with the hard-to-pigeonhole Blues Project, for those who missed the reference.) Years from now people will look back and say, “Yeah, Julie Wall did a lot for fandom while she was editing the *SFCB*; but then look what she did AFTER that...”

July 5, 2002: **Michael Hailstone**, 8 Durie Street, Lithgow, NSW 2790, Australia

Dear Julie,

I have to begin every LoC I write with an apology for being so far behind, indeed in a kind of time-warp, because I have far more to read than I can cope with, an impossible backlog. Anyway, two years ago I sent Tom Feller a LoC, dated 30 May 2000, commenting on a then old issue of the *Southern Fandom Convention Bulletin*, unaware that he was no longer the editor. As I still have that letter on file, I rue and cringe at its opening, but I’ll explain that needless unpleasantness shortly. He wrote back, telling me that he had not cut me off his mailing list but had simply not put out an issue of his personal fanzine for a long time, no longer edited *SFCB* and so would pass my LoC thereon to you. The LoC dealt mainly with a most unpleasant fan’s LoC, who made smug and offensively politically correct remarks about Australia and couldn’t even spell “Sydney.” I’m wondering whether you got it. Trouble is, I changed my address just six months later, so anything sent to me at my old address after May last year would have either bounced or ended up in the dead letter office.

Okay, on to *SFCB*. I find it rather disturbing, that children are not allowed to watch or participate in a Strip Twister competition. I understand that children need to be shielded from sexual or raunchy things, but just taking clothes off is not, or shouldn’t be sexual. This reflects a most ominous trend in both our countries. What are about, raising today’s children to grow up into a generation of prudes? To bring about a new Victoria era? It certainly looks like it. Once it was at least somewhat

acceptable for children to get naked but not for adults; now we've turned that right on its head. To me this is one manifestation of a world that has gone truly crazy and makes no sense to me at all.

Of course the most interesting part for me this issue is the Aussiecon report. I didn't make it to Aussiecon myself, partly because I got back from a trip to Europe only the weekend before, and packing up and trotting off down to Melbourne right on top of that would have been too much, though I maybe could have gone, had I been either a few decades younger, a few kilojoules keener, or a few grand richer. Also though there is my severe disillusionment with fandom; Rodney Leighton seems to feel rather the same way. I decided in early 1999, before I even knew I was going overseas, not to go to Aussiecon, because I'd had it up to here with the shoddy treatment and discrimination I'd suffered from too many fanzine fans, either having my letters ignored, or, worse, getting cut off a mailing list for no good reason, hence my unwarranted testiness at Tom. Sure, I do tend to express myself rather strongly at times, but I do *not* insult the editors I write to as the aforesaid unpleasant fan does. This is the kind of unfair discrimination that happens in fandom. Obnoxious turds like the above fan write insulting vitriolic letters all the time and get away with it, but, if I make the merest slightest whiff of criticism, I get very very short shift. Also, had I gone to Aussiecon and met that fan, I would have had to smash his face in for the insulting abusive letter he had written me two years earlier. Now, don't get me wrong. I'm not like one well-known American fan, who, I've been told, got so incensed by a letter, that he went out, bought an airline ticket, and flew across the country to punch the offending letter writer in the face. No, if I feel that way toward anybody, and there were two such fans probably at Aussiecon, I'll run a mile or two to avoid such a meeting, as I hate confrontations, especially violent ones.

To more pleasant things. Although I have a special soft spot for Tasmania, I haven't been there since just after the Tasman bridge disaster in 1975, of which more anon. Since Steve and Sue Francis visited Mount Wellington on a foggy day, I'm a little surprised that they didn't describe the constant crashes of ice off the television towers, but then maybe you Americans are a bit blasé about such things. I haven't been up there in the wintertime, but I have been there in summer and seen the signs warning one to beware of falling ice, and I have also been on Mount Canobolas near Orange, about 70 miles west of here, in winter, and experienced that. But then it's occurred to me that the weather was unseasonably mild that day and so there was no ice. It certainly was up here, as, the following evening, I flew in to Sydney from London, than the temperature at 7000 feet was already above freezing, if I remember rightly. We are of course a lot further north up here, but the difference in latitude is enough to make 7000 ft here about the same average temperature as 4000 ft down there, and this brings me to another matter, the height of Mount Wellington that they give: 1720 meters. That couldn't be right. Being as ancient as I am, I still think mainly in the old system that you Americans still use, and I have a figure of 4166 feet, both in an old booklet on Tasmania and in a little booklet of my own that I wrote during my last visit to the apple isle. However, I also converted that figure to metric, getting 1270 meters, so that explains the mystery: somebody got the two middle figures round the wrong way. This is only a minor quibble, by the way, but I thought I'd just point that out. I copied the imperial figure from some brochure or something, which also

gave Hobart's population as 129,000. I guess that, unlike such fast growing mainland cities as Sydney and Melbourne, Hobart has grown very little over the last thirty years.

I was surprised by the reference to bushfires about Port Arthur. They must mean the fires of February 1967, which ravaged the Hobart area including Mount Wellington, killed 62 people, and destroyed 1400 buildings. I wasn't aware that Port Arthur was affected, but then I've been there only once: in 1965, two years before the fires. But I'm surprised that they make no mention of the great massacre there of 35 people by the crazed gunman, Martin Bryant, as this happened far more recently: on 28 April 1996. I believe that this has left a long-lasting trauma on the place.

They're probably right about BS mixed in with the stories they heard aboard the boat on the Derwent. It was *ship* that knocked the Tasman Bridge down; no barge could knock down something so big and solid. I was in Melbourne on my way to Tasmania when it happened. I arrived in Hobart a couple of days later, to see that the army was busy setting up a ferry service across the river. Hobart was lucky to have any ferries at all, as I'd noticed none during my last visit three years earlier. This time thought there was car ferry, which was used to carry people on a crowded deck. Later they got ferries down from Sydney and Hong Kong. For the few years it took to repair the bridge motorists had to make a 53 km detour up to Bridgewater to drive to and from work and so forth. I didn't know about the "secondary temporary" pontoon bridge. There was a pontoon bridge at Hobart before the present bridge was opened—in March 1965 according to that picture booklet, but I never saw it. In February 1965, when I first saw Hobart, the present bridge was already there.

They must have replaced the ferry that ran from Melbourne to Devonport when I lived in Melbourne back in the early nineties. By the way, that stretch of water that separates Tasmania from the mainland is just Bass Strait, not "the" Bass Strait. A British documentary on the extinct thylacine, which it most irritatingly kept calling "the tiger" (it was marsupial, not a feline), also made this mistake, not to mention describing Tasmania as "200 kilometers south of Australia". No, come to think of it, I must be thinking of a doco on the great storm and disaster that befell the 1998 (I think) Sydney-Hobart yacht race. Back in both 1965 and 1972 the cross-strait ferry was the *Princess of Tasmania*, affectionately known to us travelers (nowadays called backpackers) as the POT. A later ferry, the *Empress of Australia*, was later sold to the Asians, who went and sank her in a collision in the Straits of Molucca.

Yes, we have road trains in the outback (not Road Trains in the Outback as you American have it). I'll never forget the harrowing ordeal of having to overtake one on the Stuart Highway on a trip from Sydney to Darwin back in 1976. That highway (built by you Americans to link Darwin with Alice Springs during World War 2)—at least back then—was just a scruffy single lane of asphalt with stony shoulders. Heading north, we took a turn off it to make a short visit to Adelaide River. On the way back to the highway, the person driving was dismayed to see a road train heading north, dreading having to overtake it, and with good reason. The only way to overtake was for the road train to put its left wheels in the dirt and for us to put our right wheels in the opposite dirt, and we were bombarded by a hail of flying stones. Luckily we had no windscreen, having lost it near the Queensland border (when I was driving, and that

was the second windshield—sorry, that’s your word, isn’t it? —on that eight-day journey), so those in front had to hold the blankets we need to keep ourselves warm in a very breezy car unshielded from the wind to protect themselves. Happily we had to overtake only one road train.

The song “Tie Me Kangaroo Down, Sport” is now politically incorrect. The line, “Let me Abos go loose, Lou,” was quite acceptable and screaming funny forty years ago, but not now. No way.

I see that Richard Geis is still around publishing his conspiracy theories. It’s a shame that he and I never met in any way, but then I think I’m no longer as much into conspiracy as I was. I just hate globalization nowadays.

I hated *Star Wars Episode 1*, which I saw in Bangor, Wales. *Episode 2* is better, but not so much that I’d want to see it again. What on earth is CGI? {*Computer Generated Image*} What I especially hated about *Episode 1* was the incongruous mixture of medieval and futuristic space-faring technology, mainly androids fighting each other with medieval weapons on a medieval battlefield, but then we already had that kind of thing in the first three films with light sabers, which, however, didn’t bother me. Lloyd Penny surprises me: somehow I had never associated Canada with cicadas. They used to be a most familiar seasonal phenomenon in Sydney in late spring and early summer (November-December), but nowadays they are eerily absent. Why? Must be something we’ve done to the environment, but what?

July 11, 2002: **Arthur D. Hlavaty**, 206 Valentine St. Yonkers, NY 10704; hlavaty@panix.com

Dear Julie,

Thanks for the SFC Bulletin.

I wish to apologize for an error in my LoC that made it seem as if you were ignorant. When I wrote the letter, I was under the impression that *feti* was the plural of *fetus*. I have since learned that the correct Latin plural would be *fetūs* (note accent). This is confusing enough that we should probably settle for the boring English *fetuses*.

July 12, 2002 **Joy V. Smith**, Pagadan@aol.com

Dear Julie,

I love the cute cover, which is so apropos with The Eight-Legged Freaks upcoming. Lots of good illos too. I especially liked Spaceship Disguise #68.

Another great issue. You will be missed, especially by your successor, I suspect. You’ve been working hard, though I see you’ve had lots of help. I enjoyed the con and party reports. And thanks too for the Nebula Award winners; Hugo nominees; the Southern conventions list; and Tom Feller’s Annotated Fanzine Listings, e-zines, and web sites.

I always enjoy the LOCs, and I liked Trinlay Khadro’s mini-review of Concinnity. (Aren’t auctions fun?!) However, I’m not exactly sure what kind of contributions she wants for her fannish friends journal—just text? Bios? Cute quotes?

Also, I’d like to know if Paul Cardwell gets his new Preface (for Dan Beard’s Shelters, Shacks, and Shanties) published.

Appreciatively (for all your hard work and all the issues you’ve published)...

July 15, 2002: **Joseph Nicholas**, 15 Jansons Road, Tottenham, London N15 4JU; jopephn@globalnet.co.uk

Dear Julie

Thank you for *Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin* Vol 7 No 13, discovered in the pile of paper that awaited us on our return from a holiday in Orkney last weekend. (That is, the weekend before the one just gone.) In the struggle to catch up, this will necessarily have to be brief...

I was greatly amused by Hank Reinhardt’s response to my previous letter-but-one, especially the disguised death threat towards the end—one I think I can probably live with, given that the attempt would probably be made with a plastic blaster. That aside, however, he warrants some serious response—since every one of the statements he so solemnly makes, about the UK as well as the rest of the world, is completely and utterly wrong.

A few examples. (I can’t correct everything, or this response would be twice the length of his own missive.) “No Catholic can hold office in Great Britain.” This hasn’t been the case since the passage of the Catholic Relief Act in 1829; the only bar now is that a Catholic cannot succeed to the throne (and even that’s now under attack). “Racial tensions are increasing on a daily basis.” A few riotous incidents in Bradford and Oldham, in response to particular local conditions, blown out of all proportion by the popular press hungry for an anti-immigrant headline. “You do not have the power of self-defense, for if you fight back, you can go to jail.” Self-defense against attack is perfectly legal; the only constraint is that the means should be proportionate. (Reinhardt is perhaps thinking here of farmer Tony Martin, who shot and killed an intruder in his home; but since Martin wasn’t being physically attacked at the time, a claim of self-defence wasn’t possible.) “Nor can you sell goods using the old fashioned pounds and ounces, for if you do you will also go to jail.” No—failure to sell goods in metric quantities is a civil offence, incurring only fines. “You can go to jail if you should be overheard making a racist remark. (They have plain clothes cops out to overhear this sort of talk.)” The actual charge would be incitement to racial hatred, which is (a) of a different order to an off-the-cuff remark, and (b) like any other accusation would first have to be proven in court. And the suggestion that policeman have nothing better to do than hang around street corners to listen to what people say is ridiculous. (Presumably Reinhardt thinks this is why “the crime rate is soaring”, when figures for everything other than opportunist street theft have been falling year-on-year.)

Referring to *New Scientist* as a “leftist British science magazine” (that’s “left” as in the US Conservative meaning of the word—i.e., what elsewhere in the world would be recognized as merely liberal), Reinhardt also utterly mangles the reportage on the Indian response to Monsanto’s attempt to force Indian farmers to grow GM cotton. Indian farmers have rejected—and continue to reject—Monsanto’s pressure not because they’ve been told by British scientists but because they know that accepting GM crops would merely replicate the problems which followed the “Green Revolution” of the 1960s. Then, it was an intensification and mechanization of agriculture which led to the consolidation of farming units (i.e., the creation of fewer, larger

farms from many small ones), pushing poorer farmers onto marginal land or even driving them off it altogether, to an eked-out piecework existence in the slums and shanties of the cities (when on their farms they could at least provide for themselves and their families). Now, the introduction of GM, which would require farmers to buy new seed every year, would lead to further consolidation, ensuring that only the richest could continue to farm and throwing tens if not hundreds of thousands of subsistence-level farmers off the land and into unemployment. (I say this in the kindest possible way, but Reinhardt really ought to read up on development issues before plunging into discussion of them: it's apparent from his comments about Haiti, Sudan, AIDS, etc. that he has absolutely no understanding of them beyond what he's read in a newspaper.)

"I would plead in Mr. Nicholas's defense that he is totally ignorant of the religion of Islam." It's generous of him, but I didn't mention Islam, and in fact my argument doesn't depend on it or on any religion—I was (and am) concerned entirely with questions of relative power and relative poverty. At this point, indeed, his response veers away into *ignoratio elenchi*: that is, the argument, which appears to refute an opponent while in fact addressing a proposition which was never made.

"Regarding 9/11: I would advise Mr. Nicholas not to make those comments over here." That was the disguised death threat, and it seems to me to exemplify the covert totalitarian streak which runs through US society: in the land of the brave and the home of the free (or whichever way round it is), you're allowed to be free and brave only in a particular way, and any dissent from the authorized behavioral model is at the very least to be severely questioned. (Note how the media turns on those who query even the slightest aspects of Dubya's war against terrorism.) US conservatives perhaps represent the acme of this intolerance; indeed, in their hatred of alternative arguments and desire to crush them out of existence, they exactly resemble the Stalinists threat they claim to have opposed during the Cold War. One is tempted to wonder whether they did so because they saw Stalinism not as the enemy but as a competitor: another ideological system with a similar totalizing worldview to theirs, offering the same certainty of belief. The question, which then arises, is whether Reinhardt has ever paused to consider whether there might be a connection between a refusal to listen to what non-Americans have to say about the world system and the enmity for the USA expressed by some non-American groups. Because if he and others don't start listening soon, the next attack on the US certainly will be a nuclear one.

What a cheery note on which to end!

July 16 2002: **Lloyd Penney**, penneys@netcom.ca, 1706-24 Eva Rd, Etobicoke, ON, CANADA M9C 2B2

Dear Julie:

What? You're still here? Well, good! But, I think you've been here a little longer than you wanted to be. Anyway, I have here Volume 7, No. 13 of the *SFC Bulletin* here, and here is my usual letter of comment.

Teddy Harvia always produces the funniest covers...it must have been difficult to reproduce it with all that black in it.

Sounds like you've had a very dedicated team to get this zine out on a regular basis, or as regular as a zine ever gets. So,

now that the annual club meeting has taken place at the DSC, what's going on? Who's the new editor? Things have been quiet. (I also now download the monthly zine from the folks at NASFA...the July issue hasn't shown up yet. Was there something monumental happening at the DSC meeting?)

Ah, more further on. Would Randy Cleary's work with the SFC interfere with his work at NASFA? Also, there's mention that Randy is threatening to print pictures in his first issue as editor. Is he the new editor for the Bulletin? *{Yes, I'm editor now. NASFA will fare well (evil laugh).}* (Odd juice...now there's something to serve in a room party!)

Based on Tom Feller's con report on MidSouthCon, it sounded like the hotel had the attitude many hotels do. I guess they tell their other clients, aw, they're just kids, go ahead and use the space you want. I hope the MidSouthCon lawyer was informed of all the breaches in the contractual agreement, and will follow some kind of legal proceeding to get back some of the money paid for (non) use of the con's function space. Sounds like the Kubla Khan hotel also needs some remedial lessons on how to provide hospitality to their clients.

In my LoC, I reported on a spoken word CD I participated in. That CD will now be released around Hallowe'en, to keep in the spirit of the season, according to the disk's producer. When it is finally available, I'll let everyone know; it looks like I'll be more involved in the marketing of this disk than I thought.

Zanny Leach says that hotels may have to enforce the rule of food and drink not leaving the room in which they are served, but how that enforcement happens, I'm not sure. In the past, whenever we've staged a room party of any kind, we've put up a large sign by the front door of the room/suite we're in, which generally says, "PLEASE! Do not take food and drink out of this room! Thank you!" People will either pay attention to or ignore the sign; usually, it's the latter, but at least you have asked everyone who arrives at your party, and then leaves. The hotel will find empties in the darndest places, but at least you as the tenant of the room/suite are covered. I'm sure the hotel can do no more than also ask the same thing. Zanny is right in offering small cups for party guests; it helps keep wastage down and makes your party supplies last longer. Some swear by iced cans of pop/soda/tonic in the bathtub; others say large two-litre bottles are best. It all depends on your own energy, money and tolerance levels.

Well, I said goodbye last issue, so I'll say it again. I think you might find that after four years working on this clubzine, you might be inclined to keep just as busy. I think you'll miss it, and find other things to do. Also, do you have any plans in the future to come up to Ottawa to visit Neyir? If Ottawa fandom could ever get organized enough to stage a convention again, it would be a great opportunity to see you again outside of a Worldcon. We used to drive up to Ottawa about three or four times a year; now, whenever we see Ottawa fans, they have to come down here (or Montreal) for convention activity.

That's it, that's all, take care, and thank you very much.

July 16, 2002: **Harry Warner**, 423 Summit Avenue, Hagerstown, Maryland, 21740.

Dear Julie,

Let's see if I can emit just one more LoC before I succumb to my dearest wish: to do absolutely nothing at all until this hot weather eases up. Your June issue of the SFC Bulletin is entertaining and informative event to my numbed overheated mind.

I don't know either what "odd juice" may be. It certainly doesn't sound like Italian words for an Italian sub. But a supermarket I frequent has scads of a substance called Juicy Juice and I don't know how that happened, either.

It is indeed sad about the number of deaths in fandom and prodrom in recent months. One you may have not heard about was the passing of Nancy Share Rapp. She was the fan to whom singing fans are indebted for their term of filk music; it came from a typographical error in something she wrote in a fanzine. Nancy was very prominent in general fandom four decades ago but in recent years she had confined her fanac mostly to SAPS.

In the Hagerstown area, there has been no public outcry against Tolkien's books as anti-religious. Writers of letters to the editor in the newspapers have been grumbling about Harry Potter and several clergymen have echoed their complaints that the books and movie may cause young people to dabble in magic. But several of these complaints have included praise for *The Lord of the Rings* as Christian in basic ideas.

Tom Feller's fanzine listings relieved my mind considerably. Somehow I had been getting the impression that fanzines published on paper and distributed through the mails were becoming the minority amid a flood of fanzines available only with a computer. But Tom mentions only a half-dozen of the electronic type, compared to several dozen of the traditional type. So I suppose I'll be able to continue to enjoy fanzines for a while, provided I live long enough and write enough locs to stay on mailing lists.

In addition to *Time*, *TV Guide* ran a note on the death of Damon Knight and published his picture. It was quite a surprise to find this in *TV Guide*, because Damon had not been particularly active as a scriptwriter for the tube. Apparently it was inspired by the fact that he wrote one of the best-liked episodes for either *Twilight Zone* or *Outer Limits*, I forget which.

I've been told that Joseph Nicholas is a very pleasant person to talk to face-to-face. Apparently he becomes an entirely different person when he writes a LoC to a fanzine, then when it's complete he turns back into a human being. All Tottenham may totter when he writes a rebuttal to the letter from Hank Reinhardt in this issue.

I hope you are completely wrong when you claim that won't be publishing any more fanzines. That task can be made much easier if you switch to something small and informal and published when in the mood rather than on an inflexible schedule.

July 18, 2002: **Sheryl Birkhead**, 25509 Jonnie Ct, Gaithersburg MD 20882-3422

Dear Julie,

I can't remember which family wedding had a gingery fruitcake as the groom's cake—very nice.

Very nice Harvia Cover!

Thank you for all your work on the Bulletin—and giving it your own "spin".

O'Charley's??? {*Bar and Grill type chain restaurant*}

I don't get 15 of the 29 entries in the paper zines—ghood news for the health of pubbing!!

For E.B.Frohvet—Frank Wu is from Sunnyvale, CA (whoh—hope that's not Buffy's home turf {*That's Sunnydale.*}). His gee-whiz-gosh-wow ebullience is great—he is just tickled the proverbial pink over his nomination. I had not seen any of his work—and now you can see it on his own site etc.—he shows and does work for semi prozines (not sure about the prozines per se). I made several comments to him with broad hints about fanzines—but I'm not sure if he has pursued it. On his site (I think) he "reprints" his contribution to the JOURNAL OF IRREPRODUCIBLE RESULTS—well worth the reading!

Joy—can't really say—expect a turtle going topsy-turvy is "Joyfull"—then the plates on the shell struck me as a possibility for a fill. Hopefully—a smile sought and a smile found.

Lloyd—highest #486, lowest #177; nominating ballots casts.

Ok—yeah—maybe 10% of a U.S. WorldCon membership. Because of the okervine {??} of fandom—I wouldn't yet count out the *Buffy* musical

Please have the next ed let me know if (and what) art may be needed. {*I would welcome anything you send.*}

Again—thanks for all your work.

July 22, 2002: **Trinlay Khadro**, PO Box 240934, Brown Deer, WI 53224; trin63@dias.net or trin1066@hotmail.com

Dear Julie & Everyone,

Please note my e-mail has changed and is now

trin63@dias.net or trin1066@hotmail.com

I am still working on that journal and would really enjoy hearing from people.

I'm tickled to see so many of my wee doodles in the Bulletin.

What pray tell, is Red Velvet cake? {*Yummy.*}

I really don't think, for the most part, that I'd be more afraid of a ghost than a live person...I worked, often alone, in a haunted factory years ago. It was freaky; but not really frightening.

KT & Chris are still "an item". She's joined his crowd for D&D this summer as well as the LAN games. She marched w/ the Cheerleading squad in the parade on the 4th as well. Very cute!

Uncle is suffering a great deal from anxiety but refuses to go to the geriatric psychologist. I can't spend more than an hour or two with him as his anxiety then attacks me. This probably dates me; but in my mind "Ain't she sweet" includes the line "Canada Dry Ginger Ale..."

Saturday was pretty nifty, hung out w/ fannish friends most of the afternoon & later met up w/ another fannish friend for dinner (Don Quixote) & catching up on news.

Sunday we had plans to go out to "Festa Italiana" but instead got stranded taking care of Uncle all afternoon as his aide went home sick. (I expected back up to arrive in about an hour, but instead it was 5 hours.) I was a burned out wreck when relief came so I just went home & went to bed.

To day I just feel worn out: but I've been just tired & felling ill the past few weeks; I probably just get home, make a quick dinner & crash. {*Hope you are feeling better.*}

July 26, 2002: **Hank Reinhardt**, 1135 Duncan Road, Oxford, GA 30054-3614

Dear Randy,

Congratulations on taking over the *SFC Bulletin*. If you can handle it as well as Julie, you will be doing quite well. However, I don't think you're as cute as she is. *{Agreed!}*

Let me make a few more remarks regarding weapons policies at the conventions.

One thing everyone ignores is that fact the conventions can only regulate weapons in convention rooms. Room parties and halls are not subject to their rules. This is why you see a few weapons being worn at the parties. The committee can't do anything at all about that.

Most hotel people consider us harmless wackos, period. Putting dye into the hotel swimming pool is much worse than wearing a blaster on your hip. So since this actually has occurred, why don't all committees have specific rules about the hotel swimming pool should be off limits?

I keep asking for specific incidents regarding weapons. So far the only one that I have really heard of is the kid swinging a sword around in a large room, when someone opened the door and got scared. The door was on the other side of the room. I know, I was there. (No, I wasn't swinging the sword.) So why can't we just apply common sense to weapons, as with all the other things at conventions that might go wrong?

The other part of my argument was regarding the unintended consequences of weapons rules being one, condescending to fans by explaining the obvious, and two, banning weapons leading to fewer hall costumes. My statement was, "In the past few years of attending conventions I have noticed the definite lack of young fans. More and more of the conventions are filled with older fans and with fewer and fewer young ones. This was very evident at the recent Worldcon in Philly. Now, while I do not say that not allowing costumes and weapons is the main cause, I do think it is a strong contributing factor. Why should a young fan attend a convention where he or she is not allowed to wear a weapon, when they can go to Dragoncon, the SCA, the Rennfair, or any of the other events where it is allowed or even encouraged?"

I stick by the statement. The people who responded to my letter may not be aware of the type of business I am in, but the fact is I interact with a large number of people interested in weaponry and who attend all types of conventions. I hear their resentment and objections to sf convention weapons rules on a steady basis. While I will be the first to admit that it is not the ONLY reason young people are not attending conventions, I do think it is an important factor.

It will please my detractors to know that the DSC committee called my bluff and asked me to write up their rules and become their "Peace bonding Officer." Below are listed the we set up for the DSC; they were sensible and did not offend anyone.

1. All real weapons, edged and projectile, must be kept in their sheaths, and tied into their sheaths. This also includes those modern replica handguns that look like real firearms. Bows and arrows are an exception, but crossbows must not be carried cocked.

2. All obviously non-functional weapons do not need to be tied into a sheath.

3. If you use your weapon in a manner that annoys people, waving it about or making obnoxious noises, you will be asked to stop. If the behavior isn't stopped, you will be asked to leave the convention, or Hank will beat on you with a big stick.

4. All women who use their bodies as weapons must be peace bonded to Hank (when Toni is not around).

Note that the key here is behavior. Anyone acting in an offensive manner would be asked to quit, or would be kicked out. The very fact that you have young kids attending the convention requires that they be watched and controlled. You do this with booze, so why not with weapons (which are usually toys anyway!)?

As Ned Brooks points out, what constitutes a weapon? A simple pencil or a rolled up magazine can be quite an effective weapon if you know how to use it. (Aside to Ned, who thought refusing to attend the convention with a weapons ban was a bit strong: well, how else can I protest this stupidity...by going a diet?)

A public aside to Joseph Nicholas: Please keep writing. I have been able to quote you on several occasions. Most people don't believe me at first, but then I show them your letter regarding foreign aid. The one in the last issue was also quite nice. I was most impressed with the reasons you listed for missing a convention. I simply have never thought of those. The logic behind your reasons was positively overwhelming. Who would have thought it? Not that any of these things was to the point: you seemed to have missed that.

However, you are remiss in at least one assumption about me, and I should correct it just to keep the record straight: I have never worn a hall costume at a convention. I have dressed up for a specific purpose for a demonstration or a duel with some of my friends, but have never worn a hall costume or entered a costume contest.

I am sure that I will get some terribly witty reply from you to this, and to my last letter. Please do not disappoint me. Several of us are waiting for you to display the wit, logic and vast erudition that you have been so cleverly (and successfully) hiding.

To Paul Cardwell: I agree that many of our rights are being eroded. I find it particularly amusing that the greatest tirade against free speech came from Hillary Clinton who said that the Internet needed policing, that there was too much instantaneous information...of course this was right after *Drudge* broke the Monica story. Of course, that Bastion of Freedom, *Time*, was upset that news sources included the likes of Rush Limbaugh. The whole liberal establishment is totally in favor of free speech, but only if they approve of it.

I find your comments on the election curious. Bush won all of the recounts, somewhere between 6 and 8 of them. Of course there was an attempt to steal the election—the Democrats stole the election in 1960 (after which, although I voted for Kennedy I began to think they were crooked) and it was not contested. The Republicans were a large group of eunuchs. But it was well known that Johnson in Texas and Daley in Chicago had rigged the election. But maybe I'm being unjust. If the

Democrats can run a dead man (as they did in the Missouri Senatorial election), then surely they should be allowed to count dead voters. This time the theft didn't quite work. Although I am not in favor of Bush, God help us if Gore were president. Hell, he would have sold out to the Taliban for a nice campaign contribution.

You know, I love making friends and influencing people. Or perhaps it should be, like Cyrano: "I love making enemies...to feel the volley of a thousand angry eyes, the bile of envy, the froth of fear."

July 26, 2002: **Toni Weisskopf**, tweisskopf@mindspring.com.

Dear Randy,

I should put my two cents in here on the Weapons Policy debate: as it happens, I was there at the Con†Stellation and DSC committee meetings in the 1980s when the weapons ban was discussed and LONG before the con took place in the airport hotel. It was not adopted as a result of any specific incident, but because we were worried about hotel and insurance issues (needlessly).

I'll also officially congratulate you on achieving the SFC Kingship, I mean Presidency.... Long may you reign. *{Thanks!}*

August 7, 2002: **Henry Welch**, welch@msoe.edu

Julie,

Thanks for your LAST bulletin. I will miss your personal touch in the issues and while I expect a change in flavor with your replacement I hope to continue to find it agreeable.

I believe that you are aware that Letha and I had our wedding at Crystal Onyx cave in Cave City, KY and the reception in Horse Cave, KY. We even considered renting the "honeymoon suite" at Wig Wam Village where Guy Lillian hopes to host a worldcon.

I am a bit surprised at Ned's commentary on weapons and conventions. How can he not recall the problems that weapons and more specifically the "killer" games that took place a number of years at SciCon when it was at the Sheraton on the beach. On at least one occasion the police were called out and one of the participants came around a corner, squared, and squirted one of the officers. And then a few years later at the Holiday Inn there was the disgruntled girl friend that sicced the police on her boy friend in his hotel room saying he was armed (he was, but the weapon had no ammunition nor firing pin and she knew that). The presence of weapons does increase the likelihood of problems, but as with anything else personal responsibility still rests with the individual. I thought the killer games at SciCon were a bit ill advised, but had they been run with clearer ground rules things probably would have been better.

August 22, 2002: **Hank Reinhardt**, 1135 Duncan Road, Oxford, GA 30054-3614

Dear Randy,

I was delighted with Joseph Nicholas's recent letter. It was every bit as entertaining as I expected it to be. His comments about a "Death Threat" were simply a special treat and oh so Liberal! If you take a Liberal to task for anything, they immediately bleat with terror that they have been attacked and are in danger! What he read as a death threat, ("I would advise Mr. Nicholas not to make those comments over here,") was merely advice to the effect that he should be prepared to defend his statements, because not everyone would nod along, sheep like. I pointed out that many people in the US are not quite as effete as the Liberal English, and someone might take serious offence to his comments. As for me, perish the thought of threatening Mr. Nicholas. After all, eagles do not hawk at flies, nor does lightning strike cabbages.

I do appreciate Mr. Nicholas taking the time to at least attempt to refute my arguments, and I will stand corrected about the laws regarding Catholics in England. I am still curious as to how many Catholics get to run for office there. By now there must be thousands.

But as for his other "refutations": pshaw. To take his points one by one: His response to my statement that racial tensions are increasing on a daily basis is that the press is over-reporting a few isolated incidents. Again the usual bleat from the Liberal Sheep of the world: When they don't like the headlines, they are "blown all out of proportion," but when it's something they do like, it's "clear and accurate reporting"! Pardon me while I impolitely snicker. Check your own crime statistics and then come back to me if these do indeed refute the statement.

Ditto with his impression that the U.S. press is united in praise of George W.'s strategy for the war on terrorism—take any random 3 newspapers or news magazines, and you'll find a wealth of perfectly healthy dissension. Come to think of it, *I* am opposed to it! I think it's stupid.

Regarding using English measures as a crime: he says, not really, it's only a civil offence—but of course if you refuse to pay the fine, you go to jail.

As for self-defense, Nicholas cites the case of the farmer Martin whose home was invaded, and who was then jailed when he killed one of the intruders, saying "since Martin wasn't being physically attacked at the time, a claim of self-defense wasn't possible." Nicholas forgets that there were three of them, and Mr. Martin felt threatened. So far as I can see, that merely supports my argument, not refutes it. But my statement was not made on the basis of this one case. English law forbids the carrying of any item for personal defense. The silliness of the statement that the response should be proportionate is beyond belief. What is the proportionate response when a 60-year old woman is attacked by two 200 lb men? Particularly when she is not allowed to have any weapon for self-defense? The response of British police is to arrest all three. But to give actual examples: in 1987 two men assaulted a 56-year old man in a subway car, strangling him and smashing his head against the door. No one in the car came to his aid. "Later Butler testified in desperation he unsheathed a sword blade in his walking stick, and slashed at one of them, 'as my last means of defense,' stabbing one of them in the stomach. The assailants were charged with unlawful wounding, but Butler was also tried and convicted of carrying an offensive weapon." (*Guns and Violence: The English Experience* by Joyce Lee Malcolm, Harvard University, 2002.) This book also cites the case of the elderly woman who used a cap pistol to threaten two burglars who was herself arrested and convicted for using a firearm to

cause someone to be in fear of his life. It is English law that no item can be carried for the purposes of defense.

As for my mention that making racist remarks are a crime, Nicholas admits that it is illegal, and then tries to put a different spin on it. Sorry, that doesn't wash. But then in Great Britain there is no guarantee of free speech.

I described the editorial stance of the *New Scientist* as "leftist"; Nicholas prefers the word "liberal." Perhaps someone can tell me the difference. I prefer my science magazines to deal with science, and not give their political opinions (and for the most part, *New Scientist* seems to report accurately, and makes its biases clear in its editorials—something I applaud, and something that most U.S. science magazines do *not* do). If he takes issue with what I wrote about their coverage of Indian farmer's rejection of GM farming and their reasons why, I suggest he take that up with the magazine, as that is what they reported.

I feel ashamed that I have not spent the many years living in Haiti, the Sudan, nor do I have such a deep and abiding personal knowledge of AIDS that Mr. Nicholas possesses. He must have first hand knowledge of these since he disparages my knowledge gained from reading various newspapers, magazines, books, and a 50 years of studying history, and feels that disqualifies me from having an opinion on these things. Still, even if my sources of knowledge are not above reproach, simply asserting they are not is not any kind of a refutation of them.

I will not apologize for my comment about Islam. If Mr. Nicholas is so foolish to think that the 9/11 terrorism was not a religious attack, but due to "global inequality" then he is even more foolish than I thought he was. "Global inequality" is a very nebulous term anyway, though possibly related to "diversity." However, I would suggest that Mr. Nicholas read the Koran, read the history of the Arab expansion, see what happened in India, Eastern Europe, and what is happening in the rest of the world. Somehow I'm sure he feels that the Christians in Indonesia are being attacked because the US is supporting Israel. (Although I do think the International Monetary Fund is a disaster.)

I'm not sure how much time Mr. Nicholas has spent over here, but if he had any awareness of what is happening on this side of the pond he would know that the greatest amount of intolerance comes from the Liberal Left. Three books I could recommend, *Bias*, *Slander* and *Coloring the News*, would be quite helpful, but he might have problems getting someone to read them to him. They all document in overwhelming detail how the left have attempted to squash all opinions that do not fall into lockstep with theirs.

I've spend a lot of time in London, Ely and several other places in England. I always admired, and still do, the Brits who stood up to Hitler and a regime that might *legitimately* be characterized as totalitarian. It's a shame that the breed appears to be dying out. (Do we need to remind Mr. Nicholas that Hitler was a socialist?)

Although I have vast respect for Mr. Nicholas' intellectual powers, I was disappointed that he did not detail why I was wrong regarding free spending in the Third World. I am sure that he will find the time in his next letter to use his vast erudition to instruct me.

Sarcasm aside, Mr. Nichols pleads lack of time for his short letter. I must submit that it is lack of substance and knowledge that makes his letter brief. Had I no better arguments to present than he has, I would also be brief.

In what is one of the most amusing turnabouts I've encountered, Mr. Nicholas, after bleating in terror over my supposed threat, then threatens the US with nuclear destruction if we don't listen to him!

It's good they do not have Thanksgiving in England. I doubt if Mr. Nicholas would have survived. (But then, there are no shortages of turkeys in England.)



5 September 5, 2002 **Timothy Marion**,
Timothy.Marion@CliffordChance.com

Dear Julie:

So sorry to read that you won't be doing the SFC Bulletin anymore, but I can well understand how much trouble it is. I have the suspicion, though, that you may return to fan publishing one day. In the meantime, we have to hope your successor does even half as good a job or attractive a zine.

Oh no, Joseph Nicholas is still writing long, vitriolic letters about us ignorant American fen who take issue with him because we haven't understood his oh-so-carefully-worded letters? I can't imagine why you would be so glad as to "finally" get a letter from him, and contrary to what he says, a skilled letterhack should be able to find something to say about almost any issue of a fanzine (as demonstrated by how short my LoC is this time). Oh well, everyone is good for something—obviously, Joseph Nicholas is handy as a whetting stone for Hank Reinhardt to sharpen his, uh, sword on.

{Thanks for all the LoCs. Keep them coming. I also need illos and articles for next issue.} ☹

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