

THE SOUTHERN FANDOM CONFEDERATION BULLETIN



SOUTHERN FANDOM CONFEDERATION BULLETIN

CONTENTS	PAGE
Cleary Comments	3
SFC Business Meeting Minutes	4
DSC Business Meeting Minutes	4
SFC Annual Financial Report	4
Treasurer's Report	4
Convention Reports	5
Book Reviews	19
Annotated Fanzine Listings	20
News	22
Word Search	23
Southern Convention Listings	25
SFC By Laws	27
DSC By Laws	28
Letters of Comment	29

Policies

The *Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin* Volume 8, Number 8, May 2005, 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 *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. The *Bulletin* is also available for trades, published contributions, and letters of comment.

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

The editor encourages submission of lengthy written material and art – covers and illos. Contributions and LoCs via electronic means are highly desirable. If you wish to use the Internet, you may send the article as electronic mail or an attachment. If you wish to send the editor computer media, 3.5" floppies, 100 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.

The SFC web site is: www.southernfandom.com

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.W. Reinhardt, is now available to all comers for \$5, plus a \$2 shipping and handling charge if we have to mail it. The Handbook is also available online, thanks to the efforts of Samuel Smith, at www.smithuel.net/sfcbh/. The SFC Handbook Errata page is: www.smithuel.net/sfcbh/hberrata.html.

T-Shirts

Sizes	Quantity (Animals)	Quantity (States)
Medium	1	2
Large	2	4
XXL	1	Not Available

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

SFC Patches

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

Art Credits

Trinlay Kandro (cover, pp. 28, 30, 31), R.B. Cleary (p. 7)

Officers Contact Information

President **R. B. Cleary**, 138 Bibb Drive, Madison, AL 35758-1064; (256) 772-3826; rbcleary@bellsouth.net; [//home.bellsouth.net/p/PWP-rbcleary](http://home.bellsouth.net/p/PWP-rbcleary)

Vice-President **Julie Wall**, 470 Ridge Road, Birmingham, AL 35206; jwall@usa.net;

Secretary **Tom Feller**, PO Box 140937, Nashville, TN 37214-0937; tomfeller@aol.com; [//homtetown.aol.com/tomfeller](http://homtetown.aol.com/tomfeller)

Treasurer **Janet Hopkins**, 308 Dunbar Cave Rd, Clarksville, TN 37043; stormwolf2001@cs.com

CLEARY COMMENTS

by R. B. Cleary

I hope everyone has done well since last issue. I am sorry that this issue is somewhat tardy. I wanted to get it out right after DeepSouthCon but real life delayed those plans.

WEB SITE UPDATES

The *SFC Bulletins* for March, August, and December 2004 are now on-line in PDF format. The SFPA Official Editor contact information has been updated. Two broken links have been corrected. And the new Treasurer contact information is available.

NEW TREASURER

First, I want to thank again, Judy Bemis, for her nine years of serving as the SFC treasurer and doing a wonderful job. After much searching with little success, Janet Hopkins volunteered at the SFC Business meeting at DeepSouthCon 43 to be our new treasurer. Judy and Janet will work together for the transition period and will get the bank accounts transferred. Let's all welcome Janet Hopkins and wish her much luck as our new Treasurer.

CONVENTIONS

I attended Chattacon, ConCave, and DeepSouthCon 43 / Xanadu 8 since last issue. I hope next to attend LibertyCon and DragonCon.

Chattacon XXX was January 21-23, 2005 in Chattanooga, TN at the Read House. The large cavernous con-suite was the main gathering place since no parties were allowed this year at the Read House. There were some parties in the nearby Days Inn. However, the weather was so cold that only the brave and/or the foolhardy ventured out. It was great to meet and talk with the Artist Guest of Honor, David Cherry. The Chattacon masquerade was great for a con of this size with lots of good costumes and skits.

At ConCave, March 4-6, 2005 in Horse Cave, KY, I helped by doing the program book cover. Thanks to Gary Robe for my T-Shirt. I also helped with a Moon Princess (and Prince) party, hosted by Toni Weisskopf-Reinhardt, Julie Wall, Linda and Bill Zielke. The party went well. ConCave had several other great theme parties and as usual, a good art show run by Naomi Fisher and Patrick Malloy. The guests, Greg and Dana Bridges of Mid-SouthCon fame, seemed to have a good time.

DeepSouthcon 43 was held at the Holiday Inn Express, in Nashville, April 8-10, 2005. It was smaller than last year but that just allowed for concentrated fannish fun with great guests, panels, and parties. Jack Chalker was to be Master of Ceremonies but passed away before the convention. Connie

Willis served in that capacity. Mike Resnick was guest of honor and with Connie Willis gave several excellent and well-attended panels. The Artist Guest of Honor was Darryl Elliott, probably the best pencil illustrator working today (IMHO). Lynn Harris ran a small but excellent art show. Larry Smith ran the smallish dealers room, sharing space with the art show. The hospitality suite had great snacks and entrées all weekend and was run by Art and Janet Hopkins of Outside Con. Nearby the Holiday Inn Express is the Flying Saucer Bar. Being a fan, how could I not stop by? It had a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Outside Con 2007 will be the host of DeepSouthCon 45. It should be an interesting experience.

PASSINGS

It is with sadness that we note the passing of several people this issue. Personally, I have been honored to have met Frank Kelly Freas, Jack Chalker, and Andre Norton, all of whom I had been a fan of long before meeting them. Hopefully, the rest of the year will be less eventful in this area.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Grant Kruger (amply represented this issue) is working on updating the SFC Handbook, a history of Southern Fandom. Please help him out with relevant material.

Similarly, I can always use illos, reviews, reports, articles, etc. I try to publish as much as I can fit in each issue. I prefer items of fannish nature and/or issues, with southern fandom relevant items given preference.

Science Fiction Cookbooks I Would Like To See

by R.B. Cleary

1. *Rendezvous with Ramen Noodles*, Clarke
2. *Deepness in the Pie*, Vinge
3. *Fire upon the Deep Baked Alaska*, Vinge
4. *Stand on Candy Bar*, Brunner
5. *Speaker for the Fed*, Card
6. *Pine Apple Ring World*, Niven
7. *Fallen Angels Food Cake*, Pournelle and Niven
8. *Hominy (Grits)*, Sawyer
9. *Paladin of Soul Food*, by Bujold
10. *The Forever Pizza*, Haldeman

SFC Business Meeting Minutes

by Tom Feller

April 10, 2005 Nashville, Tennessee

- 10:07 AM: President Randy Cleary called the meeting to order.
 10:08 AM: Randy announced that dues are due and made a \$20 donation. Steve and Sue Francis donated \$20.
 10:09 AM: Randy announced the next *SFC Bulletin* would come out by the end of May.
 10:10 AM: Randy announced that Judy Bemis would be stepping down as Treasurer. Secretary Tom Feller, Vice-President Julie Wall, and President Randy Cleary were standing for re-election. Janet Hopkins accepted nomination for treasurer. Julie nominated, Randall Pass seconded. Janet was elected by acclamation. The other officers were elected by acclamation.
 10:13 AM: Randall moved that we thank Judy for her nine years of service. The audience applauded.
 10:14 AM: Randy read the annual treasurer's report.
 10:15 AM: Guy Lillian asked about the printing costs. Randy usually gets a 4 cent per page rate for 250 copies, because he is usually able to get a coupon for Office Max.
 10:16 AM: The bulk mailing permit costs \$150 per year.
 10:17 AM: There is still no official web site administrator. Randy is maintaining it at this time.
 10:18 AM: The reading of the previous year's minutes were dispensed.
 10:19 AM: Judy's opinion is that a membership rate increase is not necessary, unless moving to a new bank necessitates higher fees.
 10:20 AM: Randy raised the possibility of updating the SFC Handbook. Toni Weisskopf-Reinhardt volunteered Grant Kruger to do the update with her assistance. Tom Feller volunteered to do an article on Dragoncon.
 10:25 AM: Meeting adjourned.

DeepSouthCon Business Meeting Minutes

by Tom Feller

April 10, 2005 Nashville, Tennessee

- 11:00 AM: DSC chair Dan Caldwell calls meeting to order.
 11:01 AM: Mike Kennedy summarized the amendments to be voted upon. Sam Smith read them in full.
 11:06 AM: Unanimous decision to adopt first amendment.
 11:07 AM: Discussion of the second amendment.
 11:08 AM: Amendments were passed unanimously.
 11:09 AM: Mike Kennedy moved that the committee who wrote the amendments be commended. Patrick Molloy and Guy Lillian seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 11:10 AM: Presentation of bids for the 2007 DSC. No bid had filled the paperwork by 6 PM on Friday so all votes were write-ins. Toni Weisskopf-Reinhardt made a motion that the bids be drawn randomly to determine order of presentation. Motion passed.
 11:11 AM: Fred Grimm made a presentation for ConCarolinas in Charlotte, North Carolina, at the Radisson on June 1-3, 2007. The attendance at ConCarolinas was 550 last year, and the hotel has 297 rooms and 2 suites. Fred then took questions from the audience.
 11:20 AM: Sue Francis made a presentation for Louisville, Kentucky. She had neither a hotel, a date, nor a committee. She did discuss the advantages of Louisville as a host city and the presence of many former Rivercon committee members.
 11:25 AM: Debbie Hussey made a presentation for Atlanta, Georgia, on behalf of Irv Koch. Irv did not have a hotel, a date, or a

- committee. The dates would be May or August and the Irv is looking at were the Holiday Inn North or the Marriott Marrietta.
 11:30 AM: Bob Embler made a presentation for Outsidecon at Montgomery Bell State Park west of Nashville, Tennessee, for September 7-9, 2007. Bob announced that the convention would provide all meals and mentioned the culinary skills of Art and Janet Hopkins. Bob described the park and membership rates and took questions.
 11:45 AM: Guy Lillian requested that whoever wins that they get info out as soon as possible. Randy Cleary said he would publish the info in the *SFC Bulletin*.
 11:50 AM: The vote took place. Outsidecon was the winner.

SFC Annual Financial Report

by Judy Bemis

Balance 3/13/2004 (\$1,449.01 in checking)	\$1,479.56
Income	
Individual memberships and renewals	\$ 600.00
Donations in lieu of dues	\$ 75.00
Club/Con memberships (ConCave, NASFA)	\$ 145.00
Other Donations	\$ 45.00
Advertising Revenue	\$ 100.00
Total Income	\$ 965.00
Expenses	
Bulletin Vol 8 #5 Printing	\$ 251.10
Bulletin Vol 8 #5 non-US mail	\$ 16.90
Bulletin Vol 8 #5 Bulk mail	\$ 54.14
Bulletin Vol 8 #6 Printing	\$ 224.64
Bulletin Vol 8 #6 Foreign Postage	\$ 14.60
Bulletin Vol 8 #6 Bulk Mail	\$ 54.94
Bulletin Vol 8 #7 Printing	\$ 151.20
Bulletin Vol 8 #7 Foreign Postage	\$ 14.60
Bulletin Vol 8 #7 Bulk Mail	\$ 56.01
Total Expenses	\$ 838.13
Balance 4/4/2005 (\$1,600.88 in checking)	\$1,606.43

Treasurer's Report

by Judy Bemis

Balance 12/2/2004 (\$1582.69 in checking, \$25 cashbox)	\$1,612.69
Income	
Memberships and Renewals	\$ 450.00
Donations and (in Lieu of dues)	\$ 130.00
Club/convention dues (NASFA)	\$ 75.00
Handbooks	\$ 5.00
Badges	\$ 5.00
T-Shirts	\$ 20.00
Bulletin back issues	\$ 1.00
Total Income	\$ 686.00
Expenses	
Bulletin Vol 8 #7 Printing	\$ 151.20
Bulletin Vol 8 #7 Foreign Postage	\$ 14.60
Bulletin Vol 8 #7 Bulk Mail	\$ 56.01
Total Vol 8 #7	\$ 221.81
Total Expenses	\$ 221.81
Balance 4/17/2005 (\$1582.69 in checking, \$25 cashbox)	\$2,076.88

Huntsville Highlights, a Con Report-Back

by Grant Kruger

On a quiet Thursday in early fall 2004, during the first cold snap of the season, I took a little drive up to Huntsville Alabama. Fortified by a full breakfast and caffeinated drinks, I arrived less than five hours after leaving Jackson, Mississippi. The handful of ants that somehow hitched a ride with me nibbled away at my excitement, but in vain. I was on a schedule, and far too excited besides; this weekend I would be a Guest of Honour for the first time.

I was met at my hotel by Mike Kennedy, the chairman of Con†Stellation, Huntsville's largest and longest running annual science fiction convention. Mike is a large man, at least six foot four; redness of hair and beard hint at Scottish fierceness, but cannot hide his friendly open smile. He welcomed me with warm greetings, and the sad news that Esther Friesner, the Master of Ceremonies, had cancelled at the last moment due to illness. She had tried to tough things out, but had finally given up after going as far as to check her luggage onto the airplane.

I was delighted to be there. Con†Stellation is named for the constellations and every year they pick a new constellation. This year they had picked Delphinus (the dolphin) and so dolphin pictures, toys and jewelry were much in evidence. I will happily confess that I was glad that the rabbit was only going to be next year (the bunny GoH just sounds too kinky).

Not that the theme mattered. It is a special honour to be asked to be the guest of a con, one that I was still feeling somewhat inadequate to. I was therefore determined to do everything possible to be the best guest that I could. In this vein I brought with me almost sixty buttons that I'd made for the con to sell for their charity. All of them were in the dolphin theme, with the layout done by Mike. The con would be over before I realised that I'd failed to buy one for myself. I also brought odds and ends from South African fandom to highlight my international roots.

The hotel seemed well suited to the con with plenty of open areas across three buildings, and an available restaurant section that the hotel only used for breakfast, filled with couches, tables and chairs. As with any con, the free breakfast was a major plus, and there was even a spare hotel front desk counter in the third building that worked wonderfully as con registration. Restaurants also surrounded the hotel, which is always important at a con.

I checked into my room (paid for by the con) and while showering I wondered if I was the first South African ever to be a fan GoH. It seemed a fair guess; I have never met nor heard of another South African fan involved in con running in North America or Europe, and SA conventions do not have fan GoHs. Refreshed, I joined the other guests and a group of local fans for supper at a local Chinese restaurant.

The Artist GoH was Kinuko Y. Craft, a citizen of Japan, married to an American and living in New England for forty years. Her speciality was highly detailed oil paintings with a feminine feel. It was her first convention of this kind and, normally working alone all day from home, she seemed

overwhelmed by it all. She was the only guest to bring a spouse, though we soon realised how integral a part of things he was, with them really also being business partners. Conversely, the main GoH, the author Lawrence Watt-Evans, was an old hand at GoH duties. He knew what was required of him and enjoyed being the centre of attention. He was the perfect guest, given to socialising and being very approachable. The fan crowd seemed a relaxed and friendly one and this made for a pleasant meal that helped to ease us all into the local scene.

From there we went back to the hotel where I helped a team of fans led by Randy Cleary to set up the art show. The booths of the art show were constructed almost Tinkertoy style, from easy to assemble interchangeable pieces. The pieces (wood and board) dated back 20 years and were still going strong, and apparently many other cons had copied the concept from Con†Stellation. It was a good opportunity to get to know some of the local fans, and also an overly abundant source of sexual puns. Although easy, it took several of us working in unison to get the job done.

Mike Cothran pulled me aside just as we were beginning to stick up the lighting. He and Marie McCormack were our guest liaisons and they took great care of us throughout the weekend. Mike outlined the next day's events, which included a visit to Huntsville's top attraction, the U.S. Space and Rocket Centre. This discussion turned into a social chat with some of the volunteers and I was astounded to learn that, aside from paying for my room, they were going to cover my travel and also give me a per diem. It seemed a little excessive and I said as much (I'm sure many fans would pay much/all of their own way just for the honour), but I was given no choice ("These are our rules," Mike C said). I intended to spend the cash at the art show, and said as much, but that did not work out for reasons I'll explain later.

I left shortly thereafter to get some sleep, given the 8 AM start for our day trip. This (too) early departure was to allow enough time to see the huge Space Centre without any conflicts with scheduling through the rest of the day. This was enough to see the GoH pull out ("Sorry, I just not a morning person"). Well neither am I, but I intended to participate in every event going and maximise both my enjoyment and my usefulness.

A buffet breakfast prepared us for the Space and Rocket centre, but did not dull the chill of Friday's cold snap – I had forgotten my sweater at home, safely in the place I'd left it to ensure that I would not forget it. Once the con started I purchased a con sweatshirt, but until then I simply shivered. Fortunately, much of the centre was indoors. It showcased Huntsville's central role in the US space programme, and how Wernher von Braun and his team had initially been developing US missile technology in Huntsville, before the historic decision to initiate a US space program. We were treated to some unique exhibits and even an I-Max show about the international space station.

The centre is quite extensive and is well worth a full-day visit. My personal favourites were the Apollo cockpit trainer that you could sit in to get the feel of a Command Service module on a mission to the moon, and a nifty exhibit that was designed to give you some idea of the confusing perspectives in weightless space. It was so disorientating that many people

exited almost immediately (not me, I kept going back). I also enjoyed getting close to the Saturn V Rocket, lying on the ground in segments, and under the full-sized replica of the shuttle (made with some original pieces). Strangely, their sheer size helps to highlight the massive human achievement that they represent.

I had forgotten to bring my camera and Mike C allowed me to use his personal digital camera. Later I was given a CD with all the shots I'd taken, or that had been taken of me. This was another example of how well we were taken care of. Mike C was also a wealth of information and clearly was a regular at the centre. It was a perfect location for a group of science fiction fans.

We followed this with a trip to a deli for a light lunch, with dessert being Marie turning up to give us far too much per diem money (they said "fair" but it was considerably more than most companies give their staff). We had enough time to freshen up and take a quick walk around the con – which was now largely up and running – before an intimate supper in the con suite ops room. I used the opportunity to pick up my member badge, destined to become a treasured memento. It was decorated with a string of beads and a dolphin. At the same time I was given a nice con t-shirt as a gift. I was then able to put out flyers for SFSA and Interaction, as well as some buttons for Nipon2007, Interaction, SFSA and even some fan friendship buttons (I like to promote fannish friendships), and most were gone by the end of the con.

We then enjoyed supper while the rest of the con watched a presentation on The Saturn V Restoration Project, the con's selected charity. The supper was prepared and served by Craig Goodrick (and his mother Diane) and they were to take wonderful care of me all con long. Mike K joined us and gave us a quick overview of what to expect at opening ceremonies before they fed us coconut-lemon cheesecake (mmm).

So for the first time I sat looking out over the audience at opening ceremonies. There was a good little crowd and they were in fine voice. I could tell that I was going to have fun at this con. Mike got things started, telling everyone that we had lost our Master of Ceremonies and welcoming everyone to the con. He then got things going by introducing me first. Usually one moves from the fan guest, through the artist to the authors, basically the order of importance. For this reason I found it very touching when Mike mentioned how choosing the fan GoH was his greatest personal pleasure as con chair. It just made me feel even more honoured that I already felt, which is saying a lot.

In my short introductory speech I tried to convey how thrilled and humbled I was to be their guest and also to let all know that I was fully available to anyone who wanted to chat. I managed to drop a couple of one-liners in to highlight the fact that I was a barbarian from deepest darkest Africa, as if they could not already tell from my accent and bright South African flag shirt (made in a North-African style).

Mike introduced Kinuko and confessed that he was staggered to discover that this was her first time as artist GoH, given the extremely high quality of her work. It was indeed a surprise. Kinuko spoke briefly about her art and confessed that she was not sure why she was there. She had never been exposed to fandom in any way before, despite the number of book covers she had produced. I later explained a little about

how SF cons worked to her, that they were informal affairs run by volunteers for fun, rather than professional for profit ventures.

Lawrence on the other hand was very comfortable as GoH. He told a story that at first seemed off track, but which he neatly tied back to cons and fandom (we would hear, "I *am* going somewhere with this," many times through the weekend). All the while Mike C was again taking pictures to ensure that I had a shot or two to remember it all by.

This was immediately followed by a panel for Lawrence on plotting for a short attention span, which he had to do alone without Esther. I stayed and enjoyed Lawrence's stories, and then popped into the second half of the Huntsville science fiction writers' group and cake appreciation, though I missed the cake I think.

I socialised at the con suite for a while, as I would throughout the con, getting to know many of the fans. I met a couple that had driven up from Pensacola to see Lawrence. They were having a wonderful time. As we chatted, in came Lawrence, so their trip was made. I had a copy of the cover of his latest book that he had forgotten on the desk, so I gave it to him. "Oh, I have hordes of them, you keep it." Was his reply, so I got him to sign it and give it to the Pensacola fans. It was no matter because I picked up three more signed copies before the end of the con (to give to other cons).

The ConStellation con suite was better than most, continuously stocked with nice treats and good food. When I asked why they spent so much on food I was told that their con had once had booze, but when that was discontinued they simply reallocated the same funding to food.

I wandered off looking to help with the set up of the chairman's reception. I piled and arranged chairs, and lost my membership badge. Not surprisingly it was later found within one of those stacks of chairs, but it was still embarrassing. This reception was largely just a social function with plenty to eat and drink, and far too much of it was really good. It felt like a really good room party and I was amongst the last to leave.

In keeping with my duties to socialise I revisited the con suite and then moved along to the party scene, to finish out my evening at the Baen Barfly party. The hosts were friendly and there were many fun conversations, which all kept me up really late. Unusually, it was a smoking party, so the next morning my allergies made my head feel like it was stuffed with cotton wool. I had enough time to shower and grab a quick breakfast before my first panel, titled: *Does Worldcon Matter?* I dressed in my urban Zulu patchwork outfit for the day, one that gets a lot of stares.

Mike Kennedy moderated the panel and we were joined by Randy Cleary, a DragonCon regular. On the surface we seemed to be on the verge of a D*C versus Worldcon debate, but in the end we all agreed that Worldcon matters and that there is nothing else like it. This was one of the best-attended local con panels I've ever been to on the subject of Worldcons. The discussion became interactive at times and, going by the interest, we may have a few new Worldcon attendees from the region at a future date. I was pleased to note that most of the audience had already been to a Worldcon.

I then spent some time and money in the dealer's room before enjoying the Art Show Docent Tour. Kinuko had never

done one of these before and felt uncomfortable talking about the work of other artists. Once it got going though, she provided honest assessments of the work and I found myself mostly in agreement with her. She was probably more honest than most would have been, but as a writers group regular I am a big believer in constructive criticism. After the show I ended up in a group discussion with her again and I was stunned to realise that she did not want her work to outlast her. The conversation became quite philosophical, and the next thing we knew someone had to fetch us because we were 5 minutes late for the Guest of Honour Ceremony.

So we arrived a little late, very apologetic, the red of my face matching the bright colours of my outfit. Mike K took over the MC role and again introduced me first. I knew to keep my speech short to allow for the pros to have more time to speak, as was appropriate. During the weekend I had heard, "Our little con." A few times so I used part of my speech to highlight the fact that Huntsville fandom was doing very well, being highly organised with several well-run cons. I reminded them that many bigger cities were not doing half as well, with nearby Birmingham and my current home of Jackson Mississippi serving as great examples. I also pointed out that the best DeepSouthCon I'd ever been to had been right there.

Mostly I highlighted the fact that I had grown up in fandom, though we never called it fandom, and that I nevertheless felt right at home with fans from all over the world, no matter the setting – ConStellation included of course. I ended by again making myself available to all for questions or discussions, and by thanking everyone for the special honour given to me.

Kinuko discussed the solitary life of an artist and how overwhelming a con could be by comparison. It was an interesting insight into the creative life. Lawrence spoke freely as always, and inevitably we again heard, "I am going somewhere with this story." Once again he tied things up nicely. It was a fun occasion and unforgettable for me. Just to make sure we felt honoured they gave us all lovely silver trays with our names engraved on them. They really went out of their way to make us feel special.

We were then taken out to supper – where one of the waiters was a fellow South African – before returning to freshen up and attend the art auction. The auctioneer was "Uncle Timmy" Bolgeo who is a very well known Southern fan, and who will be fan guest at the next DeepSouthCon. Auctions are his thing and it was a lot of fun. I had wanted to spend some of that excessive per diem here, but the items I had decided to bid on turned out to have fans that really *really* wanted them. In particular I liked the black and white artwork done for the convention's dolphin theme. One piece was the design for the *Avise La Fin* theme, where Mike K invited everyone to join his clan (Scottish blood), whose crest, like that of the con, included a dolphin. Of course he wanted it too

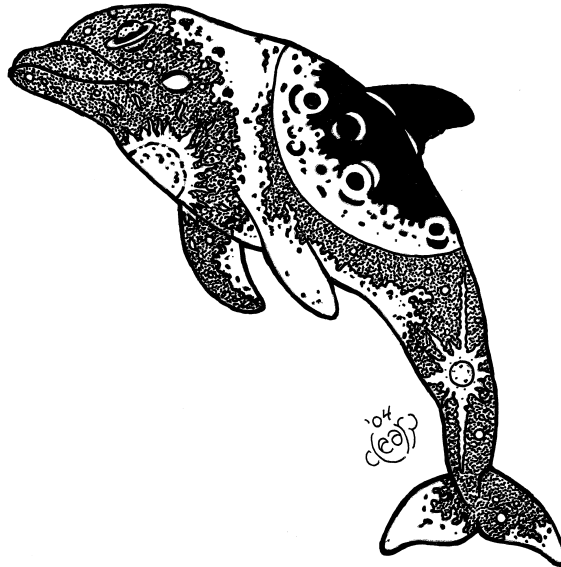
and it really would have been rude of me to bid for it. The same applied to the piece I really wanted, which as the original artwork for the main logo. Two people bet furiously against each other and, though I was more than willing to go higher than either, I started to think that it would be really bad manners to bid the per diem (add, and ironically I likely would have bid higher without it). Plenty of confusion inside my little head, and in the end I'm glad because my current plan is to put the cash to one side and use it to make sure that I have enough money to go back next year, after the Glasgow Worldcon. Who knows, I might even throw a party (but what theme?).

In any event, I did not need to feel bad, as I had given to the charity in other ways. Included in the auction was a pack from SFSA, with all South African goodies in it. There was a beautiful desk calendar, a beaded handmade key ring (SA flag), a hand-carved pen, a lion bookmark, two old copies of *Probe* (our fanzine), a year's membership of SFSA (including several *Probes* in the mail with nice SA stamps) and two SA tourism posters. This earned a nice bid and, combined with the buttons I'd made, raised almost \$100 for their charity.

After the auction Lawrence and I were off to judge the Masquerade with Julie Cochrane (co-author with John Ringo of the book *Cally's War*). This is a duty that many dislike or find uncomfortable, and for the life of me I don't understand why. It's loads of fun and I loved getting a different perspective of everything. It just added another privilege to the whole experience for me, though I was glad to have Lawrence with us, as he was an old hand at it all. The event was also very well organised and run by Amanda (aka Manda) Freeman. We had been given a prep folder the day before. We were able to reward all entries because their levels of commitment more than warranted it. While we were judging Mike K came around offering us Scottish Whiskey, enabling fun rumours about drunken judges. We even caught part of the half-time show, a fun word game.

After the masquerade I helped with teardown, carrying everything (chairs, poles, etc) until I realised how heavy the pieces of the stage were. I had promised my doctor that there would be no heavy lifting with this rotator cuff injury of mine, so I had to beg off. My arm twinged from the lifting I'd already done, so I know I did the right thing. On the other hand I still felt like an utter bastard as I watched another fan struggle under its weight. Maybe I just need therapy.

I was then hustled back into the con suite for some lemon pie, once they realised that I'd not received a special treat intended for me. It more than made up for things and I was to put on a pound or two over the weekend. The rest of the evening I wandered around being social. During one chat with Mike K I told him about a wonderful coincidence, that SFSA were having a convention on the same weekend in



Johannesburg, South Africa. "We should have set up a live web link!" he said, and it was so obvious an idea that I wanted to kick myself for not thinking of it. I think that I'll suggest this for Worldcon programming, on a global scale, and will also keep it in mind for future cons that I attend. A live linkup between two fan groups across the world from each other is an idea whose time should have come long ago.

I made a stop at a pajama party and reading, a fun themed mixed reading session, and spent some time there listening to Southern SF. I wrapped up the evening as all fan guests are supposed to do by spending the rest of the evening socialising by meeting new friends in the lobby, con suite and parties. I ended my evening at the Moon Princess party, and I even wore a crown for much of that time. I got to meet two of the three princesses, Julie Wall and Baen editor Toni Weisskopf-Reinhardt. It was a nice party with a fun theme, and it saw me get to bed far too late again. At least this beer-hater got to have some alcoholic cider, which had always been my beer alternative in South Africa.

After a rushed breakfast I sat down for the roundtable. This was a fun event where con members could chat with the pros. The setting was informal and designed for fluid movements, and really was a large circle of chairs. It worked out wonderfully well and Lawrence once again showed how capable he was in any social setting. After that I said a bunch of goodbyes and then had to check out. The con had negotiated a 2 PM checkout time, which I was most grateful for. After dithering for quite some time, indulging in several more conversations, I finally limped out of there just before four pm. It meant that I missed a con favourite of mine, the dead dog party – appropriately called the dead dolphin party at this year's ConStellation.

I had to leave in order to get home at a reasonable hour, with work the next day. I wished that I'd been able to get the Monday off so that I could prolong this unforgettable weekend, which had sped by all too quickly. I made good time and was home just after half-past eight. I wore my ConStellation sweatshirt for the ride home, enfolding me with the warmth and memories of this very special experience.

Epilogue

ConStellation is a well-run, fun convention in the true traditions of fandom. The fans are a lovely group and the concon are the usual special breed. They ran the best-stocked con suite I've ever seen and card players will find, um, spades of games and a large tournament to get involved in. This is the group that started the roaming Southern con DeepSouthCon and their members are deeply involved in Southern fandom (Randy Cleary is the current President and *Bulletin* Editor of the Southern Fandom Confederation). All of this coupled with their magnificent space centre, make it easy for me to highly recommend a trip to this convention.

Here are some links on the subject:

The con website:

<http://www.con-stellation.org/>

The Space Museum website:

<http://www.spacecamp.com/museum/>

The Saturn V restoration project:

<http://www.spacecamp.com/saturnv/>

This review online with photos:

<http://members.aol.com/scifisa/perssfcs.htm>

MidSouthCon 23 Report-Back

by Grant Kruger

Memphis Tennessee, April 1-3, 2005

Omens

If I tell you that I saw guys in HAZMAT suits on my way to a science fiction convention, you might say, "yea right," or, "don't you mean at the con?" On -55 driving from Jackson Mississippi to Memphis Tennessee I passed the mangled remnants of a tanker stretched across the median, surrounded by a scene straight out of the X-files. It was clearly part of some cosmic plot and if I were a glass half-empty kind of guy I might have expected my weekend to be awful (I worried what had happened to the driver). However I am irritatingly chirpy most of the time and expected a great con instead. I was not disappointed. The 2005 MidSouthCon (MSC) was to prove one of my all-time favourite cons.

The People

There were many reasons that I had such a good time, but the people present are always the most important part for me.

Firstly this year I was joined by two members of my Jackson writers group; Richard Parks and Kenneth Mark Hoover (we call him Mark). Both have earned themselves reputations through their published work and other efforts. A third accomplished member of our group had also intended to be there, but Terry Bramlett got sick at the last moment with bronchitis. Sick and all he still managed his typical humour by sending his regrets as follows: "I do apologize for such short notice, but the illness did not make a reservation before taking residence in my respiratory system." All of them have books out there (anthology for Richard, novels for Terry and Mark) and the remaining two of us will be published shortly (dammit, I'm going to stay positive). Though I missed cheerful Terry, it was really nice to share the con with Mark and Richard and also to see them from a different perspective. I found I knew them both a little better after the con.

For myself the more people I know at a con the better I enjoy it – maybe because it makes you feel more a part of the local group, or maybe because I am such a social animal. I now recognised and chatted to several MSC regulars, other con regulars and MSC committee members. I even recognised folks from chats at the Interaction table at MSC-DSC last year. I was also pleased to see Scott Dennis running a huckster table, and we chatted several times about almost everything. He and I get along very well and there's no shutting us up once we get started.

There were also several fans that I'm coming to know well from the Southern Con scene, including local legend Uncle Timmy, who would be Fan GoH just one week later at DeepSouthCon. Several of these guys had also been at ConStellation when I was FGoH, including Sam Smith who Chaired the 2002 DeepSouthCon. His stand-alone

DeepSouthCon (affiliated to Con*Stellation) hooked me on DeepSouthCons thereafter. Inevitably this crowd formed a Spades game at MSC. Playing cards is a great way to hang with buddies but, despite being invited to join them, there was too much going on for me to want to stay in one place for long (and don't tell anyone, but I prefer poker and blackjack). Besides, I would see them all at DeepSouthCon the next weekend.

I usually struggle with my memory at a good con. I dip myself into a multitude of new and familiar experiences and seem to overload my senses. My memory of names suffers too – and I'm terrible with names at the best of times– though I remember faces well. Somehow, while far from perfect, this year's con saw me remember more names than at any con I've been to before. Was that some kind of omen?

Also in town were Naomi Fisher and husband Pat Molloy from Huntsville. These two are a wonderful pair of fans that I have grown very fond of, and they had their new daughter with them. Little Grace was 5 months old and MSC was her fifth con. One con a month! Quite a pace she's on there. Too few babies are born to the fannish community (compared to everyone else I know) and in particular to smofs (con runners and organisers) so their baby makes them even more special to all of us, over and above all they have done for the community. Poor Grace is doomed to a life of smofdom – born to two smofs, and her first con was Smofcon to boot. She was an incredibly happy little child, which is no surprise at all given her genes. I was delighted to spend quite a bit of time with them, including seeing the origami-style dove and elephant their talented room cleaner had made for little Grace out of hotel towels. Talk about being overqualified for your job!

Linda and Steven Davis are a couple that I met at Con*Stellation in Huntsville. That had been Linda's first con and Steven's second (but first in twenty years), and MSC was their next con. They are a lovely couple and it was great to see them again. We had several chats, some general and some delightfully bizarre, including how to breed humans to get along better. With no local fandom, they drove up from Pensacola Florida, a nine-hour drive and I think that they enjoyed the con so much that the drive seemed more than worth it. Some cons give a gift/prize to the fan who came in from farthest a field, and these two would have been strong candidates if MSC had such an award. Instead I gave Linda one of my African pens.

My new thing is to hand out a few of these hand-carved African pens at cons, to whoever appeals to me. I don't have enough to give one to everyone I know, else I'd have given one to everyone mentioned in this section. So most of it is luck and timing, but the rest is their charm and friendship. I used to only give them to friends, but I recently managed to organize a bunch more pens and decided to use them to spread a little African cheer at cons.

I started to have friendly chats with many of the MSC con runners, among them Jeff Bango, Greg Bridges, Mike Kingsley and Carlin Stuart. They really are a great bunch and their warmth and friendliness made me feel welcome in so many ways. I really came away from this weekend feeling like I wanted to strengthen my ties to Memphis fandom. Unfortunately they (MSSFFA) only have Thursday meetings,

or I would drive up from time to time to weekend get-togethers. (The con has weekend meetings, but that is for staff – so we will have to see on that count too.) Greg gave me a beautiful fanzine (*MEMPHEN*) full of great artwork, and Jeff gave me my aw-shucks moment of the weekend when he said, "Thanks for coming. You help make this a better con." I thought it a tad overstated, but was touched nonetheless.

I also met Michelle Ransom, just after the Art and Charity Auction. She came up to me to ask about the patchwork costume I was wearing, an urban Zulu outfit which is a recent fashion back home in South Africa (Zululand), derived from poor-man's fashion. We ended up chatting and later we sat together at the masquerade, where she had dressed both children's entries (daughter Aris and her friend Kestrel Bridges). Our conversation went all over the place in a very short period of time. Every once in a while I completely click with someone and it really brightens up my day. Michelle was such a person and I hope to get to know her and Aris better in the future. And you too!

The Guests

MidSouthCon had a great guest line-up this year. The Writer GoH was the ever-funny and popular Esther M. Friesner. She had been lined up as Con*Stellation Master of Ceremonies in 2004 but had been forced to cancel due to illness, so it was nice to close that fannish loop for myself. We chatted about cats at one point – how rare is that for fans (not).

The Artist GoH was the outstanding Steve Hickman who I had several occasions to chat with. He is a really sweet guy and quite social, and a real pleasure to talk to. I wished I could have chatted with him more as I may finally have been inspired to paint more/again. At least we got to share a table at the Saturday-night banquet and say goodbye again in the art show on Sunday. I hope to bump into him at future cons.

The Science GoH was the legendary Gregory Benford. On the Saturday morning I ended up inviting him and his friend to join me for breakfast, before I realised who they were, because there were no clean tables available. Of course it was a karma thing *chuckle* and doubly so when Steve Hickman also joined us. We all chatted very amiably about all sorts of topics until I forced myself to leave and at least catch the last quarter-hour of Richard's 9 AM panel. I would have loved to have stayed longer. Before I left I gave one of my African pens to both Greg and Steve. Steve used his to sign autographs and every time I saw him after that he would tell me stories about how people reacted to the pen. It made me feel, as giving a gift often does, that I had received far more than I gave.

The Gaming GoH was Games Workshop and the gamers seemed to have their usual ball. I myself am a recovering gamaholic and stay the hell away from that addictive activity, as well as all the damnable Bawls, Red Bull and other stimulant drinks they depend on. I lost many a night's sleep that way myself back in the day. The Media GoH was the lovely Brinke Stevens, but unfortunately I never did get to one of her panels. I'll confess that the science and literary panels usually grab my attention first. The Comics GoH was Steve Rude who is a giant of a man (6-6) and seemed really honoured to be there. I tried to get to his painting workshop,

but I chickened out at the last moment – I am too out of practice. I thought it better that he help those who are more committed.

The Fan GoH was The 501st Legion, a group that does much charity work while dressed as characters from *Star Wars*. Their costumes and models have been an asset to MSC in the past, adding to both the fun and the ambiance of the con, and the decision to make them joint fan GoHs was an inspired and deserving one. Their costumes were excellent as always.

Another inspired choice was the Filk GoH. This was another new guest type for MSC, at least in the three years I've attended. And The Great LukeSki (Luke Sienkowski) was an excellent choice because his professional and commercial approach is a great way to hook fans into this aspect of fandom. His performances were hysterical and polished, assisted by his delightful assistant Rachel (a fan from Ohio), using many props and loads of costume changes to knock our socks off with a great show and excellent music. I heard that he sold a tonne of CDs and I bought four of them myself. It is nice to help a fan make a living doing what he loves while also having a fabulous time. It's also the first time I ever sat through an entire filk concert.

The Toastmaster was Michael Sheard who is something of a fixture at MSC. In truth he does seem to add to it all and to really fit in with this con. I can't really explain it, but he is part of the charm. He is best remembered as the guy who got choked from across the room by Darth Vader in *Star Wars*, but he has also had a host of TV and movie roles and has acted with more Dr Whos than any other actor.

Finally they had another new category, that of Persistent Guest. Cullen Johnson is a past chair of MSC and has managed to remain a part of Memphis fandom despite moving to Ohio. I had a chance to chat to him several times and dined with him and his charming wife on the Friday night (with Naomi, Grace and Pat as well). It was a real pleasure chatting with them. Cullen is a good old fashioned Smof and fan and it's no wonder they keep inviting him back. He MCs many events and is quick with the one-liners and other comments. You have got to love fans like that.

Infrastructure and Overview

The hotel is a mixed bag. Aside from all the usual concerns, MSC has few options on hotels because of their size. The Holiday Inn they use is large enough and has ample function space. The down side is that there are few restaurants nearby. Restaurants that are close are a big asset to a con as people do not need to spend hours having dinner, as several folks I know did. There is a Hotel restaurant, but the last two years their service was awful and the food was barely mediocre, and often cold to boot. This year service was greatly improved, and so was the food (kudos to them). As a result the restaurant was also more crowded than the previous two years, so there was a just reward for them. This proved to be an asset to the con – despite being entirely out of their hands – and offset part of the aforementioned problem.

The con suite was essentially a 24-hour con suite; something that few cons manage. This year it was moved to the second floor to a smaller and much more crowded room. The tables chosen were entirely too large for the main room.

Most of the blame for this can likely be laid at the feet of the hotel who had forced the con suite's relocation. Still, it seemed to me that smaller tables would make far better use of the available space, if the hotel has them, and would have allowed it to be as social as it was the previous two years. Given what a great bunch of fans they have running this con I'm sure they will have solved this come next year, if it is at all possible. Maybe, fewer tables and more chairs? And/or a bigger room? I know it is not as easy as I'm making it sound, but it was a tad awkward.

The con suite itself was very well stocked with drinks as usual, especially my beloved water, so often missing from other con's con suites, for whatever unknown reason. The MSC staple "wake up" juice was as abundant as ever. Food less so, coming through in waves that you had to be lucky enough to catch, though I did stumble in on time for some great sandwiches once. The truth is that a con suite is not intended to be a fannish soup kitchen so this is an observation, not a critique. It is most often seen as a place for fans to relax and socialise – hence my prior comments on the tables – and I did miss the con suite buzz. Food is a nice-to-have, and the con makes a financial decision which usually affects registration costs or other features of the con, so the argument goes both ways.

Of course the last local con I went to was Con*Stellation and their con suite, filled with home-made food and desserts, is remarkable, and after that I did Smofcon, so those two could really create a false impression with the abundance of food they offer. Still, one can make a strong case that the snack foods should not be abundant at cons at all because of the fannish weight problems (says he who lost over 30 pounds in 2004).

The best con suite I have ever seen from the perspective of socialising was the 2004 Worldcon in Boston. They located the con suite in a huge hall and filled it with couches, tables, chairs, games, books, magazines and a few other odds and ends. The result was the busiest con suite I ever saw, and the most social too. I'd like to say that this is a suggestion, but it may not be possible for MSC given the hotels objections and all the large rooms already being in use.

Registration

This was my third MSC. The previous two years their biggest problem was clearly registration. Those two years are still by far the two longest times I have spent waiting in a line at a con – and I have been to some crowded cons, including six Worldcons with most having five to six thousand members. This year they turned that around completely. They overhauled the entire system and relocated registration to an out-of-the-way area. They also had more desks and more staff. The transformation was remarkable. Registration was outstanding this year and it is unusual to see such a huge turnaround in only a single year. Well done to all those involved! A pleasant registration experience can set the tone for the whole con, and an unpleasant one can do the reverse.

MSC's great turnaround was balanced by unhappy circumstances, where severe weather saw the con hotel (an airport hotel) overloaded with people stranded at the airport. This meant many late checkouts (for late flights) and an

overloaded cleaning crew, and forced the hotel to refuse any early registrations. As a result there was a line of over fifty people, before they even started registrations at 3 PM. I remembered last year where early registrations ran out and a similar thing happened, so I was at the very front of that line, and by the time my registration was completed the line had almost doubled. Nothing much the con could do about all this of course, except maybe kick Murphy's butt.

Programming

Last year I was not entirely happy with the programming. Things were moved around and folks did not even find some of the panels. Added to this, panelists that had filled larger rooms the previous year suddenly were relegated to smaller ones. This year there were definite signs of lessons learned, both by the con and by we members. Larger rooms were used where possible and nobody ever minds an oversized room, unless of course the room for another panel at the same time is too small – but this did not happen. The selection of panels I thought was also much stronger than last year, and even the year before that which I had enjoyed. There were four tracks of programming, five if you counted children's programming (which I think you must) and six if you counted major events and exhibitions.

Added to this were an Anime room (I watched a few minutes worth a couple of times) and a movie room that, amongst other things, showed the entire LOTR series in six consecutive sections. They also had the very fannish midnight showing of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. And of course there were loads of gaming venues.

All in all a strong all-round package that I thoroughly enjoyed. This is definitely another area of the con moving in the right direction. Great job to all concerned.

Next year I think I'll volunteer to help with children's programming. I really love kids and they usually gravitate towards me, but somehow I have never become involved with this kind of con duty, for no reason that I can think of. I make two-and-a-quarter inch button-pins for various fannish groups and I figure that I can bring my two button machines with and can also provide button-making parts – maybe even set up a computer and printer to make some fancy buttons. I can also bring plain sheets of paper with only circle outlines on them so that the children can draw/write their own buttons. One of my machines can make photo quality buttons so we could even tell folks to bring in spare photos to turn into buttons, or even photos on disc that can be printed with text (fancier still). Then the kids can make buttons themselves with some supervision and guidance, and we can get them started early on that aspect of fandom ;). Some of the dealers could come too *chuckle*. Ego aside, I make much nicer buttons than most dealers sell.

My Friday Events

The first panel I attended was my first time as a panellist at this year's MSC. Last year my panels had been on international fandom, but this year my panels were completely different. The topic was *Roddenberry (Star Trek)*, *Lucas (Star Wars)*, *Straczynski (Babylon 5)*, *Carter (X-Files)*, and *Whedon*

(Buffy): Whose Mythology Best Defines the Late 20th Century? These five creators have been key voices in genre media in the late 20th century. How does each of their mythologies hold up over time? Which are most compelling, influential, and inspiring? In fifty years, which universes will still be remembered, and why? My fellow panellists were David B. Coe, Cullen Johnson, Lee Martindale, Libby Smith-Singleton and Amy Sturgis.

Although I've lost count of how many panels I have been on by now, I do know that this was the first time I've ever done a media-themed panel. I had a great time and I was familiar with all the shows, if only peripherally for Whedon. I had done the most homework too and, as a fan and a foreigner to boot, found that I had much to say on the matter, while also using my panel experience to help things move along. My verdict on all the questions was *Star Trek-Roddenberry*, because his themes have already garnered a far greater worldwide following than all the others have. Plus his optimism defined the general direction we moved in during the last century which started with world wars and ideologies gone amok, but ended far more positively (even if we are still well short of the mark) – and I do prefer to take the positive view. There was a surprisingly good crowd for a 5 PM panel on a Friday.

After this I checked out the dealer's room and art show. Much of both were all too familiar from other cons and previous years, but were still pretty good. The art show needed tweaking because they had turned some artists away, thinking they had too much art, but in the end had unused space. I'm sure they will come up with a better plan next time – I chatted to some of those running the art show and they were a tremendous bunch of folks, and easy to chat to as well. I missed the artist's reception, which I usually like to attend. It is one of those extra touches that MSC does that most others do not, and it is the first one I've missed.

In my travels I ended up having several conversations with friends, which kept me busy until opening ceremonies. The opening ceremonies at MidSouthCon are always a fun affair, and not the brief tokenism some other cons have. Last year's play fell a little flat, but this year the minplay was short, to the point and a lot of fun, while also being a great improvement on the odd confused affair last year. I believe that this time they had one of their writer guests write the script. The audience, myself included, found it funny and entertaining. We met the guests and were treated to Michael Sheard giving *The Baron of Grey Niche* (Todd Hennin, whose SCA name is Sean Patrick O'Donnell) several kisses, each funnier than the last, and each involving him dipping the baron. Even though the kisses were lipless fakes, the Baron still learned something women have always known – kissing a man with a bristly face is not fun. What a good sport though!

As before I met friends here too and it added to the pleasure of the show. After that I spent some more time wandering around and also went to the con suite for the "meet the guests" function, where I discussed cats and other things with Esther Friesner and Linda. Neither Linda nor myself mentioned ConStellation, thus proving that fans can indeed be tactful on occasion.

I next went to, *How NOT to get Published*, with Bill Allen, K. Mark Hoover, Selina Rosen, and Karen Syed. I've

watched a tonne of this kind of panel in the past and only attended to support my writers group buddy Mark, but I'm glad I did because the panel was entertaining and revealed a few new stories. One involved a submission with a bag of cocaine and a note saying something like, "This story is really good if you use this stuff." I'll bet. Another involved using an editor's weakness for chocolate, but in a really stupid way. The silly writer included unwrapped Hershey bars in-between the pages of their manuscript, and then posted this package to the editor's offices in Atlanta— in the middle of a Southern summer. The manuscript arrived in a disgusting PO baggie and of course was never read (though Selina said, "But that's when the chocolate is really good!"). There were also other horror stories of idiotic submissions, and also some of the usual tips, like read more and write all the time, and also stay confident and be persistent.

Mark also said, "Read everything, especially the classics. Reading will improve your writing." Damn — though I am always reading I am guilty of not following the latter part of that, so I plan to ask the group what classics to recommend to me, and give a few another try (in the past most did not grab me, though some did). All in all the panel reinforced certain things for me that maybe I needed to hear again.

I spent the rest of the evening socialising, but I never did get to a single party at MSC. That is a first for me, and yet I still had such a tremendously social time. I also planned a reasonably early bedtime Friday night because I wanted to attend one of Richard's panels first thing the next morning. I think I got six hours sleep, which is not half bad for a con.

My Saturday Events

I started the day with the lucky GoH breakfast that I mentioned earlier, and then caught the end of Richard's panel on retelling Ancient Myths. What I saw was interesting and Richard uses ancient myths extremely effectively in his stories. I was going to stay in the same room for a Lovecraft panel that Terry was on, but since Terry had cancelled and I've *blush* never read any Lovecraft, I moved on.

I did some more of my habitual socialising and wandering around, missing a panel on crossing genre lines that I'd planned to attend. Conversation can be so much fun though. I did get to the next panel *On Climate: The Coming Heat Wave*. Greg Benford did this one alone and it was very interesting, even though I did not agree with all he said. He is very knowledgeable and a good speaker who has confidence in what he says.

After still more mingling and roaming, I went to Richard's reading. Richard Parks writes wonderful short stories and being in a writers group with him is a real pleasure. There was a reasonable crowd and Richard read two stories. He also read the introductions to these stories, and these introductions had never been printed before. Richard was a tad nervous and had a dry mouth, which surprised me because he is a confident bloke and his work is excellent. Then I remembered that I too am a confident guy and panels don't scare me, but I also still get nervous when I have to read a story to a group. I was not familiar with the stories he chose and enjoyed the reading immensely.

He also gave out four copies of a book of his short stories (*The Ogre's Wife – Fairytales For Grownups*), to the first four people who came to the reading — of which I was one. I started reading the book the Tuesday after the con, and so far (as expected) the stories are really wonderful. On Sunday I heard that others at the con were trying to get a copy of this book too, but I could not find Richard. I asked him to autograph my copy with whatever he thought appropriate. I expected the usual "Don't give up" kind of line, but instead he wrote the far more appropriate and personal line: "Don't be late on Thursday" (the day our writers group meets).

From there I went to the Filk Concert and had an absolute ball. Luke Ski's music was excellent, fun and perfectly in theme (including — somehow — the song about Shakespeare's *Hamlet*). From there it was off to the banquet with a table full of friends (Linda, Steven, Naomi, Pat, Grace) and artist GoH Steve Hickman. We saw the presentation of the Darrell Awards, the MidSouth fandom literary awards, and there were also some readings. I had a great time and the food was the best it has been at these MSC banquets so far. The company was sublime and the re-introduction of the guests was both touching and fun, with the highlight for me being The Great Luke Ski's sendup of Jeff Foxworthy's "You know you are a redneck if..." (accent and all) except he did, "You know you are a Trekkie if..."

The banquet ran over a bit and I had to leave early to be at my second panel: *Care and Maintenance of Writers Groups*. There was only one guest, Mike — the head of programming. This had a lot to do with all the things going on at the same time, like supertime, the lateness of the banquet, a Selena Rosen reading and most notably the Art and Charity auction. In my past experience panels like these can be very popular if you have a big name on the panel too, or if you put them on at a quieter time. We still enjoyed chatting to the one Memphis writers' group member present, and then we broke up early and I went to my beloved auction.

I love the auctions. You can often pick up something really unusual, and also often something really cheap. Someone picked up the entire *Babylon 5* Tape collection for \$80, no doubt due in part to the success of DVDs. Auctions can also be a lot of fun, and the more entertaining they are the larger the crowd is, and therefore the better the sales are. I bought the entire tape collection of Carl Sagan's *Cosmos*, a series that mesmerised me as a kid. I spent too much and don't even have a working VCR, but it was for charity and the tapes mean something to me. I also saw an item I donated fetch a nice price for the con's charities, so I again had a great time. Best of all was meeting Michelle at the end.

After that I quickly popped up to my room to freshen up and then came back for the masquerade. The crowd was already sizable and I saw no space near the front, until Michelle stood up and called me over to the front row where an open chair remained. It was a great place to see the outstanding collection of costumes on show. The costuming standard at MSC is very high and they had a large jury of judges, who had no easy task deciding. It is also always best to share an event with those that really love it, so I enjoyed it even more.

The proceedings were started by two children's entries. Michelle made costumes for her daughter Aris Ransom and

her friend Kestrel Bridges, and I thought the two six-year olds deserved some kind of prize for having the courage to go up on stage in front of all those people. I believe that they intended to have a children's category next year, but in the meantime (putting my award where my mouth is) I sent both of them a small gift of my own after the con. I think that all kids in the masquerade should get a prize of some kind. It seems to fit nicely with the old fannish ethic.

My personal favourite was a skit from musical version of *Little Shop of Horrors*, where the plant (Audrey II) is asking for flesh and murder. The plant was animated by one guy in black (to blend with the black background) and he also sang his part, and the other guy played Seymour (and had quite a voice). It was well rehearsed and very well done. There were several costumes that highlighted excellent workmanship and overall it was a fabulous masquerade and a lot of fun. The halftime show (while the judges were deciding) was another performance by The Great Luke Ski and was again remarkably entertaining. I now recognised some of the songs, but they were still good the second time around. As a result of all of the above, the entire affair was one of the best masquerades I've ever been to.

From there I continued my convivial drifting, including chatting to Luke and Rachel about their music. I ended up helping them with some packing and also joined them at the open filk session. A small group of us sang filk songs or just listened. Luke sang a couple that he had not sung publicly yet (anywhere), and these songs were also funny and creative. We all sang along when we knew the words to whatever song was being sung, or when we had learned enough of the chorus. Most were new to me though – this is the first time I have sat through an entire filk circle.

Somewhere in the middle of all this the daylight savings time change (spring forward) kicked in and we found that we were not merely up until 3:30 in the morning, but actually 4:30. Perhaps this was not the best choice of weekends for the con, for alas we lost an hour of the fun.

My Sunday Events

So after three and a half hours of sleep my friend Veronica phoned me, at 8:30 AM. She was going to join me and get her first taste of a con, but she cancelled at the last moment (chicken). She had tried to reach me before, but the hotel voice mail did not work. Her cancelling was a bit of a relief because I'd wanted to sleep in anyway, but unfortunately, when I tried to get back to sleep I could not. I had too much on my mind and too many things to look forward to. A great con and great people will revitalise me in ways I still don't quite understand. Since I had to pack and check out anyway I got up and started my day as I always do; with a shower (5-2-1 fanatic).

Pat and Naomi were already eating breakfast when I got to the restaurant, so I happily joined them, and we had yet another great chat, while little Grace continued her smiling marathon (I never saw her cry once). Across the way I was delighted to see Linda and Steve sharing a table with Greg Benford. I knew that this would be a great thrill for them. They popped around to say goodbye before the 9-hour drive home, and I hope to see them again at another con. I have

quickly become very fond of them. Another Greg (Bridges) then stopped by to hand me a lovely fanzine. Memphis fandom is really lucky to have the services of excellent artists.

In the end I stayed far longer than I intended (how unusual) and missed my first planned panel. In what was left of that hour I went roaming around looking for familiar faces, saying goodbye to some and chatting to others. All this almost made me miss another panel and I only caught the end of the panel on Einstein's theories in SF. This was a great pity because this panel was clearly a good one, combining MSC Science-programming regulars with Greg Benford.

Thereafter, for the first time this Sunday, I was on time for a panel – *Fandom in the South*, with Tim (Uncle Timmy) Bolgeo and Jeff Bango – but unfortunately nobody else was there and the room was dark. It turned out that Jeff was too busy with con duties and Uncle Timmy was unaware that he was even on a panel (it was a late addition). I found the latter playing Spades with a group of out-of-town fans and "dragged" him off to the room, but maybe it was already too late (about ten past the hour) because nobody came. So it was back to the card table we went, and we ended up discussing Southern Fandom and the need for a Southern Worldcon bid. It was a good group of fans and the discussion was interesting.

I wanted to hang with them, but I'm addicted to saying goodbye to my friends on the last day of a con, so I wandered off to do more goodbyes. The longer I go to them, the more cons become about the people, though I was mostly looking for one person in particular this time (more on that another time – maybe). I then joined my final planned panel – *A Dark and Stormy Night*. Here amateur and pro writers were handed a bunch of quotes from books and movies (written by the audience and taken one at a time from a pile) and they had to work together to tell a story, with each telling only a paragraph at a time, ending with one of the selected lines (in random order). It was a lot of fun.

From there I went to *Bossy, Sassy, Bitchy and Sexy – Female Characters in SCIENCE FICTION* which I had not planned to attend, but caught my fancy from what I overheard from the door. It was a good panel, though Selena Rosen bugged me a bit when she called herself "one of the ugly people." Now I've seen her be lewd, rude and loud, and I've seen her drink too much. However she is not at all ugly and is always a plus to a con because she has a great deal of energy, a fabulous sense of humour and is very entertaining. She is a fun character and a much gentler person than she appears to be. I like her plenty. So I went up to her after the panel and reminded her that nobody with intelligence behind their eyes is ugly, and that especially included her. She wrapped an arm around me and thanked me, which revealed that gentler (real) side of her that I mentioned before. Selena: in fandom where we prize wit and intelligence very highly, you are indeed a looker!

Finally I went to the quiet and laid back closing ceremonies. Many thanks and words of praise rained down and the guests still present bid us farewell. Everyone else seemed as sad as I was that it was all over. I always know that I've have a fantastic time if the weekend ends and I'm feeling as miserable as a school kid on the last day of school holidays, and I did indeed feel those pangs of sadness.

I said a few more goodbyes and then took the three-hour drive home, cheered somewhat by my wonderful African music CDs, with the volume way up. There's nothing like music from one home to make me feel less sad and homesick about leaving another.

Final Cheeky Suggestions

I'd like to see MSC keep a history of their past con web sites, even if it is a summarised page (these were our guests, this was the programming we had, number of attendees, etc) something they currently do not do. Keeping history is very fannish and these days the web is the place for it. Besides, it is interesting and useful, and is also something to be proud of and show off. While writing this report I went to see the online details to refresh my memory on some points, but alas they were already gone from the MSC site, just a couple of days later. Additionally they should link to – or better still, hold their own copies of – past reviews like mine. This is all also a big part of a con's PR and should be cherished and nurtured.

Is it possible for MSC to add a "no painting/other maintenance" clause to their hotel contract? Last year the stairwells were being painted, which caused some problems for fans and messed with my sinuses. This year the handrails by the stairs leading up to the registration desk had been painted, proving to be a major hassle for the disabled – of which fandom has more than most – as they really needed that extra support to get up the stairs safely. I saw a couple of fans in distress because of this.

In the same vein – since long lines of various lengths are likely at future MidSouthCon's too – it would be a good idea to make plans to cater for the disabled. I'd suggest having a fan on hand to help the disabled and also an arrangement with the hotel were they allow disabled persons to jump to the front of the line and/or get early check-in. This year the hotel forced disabled people to wait in line or come back later, and that is just plain wrong.

Last year MSC had included a restaurant guide. This was a great innovation that many see as a sign of a better con, and an innovation that their location sorely needs. Unfortunately the directions were a tad confusing and most of us who used them got horribly lost. This year there was no guide and it was a great pity because it seemed to me that the answer was to fix the guide, not remove it. The method that many hotels use is very simple and could be used for next year, i.e. to have a map with numbers marked on it attached to a list of numbered restaurants with short descriptions, and maybe even with star and price ratings too.

The golden con-goers 5-2-1 rule is something most cons, including MSC, avoid mentioning mostly out of embarrassment. However I think it is a good idea to mention it at the opening ceremonies, for everyone to remember, and also to have it in the program book. The rule is, five hours sleep per night, two proper meals during the day (con suite chips and crackers don't count) and at least one shower per day. I have a very poor sense of smell, but it was clear even to me that a couple of folks did not follow the latter. This is not good for the rest of us (despite the problem existing amidst only a small minority), and therefore is not good for the con either. In fact this problem has a disproportionate affect on any con. Of

course we can/must say this in a very tactful way, but I have seen this problem improve at other cons after they made a point of mentioning the rule, or get worse when they did not. If y' all are too embarrassed, then ask me. I can mention it for ya – I'm not shy ;).

And away from the con: Hey, c' mon now, y' all need to have weekend meetings (not only work ones, but social ones too) that us out-o-towners can attend. I'd love to hang with y' all again (y' all... I'll come back now, y' hear).

And in Conclusion

What a wonderful weekend I had. Two tentacles up (hey, this is Science Fiction – or should I have used antennae?). The best of the three MidSouthCons I've attended and one of the best cons I ever attended anywhere. Great job y' all, and jolly well done to all concerned.

I believe that makes five great cons in a row for me – ConQuesT (Kansas City), Noreascon Four (Boston), ConStellation (Huntsville), Smofcon (DC) and now MSC. I have been to some real clunkers in my time but at the moment the con-going life is magnificent. As ever my appreciation and thanks goes out to all the volunteers; the con runners, club runners and fanzine editors/contributors that keep our community thriving. As I always say, it is my fannish family that keeps my South African heart from breaking with homesickness. Wherever I go, y' all are my people, and you make me happy. Thank you.

To quote The Terminator, "I'll be back!" (But my driving will be a little more courteous.)

This review is also available online at <http://members.aol.com/scifisa/perssfl1.htm> with photos and useful links.

Another State's Pleasure Dome DeepSouthCon/Xanadu Report- Back

by Grant Kruger

April 8-10, 2005 - Nashville, Tennessee

Poetry?

At Xanadu did DeepSouthCon a stately fannish gathering decree. Well, maybe not so stately, and a bit disorganized, but still an enjoyable little con. Xanadu hosted the 2005 DeepSouthCon in Nashville and I joined many of my friends there.

Destiny?

I had trouble getting a room booked and then struggled to get a response from the con. Added to this I was saving for Worldcon and was faced with a six-and-a-half hour drive to Nashville, the weekend immediately after going to MidSouthCon in Memphis. I reluctantly decided the omens were that I should skip this year, though I hated to miss a DeepSouthCon – a con I believe has a special function.

The day after I made this decision Murphy decided to kick me in the butt. My friend Vincent Docherty decided to

attend his sixth DeepSouthCon – an impressive number for a Scottish guy living in Holland. His decision spurred me on to give it one more try, after all he was the one who introduced me to DSCs (to work for Interaction of course), getting me hooked in Huntsville, Alabama in 2002.

Sure enough I managed to sort out my room on the very next phone call (hotel's error) and even ended up helping an overloaded Vince get his room booked too (with the help of another efficient Vince in Nashville). It would be my fourth DeepSouthCon in a row, and the decision to go was a good one because I had a lovely time.

Commuting

Six and a half hours both ways takes thirteen hours out of your weekend. A con has to be good to be worth that. On the way up I foolishly flirted with I-40, by going via Memphis. Bad idea. The traffic was lousy with road-hogging trucks and Tennessee drivers are not the best anyway (sorry y' all, but it's true). I came back via Birmingham, which is a slightly longer route, but a quieter and more pleasant one.

We were warned that parking could be scarce, so I planned an early check-in, which also meant a too-early start. As it turned out I'd have been fine if I were late. I mourn still, for my lost sleep.

So was it all worth it? Well of course!

The People

Since DeepSouthCons travel from con to con around the South, and fans like myself go every year, you start to recognize more and more regulars, amidst the locals. This translates into a more social con. Added to this Xanadu only had about 150 members, so we regulars were even more obvious to each other, a stark contrast to how we were mostly swallowed up by MidSouthCon last year (over 1,100 members).

In addition I found that I really liked the Nashville crowd. They are a nice bunch of people; friendly, chatty and fun to hangout with.

The end result was essentially a relaxacon with programming – a mix that I always enjoy.

I chatted to young-as-you-want-to-be fans Dick Spelman and Roger Stims a couple of times, and they were filled with stories of fannish history – which I always enjoy. I loved listening to them, for as brief a time as we chatted. I also enjoyed how they constantly teased each other, something I also do.

Scott Dennis was there again and had done the con's t-shirts for them. We chatted very briefly, and every other time I went past his huckster table he was already chatting to someone. The way the two of us talk that probably saved me a couple of hours to dedicate to the rest of the con.

I was lucky enough to get to know Guy Lillian a little better over the weekend. Guy is quite a character and I was amazed that I had so little exposure to him over the last several years. I also met his beautiful wife Rosie, and now I know why his love for her always leaks out into all his fannish writing. What a special lady. Guy, you are one lucky, um, guy. What a marvelous pair of fans they are.

I had long chats to various fans in the con suite on several occasions, as well as in a couple of other settings. As usual with me at a con, I greatly enjoyed chatting the weekend away.

I was disappointed not to see any of the MidSouthCon crowd there. It's not just that I like them. They are only a three-hour drive away and this was the year after they had hosted the previous DeepSouthCon. I assume that it must be because it is tough to do anything at all the weekend after you just ran your own con, what with wrap-up and much needed downtime. Still, I hope to see many of them at future DeepSouthCons.

I'll mention the rest of the fans I met within the rest of this report-back. It was that kind of con.

Friday – And So It Begins

A week or two out, when I learned that Con\$tellation were having a Friday night party, I immediately offered to help them run it. It is odd how you never want to stop giving back to a group that made you their fan GoH. Plus I thought it would be fun and wanted to hang out with all of them again. Mike Kennedy took me up on my offer right away. I was there before setup and while Mike and I chatted, he told me this huge secret. He said... um, wait. He's a whole lot bigger than me. I'd best keep my big yap shut.

I cleaned and chopped up veggies, fetched ice and sorted the green M&Ms from the rest (a fannish aphrodisiac don't you know; you don't want guests getting horny by accident). Mike made meatballs and cocktail drinks (separately of course), and put out snacks. We soon enjoyed the company of a flow of local fans, Huntsville fans and many DeepSouthCon regulars. There were many enjoyable conversations, good company and fun stories. Several times I was asked/advised to move to Huntsville, but such talks always make me think of home (South Africa).

As a belated thank-you for making my visit to Con\$tellation so memorable, I gave several of the Huntsville con-runners each one of my hand-carved African pens (I did not have any at the time of the con). These included some really nice ones that are hard to find. I gave most away at the party, later giving two to Mike for folks who had not made the trip up. I also spoiled Sam Smith's concentration during a Spades game, when giving him his pen – I'm so uncultured. He forgave me (I think).

I slipped out of the party to go to opening ceremonies, which doubled as an ice cream social. I usually like to go to opening and closing ceremonies, which many fans prefer to miss. Things started late and before they started the local con-runners had already pointed out, on several occasions, how disorganized they all were. While this is self-deprecating fannish humor, past experience has shown me that it can also be a self-fulfilling prophecy. I'll confess it made me uncomfortable. I much prefer an aim-high approach. Still, the guests stayed mellow and it all turned into a comfortable affair.

There was a draw for prizes and the jokes about being disorganized continued as we learned that not everyone had a number on their badge (you had to write it in yourself), but in the end all was sorted out fine.

We were introduced to the guests. The GoH was the excellent Mike Resnick, who in addition to being a fine writer is also a long-time fan. He proved to be a great guest for the con. Master of Ceremonies was the ever-friendly and always funny Connie Willis. Between the two of them that makes, um, about a gazillion Hugos and Nebulas. Connie had replaced Jack Chalker (another writer who was also a great fan) who had passed away earlier in the year. In his stead the con brought in his fannish wife Eva Whitley. It was a nice touch on their part (and very fannish) and added to the whole con for me.

The artist GoH was Darryl Elliott who I never got to chat too much, but he seemed a really nice guy and had brought his family with him. Fan GoH was that old reprobate, Uncle Timmy Bolgeo. Later in the con the other fans would be nice to him and let him win a Spades game. I tell you, it's way past time he should have been abducted by aliens. Of course the reason I'm teasing him here is because he's always a lot of fun, not to mention a major figure in Southern fandom.

As an amusing addition they declared JRR Tolkien as Ghost GoH – though I only saw one panel about him, and about fan fiction at that (and no LOTR video either). They should have asked me to get involved as I could have talked about JRR's South African roots (born in Bloemfontein), well for at least three or four minutes anyway.

After the confusion and much joking ended we all set about demolishing the ice cream and other treats available. I managed to say hello to several friends, including Vince who had now arrived, and also Eva. It was nice to chat to her. Poor lady has had a rough time of it of late, what with Jack dying and also all of the expenses that come from a long hospital stay. I was glad that the con charity auction proceeds were going to go towards paying those bills.

Bryan Jones and Amy Herring were there too. I first met them a year earlier at the previous DeepSouthCon, hosted by the 2004 MidSouthCon, where they bought memberships for Interaction from our fan table. It will be nice to see them again at Worldcon. We had all been at MidSouthCon the previous week but it was not until DeepSouthCon that we had a chance for a decent chat. They are a great pair, and always nice to add to one's friends. Later, at the art auction, Amy would bid against herself on a charity auction item ("No way. This is for charity!" That price is way too low!")

I managed to chat to a couple that are becoming old friends of mine, because this was the fourth DeepSouthCon we've shared – Steve and Sue Francis. Okay, so for them three years would be new friends, but for me my American fannish friends are more recent treasures. The two of them have been massively involved with Interaction, and used to run one of the best cons ever – RiverCon. After opening ceremonies Steve handed me a box of PR stuff for our Interaction table the next day, which he adamantly refused to help with. I was not fooled. If we really needed help then they would have been there for as long as they needed to be (and more), but they knew that the table was a nice-to-have at this late date and at such a small con. You will not find two harder working fans anywhere than Steve and Sue, and working with them has been both an education and a pleasure. A wonderful couple, and great fans with tremendous energy.

I also met Gary Robe and his wife Corlis. Gary had helped me with Interaction PR work and we had corresponded, but never met face-to-face. Gary is the appalling monster who started the Rubble awards, as a dark alter ego to the Rebel award (Southern Fandom's most prestigious fan award). One day he will be punished... with a Rubble of his own.

After all that it was back to the party and more socializing. I even had one of Mike's cocktails (not half bad). I was not much help on cleanup though, because another Mike – GoH Mike Resnick – sat down next to me. Soon we were involved in a long conversation about writing, both the art and business of writing, though I had started by telling him my Torcon 3 story, that showed what a great fan he is (see my Torcon 3 review). It was a fantastic discussion; even though Mike was short on sleep and quite tired he was still very sharp. "Well," he said, after I commented on this, "you have to remember that I've had this conversation about a thousand times before."

The man watches no TV and is clued up on every aspect of writing in our genre. It was an extremely useful and enjoyable chat for me.

So engrossed was I that I did not do my fair share of cleanup. I realized that I was having a "Be inconsiderate to Mike" evening. One Mike was not getting the party help he needed and the other needed some sleep. My apologies, and my thanks, to both of you.

I needed sleep myself – long drives always leave me a little worn out. I looked at my program guide as I walked the stairs to my room (I always avoid elevators at a con – it helps me to burn off all the crap I eat over the weekend) and realized that I had missed a great panel with Toni Weisskopf-Reinhardt on how to break into professional writing. I doubt I would have slept as well if I had known how she would get me back for that one (more on that below when I write about Sunday).

Saturday – Tabled Duties and Remembrance

I managed about six hours sleep and arrived at breakfast about twenty minutes before it was all packed away. I sat with Sam Smith and Mike Kennedy soon joined us, followed by others from the Huntsville crowd for a mini revival of the ConStellation party. Mike was having pastries. Almost ten years in the USA and I still cannot bear pastries or donuts for breakfast. Sweetener on my cereal or in my coffee, or jam on my toast (after something savory) are about as close as I can get to a sweet breakfast. But the company was great.

Then it was off to set up the Interaction fan table. As I said above we all knew that the table served little purpose. The reality is that most folks who are going to go to our Scottish Worldcon would already have made their plans, what with passports, international flights and the weakness of the dollar. On the flip side it can be useful to existing members, and did indeed prove to be so. Plus it is about the easiest and most fun of fannish duties, especially for one as social as I.

Vince arrived soon after me and helped me to overcome a small problem when we discovered that there was no string to tie the Interaction banner up with. He showed me a nifty trick where we folded long strips of tape to make plastic string, and

after a little faffing about we had an attractive table, aided by a Celtic tablecloth, buttons, flyers, soft toys and PRs.

Things were quiet but I did get to meet some wonderful fans. Bryan Jones popped round to chat and give me his business card. I also met a couple of lovely ladies from Huntsville who I had not met before. Vince was not so lucky. A fan began to chastise him because of the company he works for. I must say that Vince made some strong arguments and I'm surprised he does not appear on any panels on renewable energy. Later I did manage to get a nice shot of Vince and Steve Francis (only visiting) at the table.

I knew that Chris Barkley would be present because we had chatted in email about the Down-Under Fan-Fund (DUFF). Chris is another fan who had helped me with Interaction PR work and whom I had never met face-to-face. I looked up his picture out on the web (<http://dpsinfo.com/sf/conjose02/photo10.html>), so when I saw him on Saturday morning I knew what he looked like and could go right up and say hello. It was lovely to meet him and his ever-smiling wife, just across from our fan table. I had already voted for him in the DUFF race, though I knew that the odds against him were long – he was up against fannish legend Joe Siclari (former Worldcon-chair, former DeepSouthCon FGoH, co-founder of many cons, including Smofcon and FanHistoricon, and much more – bio at http://scifiinc.net/scifiinc/gallery/bio/Siclari_Joe.htm). Chris did indeed go on to lose the race, but he won many friends by the way he handled himself at con. I enjoyed finally meeting him.

With the table being so quiet Vince and I both slipped away from time to time. I managed to slip away to the dealers room and art-show. The art show was pretty good for its small size and there were a couple of interesting huckster tables. I also managed to slip in and watch a little of the *Fans and Freaks* video documentary, though what I saw impressed me not at all. I do so hate clichés, and documentaries that present the oddest amongst us as if they were the norm, the same way they focus on drag queens at a gay-pride march and ignore the regular looking folks. To make a fair judgment I should have watched more, but table-duty provided me with an unshakable excuse.

We packed up the table in enough time to ensure that I could get to the *Jack Chalker Remembrance* panel. This meant something to me and I wanted to be there. I did miss two great panels that I was interested in: one on the history of DeepSouthCons and another on the history of Rebel, Phoenix and Rubble awards. These two, along with a Friday panel on the Southern Fandom Confederation (SFC), would have been very useful given what would happen to me on Sunday.

The panelists for the remembrance panel were Eva, Mike, Connie, Toni and Sharon Green. Connie did not know Jack well but she did a great job moderating. It was one of those panels hard to describe in a review like this. I heard many great stories, including how Eva met Jack. But telling them again feels a little too much like sharing secrets. Suffice it to say that Mike and he were good friends, Sharon and Toni interacted with him plenty and Eva met him when he was a guest at a con she was running.

After that we stayed in the same room for the presentation of the Rebel, Phoenix and Rubble awards. I was delighted to

see Naomi Fisher arrive and come and sit next to me (with baby Grace). She was just in time (circumstances) and had desperately wanted to be there because she was sure the Phoenix was going to be given posthumously to Jack Chalker and did not want to miss that. I told her – at the time completely unknowingly – that many folks had been looking for her. There was a reason, but I was too blind to see it.

Of course I was thinking as much as anyone else, because baby Grace had captivated all of our attention. After the briefest little cry at being woken up, she quickly enjoyed being the center of attention and proved me right about her being the smilingest baby you ever saw (I had already told several fans before she woke up).

Naomi was right (well most of us guessed this one) and the Phoenix went to Jack. Eva received it on his behalf and gave a nice little speech. It was indeed a lovely gesture to one that they had wanted as their GoH.

Then came the surprise that I had been too blind to see. Naomi was given the Rebel award. Well, no wonder everyone had been looking for her. With Grace on her arm, she gave a speech that lamented the absence of her husband Pat Molloy, to whom she gave much of the credit for her winning the award (he was at another convention that he could not miss). I took several photos, which I sent to them afterwards, so that Pat could get a look-see. They were very well received because her brother's shots did not come out.

Hey Pat. Naomi made us all promise to tell you that she said nice things about you, and she really did. And you deserve them too.

This was followed by Judith Bemis being presented with the Rubble award, because she quit as SFC secretary after 9 years. You never saw an award accepted so quickly (no speech). Such is often the case with the Rubble award, that it is given to someone who did something nice for many years, and then stopped.

Around this time we started to hear about future DeepSouthCon bids, and Sue Francis took up the suggestion, which I strongly supported, to bid for a DeepSouthCon. I sweetened it by pointing out that ideally a DeepSouthCon is a stand-alone con and it would not require RiverCon's revival (they retired the con and will not revive it). Steve was horrified of course and kept threatening to kill me. I bravely defied him, strengthened by prospect of a Francis-run DeepSouthCon – something that appeals to me greatly. I'm sure Steve will get me for that though.

I stayed in the same room for the DUFF panel, and sat with Chris Barkley's wife. It was a good panel and Chris was joined by many former DUFF winners. The consensus was that DUFF was a great thing, and a life-changing experience for most fans. You know, few US fans evangelize about US fandom as much as I do. Sometimes the outsider sees things more clearly, and is more willing to talk about them without being seen to be boasting. So one day, maybe I should run for a fan fund too?

The art auction was meant to follow this panel, but they postponed it an hour so I had a chance to pop into the con suite and get something to eat. As was true most of the weekend there was a tidy collection of real food available, so I was able to sit there a while and chat while nibbling. When the weekend ended I was amazed to realize that between the con

suite, parties and the free hotel breakfast, I had not eaten out once. That is a first for me, at any con.

At the art auction I bid for an Andre Norton autograph (book plate). Of course, since she had passed away earlier in the year, these were among the last of their kind. I later picked up a matching hardcover to use it with. My SFSA pack fetched a reasonable amount, though less than it could have. My secret is to include beautiful wildlife posters – including a beautiful one of a leopard. The price usually doubles at that point. Alas, but the con had lost the posters. Drat.

I finished up the evening at the Baen party (which is where I got the Norton hardcover). Toni Weisskopf-Reinhardt gave me a huge slice of rich chocolate cake and I was a part of a series of lovely discussions as a parade of great fans came and went. I chatted quite a bit to Toni and finally went to bed far too late, but feeling pretty good after a fun evening and chocolate cake.

Sunday – No Such Thing as Free Chocolate Cake!

I was running late on too little sleep and hit breakfast just before closing time. I sat with a bunch of fans who mostly were not in the hurry I was. I wanted to attend my first SFC meeting. I arrived late at the same time as Toni and we made our way to the only available seats in the room – in the front middle. The lady already sitting in this row had just been made Treasurer, and apparently it had been designated volunteer' s row before we arrived (you monsters!).

Next thing I know Toni has volunteered me to redo the SFC Handbook, a collection of historical information on Southern Fandom along with a current state of the fannish confederation. It had been eight years since the last update, yet I had never even read a copy. I dithered, mentioning how the emailing of existing clubs and cons was a sizable, but doable, task. Toni said, "Ok, if Grant does the emailing, I' ll do the editing." I figured I was getting off lightly and stupidly said, "Sold to the editor over there."

Later I came to realize that the job is mostly done by the time I hand it to Toni. I had committed myself to a huge undertaking. I had lost my frigging mind! I should have realized that there is no such thing as free chocolate cake. The job has a two-year deadline, but I have decided to do it in one. In the e-age it' s the only deadline that makes sense.

I meandered around the room after the meeting adjourned, wondering how this had all happened. I told Toni that I had no idea her chocolate cake came with such a high price. Ah well, I' ll get over it... in about a year or so. (Later I realized that this task is an honor and a privilege, and I' m grateful to have been entrusted with it. But it' s only fannish to whine about.)

I managed to distract myself some by further encouraging Sue to host a DSC (and getting more death threats from Steve, who I was now foolishly teasing mercilessly). Sue was still undecided. For me, having never been to a RiverCon but having heard so much about them, the idea of a Louisville DeepSouthCon is enormously appealing. Steve might argue that my getting the handbook job was nothing to do with chocolate cake, but rather was karma for my encouraging Sue. But I was not the only one who thought the idea a capital one.

Then the DeepSouthCon business meeting began. We ratified a couple of changes to the constitution and then took a

look around to discover that we had three bids for the 2007 DeepSouthCon. No wait... four! After first replying, "I have not yet made up my mind," Sue did indeed announce a bid, and I' m sure "her mind" being made up had something to do with Steve – the old softie.

We had started the weekend with no bids and now we had four bids, including three pretty strong ones. There was an iffy Atlanta minimalist bid and a strong bid for North Carolina that was out of the running as soon as they admitted that this had been intended as a 08 bid and yes they would bid again if they lost. (Never do that unless you want to lose a tight race.) The two strongest contenders were Sue' s bid and another Nashville bid by an unusual con called OutsideCon, and yes that is a camping con. The local vote won the day and OutsideCon prevailed, by a reasonable margin. Of course I voted for Sue, and the way my fannish votes have been going of late it was probably the kiss of death (I voted for losing candidates in DUFF and TAFF too).

I will admit that OutsideCon was my second choice. I love the idea of it. However I was a little troubled that the constitution allows for a con in the same area as the vote to be selected, potentially allowing a local group to hijack the entire DeepSouthCon. I don' t think this will happen, but it felt a little wrong. I' ll be there in 07 though, unless I' ve gone back to Africa, or they make their dates too close to Worldcon (which seems a strong possibility).

One interesting story that came out at the meeting was a bunch of Republicans claiming that one of Xanadu' s rooms was booked for them. Xanadu proved their claim and then were generously making arrangements to rent the politicos a room, when the silly ninnies realized that they were in the wrong hotel. What a marvelous metaphor for spending too much taxpayers' money and also for being in a place where you are not supposed to be.

After this I went to the front desk and tried to get a later checkout, but they told me, "hell no," so I was only able to catch the beginning of a panel on the state of Fanzines, with Guy Lillian, Joe Major and Uncle Timmy. As I rushed out the door Guy gave me two copies of his fanzine, and damn but he does excellent work. *Challenger* is a great fanzine, as good as I' ve ever seen. I also have a copy of Joe' s zine that I will get to when I finish *Challenger*.

After checking out I did my final round of goodbyes and then made my long lonely way home, cheered only by my African music.

Summary

Xanadu is a nice little con with a congenial crowd. The organizational problems and the simple passing of years have led to several of the committee resigning, so next year it will downgrade to a small relaxacon. Since relaxacons are always fun, and this is a likable crowd, you would probably enjoy joining them some time. I may.

Also, it was not a bad DeepSouthCon host because they paid homage to it and respected it (and it was very prominent in programming), and it did not get swallowed up by their con, but rather stood out more – and I liked that. I hope to be back in town in two years time, for the Outside Con

DeepSouthCon. Just, please guys, not to close to Worldcon. Pretty please?

Note: This review is available online with captioned pictures at <http://members.aol.com/scifisa/perssfdsc4.htm>

BOOK REVIEWS

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers (2003) by Mary Roach. Review by Leana Justice

Content: A+ Technique: A

A delight! Recommended! Especially apt gift material for necromantic role-players, the morbidly curious, forensic TV show addicts, and teenagers. This nonfiction work is a delicious read. (Yes, Roach's book includes a chapter on human-derived cures.) Her finely researched book is:

- Educational
- Articulate
- Witty – sometimes gallows humor, always refreshing

Chapters/subjects addressed:

- Dead Man Driving
- University of TN's Body Farm
- Crimes of Anatomy
- Beyond the Black Box – Airline crash investigation
- Bullets & Bombs
- How to Know if You're Dead

I guarantee you will learn highly memorable factoids for small talk during holiday gatherings.

Hunters of the Dark Sea (2003) by Mel Odom. Review by Leana Justice

Content: A- Technique: A-

A fine, swashbuckling historical horror novel set in the Pacific Ocean during 1813. Action abounds, while Ethan, the ambitious protagonist with a mysterious past, keeps you entertained. An American whaling vessel encounters...an uncataloged sea creature, a demon, an alien, a monster, and something worse. Muttered rumors grow with each retelling among the deckhands. This is an action novel (pirates, privateers, enemy British frigates, a university professor, his beautiful daughter, mortal enemies, mutiny) with a creepy telepathic monster.

It Came From the Drive-In (1996) by Partridge. Review by Leana Justice

Content: B Technique: B

Checkout this short story anthology from your local library. Corben's Technicolor cover art made me try this B-movie homage. Overall, I enjoyed almost all 18 over-the-top short stories by fans of 1950's and '60's American low budget movies. Many stories have at least one "laugh aloud" segment. All movie genres are represented:

Teens Gone Bad:	<i>Die Baby, Die Die Die!</i>
Horror:	<i>'59 Frankenstein</i>
Science Fiction:	<i>I Was a Boy Crazy Blob</i>
Western:	<i>The Good, The Bad, and the Danged</i> (my fav)

Black-sploitation: *Underground Atlanta*

What can you expect from a collection that includes the erotic tale *The Slobbering Tongue That Ate the Frightfully Huge Woman* and a ghost story, *The Blood on Satan's Harley*?

- motorcycles, leather jackets, rock-and-roll music, greasy hair, switchblades, cigarettes
- lovers lane – nothing good happens there
- angora sweaters, ponytails & chrome hotrods
- tumbleweeds & horse bit-turned-harmonica
- the CIA and/or U.S. Army versus lots of Nazis
- stock footage of clay-mation dinosaurs

{On Jack Chalker's passing, Leana noted:

"...I was saddened to learn of Jack L. Chalker's passing. His 1980s Changewinds trilogy featured teenage girl protagonists in an ever-changing alternate world. A teen myself, I found the books enthralling. I drove the school librarian mad until she ILL'd the Soul Rider series. I devoured the Rings of the Master books. Chalker's heroes uphold personal honor codes that include creative problem solving, risk-taking, sacrifice, and hard work. I regret not meeting the author in person."}

Making Space Happen (Private Space Ventures and the Visionaries Behind Them), (2002 Plexus Publishing)) by Paula Berinstein. Review by E.B. Frohvet

This book suffers badly from timing on both sides. It came out weeks before the Challenger disaster. And parts of its argument has been bypassed by recent developments. Bert Rutan's X-Prize winning "Space Ship One" has made at least a theoretical case for privately funded space flight; and Virgin Atlantic Airlines and its eccentric British owner have bought in to commercial flights to sub-orbital and perhaps, eventually, event to orbit and the existing Space Station. (But: except for tourism, sub-orbital is a dead end, and, to greatly expand the existing station, or build new ones, still requires a heavy-lifter-to-orbit, an unmanned Saturn II type, or a shuttle having the capacity of the present ones. Both are long years from coming on line.)

Financing was indeed the key problem in Berinstein's views: "If the funding doesn't come...there's no chance for the industry to work. It's as simple as that. "The Rutan/Virgin project is a big step, but still far from proving space flight as a profitable commercial venture. The remainder of the book covers things that SF writers and engineers have discussed for generations. There is even some humor: "Arranging the necessary restraints to enable a couple to engage in coitus during weightlessness is a significant ergonomic challenge." (So far as we know, no one has yet tried.)

Given the money, the technology can be made to work. The sub-orbital X-15 worked in the 1960's, generations of technology ago. The realistic assessment is that the funding will have to come mainly from the U.S. government; or – forty years behind, but working hard – the Chinese. There is still ample room for doubt.

Annotated Fanzine Listings

By Tom Feller

Please send zines for listing to me at PO Box 140937, Nashville, TN 37214-0937. All these zines are available for trade unless noted. Also unless otherwise specified, when writing for a sample issue, send \$1 to cover postage. A SASE is likely to be too small.

Alexiad, Vol. 3, #6, & Vol. 4., #'s 1&2, published by Lisa and Joseph Major, 1409 Christy Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204-2040. Book, magazine, and movie reviews and letters. Joe also discusses his health problems in #1.

Ansible, #'s 208-209, published by Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AU, UK. Dave's U.S. agent is Janice Murray, PO Box 75684, Seattle, WA 98125-0684. Fannish news. One of this year's nominees in the best semi-prozine category.

CAR-PGa Newsletter, Vol. 13, # 12, & Vol. 14, #'s 1-5, published the Committee for the Advancement of Role-Playing Games, 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418. Edited by Paul Cardwell. Available for \$10 annually or 85 cents per copy; no trades. Each issue has a convention calendar and gaming news. Andy Vetromile reports on Hallowcon in #1, Carsten Obst on Game-Fair 2004 in #'s 2&3, and Ronald Pehr on GAMA, the Game Manufacturers annual trade show. In #5, Carsten compares RPG in German and American prisons.

Con-Temporal, Vol. 12, #'s 1-4, published by Laurel King, 637 Capital Ave SW, Battle Creek, MI 49015. Subscription: \$50 per year. No trades. This zine has the most comprehensive listing of conventions that I have seen.

Fantasy Commentator, #'s 57 & 58, published by A. Langley Searles, 48 Highland Circle, Bronxville, NY 10708-5909. Available for \$12. This is a combined issue devoted to Fritz Leiber and includes three poems by the late writer.

Feline Mewsings, #'s 17-19, published by R-Laurraine Tutihasi, 29217 Stonecrest Road, Rollings Hills Estates, CA 90275-4936. (This is an apazine written for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA) and contains Laurraine's mailing comments. However, it is available outside the apa as well.) Besides book, movie, and play reviews, Laurraine reports on the San Diego Comic Con and Westercon in #18 and Loscon in #19.

File 770, #144, published by Mike Glyer, 705 Valley View Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016. Available for \$8 for 5 issues. This is fandom's leading newszine. Convention reports include H.L. Drake on Context, John Hertz on Westercon and Dale Speirs on Con-Version, and obituaries include George Flynn, Jack Chalker, and Kelly Freas. Francis Hamit describes his venture into electronic publishing.

Fosfax, #211, published on behalf of the Falls of Ohio Science Fiction Association. Edited by Timothy Lane, and Elizabeth Garrott. Available for \$15 for four issues. Book, zine, and poetry reviews, letters, and political commentary from a libertarian point of view. Con reports include Leigh Kimmel on ShowMeCon, Dragoncon, Archon, Icon, and Conglomeration, James Door reports on Inconjunction, and Taras Wolansky and David Herrington on Noreascon

Future Times, Volume 8, #'s 1-4, newsletter of The Atlanta Science Fiction Society, PO Box 98308, Atlanta, GA 303590-2008. Edited by Jayne Rogers. Available for \$12 annually. Club and SF news, a listing of Atlanta area clubs, and reviews. #1 contains an interview with Fred Pohl. Obituaries include Jack Chalker in #1 and Andre Norton in #4.

Flicker, #3, published by Arnie Katz, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., PMB 152, Las Vegas, NV 89107. Arnie comments on the state of fanzine fandom, fan funds, politics, and his wife's accident.

Gegenschein, # 101, published by Eric Lindsay, PO Box 640, Airlie Beach, Qld 4802, Australia. Eric reports on a trip to the U.S., which included Potlatch and Corflu.

Instant Message, #'s 744-751, newsletter of the New England Science Fiction Association, PO Box 809, Framingham, MA 01701-0809. Edited by Claire Anderson. Club and Boskone news.

It Goes on the Shelf, #26, published by Ned Brooks 4817 Dean Lane, Lilburn, GA 30047-4720. Ned describes what items he has collected since the last issue.

Lofgeornost, #'s 76-78, published by Fred Lerner, 81 Worcester Avenue, White River Junction, Vermont 05001. (This is another apazine written for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA) and contains Fred's mailing comments. However, it is available outside the apa as well.) Fred reports on a trip to Finland and Russia in #76.

NASFA Shuttle, Vol. 24, # 12 & Vol. 25, #'s 1-4, newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association, PO Box 4857, Huntsville, AL 35815-4857. Edited by Mike Kennedy. Subscription: \$1.50 per issue, or \$10 for 12 issues. Besides club and Constellation news, there are reviews of movies, zines, and books, and letters. #1 includes an obituary for Kelly Freas, #2 for Jack Chalker, and #4 for Andre Norton. Mike reports on Xanadu/DSC in #4..

The National Fantasy Fan, Vol. 4, No. 4, & Vol. 5, No. 1., published by Craig Boyd, PO Box 7488, Little Rock, AR 72117-7488. Official newsletter of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Available for \$18 per year; no trades. Checks should be made payable to William Center, but sent to Dennis Davis, 25549 Byron St., San Bernardino, CA 92404-6403. Club news, letters, and book and movie reviews. Taras Wolansky reports on Torcon in #1

Nice Distinctions, #'s 7&8, published by Arthur Hlavaty, 206 Valentine Street, Yonkers, NY 10704-1814. Available for \$1 per issue. Arthur reviews books and makes comments about the world. #7 includes a paragraph about the late George Flynn.

The Unofficial Memphen Annual, #1, published by the Memphis Science Fiction Association, PO Box 820514, Memphis, TN 38182. Reprints of past *Memphen* covers including artwork by Tom Foster, Dan Steffan, and Dan Fletcher.

Opuntia, #'s 54.5, 55, 55.1, 55.2, 55.3, 55.5, & 56, published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Letters, book reviews, essays, and zine reviews. Dale reports on Con-Version in #55.

Probe #'s 125 & 126, published by SFSA, PO Box 781401, Standton 2146, South Africa. Fiction, book and movie reviews, club news, and letters. In #125, Nick Wood reports

on Utopiales in France, and Grant Kruger argues in favor of a South African Worldcon. In #126, Grant reports on Noreascon.

So It Goes, #16, published by Tim Marion, c/o Kleinbard, 266 East Broadway, Apt 1201B, New York, NY 10002. Available for \$10 a copy. Since the last issue was in November 1977, all the letters have 1978 dates, which is rather interesting. This issue is devoted to *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and is sub-titled "The Zine that Became Un[stuck] in Time." He also reports on Balticon, Autoclave, and Disclave from 1978 and Disclave and Worldcon from 1980. Tim has also been sending me his apazines for Slanapa, each with a different title and which I find interesting for their media reviews.

Tyndalite, #118, published by Norm Metcalf, PO Box 1368, Boulder, CO 80306-1368. (This zine was intended for the Southern Fandom Press Alliance, but is available outside the apa as well.) Available for \$1 a copy. His comments include remarks on L. Ron Hubbard and Philip K. Dick.

Vanamonde, #'s 563-582, published by John Hertz, 236 South Coronado Street, No. 409, Los Angeles, CA 90057. These 2 page perzines were originally published for APA-L, the weekly apa. They all have John's mailing comments to other members of the apa. John eulogizes Julius Schwartz in #563 and Ray Charles and Ronald Reagan in #579. He also discusses Dr. Seuss in #564 and Wilson Tucker in #574. John reports on Lunacon in #'s 580 & 581. #'s 567, 572, 577, & 582 have comments from people outside the apa. Finally, John sent me copies of two articles he wrote for *SF Chronicles*, one on fandom and the other on Noreascon.

Visions of Paradise, #'s 100-102, published by Robert Sabella, 24 Cedar Manor Court, Budd Lake, NJ 07828-1023. Book reviews, articles, and Robert's diaries for April 2004 through November 2004.

Yngvi is a Louse, #'s 91-94, published by T.K.F. Weisskopf Reinhardt, 196 Alps road, Suite 2-385, Athens, GA 30606. (This is an apazine for the Southern Fandom Press Alliance and contains mailing comments. However, it is available to people outside the apa.) Charlotte Proctor reviews books.

Electronic Zines

ANIME SACRAMENTO NEWSLETTER, edited by Laurine White, lvbwhite@concourse.net. Club and anime news.

BARYON 98, published by Hunter at baryon@bellsouth.net. Book reviews. Requires Microsoft Word and PKZip.

THE CONFEDERATE CHRONICLES, official newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Club of Georgia: The Confederates of Wisteria Lodge Scion Society, edited by Kent Ross, kenthross@aol.com. Sherlock Holmes and club news.

JAMES P. HOGAN NEWSLETTER, published by James at newsletter@jamesphogan.com. News about forthcoming releases and appearances. The January edition includes a short essay about life in Ireland.

NASHVILLE SF CLUB NEWSLETTER, edited by Reece Morehead, reecejb2001@yahoo.com. Club, fannish, and SF news

THE REVENGE OF HUMP DAY, published by Tim Bolgeo, tbolgeo@att.net. Jokes and fannish news, especially Libertycon. The 1/4 e-issue includes obituaries for Will Eisner, Kelly Freas, and Maggie "Maggie the Cat" Withrow as well as an update on Jack Chalker's medical condition.

3 PIPE PROBLEM PLUGS AND DOTTLES, Newsletter of The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem, November, 2004-April, 2005. Edited by Kay Blocker, pkblocker@comcast.com and Dean Richardson, tarzanrich@comcast.net. Sherlock Holmes and club news. Billy Fields reports on the William Gillette luncheon and the Baskerville Bash in the February-March e-issue.

WOSSNAME, Newsletter of the Klatchian Foreign Legion. Published by Joseph Schaumburger, JSCHAUM111@aol.com. Terry Pratchett and Discworld news.

Web Sites

ATLANTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY at www.asfa.org.

BARYON at www.baryon-online.com. Downloadable Word files of Barry Hunter's book review zine.

CHALLENGER at www.challzine.net published by Guy Lillian. Electronic version of one of this year's nominees for the Hugo Award.

EMERALD CITY at <http://www.emcit.com>. Published by Cheryl Morgan. Requires Adobe Acrobat Reader or Microsoft Word. This site hosts downloadable versions of her Hugo-winning fanzine as well as her web log. Both the site and the zine are among this year's nominees.

NASHVILLE SCHOLARS OF THE THREE PIPE PROBLEM at <http://www.nashvillescholars.net>, published by Jim Hawkins. Sherlock Holmes and club news.

SCI-FI DIMENSIONS at <http://www.scifidimensions.com>, published by John C. Snider. Interviews, reviews, articles, and fiction.

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

UFP Galaxy International at www.ufpgalaxy.net. *Star Trek*.

VideoVista webzine at www.videovista.net. Video Reviews.

Web Logs

Arthur Hlavaty at <http://www.livejournal.com/users/supergee/>.

Karen Johnston at <http://www.kajikitscorner.com>. She has also posted photos of her life at:

<http://community.webshots.com/user/kajikit>.

[Also received: A Bear Went Over the Mountain #2, PO Box 17522, Anaheim, CA 92817-7522; Ethel the Aardvark, MSFC, PO Box 212, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, Vic. 3005 Australia, Fanzine Fanatique, 6 Vine St, Lancaster, LA1 4UF, England; The Knarley Knews, 1525 16th Ave, Grafton, USA; Living Free, Hiler Branch, Box 29, Buffalo NY 14223]

NEWS

{Note that some news items are sent to me but many are gathered from various fannish resources such as Uncle Timmy's e-mail newsletters (THE REVENGE OF HUMP DAY, tbolgeo@att.net), ASFS Yahoo! Group, [//groups.yahoo.com/group/ASFS](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ASFS), and the like. Keep the news of interest to Southern Fandom flowing folks.}

DUFF DELEGATE DESIGNATED

According to <http://home.pacbell.net/jgelb/duff2k.html>, Joe Siclari, has won the 2005 DUFF race to send a delegate from North America to the Australian National Convention in Hobart, Tasmania, June 10-13, 2005. Combined first-place votes were 65 for Joe, and 19 for Chris Barkley. The vote breakdown is as follows:

	North America	Australia	Total
Joe Siclari	57	8	65
Chris Barkley	17	2	19

No preference received 1 vote; other votes included 1 write-in for Earl Kemp from Australia. DUFF is a fund that helps send an Australian/New Zealand science fiction fan to attend either a Worldcon or NASFiC in North America and, in alternate years, helps send a fan from North America to attend an Australian Worldcon or National Convention. Two or more fans run against each other in any given DUFF race; fans pay a voting fee to cast ballots, and donated items are auctioned, and cash donations accepted, to offset the costs.

After attending the convention, the winners become administrators of DUFF for the next two years (one electing a fan to come to their country, the next electing a fan to go across the Pacific and replace them as administrators on their return). The administrators are responsible for distributing and counting the ballots and act as liaison with conventions, either where items are auctioned to benefit DUFF or where the winners of a given race are to attend.

For more information – or donations of fanzines, fan art, professional science fiction memorabilia, or cold hard cash – contact one of the administrators:

In Australasia:	In North America:
Norman Cates	Guy and Rosy Lillian
P.O. Box 13-574	8700 Millicent Way #1501
Johnsonville, Wellington	Shreveport, LA 1115
New Zealand	USA
normanc@clear.net.nz	guy@duff2004.com or
	rosy@duff2004.com

MEL BOROS HAS NEW GRANDAUGHTER

Sophia Madison Boros was born in Ames, Iowa, on Sunday, December 19, at 7:56 AM and weighed 7 pounds 13 ounces, and was 20 inches tall with blue eyes, lots of red-blond hair, and a sweet disposition. Mother, Kay Cee, and father, Robb, are recovering nicely. Bubbe, Phyllis, and zayda,

Mel, are frequent attendees of southern conventions. Uncle Timmy Bolgeo is Grand Uncle.

PATSI JEAN AND CHARLES DICKENS MARRY

Nancy Holland reports that Patricia Clements and Charles Dickens were married December 22, 2004 at Charles' Uncle Bill and Aunt Joyce' s house. Charles' Uncle Jim performed the marriage after dinner.

FRANK KELLY FREAS 1922-2005

Influential illustrator and notable member of the science-fiction/fantasy community, Frank Kelly Freas passed in his sleep at 4:45 AM, January 2, 2005 at age 82. A memorial service was held Sunday, January 9th. Freas received 11 Hugo awards for his achievements in science fiction and was the artist guest of honor at numerous conventions (including many southern ones). His wife, Laura, a daughter, son, and six grandchildren survive him.

MAGGIE WITHROW 1959-2005

Southern fan, Maggie "the Cat" Withrow passed away on Thursday, December 30th, 2004 after a long battle with cancer. Donations in her memory may be sent to Hospice Care of Tri-County, 166 Stone Ridge Drive, Suite 100, Columbia, S.C. 29210. She is survived by her son, (Michael) Shawn Withrow, of Norfolk, Virginia; her mother, Jo Klendshoj of Mesa, Arizona, and Slater, Colorado; her father, Ole Klendshoj, stepmother, Roxanne, and sister, Lauren, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and her brother, Niels Klendshoj of Pompano Beach, Florida, as well as her dear friends Frank Fry, Thomas Pilgrim, Danny Hugueley, Beth Dake, Nikki Cox, Cheryl Zafoot, Pat Clay and many others.

JACK CHALKER PASSES AWAY

Science fiction writer of 66 published novels and long time fan, Jack Chalker, passed away February 11, 2005. Condolences can be sent to The Mirage Press Ltd., P.O. Box 1689, Westminster, MD 21158 or posted online at <http://www2.caringbridge.org/md/jacklchalker/>. In lieu of flowers, donations are being accepted at the Sierra Club, Save the Bay / Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Baltimore Science Fiction Society and the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America Emergency Medical Fund.

F.M. BUSBY PASSES AWAY

F. M. "Buz" Busby, the award-winning publisher and author of more than 20 novels and collections, died Feb. 17 at Health and Rehabilitation of Seattle, where he was moved following several weeks of surgery and treatment at Swedish Hospital of Seattle, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America announced. He was 83. Busby is survived by his wife, Eleanor Busby.

ANDRE NORTON 1912-2005

On March 17, 2005 at 2:23 AM, Grand Master Author of over 130 books, Andre Norton, departed on her final journey in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She left peacefully in her sleep with Sue Steward, Ollie and Mark at her bedside. She was 93. Andre requested that, in lieu of flowers, please send donations to Saint Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis Tennessee or Veterinarian Services, c/o The Noah Fund, P.O. Box 10128, Murfreesboro, TN 37129, in her memory. Because of her love of animals, Andre herself contributed to the Noah Fund, which is for people who cannot afford medical treatment for their pets. Pictures of Andre Norton's urn with guardian griffins on the front and the eternal flame on the top are on-line:

www.sf-fandom.com/vbulletin/showthread.php?t=18543

She's buried in Ohio, next to her parents, whom she had long missed.

CHALLENGER 21 ON THE WEB

Guy Lillian <ghliii@yahoo.com> announced that the 21st issue of *CHALLENGER* is *mostly* on line now at www.challzine.net. A few photo pages and some artwork by Tim Kirk have yet to be scanned and downloaded, but will happen, will happen...The zine is also available in hard copy for \$7.50 each. New address for all correspondence: 8700 Millicent Way #1501, Shreveport LA 71115. This is the 6th year in a row that *CHALLENGER* has been nominated for the Best Fanzine Hugo Award.

HIDE AND CREEP

Mike Kingsley informs us to be on the watch for an Southern Indie Zombie Movie independent film by Crewless Productions, based out of Hoover, AL (Birmingham metro area) (www.crewless.com/hideandcreep/trailerandphoto.php)

It is one of *Film Threat's* *Indies to Watch* for in 2005. There's been a lot of activity in the zombie genre lately, but this southern twist on the formula is a work of pure love and comic genius. Check out the trailer and the whole site. Also of note, one of the directors wrote a column on the making of this film for Kevin Smith's Movie Poop Shoot site. It's a great resource for other aspiring, small town filmmakers: www.moviepoopshoot.com/shootitself/archives.html

DeepSouthCon 43 Award Winners

At Xanadu 8, the following awards were presented:

Phoenix: Jack Chalker

Rebel: Naomi Fisher Malloy

Ruble: Judy Bemis

Star Wars Fan Film Winner

Robert Bunch of south Huntsville, Alabama, created a fan film using Macromedia Flash, *Star Wars: Elements* – that won in the Best Original Concept category in the Fourth Annual StarWars Fan Film Awards. He won \$1000 and a golden trophy from Star Wars Celebration III in Indianapolis. See www.starwars.com/community/event/celebration and the atomfilms site, which hosts the winning submissions (www.atomfilms.com/af/spotlight/collections/starwars).

2005 Southeastern Science Fiction Achievement Award Nominees

Lifetime Achievement: Gregory Benford, Nelson Bond, Ben Bova, Orson Scott Card, William S. Gibson

Best Novel of 2004: *Beyond Infinity* by Gregory Benford (Aspect), *Camouflage* by Joe Haldeman (Ace), *Coyote Rising* by Allen Steele (Ace), *Viator* by Lucius Shepard (Night Shade Books)

Best Short Fiction of 2004: *Alabama* by Kalamu ya Salaam (Crossroads, Tor), *Christus Destitutus* by Bud Webster (Crossroads, Tor), *Faces* by Joe Haldeman (Magazine of F&SF, June 2004), *My Life Is Goodby* Scott Edelman (Crossroads, Tor)

For voting instructions, visit:

www.scifidimensions.com/sesfa/vote.htm

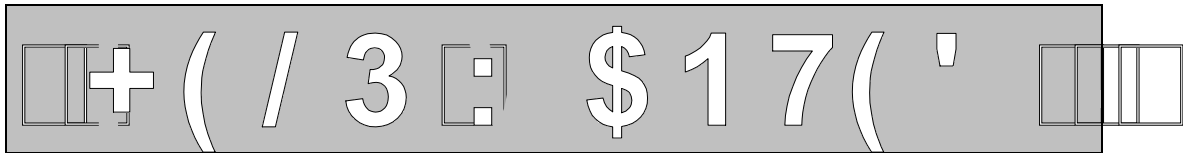
Watt-Evans' Lords of Duss WordSearch

by Leana Justice

P	A	N	A	T	G	S	E	S	T	G	E
S	R	M	T	L	P	P	H	U	L	A	A
D	G	F	N	R	W	L	R	D	R	R	H
E	H	I	M	O	S	O	R	O	K	T	S
F	O	P	I	K	W	I	L	U	E	H	J
I	R	Z	G	S	S	P	S	L	N	E	E
U	E	I	G	I	R	O	L	O	E	N	R
Y	M	S	X	L	P	E	P	O	T	Y	H
H	E	A	H	I	K	A	E	A	D	L	F
D	H	E	R	S	T	L	N	C	E	I	N
I	P	S	D	A	H	G	A	T	C	F	B
E	D	M	I	B	S	W	T	H	K	H	O

Find these hidden words: GARTH, KOROS, SKELLETH, YELLOW, AGHAD, PHUL, SARAM, BASILISK

Leana Justice used software on SuperKid Resources' website. <http://www.superkids.com/aweb/tools/words/search>.



My name is Grant Kruger and I have been asked to update and rework the **Southern Fandom Confederation (SFC) Handbook**. This Handbook contains much of the known history of Southern Fandom, as well as extensive details about Southern Fandom as it exists today. I really want this handbook to be a knockout and an excellent representation of Southern Fandom. It is something that belongs to all of us that we will want to take pride in. **Of course a task of this magnitude cannot be completed by me alone. I need the help of Southern fans and fandom – including yours.**

Firstly, I'm looking for any artwork, cartoons or logos in the theme of Southern fandom or fannish history. This art would be black and white (or grayscale) and can be new art or copies of art that was used. In fact we would especially like to get hold of some examples of artwork that was used many years ago. The artwork will add to the readability of the handbook while also enhancing its flavor. Front and back cover ideas/offers welcomed.

As a separate task I will also be actively soliciting articles from conventions and fan groups (about their history and status). I will be using several con lists on the web as a source, but if you know of fan groups/cons that I will not find this way (or may struggle to find) then please let me know of them. And if you are such a contact and don't hear from me by the end of May 2005 then please drop me a line.

So do you think you have something to add? An article about Southern fandom or its history? An obituary for a fan who is no longer with us but whose contribution was significant? Fun anecdotes or stories in this theme? A different/unusual perspective of Southern fandom? Something more meaningful? Some other idea for an article? Drop me a line.

I am also looking for electronic copies of meaningful photographs (especially historic ones) and also scanned copies of old con badges, ribbons, buttons and anything else you think might be of interest. If you have no scanner then we can use regular mail – drop me a line and we can discuss it.

We will of course credit the article's author/s and the artists. So, can you help? If so then please drop me a line (contact details below) and we can discuss this. Please also forward this request to anyone you think might have a contribution to make. The deadline for submissions will be November 1st 2005.

This handbook will later be available to all interested parties, in both paper (zine) format and on the web. I thank you for your time and consideration and look forward to working with you to produce this handbook to highlight the richness of Southern fandom.

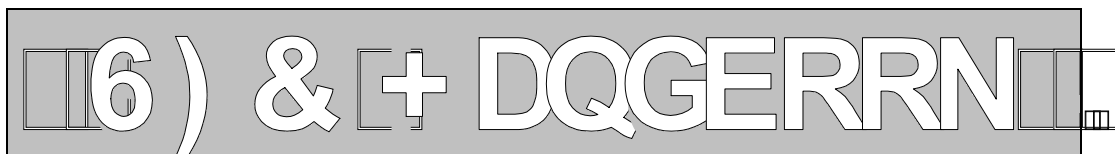
Thank you very much!

Grant Kruger – 2005/6 SFC Handbook Editor

Email: sfchandbook@gmail.com

Phone: (601) 825-3214

Mailing Address: 9 Rochelle St, Brandon, MS 39047, USA



SOUTHERN CONVENTION LISTINGS

Listings of upcoming conventions are not exhaustive but are accurate as possible with no guarantees. Use contact information to verify and obtain further information. Prices listed are "at the door." Contact the editor with corrections, additions, and/or to purchase ad space. For a more complete list, go see **Kelly Lockhart's** web site, the *Southern Fandom Resource Guide*: www.scenic-city.com/sfrgl/.

JUNE

- 3-5 **ConCarolinas**, Charlotte, North Carolina, www.secfi.org/concarolinas
- 4-5 **Hampton Blackbeard Festival**, Hampton, Virginia, www.downtownhampton.com/blackbeard
- 10-12 **Roc*Kon**, Little Rock, Arkansas, Postponed to 2006, www.rockon.org
- 10-12 **Sci Fi Summer Con**, Atlanta, Georgia, www.sfscon.net
- 11-18 **Slayercruise**, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, www.slayercruise.com
- 16-19 **Mythic Journeys**, Brasstown, Georgia, www.mythicjourneys.org/tw.html
- 17-19 **Anime Mid-Atlantic**, Richmond, Virginia, www.animemidatlantic.com
- 17-19 **Hypericon**, Nashville, Tennessee, www.hypericon.info
- 18-19 **Adventure Con**, Knoxville, Tennessee, www.adventurecon.com
- 18-19 **Memphis Film Festival**, Olive Branch, Mississippi, <http://users3.ev1.net/~pugdad/MFF3>
- 24-26 **Heroes Convention**, Charlotte, North Carolina, www.heroesonline.com/con-update.htm
- 24-26 **Metrocon**, Tampa, Florida, www.metroconventions.com
- 24-26 **Challenge of the Heart**, Nanjemoy, Maryland, <http://challenge.duncarraig.net>
- 26 **Virginia Comicon**, Richmond, Virginia, www.vacomicon.com

JULY

- 8-10 **Shore Leave 27**, Baltimore, Maryland, www.shore-leave.com
- 8-11 **Sacred Space 17**, Timonium, Maryland, www.sacredspacefoundation.org

- 9-10 **Kansas City Comiccon**, Shawnee, Kansas, www.kansascitycomicon.com
- 15-17 **Vulkon**, Tampa, Florida, www.vulkon.com
- 15-17 **Trinoc*Con**, Durham, North Carolina, www.trinoc-con.org
- 15-17 **DungeonCon**, Asheville, North Carolina, www.schwarzengel.com
- 17-19 **Hypericon**, Nashville, Tennessee, www.hypericon.info
- 22-24 **ShowMeCon 3**, St. Louis, Missouri, www.showmecon.com
- 22-24 **Earthbound**, Tampa, Florida, www.earthbound2005.com
- 22-24 **VidCon**, Tampa, Florida, www.stonehill.org/vidnews.htm
- 29-31 **LibertyCon 18**, Chattanooga, Tennessee, www.libertycon.org
- 31 **Zine-A-Polooza**, Duluth, Georgia, www.zine-a-polooza.info

AUGUST

- 5-7 **Crescent City Con XX**, New Orleans, Louisiana, www.crescentcitycon.com
- 5-7 **Vulcon Kryptkon**, Tampa, Florida, www.vulkon.com/upcoming/stars.html#TampaSciFi2005
- 6-8 **Anime Festival Orlando**, Orlando, Florida, www.animefestivalorlando.com
- 12-14 **ConGlomeration**, Louisville, Kentucky, www.conglomeration.org
- 19-21 **Otakon**, Baltimore, Maryland, www.otakon.com
- 19-21 **Horrorfind Weekend**, Baltimore, Maryland, www.horrorfindweekend.com
- 26-28 **MechaCon**, Lafayette, Louisiana, www.mechacon.com

SEPTEMBER

- 2-5 **Dragon*Con**, Atlanta, Georgia, www.dragoncon.org
- 2-5 **TCEP 12**, Herndon, Virginia, www.barkingmad.org
- 2-5 **Mephit Furmeet**, Memphis, Tennessee, www.mephitfurmeet.org
- 17 **Babel Fest**, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, <http://beam.to/babelbanquet>
- 17-18 **Baltimore Comic-Con**, Baltimore, Maryland, www.comicon.com/baltimore

- 17-21 **Fall For The Book**, Washington, D.C.,
www.fallforthebook.org
18-19 **Mothman Festival**, Point Pleasant, West Virginia,
www.mothmanlives.com
23-24 **Small Press Expo**, Bethesda, Maryland,
www.spxpo.com
23-25 **Hurricane**, Tampa, Florida, www.hmgs-south.com
23-25 **Anime Weekend Atlanta 10**, Atlanta, Georgia,
www.awa-con.com
23-25 **Seventh Annual Klingon Feast**, Daytona Beach,
Florida, <http://groups.msn.com/KlingonFeast>
29-Oct 1 **Southern Front**, Raleigh, North Carolina,
www.trianglesimsociety.org
29-Oct 2 **Archon 29**, St. Louis, Missouri,
www.archonstl.org/29
30-Oct 1 **Premiere Shindig (Serenity)**, Orlando, Florida,
www.fireflyverse.net
30-Oct 2 **Rising Star 14**, Salem, Virginia, www.rising-star.org

OCTOBER

- 7-9 **Con†Stellation 24**, Huntsville, Alabama, www.con-stellation.org/constell
8-9 **Revoluticon**, Asheville, North Carolina,
<http://revoluticon.bravehost.com>
8-9 **d20 Con 3**, Metairie, Louisiana,
www.d20con.com
13-15 **International Comics Arts Festival**,
Washington, DC, <http://go.to/ICAF>
14-16 **Capclave**, Washington, D.C.,
www.wsfa.org/capc05
22-23 **Book ' Em** Waynesboro, Virginia,
www.bookemfoundation.org
28-30 **Necronomicon 24**, Tampa, Florida,
www.stonehill.org/necro.htm
28-30 **HallowCon**, Chattanooga, Tennessee,
www.hallowcon.com
30 **Washington DC Comic-Con**,
Washington DC,
www.capitolcollectibles.com/dccomicon.html

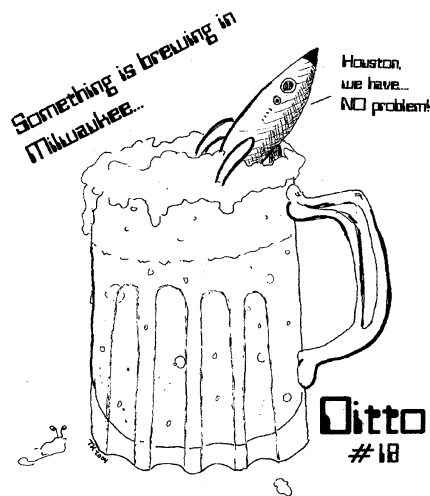
NOVEMBER

- 3-5 **Past Watchful Dragons' : Fantasy and
Faith in the World of C. S. Lewis**,
Nashville, Tennessee,
www.belmont.edu/cslewis

- 4-6 **Esotericon**, Atlanta, Georgia, www.esotericon.com
4-6 **Nekocon**, Hampton, Virginia, www.nekocon.com
5-6 **Screamfest**, Plantation, Florida,
www.spookyempire.com/screamfest_convention_2005
11-13 **Vulkon**, Orlando, Florida, www.vulkon.com
11-13 **AfterLife**, Atlanta, Georgia, www.theafterlife.org
11-13 **MACE**, High Point, North Carolina,
www.justusproductions.com/mace.aspx
17-20 **ShaunCon 22**, Kansas City, Missouri,
www.rpgkc.org/Con
18-20 **Anime USA 7**, Tyson's Center, Virginia,
www.animeusa.org
18-20 **Anime South**, Destin, Florida, www.animesouth.com
18-20 **Miami Book Fair**, Miami, Florida,
www.miamibookfair.com
25-27 **Darkover Grand Council 27**, Timonium, Maryland,
www.darkovercon.com

DECEMBER

- 2-4 **East Meets South**, Anniston, Alabama,
www.eastmeetssouth.com



DITTO 18 IN MILWAUKEE, WI OCTOBER 14-16, 2005

Brew Meisters: Henry and Letha Welch
Supporting Brew Crew: Trinlay Khadro, Henry Osier, Greg Rihn, Georgie Schnobrich, Dick Smith, Leah Zeldes Smith
Bottle Cap Inspectors: Laverne DeFazio and Shirley Feeney
Hardware Consultant: Howard Cunningham
Location: Best Western Airport Milwaukee - (877)461-8547
Room Rates: Mention Ditto for Convention Rates of \$84.96 Single and \$94.96 Double
Featuring a spacious inner atrium swimming pool, lounge and game area.
Advance Memberships: \$35
Make Checks Payable to: Milwaukee Science Fiction Conventions, Inc. (MSFCI)

For more information contact:
Henry Welch
1525 16th Ave.
Grafton, WI 53024
welch@msoe.edu
262/375-8763

SFC BY-LAWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 7. All previous by-laws, rules and constitutions of the SFC are henceforth null and void. (As amended at the SFC 1993 meeting, 1997 meeting, 1998 meeting, 1999 meeting, and the 2000 meeting.)

DSC BY-LAWS

Section 1. Paragraph 1. The DeepSouthCon is an unincorporated literary society whose functions are to choose the locations and committees of the annual DeepSouth Science Fiction Convention (hereinafter referred to as the DSC); to attend the DSC; and to perform such other activities as may be necessary or incidental to these purposes.

Section 1. Paragraph 2. The membership of DSC shall consist of (A) anyone paying the membership fee established by the current DSC committee, or (B) anyone upon whom the current DSC committee confers a complimentary membership. Only members attending the DSC will have voting privileges and each person shall have one vote. Absentee and proxy votes are not allowed. An optional class of non-voting supporting membership may be established by the current DSC committee for persons who wish to receive DSC publications but cannot attend the convention and participate in the business meeting.

Section 1. Paragraph 3. No part of DSC's net earnings shall be paid to its members, officers, or other private persons except in furtherance of the DSC's purposes. The DSC shall not attempt to influence legislation or any political campaign for public office. Should the DSC dissolve, its assets shall be distributed by the current DSC committee or the appropriate court having jurisdiction exclusive for charitable purposes.

Section 2. Paragraph 1. The voting membership of DSC shall choose the location and committee of the DSC to be held in the calendar year two years after the current DSC. Voting shall be by ballot cast at the current DSC. Counting of all votes shall be the responsibility of the DSC committee, using the preferential ballot system as it is used in site selection voting for the World Science Fiction Convention.

Section 2. Paragraph 2. A committee shall be listed on the ballot if it submits to the current DSC, by 6:00 PM on Friday of the current DSC, the following: a list of committee officers, a contract or letter of agreement with a facility adequate to hold the DSC, and a statement that the committee agrees to abide by these rules. A committee may bid any site in the states of Alabama, Arkansas,

Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Section 3. Paragraph 1. Any proposal to amend this constitution shall require two-thirds vote of all the votes cast on the question at the DSC meeting held at two successive DSCs.

Section 3. Paragraph 2. DSC meetings shall be held at advertised times at each DSC. The current DSC committee shall provide the Presiding officer for each meeting. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, and any Standing Rules the meeting shall adopt.

Section 3. Paragraph 3. The DSC constitution shall be published in the program book of each DSC. Any amendments eligible for ratification at the DSC shall also be published in the program book.

Section 1. Paragraph 4. A DeepSouthCon committee may present such awards as it deems appropriate. The traditional awards given out by the DSC are the Rebel Award for fannish activity and the Phoenix Award for professional science fiction and fantasy activity. Should a DSC choose to award the Rebel and/or Phoenix, the following guidelines shall be followed: a. The Rebel award is given to one or more science fiction fans who have, at some point, resided in the south (as defined in section 2, paragraph 2) or whose fannish activities have contributed to southern fandom in a positive way. b. The Phoenix award is given to one or more science fiction or fantasy professionals who have, at some point, resided

in the south; whose professional work reflects on the south in a positive way; or who have demonstrated friendship with Southern fandom through support of regional fan activities. c. Either award may be given posthumously. d. Rebel and Phoenix awards are considered lifetime achievement awards, therefore no individual shall be given the same award a second time. However, a past winner of either award may also win the other award, as long as they meet the criteria outlined in subparagraphs (a) and (b). (As amended at the April 10 2005 DSC business meeting.)



LETTERS OF COMMENT

{When e-mailing a LoC, please put "SFC LoC" or similar in the subject line and remind me if you wish your contact information printed or not.}

December 28, 2004: **Julia Morgan-Scott**, morgan-scott@comcast.net

It's great seeing your art all over- and you keep getting better and better! Thanks for sending me the SFC Newsletter too. See you at Chattacon. *{Thanks!}*

January 7, 2005: **Pamela Boal**

Not a great deal to say about this ish. It may be a little light but still gives a fine picture of a very active fandom.

Fans often forecast the death of fandom (such gloomy predictions come and go as do so many topics, in circles) any group that can give news of a birth and a 90th birthday within four weeks of one another has to be not only alive but with a future. Happy New Year to one and all.

January 8, 2005: **Lloyd Penney**, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON CANADA M9C 2B2; penneys@allstream.net

It's the New Year, and after a number of loc-free days, it's time to get restarted. Many thanks for Volume 8, No. 7 of the *SFC Bulletin*, and let's see if I can get back in practice.

I keep hearing about all kinds of reports of the Boston Worldcon, with all its good times, little problems and happy faces. Randy, it is a genuine pleasure to hear about these fabled rocket trophies, and then to see them and hold one. I did that in Los Angeles in 1984...I was helping Bjo Trimble with costuming programming, and when I was sent to a room to get an extension cord, I found a veritable invasion fleet or Hugos sitting on the bed. I picked one up...when you read about them for decades, just holding one was a smile that didn't readily fade. Also, I gotta lose some weight after Christmas celebrations, or I'm gonna have a wardrobe malfunction of my own...

I would certainly support putting great SF writers on postage stamps, and I'd certainly sign the petition, if I was an American citizen. Some years ago, Canada Post put out a series of postage stamps with Canadian comic book heroes...among them were Captain Canuck, Nelvana of the North and Superman.

The club roster reminds me that we have lost some greats of the genres...Frank Kelly Freas has passed away, as has Will Eisner. You know you're aging when many of the familiar names that surround your life pass away, and you'd want to meet the familiar names that are still around before time catches up with them.

No more *Terminal Eyes* from Tim Marion? That's a shame. I certainly enjoyed the last few issues I received. I can understand why you might discontinue the zine; they were large and certainly expensive to produce and mail.

Time, if you do set up a new mailing list, please be sure to put me on it.

I understand Joseph Nicholas' reticence to throw money at every SFish project that presents itself. This goes back to the Tolkien con in Toronto I mentioned last time. It was advertised as being in December, during the week, which meant many people couldn't go to it, but I had the time and a little money...I had some doubts, but I did go, and I had a great time. A good portion of that good time was in witnessing the joy of people meeting for the first time others they'd only met through the Web, the sensawunda of some fans who'd never been to a con before, and the atmosphere of a dedicated Tolkien convention. The organizers had to prove their competence, and even though I was reluctant to spend some money on memberships, buying a membership would be the only way to find out, and I was glad I took the risk.

I started a new job with the New Year, and I am being trained as a proofreader for press releases for Canada NewsWire. I shall say no more; I have a few irons in the fire that I might be able to take advantage of, and things may yet change. The Canada NewsWire job will be a night job, and I am no vampire...

Time to fold it up and get it ready for e-mailing. I'll put an e-stamp on it, and stick it in the e-mailbox. I wish all in the SFC the best of New Years, and I think we all deserve it. And even if you don't, have it anyway. See you all next issue.

January 18, 2005: **Steven H. Silver**, shsilver@att.net

Received *SFC Bulletin* today and just wanted to drop you a note that a special edition of *Argentus* was posted online last week (there won't be a dead tree version of this issue). The *Argentus* Guide to Gameshows can be downloaded from www.sfsite.com/~silverag/argentus.html. I'd also like to make sure you are aware of the calendar of fannish and pro birthdays I maintain at www.sfsite.com/~silverag/calindex.html.

January 22, 2005: **E.B. Frohvet**, 4716 Dorsey Hall Drive #506, Ellicott City, MD 21042

As for "enjoying the winter season", the forecast for tomorrow is snow: six inches, possibly more. The temperature is unlikely to get UP to freezing. Thermal long underwear. What's to enjoy?

I enjoyed your Worldcon report. Its brevity was part of its virtue. Interesting that you put emphasis on the art side of the event. By any chance did you run into John Hertz? He often does "docent" guide tours of the art show. *{I think I did.}* Sorry about the pants.

It is doubtless presumptuous of me to comment on the SESFA Awards. However, (a) there are already too many awards of limited scope in the field, and (b) regional factionalism does not strike me as a wise basis on which to choose. As for the Lost Causes, the two Fan Hugos and the

Langford Award, it seems pointless to rant on that subject, as too many people have a vested interest in the present debased system.

Leana Justice's book reviews: Alas, what happens is that publishers wave money at someone for the use of their name and a token contribution, then the junior-most writer (Lackey in the case cited, or one of her "house" assistants) does the actual writing. Baen Books in particular has made a living at this sort of thing.

Tom Feller's zine listings: Tom's assertion that *File 770* is "fandom's leading newszine" would have made better sense had it been prefaced by "used to be". .. I must think about getting *Terminal Eyes*. I like pictures of half-naked women as much as the next guy. (Alas, a TV special on the making of the *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue, though it featured opportunities to look at young women in skimpy bikinis, also revealed the models as vain, shallow, and pretentious bitches. Sigh.)

It is sad to hear of Shelby Vick's serious accident, and I hope he is now recovering well.

I could not help but notice the mention of Jack Chalker as MC for DeepSouthCon. My information is that Jack has been very ill lately. Let's hope he feels up to traveling by April.

Anent the American Revolution, which Joseph Nicholas mentions in passing, the British commander General Lord Cornwallis wrote during the event: "We can destroy every man in America, and still have all we can do to defeat the women." In context, what his lordship probably meant was that American public opinion had become so overwhelming in favor of independence that a military solution, even if one was attainable, would still not solve the basic problem. Pity that people of more influence did not grasp that concept.

Lloyd Penney describes what I predicted several years ago: the success of the *LotR* movies spawned *LotR* fandom (largely among people who had ONLY seen the films and were amazed to learn the books existed first). That may result in some slight overlap with existing media fandom, e.g., DragonCon in Atlanta; it is unlikely to result in must overlap with our SF/fantasy fandom.

So, what, book reviews? I guess you can transcribe the enclosed if you want to bother. *{I did.}*

January 24, 2005: **Jack McDevitt**, 57 Sunset Blvd,
Brunswick, GA 31525

Thanks for the *Bulletin*, which keeps getting better. I'll admit too that an occasional infusion of common sense helps when you spend most of the day writing science fiction.

I was struck for the general reaction to the Indian Ocean tsunami. Sensors could have been placed in the area for nickels and dimes, but nothing was done. I would bet that somewhere there are people who were pleading for precisely that, but could not pry the funds loose. If it had happened stateside, there would now be a commission forming to determine who was responsible.

Meantime, the few hundred thousand we used to spend to pay a dozen astronomers to keep an eye on Earth-crossers has been discontinued. If one of those hits, there'll be

another investigation. Provided someone's left to investigate.



February 4, 2005: **Joy V. Smith**, Pagadan@aol.com

Subject:

That's a really cute cover! I enjoyed your WorldCon report. (There are some happenings that make an occasion more memorable...) Congratulations on your illustrations in the souvenir book and fanzine! Great souvenirs!! *{Thanks!}*

I enjoyed Leana Justice's book reviews. (I shall avoid those books.) Thanks for all the fanzine reviews and the SESFA, Chesley, Hugo, etc. awards listings. I see that *Challenger* finished fifth in the Hugo voting. I hope it wins soon. It deserves it!

The Superhero exhibit at the Breman Museum sounds like fun. I wonder if its travel schedule is available yet. Thanks too for the convention listings.

LOCs: To Timothy Marion--Hmm. I checked and I see that it does look like I said that Bradby wrote *Repent Harlequin said the Tick Tock Man*. It should precede Bradbury... Another oops re: Lovecraft. Yep, it should be H.P. Lovecraft. Sorry!

Re: hurricanes. Our worst damage was the front and back porch ceilings and a small section of soffit; the ceilings were replaced and the soffit repaired last week AND the insurance almost completely covered it. Lots of debris cleanup, a smashed fence, and plants lost to flooding, but we were fortunate. We've also been doing hurricane cleanup ever since they ended -- well, actually, the cleanup started before all the hurricanes finished... -- at the historical society's Heritage Park.

P.S. In the Preditors & Editors readers poll, my short story, *To the Last Drop!*, came in at #10, and my world-building article, *Straight on Until a New Planet*, came in at #11. *{Congratulations!}*

February 9, 2005: **Timothy Marion**

Got the latest *SFC Bulletin* a couple of weeks ago, and it promptly got buried. But what I wanted to say, hopefully before it's too late, is that reading over my letter, my goodness, it sure does sound as though I hate Joseph Nicholas. Such is surely not the case. Although I may have found some things he has said distasteful in the past, the fact of the matter is, Joseph Nicholas and I really don't know each other well enough to hate each other (which doesn't stop him from making remarks about my personal habits, but that's beside the point). I just have a great deal of distaste (as I said) for someone who argues in such an unfair fashion, by making trivial, non-factual "corrections," and then, when he is corrected on his "corrections," accuses that person of "triviality." Well, enough of that, I said I wouldn't continue a

"feud." And in any case, a recent letter in *Challenger* made me think the last thing I want to do is agree with Hank Reinhardt.

March 2, 2005: **Henry L. Welch**, welch@msoe.edu

Thanks for the latest *Bulletin*. Not much to comment on given that lack of regional overlap in the items you report on this issue.

April 8, 2005: **Sheryl Birkhead**, 25509 Jonnie Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Thanks for this issue. Nice batch of current zines listed. The Hugo slate for this year is out. Hope all eligible to nominated, did. Twinge, just glanced at the Xanadu flyer, listing Jack Chalker as Master of Ceremonies...

As soon as I (if ever) get organized, I still hope to get something(s) to you to hold back, fillo/artwise for times when the coffers are empty. {Thanks!}

May 4, 2005: **Grant Kruger**, SFCHandbook@aol.com, 2005/6 SFC Handbook Editor, (Toni Weisskopf-Reinhardt – Assistant Editor)

My name is Grant Kruger and I have been asked to update and rework the *Southern Fandom Confederation (SFC) Handbook*. This Handbook contains the known history of Southern Fandom, as well as details about Southern Fandom as it exists today. The SFC is a non-profit fan-run organisation. Of course a task of this magnitude cannot be completed by me alone. I need the help of all the fan groups out there, including yours.

What we are looking for is for each fan group/convention to provide us with an article (500-1000 words) that describes their club, meetings, conventions, awards and history. We would also greatly appreciate black and white (or greyscale) artwork applicable to your con / group / both. It can be new art or copies of art that was used in your group' s past. In fact we would especially like to get hold of some examples of historic artwork. Cartoons would also be welcomed. The artwork will add to the readability of the handbook while also enhancing the flavor of your article. Additionally any artwork, cartoons or logos in the more general theme of Southern fandom or history would be greatly appreciated.

Also, do you think you have something else to add? An article about Southern fandom or its history? An overview of fandom in your state? An obituary for a fan who is no longer with us but whose contribution was significant? Fun

anecdotes or stories in this theme? A different/unusual perspective of Southern fandom? Something more meaningful? Some other idea for an article? Please let me know.

I am also looking for electronic copies of meaningful photographs (especially historic ones), and also scanned copies of old con badges, ribbons, buttons and anything else you think might be of interest. If you have no scanner then we can use regular mail – let me know.

We will of course credit the article' s author/s and the artists/photographers. We will also need the artist' s/photographer' s with permission for us to reproduce them.

Please also forward this request to anyone you think might have a contribution to make. We would also greatly appreciate it if you would let us know of any fan group not on the web that we might miss in our search.

The deadline for submissions will be November 1st 2005.

This handbook will later be available to all interested parties, in both paper (zine) format and on the web. I thank you for your time and consideration and look forward to working with you to produce this handbook to highlight the richness of Southern fandom.



{Thanks for all the help folks. Keep those Dues, LoCs, Reports, Reviews, News, Illos, etc. coming for the next issue.}

THE SOUTHERN FANDOM
CONFEDERATION
C/O R.B.Cleary
138 Bibb Drive
Madison, AL 35758-1064

PRESORTED STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #102 MADISON, AL

TIME CRITICAL MATERIAL
LESS VALUABLE IF DELAYED
PRINTED MATTER
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

THE SOUTHERN FANDOM CONFEDERATION

News · Convention Calendar · Fanzine Guide · Membership Roster · News · Club Lists · And More!

For only \$15.00 per year, you'll receive Southern convention listings, club listings, convention reports, and news from around the South. Keep in touch with hundreds of other Southern fans. Your membership runs from **DeepSouthCon** (DSC) to **DeepSouthCon** (DSC44 is July 21-23, 2006) and gets you at least three issues of the *SFC Bulletin*, plus other benefits of membership. So join now.

I want to keep in touch with Southern Fandom! Please enroll me as a member in the **Southern Fandom Confederation** and send me the next three issues of the *Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin*. I have enclosed my check or money order (no cash please) for \$15.00 for a one-year membership. (Please make checks payable to the **Southern Fandom Confederation**.) Mail to the following address:

Southern Fandom Confederation
c/o Janet D. Hopkins
308 Dunbar Cave Rd
Clarksville, TN 37043

NAME (Please Print)

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

E-MAIL (Optional)

PHONE (Optional)