Monday, 6 September 2004

Program Ops, please send us some new changes, we’re tired of running these

Cancelled Items
10 am “Developing Online Games”
10 am “Print on Demand”
11 am “In Space Propulsion Systems”
1 pm Kaffeeklatsch with Les Johnson

Changed Items (time, date, or location)
10 am “Developing On-Line Games” (Jessica Mulligan) moved from Thursday, 6 pm (1 hour, Dalton)

Additions
11 am Autographing at the NESFA table: Terry Pratchett
11 am Farah Mendlesohn to “The Serious Side of Terry Pratchett”
1 pm Tom Whitmore to “Hitting ‘the Wall’”

Removals
10 am Susan Casper from “Curse!”
11 am Gardner Dozois from “Best Short Stories of 2004 (So Far...)”
Noon Chris Moriarty from “Chickpunk”
Noon Janine Ellen Young from “Chickpunk?”
Noon Steven Popkes from “Cute Aliens: Kill Them Now”
Noon Michael Gilmartin from “Eyetoy to the Holodecks: Near and Far Future of Video Games”
Noon Jessica Mulligan from “Eyetoy to the Holodecks: The Near and Far Future of Video Games”
Noon John McDaid from “What’s in a Name?”
1 pm Tina Beychok from “Rewrite”
1 pm Laurie Marks from “Finding a Home in Fandom”
1 pm Ctein and Steven Popkes from “The Future of Peace”
2 pm Dave Clements from “Forcefields”

No Lines At Registration

Newsletter Staff Finds Hall A!

Registration reported about 5,300 people on-site at Noreascon 4 as of Sunday afternoon.

Registration head, Genny Dazzo, wishes to heap accolades upon her terrific staff and volunteers, who kept N4’s pledge of “no lines at Reg.”

Second in command: Dave Cantor

Staff: Larry van der Putte, Lenore Jean Jones, Michael Saladi, Sue Kahn, Mike Roth, Gary Agin, Dave Schroth, Scott Abbott, and David Lynch; and all the myriad volunteers.

Thank you all!

Attendance
You don’t expect us to start reporting it now?

Gardner and Susan

We wish Gardner Dozois and Susan Casper swift and complete recoveries from their recent accident. We hope your pain and injuries fade quickly, leaving many years of “The Accident” stories to be told.

Saturday Night Arisia Party

Accidentally left out of the Saturday night party report: Kudos to Arisia for a well-run mini-convention! Their 10-hour party featured everything from videos to gaming, including an art show and dealers’ corner, and was still hopping long after most fen had staggered off to bed. – Elka

Sorry, we were expecting them to publish their own newsletter. We agree, the mini-Arisia party was a real blast! The Arisia folks run an excellent con. – Ed.

The Retro Hugo Awards Ceremony

In the spirit of Friday night’s “Time Machine” Retro Hugo Awards Ceremony, we return to this Friday night event.

In an effort to correct an oversight by a previous Worldcon committee, Noreascon 4 hosted the 1954 Retro Hugo Awards. The event had two MCs – our current day MC, Peter Weston, and our way out time traveler, The Dude, a.k.a. Bob Eggleton. To help those from our distinguished past adjust, there were two viewing screens on stage: one on the left (in black and white), and one on the right (in color).

The show started with the Champion Strut, a 50s dance performed by Susan de Guardiola and Jeff Poretsky. This was accompanied by defining a “Smoot,” provided to familiarize visitors with the local system of measurement. Shortly after Peter Weston was introduced as MC for the event, The Dude showed up on the scene to take us back to 1954. The presentation was thereafter split between the two time periods.

Peter Weston interviewed Jack Speer first. Mr. Speer told us of his first Worldcon in 1959, a great experience meeting hundreds of fellow fans. He is amazed at the scope of modern conventions.

The next guest interviewed was William Tenn, a.k.a. Philip Klass. He recounted that after his stint in the army, he tried everything to get into writing, including using several different pen names. William Tenn stuck because he sold his first story using it. He also told of a story he wrote for John Campbell, Jr. featuring aliens who came to Earth to observe humans. They were superior to humans in every way. Campbell didn’t like this, and Tenn had to add a paragraph stating that the aliens did have a weakness, but that it wasn’t known to us. That got him the cover.

continued
Retro Hugo continued

Tenn also recounted a tragic time in his life when he was in the hospital with ulcers, needed an operation, was flat broke, and his girlfriend left him. He got a call from an editor who gave him an advance of $500—then a lot of money—to write a funny horror story, with emphasis on the funny. Tenn wrote, “The Flat-Eyed Monster,” and was thus started in that genre.

Next up: Terry Pratchett. Pratchett and Weston have been friends for years and attended their first science fiction convention together. Terry doesn’t remember much of his first convention because it “blew my mind.” He started his writing career young, selling his first two stories when he was only sixteen.

The two then switched roles, and Terry interviewed Peter Weston. Peter started one of the first important fanzines about Science Fiction as literature in 1963, editing it in 1973 when family, work and other obligations needed more time. He also felt that the void he’d been filling had been filled, with other fanzins arising to take his place. At one point, Pratchett kidded to ask for a Hugo Award, since Weston is involved in the Hugo creation process; Weston told him all he had to do was to write a science fiction novel!

The evening ended with the 1954 Hugo Award for Best Novel of 1953, after which we had to do was to write a science fiction novel!

Zen Scavenger Hunt
John Pomeranz, of Arlington, Virginia, is the winner of Noreascon 4’s Zen Scavenger Hunt. His prize is a signed first edition of Neil Gaiman’s novella Coraline.

NASFiC Bid Update
We blame Filthy Pierre

Columbus will not be bidding for the 2007 NASFiC, despite what was posted on the Sunday Night Party List. So Long And Thanks For All The Fish.

LOT R Pass Winners
Sunday’s winners of the Free Passes to “The Lord Of The Rings Motion Trilogy—The Exhibition” are Joan Leib and Dr. Solomon Davidoff. Congratulations to all of the winners and thank you for making the Museum Of Science in a part of Noreascon 4.

Gaylactic Spectrum Awards
The winners of the 2004 Gaylactic Spectrum Awards are: The Salt Roads by Nalo Hopkinson (Best Novel), “Lark ‘Till Dawn, Princess” by Barth Anderson (Best Short Fiction) and Angels In America and Gotham Central #6 – #10: Half A Life (Best Other Work).