

FELINE MEWSINGS #17



Feline Mewsings is a personalzine / newsletter published more or less quarterly by R-Laurraine Tutihasi, 29217 Stonecrest Road, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90275-4936, 310-265-0766, Laurraine@mac.com, <http://www.weasner.com/>. It is distributed through FAPA and sent to other friends and family. It is available for the usual (a response of any kind, including letters, e-mail, and phone calls of comment; trade; contributions of illos, fiction, or articles; or even money: \$1.50 per issue or \$5 per year). if this box is checked, I need to hear from you if you wish to stay on my mailing list. A slightly modified version will be placed on the web shortly after paper publication; please let me know if you prefer just to read the web version. I can also e-mail this in Word or rtf format. Kattesminde Press #346. ©2004 R-Laurraine Tutihasi. Permission is granted to reprint or forward any part or all of this newsletter provided that it carries the following statement: "Copyright 2004 by R-Laurraine Tutihasi. Originally published in *Feline Mewsings* #17, <http://members.aol.com/felinemewsings/index.html>."

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Feline ~~Mewsings~~ Mewsings

#17

August 2004

* Editorial / Introduction

Due to our two-week trip to Arizona in July for Westercon and a visit to Tucson and dental problems following, I will not have time to polish my trip report into shape. It will be in the next issue.

For the same reason, reports on plays, movies, and other activities we did will be in the next issue. I apologize especially to those of you getting this outside of FAPA.

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* Hugos

I did not have time to read all the Hugo nominees in their entirety. In some categories of the retro Hugos, I was unable to dig up copies of many of the shorter works. I voted as best I could.

Here are some opinions I have on the Hugo nominees. In the novel category, I voted for Lois McMaster Bujold's *Paladin of Souls* in first place. I admit that I haven't finished *Ilium* by Dan Simmons, which I note is the first of a two-part work. Bujold's book is a sequel, but it was not planned that way. Although I found it more difficult to get into than her Miles Vorkosigan books, I found it a very interesting book. She explores the effect of magic on a world. I have only skimmed the Charles Stross and Robert Charles Wilson books. I don't think any of the nominees have anything world-shaking to say, but I felt *Paladin of Souls* was the best written. I did read all of the nominees in the novella category. I voted for Vernor Vinge's "The Cookie Monster" in first place; it's a fascinating and scary look at a possible technological development and what it may mean for people.

In the novelette category, I only had time to read four and only skimmed the other two. I was completely blown away by Jeffrey Ford's "Empire of Ice Cream". It has an old-fashioned feel to it that gives it universality. I read all but one of the short story nominees and skimmed the only one I didn't have time to read. I voted for "The Tale of the Golden Eagle" by David D. Levine in first place. It deals with the age-old question of what gives humanity to a being. It's a very touching story.

The long form dramatic presentation was the easiest category as far as being able to watch all of them. Of course, I voted for *The Lord of the Rings: the Return of the King* in first place. No other movie could come even close. *X2: X-Men United* was so bad that I found it boring.

The short dramatic presentation was impossible, as I'd only seen one of them, and there was no opportunity to see any of the other nominated episodes. The one episode I saw and voted for in first place was the *Smallville* one. I didn't bother voting for any of the others.

The retro Hugo novels were easy. I remembered most of them and only had to read two. This was a difficult category. I can give good arguments for putting both *Childhood's End* and *The Caves of Steel* in first place. Since Mike always gives me his proxy for the Hugo, I voted two ways. In the novella category, I only voted for the two I was able to get my hands on and read. I placed Blish's "A Case of Conscience" in first place.

The novelette category was even worse. I only voted for Blish's "Earthman, Come Home". At least I was able to read or remember all of the short story nominees. I voted for Jerome Bixby's "It's a Good Life" in first place. No matter how many times I've read this story or seen the televised version of it, it still gives

me a shudder every time.

The retro Hugo for dramatic presentation was easy to view or remember. It's interesting to note that there are no long form nominations. Movies back then tended to be shorter than they are now. I gave "Duck Dodgers in the 24-1/2th Century" my first place vote. It's short but full of impact.

* * *

* **Garden Report**

I bought a product called Mole Out, which is sprinkled on the ground to discourage gophers. I guess I will find out soon enough if it works.

The spring flowers are about finished, though there are still some late-blooming azaleas yet to come out. One of the epiphyllums bloomed one large yellow flower, which has already wilted. The kangaroo paws are starting to bloom. I have bought two more to replace the ones that apparently melted into the ground or possibly were eaten by gophers; unfortunately one of the replacements died before I had a chance to put it in the ground. Hereafter I will dig holes first before I buy plants.

The peach tree did not produce any peaches that developed to maturity.

As far as the retaining wall is concerned, it turned out to be way too expensive. I've decided that maybe I can just get the upper part of the hillside terraced. I've been too busy to look into that yet.

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* **Mike**

I forgot to report last time that Mike's website for our Alaska trip pictures won an award from Alaska Fishing Charters. I'm not exactly sure how that came about since we didn't do any fishing.

Our photos from Arizona are posted.

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*** Mailing Comments on FAPA #267:** Note to non-FAPA members: FAPA is an APA of people in science fiction and fantasy fandom. It has a large membership, currently about fifty. There are openings right now. If you are interested in joining, let me know and I can send you the relevant information.

Fantasy Amateur: The APA seems to be shrinking again, unfortunately. On the other hand, this mailing was the biggest in a while.

I see that a period has been erroneously inserted into my name (on p. 4 under "Other Business").

Ben Indick (Ben's Beat 76): When I saw the cover of your zine, I first thought it was computer-generated art. But then I realized it must be one of Janet's sculptures. I turned the page and discovered I was right. I think it should be put in the lobby of whatever building goes up where the WTC was.

Milt Stevens (Alphabet Soup #42): I'm sorry to hear about your homeowner's insurance. I hope you've been able to replace it by now.

I wonder how your adventures with Westercon went. If you attended, we should have seen you there.

I disagree that an afternoon nap is a lazy habit. As people grow older, we lose the ability to sleep as long as we used to at night. It doesn't mean we need less sleep necessarily. When you cannot get enough sleep at night, you have to supplement with an afternoon nap.

The Mythopoeic Society still exists. Two of my friends attend their annual convention almost every year.

Jack Speer (Synapse): I classify alternate histories as fantasy. I see nothing technological or scientific about them.

Timothy C. Marion (Terminal Eyes 12): Gegenschein is "a faint glowing spot in the sky, exactly opposite the position of the sun", to quote from the online American Heritage Dictionary. It is an astronomical term.

The videos we edit are the ones I've been shooting since 1999 when we went to Australia for the WorldCon. I've been taking videos ever since on all our trips and local outings with the exception of one outing when I forgot my video cam. I suppose I could edit the tapes of shows from TV, for instance to delete the commercials; but just thinking of the enormity of that task is enough to discourage me.

You may very well be right about the *Spider-Man* cartoons that were on MTV. I had never seen them before; and I don't recall that Lee Whiteside, who does the sftv Internet site, mentioned that they were repeats.

I have not been sending a paper copy of my zine to Bruce Gillespie, and I don't think I have his e-mail address to notify him of my e-zines. However, I believe he is aware of the efanazines site where I put my zines after they appear in FAPA.

Steven T. Ogden (Edgar's Journal #2): My favourite gemstone is emerald, which is my birthstone.

My favourite perfume is *Mystère* by Rochas, which is a French perfume; but the company is now owned by Cosmopolitan Cosmetics, which seems to be headquartered in Germany.

My favourite flowers include orchids, bird of paradise, lilacs, and hibiscus.

There are special tools made specifically for cutting linoleum blocks. I still have a set I bought years ago, though I haven't used them for a long time. I don't know whether I still have the blocks I carved. I made some Xmas cards with them years ago.

My two favourite artists are Salvador Dali and René Magritte. Another artist I like is Claude Monet.

Fibromyalgia is diagnosed by checking tender points. There are eighteen tender points, and a valid diagnosis of fibromyalgia requires sensitivity in at least eleven of them. These points occur at the base of the skull beside the spinal column, at the base of the neck in the back, on the top of the shoulder toward the back, on the breastbone, on the outer edge of the forearm about 2 cm below the elbow, over the shoulder blade, at the top of the hip, on the outside of the hip, and on the fat pad over the knee. If you suspect you have fibromyalgia, you should find a knowledgeable doctor who can check this out. As far as treatment, there is no standard one that works for everyone. It's largely a matter of trial and error. There's a lot of material on the web if you search for it.

"Jingle Cats" is one of the CDs I made a copy of. I think I gave the original to my sister. There is another accompanying recording. The cats go crazy, but I like to tease them occasionally.

I don't grow anything from seeds except California poppies. I've had nothing else grow from seeds. I don't grow any vegetables, either. The only edible things I grow are fruit. I use organic fertilizers and use organic methods to control pests.

Eric Lindsay (For FAPA): The U. S. Congress has had motions to change to the metric system since the beginning, but it still has not passed. Who knows whether it ever will?

Roger Wells (Voice of the Habu): I recognize *La Giaconda*, mainly because it is called *La Gioconda* in French, which is a language I studied for many years. I don't recognize the other two references. It's difficult to tell whether I would have been stopped short by the references in my reading. Sometimes you can infer quite a bit from context, so it wouldn't necessarily have bothered me.

Marty Cantor (Do Not Wrap Fish before Its Time): If you want to be really technical about the speed of a plane, there is a difference, too, between ground speed and air speed.

When I was working for the City of LA and working in City Hall, I used to see a lot of movie and TV shoots. City Hall seems to be a popular location. One time I saw them shooting an episode of *Chicago Hope*. I noted the presence of Dean Stockwell as guest star. I kept reading the show descriptions in the *TV Guide* until his name showed up and watched the episode. Our City Hall was used to represent the courthouse in Chicago.

Jukka Halme (Arimoniitti #1): Welcome to FAPA.

I'm ambidextrous. I'm mostly right-handed for things such as writing and eating. When I was in junior high, I hurt my right thumb and taught myself to write with my left hand. People who are strongly one-handed cannot learn to do this with the other hand. I have bowled with either hand, played softball with either hand, and done archery with either hand. It's handy for many tasks; when one side gets tired, I can just switch.

I recently officially changed my name to R-Laurraine Tutihasi. The hyphen is now officially part of my name. When I get my new passport (as soon as I can find the time), that will be the way my name appears. I've been using it that way for years, but the State Department wants official paperwork. It was not a cheap procedure, but I considered it worthwhile. There are some computer systems that seem unable to handle hyphens in the middle of a name. I can live with that.

I'm not much of a cook.

* * *

*** Letters of Comment (For the uninitiated, these are letters commenting on previous issues of my fanzine [newsletter])**

My replies to the letters will be enclosed in double parentheses. I will also routinely make editorial corrections in punctuation, spelling, and so forth.

((The first two LoCs should have been in the previous issue but got left out.))

Lloyd Penney, Etobicoke, ON

16 April 2004

Thanks muchly for issue 15 of *Feline Mewsings*. Later today, Yvonne and I head out down the highway to Niagara Falls, New York, to go to the annual Eeriecon there, literally steps inside the border. Yvonne couldn't get the day off, and my job hunt is finally done -- I start a good-paying job in Markham, north of Toronto, on Monday! I shall be the senior proofreader for this company, and it produces all flyers for Wal-Mart in Canada. So, I plan to party at the con. As I wait for the day to be done, I might as well catch up on my enormous stack of zines --

Interesting that Wil Wheaton is participating in panels the way he is. I guess after the film studies, the hassles of being Wesley Crusher for too long, and the experiences he's had online, he's just a fan like the rest of us; and he doesn't want to be treated any differently. Good for him. I hear he's a good person to chat with and he's got his head on his shoulders, unlike many who have been through the Hollywood grinder. Armin Shimerman has been in Toronto for a Trek con, but he has certainly revealed that he is a classic actor and scholar and that the big Ferengi ears never distracted from his knowledge of Shakespeare. Whether it's Claudius or Quark, he takes the role and makes it his own. He's never let his short stature stop him from achieving his goals.

If you are a supporter of private space endeavours, then you must be following the progress of the X Prize and the fact that it may only be a matter of time before Bert Rutan actually wins that \$10 million. Yvonne is the Canadian representative for the X Prize Corporation in St. Louis and may be assisting with the final celebrations once the big prize is won. We expect that may happen sometime in the next 18 months.

The *Star Trek* episode "Arena" was derived from a Frederic Brown story, but it doesn't even closely resemble it. The basic ideas were incorporated into the screenplay; but there were no Gorns in the original story, just as a for instance.

I never did get to the First Fandom display at Torcon 3, but I've certainly learned more about qualifications for the organization. I've four more years before I qualify for associate status, and so does Yvonne. I've had a number of people try to discourage me from joining (like Ted White); but I think when I qualify, I shall join up. Whether I buy a blazer and put a FF patch on the breast and look like a younger version of Dave Kyle, I haven't decided yet. Perhaps FF is a shelter for those who have endured the fannish wars? ((I haven't discussed First Fandom with Ted White. What does he have against it?))

I see several familiar names from my past -- Gerri Balter, who was in TAPA in Toronto with me, and Mary Manchester, whom I worked with on the good old Star Trek Welcomittee. Great to see you both again! ((I didn't know you knew Mary. What a small world.))

As Milt Stevens might say, I've done my page and a quarter LoC and my job here is done. I might be fudging it a bit, but -- many thanks; and I look forward to the next issue.

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Lloyd Penney, Etobicoke, ON

18 April 2004

Ted White believes that First Fandom is full of cranky old farts, and even though he could be an associate member, he won't go near them. Perhaps it's a case of not wanting to join any club that would have someone like him for a member...

I have never met Mary personally, but we worked with her and Shirley Maiewski on the Welcomittee for 15 years.

#

Carolyn Thompson, Vista, CA

11 July 2004

I received the May 2004 *Feline Mewsings* and have been inspired to write by several comments in it.

I have not attended any conventions for several years, but I saw many names in your zine that were familiar.

There was the Corflu 21 report. I do visit Las Vegas several times a year. My son, Douglas, works in construction at the Vegas airport and has a condo in Henderson, NV.

Fact is, he lives a couple of miles from the wetland nature preserve that you visited. I find a lot to do in Vegas and never spend a minute at the slots or tables.

We like Fire Canyon State Park and Lake Mead. Then there is the chocolate factory that has tours and free samples and an adjoining cactus garden. The garden is worth a visit in itself. They have divided it into various sections according to area. For example, Baja California, Mojave, Nevada inland, etc., so that it can be very informative as to which plants are common to the various climates. Then at Christmas they put coloured lights all through the garden, and it is a real show.

I also like the Bellagio. They usually have some upscale attraction. I saw a group of Fabergé eggs on loan from Russia, and they had Monets on loan and other art not usually seen on the West Coast.

Maybe I will make an effort to attend the next Corflu. Are they always in Las Vegas? Do you have the date? ((Corflu is held in a different place every year, though there was an earlier one also held in Las Vegas. Next year's is planned for San Francisco.))

Sorry about the line at the airport security check.

I got to Denver last year, but it is a long way to make every year. I still get DASfax because of all the years that Don was editor, and I still keep a set of *Don-o-Saur*. But, you know, Regency dancing was my real passion.

Now one of the grandsons has joined the 20th Maine, and I put on my hoops and visit the troops with a basket of cookies at the Civil War re-enactments.

I've moved away from the Wild Animal Park in Escondido so don't go there as often. Now I volunteer as a docent at the Guajone Adobe, which is a California mission ranch. I can tell you all about the Bandini family and Lt. Cave Couets, who came to San Diego with Fremont and married a local belle. History marches on.

#

Sheryl Birkhead, Gaithersburg, MD

12 July 2004

I have actually regressed in the technology war and am buying a regular typer to replace the three typers that I cannot find; I must have simply left them behind in the move – another loss to the trauma of being uprooted. So I haunted eBay until I saw a picture of one that looked like the old one I used to have.

I shall no longer be tied to the computer desk if I wish to type. ((She enclosed two illos that I haven't had a chance to scan into the computer yet.))

#

Nate Bucklin, Minneapolis, MN

14 July 2004

Hi there. I am continuing to read and appreciate *Feline Mewsings*. You keep making mailing comments to people in FAPA I'd love to be back in touch with, except joining FAPA just seems like so much *work*.... I also note that apparently I am now qualified to be a member of First Fandom, and I have documentation. (Sometime in 1963 or 64, *If Science Fiction* had a letters department. There is a letter in one issue or another from "Nate Bucklin, PO Box 4, Dockton, Mass." Dockton is actually in Washington, on Vashon Island; but that was definitely a letter from me; and I am sure that First Fandom would recognize the similarity, especially since my name is unusual enough that I suspect I'm the only one on Planet Earth -- although my uncle, Nathan Erwin Bucklin, known as Erwin or Buck, was still alive at that time, so I guess I'm contradicting myself!)

Keep me posted. You write well and have an interesting life. Did you know that Louie and I bought a side-by-side duplex?

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Lloyd Penney, Etobicoke, ON

15 July 2004

It's taken me a while to get to responding to *Feline Mewsings* 16...the job hunt continues. I have interviews the next couple of weekdays, so life may get back to normal shortly. On with the show...

We just sent out our own Hugo ballot, and now I am getting ready to sell my Noreascon 4 membership. Because of the aforementioned job hunt, we can't possibly afford to go. This is happening too often, so we've made the hard decision not to go to Worldcons any more. Yes, we're agenting for LAconIV, but it will take a windfall to allow us to go, and my apparent lack of ability to make a living will make that hard decision financially easy to keep. If anyone is looking to purchase a Noreascon membership, send me an e-mail.

Page 5 of this issue was almost completely illegible. A glitch on the part of the printer? ((Sorry about the print quality on one of the pages. The printer seemed to run low on ink at one point but kept printing. I checked the pages, and they looked readable to me; but, of course, I knew what was there.))

Our departure from Worldcons has meant that Yvonne can now pursue her first love, space advocacy. She attended the NASA Centennial Challenges conference in Washington last month, and she will be attending another international space conference in Vancouver in October.

One day, I might get to a Corflu. If I do, it will have to be a lot closer to home than Las Vegas. Still, I'd like to see all the folks together.

I think I knew that Sam Konkin was Canadian, but I don't know where he was born here. Any ideas? Possibly Winnipeg, the back of my memory is saying... ((Sam was from Edmonton.))

If fandom has a bit of missionary zeal, we might get some pretty good and new people into our ranks. I think it would help if we were just a little more accepting of others. I've seen too many fans push others away simply because they were new. Many of us, I'll wager, stuck around in spite of older fans making us unwelcome. ((I stuck around fandom, because I found more in common with fans than with most other people I knew. I also found it fairly easy to get to know other fans, because I'd already corresponded with many of them before I met them in person. My second con, AutoClave, was in some respects more like a reunion than meeting people for the first time. I think one problem is that many fans are really not very outgoing and find it difficult to get to know new people.))

How long ago did you attend Trek conventions in New York City? We did, too, in 1980 and 1981, at the Statler Waldorf in Manhattan. I get the feeling we might have passed each other in the hallway twenty-five years ago! ((I don't think I ever attended a Trekcon at the Statler Waldorf and for sure not as late as 1980. I think the last Trekcon I attended was in the late seventies.))

My loc...we did take the computer in for service in July. Runs fine now, but it was clogged with ad ware, spy ware, and a few other programmes that shouldn't have been there. Cleaned and updated here and there, it's doing just fine, and is my main tool when it comes to the job hunt.

It's getting late, and the interview tomorrow is at noon, so I'll finish this up and finish my preparations. Take care, and see you next issue.

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IAHF: Mary Manchester

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* **Closing Remarks**

My apologies again for a short issue with little meat. The next issue will definitely have more.

