



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Just took care of the Hugo Ballot yesterday. Getting ready for Japan. I am not sure if I will do next month's issue early or late. Depends what I can get done between now and August 15. The EH will not come at its usual time since I will be out of the country until September 4.

The next few months will be fun. Locally we have Anime Festival Orlando (AFO) in August, Assimilationcon in September, and Necronomicon in October. Dragoncon and Worldcon will be held on Labor Day weekend.

Also check out Masters of Science Fiction which should be coming out this month on ABC. It's a 6 episode anthology series which has stories from Robert Heinlein, Harlan Ellison and others.

Next month a report from AFO and hopefully some reviews.

Tampa Comic Book and Toy Convention
 August 19
 Doubletree Hotel
 4500 West Cypress St.
 Tampa, FL
 Guests: Herb Trimpe, Gary Friedrich, Chuck Dixon, Alex Savuik, Jim Fern Pablo Marcos
 \$5 for the show
www.comicbookconventions.com/tampaconvention/index.htm

Orlando Area Science Fiction Society
 Profit & Loss Standard as of 07/08/07
 January 1 through July 8, 2007

Income

Contributions and Support	13.00
OASFiS Club Membership Dues	282.00
OASFiS Club Sales to Members	367.00
OASIS 20 Art Show	2,970.50
OASIS 20 Art Show Return Postage	235.00
OASIS 20 Charity Auction	732.00
OASIS 20 Dealers Room	1,240.00
OASIS 20 Membership Dues	6,044.00
OASIS 20 Misc Income	50.48
OASIS 20 Program Book Ads	430.00
OASIS 20 Sales to Members	1,533.00
OASIS 20 Underwriting	290.00
OASIS 20 Upfront Money	800.00
OASIS 21 Dealer Room	650.00
OASIS 21 Membership	745.00

Total Income **16,381.98**

Expense

Advertising	70.00
OASFiS Club Other Miscellaneous	123.75
OASFiS Club Postage & Delivery	323.12
OASFiS Club Printing	185.29
OASIS 19 - Convention	50.00
OASIS 20 - Art Show	2,316.40

(Continued on page 2)

Events

Anime Festival Orlando

August 3-5
 Wyndham Orlando Resort
 8001 International Drive
 Orlando, FL 32819
 Guests: Colleen Clinkenbeard, Jason David Frank, Chris Patton, Monica Rial, Chris Sabat, Doug Smith, Sonny Strait, Travis Willingham, Marc Handler, Lindsay Cibos and Jared Hodges
 \$45 for all three days
www.animefestivalorlando.com

Yasumicon

August 11-12
 Florida International University
 Tamiami Campus
<http://student.c.fiu.edu/~yasumicon/>
 FREE

All Collectibles Show

August 16-19
 Orlando Fashion Square Mall
 3201 E. Colonial Drive
 Orlando, FL
 Free
www.comicbookconventions.com/allcollectiblesshow2.htm

August OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, August 12, 1:30 PM, Orange Public Library (Downtown Orlando, 101 E. Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801, 407-835-7323). Come join us as we discuss **Rainbows End** by Vernor Vinge.

To contact for more info: 407-823-8715

OASIS 20 - Convention Expense	1,864.15
OASIS 20 - Convention FRAG	349.47
OASIS 20 - Hotel	3,492.26
OASIS 20 - PayPal Fees	89.93
OASIS 20 - Postage	244.31
OASIS 20 - Program Book	769.30
OASIS 20 - T-Shirts	1,267.30
OASIS 20 - Travel Expense	2,550.14
OASIS 20 - Upfront Cash	800.00
State Filing Fee	61.25
TAX Federal Paid to IRS	550.00
State Sales Tax	235.49

Total Expense 15,342.16

Net Ordinary Income 1,039.82

Other Income
Interest Earned 0.06

Total Net Income 1,039.88

Awards

Rhysling Award Winners

Short Poem Category

Winner

- "The Graven Idol's Godheart" by Rich Ristow

Second Place

- "god is dead short live god" by Joe Haldeman

Third Place

- "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Hole" by Lawrence Schimel

Long Poem Category

Winner

- "The Journey to Kailash" by Mike Allen

Second Place

- "The Eight Legs of Grandmother Spider" by Catherynne M. Valente

Third Place

- "Sleepers" by Samantha Henderson

OASFiS People

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Any of these people can give readers information about the club and its functions. To be included in the list call Juan.

John W. Campbell Memorial Award

The John W. Campbell Memorial Award is given to the best SF novel of the previous year.

Titan by Ben Bova

Theodore Sturgeon Award

The Theodore Sturgeon Award is given to the best work of short fiction of the previous year.

"The Cartesian Theater" by Robert Charles Wilson

Both the John W. Campbell and Theodore Sturgeon Awards were given out at Campbell Conference at Lawrence, Kansas.

Robert A. Heinlein Award

Elizabeth Moon and Anne McCaffrey will win this year's Robert A. Heinlein Award. This award is given to those whose work helps encourage space exploration. This will be presented by the Heinlein Society. Elizabeth Moon received her prize at the Heinlein Centennial. Anne McCaffrey will receive her award at the Writer of future even in Pasadena.

Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award

This award is given to writers who show the work reflects the originality of Cordwainer Smith. This year the award goes to Daniel F. Galouye. This was awarded at Readercon.

Eisner Awards

These awards are the top awards in the comic book

(Continued on page 3)

field. They are given out at Comic Con in San Diego.

Best Short Story

"A Frog's Eye View," by Bill Willingham and James Jean, in *Fables: 1001 Nights of Snowfall* (Vertigo/DC)

Best Single Issue (or One-Shot)

Batman/The Spirit #1: "Crime Convention," by Jeph Loeb and Darwyn Cooke (DC)

Best Continuing Series

All Star Superman, by Grant Morrison and Frank Quitely (DC)

Best Limited Series

Batman: Year 100, by Paul Pope (DC)

Best New Series

Criminal, by Ed Brubaker and Sean Phillips (Marvel Icon)

Best Title for a Younger Audience

Gumby, by Bob Burden and Rick Geary (Wildcard)

Best Humor Publication

Flaming Carrot Comics, by Bob Burden (Desperado/Image)

Best Anthology

Fables: 1001 Nights of Snowfall, by Bill Willingham and various (Vertigo/DC)

Best Digital Comic

Sam and Max, by Steve Purcell

Best Reality-Based Work

Fun Home, by Alison Bechdel (Houghton Mifflin)

Best Graphic Album - New

American Born Chinese, by Gene Luen Yang (First Second)

Best Graphic Album - Reprint

Absolute DC: The New Frontier, by Darwyn Cooke (DC)

Best Archival Collection/Project - Strips

The Complete Peanuts, 1959-1960, 1961-1962, by Charles Schulz (Fantagraphics)

Best Archival Collection/Project - Comic Books

Absolute Sandman, vol. 1, by Neil Gaiman and various (Vertigo/DC)

Best U.S. Edition of International Material

The Left Bank Gang, by Jason (Fantagraphics)

Best U.S. Edition of International Material - Japan

Old Boy, by Garon Tsuchiya and Nobuaki Minegishi (Dark Horse Manga)

Best Writer

Ed Brubaker, *Captain America, Daredevil* (Marvel); *Criminal* (Marvel Icon)

Best Writer/Artist

Paul Pope, *Batman: Year 100* (DC)

Best Writer/Artist - Humor

Tony Millionaire, Billy Hazelnuts (Fantagraphics); *Sock Monkey: The Inches Incident* (Dark Horse)

Best Penciller/Inker or Penciller/Inker Team

Mark Buckingham/Steve Leialoha, *Fables* (Vertigo/DC)

Best Painter/Multimedia Artist (interior art)

Jill Thompson, "A Dog and His Boy" in *The Dark Horse Book of Monsters*; "Love Triangle" in *Sexy Chix* (Dark Horse); "Fair Division," in *Fables: 1001 Nights of Snowfall* (Vertigo/DC)

Best Cover Artist

James Jean, *Fables*, Jack of Fables, *Fables: 1001 Nights of Snowfall* (Vertigo/DC)

Best Coloring

Dave Stewart, *BPRD, Conan, The Escapists, Hellboy* (Dark Horse); *Action Comics, Batman/The Spirit, Superman* (DC)

Best Lettering

Todd Klein, *Fables, Jack of Fables, Fables: 1001 Nights of Snowfall; Pride of Baghdad, Testament* (Vertigo/DC); *Fantastic Four: 1602, Eternals* (Marvel); *Lost Girls* (Top Shelf)

Special Recognition

Hope Larson, *Gray Horses* (Oni)

Best Comics-Related Periodical/Journalism

Alter Ego, edited by Roy Thomas (TwoMorrows)

Best Comics-Related Book

The Art of Brian Bolland, edited by Joe Pruett (Desperado/Image)

Best Publication Design

Absolute DC: The New Frontier, designed by Darwyn Cooke (DC)

Hall of Fame

Judges' Choices (2): Robert Kanigher and Ogden Whitney
 - Ross Andru & Mike Esposito
 - Dick Ayers
 - Wayne Boring
 - Joe Orlando

Other Awards:

Bill Finger Award for Excellence in Comics Writing: Gardner Fox, George Gladir

Russ Manning Promising Newcomer Award: David Petersen

Bob Clampett Humanitarian Award: Neil Gaiman

Will Eisner Spirit of Comics Retailing Award:

Earth-2, Sherman Oaks, CA, owned by Carr D'Angelo

Retro Reviews

Snow Crash

By Neil Stephenson

A co-worker prodded me to read this. I had read *The Diamond Age* and *Cyprtonomicon*. The former blew me away with concept of the lead character Nell being liberated with an interactive book. *Cyprtonomicon* was interesting but had a tendency to talk about minutiae for pages on end. I went into *Snow Crash* hopeful but cautious.

The setting is Los Angeles in the near future. Hiro Protagonist is a pizza deliveryman for the Mafia, freelance hacker and swordfighter. He loses his deliveryman job for trashing his delivery truck. Thanks to the help of a skateboard courier named Yours Truly (YT), Hiro does not lose more than his job, since she gets the pizza delivered on time. Both of them frequent the Metaverse, a virtual reality internet (parts of which Hiro has helped design). They discover a virus called "Snow Crash" which has infected several denizens of the Metaverse. Hiro is determined to find the nature of the "Snow Crash." Whose roots connect to the ancient Sumerian culture. Furthermore the creators of the "Snow Crash" plan to use it to control the masses. Hiro will pit his hacking skills against a threat thousands of years old.

The world Stephenson presents is one where the U.S. government has privatized a great deal of its services. Private security firms replace the police and mercenary armies compete for defense contracts. Big business franchises handle the chores of local government. Organized crime is in the open and even comes to college career fairs to recruit. As someone who has witnessed first hand the government's attempt to privatize some key services, this future seems all too possible to me.

The Metaverse is a combination of an interactive game (like *World of Warcraft*) and the cyberspace envisioned by William Gibson in *Neuromancer*. In the Metaverse, people can remake themselves in any way. They are limited only by their computer skills.

The "Snow Crash" itself has an intricate background. It goes on the concept that language itself could be a conduit for a virus-like construct. This is explained through an examination of Sumerian mythology and Judeo/Christian beliefs. Stephenson goes into detail on how this comes about.

To balance this exposition, the reader is given a lot of action both inside and outside the Metaverse. Hiro gets to show his prowess with swords. YT shows how she can skateboard on the LA freeway. There is a motorcycle and helicopter chase at the end to prevent the release of the "Snow Crash" on greater scale.

That novel does not drag is due to strength of the narrative and the idea behind "Snow Crash".

It is kind of surprising this novel has not been made into a film. It would have been better than either of the *Matrix* sequels. The hard part is to balance between the ideas and action something, Hollywood is bad at.

The Greks Bring Gifts

By Murray Leinster

An alien race know as the Greks come to Earth. They bring fabulous technology. Electrical power broadcast through the ether, fertilizer which causes plants to grow overnight, and effective desalination of sea water are a few of the things the Greks offer. With the Greks are the Aldarians, who are being trained to be spacemen. They assist the Greks in providing humanity with their technology. The Grek technology will change life as we know it. The Greks leave after six months. The promise of improvements in the quality of life does not occur as planned. This causes unrest all over the world. When the Greks reestablish contact, a movement to ask the Greks to come back begins. Physicist Jim Hackett is suspicious of the Greks. He questions their benevolence. After assisting an Aldarian in a car accident, an attempt is made on Hackett's life. The injured Aldarian gave his fiancé Dr. Lucy Thale, MD, a device. Can this be the key to the secrets of the Greks? Can Hackett and Thale find out the secrets of Grek technology before public pressure forces the leaders of the world to call the Greks back?

This very short novel (by today's standards) was written in the early 60s. The plot is very tight. Characters are two dimensional. All we know about Hackett is that he turned down the chance to become one of the youngest winners of the Nobel Prize in physics. All we know about Lucy Thale is she brilliant and has family connections to the White House. Also, some parts of Hackett and Thale's relationship seem dated. I am not sure if Leinster was commenting on the social conditions of the time or reporting them.

The Greks rarely interact directly with the characters. People react to the Greks. They are described as tall, gray-skinned and give most people the creeps. The Aldarians are seen more, since they help provide our heroes most of the answers. They are furry beings who seem to be deaf, even though they have outer ears. Both races fit Campbell's criteria for well designed aliens.*

This novel brings forth another kind of alien invasion. Instead of using weapons to beat a populace into submission, the populace is made dependent on the invader's help. Most of the plot focuses on Hackett and Thale trying work out the Grek technology. It's a race against time because most of the world has changed their technology to focus on Grek related products. When the promised prosperity does not come, the stage is set for people to request the Grek to come back. It's a battle of ingenuity rather than arms.

In a time when most media is trying to find clever ways to blow things up, it's nice to read something where the focus is to out-think the enemy.

*John W. Campbell once said about aliens "Give me something that acts like man, thinks like a man but isn't a man".

Silver Surfer: Requiem

The Silver Surfer is one of the all-time classic characters created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby. His appeal lies in two ideas - that of being able to roam space without anything between one and the wonders that exist there, and that of the Surfer's nobility. The Surfer is always willing to put it all on the line when he has something to fight for.

Babylon 5 creator J. Michael Straczynski is the writer for this four-issue miniseries. The Surfer senses that something is wrong. He returns to earth to visit his friend, Reed Richards, Mister Fantastic of the Fantastic Four. Richards discovers that the Surfer is dying. The metallic covering which has protected him from the vacuum of space is breaking down. The Surfer has a month on the outside and there is nothing that can be done. The Surfer faces this with the nobility one expect from him. He plans to make the most of his time. The Silver Surfer will go to both his adopted home, Earth, and his birth world, Zenn La.

The art by Esad Ribic is simply beautiful. One has to be able to come up with some fascinating space-scapes when doing a Silver Surfer story. Also, the painted format used allows the reflective nature of the Surfer's body to show. This always brings an added layer of realism to a fantastic character.

The story is about how an immensely powerful and (up to now) indestructible being faces death. The Surfer does not go through the five stages of grief. He jumps right into acceptance and figures out what to do with the time he has left. There is more impact on his friends. They have seen him battle beings that can destroy worlds. It is incredibly unnerving to see the Surfer succumb to time, which is the ultimate cause of his end. It is not clear if this story is in the main Marvel continuity. Since Marvel has a Silver Surfer film under development (with Straczynski currently writing the screenplay), it seems unlikely the character will be killed off. Still, Straczynski has never pulled punches. Will the Surfer get a last minute reprieve? Or will we get to see an end to the Silver Surfer?

Whatever the resolution to this story, I am sure it will be breath taking.



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Star Trek: Klingons Blood Will Tell

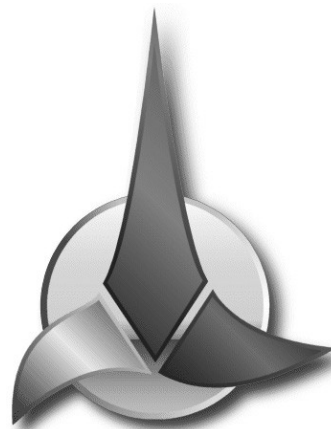
I never understood Klingon fandom, which arose shortly after the debut of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Someone told me it was appeal to act a little crazy. To me the Klingons were the future counterparts of the Soviets. This allowed the old show to tell stories about the Cold War. I was intrigued when I heard that IDW Publishing was doing a Klingon limited series set in the Classic era.

The framing story takes place shortly after the destruction of the Klingon moon Praxis, as shown in *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*. The Klingon Empire is not sure how to respond to the crisis. In order get some perspective, an elder Klingon reviews his family history. He tells his granddaughter about distant relatives who had dealings with the Federation in years past. These relatives include an officer in the Organian occupation force ("Errand of Mercy"), the spy Arne Darvin ("The Trouble with Tribbles") and the commander who supplied flintlocks to villagers of Neural ("A Private Little War"). One hears the classic stories told from the Klingon point of view.

The art by David Messina does a great job of recreating the Classic era. The detail is incredible. Messina really buffs up some of the Klingons. That could be part of the influence of the later era of Klingons. Once in a while, there some things that feel wrong. An example of this is Kor saying his last line from "Errand of Mercy" while gritting his teeth. Those are the exceptions, though.

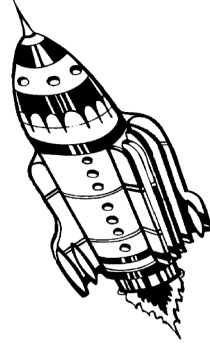
Seeing these stories from a different point of view is interesting. The stories bridge the differences in attitudes between the Classic and later era of Klingons. Being thwarted in fighting the Federation by the Organians, the Klingons decide to use guile against the Federation. Klingons of the later era of would prefer open warfare. It's also interesting that the tragedy Kirk sees at the end of "A Private Little War", his opponent Krell sees as a victory. It's always compelling to see a battle from the other side's point of view.

This is a fun series. There are two more issues of *Blood Will Tell* left. The next issue will deal with "Day of the Dove" and the last will complete the framing story set in the time of *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*.



The Orlando Area Science Fiction Society Presents

OASIS 21



Writer
Guest of Honor
David Gerrold

Hotel Information

\$98/night, single-quad
through 4/30/08
Mention OASIS for rate

Sheraton Orlando Downtown
60 South Ivanhoe Blvd
Orlando, FL 32804
407-425-4455

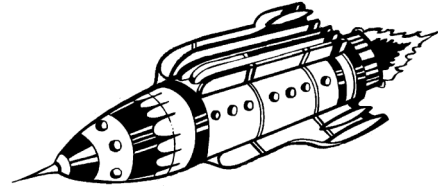
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for more guest announcements...