



Volume 21 Number 3 Issue 250

August 2008

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Sorry for this coming a bit late. Its been a busy month. We finally signed with the Sheraton Downtown Orlando. Both the con and club website have been updated appropriately.

There is also more to come in the next few weeks. I will be in Denver for Worldcon. The weekend after that is Anime Festival Orlando 9. That same weekend will be the first new SF Light meeting hosted by Steve Grant.

Next month will be the big Worldcon report. I may do an AFO report for the next month.

Also a reminder I will accept any contributions and please check out our Yahoo group (search OASFis). See you next month.

Events

Yasumicon

August 1-3
Florida International University
Tamiami Campus, Graham Center
Guest: Brandon Potter (Shanks, *One Piece*)
FREE
<http://www.yasumicon/.com>

Ancient City Con

August 2-3
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
Terrance Pavilion 1
225 Easy Coast Line Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Guests: David Brookover, Linda S. Cowen,
Bo Savino/AJ Rand, Tracy A. Akers, KL Nappier,
Kevin Ransom, William Hatfield, Gary S. Roen
\$15 pre-reg for both days,\$20 at the door

Anime Festival Orlando

August 15-17
Wyndham Orlando Resort
8001 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819
Guests: Colleen Clinkenbeard, Aaron Dismuke,
Jason David Frank, Reuben Langdon, Christopher Patton,
Monica Rial, Doug Smith, Travis Willingham,
Stephanie Yanez
\$45 for all three days
www.animefestivalorlando.com

OASFIS June meeting minutes 7/13/08:

Meeting called to order at 1:45 pm by Patricia Wheeler, President.

In attendance: Patricia Wheeler, Roger Sims, Pat Sims, Arthur Dykeman, Dick Spelman, Susan Cole, Steven Cole, Juan Sanmiguel, Colleen O'Brien, Ed Anthony, Dave Ratti, Hector Hoglin, Bob Yazel and Martin Kemp

Officer Reports:

Vice-President (Colleen O'Brien): She discussed the T-Shirt situation she has been working on. We may have someone who might able to make the shirts. She will follow up on the lead.

President (Patricia Wheeler): no report

Secretary (Pat Russell): no report. Juan Sanmiguel taking notes manually for later transcription.

Treasurer (Michael Pilletere): no report. (could not attend)

No Old Business.

New Business:

Susan moved for a cut-off for receipts from OASIS 21. August 17 was the agreed upon date for the next OASFis meeting.

Patricia discussed the fact that Orange County Library will be charging for meeting space in October. The club cannot afford to pay. Patricia looked into using the community room in the Fashion Square Mall. The pros of using this location are free parking, close to good restaurants and near a movie theater. Patricia was in the process of filling out the application form. Colleen made a motion to go to Fashion Square Mall. Steve Grant seconded. The measure passed unchallenged.

Patricia discussed the next meeting of the Science Café. The Science Café is a meeting done at Stardust Video discussing science topics. Next meeting will deal with obesity. It will be on Wednesday August 6. Patricia will check it out. Unfortunately many members will be at Worldcon in Denver that weekend.

Steve Grant discussed bringing back SciFi Lite. He is considering a Robert Asprin novel for the first book. One suggestion is *Myth*

(Continued on page 2)

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August OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, August 17, 1:30 PM, Orange Public Library (Downtown Orlando, 101 E. Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801, 407-835-7323). Come join us as we discuss ***Emissaries from the Dead*** by Adam-Troy Castro

To contact for more info: 407-823-8715

SciFi Light

Saturday August 16, 5:00 PM, Bikes, Beans and Bordeaux (3022 Corrine Drive Orlando, FL 32803, 407-427-1440). Come join us and discuss ***Another Fine Myth*** by Robert Asprin.

For more info contact Steve Grant

Conceptions. The restaurant is not set yet. Bikes, Beans, and Bordeaux (B³), a bicycle themed restaurant near the old Sci Fi City site on Corrine, was suggested. Hector recommended some restaurants in the Baldwin Park. Saturday evenings were recommended as a meeting time.

Juan Sanmiguel was thanked for allowing the club to use his house for the 4th of July Party.

Necronomicon was discussed. Steve Grant and Juan Sanmiguel plan to put on a party to promote OASIS.

Deb Canaday and Arthur Dykeman are going to Dragoncon.

Juan Sanmiguel is going to Vulkan and will have a fan table for OASIS.

Media

Susan Cole said ***Eureka*** will be coming back on SciFi channel soon.

Arthur Dykeman mentioned the British show ***Primeval*** will be coming to BBC America.

The Sarah Conner Chronicles and ***Heroes: Villians*** will be coming back in the Fall.

Steve Grant brought up a disturbing film rumor. There will be a new Sherlock Holmes film. Sherlock Homes played by Robert Downey and Watson played by Will Farrell. Juan Sanmiguel commented its bad enough that Farrell is in the ***Land of the Lost*** movie.

Bob Yazel recently purchased a copy of the original ***Outer Limits*** soundtrack.

Ed Anthony brought a review of ***My Illustrious Wasteland***, a play by local performer Todd Kimbro, who has been and written in many plays at the Orlando Fringe Fest.

OASFiS People

Steve Cole	407-275-5211 stevepc@hotmial.com
Susan Cole	407-275-5211 sacole@mindspring.com
Arthur Dykeman	407-328-9565 adykeman@bellsouth.net
Steve Grant	352 241 0670 stevegrant@embarqmail.com
Mike Pilletere	mike-sf@webbedfeet.com
David Ratti	407-282-2468 dratti@eudoramail.com
Juan Sanmiguel	407-823-8715 sanmiguel@earthlink.net
Patricia Wheeler	407-832-1428 pwheeler222@netzero.net

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

Current genre films out are ***Hellboy II***, ***Journey to the Center of the Earth***, and ***WALL-E***. Coming soon is ***The Dark Knight*** and ***Mummy 3***.

Convention

Juan discussed the current state of Hotel negotiations. The main worry is the hotel's stability. A recent article in the *Orlando Sentinel* made the hotel situation appear grim. The hotel offered to postpone payment of the deposit till two months before the convention. The Executive Board wanted some additional things spelled out specifically the day of final payment and free tables. Juan was asked to look into the Wyndham as a backup hotel. It is hoped that negotiations will be wrapped up by Necronomicon.

Juan has confirmed that Toni Weisskopf will be the Editor Guest of Honor. Johnny Atomic will be the Artist Guest of Honor. David Weber is being considered as a Special Guest Writer.

Susan Cole recommended local David Palmer as a guest.

Steve Grant will be running the Dealer's Room.

All expenses for the convention will be reviewed.

A short break was taken before the Book Discussion

Book Discussion

The book this month was ***Kormarr*** by Lois McMaster Bujold. Bujold will be the Writer Guest of Honor at Denvention 3, the 2008 Worldcon. Patricia introduced the book, the background of Vorkosigan series and Bujold's works. Patricia likes the fact the novels were not written linearly.

Juan liked how the final problem was solved. The ending could have been a "wham bang" action sequence. Miles Vorkosigan

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used his brains and talked his way out of the situation. Roger felt that nothing happened in the book. Martin thought this book was more cerebral than previous books in the series.

Juan likes the series but has only read it sporadically. One thing in the back of Juan's mind was that the novel had a non-democratic government in the future. Juan cited the works of Asimov, Pournelle and Weber where the future had a non-democratic government. Steve Cole said writers do this is because for democracy to work well quick communication is needed. Without good communication, distant foreign possessions would be handled as they were in the 18-19th centuries. Patricia pointed out that Barrayar at the time of the novel was not as rigid as it was in the past and populism was slowly creeping in.

Juan also liked the fact it was possible to read any book in the series reading the earlier books. Bujold gives one enough information for the book to stand alone.

Steve did not like the fact that Vorsoisson was made a villain from the start. This showed a lack of subtlety. Juan disagreed. Vorsoisson was not a villain. He was an incompetent man who was at the end of his rope. Vorsoisson was not killer. His accomplices were also not killers, although their actions resulted in unintentional deaths.

The book for September was discussed. Juan suggested Frederik Pohl's *Gateway* since Pohl is Necronomicon's Guest of Honor. *Gateway* was easily available on Amazon. Colleen suggest that people could read different Pohl books and just discuss Pohl's work. Juan thought that would be unwieldy.

Next month's book is *Emissaries From the Dead* by Adam-Troy Castro.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18PM. The meeting after the meeting was at a Jason's Deli near Fashion Square Mall.

Awards
(Source Locus)

John W. Campbell Award for Best Novel of 2007

In War Times by Kathleen Ann Goonan (prior OASIS GOH)

Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award Best Short Fiction of 2007 (Tie)

"Tideline" by Elizabeth Bear

"Finisterra" by David Moles

Both awards were presented at the at The Capbell Conference in Kansas City, MO.

Rhysling Awards.

These were presented at Readercon.

SHORT POEM

winner: "Eating Light", F. J. Bergmann (*Mythic Delirium* Summer/Fall 2007)

2nd place: "Ice Palace", Margaret Atwood (*The Door* McClelland & Stewart, 2007)

3rd place: "The Oracle on River Street", Rachel Swirsky (*Goblin Fruit* Summer 2007)

LONG POEM

winner: "The Seven Devils of Central California", Catherynne M. Valente (*Farrago's Wainscot* Summer 2007)

2nd place: *In Deepspace Shadows*, Kendall Evans (Mythic Delirium Books)

3rd place: "The Engineer", Bryan Dietrich (*Isotope: A Journal of Literary Nature and Science Writing* Fall/Winter 2007)

GRAND MASTER POET Ray Bradbury

Shirley Jackson Awards Winners

(additional source Steve Grant)

These awards were presented for the first time at Readercon. The awards are given for "outstanding achievement in the literature of psychological suspense, horror or the drak fantastic."

NOVEL

· *Generation Loss*, Elizabeth Hand (Small Beer Press)

NOVELLA

· "Vacancy", Lucius Shepard (*Subterranean* #7)

NOVELETTE

· "The Janus Tree", Glen Hirshberg (*Inferno*)

"SHORT STORY

· "The Monsters of Heaven", Nathan Ballingrud (*Inferno*)

COLLECTION

· *The Imago Sequence and Other Stories*, Laird Barron (Night Shade Books)

ANTHOLOGY

· *Inferno*, Ellen Datlow, ed. (Tor)

Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award

Stanley G. Weinbaum

The Middleman

One of the best SF/Fantasy related comedies has come to ABC Family channel. *The Middleman* is based on an independent comic book created by Javier Grillo-Marxuach (writer) and Les McClaine (artist).

The story starts with artist and temp worker Wendy Watson being attacked by a monster at the genetic engineering firm she was working at. Wendy is able to keep a cool head and fight back with a letter opener. She is rescued by a mysterious man with high tech weapons. Unfortunately Wendy finds herself out of work. She receives an offer at a mysterious temp agency. At the temp agency Wendy is reunited by her rescue her who only calls himself the Middleman. It turns out the world is full of mad scientists, aliens, ghouls, and robots who want to either rule or destroy the Earth. The Middleman works for an organization that deals with such threats. Nothing is known about the organization except that it has furnished the Middleman with advanced equipment and a cranky robot secretary named Ida. The Middleman offers Wendy a job as sidekick/protégé. Wendy initially turns it down but accepts after her boyfriend breaks up with her and films the break up for a film school project. Together they “fight evil so you don’t have to”.

Not much is known about the Middleman. He was a former Navy Seal during the first Gulf War. He was recruited by the previous Middleman. He has no vices and rarely swears. Despite this Dudley Do-Right exterior, the Middleman is always competent when dealing the paranormal. He is even good at dealing with people most of the time. This makes him a better manager/leader than Captain Jack Harkness in *Torchwood*.

Wendy is a comic fan and loves first person shooter games on the Xbox. Wendy does not question what she sees and is good in a crisis. This is why she was recruited. Wendy is still in training but as meets every challenge successfully.

Rounding out the cast is Lacey, Wendy’s roommate. She is a confrontational spoken word performance artist. She is a very sweet and passionate person. Lacey supports Wendy’s endeavors without question. She has also taken a shine to Wendy’s mysterious boss. Noser is a musician who lives in the same building as Wendy and Lacey. Noser offers words of wisdom while working on his music.

The plots are typical superhero comic book/classic pulp magazines plots. Some paranormal force is trying to disrupt life as we know it and the Middleman and Wendy go after it. Sometimes it gets complicated with the slings and arrows of Wendy’s personal life. So far adversaries have included a super-ape, an ancient Chinese Earth Warrior, hostile Mexican wrestlers, and aliens in disguise. At the same time Wendy has had to deal with the break up with her boyfriend, becoming a YouTube hit, dealing with a temperamental martial arts sensei, and making it to Lacey’s performance at an art festival.

The special effects are a bit on the cheap side. They use a blue screen for car interior scenes. Some of the CGI and monsters sometimes look like the bad effects you see on the Sci Fi Channel Saturday night movie. Still this adds a surreal quality to the show and helps with the humor.

The humor is everywhere. The titles indicating the place and time for the scene is a great source of fun. Wendy and

Lacey’s loft is referred to as “the illegal sublet Wendy shares with another young photogenic artist”. One week all the time titles used times from various timezones all over the world. Another week all the times where abstract, like “Nap time” or “Hammer time”.

Each episode goes for theme references. The second episode used references from Frank Herbert. This episode had a Frank Herbert Junior High, a Caladan (the Atrides home planet in *Dune*) Street, and characters named Jessica and Duncan. Other themes have included the film *Back to the Future* and the Indiana Jones film series.

As one can see the tongue is fully planted in cheek in this series. In the Middleman and Wendy we are the John Steed and Emma Peel on of the new Millennium.

Little Brother

by

Cory Doctorow

Cory Doctorow has been talking about the new frontier that is the Internet for years. Now he has written a new young adult novel which serves the same purpose of Heinlein’s juveniles, to tell a good story and expose young minds to real scientific concepts. The subjects Doctorow discusses are computer security and cryptography.

The novel is set a few years in the future. Marcus Yellow is a high school senior in San Francisco. He knows his way around computers. Marcus is able to bypass certain restrictions on his school issue laptop and built his own personal laptop. One day Marcus is out with friends playing a Alternate Reality Game(ARG), a combination of Live Action Role Playing Game (LARP) and scavenger hunt. While investigating a clue to the game an earthquake seems to occur. Marcus jumps in front a military vehicle to get some help for his friend Darryl who is hurt. The occupants of the vehicle arrest Marcus and his friends and sequestered them in an unknown location. They are not allowed to talk to each other or anyone outside their prison. Marcus is interrogated to reveal his cell phone password. The authorities use mental and physical intimidation to get what they want. It turns out that Bay Bridge was blown up by terrorists. The federal government decided to round any possible suspects after the attack. Marcus is released and told not reveal what happened to anyone or he risks more imprisonment. All Marcus friends have been released except Darryl. Marcus wants to strike back, particularly when he discovers his laptop has been bugged. He is able to set up a private network consisting of Xboxes loaded with an operating system designed to watch for intrusions. With this network Marcus is able to organize people to fight against the totalitarian atmosphere which has engulfed the Bay Area. In doing so, he will find pain, notoriety and love.

Doctorow nails the character of Marcus. He feels like a real seventeen year old. I could see myself being like Marcus if I had the access to the technology he has. At first Marcus is impetuous, but his imprisonment makes him think things through more carefully. Marcus understands the risks he takes can bring down the force of the government, specifically the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Marcus believes

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those risks are worth it to fight the heavy handed nature of the DHS security measure in San Francisco.

They adults and Marcus peers are also believable. They all react differently to the situation. Some of Marcus' friends back away due to the fear of going back to detainment. Others want to get back at the new system. The same goes for the adults. A rift grows between Marcus and his father. His father supports the security measures. Marcus' British mother is a little more concerned about what is going on. Marcus also finds sympathy from an local punk legend and Internet Service Provider (ISP), and an independent journalist. Both will help Marcus fight the system.

Doctorow does a good job explaining the science and technology. He covers my favorite topics in computer science graduate school: networks, security and cryptography. Doctorow is able to break down the material and convey the concepts clearly. It also comes through without interrupting the narrative. We see this exposition as a part of Marcus's thinking process.

The politics of the book are clearly libertarian. It voices the fear of an unrestricted government doing whatever it takes to avoid another terrorist attack. Whatever it takes, unfortunately, seems to include violating some basic rights. An example of this is using BART free passes (think EPASSes for the subway) to track movement in the city. Anyone making trips outside of the norm are questioned. Instead of finding terrorists or drug dealers they find cheating spouses and teens sneaking out to have rendezvous their parents do not approve of. Marcus finds ways to disrupt measures which seem to him inherently flawed.

The book presents to youth the classic conflict in a free society, the conflict between freedom and security. This is a conflict this new generation will have to face head-on in the post-9/11 world. The previous generations faced this before but never has the struggle appeared so real before. Marcus finds away to deal with the issue by using his talents with a technology the DHS barely understands. The book shows that an individual using his brains rather than bombs can fight an effective battle against those who oppress them.

Orlando Sci-Fi Expo

The Orlando Sci Fi Expo was held on July 18-20, 2008 at Orlando Hilton North (formerly the Altamonte Springs Hilton). Main guests were Jonathan Frakes (Will Riker, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*) and Nana Visitor (Kira Nerys, *Star Trek: Deepspace Nine*). Also appearing were Erick Avari (numerous SF/Fantasy credits including *Stargate: SG1* and *Heroes*), Aron Eisenberg (Nog, *Star Trek: Deepspace Nine*), Cirroc Lofton (Jake Sisko, *Star Trek: Deepspace Nine*), George Lowe (*Space Ghost: Coast to Coast* and other voice roles), artist David Reddick, Barbara March, and Gwynyth Walsh (Lursa & B'Etor Duras, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*). The Orlando Sci Fi Expo was put on by Vulkan Entertainment.

I want to get the negative out of the way first. This year Vulkan chose to go to wrist bands. Furthermore, they did not use water-resistant wrist bands for people who had a two-day membership. A staff member claimed they were but I have my doubts, since they were still paper, unlike the plastic bands used by Megacon. Registration was late for both Friday and Saturday. This was bad for Friday night, since the first panel started a half hour after registration. There were no panels at the same time as

any guest presentation, so panels tended to end in the mid afternoon.

The panels were pretty interesting. Although a handful of us showed up for **Comic Book Geekfest**, we had a good time talking about the latest comic films. This included *Iron Man*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *Hellboy*, *The Dark Knight*, *The Spirit* and *Watchmen* (the latter two appear as trailers with The Dark Knight). After awhile I set up my lap top and watched with anyone who was interested the Watchmen trailer and the latest episode of *The Venture Brothers*, "Tears of a Sea Cow". At the Doctor Who panel, I replaced Vulkan Panel and Games coordinator John Humphett, and discussed the latest news about Who-inverse with SyFy Portal founder Michael Hinman (www.syfyportal.com). It was interesting, since we have differing opinions of the shows which comprise the Doctor Who Universe (*Doctor Who*, *Torchwood*, and *Sarah Jane Adventures*). After that Mr. Humphett and Game Show organizer Nick Roche ran **You Don't Know Trek**. This trivia game is based on a computer game called *You Don't Know Jack*. It was a challenging game in which I was at 0 at the half. I then pulled into the lead at the end. The prize was a \$10 gift certificate in the Dealers Room. I used it the next day to buy the second comic collection of *Fallen Angel* by Peter David.

The next day we had Brian give us the Trek update. He discussed the Classic remastered, new books from Pocket, the end of the Star Trek Experience, and the new movie. That weekend the first posters showcasing the new Kirk, Spock, Uhura and the villain played by Eric Bana were up. This was something interesting, since there is tight lid on the new movie. Afterwards Michael Hinman discussed *Battlestar Galactica*. We discussed the mid-season finale, possible outcome for the series finale, the upcoming TV movies and the prequel series *Caprica*. Later in the day Michael discussed the rebooting of Star Trek. In the evening there was a small costume contest and a talent show. Unfortunately due to a personal reason I could not attend. Michael Hinman hosted his Internet Radio show *SyFy Radio* from the Warp Core room (an area the local Klingons made into a bar). There was some difficulty due the erratic nature of the Internet connection. The show started an hour later. Michael had some interviews from the guests. There was also Karoke and a dance in the next room.

On Sunday, I saw a fan edit of the *Next Generation* episode "Best of Both Worlds". I missed the first half and was told they added footage from other Treks that took place during the story, like Sisko's escape from Wolf 359. I watched Nick Roche host Trek Jeopardy. I did not participate since there were more than enough contestants. Then I caught most of Jonathan Frakes' presentation. I always admired Frakes as a director and his connection to the Disney animated series *Gargoyles*.

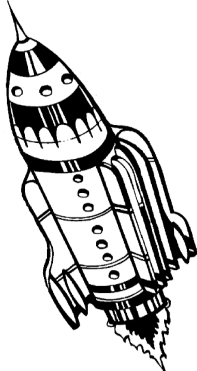
I wish there were more panels, but according to the Vulkan forums everyone seemed to have a good time. I also hope they go back to name tags.

I want to thank John Humphett and Nick Roche for working on the non guest programming. Their contributions make Vulkan fun for me.

The next Orlando Sci Fi Expo will be on Halloween weekend with Michael Dorn (Worf, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*) and Terry Farrel (Jadzia Dax, *Star Trek: Deepspace Nine*)

SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
IN ORLANDO

OASIS 22
May 22-24, 2009



Guest of Honor

Peter David

*Sir Apropos of Nothing,
Woad to Wuin,,*

*Tong Lashing, Darkness of the Light,
Tigerheart, Star Trek: New Frontiers,
The Incredible Hulk*

Hotel Information

\$109/night, single-quad
through 4/30/09
Mention OASIS for rate

Editor Guest of Honor
Toni Weiskopf
Baen Books

Sheraton Orlando
Downtown
60 South Ivanhoe Blvd
Orlando, FL 32804

Artist Guest of Honor
Johnny Atomic
*Diamond Castle, Stop the Chandelier ,
Frank Ng- Hired Gun*

Weekend Memberships:
\$30 until 1/1/09,
\$35 until 4/30/09,
\$40 at the door.

Gaming by FRAG

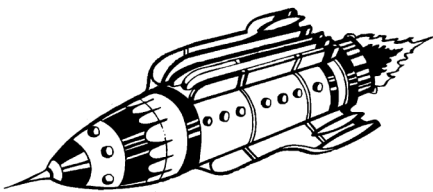
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www.oasfis.org

NASFA (N. Alabama SF Association)
PO Box 4857
Huntsville, AL 35815

OASFIS
P.O. Box 592905
ORLANDO, FL 32859-2905





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OASFiS People

Steve Cole	407-275-5211 stevepc@hotmai.com
Susan Cole	407-275-5211 sacole@mindspring.com
Arthur Dykeman	407-328-9565 adykeman@bellsouth.net
Steve Grant	352 241 0670 stevegrant@embarqmail.com
Mike Pilletere	mike-sf@webbedfeet.com
David Ratti	407-282-2468 dratti@eudoramail.com
Juan Sanmiguel	407-823-8715 sanmiguel@earthlink.net
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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.

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Shirley Jackson Awards Winners

(additional source Steve Grant)

These awards were presented for the first time at Readercon. The awards are given for "outstanding achievement in the literature of psychological suspense, horror or the drak fantastic."

NOVEL

· *Generation Loss*, Elizabeth Hand (Small Beer Press)

NOVELLA

· "Vacancy", Lucius Shepard (*Subterranean* #7)

NOVELETTE

· "The Janus Tree", Glen Hirshberg (*Inferno*)

"SHORT STORY

· "The Monsters of Heaven", Nathan Ballingrud (*Inferno*)

COLLECTION

· *The Imago Sequence and Other Stories*, Laird Barron (Night Shade Books)

ANTHOLOGY

· *Inferno*, Ellen Datlow, ed. (Tor)

Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award

Stanley G. Weinbaum

The Middleman

One of the best SF/Fantasy related comedies has come to ABC Family channel. *The Middleman* is based on an independent comic book created by Javier Grillo-Marxuach (writer) and Les McClaine (artist).

The story starts with artist and temp worker Wendy Watson being attacked by a monster at the genetic engineering firm she was working at. Wendy is able to keep a cool head and fight back with a letter opener. She is rescued by a mysterious man with high tech weapons. Unfortunately Wendy finds herself out of work. She receives an offer at a mysterious temp agency. At the temp agency Wendy is reunited by her rescue her who only calls himself the Middleman. It turns out the world is full of mad scientists, aliens, ghouls, and robots who want to either rule or destroy the Earth. The Middleman works for an organization that deals with such threats. Nothing is known about the organization except that it has furnished the Middleman with advanced equipment and a cranky robot secretary named Ida. The Middleman offers Wendy a job as sidekick/protégé. Wendy initially turns it down but accepts after her boyfriend breaks up with her and films the break up for a film school project. Together they “fight evil so you don’t have to”.

Not much is known about the Middleman. He was a former Navy Seal during the first Gulf War. He was recruited by the previous Middleman. He has no vices and rarely swears. Despite this Dudley Do-Right exterior, the Middleman is always competent when dealing the paranormal. He is even good at dealing with people most of the time. This makes him a better manager/leader than Captain Jack Harkness in *Torchwood*.

Wendy is a comic fan and loves first person shooter games on the Xbox. Wendy does not question what she sees and is good in a crisis. This is why she was recruited. Wendy is still in training but as meets every challenge successfully.

Rounding out the cast is Lacey, Wendy’s roommate. She is a confrontational spoken word performance artist. She is a very sweet and passionate person. Lacey supports Wendy’s endeavors without question. She has also taken a shine to Wendy’s mysterious boss. Noser is a musician who lives in the same building as Wendy and Lacey. Noser offers words of wisdom while working on his music.

The plots are typical superhero comic book/classic pulp magazines plots. Some paranormal force is trying to disrupt life as we know it and the Middleman and Wendy go after it. Sometimes it gets complicated with the slings and arrows of Wendy’s personal life. So far adversaries have included a super-ape, an ancient Chinese Earth Warrior, hostile Mexican wrestlers, and aliens in disguise. At the same time Wendy has had to deal with the break up with her boyfriend, becoming a YouTube hit, dealing with a temperamental martial arts sensei, and making it to Lacey’s performance at an art festival.

The special effects are a bit on the cheap side. They use a blue screen for car interior scenes. Some of the CGI and monsters sometimes look like the bad effects you see on the Sci Fi Channel Saturday night movie. Still this adds a surreal quality to the show and helps with the humor.

The humor is everywhere. The titles indicating the place and time for the scene is a great source of fun. Wendy and

Lacey’s loft is referred to as “the illegal sublet Wendy shares with another young photogenic artist”. One week all the time titles used times from various timezones all over the world. Another week all the times where abstract, like “Nap time” or “Hammer time”.

Each episode goes for theme references. The second episode used references from Frank Herbert. This episode had a Frank Herbert Junior High, a Caladan (the Atrides home planet in *Dune*) Street, and characters named Jessica and Duncan. Other themes have included the film *Back to the Future* and the Indiana Jones film series.

As one can see the tongue is fully planted in cheek in this series. In the Middleman and Wendy we are the John Steed and Emma Peel on of the new Millennium.

Little Brother

by

Cory Doctorow

Cory Doctorow has been talking about the new frontier that is the Internet for years. Now he has written a new young adult novel which serves the same purpose of Heinlein’s juveniles, to tell a good story and expose young minds to real scientific concepts. The subjects Doctorow discusses are computer security and cryptography.

The novel is set a few years in the future. Marcus Yellow is a high school senior in San Francisco. He knows his way around computers. Marcus is able to bypass certain restrictions on his school issue laptop and built his own personal laptop. One day Marcus is out with friends playing a Alternate Reality Game(ARG), a combination of Live Action Role Playing Game (LARP) and scavenger hunt. While investigating a clue to the game an earthquake seems to occur. Marcus jumps in front a military vehicle to get some help for his friend Darryl who is hurt. The occupants of the vehicle arrest Marcus and his friends and sequestered them in an unknown location. They are not allowed to talk to each other or anyone outside their prison. Marcus is interrogated to reveal his cell phone password. The authorities use mental and physical intimidation to get what they want. It turns out that Bay Bridge was blown up by terrorists. The federal government decided to round any possible suspects after the attack. Marcus is released and told not reveal what happened to anyone or he risks more imprisonment. All Marcus friends have been released except Darryl. Marcus wants to strike back, particularly when he discovers his laptop has been bugged. He is able to set up a private network consisting of Xboxes loaded with an operating system designed to watch for intrusions. With this network Marcus is able to organize people to fight against the totalitarian atmosphere which has engulfed the Bay Area. In doing so, he will find pain, notoriety and love.

Doctorow nails the character of Marcus. He feels like a real seventeen year old. I could see myself being like Marcus if I had the access to the technology he has. At first Marcus is impetuous, but his imprisonment makes him think things through more carefully. Marcus understands the risks he takes can bring down the force of the government, specifically the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Marcus believes

(Continued on page 5)

those risks are worth it to fight the heavy handed nature of the DHS security measure in San Francisco.

They adults and Marcus peers are also believable. They all react differently to the situation. Some of Marcus' friends back away due to the fear of going back to detainment. Others want to get back at the new system. The same goes for the adults. A rift grows between Marcus and his father. His father supports the security measures. Marcus' British mother is a little more concerned about what is going on. Marcus also finds sympathy from an local punk legend and Internet Service Provider (ISP), and an independent journalist. Both will help Marcus fight the system.

Doctorow does a good job explaining the science and technology. He covers my favorite topics in computer science graduate school: networks, security and cryptography. Doctorow is able to break down the material and convey the concepts clearly. It also comes through without interrupting the narrative. We see this exposition as a part of Marcus's thinking process.

The politics of the book are clearly libertarian. It voices the fear of an unrestricted government doing whatever it takes to avoid another terrorist attack. Whatever it takes, unfortunately, seems to include violating some basic rights. An example of this is using BART free passes (think EPASSes for the subway) to track movement in the city. Anyone making trips outside of the norm are questioned. Instead of finding terrorists or drug dealers they find cheating spouses and teens sneaking out to have rendezvous their parents do not approve of. Marcus finds ways to disrupt measures which seem to him inherently flawed.

The book presents to youth the classic conflict in a free society, the conflict between freedom and security. This is a conflict this new generation will have to face head-on in the post-9/11 world. The previous generations faced this before but never has the struggle appeared so real before. Marcus finds away to deal with the issue by using his talents with a technology the DHS barely understands. The book shows that an individual using his brains rather than bombs can fight an effective battle against those who oppress them.

Orlando Sci-Fi Expo

The Orlando Sci Fi Expo was held on July 18-20, 2008 at Orlando Hilton North (formerly the Altamonte Springs Hilton). Main guests were Jonathan Frakes (Will Riker, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*) and Nana Visitor (Kira Nerys, *Star Trek: Deepspace Nine*). Also appearing were Erick Avari (numerous SF/Fantasy credits including *Stargate: SG1* and *Heroes*), Aron Eisenberg (Nog, *Star Trek: Deepspace Nine*), Cirroc Lofton (Jake Sisko, *Star Trek: Deepspace Nine*), George Lowe (*Space Ghost: Coast to Coast* and other voice roles), artist David Reddick, Barbara March, and Gwynyth Walsh (Lursa & B'Etor Duras, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*). The Orlando Sci Fi Expo was put on by Vulkan Entertainment.

I want to get the negative out of the way first. This year Vulkan chose to go to wristbands. Furthermore, they did not use water-resistant wristbands for people who had a two-day membership. A staff member claimed they were but I have my doubts, since they were still paper, unlike the plastic bands used by Megacon. Registration was late for both Friday and Saturday. This was bad for Friday night, since the first panel started a half hour after registration. There were no panels at the same time as

any guest presentation, so panels tended to end in the mid afternoon.

The panels were pretty interesting. Although a handful of us showed up for **Comic Book Geekfest**, we had a good time talking about the latest comic films. This included *Iron Man*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *Hellboy*, *The Dark Knight*, *The Spirit* and *Watchmen* (the latter two appear as trailers with The Dark Knight). After awhile I set up my lap top and watched with anyone who was interested the Watchmen trailer and the latest episode of *The Venture Brothers*, "Tears of a Sea Cow". At the Doctor Who panel, I replaced Vulkan Panel and Games coordinator John Humphett, and discussed the latest news about Who-inverse with SyFy Portal founder Michael Hinman (www.syfyportal.com). It was interesting, since we have differing opinions of the shows which comprise the Doctor Who Universe (*Doctor Who*, *Torchwood*, and *Sarah Jane Adventures*). After that Mr. Humphett and Game Show organizer Nick Roche ran **You Don't Know Trek**. This trivia game is based on a computer game called *You Don't Know Jack*. It was a challenging game in which I was at 0 at the half. I then pulled into the lead at the end. The prize was a \$10 gift certificate in the Dealers Room. I used it the next day to buy the second comic collection of *Fallen Angel* by Peter David.

The next day we had Brian give us the Trek update. He discussed the Classic remastered, new books from Pocket, the end of the Star Trek Experience, and the new movie. That weekend the first posters showcasing the new Kirk, Spock, Uhura and the villain played by Eric Bana were up. This was something interesting, since there is tight lid on the new movie. Afterwards Michael Hinman discussed *Battlestar Galactica*. We discussed the mid-season finale, possible outcome for the series finale, the upcoming TV movies and the prequel series *Caprica*. Later in the day Michael discussed the rebooting of Star Trek. In the evening there was a small costume contest and a talent show. Unfortunately due to a personal reason I could not attend. Michael Hinman hosted his Internet Radio show *SyFy Radio* from the Warp Core room (an area the local Klingons made into a bar). There was some difficulty due the erratic nature of the Internet connection. The show started an hour later. Michael had some interviews from the guests. There was also Karaoke and a dance in the next room.

On Sunday, I saw a fan edit of the *Next Generation* episode "Best of Both Worlds". I missed the first half and was told they added footage from other Treks that took place during the story, like Sisko's escape from Wolf 359. I watched Nick Roche host Trek Jeopardy. I did not participate since there were more than enough contestants. Then I caught most of Jonathan Frakes' presentation. I always admired Frakes as a director and his connection to the Disney animated series *Gargoyles*.

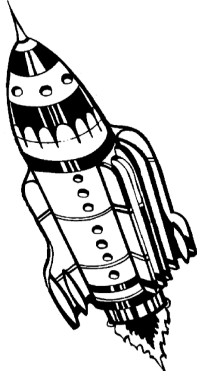
I wish there were more panels, but according to the Vulkan forums everyone seemed to have a good time. I also hope they go back to name tags.

I want to thank John Humphett and Nick Roche for working on the non guest programming. Their contributions make Vulkan fun for me.

The next Orlando Sci Fi Expo will be on Halloween weekend with Michael Dorn (Worf, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*) and Terry Farrel (Jadzia Dax, *Star Trek: Deepspace Nine*)

SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
IN ORLANDO

OASIS 22
May 22-24, 2009



Guest of Honor

Peter David

*Sir Apropos of Nothing,
Woad to Wuin,,*

*Tong Lashing, Darkness of the Light,
Tigerheart, Star Trek: New Frontiers,
The Incredible Hulk*

Hotel Information

\$109/night, single-quad
through 4/30/09
Mention OASIS for rate

Editor Guest of Honor
Toni Weiskopf
Baen Books

Sheraton Orlando
Downtown
60 South Ivanhoe Blvd
Orlando, FL 32804

Artist Guest of Honor
Johnny Atomic
*Diamond Castle, Stop the Chandelier ,
Frank Ng- Hired Gun*

Weekend Memberships:
\$30 until 1/1/09,
\$35 until 4/30/09,
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Gaming by FRAG

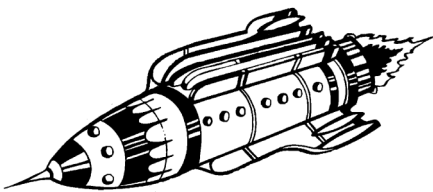
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Volume 21 Number 3 Issue 250

August 2008

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Sorry for this coming a bit late. Its been a busy month. We finally signed with the Sheraton Downtown Orlando. Both the con and club website have been updated appropriately.

There is also more to come in the next few weeks. I will be in Denver for Worldcon. The weekend after that is Anime Festival Orlando 9. That same weekend will be the first new SF Light meeting hosted by Steve Grant.

Next month will be the big Worldcon report. I may do an AFO report for the next month.

Also a reminder I will accept any contributions and please check out our Yahoo group (search OASFis). See you next month.

Events

Yasumicon

August 1-3
Florida International University
Tamiami Campus, Graham Center
Guest: Brandon Potter (Shanks, *One Piece*)
FREE
<http://www.yasumicon/.com>

Ancient City Con

August 2-3
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
Terrance Pavilion 1
225 Easy Coast Line Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Guests: David Brookover, Linda S. Cowen,
Bo Savino/AJ Rand, Tracy A. Akers, KL Nappier,
Kevin Ransom, William Hatfield, Gary S. Roen
\$15 pre-reg for both days,\$20 at the door

Anime Festival Orlando

August 15-17
Wyndham Orlando Resort
8001 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819
Guests: Colleen Clinkenbeard, Aaron Dismuke,
Jason David Frank, Reuben Langdon, Christopher Patton,
Monica Rial, Doug Smith, Travis Willingham,
Stephanie Yanez
\$45 for all three days
www.animefestivalorlando.com

OASFIS June meeting minutes 7/13/08:

Meeting called to order at 1:45 pm by Patricia Wheeler, President.

In attendance: Patricia Wheeler, Roger Sims, Pat Sims, Arthur Dykeman, Dick Spelman, Susan Cole, Steven Cole, Juan Sanmiguel, Colleen O'Brien, Ed Anthony, Dave Ratti, Hector Hoglin, Bob Yazel and Martin Kemp

Officer Reports:

Vice-President (Colleen O'Brien): She discussed the T-Shirt situation she has been working on. We may have someone who might able to make the shirts. She will follow up on the lead.

President (Patricia Wheeler): no report

Secretary (Pat Russell): no report. Juan Sanmiguel taking notes manually for later transcription.

Treasurer (Michael Pilletere): no report. (could not attend)

No Old Business.

New Business:

Susan moved for a cut-off for receipts from OASIS 21. August 17 was the agreed upon date for the next OASFis meeting.

Patricia discussed the fact that Orange County Library will be charging for meeting space in October. The club cannot afford to pay. Patricia looked into using the community room in the Fashion Square Mall. The pros of using this location are free parking, close to good restaurants and near a movie theater. Patricia was in the process of filling out the application form. Colleen made a motion to go to Fashion Square Mall. Steve Grant seconded. The measure passed unchallenged.

Patricia discussed the next meeting of the Science Café. The Science Café is a meeting done at Stardust Video discussing science topics. Next meeting will deal with obesity. It will be on Wednesday August 6. Patricia will check it out. Unfortunately many members will be at Worldcon in Denver that weekend.

Steve Grant discussed bringing back SciFi Lite. He is considering a Robert Asprin novel for the first book. One suggestion is *Myth*

(Continued on page 2)

OASFis Event Horizon Vol 20, Issue 250, August 2008. Published Monthly by the Orlando Area Science Fiction Society (OASFis). All rights reserved by original Authors and Artists. Editor: Juan Sanmiguel, 1421 Pon Pon Court, Orlando, FL 32825. Subscriptions are \$12.00 per year and entitle the subscriber to membership in the Society. Attending Memberships are \$20.00 per year. Extra memberships to family members are \$6.00 per year when only one newsletter is sent to the household. To subscribe or join OASFis, send a check or money order to: OASFis, PO Box 592905, Orlando, FL 32859-2905. To submit Articles, Artwork or Letters of Comment to the Event Horizon, send them to the Editor's address above or sanmiguel@earthlink.net. For additional information, call (407) 823-8715. OASFis is a state chartered not for profit corporation whose goal is the promotion of Science Fiction in all its forms. **All opinions expressed herein are solely those of the Author(s) and in no way represent the opinions of the Society or its members as a whole.**

August OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, August 17, 1:30 PM, Orange Public Library (Downtown Orlando, 101 E. Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801, 407-835-7323). Come join us as we discuss ***Emissaries from the Dead*** by Adam-Troy Castro

To contact for more info: 407-823-8715

SciFi Light

Saturday August 16, 5:00 PM, Bikes, Beans and Bordeaux (3022 Corrine Drive Orlando, FL 32803, 407-427-1440). Come join us and discuss ***Another Fine Myth*** by Robert Asprin.

For more info contact Steve Grant

Conceptions. The restaurant is not set yet. Bikes, Beans, and Bordeaux (B³), a bicycle themed restaurant near the old Sci Fi City site on Corrine, was suggested. Hector recommended some restaurants in the Baldwin Park. Saturday evenings were recommended as a meeting time.

Juan Sanmiguel was thanked for allowing the club to use his house for the 4th of July Party.

Necronomicon was discussed. Steve Grant and Juan Sanmiguel plan to put on a party to promote OASIS.

Deb Canaday and Arthur Dykeman are going to Dragoncon.

Juan Sanmiguel is going to Vulkan and will have a fan table for OASIS.

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Susan Cole said ***Eureka*** will be coming back on SciFi channel soon.

Arthur Dykeman mentioned the British show ***Primeval*** will be coming to BBC America.

The Sarah Conner Chronicles and ***Heroes: Villians*** will be coming back in the Fall.

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NOVEL

· *Generation Loss*, Elizabeth Hand (Small Beer Press)

NOVELLA

· "Vacancy", Lucius Shepard (*Subterranean* #7)

NOVELETTE

· "The Janus Tree", Glen Hirshberg (*Inferno*)

"SHORT STORY

· "The Monsters of Heaven", Nathan Ballingrud (*Inferno*)

COLLECTION

· *The Imago Sequence and Other Stories*, Laird Barron (Night Shade Books)

ANTHOLOGY

· *Inferno*, Ellen Datlow, ed. (Tor)

Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award

Stanley G. Weinbaum

The Middleman

One of the best SF/Fantasy related comedies has come to ABC Family channel. *The Middleman* is based on an independent comic book created by Javier Grillo-Marxuach (writer) and Les McClaine (artist).

The story starts with artist and temp worker Wendy Watson being attacked by a monster at the genetic engineering firm she was working at. Wendy is able to keep a cool head and fight back with a letter opener. She is rescued by a mysterious man with high tech weapons. Unfortunately Wendy finds herself out of work. She receives an offer at a mysterious temp agency. At the temp agency Wendy is reunited by her rescue her who only calls himself the Middleman. It turns out the world is full of mad scientists, aliens, ghouls, and robots who want to either rule or destroy the Earth. The Middleman works for an organization that deals with such threats. Nothing is known about the organization except that it has furnished the Middleman with advanced equipment and a cranky robot secretary named Ida. The Middleman offers Wendy a job as sidekick/protégé. Wendy initially turns it down but accepts after her boyfriend breaks up with her and films the break up for a film school project. Together they “fight evil so you don’t have to”.

Not much is known about the Middleman. He was a former Navy Seal during the first Gulf War. He was recruited by the previous Middleman. He has no vices and rarely swears. Despite this Dudley Do-Right exterior, the Middleman is always competent when dealing the paranormal. He is even good at dealing with people most of the time. This makes him a better manager/leader than Captain Jack Harkness in *Torchwood*.

Wendy is a comic fan and loves first person shooter games on the Xbox. Wendy does not question what she sees and is good in a crisis. This is why she was recruited. Wendy is still in training but as meets every challenge successfully.

Rounding out the cast is Lacey, Wendy’s roommate. She is a confrontational spoken word performance artist. She is a very sweet and passionate person. Lacey supports Wendy’s endeavors without question. She has also taken a shine to Wendy’s mysterious boss. Noser is a musician who lives in the same building as Wendy and Lacey. Noser offers words of wisdom while working on his music.

The plots are typical superhero comic book/classic pulp magazines plots. Some paranormal force is trying to disrupt life as we know it and the Middleman and Wendy go after it. Sometimes it gets complicated with the slings and arrows of Wendy’s personal life. So far adversaries have included a super-ape, an ancient Chinese Earth Warrior, hostile Mexican wrestlers, and aliens in disguise. At the same time Wendy has had to deal with the break up with her boyfriend, becoming a YouTube hit, dealing with a temperamental martial arts sensei, and making it to Lacey’s performance at an art festival.

The special effects are a bit on the cheap side. They use a blue screen for car interior scenes. Some of the CGI and monsters sometimes look like the bad effects you see on the Sci Fi Channel Saturday night movie. Still this adds a surreal quality to the show and helps with the humor.

The humor is everywhere. The titles indicating the place and time for the scene is a great source of fun. Wendy and

Lacey’s loft is referred to as “the illegal sublet Wendy shares with another young photogenic artist”. One week all the time titles used times from various timezones all over the world. Another week all the times where abstract, like “Nap time” or “Hammer time”.

Each episode goes for theme references. The second episode used references from Frank Herbert. This episode had a Frank Herbert Junior High, a Caladan (the Atrides home planet in *Dune*) Street, and characters named Jessica and Duncan. Other themes have included the film *Back to the Future* and the Indiana Jones film series.

As one can see the tongue is fully planted in cheek in this series. In the Middleman and Wendy we are the John Steed and Emma Peel on of the new Millennium.

Little Brother

by

Cory Doctorow

Cory Doctorow has been talking about the new frontier that is the Internet for years. Now he has written a new young adult novel which serves the same purpose of Heinlein’s juveniles, to tell a good story and expose young minds to real scientific concepts. The subjects Doctorow discusses are computer security and cryptography.

The novel is set a few years in the future. Marcus Yellow is a high school senior in San Francisco. He knows his way around computers. Marcus is able to bypass certain restrictions on his school issue laptop and built his own personal laptop. One day Marcus is out with friends playing a Alternate Reality Game(ARG), a combination of Live Action Role Playing Game (LARP) and scavenger hunt. While investigating a clue to the game an earthquake seems to occur. Marcus jumps in front a military vehicle to get some help for his friend Darryl who is hurt. The occupants of the vehicle arrest Marcus and his friends and sequestered them in an unknown location. They are not allowed to talk to each other or anyone outside their prison. Marcus is interrogated to reveal his cell phone password. The authorities use mental and physical intimidation to get what they want. It turns out that Bay Bridge was blown up by terrorists. The federal government decided to round any possible suspects after the attack. Marcus is released and told not reveal what happened to anyone or he risks more imprisonment. All Marcus friends have been released except Darryl. Marcus wants to strike back, particularly when he discovers his laptop has been bugged. He is able to set up a private network consisting of Xboxes loaded with an operating system designed to watch for intrusions. With this network Marcus is able to organize people to fight against the totalitarian atmosphere which has engulfed the Bay Area. In doing so, he will find pain, notoriety and love.

Doctorow nails the character of Marcus. He feels like a real seventeen year old. I could see myself being like Marcus if I had the access to the technology he has. At first Marcus is impetuous, but his imprisonment makes him think things through more carefully. Marcus understands the risks he takes can bring down the force of the government, specifically the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Marcus believes

(Continued on page 5)

those risks are worth it to fight the heavy handed nature of the DHS security measure in San Francisco.

They adults and Marcus peers are also believable. They all react differently to the situation. Some of Marcus' friends back away due to the fear of going back to detainment. Others want to get back at the new system. The same goes for the adults. A rift grows between Marcus and his father. His father supports the security measures. Marcus' British mother is a little more concerned about what is going on. Marcus also finds sympathy from an local punk legend and Internet Service Provider (ISP), and an independent journalist. Both will help Marcus fight the system.

Doctorow does a good job explaining the science and technology. He covers my favorite topics in computer science graduate school: networks, security and cryptography. Doctorow is able to break down the material and convey the concepts clearly. It also comes through without interrupting the narrative. We see this exposition as a part of Marcus's thinking process.

The politics of the book are clearly libertarian. It voices the fear of an unrestricted government doing whatever it takes to avoid another terrorist attack. Whatever it takes, unfortunately, seems to include violating some basic rights. An example of this is using BART free passes (think EPASSes for the subway) to track movement in the city. Anyone making trips outside of the norm are questioned. Instead of finding terrorists or drug dealers they find cheating spouses and teens sneaking out to have rendezvous their parents do not approve of. Marcus finds ways to disrupt measures which seem to him inherently flawed.

The book presents to youth the classic conflict in a free society, the conflict between freedom and security. This is a conflict this new generation will have to face head-on in the post-9/11 world. The previous generations faced this before but never has the struggle appeared so real before. Marcus finds away to deal with the issue by using his talents with a technology the DHS barely understands. The book shows that an individual using his brains rather than bombs can fight an effective battle against those who oppress them.

Orlando Sci-Fi Expo

The Orlando Sci Fi Expo was held on July 18-20, 2008 at Orlando Hilton North (formerly the Altamonte Springs Hilton). Main guests were Jonathan Frakes (Will Riker, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*) and Nana Visitor (Kira Nerys, *Star Trek: Deepspace Nine*). Also appearing were Erick Avari (numerous SF/Fantasy credits including *Stargate: SG1* and *Heroes*), Aron Eisenberg (Nog, *Star Trek: Deepspace Nine*), Cirroc Lofton (Jake Sisko, *Star Trek: Deepspace Nine*), George Lowe (*Space Ghost: Coast to Coast* and other voice roles), artist David Reddick, Barbara March, and Gwynyth Walsh (Lursa & B'Etor Duras, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*). The Orlando Sci Fi Expo was put on by Vulkan Entertainment.

I want to get the negative out of the way first. This year Vulkan chose to go to wrist bands. Furthermore, they did not use water-resistant wrist bands for people who had a two-day membership. A staff member claimed they were but I have my doubts, since they were still paper, unlike the plastic bands used by Megacon. Registration was late for both Friday and Saturday. This was bad for Friday night, since the first panel started a half hour after registration. There were no panels at the same time as

any guest presentation, so panels tended to end in the mid afternoon.

The panels were pretty interesting. Although a handful of us showed up for **Comic Book Geekfest**, we had a good time talking about the latest comic films. This included *Iron Man*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *Hellboy*, *The Dark Knight*, *The Spirit* and *Watchmen* (the latter two appear as trailers with The Dark Knight). After awhile I set up my lap top and watched with anyone who was interested the Watchmen trailer and the latest episode of *The Venture Brothers*, "Tears of a Sea Cow". At the Doctor Who panel, I replaced Vulkan Panel and Games coordinator John Humphett, and discussed the latest news about Who-inverse with SyFy Portal founder Michael Hinman (www.syfyportal.com). It was interesting, since we have differing opinions of the shows which comprise the Doctor Who Universe (*Doctor Who*, *Torchwood*, and *Sarah Jane Adventures*). After that Mr. Humphett and Game Show organizer Nick Roche ran **You Don't Know Trek**. This trivia game is based on a computer game called *You Don't Know Jack*. It was a challenging game in which I was at 0 at the half. I then pulled into the lead at the end. The prize was a \$10 gift certificate in the Dealers Room. I used it the next day to buy the second comic collection of *Fallen Angel* by Peter David.

The next day we had Brian give us the Trek update. He discussed the Classic remastered, new books from Pocket, the end of the Star Trek Experience, and the new movie. That weekend the first posters showcasing the new Kirk, Spock, Uhura and the villain played by Eric Bana were up. This was something interesting, since there is tight lid on the new movie. Afterwards Michael Hinman discussed *Battlestar Galactica*. We discussed the mid-season finale, possible outcome for the series finale, the upcoming TV movies and the prequel series *Caprica*. Later in the day Michael discussed the rebooting of Star Trek. In the evening there was a small costume contest and a talent show. Unfortunately due to a personal reason I could not attend. Michael Hinman hosted his Internet Radio show *SyFy Radio* from the Warp Core room (an area the local Klingons made into a bar). There was some difficulty due the erratic nature of the Internet connection. The show started an hour later. Michael had some interviews from the guests. There was also Karoke and a dance in the next room.

On Sunday, I saw a fan edit of the *Next Generation* episode "Best of Both Worlds". I missed the first half and was told they added footage from other Treks that took place during the story, like Sisko's escape from Wolf 359. I watched Nick Roche host Trek Jeopardy. I did not participate since there were more than enough contestants. Then I caught most of Jonathan Frakes' presentation. I always admired Frakes as a director and his connection to the Disney animated series *Gargoyles*.

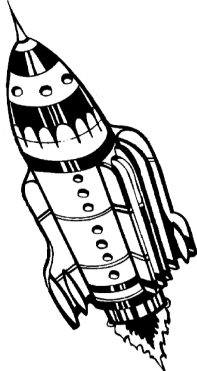
I wish there were more panels, but according to the Vulkan forums everyone seemed to have a good time. I also hope they go back to name tags.

I want to thank John Humphett and Nick Roche for working on the non guest programming. Their contributions make Vulkan fun for me.

The next Orlando Sci Fi Expo will be on Halloween weekend with Michael Dorn (Worf, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*) and Terry Farrel (Jadzia Dax, *Star Trek: Deepspace Nine*)

SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
IN ORLANDO

OASIS 22
May 22-24, 2009



Guest of Honor
Peter David
*Sir Apropos of Nothing,
Woad to Wuin,,
Tong Lashing, Darkness of the Light,
Tigerheart, Star Trek: New Frontiers,
The Incredible Hulk*

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\$30 until 1/1/09,
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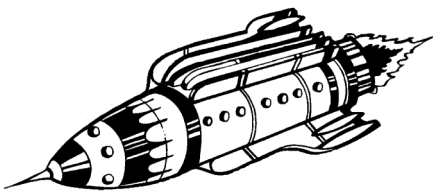
Editor Guest of Honor
Toni Weiskopf
Baen Books

Artist Guest of Honor
Johnny Atomic
*Diamond Castle, Stop the Chandelier ,
Frank Ng- Hired Gun*

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Art Show and Auction,
Informative Panel Talks,
Artist Demos Books,
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Fun and Games**

Stone Hill Science Fiction Association
PO Box 2213
Plant City, FL 33564

OASFIS
P.O. Box 592905
ORLANDO, FL 32859-2905





Volume 21 Number 3 Issue 250

August 2008

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Sorry for this coming a bit late. Its been a busy month. We finally signed with the Sheraton Downtown Orlando. Both the con and club website have been updated appropriately.

There is also more to come in the next few weeks. I will be in Denver for Worldcon. The weekend after that is Anime Festival Orlando 9. That same weekend will be the first new SF Light meeting hosted by Steve Grant.

Next month will be the big Worldcon report. I may do an AFO report for the next month.

Also a reminder I will accept any contributions and please check out our Yahoo group (search OASFis). See you next month.

Events

Yasumicon

August 1-3
Florida International University
Tamiami Campus, Graham Center
Guest: Brandon Potter (Shanks, *One Piece*)
FREE
<http://www.yasumicon/.com>

Ancient City Con

August 2-3
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
Terrance Pavilion 1
225 Easy Coast Line Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Guests: David Brookover, Linda S. Cowen,
Bo Savino/AJ Rand, Tracy A. Akers, KL Nappier,
Kevin Ransom, William Hatfield, Gary S. Roen
\$15 pre-reg for both days,\$20 at the door

Anime Festival Orlando

August 15-17
Wyndham Orlando Resort
8001 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819
Guests: Colleen Clinkenbeard, Aaron Dismuke,
Jason David Frank, Reuben Langdon, Christopher Patton,
Monica Rial, Doug Smith, Travis Willingham,
Stephanie Yanez
\$45 for all three days
www.animefestivalorlando.com

OASFIS June meeting minutes 7/13/08:

Meeting called to order at 1:45 pm by Patricia Wheeler, President.

In attendance: Patricia Wheeler, Roger Sims, Pat Sims, Arthur Dykeman, Dick Spelman, Susan Cole, Steven Cole, Juan Sanmiguel, Colleen O'Brien, Ed Anthony, Dave Ratti, Hector Hoglin, Bob Yazel and Martin Kemp

Officer Reports:

Vice-President (Colleen O'Brien): She discussed the T-Shirt situation she has been working on. We may have someone who might able to make the shirts. She will follow up on the lead.

President (Patricia Wheeler): no report

Secretary (Pat Russell): no report. Juan Sanmiguel taking notes manually for later transcription.

Treasurer (Michael Pilletere): no report. (could not attend)

No Old Business.

New Business:

Susan moved for a cut-off for receipts from OASIS 21. August 17 was the agreed upon date for the next OASFis meeting.

Patricia discussed the fact that Orange County Library will be charging for meeting space in October. The club cannot afford to pay. Patricia looked into using the community room in the Fashion Square Mall. The pros of using this location are free parking, close to good restaurants and near a movie theater. Patricia was in the process of filling out the application form. Colleen made a motion to go to Fashion Square Mall. Steve Grant seconded. The measure passed unchallenged.

Patricia discussed the next meeting of the Science Café. The Science Café is a meeting done at Stardust Video discussing science topics. Next meeting will deal with obesity. It will be on Wednesday August 6. Patricia will check it out. Unfortunately many members will be at Worldcon in Denver that weekend.

Steve Grant discussed bringing back SciFi Lite. He is considering a Robert Asprin novel for the first book. One suggestion is *Myth*

(Continued on page 2)

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August OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, August 17, 1:30 PM, Orange Public Library (Downtown Orlando, 101 E. Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801, 407-835-7323). Come join us as we discuss ***Emissaries from the Dead*** by Adam-Troy Castro

To contact for more info: 407-823-8715

SciFi Light

Saturday August 16, 5:00 PM, Bikes, Beans and Bordeaux (3022 Corrine Drive Orlando, FL 32803, 407-427-1440). Come join us and discuss ***Another Fine Myth*** by Robert Asprin.

For more info contact Steve Grant

Conceptions. The restaurant is not set yet. Bikes, Beans, and Bordeaux (B³), a bicycle themed restaurant near the old Sci Fi City site on Corrine, was suggested. Hector recommended some restaurants in the Baldwin Park. Saturday evenings were recommended as a meeting time.

Juan Sanmiguel was thanked for allowing the club to use his house for the 4th of July Party.

Necronomicon was discussed. Steve Grant and Juan Sanmiguel plan to put on a party to promote OASIS.

Deb Canaday and Arthur Dykeman are going to Dragoncon.

Juan Sanmiguel is going to Vulkan and will have a fan table for OASIS.

Media

Susan Cole said ***Eureka*** will be coming back on SciFi channel soon.

Arthur Dykeman mentioned the British show ***Primeval*** will be coming to BBC America.

The Sarah Conner Chronicles and ***Heroes: Villians*** will be coming back in the Fall.

Steve Grant brought up a disturbing film rumor. There will be a new Sherlock Holmes film. Sherlock Homes played by Robert Downey and Watson played by Will Farrell. Juan Sanmiguel commented its bad enough that Farrell is in the ***Land of the Lost*** movie.

Bob Yazel recently purchased a copy of the original ***Outer Limits*** soundtrack.

Ed Anthony brought a review of ***My Illustrious Wasteland***, a play by local performer Todd Kimbro, who has been and written in many plays at the Orlando Fringe Fest.

OASFiS People

Steve Cole	407-275-5211 stevepc@hotmail.com
Susan Cole	407-275-5211 sacole@mindspring.com
Arthur Dykeman	407-328-9565 adykeman@bellsouth.net
Steve Grant	352 241 0670 stevegrant@embarqmail.com
Mike Pilletere	mike-sf@webbedfeet.com
David Ratti	407-282-2468 dratti@eudoramail.com
Juan Sanmiguel	407-823-8715 sanmiguel@earthlink.net
Patricia Wheeler	407-832-1428 pwheeler222@netzero.net

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

Current genre films out are ***Hellboy II***, ***Journey to the Center of the Earth***, and ***WALL-E***. Coming soon is ***The Dark Knight*** and ***Mummy 3***.

Convention

Juan discussed the current state of Hotel negotiations. The main worry is the hotel's stability. A recent article in the *Orlando Sentinel* made the hotel situation appear grim. The hotel offered to postpone payment of the deposit till two months before the convention. The Executive Board wanted some additional things spelled out specifically the day of final payment and free tables. Juan was asked to look into the Wyndham as a backup hotel. It is hoped that negotiations will be wrapped up by Necronomicon.

Juan has confirmed that Toni Weisskopf will be the Editor Guest of Honor. Johnny Atomic will be the Artist Guest of Honor. David Weber is being considered as a Special Guest Writer.

Susan Cole recommended local David Palmer as a guest.

Steve Grant will be running the Dealer's Room.

All expenses for the convention will be reviewed.

A short break was taken before the Book Discussion

Book Discussion

The book this month was ***Kormarr*** by Lois McMaster Bujold. Bujold will be the Writer Guest of Honor at Denvention 3, the 2008 Worldcon. Patricia introduced the book, the background of Vorkosigan series and Bujold's works. Patricia likes the fact the novels were not written linearly.

Juan liked how the final problem was solved. The ending could have been a "wham bang" action sequence. Miles Vorkosigan

(Continued on page 3)

used his brains and talked his way out of the situation. Roger felt that nothing happened in the book. Martin thought this book was more cerebral than previous books in the series.

Juan likes the series but has only read it sporadically. One thing in the back of Juan's mind was that the novel had a non-democratic government in the future. Juan cited the works of Asimov, Pournelle and Weber where the future had a non-democratic government. Steve Cole said writers do this is because for democracy to work well quick communication is needed. Without good communication, distant foreign possessions would be handled as they were in the 18-19th centuries. Patricia pointed out that Barrayar at the time of the novel was not as rigid as it was in the past and populism was slowly creeping in.

Juan also liked the fact it was possible to read any book in the series reading the earlier books. Bujold gives one enough information for the book to stand alone.

Steve did not like the fact that Vorsoisson was made a villain from the start. This showed a lack of subtlety. Juan disagreed. Vorsoisson was not a villain. He was an incompetent man who was at the end of his rope. Vorsoisson was not killer. His accomplices were also not killers, although their actions resulted in unintentional deaths.

The book for September was discussed. Juan suggested Frederik Pohl's *Gateway* since Pohl is Necronomicon's Guest of Honor. *Gateway* was easily available on Amazon. Colleen suggest that people could read different Pohl books and just discuss Pohl's work. Juan thought that would be unwieldy.

Next month's book is *Emissaries From the Dead* by Adam-Troy Castro.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18PM. The meeting after the meeting was at a Jason's Deli near Fashion Square Mall.

Awards
(Source Locus)

John W. Campbell Award for Best Novel of 2007

In War Times by Kathleen Ann Goonan (prior OASIS GOH)

Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award Best Short Fiction of 2007 (Tie)

"Tideline" by Elizabeth Bear

"Finisterra" by David Moles

Both awards were presented at the at The Capbell Conference in Kansas City, MO.

Rhysling Awards.

These were presented at Readercon.

SHORT POEM

winner: "Eating Light", F. J. Bergmann (*Mythic Delirium* Summer/Fall 2007)

2nd place: "Ice Palace", Margaret Atwood (*The Door* McClelland & Stewart, 2007)

3rd place: "The Oracle on River Street", Rachel Swirsky (*Goblin Fruit* Summer 2007)

LONG POEM

winner: "The Seven Devils of Central California", Catherynne M. Valente (*Farrago's Wainscot* Summer 2007)

2nd place: *In Deepspace Shadows*, Kendall Evans (Mythic Delirium Books)

3rd place: "The Engineer", Bryan Dietrich (*Isotope: A Journal of Literary Nature and Science Writing* Fall/Winter 2007)

GRAND MASTER POET Ray Bradbury

Shirley Jackson Awards Winners

(additional source Steve Grant)

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The story starts with artist and temp worker Wendy Watson being attacked by a monster at the genetic engineering firm she was working at. Wendy is able to keep a cool head and fight back with a letter opener. She is rescued by a mysterious man with high tech weapons. Unfortunately Wendy finds herself out of work. She receives an offer at a mysterious temp agency. At the temp agency Wendy is reunited by her rescue her who only calls himself the Middleman. It turns out the world is full of mad scientists, aliens, ghouls, and robots who want to either rule or destroy the Earth. The Middleman works for an organization that deals with such threats. Nothing is known about the organization except that it has furnished the Middleman with advanced equipment and a cranky robot secretary named Ida. The Middleman offers Wendy a job as sidekick/protégé. Wendy initially turns it down but accepts after her boyfriend breaks up with her and films the break up for a film school project. Together they “fight evil so you don’t have to”.

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On Sunday, I saw a fan edit of the *Next Generation* episode "Best of Both Worlds". I missed the first half and was told they added footage from other Treks that took place during the story, like Sisko's escape from Wolf 359. I watched Nick Roche host Trek Jeopardy. I did not participate since there were more than enough contestants. Then I caught most of Jonathan Frakes' presentation. I always admired Frakes as a director and his connection to the Disney animated series *Gargoyles*.

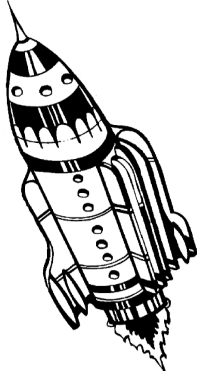
I wish there were more panels, but according to the Vulkan forums everyone seemed to have a good time. I also hope they go back to name tags.

I want to thank John Humphett and Nick Roche for working on the non guest programming. Their contributions make Vulkan fun for me.

The next Orlando Sci Fi Expo will be on Halloween weekend with Michael Dorn (Worf, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*) and Terry Farrel (Jadzia Dax, *Star Trek: Deepspace Nine*)

SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
IN ORLANDO

OASIS 22
May 22-24, 2009



Guest of Honor
Peter David
*Sir Apropos of Nothing,
Woad to Wuin,,
Tong Lashing, Darkness of the Light,
Tigerheart, Star Trek: New Frontiers,
The Incredible Hulk*

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\$109/night, single-quad
through 4/30/09
Mention OASIS for rate

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Weekend Memberships:
\$30 until 1/1/09,
\$35 until 4/30/09,
\$40 at the door.

Make checks payable to:
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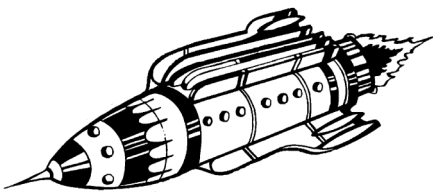
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Lake Mary, FL 32746

Editor Guest of Honor
Toni Weiskopf
Baen Books

Artist Guest of Honor
Johnny Atomic
*Diamond Castle, Stop the Chandelier ,
Frank Ng- Hired Gun*

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OASFIS
P.O. Box 592905
ORLANDO, FL 32859-2905



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Sorry for this coming a bit late. Its been a busy month. We finally signed with the Sheraton Downtown Orlando. Both the con and club website have been updated appropriately.

There is also more to come in the next few weeks. I will be in Denver for Worldcon. The weekend after that is Anime Festival Orlando 9. That same weekend will be the first new SF Light meeting hosted by Steve Grant.

Next month will be the big Worldcon report. I may do an AFO report for the next month.

Also a reminder I will accept any contributions and please check out our Yahoo group (search OASFis). See you next month.

Events

Yasumicon

August 1-3
Florida International University
Tamiami Campus, Graham Center
Guest: Brandon Potter (Shanks, *One Piece*)
FREE
<http://www.yasumicon/.com>

Ancient City Con

August 2-3
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
Terrance Pavilion 1
225 Easy Coast Line Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Guests: David Brookover, Linda S. Cowen,
Bo Savino/AJ Rand, Tracy A. Akers, KL Nappier,
Kevin Ransom, William Hatfield, Gary S. Roen
\$15 pre-reg for both days,\$20 at the door

Anime Festival Orlando

August 15-17
Wyndham Orlando Resort
8001 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819
Guests: Colleen Clinkenbeard, Aaron Dismuke,
Jason David Frank, Reuben Langdon, Christopher Patton,
Monica Rial, Doug Smith, Travis Willingham,
Stephanie Yanez
\$45 for all three days
www.animefestivalorlando.com

OASFIS June meeting minutes 7/13/08:

Meeting called to order at 1:45 pm by Patricia Wheeler, President.

In attendance: Patricia Wheeler, Roger Sims, Pat Sims, Arthur Dykeman, Dick Spelman, Susan Cole, Steven Cole, Juan Sanmiguel, Colleen O'Brien, Ed Anthony, Dave Ratti, Hector Hoglin, Bob Yazel and Martin Kemp

Officer Reports:

Vice-President (Colleen O'Brien): She discussed the T-Shirt situation she has been working on. We may have someone who might able to make the shirts. She will follow up on the lead.

President (Patricia Wheeler): no report

Secretary (Pat Russell): no report. Juan Sanmiguel taking notes manually for later transcription.

Treasurer (Michael Pilletere): no report. (could not attend)

No Old Business.

New Business:

Susan moved for a cut-off for receipts from OASIS 21. August 17 was the agreed upon date for the next OASFis meeting.

Patricia discussed the fact that Orange County Library will be charging for meeting space in October. The club cannot afford to pay. Patricia looked into using the community room in the Fashion Square Mall. The pros of using this location are free parking, close to good restaurants and near a movie theater. Patricia was in the process of filling out the application form. Colleen made a motion to go to Fashion Square Mall. Steve Grant seconded. The measure passed unchallenged.

Patricia discussed the next meeting of the Science Café. The Science Café is a meeting done at Stardust Video discussing science topics. Next meeting will deal with obesity. It will be on Wednesday August 6. Patricia will check it out. Unfortunately many members will be at Worldcon in Denver that weekend.

Steve Grant discussed bringing back SciFi Lite. He is considering a Robert Asprin novel for the first book. One suggestion is *Myth*

(Continued on page 2)

August OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, August 17, 1:30 PM, Orange Public Library (Downtown Orlando, 101 E. Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801, 407-835-7323). Come join us as we discuss ***Emissaries from the Dead*** by Adam-Troy Castro

To contact for more info: 407-823-8715

SciFi Light

Saturday August 16, 5:00 PM, Bikes, Beans and Bordeaux (3022 Corrine Drive Orlando, FL 32803, 407-427-1440). Come join us and discuss ***Another Fine Myth*** by Robert Asprin.

For more info contact Steve Grant

Conceptions. The restaurant is not set yet. Bikes, Beans, and Bordeaux (B³), a bicycle themed restaurant near the old Sci Fi City site on Corrine, was suggested. Hector recommended some restaurants in the Baldwin Park. Saturday evenings were recommended as a meeting time.

Juan Sanmiguel was thanked for allowing the club to use his house for the 4th of July Party.

Necronomicon was discussed. Steve Grant and Juan Sanmiguel plan to put on a party to promote OASIS.

Deb Canaday and Arthur Dykeman are going to Dragoncon.

Juan Sanmiguel is going to Vulkan and will have a fan table for OASIS.

Media

Susan Cole said ***Eureka*** will be coming back on SciFi channel soon.

Arthur Dykeman mentioned the British show ***Primeval*** will be coming to BBC America.

The Sarah Conner Chronicles and ***Heroes: Villians*** will be coming back in the Fall.

Steve Grant brought up a disturbing film rumor. There will be a new Sherlock Holmes film. Sherlock Homes played by Robert Downey and Watson played by Will Farrell. Juan Sanmiguel commented its bad enough that Farrell is in the ***Land of the Lost*** movie.

Bob Yazel recently purchased a copy of the original ***Outer Limits*** soundtrack.

Ed Anthony brought a review of ***My Illustrious Wasteland***, a play by local performer Todd Kimbro, who has been and written in many plays at the Orlando Fringe Fest.

OASFiS People

Steve Cole	407-275-5211 stevepc@hotmial.com
Susan Cole	407-275-5211 sacole@mindspring.com
Arthur Dykeman	407-328-9565 adykeman@bellsouth.net
Steve Grant	352 241 0670 stevegrant@embarqmail.com
Mike Pilleteere	mike-sf@webbedfeet.com
David Ratti	407-282-2468 dratti@eudoramail.com
Juan Sanmiguel	407-823-8715 sanmiguel@earthlink.net
Patricia Wheeler	407-832-1428 pwheeler222@netzero.net

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

Current genre films out are ***Hellboy II***, ***Journey to the Center of the Earth***, and ***WALL-E***. Coming soon is ***The Dark Knight*** and ***Mummy 3***.

Convention

Juan discussed the current state of Hotel negotiations. The main worry is the hotel's stability. A recent article in the *Orlando Sentinel* made the hotel situation appear grim. The hotel offered to postpone payment of the deposit till two months before the convention. The Executive Board wanted some additional things spelled out specifically the day of final payment and free tables. Juan was asked to look into the Wyndham as a backup hotel. It is hoped that negotiations will be wrapped up by Necronomicon.

Juan has confirmed that Toni Weisskopf will be the Editor Guest of Honor. Johnny Atomic will be the Artist Guest of Honor. David Weber is being considered as a Special Guest Writer.

Susan Cole recommended local David Palmer as a guest.

Steve Grant will be running the Dealer's Room.

All expenses for the convention will be reviewed.

A short break was taken before the Book Discussion

Book Discussion

The book this month was ***Kormarr*** by Lois McMaster Bujold. Bujold will be the Writer Guest of Honor at Denvention 3, the 2008 Worldcon. Patricia introduced the book, the background of Vorkosigan series and Bujold's works. Patricia likes the fact the novels were not written linearly.

Juan liked how the final problem was solved. The ending could have been a "wham bang" action sequence. Miles Vorkosigan

(Continued on page 3)

used his brains and talked his way out of the situation. Roger felt that nothing happened in the book. Martin thought this book was more cerebral than previous books in the series.

Juan likes the series but has only read it sporadically. One thing in the back of Juan's mind was that the novel had a non-democratic government in the future. Juan cited the works of Asimov, Pournelle and Weber where the future had a non-democratic government. Steve Cole said writers do this is because for democracy to work well quick communication is needed. Without good communication, distant foreign possessions would be handled as they were in the 18-19th centuries. Patricia pointed out that Barrayar at the time of the novel was not as rigid as it was in the past and populism was slowly creeping in.

Juan also liked the fact it was possible to read any book in the series reading the earlier books. Bujold gives one enough information for the book to stand alone.

Steve did not like the fact that Vorsoisson was made a villain from the start. This showed a lack of subtlety. Juan disagreed. Vorsoisson was not a villain. He was an incompetent man who was at the end of his rope. Vorsoisson was not killer. His accomplices were also not killers, although their actions resulted in unintentional deaths.

The book for September was discussed. Juan suggested Frederik Pohl's *Gateway* since Pohl is Necronomicon's Guest of Honor. *Gateway* was easily available on Amazon. Colleen suggest that people could read different Pohl books and just discuss Pohl's work. Juan thought that would be unwieldy.

Next month's book is *Emissaries From the Dead* by Adam-Troy Castro.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18PM. The meeting after the meeting was at a Jason's Deli near Fashion Square Mall.

Awards
(Source Locus)

John W. Campbell Award for Best Novel of 2007

In War Times by Kathleen Ann Goonan (prior OASIS GOH)

Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award Best Short Fiction of 2007 (Tie)

"Tideline" by Elizabeth Bear

"Finisterra" by David Moles

Both awards were presented at the at The Capbell Conference in Kansas City, MO.

Rhysling Awards.

These were presented at Readercon.

SHORT POEM

winner: "Eating Light", F. J. Bergmann (*Mythic Delirium* Summer/Fall 2007)

2nd place: "Ice Palace", Margaret Atwood (*The Door* McClelland & Stewart, 2007)

3rd place: "The Oracle on River Street", Rachel Swirsky (*Goblin Fruit* Summer 2007)

LONG POEM

winner: "The Seven Devils of Central California", Catherynne M. Valente (*Farrago's Wainscot* Summer 2007)

2nd place: *In Deepspace Shadows*, Kendall Evans (Mythic Delirium Books)

3rd place: "The Engineer", Bryan Dietrich (*Isotope: A Journal of Literary Nature and Science Writing* Fall/Winter 2007)

GRAND MASTER POET Ray Bradbury

Shirley Jackson Awards Winners

(additional source Steve Grant)

These awards were presented for the first time at Readercon. The awards are given for "outstanding achievement in the literature of psychological suspense, horror or the drak fantastic."

NOVEL

· *Generation Loss*, Elizabeth Hand (Small Beer Press)

NOVELLA

· "Vacancy", Lucius Shepard (*Subterranean* #7)

NOVELETTE

· "The Janus Tree", Glen Hirshberg (*Inferno*)

"SHORT STORY

· "The Monsters of Heaven", Nathan Ballingrud (*Inferno*)

COLLECTION

· *The Imago Sequence and Other Stories*, Laird Barron (Night Shade Books)

ANTHOLOGY

· *Inferno*, Ellen Datlow, ed. (Tor)

Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award

Stanley G. Weinbaum

The Middleman

One of the best SF/Fantasy related comedies has come to ABC Family channel. *The Middleman* is based on an independent comic book created by Javier Grillo-Marxuach (writer) and Les McClaine (artist).

The story starts with artist and temp worker Wendy Watson being attacked by a monster at the genetic engineering firm she was working at. Wendy is able to keep a cool head and fight back with a letter opener. She is rescued by a mysterious man with high tech weapons. Unfortunately Wendy finds herself out of work. She receives an offer at a mysterious temp agency. At the temp agency Wendy is reunited by her rescue her who only calls himself the Middleman. It turns out the world is full of mad scientists, aliens, ghouls, and robots who want to either rule or destroy the Earth. The Middleman works for an organization that deals with such threats. Nothing is known about the organization except that it has furnished the Middleman with advanced equipment and a cranky robot secretary named Ida. The Middleman offers Wendy a job as sidekick/protégé. Wendy initially turns it down but accepts after her boyfriend breaks up with her and films the break up for a film school project. Together they “fight evil so you don’t have to”.

Not much is known about the Middleman. He was a former Navy Seal during the first Gulf War. He was recruited by the previous Middleman. He has no vices and rarely swears. Despite this Dudley Do-Right exterior, the Middleman is always competent when dealing the paranormal. He is even good at dealing with people most of the time. This makes him a better manager/leader than Captain Jack Harkness in *Torchwood*.

Wendy is a comic fan and loves first person shooter games on the Xbox. Wendy does not question what she sees and is good in a crisis. This is why she was recruited. Wendy is still in training but as meets every challenge successfully.

Rounding out the cast is Lacey, Wendy’s roommate. She is a confrontational spoken word performance artist. She is a very sweet and passionate person. Lacey supports Wendy’s endeavors without question. She has also taken a shine to Wendy’s mysterious boss. Noser is a musician who lives in the same building as Wendy and Lacey. Noser offers words of wisdom while working on his music.

The plots are typical superhero comic book/classic pulp magazines plots. Some paranormal force is trying to disrupt life as we know it and the Middleman and Wendy go after it. Sometimes it gets complicated with the slings and arrows of Wendy’s personal life. So far adversaries have included a super-ape, an ancient Chinese Earth Warrior, hostile Mexican wrestlers, and aliens in disguise. At the same time Wendy has had to deal with the break up with her boyfriend, becoming a YouTube hit, dealing with a temperamental martial arts sensei, and making it to Lacey’s performance at an art festival.

The special effects are a bit on the cheap side. They use a blue screen for car interior scenes. Some of the CGI and monsters sometimes look like the bad effects you see on the Sci Fi Channel Saturday night movie. Still this adds a surreal quality to the show and helps with the humor.

The humor is everywhere. The titles indicating the place and time for the scene is a great source of fun. Wendy and

Lacey’s loft is referred to as “the illegal sublet Wendy shares with another young photogenic artist”. One week all the time titles used times from various timezones all over the world. Another week all the times where abstract, like “Nap time” or “Hammer time”.

Each episode goes for theme references. The second episode used references from Frank Herbert. This episode had a Frank Herbert Junior High, a Caladan (the Atrides home planet in *Dune*) Street, and characters named Jessica and Duncan. Other themes have included the film *Back to the Future* and the Indiana Jones film series.

As one can see the tongue is fully planted in cheek in this series. In the Middleman and Wendy we are the John Steed and Emma Peel on of the new Millennium.

Little Brother

by

Cory Doctorow

Cory Doctorow has been talking about the new frontier that is the Internet for years. Now he has written a new young adult novel which serves the same purpose of Heinlein’s juveniles, to tell a good story and expose young minds to real scientific concepts. The subjects Doctorow discusses are computer security and cryptography.

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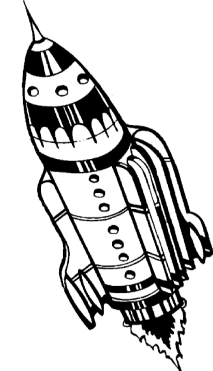
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OASIS 22
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Guest of Honor
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Tong Lashing, Darkness of the Light,
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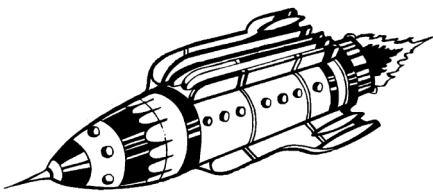
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Toni Weiskopf
Baen Books

Artist Guest of Honor
Johnny Atomic
*Diamond Castle, Stop the Chandelier ,
Frank Ng- Hired Gun*

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P.O. Box 592905
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Volume 21 Number 3 Issue 250

August 2008

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Sorry for this coming a bit late. Its been a busy month. We finally signed with the Sheraton Downtown Orlando. Both the con and club website have been updated appropriately.

There is also more to come in the next few weeks. I will be in Denver for Worldcon. The weekend after that is Anime Festival Orlando 9. That same weekend will be the first new SF Light meeting hosted by Steve Grant.

Next month will be the big Worldcon report. I may do an AFO report for the next month.

Also a reminder I will accept any contributions and please check out our Yahoo group (search OASFis). See you next month.

Events

Yasumicon

August 1-3
Florida International University
Tamiami Campus, Graham Center
Guest: Brandon Potter (Shanks, *One Piece*)
FREE
<http://www.yasumicon/.com>

Ancient City Con

August 2-3
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
Terrance Pavilion 1
225 Easy Coast Line Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Guests: David Brookover, Linda S. Cowen,
Bo Savino/AJ Rand, Tracy A. Akers, KL Nappier,
Kevin Ransom, William Hatfield, Gary S. Roen
\$15 pre-reg for both days,\$20 at the door

Anime Festival Orlando

August 15-17
Wyndham Orlando Resort
8001 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819
Guests: Colleen Clinkenbeard, Aaron Dismuke,
Jason David Frank, Reuben Langdon, Christopher Patton,
Monica Rial, Doug Smith, Travis Willingham,
Stephanie Yanez
\$45 for all three days
www.animefestivalorlando.com

OASFIS June meeting minutes 7/13/08:

Meeting called to order at 1:45 pm by Patricia Wheeler, President.

In attendance: Patricia Wheeler, Roger Sims, Pat Sims, Arthur Dykeman, Dick Spelman, Susan Cole, Steven Cole, Juan Sanmiguel, Colleen O'Brien, Ed Anthony, Dave Ratti, Hector Hoglin, Bob Yazel and Martin Kemp

Officer Reports:

Vice-President (Colleen O'Brien): She discussed the T-Shirt situation she has been working on. We may have someone who might able to make the shirts. She will follow up on the lead.

President (Patricia Wheeler): no report

Secretary (Pat Russell): no report. Juan Sanmiguel taking notes manually for later transcription.

Treasurer (Michael Pilletere): no report. (could not attend)

No Old Business.

New Business:

Susan moved for a cut-off for receipts from OASIS 21. August 17 was the agreed upon date for the next OASFis meeting.

Patricia discussed the fact that Orange County Library will be charging for meeting space in October. The club cannot afford to pay. Patricia looked into using the community room in the Fashion Square Mall. The pros of using this location are free parking, close to good restaurants and near a movie theater. Patricia was in the process of filling out the application form. Colleen made a motion to go to Fashion Square Mall. Steve Grant seconded. The measure passed unchallenged.

Patricia discussed the next meeting of the Science Café. The Science Café is a meeting done at Stardust Video discussing science topics. Next meeting will deal with obesity. It will be on Wednesday August 6. Patricia will check it out. Unfortunately many members will be at Worldcon in Denver that weekend.

Steve Grant discussed bringing back SciFi Lite. He is considering a Robert Asprin novel for the first book. One suggestion is *Myth*

(Continued on page 2)

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August OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, August 17, 1:30 PM, Orange Public Library (Downtown Orlando, 101 E. Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801, 407-835-7323). Come join us as we discuss ***Emissaries from the Dead*** by Adam-Troy Castro

To contact for more info: 407-823-8715

SciFi Light

Saturday August 16, 5:00 PM, Bikes, Beans and Bordeaux (3022 Corrine Drive Orlando, FL 32803, 407-427-1440). Come join us and discuss ***Another Fine Myth*** by Robert Asprin.

For more info contact Steve Grant

Conceptions. The restaurant is not set yet. Bikes, Beans, and Bordeaux (B³), a bicycle themed restaurant near the old Sci Fi City site on Corrine, was suggested. Hector recommended some restaurants in the Baldwin Park. Saturday evenings were recommended as a meeting time.

Juan Sanmiguel was thanked for allowing the club to use his house for the 4th of July Party.

Necronomicon was discussed. Steve Grant and Juan Sanmiguel plan to put on a party to promote OASIS.

Deb Canaday and Arthur Dykeman are going to Dragoncon.

Juan Sanmiguel is going to Vulkan and will have a fan table for OASIS.

Media

Susan Cole said ***Eureka*** will be coming back on SciFi channel soon.

Arthur Dykeman mentioned the British show ***Primeval*** will be coming to BBC America.

The Sarah Conner Chronicles and ***Heroes: Villians*** will be coming back in the Fall.

Steve Grant brought up a disturbing film rumor. There will be a new Sherlock Holmes film. Sherlock Homes played by Robert Downey and Watson played by Will Farrell. Juan Sanmiguel commented its bad enough that Farrell is in the ***Land of the Lost*** movie.

Bob Yazel recently purchased a copy of the original ***Outer Limits*** soundtrack.

Ed Anthony brought a review of ***My Illustrious Wasteland***, a play by local performer Todd Kimbro, who has been and written in many plays at the Orlando Fringe Fest.

OASFiS People

Steve Cole	407-275-5211 stevepcole@hotmail.com
Susan Cole	407-275-5211 sacole@mindspring.com
Arthur Dykeman	407-328-9565 adykeman@bellsouth.net
Steve Grant	352 241 0670 stevegrant@embarqmail.com
Mike Pilletere	mike-sf@webbedfeet.com
David Ratti	407-282-2468 dratti@eudoramail.com
Juan Sanmiguel	407-823-8715 sanmiguel@earthlink.net
Patricia Wheeler	407-832-1428 pwheeler222@netzero.net

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

Current genre films out are ***Hellboy II***, ***Journey to the Center of the Earth***, and ***WALL-E***. Coming soon is ***The Dark Knight*** and ***Mummy 3***.

Convention

Juan discussed the current state of Hotel negotiations. The main worry is the hotel's stability. A recent article in the *Orlando Sentinel* made the hotel situation appear grim. The hotel offered to postpone payment of the deposit till two months before the convention. The Executive Board wanted some additional things spelled out specifically the day of final payment and free tables. Juan was asked to look into the Wyndham as a backup hotel. It is hoped that negotiations will be wrapped up by Necronomicon.

Juan has confirmed that Toni Weisskopf will be the Editor Guest of Honor. Johnny Atomic will be the Artist Guest of Honor. David Weber is being considered as a Special Guest Writer.

Susan Cole recommended local David Palmer as a guest.

Steve Grant will be running the Dealer's Room.

All expenses for the convention will be reviewed.

A short break was taken before the Book Discussion

Book Discussion

The book this month was ***Kormarr*** by Lois McMaster Bujold. Bujold will be the Writer Guest of Honor at Denvention 3, the 2008 Worldcon. Patricia introduced the book, the background of Vorkosigan series and Bujold's works. Patricia likes the fact the novels were not written linearly.

Juan liked how the final problem was solved. The ending could have been a "wham bang" action sequence. Miles Vorkosigan

(Continued on page 3)

used his brains and talked his way out of the situation. Roger felt that nothing happened in the book. Martin thought this book was more cerebral than previous books in the series.

Juan likes the series but has only read it sporadically. One thing in the back of Juan's mind was that the novel had a non-democratic government in the future. Juan cited the works of Asimov, Pournelle and Weber where the future had a non-democratic government. Steve Cole said writers do this is because for democracy to work well quick communication is needed. Without good communication, distant foreign possessions would be handled as they were in the 18-19th centuries. Patricia pointed out that Barrayar at the time of the novel was not as rigid as it was in the past and populism was slowly creeping in.

Juan also liked the fact it was possible to read any book in the series reading the earlier books. Bujold gives one enough information for the book to stand alone.

Steve did not like the fact that Vorsoisson was made a villain from the start. This showed a lack of subtlety. Juan disagreed. Vorsoisson was not a villain. He was an incompetent man who was at the end of his rope. Vorsoisson was not killer. His accomplices were also not killers, although their actions resulted in unintentional deaths.

The book for September was discussed. Juan suggested Frederik Pohl's *Gateway* since Pohl is Necronomicon's Guest of Honor. *Gateway* was easily available on Amazon. Colleen suggest that people could read different Pohl books and just discuss Pohl's work. Juan thought that would be unwieldy.

Next month's book is *Emissaries From the Dead* by Adam-Troy Castro.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18PM. The meeting after the meeting was at a Jason's Deli near Fashion Square Mall.

Awards
(Source Locus)

John W. Campbell Award for Best Novel of 2007

In War Times by Kathleen Ann Goonan (prior OASIS GOH)

Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award Best Short Fiction of 2007 (Tie)

"Tideline" by Elizabeth Bear

"Finisterra" by David Moles

Both awards were presented at the at The Capbell Conference in Kansas City, MO.

Rhysling Awards.

These were presented at Readercon.

SHORT POEM

winner: "Eating Light", F. J. Bergmann (*Mythic Delirium* Summer/Fall 2007)

2nd place: "Ice Palace", Margaret Atwood (*The Door* McClelland & Stewart, 2007)

3rd place: "The Oracle on River Street", Rachel Swirsky (*Goblin Fruit* Summer 2007)

LONG POEM

winner: "The Seven Devils of Central California", Catherynne M. Valente (*Farrago's Wainscot* Summer 2007)

2nd place: *In Deepspace Shadows*, Kendall Evans (Mythic Delirium Books)

3rd place: "The Engineer", Bryan Dietrich (*Isotope: A Journal of Literary Nature and Science Writing* Fall/Winter 2007)

GRAND MASTER POET Ray Bradbury

Shirley Jackson Awards Winners

(additional source Steve Grant)

These awards were presented for the first time at Readercon. The awards are given for "outstanding achievement in the literature of psychological suspense, horror or the drak fantastic."

NOVEL

· *Generation Loss*, Elizabeth Hand (Small Beer Press)

NOVELLA

· "Vacancy", Lucius Shepard (*Subterranean* #7)

NOVELETTE

· "The Janus Tree", Glen Hirshberg (*Inferno*)

"SHORT STORY

· "The Monsters of Heaven", Nathan Ballingrud (*Inferno*)

COLLECTION

· *The Imago Sequence and Other Stories*, Laird Barron (Night Shade Books)

ANTHOLOGY

· *Inferno*, Ellen Datlow, ed. (Tor)

Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award

Stanley G. Weinbaum

The Middleman

One of the best SF/Fantasy related comedies has come to ABC Family channel. *The Middleman* is based on an independent comic book created by Javier Grillo-Marxuach (writer) and Les McClaine (artist).

The story starts with artist and temp worker Wendy Watson being attacked by a monster at the genetic engineering firm she was working at. Wendy is able to keep a cool head and fight back with a letter opener. She is rescued by a mysterious man with high tech weapons. Unfortunately Wendy finds herself out of work. She receives an offer at a mysterious temp agency. At the temp agency Wendy is reunited by her rescue her who only calls himself the Middleman. It turns out the world is full of mad scientists, aliens, ghouls, and robots who want to either rule or destroy the Earth. The Middleman works for an organization that deals with such threats. Nothing is known about the organization except that it has furnished the Middleman with advanced equipment and a cranky robot secretary named Ida. The Middleman offers Wendy a job as sidekick/protégé. Wendy initially turns it down but accepts after her boyfriend breaks up with her and films the break up for a film school project. Together they “fight evil so you don’t have to”.

Not much is known about the Middleman. He was a former Navy Seal during the first Gulf War. He was recruited by the previous Middleman. He has no vices and rarely swears. Despite this Dudley Do-Right exterior, the Middleman is always competent when dealing the paranormal. He is even good at dealing with people most of the time. This makes him a better manager/leader than Captain Jack Harkness in *Torchwood*.

Wendy is a comic fan and loves first person shooter games on the Xbox. Wendy does not question what she sees and is good in a crisis. This is why she was recruited. Wendy is still in training but as meets every challenge successfully.

Rounding out the cast is Lacey, Wendy’s roommate. She is a confrontational spoken word performance artist. She is a very sweet and passionate person. Lacey supports Wendy’s endeavors without question. She has also taken a shine to Wendy’s mysterious boss. Noser is a musician who lives in the same building as Wendy and Lacey. Noser offers words of wisdom while working on his music.

The plots are typical superhero comic book/classic pulp magazines plots. Some paranormal force is trying to disrupt life as we know it and the Middleman and Wendy go after it. Sometimes it gets complicated with the slings and arrows of Wendy’s personal life. So far adversaries have included a super-ape, an ancient Chinese Earth Warrior, hostile Mexican wrestlers, and aliens in disguise. At the same time Wendy has had to deal with the break up with her boyfriend, becoming a YouTube hit, dealing with a temperamental martial arts sensei, and making it to Lacey’s performance at an art festival.

The special effects are a bit on the cheap side. They use a blue screen for car interior scenes. Some of the CGI and monsters sometimes look like the bad effects you see on the Sci Fi Channel Saturday night movie. Still this adds a surreal quality to the show and helps with the humor.

The humor is everywhere. The titles indicating the place and time for the scene is a great source of fun. Wendy and

Lacey’s loft is referred to as “the illegal sublet Wendy shares with another young photogenic artist”. One week all the time titles used times from various timezones all over the world. Another week all the times where abstract, like “Nap time” or “Hammer time”.

Each episode goes for theme references. The second episode used references from Frank Herbert. This episode had a Frank Herbert Junior High, a Caladan (the Atrides home planet in *Dune*) Street, and characters named Jessica and Duncan. Other themes have included the film *Back to the Future* and the Indiana Jones film series.

As one can see the tongue is fully planted in cheek in this series. In the Middleman and Wendy we are the John Steed and Emma Peel on of the new Millennium.

Little Brother

by

Cory Doctorow

Cory Doctorow has been talking about the new frontier that is the Internet for years. Now he has written a new young adult novel which serves the same purpose of Heinlein’s juveniles, to tell a good story and expose young minds to real scientific concepts. The subjects Doctorow discusses are computer security and cryptography.

The novel is set a few years in the future. Marcus Yellow is a high school senior in San Francisco. He knows his way around computers. Marcus is able to bypass certain restrictions on his school issue laptop and built his own personal laptop. One day Marcus is out with friends playing a Alternate Reality Game(ARG), a combination of Live Action Role Playing Game (LARP) and scavenger hunt. While investigating a clue to the game an earthquake seems to occur. Marcus jumps in front a military vehicle to get some help for his friend Darryl who is hurt. The occupants of the vehicle arrest Marcus and his friends and sequestered them in an unknown location. They are not allowed to talk to each other or anyone outside their prison. Marcus is interrogated to reveal his cell phone password. The authorities use mental and physical intimidation to get what they want. It turns out that Bay Bridge was blown up by terrorists. The federal government decided to round any possible suspects after the attack. Marcus is released and told not reveal what happened to anyone or he risks more imprisonment. All Marcus friends have been released except Darryl. Marcus wants to strike back, particularly when he discovers his laptop has been bugged. He is able to set up a private network consisting of Xboxes loaded with an operating system designed to watch for intrusions. With this network Marcus is able to organize people to fight against the totalitarian atmosphere which has engulfed the Bay Area. In doing so, he will find pain, notoriety and love.

Doctorow nails the character of Marcus. He feels like a real seventeen year old. I could see myself being like Marcus if I had the access to the technology he has. At first Marcus is impetuous, but his imprisonment makes him think things through more carefully. Marcus understands the risks he takes can bring down the force of the government, specifically the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Marcus believes

(Continued on page 5)

those risks are worth it to fight the heavy handed nature of the DHS security measure in San Francisco.

They adults and Marcus peers are also believable. They all react differently to the situation. Some of Marcus' friends back away due to the fear of going back to detainment. Others want to get back at the new system. The same goes for the adults. A rift grows between Marcus and his father. His father supports the security measures. Marcus' British mother is a little more concerned about what is going on. Marcus also finds sympathy from an local punk legend and Internet Service Provider (ISP), and an independent journalist. Both will help Marcus fight the system.

Doctorow does a good job explaining the science and technology. He covers my favorite topics in computer science graduate school: networks, security and cryptography. Doctorow is able to break down the material and convey the concepts clearly. It also comes through without interrupting the narrative. We see this exposition as a part of Marcus's thinking process.

The politics of the book are clearly libertarian. It voices the fear of an unrestricted government doing whatever it takes to avoid another terrorist attack. Whatever it takes, unfortunately, seems to include violating some basic rights. An example of this is using BART free passes (think EPASSes for the subway) to track movement in the city. Anyone making trips outside of the norm are questioned. Instead of finding terrorists or drug dealers they find cheating spouses and teens sneaking out to have rendezvous their parents do not approve of. Marcus finds ways to disrupt measures which seem to him inherently flawed.

The book presents to youth the classic conflict in a free society, the conflict between freedom and security. This is a conflict this new generation will have to face head-on in the post-9/11 world. The previous generations faced this before but never has the struggle appeared so real before. Marcus finds away to deal with the issue by using his talents with a technology the DHS barely understands. The book shows that an individual using his brains rather than bombs can fight an effective battle against those who oppress them.

Orlando Sci-Fi Expo

The Orlando Sci Fi Expo was held on July 18-20, 2008 at Orlando Hilton North (formerly the Altamonte Springs Hilton). Main guests were Jonathan Frakes (Will Riker, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*) and Nana Visitor (Kira Nerys, *Star Trek: Deepspace Nine*). Also appearing were Erick Avari (numerous SF/Fantasy credits including *Stargate: SG1* and *Heroes*), Aron Eisenberg (Nog, *Star Trek: Deepspace Nine*), Cirroc Lofton (Jake Sisko, *Star Trek: Deepspace Nine*), George Lowe (*Space Ghost: Coast to Coast* and other voice roles), artist David Reddick, Barbara March, and Gwynyth Walsh (Lursa & B'Etor Duras, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*). The Orlando Sci Fi Expo was put on by Vulkan Entertainment.

I want to get the negative out of the way first. This year Vulkan chose to go to wrist bands. Furthermore, they did not use water-resistant wrist bands for people who had a two-day membership. A staff member claimed they were but I have my doubts, since they were still paper, unlike the plastic bands used by Megacon. Registration was late for both Friday and Saturday. This was bad for Friday night, since the first panel started a half hour after registration. There were no panels at the same time as

any guest presentation, so panels tended to end in the mid afternoon.

The panels were pretty interesting. Although a handful of us showed up for **Comic Book Geekfest**, we had a good time talking about the latest comic films. This included *Iron Man*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *Hellboy*, *The Dark Knight*, *The Spirit* and *Watchmen* (the latter two appear as trailers with The Dark Knight). After awhile I set up my lap top and watched with anyone who was interested the Watchmen trailer and the latest episode of *The Venture Brothers*, "Tears of a Sea Cow". At the Doctor Who panel, I replaced Vulkan Panel and Games coordinator John Humphett, and discussed the latest news about Who-inverse with SyFy Portal founder Michael Hinman (www.syfyportal.com). It was interesting, since we have differing opinions of the shows which comprise the Doctor Who Universe (*Doctor Who*, *Torchwood*, and *Sarah Jane Adventures*). After that Mr. Humphett and Game Show organizer Nick Roche ran **You Don't Know Trek**. This trivia game is based on a computer game called *You Don't Know Jack*. It was a challenging game in which I was at 0 at the half. I then pulled into the lead at the end. The prize was a \$10 gift certificate in the Dealers Room. I used it the next day to buy the second comic collection of *Fallen Angel* by Peter David.

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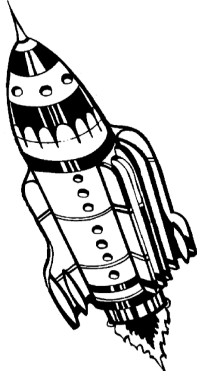
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May 22-24, 2009



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Hotel Information

\$109/night, single-quad
through 4/30/09
Mention OASIS for rate

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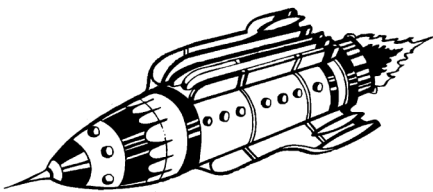
More info at
www.oasfis.org

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