



Volume 20 Number 6 Issue 242

November 2007

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

A lot has happen in the last couple of weeks. Got us a new GOH for OASIS 21. Talked to some other guest at Necronomicon. I was able to some reviews in.

Checkout *The Martian Child* which is based on a story by our Writer Guest of Honor David Gerrold.

Next month hopefully some more reviews and the World Fantasy Award winners.

Have a happy Turkey Day

Events

Orlando Sci Fi Expo

November 2-4

Orlando Airport Marriott

7499 Augusta National Drive

Orlando, Florida

Prices vary per desired guest access

Guests: George Takei, Nichelle Nichols,

Dominic Keating, Conrad Trinnear, Mark Alaimo,

Max Grodenchik, Jeffrey Combs, Louise Fletcher

For more info: www.vulkon.com

JaniCon

November 2-4

1515 Prudential Drive

Jacksonville, FL

\$35 for 3 days at the door, \$15 per day at the door

Guests of Honor: Steve Bennet, Doug Smith,

Ashley Clark

For more info www.janicon.org

Birthdays

Dave Ratti— Nov. 24



Florida Fall Fantasy

November 9 - 11

La Quinta Inn-Winter Park

626 Lee Road

Orlando, Florida

\$20 for weekend if FRAG member,

\$30 for non FRAG members.

Discounts available if staying at hotel

www.warhorn.net/floridafallfantasy2006/

Tampa Comic Book & Toy Convention

November 11

Doubletree Hotel

4500 West Cypress

Tampa, FL

\$5 at the door

Guest of Honor: George Lowe, Alex Saviuk,

Jeffrey Breslauer,

For more info: www.comicbookconventions.com/tampaconvention/index.htm

Miami Book Fair

November 9-11 (street fair November 17-19)

\$5 for street fair (most other events free)

For more info: www.miamibookfair.com

Steven Barnes and Tananarive Due will be attending

Florida Anime Supercon

November 30-Dec 2

Ft. Lauderdale Marriott North Hotel

6650 North Andrews Avenue

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

\$30 for 3 days at the door, \$20 a day at the door

Guests of Honor: George Lowe,

April Stewart (*South Park*),

Tiffany Grant, Chris Ayres,

Brittney Karbowski

For more info: www.animesupercon.com

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November OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, November 11, 1:30 PM, Orange Public Library (Downtown Orlando, 101 E. Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801, 407-835-7323). Come join us as we discuss **World War Z** by Max Brooks

To contact for more info:
OASFiS Business Meeting 407-823-8715

OASFiS October meeting minutes 10/14/07
(Juan Sanmiguel)

Attendance: Patricia Wheeler, Michael Pilletere, David Ratti, Juan Sanmiguel, Marine Fourier, Arthur Dykeman, Patty Russell, Pat Sims, Roger Sims, Dave Ratti, Ed Anthony, Dick Spelman, 2 guests of Patty Russell.

Officer Reports:

President (Patricia Wheeler) - Nothing to report

Vice President (Juan Sanmiguel) -

- Announced that Doris Lessing (Guest of Honor at Conspiracy, Worldcon 1987) won the Nobel Prize in Literature. This is the first time a former Worldcon Guest of Honor has won the Nobel Prize.
- Asked the membership how many had known about Ultraman before the reports from Worldcon. Most did.

Treasurer (Michael Pilletere) -

TREASURER'S REPORT

Previous convention funds	\$3,305.08
OASIS 19	\$1,366.27
OASIS 20	\$1,202.53
OASIS 21	\$1,395.00
OASFiS Funds	\$354.29

Total Funds Club & Con	\$7,823.17
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Total Checking Account	\$7,732.56
Total PayPal Checking Account	\$141.42
Total PayPal Account	\$0.00

Total Bank Funds	\$7,873.98
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Savings Account (Scholarship)	\$787.94
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Total Outstanding Checks	\$50.81
Current past 6 months	
Past 6 months old	

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
Mike Pilletere	mike-sf@webbedfeet.com
David Ratti	407-282-2468 dratti@eudoramail.com
Juan Sanmiguel	407-823-8715 sanmiguel@earthlink.net
Pat and Roger Sims	PatandRogerSims@cs.com
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.

The checking account was balanced against the September 31, 2007 statement.

New Business

Nominations for officers for 2008 were discussed:

President

Patricia Wheeler

Vice President

Colleen O'Brien

Treasurer

Michael Pillitere

Secretary

Susan Cole
Juan Sanmiguel

OASIS 22 Con Chair

Juan Sanmiguel
No Convention

Nominations will be open until November and voted on at the December Meeting.

A revision to the section of the by laws regarding meeting location was discussed since some of our members have moved out of the designated areas. It was decided to have a vote on it at the next meeting.

The SF/Fantasy Book Festival proposed by Jim Harris was discussed. It was felt that we needed more information from him.

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The International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts was brought up. Juan mentioned we have 2 contacts. Dealer Glennis LeBlanc is connected with the organizers of it and is aware of our club's interest to participate.

Pat and Roger brought a few items from their garage sale for anyone to have.

Convention

- Juan discussed promoting the con at Assimilation and Necronomicon. At Assimilation Juan talked to potential dealers. At Necronomicon Juan talked to the guests and dealers. Juan mentioned plans to promote at Orlando SciFi Expo (Vulkon), FX, Megacon.
- Scalzi was 70% confirmed. For tax purposes, travel arrangements for the guest will be made before the end of the year.
- There are currently 8 dealers and 13 dealers' tables sold. A Dealers' Room person is still needed.
- Juan suggested that the Artist Guest of Honor Paul Vincenti draw an insignia for the *Star Wolf*, the starship in a series by David Gerrold. In a week Paul came up with a drawing of the ship and room for an insignia for it. Juan passed the picture around. Juan will use this art for shirts, program book cover, press kit and anything else that gets branded with OASIS 21.
- Juan asked Michael if the Art Show could be ready by January, preferably before FX.

There was a break and then *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* was discussed. Everyone who read it seemed to enjoy it and wonder what the effects of the series will be on popular culture and wonder what will Rowling do next.

Necronomicon

This year was a little bit crazier than usual. I was a bit nervous about setting up a party. Getting the stuff for the party took the time I needed for emailing/journaling about the con.

I got off to a later start than I wanted to on Friday. I got some flyers for the party and the convention. I had to make extra con flyers to give to Tony Parker and Judi Bemis. Then I went to pick up Arthur, did some banking, and headed off to Tampa.

This was the first time I did not miss the exit needed to get to the Tampa Hyatt. We got there in early afternoon. We then took care of hotel and con registration. We also worked out some details about using the room for the party. I checked out the dealers room and handed out some flyers to the dealers. Then I went to the Best SF You Might Have Missed. It was interesting to hear about some lesser-known works in the genre. After the panel I went to checkout the art show. There I talked to Mike Conrad and Paul Vincenti. Then I went to the Guests of Honor panel. After the panel I went to the Con Suite and hung out for a little bit. Then I went to Eye Scream Social. There was a yard sale for the con charity. They had ton of old *Starlogs*. I

flicked through a few, taking a walk down memory lane. I did not buy any since my ex-roommate left me a set of *Starlogs* from its inception until 1997. I did buy a raffle ticket. I sat with Deanna and Alex Lyman. I talked about Japan and the fact I bumped into the Haldemans (once in Tokyo) and the Siclaris (twice Tokyo and Kyoto). When the Eye Scream Social wound down, I headed back to my hotel room and watched *Moonlight*. After that I went to checkout the Fantasy Masquerade Ball and dance to a few tunes. I got to have to ask Ann if I could DJ for a hour at one of the dances. I walked in and out of the dance. I went into the Karaoke panel. It was fun. If I had come earlier I might done a song, but it was winding down when I got there. I decided to turn in since I was getting an early start the next day.

I got going at around 6AM. I did my pilgrimage to what is left of the apparition of the Virgin Mary in Clearwater. Then I went to Publix and got the soda, chips, dips and candy for the party. I went to Target to get a bowl for the chips. Then I did my bike ride on Courtney Campbell Causeway. Then I headed back to the Hyatt. I got the stuff out of the car and got the key for the suite from Deb Hicks. After I put the stuff in the suite, I went up to change and went to Where's My Darn Personal Jet Pack? The panel discussed why certain things did not come about, like jet packs and flying cars. I gave Larry Niven's response to the flying car: "you know one person who you do not trust with a flying car." Next was How Can Science and Religion Coexist? This was lively, yet all very civil. Some good points were made. I bumped into Patricia who told me she was trying to reach me yesterday. I realized I have not checked my phone or email for a day. Fortunately, she was able to make it, and donated some brownies for the party. I chilled out for the trivia contest, which Mark Jones promised would be something else. Mark and his co-conspirators got rid of the old Quizzard and set up a new light-answering system. They also used a computer to project the categories on the screen. By random chance, I got to assemble one of my trivia super teams. Arthur, Roger, Nancy and I all pulled out red chips. It was a rough start, but we eventually dominated. My favorite moments were answering the anime category and knowing what sport the comic strip Flash Gordon played (polo). The final category asked us to identify some James Bond themes. Timothy Zahn hosted and fun was had by all. I went to check what I could spend my trivia winnings on. I saw Patricia before going to mass, and I said she could have left the trivia contest audience if she was bored. She said it was interesting and that scary people knew the stuff we do.

After church I set up the room for the party. This consisted of putting up the OASIS banner. Then I went to help Ann corral the costumers for the Masquerade. It was a smaller Masquerade. Still, there were some cool costumes. The group that stuck out in my mind was the recreation of the "shindig episode" of *Firefly*. As soon as the Masquerade was over I ran up to the room and started the party. The room was full most of the time. Arthur played an interview of David Tennant on the Graham Norton show and later the *Family Guy Star Wars* episode.

I left for a bit to catch the midnight Anime panel by Mark D. We talked about local drama in local anime fandom. It was interesting. I came up and saw the last of the party. I think

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overall it went well. I checked out the dance for awhile before turning in.

I got early start to pack up the stuff in the room and the stuff in the party suite. Because of this I had to pass up a chance to have breakfast with Jack McDevitt. I then went to the **What Makes a Story Science Fiction, Not Fantasy**. Before the panel I found out some more problems with the self-publishing panel at OASIS from Chris Jackson. The panel tried to figure out what makes it SF or not. That was interesting. I went to see Deb Hick's panel on **Where Have All the Conventions Gone**. I brought up the question on whether getting as big as Dragoncon or San Diego Comic Con a good thing. It was a nice talk. I went to the Dealers room to buy a copy of the ***Short Novels of Frederic Brown*** from Glennis LeBlanc. I checked out the art show where Paul Vincenti gave me a draft of the con art. This caught me by surprise, since I had given him Gerrold's ***The Voyage of the Star Wolf*** only a week earlier. I caught the end of the **Writing Villains Readers Love to Hate**. The novel ***Wicked*** was brought up, and I talked about my issues with it. I never liked the fact history was rewritten to make the Wicked Witch of West good. Glenda Finkelstein felt the work questions Glenda the Good Witch's motivations. I said that that may have stemmed from the Judy Garland film rather than the book. In the book, Dorothy was not a whining victim as Judy Garland's portrayal of her is.

After the panel was the Enemy Within game. There are seven players and one is given the answers. The objective is to get as many points as possible and figure out the Enemy Within. I failed on both counts. I then said my goodbyes and, with Arthur, headed back to Orlando.

The Chinatown Death Cloud Peril

by
Paul Malmont

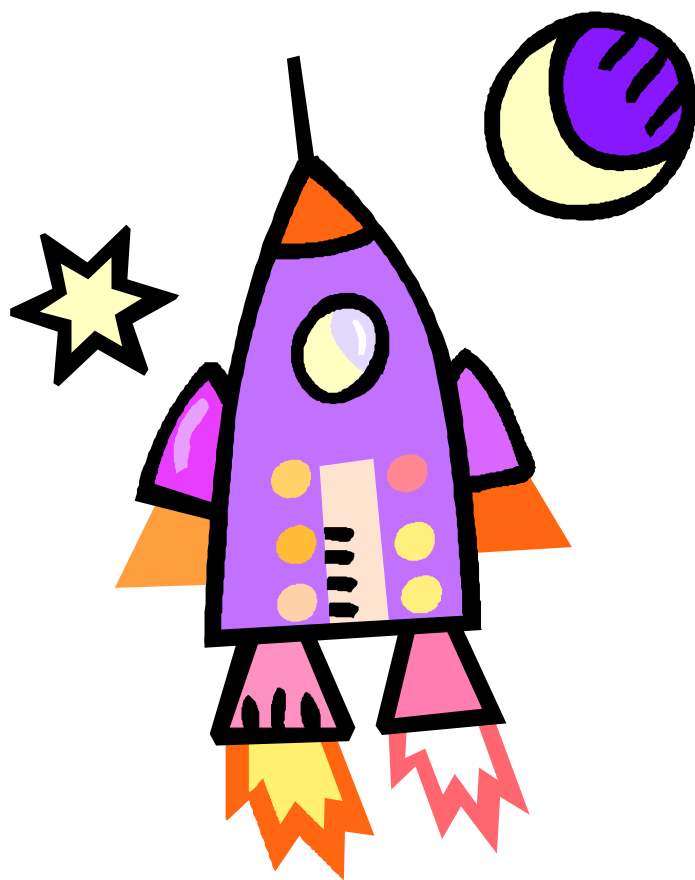
I cannot recall when I first encountered the Shadow and Doc Savage. I know I first came across Spider-man through ***The Electric Company***. Hanna-Barbera's ***Superfriends*** introduced me to the DC Universe. I still do not know what led me to read Howard Chaykin's revival of the Shadow in the 80s, or why I read Philip Jose Farmer's biography of Doc Savage. Was my first encounter with Doc in the campy George Pal film? Did I come across the Shadow in some documentary? Or where they always just there? Of the two, Doc Savage was my favorite. I think I like the idea of bringing the power of science to bear on any problem. Doc and his team would use the right combination of brains and brawn to save the day.

Paul Malmont's ***The Chinatown Death Cloud Peril*** pits Walter Gibson and Lester Dent, the creators of The Shadow and Doc Savage respectively, against a problem which would resemble one of their great stories. We are first introduced to the great writers and their rivalry. Then Gibson goes to H.P. Lovecraft's funeral in Providence, Rhode Island. There may be more to Lovecraft's death that meets the eye. Soon Gibson and Dent get embroiled in a plot involving a weapon of mass destruction and a Chinese warlord. New pulp writer L. Ron Hubbard assists the two in getting to the bottom of the mystery. They will also be helped by a grave digger who calls himself Otis Driftwood. Driftwood is a former Naval officer on the run from his ex-business partner's less-than-savory associates. Can they work out the problem before it is too late? Along the way, our protagonists will meet some prominent figures of the present and future age.

This novel has a good balance of plot and a character. We are given a world spanning plot connecting China, Providence, and New York, complete with action, escapes and a mystery. We also get into the characters. In Dent and Gibson, we see two men driven to be the best writer in the country, yet they are frustrated they have to do it under assumed names in a medium which is held in contempt by the literary elite. Despite their success, both have to face issues with their work and their personal relationships. L. Sprague de Camp described Hubbard as "a charming scoundrel." In this novel he lives up to that. Hubbard comes off as a braggart who wants to hang with the great writers of the age in order to find their secrets. He is the typical annoying side kick. Driftwood, whose identity will be easily deduced by those familiar with the era, unlike Hubbard, is real deal. If you are fan from the era, there are some great cameos.

The novel also does a good job in developing the main villain, Zhang Mei. We see his life story as told by Gibson, from his childhood up to his role in the chaotic times of China in the late 1930s. This provides Zhang Mei's motivation for fighting for the side he does, and why he is willing to inflict massive destruction. This is one aspect that is not of the era. In a time when most villains were thinly developed, a character like Zhang Mei could not have exist. At the same time, it adds believability to a typical pulp plot.

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If you are into the era or the classic characters created this is the book for you. It is great to get into the culture which produced some of the popular heroes of all time and how that effected the creators.

What Mad Universe

by

Frederic Brown

Writer Paul Cornell said that one of science fiction's contributions to culture is the idea of cognitive estrangement. He went on to say it is being used more widely in the media, like TV show *Lost*. The idea behind cognitive estrangement is putting the protagonist in an odd situation and having them figure out what is going on. This is what came to mind when reading Frederic Brown's *What Mad Universe*.

Keith Winton is the editor of a SF pulp magazine in the mid 1950s. He is staying at his publishers estate when a malfunctioning lunar probe crashes on the estate. Everyone at the estate is killed except for Winton. Winton goes to a nearby town and finds out that something is not right. Currency is in credits rather than dollars. He sees aliens walking about the town without causing a stir. He nearly gets arrested as an enemy spy for trying to use illegal currency. Winton is able to bluff his way to New York. There he finds a city engulfed in darkness and lawlessness at night. In New York, Winton starts to find some answers. He is able to get some reference books and learns about the world he finds himself in. In this world, interstellar travel was accomplished in the early part of the century thanks to faster-than-light drive derived from a sewing machine. Earth is currently at war with Acturus, which causes major cities to be engulfed in total darkness at night to prevent them from attack. Can Winton survive in this world? Why does it seem surprisingly familiar? Is there any chance he get back home?

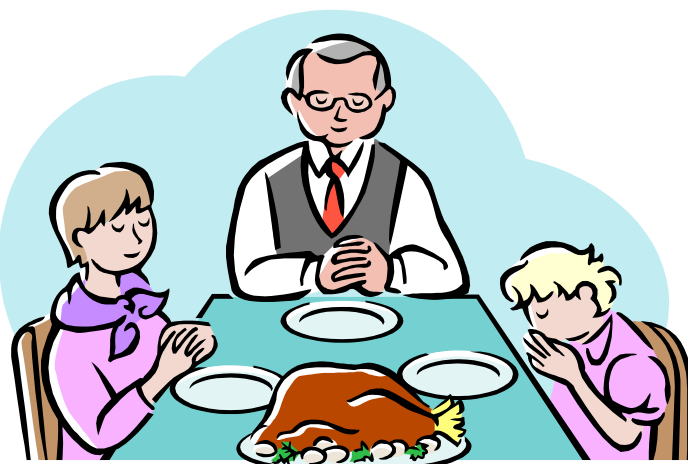
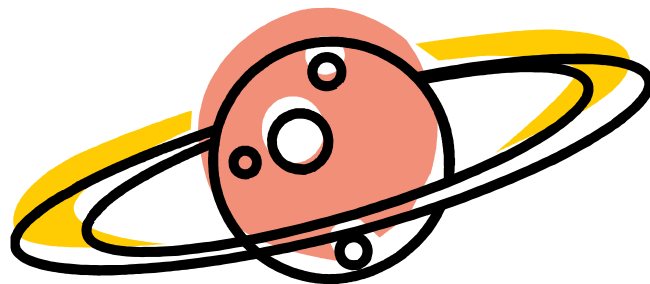
The world Brown creates is a typical of the pulp stories of the time. The world has a lot of the cool technology predicted at the time. The aliens resemble those seen on the covers of the old pulps. The world is well-thought-out. The novel presents the impact technology has on society. The fact that cities must be in complete darkness at night changes peoples' daily routine. The work day is not as long because of these blackouts. The nature of the Acturians (or lack of knowledge there-of) results in increase paranoia in the populace. Brown gives this pulpy world believability with these details.

Keith Winton is a man who knows how to think in an SF way. Winton knows that he has to figure out how this world works in order to survive in it. He with comes up with a feasible plan to find work as a pulp writer, but makes a mistakes in execution, an error which brings Winton to the attention of the authorities. Winton comes off as a competent man who is fallible. This is in contrast to some of the more two-dimensional heroes that came out of the pulp era. The other characters in this world are not as developed but then that is due to the underlying origins of this world.

This was an intricate novel which was way ahead of its time.

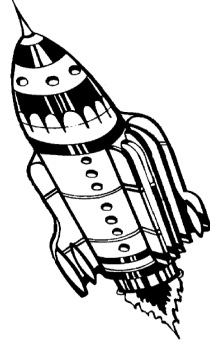
Happy

Thanksgiving



SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
IN ORLANDO

OASIS 21
May 23-25, 2008



Writer

Guest of Honor
David Gerrold

Hotel Information

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

Special Guest Writer
John Scalzi

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

Artist

Guest of Honor

Paul Vincenti

3-Day Memberships:

\$25 until 1/1/08,
\$30 until 4/30/08,
\$35 at the door.

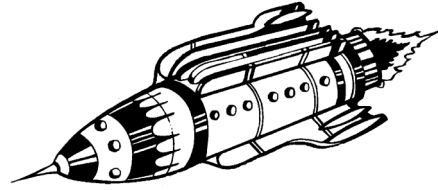
Filk

Make checks payable to:
OASFiS

Guests of Honor
Bill and Brenda

Sutton

Plus the usual suspects...



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