



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

What an interesting year. Thanks to everybody for making it that way. Hope to see everybody at the Holiday party. As I sent this to the Internet, Forrest J. Ackerman has passed away. Please checkout this website:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28073967/>

Next month some reviews and a remembrance of Forrest J. Ackerman

Events

Mizucon

December 27-29
Hyatt Regency Miami
400 South East Second Avenue
\$35 before December 13, \$45 at the door
Guest: Vic Mignogna (*Full Metal Alchemist*)
Doug Smith, Brian Palencia, David Williams

OASFIS November meeting minutes 11/9/08

The meeting was called to order at 1:44 p.m. by Patricia Wheeler.

In attendance: Susan Cole, Steve Cole, Roger Sims, Pat Sims, Dick Spelman, Michael Pilletere, Juan Sanmiguel, Arthur Dykeman, Colleen O'Brien, Patricia Wheeler, Steve Grant, Ed Anthony, Bob Yazel, Tony Parker, Judi Bemis, Hector Hoghlin, and Ruth Hoghlin.

Officer Reports:

Vice-President (Colleen O'Brien): Nothing to report.

Treasurer (Michael Pilletere): Current balance \$4,993.95.

Secretary (Pat Russell): Could not attend.

New Business:

Susan asked about making plans for the annual club picnic. This is the time to commit in order to reserve the pavilion. The club agreed to reserve the pavilion.

Old Business:

Patricia discussed the problems she had with the Fashion Square Mall meeting room. It is not an inviting environment. Patricia discussed the idea of bring speaker presentations in for meetings. Steve Grant has been getting people to do talks on science / science fiction. Patricia has talked about doing meetings at Stardust Video (1842 Winter Park Rd., Winter Park). Stardust's open area is more inviting than that of Fashion Square Mall or a public library. Arthur agreed that it is a more open environment. Susan felt parking is very bad. People may have to walk a distance to get to Stardust. Bob Yazel said that he had reservations about the location because of parking, lighting and the food. Susan said Orange County has some meeting space for \$50. Patricia mentioned that Stardust could be a temporary measure. Stardust will save a block of tables and there is no need to buy food. Patricia asked if anyone had an issue with doing a presentation. No one had. Susan suggested adding a bit of social time to the meeting. This would be in addition to the after-the meeting meeting. Pat Sims asked how crazy it gets at Stardust. Steve discussed what goes on there with other meetings. Pat Sims asked if we wish to drop the book review. Patricia said she would like reschedule the book discussion for SciFi Lite. Colleen says we should keep the book discussion at least until next May. The topics of the presentations and the formats were discussed. Pat stressed the need to tie the talk to science fiction. This is important to recruit new members. Stardust's openness may be a help to recruitment. There was a discussion about the state of the various genres and demographics and how they affect us.

Colleen made a formal motion to change the meeting's format to: business in the first hour, followed by an outside presentation, followed by social time/book discussion. Michael seconded it. The motion was discussed. It passed unanimously. Michael

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December OASFiS Calendar

Holiday Party and Elections

Sunday December 14, 2008 1:30PM at Patricia Wheeler's House, 8029 Citron Court Orlando, FL 32819 (more detailed directions in this issue).

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

(Continued from page 1)
made a formal motion to move the meeting to Stardust in January for a trial period; Steve seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

There were no more nominations for officers

Dick made a motion to close nominations, seconded by Colleen. It passed unanimously.

The club Christmas party will be on December 14 at Patricia's house. Patricia suggested doing a "Yankee swap" at the party.. Juan felt the game was distressing, but he was overruled.

A new book store, Bookworm, opened on Bumby and Washington (south of Colonial).

Hector mentioned a new bookstore at Howell and 436.

Arthur also knew about a new bookstore. He will come back with more information later.

Convention

Juan thanked Steve Grant and Arthur Dykeman for helping with the party at Necronomicon. \$75 was collected there from T-Shirt and membership sales.

Guests

o We need to start booking guest travel arrangements. Juan will work with Michael on this.

o Juan talked to many other guest at Necronomicon and at Screampfest (aka Spooky Empire). The following will be coming to OASIS 22:

- Owl Goingback
- Brad Linaweaver
- Bruce Boston
- Marge Simon
- Richard Lee Byers
- Linda Cowen

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
pwheeler11@cfl.rr.com

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

- Kimberly Raiser
- William Hatfield

Other guests responded with maybes. Juan will follow up in January.

- Juan told everyone to go to him for flyers since he has a good deal at University of Central Florida (UCF) print shop. He gets \$0.07 a copy. Susan has gotten an OfficeMax card and will look into how much it costs for her to do copies.
- Juan has announced the OASIS convention on the Locus website, Green Tentacles website, and Soulgeek website. If there are any other venues, please inform Juan.
- The proposed November 16 con committee meeting is cancelled due to schedule conflicts. Juan proposed a new date of January 25th .

Book Discussion –

Deep Secret by Diane Wynne Jones will be the book for November. Unfortunately, the next group for the meeting room came in early, and it was decided to hold the book discussion later.

SciFi Lite will meet at White Wolf Cafe on November 22nd and discuss the book *Tigana* by Gavriel Guy Kay.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m. and the majority of the attendees went to Jason's Deli for lunch/dinner.

World Community Grid

Jay Eichelberger

Donate your computer's idle time.

The World Community Grid is preparing a video about worldwide volunteers who donate their computers idle time:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4U1TAXSHwes>

The WCG is currently running projects for

- Nutritious Rice - The intent is to help farmers breed better rice strains with higher crop yields, promote greater disease and pest resistance, and utilize a full range of bioavailable nutrients that can benefit people around the world, especially in regions where hunger is a critical concern.
- Conquering Cancer - The mission of Help Conquer Cancer is to improve the results of protein X-ray crystallography, which helps researchers not only annotate unknown parts of the human proteome, but importantly improves their understanding of cancer initiation, progression and treatment.
- Dengue Drugs - The mission of Discovering Dengue Drugs – Together is to identify promising drug leads to combat the related dengue, hepatitis C, West Nile, and Yellow fever viruses. The extensive computing power of World Community Grid will be used to complete the structure-based drug discovery calculations required to identify these leads.
- Fight Aids - This project provides computational methods to identify new candidate drugs that have the right shape and chemical characteristics to block HIV protease. This general approach is called "Structure-Based Drug Design", and according to the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of General Medical Sciences, it has already had a dramatic effect on the lives of people living with AIDS.
- Others....

A free, downloaded program, BOINC, manages what times and resources you wish to donate. This program is not too complicated. Just set up which projects you are interested in - like WCG, select your reesource configuration - and away you go.

The BOINC website is <http://boinc.berkeley.edu/>

For more information, try the wikipedia,

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BOINC> , or send me an e-mail at

jay_mcml@yahoo.com

Retro Review

Labyrinth

Recently the film *Labyrinth* was shown as part of the local Orlando art movie theater Enzian's Popcorn Flicks of Central Park. The film was shown for free in Winter Park's Central Park. *Labyrinth* (1986) is one of the great fantasy films of the '80s, others of which are *The Dark Crystal* (1982), *Return to Oz* (1985) *Legend* (1985) and *The Princess Bride* (1987). I had not seen the film on the big screen in 12 years. It was time for another look. The film was written by Jim Henson, Dennis Lee and "Monty Python"-er Terry Jones, and was directed by Jim Henson.

The story is about Sarah (Jennifer Connelly), a 15-year-old who is stuck baby-sitting her step-brother, Toby. Frustrated by the situation, Sarah wishes Toby would be taken away by the Goblins. He is, and Sarah is soon face-to-face with Jareth (David Bowie), the Goblin King, who has taken Toby to the Goblin City in the center of a great labyrinth. Jareth gives Sarah 13 hours to rescue Toby, or he will be turned into a goblin forever. Sarah must navigate the Labyrinth, face menacing obstacles, and outwit Jareth himself to save her step brother. Along the way Sarah helps and is helped by Hoggle, a dwarf whose loyalties are questionable, Ludo, a gentle giant who has control over rocks, and Sir Didymus, a brave fox-like knight.

The look of this film is incredible. The design was done by artist Brian Froud well before using computer generated images (CGI) became practical. All the creatures are products of Henson's team of puppeteers. All the goblins have individual looks. There is great attention to detail. For instance, in one scene the goblins use a giant robot against Sarah and her friends. When Hoggle jumps on top of it and opens the head, one sees a pilot and a cockpit with controls. The fact that there are people in the loop working these creatures is impressive.

The film is a classic coming-of-age story. Sarah starts off as a bit spoiled, retreating into her fantasies rather than dealing with her new family. Sarah is a good person, and the challenges presented by Jareth bring out her good qualities. She is smart, kind, and resourceful. Jareth is great villain, menacing and seductive at the same time, and he does whatever it takes to stop Sarah from rescuing Toby. Both Connelly and Bowie make their characters believable and compelling.

Despite the movie's serious undertone of rescuing a kidnapped baby, there is a quite a lot of humor in this. It is a great combination of Henson's quirky sense of fun, as seen on *Sesame Street* and *The Muppet Show*, and the "Python"-esque insanity of Terry Jones. The idea of the Bog of Eternal Stench is a classic Python idea. The Fire Gang using their detachable limbs and heads to play croquet with is a great Henson idea. There is a good balance of humor and drama in the film.

The film holds up because of its strong story and design. It was not an initial success at the box office because the reviewers were not used to seeing something so strange. It eventually found its audience and became a cult classic. It is a testament to the talent and imagination of Jim Henson.

Award News
World Fantasy Awards Winners
(source Locus web site)

Winners of this year's World Fantasy Awards for works published in 2007 were announced this evening at a banquet held at the World Fantasy Convention at Calgary, Alberta Canada

LIFE ACHIEVEMENT

Patricia McKillip

Leo & Diane Dillon

NOVEL

Ysabel, Guy Gavriel Kay (Viking Canada; Roc)

NOVELLA

Illyria, Elizabeth Hand (PS Publishing)

SHORT STORY

"Singing of Mount Abora", Theodora Goss (*Logorrhea*)

ANTHOLOGY

Inferno, Ellen Datlow, ed. (Tor)

COLLECTION

Tiny Deaths, Robert Shearman (Comma Press)

ARTIST

Edward Miller

SPECIAL AWARD, PROFESSIONAL

Peter Crowther (PS Publishing)

SPECIAL AWARD, NON-PROFESSIONAL

Midori Snyder & Terri Windling (*Endicott Studios Website*) .

International Horror Guild Awards. These were also awarded at World Fantasy Con in Calgary, Alberta Canada.
(source Locus web site)

LIVING LEGEND

· Peter Straub

NOVEL

· *The Terror*, Dan Simmons (Little, Brown)

LONG FICTION

· *Softspoken*, Lucius Shepard (Night Shade Books)

MID-LENGTH FICTION

· "Closet Dreams", Lisa Tuttle (*Postscripts* #10)

SHORT FICTION

· "Honey in the Wound", Nancy Etchemendy (*The Restless Dead*)

ILLUSTRATED NARRATIVE

· *The Nightmare Factory*, Thomas Ligotti (Fox Atomic/Harper Paperbacks)

COLLECTION

· *Dagger Key and Other Stories*, Lucius Shepard (PS Publishing)

ANTHOLOGY

· *Inferno*, Ellen Datlow, ed. (Tor)

NONFICTION

· *Mario Bava: All the Colors of Dark*, Tim Lucas (Video Watchdog)

PERIODICAL

· *Postscripts*

ART

· Elizabeth McGrath (for "The Incurable Disorder", Billy Shire Fine Arts, December 2007)

Nominations for the International Horror Guild Awards are derived from recommendations made by the public and the judges knowledge of the field. The IHG Living Legend Award is determined solely by the judges. Judges for this year's awards were Edward Bryant, Stefan R. Dziemianowicz, Ann Kennedy Vandermeer, and Hank Wagner.

OASFiS 2008 Ballot

President

- Patricia Wheeler
- _____ (write in)

Vice President

- Steve Grant
- _____ (write in)

Treasurer

- Michael Pilletere
- _____ (write in)

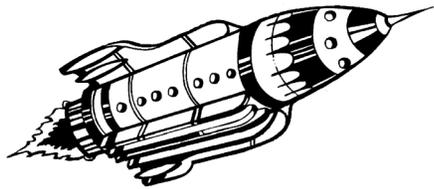
Secretary

- Susan Cole
- _____ (write in)

OASIS 22 Con Chair

- Juan J. Sanmiguel
- No Convention for 2009
- _____ (write in)

Ballots can be brought to the Holiday party or mailed to address in the back. Fold the ballot appropriately and place a stamp if you wish to mail it.



OASFIS
c/o
1421 Pon Pon Court
Orlando, FL 32825



Please RSVP with what type of side dish or dessert that you will be bringing so that we can get a suitable mix of food.

Directions to Patricia Wheeler's house: The address is 8029 Citron Court, Orlando, 32819.

If coming from I4 get off at the Conroy exit and go West about 4 miles. The last light you go through is Dr. Phillips. Patricia's subdivision, Wingrove estates, is the 2nd possible left after Dr. Phillips. Turn left onto Wingrove and take a quick jog to the right and then take the 2nd left turn which is Citron. My house is 2/3's of the way down the street on the left.

If coming from the East-West get off at the Hiwassee exit and go 4 miles South and take a right turn on to Conroy-Windermere road. The next light is Dr. Phillips and then from there follow the directions above.

If questions call Patricia at 407-832-1428.

Retro Review

Tron

Tron was recently shown as part of the local Orlando art theater Enzian's Cult Classic series. *Tron* (1982) was the first film to extensively use computer generated images (CGI). *Tron* was written by Steven Lisberger (screenplay and story) and Bonnie MacBird (story only), and directed by Steven Lisberger.

Kevin Flynn (Jeff Bridges) is a former programmer for ENCOM. Years before, a fellow programmer, Ed Dillinger (David Warner) stole Flynn's game designs and passed them off as his own. Dillinger became a senior executive at ENCOM and created an artificial intelligence called the Master Control Program (MCP) to run the ENCOM computer system. Flynn tries to hack into the ENCOM system to find the data he needs to expose Dillinger's theft. Flynn is stopped by the MCP. ENCOM programmers Alan Brady (Bruce Boxleitner) and Lori Baines (Cindy Morgan) go to warn Flynn that Dillinger is on to him. Flynn, Brady and Baines come up with an idea to use Brady's Tron security program to find the data Flynn needs. They all go to ENCOM and start their plan, but Flynn is digitized by the MCP and sent into the computer. In the computer world, programs have human shapes which resemble their creators or users. This world is ruled by the tyrannical MCP, who steals programs to work for him. Rebel programs are sent to die in the video game grid. Flynn finds Tron and tries to help him shut down the MCP.

If there was one weakness in the computer world concept, it was the idea of getting rid of programs on the game grid, which implied that all arcade video games were networked to ENCOM computer system. The idea is more plausible now. Now the MCP could send programs to be non-player characters in a multi-player online role playing game like World of Warcraft.

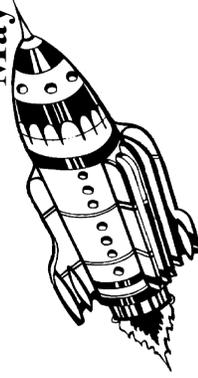
The film's strength is the design of the computer world. The world was designed by Moebius (aka Jean Giraud, a renowned comic book artist) and Syd Mead (the designer of *Blade Runner*). The film's use of color, lighting, and CGI creates a plausible alien world. This was done without the powerful computers of the '90s and 2000s. Lisberger had to work around the fact that live action and CGI could not be merged at the time. The live-action scenes were filmed in black and white and animated over to create the world's look. Then any CGI scenes needed would be intercut with the live action. This was completely new territory. *Tron* was a pioneering film.

The film's story line about an underground resistance group fighting an oppressive dictator is classic. Tron faces off with the MCP with the help of Flynn's powers as a user. There is action, adventure, and romance. It is *Star Wars* inside a computer.

Tron is a fun film. It is about taking on what oppresses you and doing it in a fascinating world. There is supposedly a sequel in the works. If the sequel is able to combine the spirit and innovation of the first film with the current level of technology, the sequel should be a knockout.

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

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

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

Special Guest Writer

John Ringo

*Posleen Series, Cally's War,
Empire of Man, The Council Wars,
Paladin of Shadows,
Voyage of the Space Bubble*

Editor Guest of Honor

Toni Weiskopf

Baen Books

Make checks payable to:
OASFIS
P.O. Box 592905
Orlando, FL 32895

Artist Guest of Honor

Johnny Atomic

*Diamond Castle, Stop the Chandelier,
Frank Ng-Hired Gun*

More info at
www.oasfis.org

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