

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Sorry this was a bit late but the end of the month was a bit crazy. One good thing that happened was that I got to go to a better FX. Prepping up for Megacon.

Next month, FX and Megacon report. I hoping to a review for something I have been waiting to come out for a while. May do some award news as well.

Please check the minutes. There are some con things that need volunteers. Also some of you need to renew their club membership. It is \$20 for full membership and \$12 for subscribing.

Take care and see you next month.

Orlando Area Science Fiction Society Business Meeting Minutes for 21 January 2007

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 PM at the Orlando Public Library by Patricia Wheeler.

Fourteen people were in attendance. Of those, eleven had paid OASFiS dues for 2007.

Attendance: Philip Chien, Susan Cole, Mike Conrad, Kim Darin, Scott Garrison, Frank LeBlanc, BB Moncrief, Mike Pilletere, Peter Popovich, Patty Russell, Juan Sanmiguel, Dick Spelman, Patricia Wheeler, Yvonne Wisdom

Officers Reports

President:

Patricia made a brief welcoming statement. She indicated some of her goals for the upcoming year including increasing the club membership.

Vice President:

Pat Sims was not in attendance

Treasurer:

Michael Pilletere reported that we have \$7091.91 in the checking account. The breakdown is \$957.56 in OASFiS funds, \$3505.08 from previous conventions, \$1366.27 from Oasis 19, and \$1263.00 for Oasis 20. We also have \$55.85 in the scholarship fund account. There is a total of \$108.80 in outstanding checks. Of the outstanding checks, \$65.55 are less than 6 months old and \$22.25 are older than 6 months.

We had a quick discussion about the club funds being in non-interest bearing accounts. We also had a brief discussion about the scholarship fund account. The reason for the second account is to provide a place to deposit the funds from the Oasis Charity Auction to keep them separate from club funds. It was decided to retain all accounts as currently setup.

Secretary:

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Events
Megacon

February 16-18

Orange County Convention Center
\$45.80 (3 day), \$20.24 (1 day)

Guests: Mike Conrad (OASIS artist),
Stan Morrison (OASIS artist),
Paul Vincenti(OASIS artist),
George Perez (comic artist),
Dick Giordano (comic artist),
James Bamber, Mary McConnel
(Battlestar Galactica)
Sean Astin (*Lord of the Rings*)
and many more

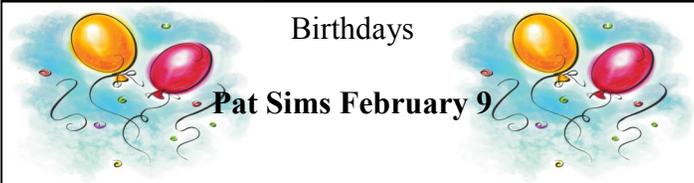
Programming: anime costume contest, and anime music video contest.

For more info: www.megaconvention.com

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Birthdays

Pat Sims February 9



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February OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, February 11, 1:30 PM, (Downtown Orlando, 101 E. Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801, 407-835-7323). Come join us as we discuss **Kirinyaga** by Mike Resnick

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

Susan Cole indicated that the letter allowing the OASFiS Post Office Box to be transferred to her custody has been draw up and signed by most of the officers. Mike Pilletere will also be a signatory on the PO Box. Additional keys will be obtained since we currently only have 1 key.

Susan and Mike have made arrangements to meet at least once a month to hand over checks and other important documents a few days prior to the business meeting.

Old Business:

Frank LeBlanc passed around the tentative layout for the OASFiS business card. Costs based on finishes and print runs were discussed. Frank asked everyone to look at the design and make suggestions. This item held for later discussion.

Susan Cole announced that the pavilion for the OASFiS Spring Picnic has been rented. The picnic will be in Pavilion 1 at Downey Park on April 22nd. Juan Sanmiguel has graciously agreed to put information about the picnic on the club website. Susan will supply Juan with the needed information and hopefully pictures from previous picnics. Invitations will be sent out once a final schedule has been arranged.

Sci-Fi Lite will be meeting at the Roadhouse Grill on Friday, February 16th at 7:30 PM. The book to be discussed will be **The Draco Tavern** by Larry Niven.

Due to the holidays, etc., the by-law committee failed to meet and does not have current recommendations for changes to the by-laws. The committee will meet on Saturday, January 27th at 1:30 PM at the Orlando Public Library.

New Business:

Philip Chien announced that Ben Bova will be speaking at the Brevard Community College Planetarium on Friday, January 26th from 6 to 7:45 pm.

Philip also announced that he will be having a party at his house on March 10th to celebrate the anniversary of Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Further details will be announced in the Event Horizon.

Yvonne Wisdom will be having a meet the author and book signing on February 25th at 2 PM. This event is being sponsored by the Orange County Public Library and will occur at the Orlando Public Library Branch.

OASFiS People

Steve Cole	407-275-5211 stevecole@hotmail.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	407-226-2127 PatandRogerSims@cs.com
Dick Spelman	407-363-2781 rspelman@cfl.rr.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.

Juan Sanmiguel is now in charge of maintaining both the club and the convention portion of the club website. He has updated all the pages so that they have the same footers/links on all the web pages. He will put the dates for the business meetings and Sci-Fi Lite on the website. Please direct all proposed changes / updates / corrections to Juan for further discussion.

Patricia proposed that in addition to the book discussion following our business meetings, we have a short media discussion. The possibility for the February discussion is *The Dresden Files*.

It was discussed that our official meeting date in April conflicts with Easter. The library meeting rooms will be closed. Patricia will investigate meeting space for the 3rd Sunday in April instead.

Convention Report:

Peter Popovich indicated that he needs to delegate 5 items.

1) A Hotel Liaison for Oasis 21 needs to be found immediately. Peter needs someone to research the possibilities for a hotel for Oasis 21. A list of tentative hotels is needed within 60 days. We still need a volunteer for this position.

2) A Progress Report Coordinator is needed. At least 2 electronic progress reports need to be produced and distributed before the convention. Juan Sanmiguel volunteered to handle this.

3) Sponsorship for Oasis 20 is still needed. Peter would like someone to volunteer to locate sponsors. We still need a volunteer for this position.

4) Peter would like someone to handle media relations. Patty Russell volunteered to handle this.

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ENMU *Foundation*
EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY

ENMU Station 8
1500 S Ave K
Portales, NM 88130

December 1, 2006

Mr. Roger Sims
Treasurer
Orlando Area Science Fiction Society, Inc
PO Box 592905
Orlando, FL 32859-2905

Dear Mr. Sims:

Thank you for your recent memorial gift of \$100.00 to the Blanche & Jack Williamson Endowment.

The generous support of ENMU Alumni and friends makes it possible to offer scholarships and program opportunities for the benefit of our students. Funding these programs provides students the ability to experience a superior education, while contributions to scholarships provide a means of financial assistance while rewarding their accomplishments. Thanks to you, their Eastern New Mexico University education will forever be a part of their lives.

The Eastern New Mexico University Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions to the Eastern New Mexico University Foundation are deductible for federal income tax purposes as provided by law. In accordance with IRS regulations, this letter verifies that there were no goods or services provided to you for your contribution. Please retain this letter as a receipt for your tax records and consult your tax advisor to insure the tax deductibility of your gift.

If you have any questions regarding your gift, please contact us at 505-562-2412 or e-mail me at Noelle.Bartl@enmu.edu.

Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Noelle Bartl ('92)
Director

NB/bg



5) Currently we don't have a central point for maintaining addresses that need convention announcements. Peter would like to gather them all in one place / listing. Susan volunteered to add them to the OASFiS database.

Mike Conrad gave us a general idea of the main artwork for Oasis 20. It will be an overlaid double X within a circle. The four areas between the outline of the Xs and the circle will be used for the artwork of our four featured guest artists.

Frank LeBlanc proposed producing a limited edition chapbook for the benefit of the Charity Auction. He would like to ask some of the guest authors to provide short stories for the chapbook and autograph the final product. Frank and Peter will discuss this idea off-line.

Susan Cole will contact the Valencia Foundation to inquire about our Scholarship winner for the Charity Auction at Oasis 20.

Peter will pay for the OASFiS business cards from the Oasis 20 convention funds. The reverse of the OASFiS business card will contain information about Oasis 20. A smaller print run will be produced. Susan Cole will provide a colorized OASFiS rocket to Frank for use on the business cards.

Book Discussion:

Next month's book for discussion is *Kirinyaga* by Mike Resnick.

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 PM.

Dungeons and Dragons

In the early 80's there was a dearth of good animated action/adventure shows in the U.S. Anime was still a rarity on this side of the Pacific. The powers that be were trying to remove violence and the idea of jeopardy from animation. This was clearly shown in some shows which always showed ejecting pilots every time a plane was shot down. The ***Dungeons and Dragons*** TV series (1983-1985), which has been released on DVD, was an exception. There was a real sense of peril for the characters, and on occasion it dealt with the morality of their actions.

Six children (5 teenagers and one pre-teen) get sent to a fantasy world known as the Realm while on an amusement park ride. There they are given magical weapons by the mysterious Dungeon Master. Dungeon Master sends our heroes on missions to help fight evil in the Realm and hopefully find a way back to their own world.

The characters were well thought out, and each had story which focused on them. Hank, the leader, was armed with an energy bow and tried to lead the others through their adventures. Diane was given a magical javelin which allowed her to use her gymnastic skills. Shelia, the emotional center of the group, had an invisibility cloak. Shelia's younger brother Bobby was armed with a thunder club. Amateur magician Presto was given a working wizard's hat which did not always work as expected but usually provided what was needed. Eric, the complainer, was given an indestructible shield. Upon arriving in the Realm, they are joined by Uni, a unicorn philly. The main an-

tagonist was Venger, a powerful wizard, who sought take our heroes' weapons to defeat the seven-headed dragon Tiamat and take over the Realm.

Looking back, I am surprised I liked this show. At the time, I was very hostile towards fantasy, particularly fantasy derived from the Dungeons and Dragons game. It all seemed silly and impure, unlike the rational with one foot planted in reality science fiction. Still I watched the show eagerly. I think it was because it was different from other shows at the time. The characterization was pretty good. The characters acted like real teens trying to cope in an unusual world with a hostile entity after them.

The series format and pilot were devised by writer and comic fan Mark Evanier. Writers for the show included Paul Dini (who would later produce the DC Animated Universe), Steve Gerber (comic book writer and creator of Howard the Duck), and Michael Reaves (*Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Gargoyles*, *Batman: The Animated Series*). The stories pushed the envelope of what can you do on an American series at the time. One episode, "The Dragons Graveyard" by Michael Reaves, had the kids being proactive by going out to kill Venger since he usually prevented them from returning home. The episode dealt with the moral consequences of taking such an action. At that time in American animation, the heroes usually reacted to what the villain's actions were.

The art was very good. The monsters were very well designed. Venger's look was interesting, since the designer choose to give him one horn coming out of his head/helmet. This asymmetrical design was never done before or since. The animation was limited, but despite this, there were some really good action sequences.

The DVD has several extras. There is a documentary on the making of the show. It is pretty informative, though it was irritating seeing the same shot of a dragon spouting flame as a transition. Two episodes have commentary (the pilot and "Dragon's Graveyard"). Every episode has some information about them in their scene selection menu. There is a live-action fan film short (the director is working on a live action recreation of one of the episodes). There are copies of the scripts in PDF format accessible through a computer. The final episode, "Requiem" by Michael Reaves, which was never produced, is performed as a radio play. The DVD also contains an RPG module for the show.

It was really great to have the show in a well made DVD. The show had a huge fan following. There was great disappointment when it turned out the film ***Dungeons and Dragons*** would not be based on the show. Hopefully, if the DVD is successful, we can see more adventures from the Realm.

The Android's Dream

by
John Scalzi

The following elements are in ***The Android's Dream***: interstellar intrigue, genetic manipulation, political infighting, artificial intelligences (AI), death by flatulence, a religion created by a SF writer, interspecies relations, a resourceful hero, and a beautiful woman who is the key to an alien empire.

The novel takes place in the future when Earth is a part of the Common Confederation. Interstellar travel has been

achieved and Earth has dealing with several alien races. One of Earth's closest allies is the Nidu. When a Nidu trade representative dies under unusual circumstances, relations are strained. Earth's Defense Department wants relations strained in order to improve Earth's stature in the Confederation. The State Department wants to ease tensions. The Nidu ambassador advises the State Department that a sheep is needed for the transition of power ceremony on the Nidu home world. This is not just any sheep but a genetically engineered sheep known as *The Android's Dream*. The state department sends Harry Creek, a former police officer and combat veteran, to find this sheep. Harry's investigation brings him to Robin Baker, owner of a pet store which caters to natural pets rather than genetically engineered animals. Robin contains the key to *The Android's Dream*. Unfortunately there are people who do not want the Nidu get the sheep and this makes Harry and Robin targets for some dangerous individuals. Harry will have to use every skill to keep Robin alive long enough to figure out a solution to this diplomatic crisis.

This just a very simplified breakdown of the plot. There are all sorts of twists and turns. There is a court proceeding to determine the fate of a race. Two AIs confront each other in a virtual world to find the solution to the diplomatic crisis. There are some very intense action sequences. Scalzi is able to take one action sequence to the third dimension with some futuristic sports equipment. All of his plot, twists as wild as they seem, come off as plausible.

The POV changes throughout the novel. Although Harry's and Robin's plight drive the story, one sees the machinations of both their enemies and their allies. Most of the villains are well developed. The villains in charge have believable motivations, mainly the desire to see their own race or family achieve power. Their minions are have the more simple motivation of greed.

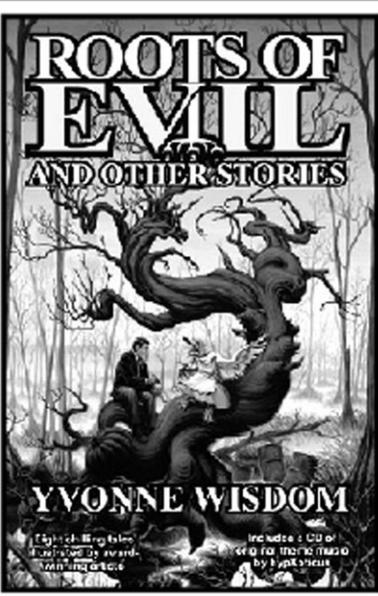
Harry Creek is the ideal SF hero. He's got brains, a computer prodigy who joined the Army as plea bargain for a prank gone wrong. During this time Harry became a decorated hero, and then went on to be a computer forensics expert for the police. Then he became the bearer of bad news for aliens visiting Earth for the State Department. He knows how to deal with people and how take care of himself in a tight situation. At the same time he is able to create an artificial intelligence of his best friend, whom he lost in combat.

Robin acts like a person who has been caught in something bigger than she is. She is smart and idealistic. She lets Harry take the lead in keeping them safe. When the time comes however, she will be vital in resolving the diplomatic problem between Earth and Nidu.

The book has a lot of humor in it. The humor is combination of Kevin Smith and Robert Sheckley. The characters are smart and understand how insane their situation is. The protagonists work it out and come out on top of the situation.

The only thing that bugged me about this book is that it seems the Earth government (United Nations of Earth) is seated in Washington. It just seems odd to place a world government in an established capital and not somewhere with a more neutral or international feel, like New York or Geneva.

Still it was great fun. A great combination of ideas and characterization with a lot of action mixed in.



Meet the Author

YVONNE WISDOM
Sunday, Feb 25, 2007
2:00 pm
Orlando Public Library

101 E. Central Blvd
 Orlando, FL 32801
 407-835-7323

For more information visit
YvonneWisdom.com

SciFi Lite

Friday, February 16, 7:00 PM,
 Cecil's Texas Style BBQ
 2881 S. Orange Avenue
 (just South of Michigan Street, 1 mile East of I-4)
 Book: *The Draco Tavern* by Larry Niven

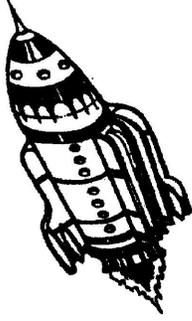
Buffy 10th anniversary party

Saturday March 10, 4 pm
 Phil Chien will host a 10th anniversary *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* party at his place in Cocoa. Come celebrate the 10th anniversary of the landmark television series with showings of the two hour original episode "Welcome to the Hellmouth", plus the rarely seen original introductory video and never broadcast original pilot presentation. More details in the March newsletter. Contact Phil at pchien42@yahoo.com for more information.

The Orlando Area Science Fiction Society Presents
Its 20th Annual Celebration of Science Fiction and Fantasy

OASIS 20

May 25 - 27, 2007



For our 20th anniversary,
we've invited back several past
Guests of Honor!

Returning Guests of Honor:

Joe Haldeman
Mike Resnick
Michael Bishop
Kathleen Ann Goonan
Larry Niven
Jack McDevitt
Robert J. Sawyer

Hotel Information

\$89/night, single-quad
through 5/1/07
Mention OASIS for rate

International Plaza Resort
10100 International Dr
Orlando, FL 32821
407-352-1100

3-Day Memberships:

\$25 until 1/1/07,
\$30 until 4/30/07, \$35 at
the door.

Make checks payable to:
OASFIS

P.O. Box 592905, Orlando,
FL 32859

Featured Returning Artists:

Mary Hanson-Roberts
Mike Conrad
Stanley Morrison
Paul Vincenti

Returning Filk GOH:
Tom Smith

Plus the usual suspects...

Gaming by FRAG

Keep tuned to <http://www.oasfis.org>
for more guest announcements...

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

