



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

If you have not renewed your membership and wish to do so, please contact Micahel Pilletere or myself.

The Megacon report will have to wait till April since the convention being so late in the month. I hope to do a book and maybe some media reviews.

These are major conventions which will occur in Florida this year. This list was provided by Tom Croom aka Wasabiguy of Wesabi Anime (www.wesabianime.org).

2009 Florida Events (in order)

- **MegaCon** - Feb 27 - Mar 1
- **Anime Express** - Mar 13-15
- **Naruto Trek** - Mar 27-29
- **AccioCon** - Apr 3-5
- **FX International** - Apr 17-19
- **JACON** - May 22-24
- **OASIS** - May 22-24
- **Wrath of Con** - May 29-31
- **Florida SuperCon** - Jun 5-7
- **EyeCon at Sea** - Jun 11-15
- **MetroCon** - Jun 19-21
- **Ancient City Con** - Jul 18-20
- **MuggleCon** - Jul 24-25
- **Anime Festival Orlando** - Jul 30 - Aug 2
- **Necronomicon** - Oct 23-25
- **Hurricane Who** - Oct 30 - Nov 1

Orlando Area Science Fiction Society (OASFis) Business Meeting, Sunday, January 11th, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Patricia Wheeler shortly after 1:30 PM. In attendance were: Ed Anthony, Johnny Atomic, Steve Cole, Susan Cole, Arthur Dykeman, Steve Grant, Patty Russell, Juan Sanmiguel, Pat Sims, Roger Sims, Dick Spelman, Kathy Vincenti, Paul Vincenti, and Patricia Wheeler.

Officers Announcements:

It was announced that in addition to a presentation at this meeting by Paul Vincenti, we would have presentations in February by Richard Lee Byers and in March by Chris Berman.

Mike Pilletere was not able to attend this meeting due to work commitments. However, he has provided accounting statements. We currently have cash assets of \$5598.95 including some undeposited funds. Mike also provided a profit and loss statement for Oasis 21, upcoming Oasis 22, and OASFis club expenses during 2008.

Susan will attempt to drop off the accumulated mailed in funds to Mike in the upcoming week. The newsletters from other organization and other accumulated mail are being passed around.

Steve Grant is working on bringing people / speakers to the meetings. He is working on publicizing the club including using Facebook, etc. Owl Goingback is interested in making a presentation at one of our meetings.

New Business:

The OASFis Spring Picnic will be held on April 5th in pavilion 2 at Downey Park. The pavilion is the one in the rear of the park instead of the one, near the entrance, that we have used in the previous years. Susan has made the reservation and signed the paperwork. More information including sign up sheets will be available at the next meetings.

(Continued on page 2)

Birthdays

Frank LeBlanc– January 12

Pat Sims February 9

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February OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, February 8, 1:30 PM, Stardust Video 1842 Winter Park Road, Winter Park, FL 32801(407-623-3393). Come join us as we hear Richard Lee Byers discuss his latest work

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

Old Business:

Sci Fi Lite will meet Saturday, January 24th 6 PM at White Wolf Café. The discussion will be Science Fiction of the 1950s.

The Sci Fi Lite date in February still needs to be determined.

Convention Business:

None of the Oasis 22 GoHs have finalized their trip arrangements, so no tickets have been purchased. Juan is working on that issue.

Juan still confirming more guests.

The convention art is in the approval process.

Sponsorship for Oasis 22 by the Coliseum of Comics is being discussed.

Peter David and family have to depart Sunday AM.

The Finklesteins may be able to attend the convention.

The hotel booking closes in April. An e-Reminder will need to be sent by Susan approximately 1 month prior to the final date.

Dealer Room to possibly move to center room between gamers and programming to buffer noise. The room security issue will need to be resolved due to the air walls.

The general air conditioning issues also need to be addressed.

Jim Butcher has been proposed by Patricia as a possible author GoH for 2010.

Presentation:

Paul Vincenti spoke to us about his work and other issues in art.

The meeting ended at 3:24 PM.

OASFiS People

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Steve Cole | 407-275-5211
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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.

Events

Megacon

February 27-March 1
Orange County Convention Center
3-Day-\$52.19(pre) \$55(at door) ,
1-Day \$22.37 (pre) \$24 (at door)
Guests: Stan Morrison (OASIS artist),
Paul Vincenti(OASIS artist),
Peter S. Beagle (writer)
Chris Claremont (comic book writer)
Mark Waid (comic book writer)
George Perez (comic artist),
Dick Giordano (comic artist),
Darwyn Cooke (comic artist)
Larry Elmore (SF/Fantasy artist)
Beau Bridges (*Stargate SG-1*)
James Callis, (*Battlestar Galactica*)
Richard Hatch (*Battlestar Galactica*)
Dirk Benedict (*Battlestar Galactica* original)
Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca, *Star Wars*)
Margot Kidder (*Superman* (1978), Lois Lane)
Phillip Morris (*Smallville*, J'onn Jonzz)
Alaina Huffman (*Smallville*, Black Canary)
and many more
www.megaconvention.com



Saturn's Children: A Space Opera

by

Charles Stross

Stross has decided to tell a classic space opera using the current level of technology. The novel is dedicated to both Robert Heinlien and Isaac Asimov. Stross has taken elements of each of these men's works to tell a modern SF story.

In the distant future, humanity has become extinct. Their machines, robots and automata of all shapes, continue human civilization. Before mankind died out, some machines were given more autonomy than others. This allowed some machines to own other machines. The result of this is that the machines established a hierarchical system. This is the world where Freya Nakamichi-47 is living. Freya is on edge of obsolescence. She was designed to be a concubine for a race that has disappeared. Freya and her fellow models have been barely making a living. While on Venus, Freya offends an android of the aristo class, so she needs to get off the planet. Freya is offered work by an organization that wishes to use her as a courier, which will take Freya to Mercury, Mars, the Jovian system and Kuiper belt. The work will also make her a target. Similar work may have killed a "sibling" (a unit of the same model) of Freya. There are rumors of some group using nanotechnology and cloning techniques to create a human. Freya's assignments may discover the truth behind this claim.

Freya is very beautiful and intelligent. Freya's main desire is to remain free. Freya is able to think quickly on her feet. Through cunning and experience, Freya is able to beat her enemies. This can get complicated, since it is hard to tell who is a friend or foe, but Freya has a firm understanding of her world and its dangers.

Stross creates an intricate robot society. Its founding principles are the modern equivalents of Asimov's three laws of robotics. Stross explains the design of the robots using modern ideas in artificial intelligence. As Freya makes her way through the solar system, one sees the society that machines have created. It is a class-based society where two thirds are enslaved to a privileged class. Many of them continue the work of taming the solar system for their long-dead masters. Freya is fortunate that she and most of her siblings have won their autonomy. A robot could lose its freedom by unscrupulous actions by those in power, and their enslavement can be enforced by slave chips. One human could dominate this society. Some of the aristos would risk the creation of a human in order to solidify their power, despite the fact their core programming compels them to obey a human.

Stross combines the concepts of Asimov with the style of Heinlein. Like most of Heinlein's work, *Saturn's Children* is told in the first person. Freya sees the world as a perilous place where an individual's freedom is not assured. Freedom and one's relation to society are classic Heinlein subjects. Also like Heinlein, Stross covers traditional rocket/spaceship physics accurately. From Asimov, we get the robots and their basic nature. Stross figures out how a race of Asimovian robots could form a class/slave-based society. The three laws essentially makes the robots slaves. This is problematic if the machines possess any semblance of consciousness, which may be a by-product of artificial intelligence. The novel is a incredible combination of the old-school and current science fiction.

Awards:

Nebula Award Rules Change

Science Fiction Writer Association (SFWA) has changed the rules for eligibility for the Nebula Awards. Only works for a given calendar year are eligible for nominations. This means that works from 2009 are eligible for Nebulas in 2010. This change is effective on January 2009. Before this change there was rolling eligibility, this meant that work was eligible for a Nebula nomination one year after its publication.

The script Nebula has been eliminated. In its place is the Ray Bradbury Award for Outstanding Dramatic Presentation. Although not a Nebula it will be awarded at the Nebula ceremony and follow Nebula rules.

Neil Gaiman's *The Graveyard Book* (HarperCollins) won the 2009 Newbery Medal, given by the Association for Library Service to Children (a division of the American Library Association) for last year's outstanding American children's book. The award was announced at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver CO. Neil Gaiman will be the Writer Guest of Honor at Anticipation, the 2009 World Science Fiction Convention. (source *Locus* website)

British Science Fiction Awards Nominations (source *Locus* website)

Best Novel

Flood by Stephen Baxter
The Gone-Away World by Nick Harkaway
The Night Sessions by Ken MacLeod
Anathem by Neal Stephenson

Best Short Fiction

"Exhalation" by Ted Chiang (*Eclipse 2*)
"Crystal Nights" by Greg Egan (*Interzone* 215)
"Little Lost Robot" by Paul McAuley (*Interzone* 217)
"Evidence of Love in a Case of Abandonment" by M. Rickert (*F&SF*, Oct/Nov 2008)

Best Non-Fiction

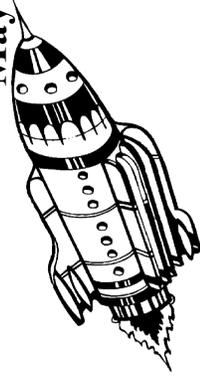
["Physics for Amnesia"](#) by John Clute (talk given at the Gresham College Symposium "Science Fiction as a Literary Genre")
Superheroes!: Capes and Crusaders in Comics and Films by Roz Kaveney (I.B. Tauris)
What It Is We Do When We Read Science Fiction by Paul Kincaid (Becon)
Rhetorics of Fantasy by Farah Mendlesohn (Wesleyan)

Best Artwork

Cover of *Subterfuge*, ed. Ian Whates, by Andy Bigwood
Cover of *Flood* by Stephen Baxter, by Blacksheep
Cover of *Swiftly* by Adam Roberts, by Blacksheep
Cover of *Murky Depths 4*, by Vincent Chong
Cover of *Interzone* 218, by Warwick Fraser Coombe

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

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

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John Ringo

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Johnny Atomic
Diamond Castle, Stop the Chandelier ,
Frank Ng- Hired Gun

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