

Future Times

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JUNE 2000

ASFS Meeting Minutes for May 7, 2000

Taken by Lewis Murphy, ASFS Secretary

The May 2000 meeting of the Atlanta Science Fiction Society was called to order on May 7th at 2:20 p.m.; President Anne Brunsgaard presiding.

In Old Business, the minutes of the April meeting were presented in the May issue of *Future Times*. The Treasury Report was given by Lewis Murphy, showing a balance of \$169.68. Ted Skirvin gave the Programming schedule for June (Atlanta Radio Theater Company), July (DragonCon) and August (guest speaker Stephen Pagel). Due to DragonCon, there is no official programming for July, however Ted will use the ASFS meeting space to provide activities for members not attending DragonCon. Michael Liebmann invited members to Dim Sum on the same date. Vicki Dobbs announced that the ASFS trip to the Renaissance Festival would take place on May 27th, and discount tickets were available. An informal poll of the attending membership resulted in a change of date for Bar-B-Q Con 3, which will now take place on June 10th.

In New Business, Anne Brunsgaard announced her trip to Japan in July to teach English for one year. Vicki Dobbs will replace her as President at that time. Michael Liebmann began a round

of applause to honor Anne's contributions to ASFS. Anne made free tickets available for the May 10th preview showing of *Battlefield Earth*. Bill Sides requested that he be informed of upcoming ASFS events in order to post a monthly calendar on the ASFS website. Bill Sides also announced the receipt of a letter from Richard Geis that, for health reasons, he would no longer receive or produce fanzines. Bill solicited articles for *Future Times* on the topic of Michael Crichton's book *Timeline*. The first newsletter raffle is scheduled for the officers meeting, preceding Bar-B-Q Con. Ted Skirvin requested that mild restrictions be placed on the ASFS email list, to prevent excessive postings, Bill Sides took the request under advisement. Ted also moved to officially add previously passed amendments to the bylaws and the move passed. Michael Liebmann updated the membership on the status of GAFiik 3. Aaron Dunne updated the membership on the status of the American TV SF track at DragonCon and requested assistance with the *Farscape* programming. Jerry Samples announced the Martian New Year as May 15th. President Brunsgaard then adjourned the business meeting. After a break for refreshments. A lively discussion of the film *Mission to Mars* was led by Ted Skirvin.

1999 Nebula Award Winners

The 1999 Nebula Awards were presented at the Nebula Banquet in New York City on May 20th, 2000

Best Novel

Parable of the Talents, Octavia E. Butler (*Seven Stories*)

Best Novella

"Story of Your Life", Ted Chiang (*Starlight 2*)

Best Novelette

"Mars Is No Place for Children", Mary A. Turzillo (*SF Age* May 1999)

Best Short Story

"The Cost of Doing Business", Leslie What (*Amazing Stories* Winter 1999)

Best Script

The Sixth Sense, M. Night Shyamalan (*Buena Vista*, August 1999)

Grand Master Award

Brian Aldiss

Author Emeritus

Daniel Keyes

Service to SFWA Award

George Zebrowski & Pamela Sargent

Upcoming Area Conventions

Compiled by Lewis Murphy

June 2000

June 16-18: HeroesCon 2000- Charlotte, NC. (Comics)
Info.: PO Box 9181, Charlotte, NC 28299; 704/375-7463; Web- www.heroesonline.com

June 29-July 2: DragonCon- Atlanta Market Center/
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Atlanta, GA. Guests- Over 200.
Memberships: \$60 until 5/15, \$75 ATD. Info.: PO Box
47696, Atlanta, GA 30362-0696; 770/909-0115;
dragoncon@dragoncon.org; Web- www.dragoncon.org

July 2000

July 14-16: Harriette Austin Writers Conference-
Georgia Center for Continuing Education, Athens, GA.
Info.: 1197 Lumpkin Street, Athens, GA 30602-3603;
706/542-4766; 800/884-1381; Web- www.gactr.uga.edu

July 28-30: Rivercon 25: The Final Rivercon- Execu-
tive West Hotel, Louisville, KY. Guests- Too many to
list. Memberships: \$25 until 6/15, then \$35. Info.: Box
58009, Louisville, KY 40268-0009; riverconf@aol.com;
Web- members.aol.com/rivercon

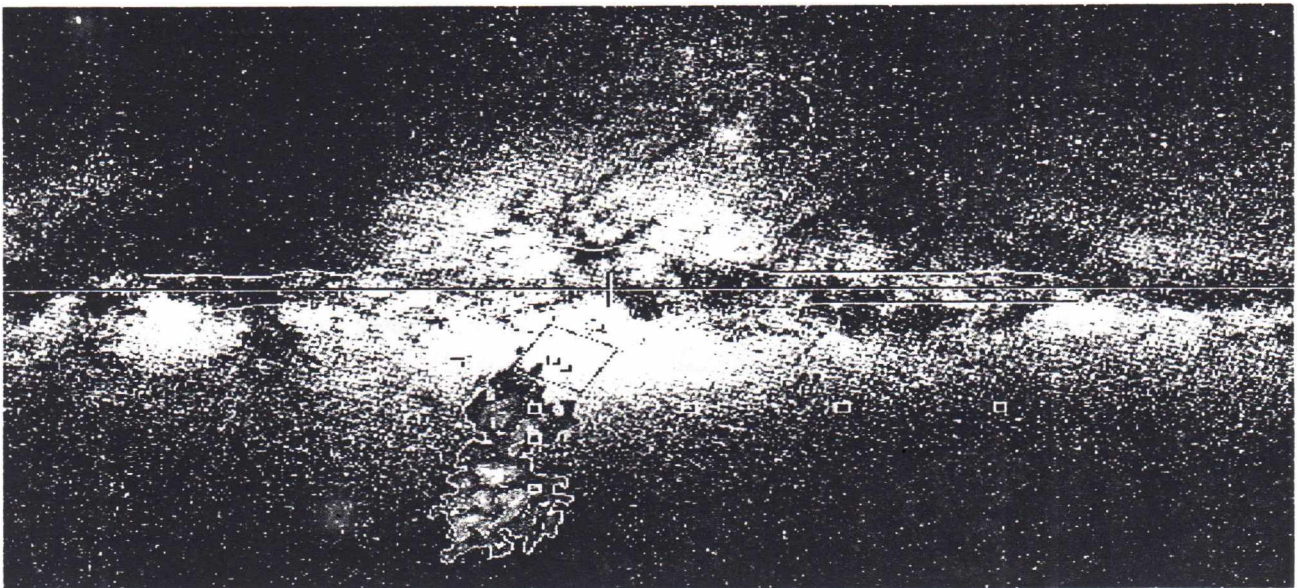
Intruder Alert!

By Jan Sides

The Milky Way Galaxy is being invaded. Again. The nearby Sagittarius Galaxy, shown below as the extended irregular shape below the line of the Galactic Center, is once again on a collision course with our galaxy, having an unfortunate orbit that has pulled it through as many as ten times before. Don't start planning your bomb shelter – it won't reach our solar system (located within the circle below) for at least 50 million years and the Milky Way is considered the hands down favorite since the intruder galaxy is roughly one-tenth the diameter of the Milky Way and weighs less than

one-thousandth as much. Even for its size, astronomers have found the Sagittarius Galaxy, a dwarf spheroidal galaxy located in the direction of the constellation Sagittarius, to be surprisingly sturdy. One would think that the intense gravitational tidal forces would pull it apart, and since it has not, astronomers suspect a great deal of low-density dark matter holds it together gravitationally during these collisions.

Picture Credit: R. Ibata (UCB), R. Wyse (JHU) and R. Sword (IoA)

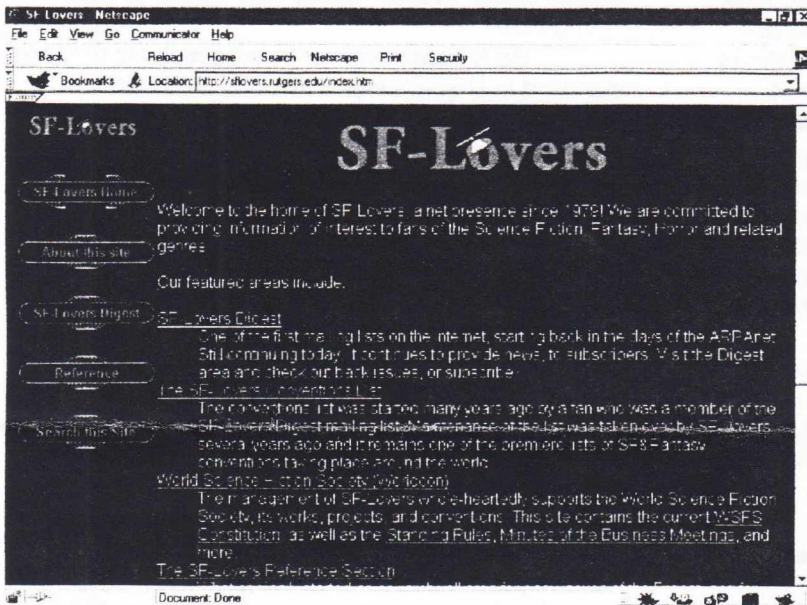


Website of the Month: SF-Lovers

Review By Lewis Murphy

SF-Lovers (<http://sflovers.rutgers.edu/index.htm>) has been a net presence since 1979! The site was recently redesigned, giving it a more attractive, but somewhat less practical, appearance. However, SF-Lovers is still an enormous resource when looking for genre related information on the web. The site contains the most thorough internet-based convention listing available. It also has the huge *Science Fiction Resource Guide*,

which provides links to authors, publishers, fans, mailing lists, clubs, 'zines, bookstores, and more. The main site provides links to SFWA, WSFS (with detailed WorldCon info), ASFA, and genre award information. There is also the SF-Lovers mailing list (which was the origin of the site). Saul Jaffe currently maintains the SF-Lovers site, with linked sites maintained by others. **Highly recommended.**



Science-Fictionary

By Lewis Murphy

Fan (fannish): noun- A devotee or follower of, in this case, Science Fiction.

Fen (fannish): noun- A plural form of "fan".

Fandom (fannish): noun- General term for all fans of Science Fiction. Most commonly used in referring to fans who are actively involved in conventions, clubs or other similar activities.

Mundane (fannish): noun- A non-Science Fiction fan. Also refers to the world outside the Science Fiction community.

Source-*The Un-Official Guide to Science Fiction* by Mike Kennedy. Copyright 1989 by Mike Kennedy.

SF News

Compiled by Bill Sides

Daily Variety reports Marvel Comics and Artisan Entertainment have entered into a major joint venture which calls for film, TV, and online franchises of such properties as:

BLACK PANTHER, DEADPOOL, IRON FIST, MORBIUS, LONGSHOT, POWER PACK, MORT THE DEAD TEENAGER, ANTMAN, THOR, DAZZLER, CAPTAIN AMERICA, THE PUNISHER, MAN-THING, and BLACK WIDOW.

The Lathe of Heaven, the 1980 TV movie based on Ursula K. Le Guin's novel, is scheduled to be broadcast on PBS this week, beginning June 1st -- check local listings.

US subscribers of cable channel BBC America can see the \$10 million TV mini-series *Gormanghast*,

based on Mervyn Peake's fantasy trilogy and starring Jonathan Rhys Meyers, beginning June 10th.

Anne McCaffery's *Pern* TV series is currently on hold due to backer Alliance Atlantis pulling out of the project. ZyntroPICS hopes to produce the series in the future.

The U.S Naval Academy is being endowed with a new chair; the Robert Heinlein Chair of Aerospace.

Harlan Ellison and Yuri Raskovy began airing their radio drama series "Beyond 2001" in April on many PBS stations around the U.S.

Arthur C. Clarke has sold the movie rights to *Rendezvous with Rama* to Revelations Entertainment.

Classics Corner – Two by Lois McMaster Bujold

Reviews by Bill Downs

Lois McMaster Bujold began delighting us with the tales of Miles Vorkosigan/Naismith and his universe in 1986, with the publication of *Shards of Honor*. Along the way, she garnered three Hugo awards for Best Novel, one Hugo award for Best Novella, one Nebula award for Best Novel, one Nebula award for Best Novella, and five more Hugo/Nebula nominations. She was runner-up for the 1987 John H. Campbell award for Best New Writer. Lois McMaster Bujold is one of two authors to win back-to-back Hugo awards for Best Novel (extra points if you can name the other one).

Komarr finds Lord Vorkosigan, the newest Imperial Auditor, along with Lord Vorthys arriving to investigate the collision of a ship with the solar mirror vital to the terraforming project. There is an immediate complication when Miles becomes smitten with the wife of the Barrayarran administrator, who is also Lord Vorthys' niece. It doesn't help him that his father is the "Butcher of Komarr".

Along the way, Miles runs into Komarran 'patriots' who want to collapse the wormhole connection between Barrayar and the rest of the universe. He fields questions about the Emperor's impending marriage to a Komarran woman. The administrator dies accidentally, next to him, and Miles has to help his wife, Ekaterin, and son, Nikki, deal with Tien's death and the fact that he had taken a bribe and invested and lost all his money on a very speculative venture. Miles, with Ekaterin's help, was able to save the day. Just in time, of course.

A Civil Campaign: A Comedy of Biology and Manners is the direct sequel to *Komarr*. It is the first time Bujold has written two books so closely tied together. *A Civil Campaign* follows

Miles and Ekaterin after they return to Barrayar. Miles tries to impress Ekaterin, respect her period of mourning, help her, and keep potential suitors away from her. He is deeply involved in the Emperor's wedding as his best man. Miles assumes his father's former position of Count for their district. There are a couple of district succession scandals he looks into. Miles' clone brother, Mark, comes home, in love, with a new business idea, 'bug butter'.

Both books answer three questions that are standard in Bujold's work. What is the impact of advanced biotechnology on society? Especially when society tends to be phobic about mutations and genetic purity. Miles is often mistaken for a mutant. How do you reconcile identity with appearance? Miles is usually underestimated because of his appearance. How does a strong woman survive in a patriarchal society; Ekaterin, Miles' mother, Professora Vorthys, and others? We learn more about ourselves than we do about the universe Miles lives in.

I was pleased when I read *Komarr*. It is a good book, written at the same level of excellence as her previous work. When I was done, I wanted more.

I was less pleased when I finished *A Civil Campaign*. It is another well-written book. I learned a lot about Barrayarran society. In the end, though, *A Civil Campaign* is mostly air. Miles is never in any real danger. Ivan is much less interesting than he usually is. The story never really gets into your head, which is the hallmark of previous Miles Vorkosigan stories.

Bujold's next book should be interesting.

ASFS Officer Roll Call

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Publications	Bill Sides	drbills@atl.mediaone.net

The ASFS Biography of the Month – Vicki Dobbs

[Editor's Note: To help us get to know each other better, each issue of Future Times we will be presenting autobiographies of ASFS members. If you'd prefer your biography wasn't pure fiction, then write one and send it in so everyone can get to know you better. — This month we learn about Vickie Dobbs, our club VP and soon to be President.]

Well, where to begin? I guess a good place to start a bio is with the basic facts. Vicki Dobbs was born 06/30/1968, grew up to be a chemistry teacher at Dacula High School. Yes, yes, I know. It needs an "r" and it would be a cool place to work.

I guess it all started the year Star Wars was released. Disney re-released one of its animated movies. My mom was taking my sister and me to the Disney movie with one of mom's friends and her kids. The theater did not offer afternoon matinee prices on the Disney movie. Well mom did not have enough to cover us, so mom's friend suggested Star Wars: her boys liked it.

I was hooked, in a big way. I started collecting anything that had to do with Star Wars. One day I found Star Wars comic books, and from there found X-men and others. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Now I would have to say, I am a sci-fi/fantasy junkie.

I am really a high school chemistry teacher. I sponsor the high school Sci/Fi club. I hold a BS in Education from the University of Alabama and a MS in Chemistry from Georgia State. I am hoping to begin a educational specialist degree at the University of Georgia this fall. Last year I bought a house, in Winder, (planned) and a new car (unplanned)

I do enjoy role-playing. A few years back friends introduced me to anime (something I do not have the money to collect). When I find the time, I read a wide range of books, from strict fantasy to biographies.

This summer I will be working for the school system to earn some extra money. I will also be going to Dragon Con where I can spend some extra money.

I am a single gal (Oh no, this is turning into a singles ad.). I work to provide food and shelter to a sassy little dog named Watcher. No, I'm not a *Highlander* freak. She likes to sit at the window and watch the street. On May first, I became an aunt.

Wow! This was not easy to write. It's hard to write about one's self. I wish the next person all the luck in the world writing their bio.

And remember, if you're ever out this way, just stop by.

Upcoming ASFS Meeting Programs

[Editor's Note: These programs are tentative and subject to change. Additional information will be available in upcoming issues]

June: Our very own president, the brilliant and talented Anne Brunsgaard. She will give a presentation on her convention costuming, including videos of costume contests, actual pieces of her work, and tales of high adventure in the rough and tumble (yet strangely glamorous) world of convention costume contests.

July: beer-and-pretzel" gaming for those not going to DragonCon

August: Guest speaker Bud Foote; SF scholar, writer, former literature professor at Georgia Tech.

September: Atlanta Radio Theatre Company (ARTC) performance

October: Guest speaker Steven Pagel the Editor of Meisha Merlin Publishing, Inc

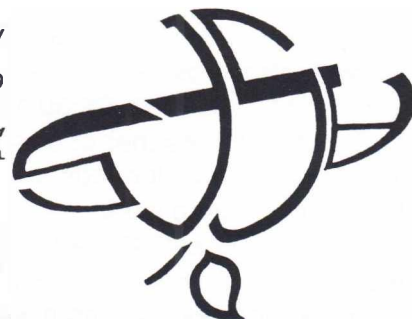
November: Filking performance

Mimosa
c/o Nicki & Richard Lynch
PO Box 3120
Gaithersburg, MD 20885

6715 Ridge Moore Dr.
Atlanta, GA 30360

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
ATLANTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY

Future Times



WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT AT FUTURE TIMES

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Assistant Editor: Jan Sides
Staff Columnist: William Downs
Staff Columnist: Lewis Murphy

About Future Times

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From the Editor:

Remember – This newsletter is only as good as ***you*** make it. And now you can win prizes when you contribute!