

# Future Times

## ASFS Meeting Minutes for June 7, 2000

Taken by Lewis Murphy, ASFS Secretary

The June 2000 meeting of the Atlanta Science Fiction Society was held on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm in the Sandy Springs Branch of the Fulton County Library. The meeting was called to order by President Anne Brunsgaard, with 8 persons in attendance.

In old business, Treasurer Jayne Rogers reported the club account balance as \$171.68, with the most recent expense being the ASFS Post Office Box rental at \$22.00. President Brunsgaard reminded the membership that there would be no scheduled ASFS meeting for July, due to the conflict with DragonCon weekend. V.P. Vicki Dobbs said the Renaissance Festival trip was a success. Programming Director Ted Skirvin gave a correction for the Meeting Program Schedule, with The Atlanta Radio Theater Company being switched to the September meeting and Editor/Publisher Stephen Pagel speaking in October.

In new business, the next Movie Night was announced for July 14<sup>th</sup>. No plans were made for activities at DragonCon; however, Ted Skirvin will reserve the Sandy Springs Library location for that weekend and have gaming events for those not attending the convention. It was suggested that ASFS attempt joint promotions with other groups. Jayne Rogers suggested we continue to do promotions with the Science Fiction and Mystery Bookshop. President Brunsgaard opened the floor for nominations for the soon to vacated Vice President position, there were no nominations and the move was tabled to the next meeting. President Brunsgaard adjourned the meeting. The business meeting was followed by a discussion and demonstration of costumes by Anne Brunsgaard.



## 2000 Hugo Award Winners

The 2000 Hugo Awards were presented at Chicon 2000, the 58th World Science Fiction Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

### Best Novel

*A Deepness in the Sky*, Vernor Vinge (Tor)

### Best Novella

"The Winds of Marble Arch", Connie Willis  
(*Asimov's* Oct/Nov 1999)

### Best Novelette

"10<sup>16</sup> to 1", James Patrick Kelly (*Asimov's* June 1999)

### Best Short Story

"Scherzo with Tyrannosaur", Michael Swanwick  
(*Asimov's* July 1999)

### Best Related Book

*Science Fiction of the 20th Century*, Frank M. Robinson (Collectors Press)

### Best Dramatic Presentation

*Galaxy Quest* (Dreamworks SKG; directed by Dean Parisot; screenplay by David Howard & Robert Gordon; story by David Howard)

### Best Professional Editor

Gardner Dozois

### Best Professional Artist

Michael Whelan

### Best Semi-Prozine

*Locus*, edited by Charles N. Brown

### Best Fanzine

*File 770*, edited by Mike Glyer

### Best Fan Writer

Dave Langford

### Best Fan Artist

Joe Mayhew

## Mundane Science

By Bill Downs

### The H.L. Hunley: The End Of A Journey

On, August 8, 2000, more than 300 Confederate re-enactors fired their rifles and cannons from the banks of the Cooper River. Women dressed in Confederate garb tossed flowers into the river from the deck of the retired USS Yorktown. The eight bells of the Stella Maris Catholic Church, among others rang half muffled.

Why all the excitement? They are commemorating the end of a journey that began over 136 years ago.

On February 17, 1864, eight or nine men left Charleston Harbor in the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley. In an attempt to break the Union blockade, their target this night was the Union sloop of war USS Housatonic, anchored three

miles off the coast of Breach Inlet. The Hunley, under the direction of Lt. George Dixon, successfully rammed its spar torpedo, containing ninety pounds of black powder, into the side of the Housatonic and set it off, killing 5 of the 155 seamen aboard. It signaled lookouts ashore that it was returning, by flashing a blue light, and was never seen again. It was the first time a submersible had sunk an enemy ship and would not be repeated until World War I.

The Hunley was built out of cylindrical iron locomotive boilers, held together by iron strips and rivets. Ballast tanks were attached to each end, filling with water to take the sub down. The crew en-

*(Continued on page 5)*

### Genengineering In The Future

Imagine a map with no street names. A dictionary in an unknown language. A disassembled jigsaw puzzle. These are some of the descriptions used to explain how much work still needs to be done before the rough draft of the human genetic code can move from the laboratory to actual medical uses.

The government-led Human Genome Project and the private Celera Genomics of Maryland announced jointly that they have identified nearly all of the roughly 3.2 billion bits of chemical information in every cell. This information makes up the operating instructions for human life. These subunits of DNA form the genes that make us what we are, govern our biological functions, and determine our susceptibility to certain illnesses.

Celera's motto is "Speed Matters - Discovery Can't Wait". It is a private company led by American scientist-entrepreneur J. Craig Venter. The Human Genome Project is an international effort involving groups from the U.S., Britain, France, Germany, Japan, and China.

The next steps are to identify the approximately 50,000 genes imbedded in those 3.2 billion bits of information, determine what proteins are made by those genes and what is the function of the protein in the body. Then they can begin to devise therapies to correct problems. Doctors may be able to tailor treatments to specific individuals and correct genetic flaws before birth.

Much work remains to be done. Angela

Trepanier, a genetic counselor at Emory University in Atlanta, said, "We know where the genes are, but we don't know yet how mutations in the genes affect the disease process, and we don't know what genes work together to cause certain diseases.

Most diseases, such as heart disease or high blood pressure, are probably caused by multiple genes and by environmental factors. We will have to know what all the genes are that affect heart disease, plus how environmental factors affect its development, before we can design intervention to prevent heart disease."

The most immediate impact of the genome information is the improved development of traditional drugs. Testing for genetic predisposition to the twenty-five major causes of illness and death in this country will probably be available within a few years. Treatments are most likely decades away. The Cystic Fibrosis gene was identified about eight years ago and we still don't have a cure.

As man struggles again to grow as a society while technology leaps ahead, people are asking how do we keep genetic from joining the growing list of discriminations - racial, sexual, ethnic, and religious?

Jeff Nesmith & M.A.J. McKenna, Atlanta Constitution, 6/27/00, pg. A1, A5  
Sue Leeman, AP, Atlanta Journal, 6/26/00, pg. A1, A10

# Science-Fictionary: *The Language of Our Subculture*

## By Lewis Murphy

**Hugo (award):** noun- Literary award named after SF editor Hugo Gernsback. First given in 1953 and awarded annually by the membership of the World Science Fiction Convention.

**Nebula (award):** noun- Literary award given by the *Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America*. Awarded annually, starting in 1965.

**Rhysling (award):** noun- Award given for SF poetry since 1978, voted on by members of the *Science Fiction Poetry Association*.

**Stoker (award):** noun- Literary award for Horror, named for Bram Stoker. Awarded annually since 1987 by members of the *Horror Writers Association*.

**Edgar (award):** noun- Named for Edgar Allen Poe. A literary award given annually by the *Mystery Writers of America* since 1946.

**Chesley (award):** noun- SF art award named for astronomical artist Chesley Bonestell. Given annually by members of the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists since 1985.

## SF News

Compiled by Bill Sides

### ASFS Member Makes First Sale!

Lucy Cruell has sold her SF story, "Ryan" to the Webzine Space.com. The story, divided into 24 parts, is currently up to chapter 12. To read "ryan" starting with chapter 1, point your web browser to :

[http://www.space.com/sciencefiction/originalfiction/rayn\\_1\\_arayna\\_000630.html](http://www.space.com/sciencefiction/originalfiction/rayn_1_arayna_000630.html)

### More SF Awards

Several non-Hugo awards were given out during the award ceremonies at CHICON 2000:

**John W. Campbell Memorial Award for Best New Writer** – Cory Doctorow

**First Fandom Award** – Jack Williamson

**The Big Heart Award** – Robert Silverberg

The 2000 British Fantasy Awards were handed out at Fantasycon in Birmingham, England:  
**The Karl Edward Wagner Award** – Anne McCaffrey

**Best Novel (AKA The August Derleth Award)**

Indigo, Graham Joyce (Michael Joseph)

**Best Short Fiction** – "White", Tim Lebbon (MOT Press)

**Best Anthology** – The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror 10, ed. Stephen Jones (Robinson)

**Best Collection** – Lonesome Roads, Peter Crowther (Razorblade Press)

**Best Artist** – Les Edwards

### Best Small Press – Razorblade Press

### In Other News...

The SCI FI Channel ordered 24 new one-hour episodes of its original series *Lexx* for 2001, the network announced. In the new season, the series' dysfunctional crew will find itself on a world that may provide it with its most challenging adventures yet. Production on the new episodes is slated to begin in Germany and Nova Scotia later this year.

**Producer Joel Silver** (*The Matrix*) has hired writer Richard D'Ovidio (*Exit Wounds*) to write an update of the 1973 SF classic movie *Westworld*, *Variety* reported.

**Scribner acquired** the latest work from SF author Robert Jordan in an e-book auction, *Variety* reported. The Sobel Weber Associates literary boutique held the first auction of its kind in July. Jordan's e-book "Snow" is the prologue to Winter's Heart, the ninth installment in Jordan's *Wheel of Time* series. Scribner will release the e-book on Sept. 13.

**J. Michael Straczynski** (*Babylon 5*, *Rising Stars*) has signed on to executive produce a major new sci-fi series coming to a pay-cable channel. Straczynski told ZAP2IT.COM another major fellow producer and a big-name genre director are attached to the project.

# Galaxies

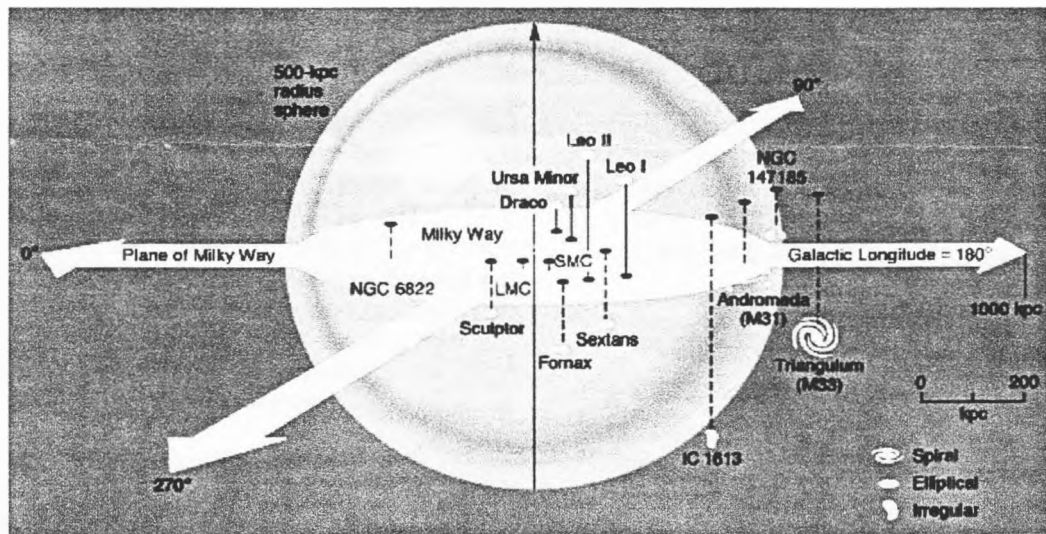
by Jan Sides

Galaxies vary considerably in size, composition, and structure, but nearly all of them are arranged in groups, or clusters. Each galaxy is composed of innumerable stars, from hundreds of million to more than a trillion stars. In many galaxies, as in the Milky Way Galaxy, clouds of interstellar gas and dust particles known as nebulae can be detected.

The majority of known galaxies fall into one of three major classes: spirals, ellipticals and irregulars. Roughly 70 percent of the bright galaxies in the sky are of the spiral variety, including the Milky Way Galaxy. Spiral galaxies are generally subdivided into "normal" and "barred" types. In a normal spiral galaxy, the spiral arms wind out from the center like those of a pinwheel and in the latter, the arms begin from the ends of a straight bar of stars.

An elliptical galaxy has a symmetrical distribution of stars in a spherical shape. Dwarf ellipticals of only a few million stars are by far the most common kind of galaxy, although none is conspicuous in the sky. A small number of galaxies do not fit neatly into the usual scheme of spiral or elliptical, and they are classified as irregular.

Irregular galaxies consist of highly irregular assemblages of luminous areas and have no noticeable symmetry nor obvious central nucleus. Below is a 3D plot of most of the Local Group of galaxies within 3 million light years (1000 kpc) of the Milky Way. Clustering around the great Milky way are several dwarf satellite galaxies, the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC) and Small Magellanic Cloud (SMC). Illustration from Dr. James Schomert, professor of astronomy at University of Oregon



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## Mundane Science: The H.L. Hunley: The End Of A Journey (continued)

*(Continued from page 2)*

tered by means of fore and aft hatches measuring 14 inches by 15.75 inches. The muscles of the crew, hand-cranking the drive shaft provided power for the propeller. Named after Horace Lawson Hunley, a wealthy New Orleans lawyer who financed the construction, the Hunley was built in Mobile, Alabama, in 1863, and sank twice before its ill-fated sortie against the Housatonic.

The Hunley's final resting place went unknown until May, 1995, when archaeologists from the National Underwater Marine Agency detected an unidentified metal target off Sullivans Island, southeast of Charleston. Divers removed three feet of silt and found that they had uncovered one of the Hunley's small hatches. The submarine was in 29 feet of water, resting on its starboard side, with its bow pointed almost directly at Sullivans Island, four miles away.

If the Hunley's crew is found inside, they will be buried, with Confederate military honors, in the city's Magnolia Cemetery, alongside the remains of the two previous crews that died during test runs in 1863. Scientists hope to learn as much from the remains of the crew as they learn from the Hunley itself. The most important question is if the crew is aboard at all. Lacking historical evidence that they escaped, scientists expect to find 8 or 9 men aboard. Because the sub quickly filled with sand and sediment, decay may be minimal. By examining the bones and teeth, experts from the Smithsonian Institution hope to learn what kind of health the crewmen were in and how tall they were. They will investigate the sailor's ethnic origins by comparing the skulls with others in the Smithsonian database. By working with plaster and clay and 3-D images of the skulls, specialists might be able to reconstruct the crewmen's faces. By analyzing the surrounding sand for food particles, they might even be able to tell us what their last meal was.

Planning to raise the Hunley was long and extensive. A special state-of-the-art 40,000 square-foot conservation lab was built at the Charleston Naval Shipyard. The torpedo spar was removed from the sub earlier this summer and is housed in a shallow tank of water at the lab. It was so well preserved that the bolt holding it turned at the touch of a wrench. After they had finished clearing the hull, divers found a hole in the side and a broken window, allowing the sub to quickly fill with sand and sediment. They built a metal framework around the hull. A series of slings suspended from the cradle will support it from beneath and foam-filled bags, contoured to fit the shape of the hull will keep it

from shifting during the 30-foot trip to the surface and subsequent trip to shore. It will be continually sprayed with seawater during the trip and placed in a specially constructed 55-foot tank of fresh water, chilled to 50 degrees, resting on its side, like it rested on the sea bottom.

Once it is in the tank, scientists will x-ray the entire submarine. Then they will use a camera on a fiber optic cable to explore inside the hull. Only then will they begin the excavation of any remains. A refrigerator is available to hold any human remains and other organic materials they find. While the fresh cold water may retard further deterioration, it may ultimately become necessary to take the Hunley apart piece by piece, stabilize each piece, and put it back together.

What other technological marvels exist in the little craft, previously known only from drawings and sketches? Experts have already been surprised that the attack spar was attached at the bottom of the bow instead of the top, as previously thought. Was the Hunley sunk by the pressure wave from the explosion or scuttled in a suicide pact among the crew?

It is estimated that it will cost \$15-20 million and take 7-10 years before that public can see the Hunley, up close and personal.

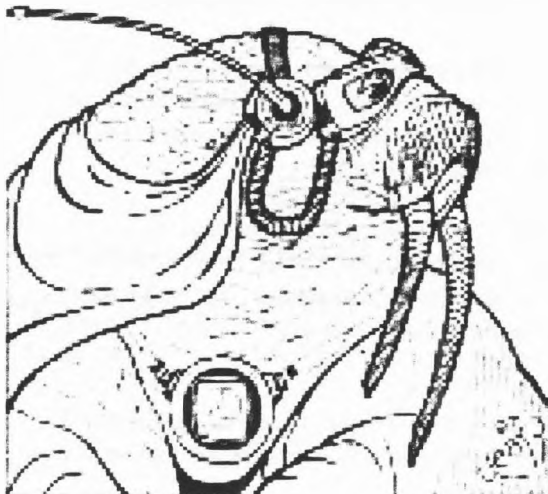
Mike Toner, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 7/30/2000, pg. C1&C4

Chris Burritt, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 8/8/2000, pg. B1

Bruce Smith, AP, Yahoo!News, 8/8/2000

Chris Burritt, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 8/9/2000, pg. A3

W. Thomas Smith, Jr., USA Today, 8/9/2000, pg. A3



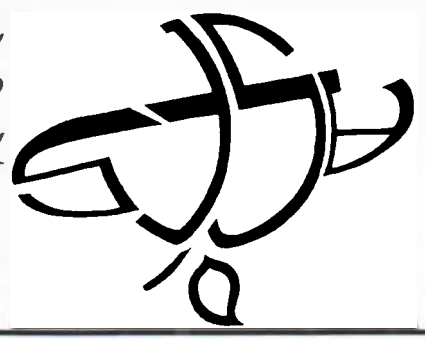
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ATLANTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY  
THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

# Future Times



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\$6.00 U.S., a per issue price of \$1.00 or trade.

The ASFS Future Times was assembled using the internet, MS Word and MS Publisher.

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### About Future Times

The ASFS Future Times is a publication of The Atlanta Science Fiction Society, a gathering of aficionados of Science Fiction, Fantasy and associated genres. Future Times is published nigh-monthly.

or E-mailed to:  
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### From the Editor:

Special thanks to Randy Cleary who has given his permission to use his art to spruce up Future Times. You can view these items and more of his fine artwork at:  
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