THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ATLANTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY

#### VOLUME 4, ISSUE 5

MAY 2001



# FUTURE TIMES

# **2000 Nebula Award Winners**

#### **Reported by Lewis Murphy**

#### **Nebula Award Winners**

The 2000 Nebula Awards were announced April 28 at a ceremony at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California.

#### **Best Novel**

Darwin's Radio by Greg Bear

Best Novella "Goddesses" by Linda Nagata

Best Novelette "Daddy's World" by Walter Jon Williams Best Short Story "macs" by Terry Bisson

Best Script Galaxy Quest by Robert Gordon and David Howard

#### Also at the ceremony:

Philip José Farmer received the **Grand Master** award.

Robert Sheckley received the **Author Emeritus** award.

Yuri Rasovsky and Harlan Ellison earned the **Bradbury Award** for 2000X.

# April 2001 ASFS Meeting Minutes

### Lewis Murphy, ASFS Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 2:16 pm, 16 persons in attendance, with President Bob Goodfriend presiding.

In old business, it was decided to take advantage of the SciFi Summer group membership rate. Due to the sliding scale used by SciFi Summer, the membership determined that the fairest method for charging memberships would be a flat rate of \$15/ASFS member, with any surplus going to club promotions at the convention.

The annual Bar-B-Que Con event was scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup>, to be held at the home of Jayne Rogers and Lewis Murphy. Flyers with necessary information will be provided at the next meeting.

Arrangements were made for Jan Sides to organize the ASFS refreshments at the Jack McDevitt and John Ringo book signings, taking place at the Science Fiction and Mystery Bookshop.

In new business, Programming Director Ted Skirvin announced that he contacted the Dark Shadows Over Atlanta group with our trivia contest challenge, and was awaiting a reply. Aaron Dunne informed the membership of current programming plans for the upcoming Vulkon convention. Michael Liebmann announced his upcoming Filk article, to appear at SciFi Dimensions (www. scifidimensions.com)

The business meeting was adjourned, and members joined in a celebration of President Bob Goodfriend's and *Future Times* Editor Bill Sides's birthdays. The programming consisted of video parodies and bloopers, in keeping with the date of April Fool's.

# **Upcoming Area Conventions**

List provided by Lewis Murphy

#### May 2001

<u>May 4-6:</u> DeepSouthCon 39/Tenacity1- Radisson Hotel, Birmingham, AL. GoH: Catherine Asaro, Larry Elmore, Sharon Green, Ned Brooks and more. Memberships: \$35. Info.: 279 Cheshire Rd., Harpersville, AL 35078; paulette.baker@mindspring.com

<u>May 25-27</u>: LibertyCon 15- Ramada Inn, Chattanooga, TN. GoH- David Drake, Larry Elmore, Debbie Hughes and more. Memberships: \$30 until 5/10, then \$45 (limit 450). Info.: PO Box 695, Hudson, TN 37343-0695; tbolgeo@cdc.net; libertycon@libertycon.org; Web: www.libertycon.org

<u>May 26-27</u>: **Vulkon**-Marriott Century Center, Atlanta, GA. GoH: George Takei, Bruce Campbell, Alice Krige. Cost: \$35+. (Media) Info.: PO Box 821673, South Florida, FL 33082-1673; 954/441-8735; joemotes@aol.com; Web: www.vulkon.com, www.scifinetwork.com/startrek

<u>May 25-27</u>: **Oasis 14-** Radisson Plaza, Orlando, FL. GoH: Jack McDevitt, Jean Pierre Targete, Tom Smith, Ben Bova, Jack Haldeman II, Mike Resnick, Kathleen Ann Goonan and more. Memberships: \$23 until 4/30, then \$27. Info.: Box 940992, Maitland, FL 32794; 407/263-5822; jcr@digital.net, Web: oafis.org/oasis14.html

#### <u>June 2001</u>

June 15-17: Warfair- Powers Ferry Crowne Plaza Hotel, Atlanta, GA. Memberships: \$20 until 5/15, then \$25. (Historical Wargaming) Info.: 105 Asbury Way, Fayetteville, GA 30215; 770/473-1461; Web- www. warfair.com/warfair\_main\_page.html

June 22-24: Festival of Dreams- Marriott Century Center, Atlanta, GA. Memberships: \$40 until 5/15, then \$45. (LARP Gaming) Info.: Suite 615-173 PMB, 4135 LaVista Rd., Tucker, GA 30085; 404/815-9351; festival@chimera-interactive.com; Web- www.chimera-interactive.com/festival/index.html

ASFS Officer Roll Call		
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# The Nature of the Beast

A Column By Ted Skirvin

The Two Roads, The Wood, And The Divergence

This is the second installment of my column and it is related to the first one. Although I will wax philosophic in columns to come, I indicated in the last one that I need to throw a few definitions out there so that there will be a frame of reference.

This time I am going to address that morass of a genre that I find so compelling: Alternate History. Essentially, AH fiction is about history happening in a way that is different than what happened in the real world.

In the typical AH story, history is identical to our own until a certain break point. After that things are different. For instance, Hitler is killed in WWI. Or, Einstein decided to become a concert pianist. Or, Attila ignored the Pope and sacked Rome.

For those stories that deal with multiple alternate timelines, there are basically two paradigms. In one kind there was originally only one universe. As time passed new timelines came into being to embody various possible outcomes of events. The other paradigm is that all the universes always existed separate from each other.

It should be kept in mind that AH stories are not always science fiction. For those that are SF (see my previous column) the advanced technology is usually a device that allows one to travel to an alternate timeline. AH stories that are not SF generally take place only in one timeline. However, it seems the inhabitants often speculate about a timeline that is remarkably like our own.

Okay, enough with the definitions. Here are some future column titles:

Science Fiction: What is it REALLY about?

J.R.R. Tolkien: racist and imperialist or just a racist?

Some Helpful Hints For Readers

# **Hugo Award Finalists**

**Reported by Lewis Murphy** 

#### Novel

A Storm of Swords by George R.R. Martin Calculating God by Robert J. Sawyer Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire by J.K. Rowling Midnight Robber by Nalo Hopkinson The Sky Road by Ken MacLeod

#### Novella

"A Roll of the Dice" by Catherine Asaro

"Oracle" by Greg Egan

- "Radiant Green Star" by Lucius Shepard
- "Seventy-Two Letters" by Ted Chiang
- "The Retrieval Artist" by Kristine Kathryn Rusch
- "The Ultimate Earth" by Jack Williamson

#### Novellette

"Agape Among the Robots" by Allen Steele "Generation Gap" by Stanley Schmidt "Millennium Babies" by Kristine Kathryn Rusch "On the Orion Line" by Stephen Baxter "Redchapel" by Mike Resnick

### Short Story

"Different Kinds of Darkness" by David Langford "Kaddish for the Last Survivor" by Michael A. Burstein "Moon Dogs" by Michael Swanwick "The Elephants on Neptune" by Mike Resnick "The Gravity Mine" by Stephen Baxter

#### **Related Book**

Concordance to Cordwainer Smith, Third Edition by Anthony R. Lewis Greetings from Earth: The Art of Bob Eggleton by Bob Eggleton and Nigel Suckling . Putting It Together: Turning Sow's Ear Drafts Into Silk Purse Stories by Mike Resnick

(Continued on page 4)

# ET GO HOME! A SF Puzzle by Jayne Rogers and Lewis Murphy

Help the fictional characters return to their planets of origin. Place the correct letter of the planet by the number of the alien.

- 1. Leia 2. The Shrike 3. Valentine Michael Smith 4. Dr. Morbius 5. Ford Prefect 6. Kal-El 7. Vir 8. Thuvia 9. Garek 10. Stilgar 11. Conehead 12. Moon Dawntreader 13. Hari Seldon 14. The Master 15. Adama 16. Donal Graeme 17. Mathesar 18. The Little Prince
- \_19. Dr. Zaius
- \_\_\_\_20. Ming the Merciless

a. Mars b. Asteriod B-612 c. Tiamat d. Thermia e. Remulak f. Caprica g. Arrakis h. Mongo i. Barsoom i. Cardassia k. Dorsai I. Earth m. Hyperion n. Trantor o. Centauri Prime p. Krypton q. Gallifrev r. Altair IV s. Alderaan t. a small planet somewhere in the

vicinity of Betelgeuse

Answers: 1-s, 2-m, 3-a, 4-r, 5t, 6-p, 7-o, 8-i, 9-j, 10-g 11-e, 12-c, 13-n, 14-q, 15-t, 16-k, 17-d, 18-b, 1 9-l, 20-h

# Hugo Finalists (Continued)

#### (Continued from page 3)

Robert A. Heinlein: A Reader's Companion by James Gifford

Terry Pratchett: Guilty of Literature, ed. by Andrew M. Butler, Edward James and Farah Mendlesohn

#### Dramatic Presentation

Chicken Run ♦ Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon Frank Herbert's Dune ♦ Frequency ♦ X-Men

#### Professional Editor

#### **Professional Artist**

Jim Burns ♦ Bob Eggleton ♦ Frank Kelly Freas Donato Giancola ♦ Michael Whelan

#### Semiprozine

Interzone, edited by David Pringle Locus, edited by Charles N. Brown New York Review of Science Fiction, edited by Kathryn Cramer, David G. Hartwell and Kevin Maroney Science Fiction Chronicle, edited by Andrew I. Porter Speculations, edited by Denise Lee and Susan Fry; published by Kent Brewster

#### Fanzine

Challenger, edited by Guy Lillian III File 770, edited by Mike Glyer Mimosa, edited by Nicki and Richard Lynch Plokta, edited by Alison Scott, Steve Davies and Mike Scott Stet, edited by Dick Smith and Leah Zeldes Smith

#### Fan Writer

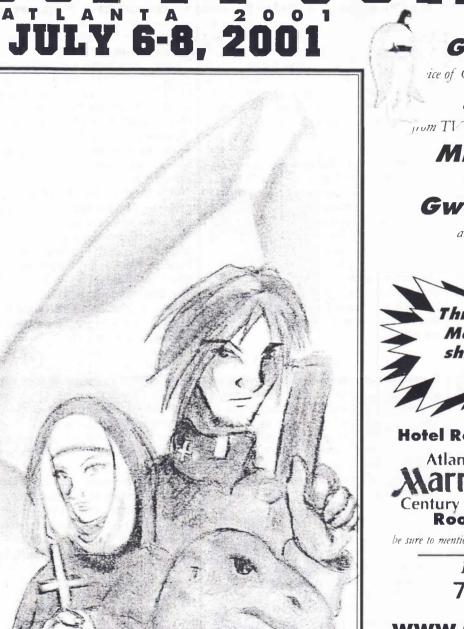
Bob Devney♦Mike Glyer♦Dave LangfordEvelyn C. Leeper♦Steven H Silver

#### Fan Artist

#### John W. Campbell Award

James L. Cambias . 
Thomas Harlan
Douglas Smith
Jo Walton

THE NEW SCIENCE-FICTION CONVENTION THAT'S LOOSELY BASED ON ALL THE OLD SCIENCE-FICTION CONVENTIONS!



Getebrating The 25th Appiversary of the Tetevision Series



SCI



With Our Special Guests:

George LOWE

ice of Cartoon Network's Space Ghost!

Lisa GETTO 110m TV's Babylon 5 and Deep Space 9

Michael BRADY

anime voice actor!

**Gwen KNIGHTON** 

award-winning harpist/filker! and more to come!



# Hotel Reservation Information:



2000 Century Boulevard NE Atlanta, GA 30345-3377 Phone: 404-325-0000

**Room Rates \$89/Night** 

be sure to mention Sci-Fi Summer to get the convention rates!

## For More Information: 770-753-0779 visit our website at:

### WWW.SCI-FI-SUMMER.COM

Alright already, I guess I have nothing better to do! Here's money for \_\_\_\_\_ memberships at \$20 each! Name: Address: Phone: .

E-Mail:

Make all checks payable to Joeve Enterprises, Inc. and mail them to Sci-Fi Summer, 4090 Brooksbridge Crossing, Alpharetta, GA, 30022

### **THE EVENTS!**

#### "The Usual Suspects"

The same stuff you expect to see at every other sci-fi con in the country but done in our own twisted little way! Cool, huh?

#### Dealer's Room

Can't have a con without a dealers room! Well you can, but why? Open during most of the con. Vendors and hours pending. Spend your money here cuz if you don't we'll have to bust ya in da kneecaps!

#### Art Show

Paintings, models, sculptures, a buncha stuff that only the elite will understand but you can look at and maybe buy to bring into your home and confuse your guests!

#### **Costume Contest**

Untalented amateurs in garish outfits onstage facing an unruly audience armed to the teeth with assorted fruits and vegetables. What could be more fun? Entrance rules also pending.

#### Videos

The place you wanna go when you can't think of anything else to do! We'll try to show you stuff you can't just walk into Blockbuster and rent...

#### Panels

Aluminum or wood? These decisions are never easy. Oh, you mean a *panel*, like a discussion! Well, why didn't you say so! Yeah we'll have those. But while you're there we'll talk about remodeling your house anyway, just for the helluvit!

#### Games

Craps, roulette, wheel of cash, all the stuff you can get at any Casino night. None of that will be at Sci-Fi Summer. But we'll have RPG, *Magic, Pokemon* or whatever's hot at the time, plus computer and video games and anything else we can dream up! And speaking of games:

#### The Sci-Fi Summer Games!

OK, this is the idea: we get representatives from as many clubs as we can find here in Atlanta and have them do a bunch of different games to determine what club reigns supreme over all! The *kinds* of games we'll have, we're not saying until the con itself is underway! The winners will get cheap but sentimentally valuable prizes, plus can act obnoxious all year long! Yeah, I know, but now they'll have a *reason* for it!



# 'HE GUESTS!

Voice Actor George Lowe decided to join us this year after losing his twelfth straight game



Space Ghost Coast To Coast, he's also done about everything you can do in the broadcast industry, including being an anchorman (at WTOG in Tampa/St. Pete in Florida).

Actress Lisa Getto has been in dozens of scifi shows, including Babylon 5, Sabrina The Teenage

Witch and Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. Her resume also includes shows such as N.Y.P.D. Blue, Diagnosis: Murder, and Frasier. She also packs heat and is a hazardous goods specialist, which is a definite necessity for a guest at this con, let me tell you.

Voice Actor Michael Brady (no, not that Michael Brady!) is known for his work on



anime shows like *Crusher Joe* and *Blue Submarine No. 6*, which is now on Cartoon Network. And yes, we know, this isn't an anime con, but frankly we don't care cuz he's a cool guy and we want him at our con, so there!

Award-winning harpist Gwen Knighton is our filking guest this year, and she'll be strutting her stuff Friday and Saturday night for your listening pleasure. Gwen is part of a group called The



Three Weird Sisters, which describes itself as an eclectic-acoustic amalgamation.

Of course, there's more guests on the drawing board, and we'll keep you updated on what's going on as we use our powers of persuasion, not to mention the occasional blackmail, to get them here!



In the summer of 1973, officials from the New Zealand Diocese of the Catholic Church held a meeting to discuss what to do to recruit and keep young people. At this meeting was newly-ordained Father Thomas Leach, who had only recently arrived at the parish from Tacoma, Washington, Father Leach had been watching Star Trek, and was amazed at the bold vision of Star Trek's future, its positive and inspirational message, and its faith in humanity. The only thing he felt was missing was a sense of spirituality: surely, he thought, the Catholic Church would still be around in the 23rd century. While Star Trek hadn't vet reached New Zealand, Father Leach's enthusiasm for the show impressed the elders, and he spoke of his idea of creating a show along those lines which would inspire teenagers and others to join the Church.

Of course, the Church had no idea how to go about doing this, but Father Leach got help from some friends, mainly Dr. P.R. Lenardo, a doctor of theology who was working as a religious columnist for a local newspaper, and Russell Summers, an independent producer who had done some work in Australia. Father Leach, Dr. Lenardo and Mr. Summers worked out a plan, which included financing, and presented it to the Church leaders, who approved wholeheartedly.

For the next year, they worked to sell the show without avail. Their financial backers, a group of local businessmen with ties to the Catholic Church, were just about out of patience when they learned about the creation of a new television station, TV2. The station owners were eager for new material and wrote the show (now titled *Critical Mass*) into their inaugural fall schedule.

The series was poorly received by critics, not so much because of the production values, which for the era and the small budget were excellent, but because it was so obviously a means for the Catholic Church to recruit people. It still might have survived, but New Zealand's television, like the BBC in Britain, is state-run, and an investigation (rumored to have been started by the Anglican Church, the predominant church in New Zealand) revealed the influence of the show and it was forced off the air.

While Critical Mass had a few fans, the series hadn't yet had enough time to reach a solid audience. Only thirteen episodes were made, and (as far as we know) none of the original prints has survived. Home video wasn't widely available in New Zealand at the time, so any copies of the show are nearly impossible to come by.

Sci-Fi Summer is proud to celebrate the 25th anniversary of this little-known show, and we hope to gather as many of the original cast and crew as we can to participate! We'll keep you posted on these events as they occur!



Network. know, this con, but fra care cuz he' we want hir



# *VULKON - ΑΤLΑΠΤΑ*

MAY 25-27, 2001 Marriot Century Center 2000 Century Blvd.

> Atlanta, Georgia 30345 (404) 325-0000

### HOURS

Friday night activities 7pm to midnight (with expanded activities!); Saturday, 10am until ?; Sunday, 10am - 6pm.

# RDMISSION

Single Day Admission for Saturday is \$30 & Sunday is \$25; Weekend Membership is \$50. Order early for the best seating & lower badge numbers for faster autographs. BY MAIL ORDER: Make check or money order payable to VULKON and mail with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Vulkon c/o Joe Motes P.O. Box 297122, Pembroke Pines, FL 33029-7122. Must be postmarked by May 11th 2001.

**AT THE DOOR:** Tickets can be purchased from 7pm - 10pm Friday night and ALL DAY Saturday & Sunday. Children: 10 and under are 1 free per adult.

# ACTIVITIES

We have expanded our regular programming to include more games, panels, charity auctions! Gaming all weekend! Don't miss the costume contest with NEW Horror category and Q & A with our stars. Vulkon Dance with a Live DeeJay. Don't Miss These Fantastic Activities And Much More!

## DEALERS' ROOM

It's still big, bold and chock full of collectibles, toys, comic books, videotapes, animation, T-shirts and memorabilia.

# РИОТОБКАРНУ & АПТОБКАРИЗ

• Video & Still Photography is permitted. • George Takei and Bruce Campbell both Sign 1 Item FREE per person per day with admission. They will also sign additional items for a small fee. Alice Krige will be charging a minimal fee for autographs. Please Note: Additional stars may be announced, these guests are not compensated for their appearances. They will charge a small fee (An average of \$10-15) for their photos with autograph. They will also sign your personal items, usually for a small fee. You are under no obligation to buy anything from the bonus guests, but if your budget allows, pick up an extra autograph or two to thank them for coming to your town.

# OUR HOTEL

Rooms are available at \$69.00 for Single, Double. Triple and Quad available for \$79.00. Call the hotel at 407-325-0000 and mention Vulkon or Star Trek to get the special rate. Make reservations by April 25th, 2000. Located at: 2000 Century Blvd. - Atlanta, GA 30345 (Located just off I-85 at Century Center)

# RESERVED SERTING

Reserved seating is available for \$10 per day or \$10 for the weekend. Friends wishing to sit together must order together. Send payment at the same time when you order your tickets by mail. Reserved seating is NOT free to children. Reserved seating is subject to availability and may not be available at the door.

WEBSITE: WWW.VULKON.COM

REACH US

VIA EMAIL: ioemotes@aol.com

# DON'T MISS THE SPECIAL SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER WITH THE STARS!

#### JOIN US FOR A FOR A GREAT EVENING OF FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT AT OUR ALWAYS SOLD-OUT BANQUET WITH THE STARS!

- The evening features a delicious meal served in the company of our guest stars.
- Banquet tickets are only \$50 and are limited.
- To keep things cozy, we limit the dinner to about 100 persons.
- Proper (Semi-Formal) Dinner Attire Requested.
- Banquet tickets should be ordered in advance, the final tickets will be sold one week in advance. Tickets will not be available at the door. Food need to be ordered in advance, so you must choose beef or vegetarian dishes when purchasing your ticket.

Vulkon membership is required to attend the dinner.

So bring your cameras and let's have some fun!



hanging panels, 3-D freestanding art in the middle room, and all tables not in the artist bazaar along the perimeter walls. All artwork will have a piece ID sheet with prices and places to write bids for the art auction.

**THE PRINT SHOP:** Featuring limited edition prints from artists in the show. Prints available for the marked price.

**THE ARTISTS BAZAAR:** The Artists Bazaar is a special area for artists to present merchandise related to their art and is located in the main art exhibition room. The artists themselves will present these and will even personalize many items for you.

**ART SHOW PROGRAMMING:** You want to learn how they make these wonderful creations? How about watching artists in drawing contests? If you're an artist you can also learn tips and tricks to help improve and market your art.

**THE ART SHOW AUCTION:** So you found a piece of work that you really must take home. But when you went to buy it someone has already put a bid on it. Now you must go to the art auction and win that piece at all costs! It's an event you won't want to miss!

**THE ART SHOW AWARDS CEREMONY:** This is the fans opportunity to have a say as to who they think is the best in the show. Please take the time to vote on your favorites.

For the latest information on the Art Show, please check the Vulkon website at **www.vulkon.com**. If you have any questions about the Art Show, please email Patrick or Felicia Roberts at **gt0398b@prism.gatech.edu**.

or **PHONE** FOR

MORE INFO: 954.441.8735

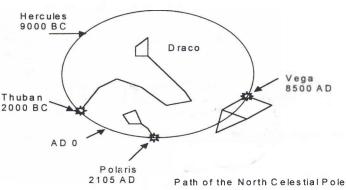
# **Polaris, North Star For Now**

Science Article by Jan Sides

Polaris, meaning Pole Star, is quite an unusual star. Polaris is the nearest bright star to the north spin axis of the Earth, the North Celestial Pole. Therefore, as the Earth turns, stars appear to rotate around Polaris, making it the North Star. Although Polaris is not the brightest star on the sky, it is easily located because it is nearly aligned with two stars in the cup of the Big Dipper, and is the last star in the handle of the Little Dipper.

The north pole of the Earth doesn't stay pointed at a fixed direction in space. Like a wobbling top, the Earth *precesses*, tracing out a full circle, in the sky every 25,800 years. As the Earth's axis slowly turns in space, the position of

space, the position of all the stars as seen from Earth, changes. Polaris is only the pole star at the moment. About 4,600 year ago, Thuban (Alpha Draconis) was nearest to the North Celestial Pole. Our Polaris will reach its closest point to the true north pole in the year 2105, and by 8500 AD brilliant Vega (Alpha Lyrae) will point the way north, at which time Polaris will be an obscure star almost 45 degrees from the pole. During the time when the Egyptians were building the three Great Pyramids, there was no North Star. The first pyramid built was in fact lined up facing North. The Egyptians used two stars that lined up north as their guide. However, by the time they built the second one, they were off by a few degrees, and by the third pyramid, they were considerable off true North. All because they used the same set of stars.



Precession is often called the precession of the equinoxes, since one of its most obvious consequences is the slow progression of the position of the Sun at the time of the equinoxes from constellation to constellation over the centuries. Preces-

sion is both the bane and the guaranteed meal ticket of the positional astronomer.

Astronomers record the positions of celestial bodies in an *equatorial* coordinate system-based on the Earth's equator and poles. But since the poles move with respect to the stars, any position must be qualified by the date for which the position is valid (its "epoch").

# **Books To Look For**

## Compiled by Bill Downs

#### April 2001

Anne McCaffrey, The Skies of Pern

David Feintuch, Children of Hope

James H. Schmitz, The Hub: Dangerous Territory (4 of 4)\*

#### May 2001

Ursula K. Le Guin, Tales from Earthsea

#### **June 2001**

Alan Dean Foster, *Reunion: A Pip and Flinx* Novel

#### October 2001

Brian Herbert & Kevin J. Anderson, House Corrino

\* - Because of the good reception of these books, there will be 2-3 more books in the series

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

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SOLIETY

6715 Ridge Moore Dr. Atlanta, GA 30360

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

# THE STAFF

Editor in Chief: Bill Sides Assistant Editor: Jan Sides Staff Columnist: William Downs Staff Columnist: Lewis Murphy

### **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.

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Submissions, questions or comments may be mailed to:

Future Times c/o Bill Sides 6715 Ridge Moore Dr. Atlanta, GA 30360

or E-mailed to: drbills@mediaone.net

50882-3150

From the Editor: Big Thanks to all who contributed to this issue of Future Times.

#### 772 OULIUE

To access our website, available soon, point your web browser to:

#### http://www.asfs.org

ASFS maintains an É-mail mailing list hosted by Yahoo! Groups. Anyone who is interested may join by directing their web browser to:

#### http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ASFS

Beyond the mailing list, the ASFS YAHOOGroups site has a calendar which lists our upcoming club and local SF events, as well as a new database for SF VHS and DVD offerings for our monthly Movie Night — any member of the ASFS news list may view and add to these. This site is also where member polls are originated and voted on.