



THE F.A.C.T. SHEET

A monthly publication of the Fandom Association of Central Texas, Inc.

2008

February

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FACT ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: Sunday, March 16, 1- 4:15 PM

WHERE: Austin Recreation Center*

1301 Shoal Creek, Austin, 78701

**To continue at a restaurant if things run late.*

MAIL IN YOUR BALLOT!

**IF UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE
BE SURE TO VOTE BY MAILING IN THE
ENCLOSED STAMPED, ADDRESSED
BALLOT!**

NEBULA UPDATE

Submitted by Karen Meschke

The Nebula Awards Banquet weekend is coming up in Austin April 25-27. The Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) has named Joe R. Lansdale as Toastmaster and Ardath Mayhar as Author Emeritus for the event. Both authors live in east Texas.

Lansdale was cited by the association as "one of the most thoroughly Texan authors writing today." He has won a variety of mystery, fantasy and horror awards for his more than two dozen novels, short story collections and anthologies.

The SFWA said that Mayhar, author of 61 novels and many short stories and poems, is "widely known for her sweet, grandmotherly appearance which belies a quick wit and fast tongue." Her books span a variety of genres, including SF, fantasy, westerns, horror and contemporary fiction.

Both writers have participated in ArmadilloCon, as well as other regional cons. Lansdale was Toastmaster at ArmadilloCon in 1984 and 2002, and at the World Fantasy Convention 2000.

The 2007 Preliminary Ballot for the Nebula Awards has been announced. You can view it online at tinyurl.com/3as82o.

INSTACON REPORT

Submitted by A.T. Campbell II, Sara Cooper, Karen Meschke, Paul Pipkin

InstaCon 7 was held January 25-27, 2008, in San Antonio. InstaCon, a convention for Texas fans who run conventions, is sponsored by ALAMO, Inc., a statewide fan organization. It offers an opportunity to meet, network, learn, and trade ideas with other con-runners from across Texas. The InstaCon 7 program included a tour of the River Walk and convention center on Saturday. Other topics included hotels, publicity, masquerades, art shows, and programming. Program participants were drawn from the convention's membership. A number of FACT members participated.

A.T. Campbell gave InstaCon a positive review. He enjoyed "meeting several new and active fans, primarily from San Antonio." He also appreciated "the excellent con suite with a variety of wonderful food." He was glad there was "good attendance and interest at the panels and round tables (I was in charge of programming, so had a vested interest)." The program book round table was a standout, given "the quality and quantity (multiple boxes!) of examples and handouts Pat Virzi brought." And finally, he had a great time at the "wild Pictionary game on Saturday night, where Kurt Baty and Eric Hollas surprised us with effective drawing ability. We already knew Kimm could draw, but those two were a surprise!" A.T. has held a number of positions at FACT, including Co-Chair of ArmadilloCon 20 (1998). He is currently the coordinator of the FACT North Austin Reading Group.

Sara Cooper also had a great time. "Preparing food for the attendees made me feel as though Momma ([former FACT President] Judith Ward) was there with us." "The two panels I participated in were atypical in that we were able to get [and] give in-depth questions and answers... The panel I sat on concerned the role of multimedia in the future of conventions, and Christopher and David, my co-panelists, were knowledgeable and articulate in their assessments. I don't know that I actually contributed much other than expressing my position that traditional SF conventions primarily based on literary efforts should evolve to be more inclusive of

other media, which in turn will attract more attendees. I firmly believe that increased attendance at any convention will serve our various clubs in a variety of ways, not least of which is to help increase interest in the literature on which we have based our goals as an organization." Sara is the current FACT Registrar.

"I have always tried to learn something new, and 'borrow' the best ideas," said Karen Meschke. InstaCon offered a chance to "meet new con running folks I've never met before -- the two groups from San Antonio and the fan from Dallas." She got to "enjoy a meal or two while relaxing with old and new friends," with a "great meal on the River Walk on Saturday evening." She particularly enjoyed "the conversation group roundabout on Saturday night in the Con Suite where folks stated what group/convention they represented and gave a brief spin on their event." Karen's con-running activities to date have included stints as Chair of ArmadilloCon 11 (1989), Chair of ConMisterio (2006), Chair of the World Science Fiction Convention 55/LoneStarCon 2 (1997), and Co-Chair of the Bouchercon World Mystery Convention in 2002. She is currently chair of the 2008 Nebula Awards Banquet Weekend, which will be held here in Austin April 25-27.

Paul Pipkin noted, "Primarily, I appreciated the opportunity to learn more about who is who in the organizations--about which I'd had only vague notions. In several panels -- Ground Up, Programming, Marketing & Pub, Challenges of Large Cons plus the ALAMO Welcome and Texas Con Presentations -- I learned more than I'd known about the structure of specific regional conventions and the status of current bids." Paul is a member of San Antonio SF group Ursa Major.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS!

Please take a moment now to review your mailing label to see when we think your FACT membership expired or will expire. This is especially important this month, as you will be unable to vote at the Annual Meeting if your membership is not current.

RENEW: To renew, go to www.fact.org. You can download a flyer to mail in, or you can pay online using Paypal.

ERROR? If you think we have made an error, please accept our apologies in advance and send a note to board2007@fact.org to help us correct any error.

READING GROUP DINNER WITH AUTHOR MAUREEN F. MCHUGH

Submitted by A.T. Campbell II,

On February 11, the Reading Group took local author Maureen F. McHugh to dinner at Mongolian Grille. We'd recently read her collection *Mothers and Other Monsters*, and earlier had read her novel *Half the Day is Night*. Between the Reading Group, the author, and her husband, we had sixteen people at dinner.

We talked with Maureen about a variety of things: her writing, her travels in China, her dogs, and her day job as a writer for alternate reality games. She told amusing anecdotes about the alternate reality games she created for *Halo 2* and *Nine Inch Nails*. Two members of our group were Maureen's former students from Clarion, so we talked a bit about writing workshops. We complimented her on the stories in *Mothers and Other Monsters*, and a couple of us got Maureen to sign their copies of the book.

Dinner lasted nearly two hours. Everyone seemed to have a fine time. Thanks to Ms. McHugh for her participation.



FACToids & FRIENDS

This column is for news about FACT members, their friends, Texas writers, and important events in the SF&F community. If you have any such news, please contact the FACT Sheet Editor at publications@fact.org.

AUTHOR & PUBLISHER NEWS

Paolo Bacigalupi, a favorite author of your FACT Sheet editor, has his first collection of stories coming out this month. His fiction has been nominated for the Nebula and Hugo awards, and has won the Sturgeon Award for best SF short story of the year. *Pump Six and Other Stories* features the expected glowing compliments as jacket blurbs, plus this hilarious one from **Terry Bisson**: "I hate this guy. All of a sudden he comes out of nowhere, writing like a weird angel, and winning awards, and knocking us old pros out of the box with stories

about stuff we hadn't gotten around to thinking up yet. (Like that stupid bio dog!) Plus he's young and good looking. Luckily, he has an unpronounceable name."

Jayne Lynn Blaschke is publishing on an online series "Memory," on the No Fear of the Future blog. The first installment was posted on Jan. 14: tinyurl.com/385ejq.

Mark Finn reported on the Finn's Wake blog that he is emerging from "a state of crippling depression [that he has been in] for much of the last year." It sounds as if he is getting back to things creative: "I just sent a proposal in to Del Rey for an expanded hardcover edition of *Blood & Thunder*. We'll see how that flies. I've also been asked to adapt a movie script for comics. More on that later. Finally, I'm working on a couple of short stories with fellow Texas writer **Scott Cupp**. After that, I'm going to decide which novel I want to work on and pursue." If you want a Finn fix now, go to www.Wowio.com, where his out-of-print collection *Gods New & Used* is available as a free download (registration required).

Steve Gerber, the comic-book writer who created Howard the Duck, has died. He was 60. Read more at tinyurl.com/2rsz5b. The Alamo Drafthouse will screen *Howard the Duck* in honor of Gerber's passing on Saturday, March 2, at 9:45 PM.



Alexis Glynn Latner has a story, "Snake and Smiley," in the anthology *Dead and Breakfast*, a collection of short mystery stories by members of the Houston, Texas, writers group The Final Twist. She has also been at work blogging, including a recent post on dealing with a parent's Alzheimer's. See nofearofthefuture.blogspot.com. Latner is also the author of a novel, *Hurricane Moon*, currently available from Pyr.

Texas authors **Joe R. Lansdale** and **Ardath Mayhar** have been named by the Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) as Toastmaster and Author Emeritus for this year's Nebula Awards.

The 2008 **Locus Poll and Survey** is now open for online votes. Log on to tinyurl.com/2i8pd8 to cast your votes. The ballot is based on Locus's Recommended Reading 2007 list (tinyurl.com/2nh68j). Nominees include **Joe Haldeman**, who will be a Special Guest at ArmadilloCon 30, **John Picacio**, **Chris Roberson**, **Bruce Sterling**, **Howard Waldrop**, and many others.

Elizabeth Moon will be signing copies of *Victory Conditions* at BookPeople on Thursday, February 28, at 7 PM. *Victory Conditions* is the final volume in the Vatta's War series. You can read an excerpt of *Victory Conditions* at tinyurl.com/2p3em9. The previous book in the series, *Command Decision*, is also being released in mass-market paperback this

month. You can read an excerpt from that one at tinyurl.com/38bjjf. Del Rey has announced that Moon has been signed to write three further books for Del Rey. These books will be a new trilogy set in the world of her Paksenarrion series. The first book is planned to release in 2009.

Michael Moorcock and **John Picacio** will appear in person on at Austin Books (5002 N. Lamar) on Saturday, February 23, from 4 to 7 p.m. Moorcock will read from *Elric: Stealer of Souls*. This will be his first signing of the new Elric trade paperbacks that are being released by Ballantine/Del Rey starting in February. This new edition of the Elric books includes new addenda and notes. For *Elric: Stealer of Souls*, John Picacio not only illustrated the cover, but the interiors as well. The other interior illustrators for the books in this series are Michael Kaluta, Steve Ellis and Justin Sweet. Picacio says, "Please mark your calendars, spread the word, and come out to this event if your schedule allows. It would be terrific to see you."

Austin writer **Jessica Reisman** now has two stories available on AnthologyBuilder.com -- "Raney's Hounds," which received an honorable mention for *Year's Best Fantasy and Horror*, 1999, and "The Arcana of Maps," a *Year's Best Science Fiction*, 2000, honorable mention. Her story "By Salt's Green Sea" will appear in *Forgotten Worlds* later in 2008.

Hyperion Books for Children just released a short ad for *Battle of the Labyrinth*, the fourth volume in **Rick Riordan's** Percy Jackson series. You can see it on YouTube at tinyurl.com/25frce. He also has a video in which he reads part of chapter one: tinyurl.com/yvobdr. *Battle of the Labyrinth* is due out on May 6, 2008.

BL Publishing/Solaris will release a mass-market edition of *The Dragon's Nine Sons* by **Chris Roberson** this month. Chris Roberson is one of the founders of Monkeybrain Books, which, along with FACT, published *Cross Plains Universe*. He has been a finalist for the World Fantasy Award and for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer. Solaris published his novel *Set the Seas on Fire*. They are currently publishing his novel *Three Unbroken* as an online serial: tinyurl.com/2cb675.

John Scalzi, who will be Guest of Honor at this year's ArmadilloCon, was honored by Hub Magazine, which names his blog as one of four Best Blogs for 2007. Read "The Hub Awards-ish" online at tinyurl.com/2yhhas.

Tor Books is launching a new site and running a campaign in which they are giving away free e-books until the site goes live. To get in on the deal, fill out the form at their site, and each week you will receive a newsletter containing links to download a new book. The first two books are *Mistborn* by "rising fantasy star" **Brandon Sanderson**, to be

followed by *Old Man's War* by ArmadilloCon 30 Guest of Honor **John Scalzi**. Get started at www.tor.com.

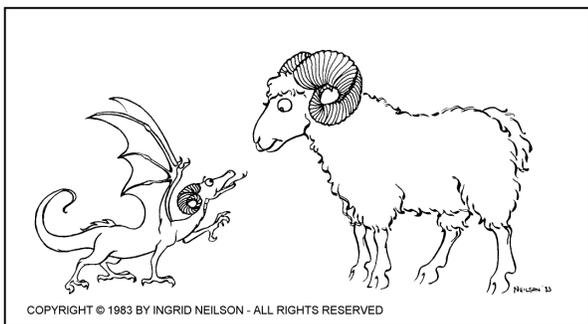
Martha Wells had her first novel, *Element of Fire*, reviewed on DearAuthor.com, a website where readers post reviews addressed as letters to the authors. Read it at tinyurl.com/2ok8my. Wells reported on her blog on Feb. p that "I started a new fantasy novel in May of 2007, it's a new world, stand-alone, and it's not too far from being done. I'm not going to describe it yet, I may wait until after it's finished to do that." In the meantime, some of Martha's older short stories are available in print again through AnthologyBuilder.com, a website that allows you to create a custom SF or fantasy anthology.

Phyllis A. Whitney died on February 9, 2008, at the age of 104, assign away after a brief illness (per the webmaster for her official website). Ms. Whitney was a prolific author of best-selling books in a variety of genres, including romantic mysteries, gothics, young-adult novels and children's mysteries. In 1988, the Mystery Writers of America gave her their Grand Master award for lifetime achievement.

MEDIA & OTHER NEWS

Jumper, the movie based on **Steve Gould's** novel of the same name, was released on February 14. Gould commented about the film on the Eat Our Brains blog (Feb. 8), "... I want all of you to keep one thought uppermost in your minds regarding the movie. Please don't suck. Please don't suck. Please don't suck."

Roy Scheider died on February 10, 2008, at the age of 75. While best known for his role in *Jaws*, he has roles in a number of other films, including two that earned him Academy Award nominations -- *The French Connection* and *All That Jazz*. SF fans may remember his work in *2010*.



UPCOMING EVENTS

OTHER GROUPS

Feb. 28 (Thurs.), 7-8:30 PM, Barnes & Noble Arboretum Café, **Science and Religion in Fiction Book Club** (Center for Inquiry) will

discuss *Galileo's Children* edited by Gardner Dozois

Mar. 12 (Wed), 7 PM, Flight Path (corner of 51st and Duval): The **Dark Forces Reading Group** will discuss *Magic for Beginners* by Kelly Link

Mar. 17 (Mon), 7 PM, BookPeople: **The Ludicrous Speed Book Group** will discuss *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card

Mar. 17 (Mon), 7 PM, Austin Public Library Howson Branch (2500 Exposition): **Howson Branch Science Fiction Book Club** will discuss *Foundation* by Isaac Asimov

Fridays, 7 PM, UT Austin WEL 1.316: **UT Anime Club**. Spring schedule includes: Nodame Cantabile, Kyo Kara Maoh!, Le Chevalier D'Eon, Claymore, Legend of the Galactic Heroes, Princess Tutu, Minami-ke, Speed Grapher.

Saturdays, 12-8 PM, Great Hall Games: **Austin Board Gamers**

MOVIES & TV

Alamo Drafthouse Downtown

- Wed., Feb. 20, 11:55 PM: *Weird Wednesday: Seven to One*
- Thurs., Feb. 21, 11:55 PM: *Terror Thursday: Critters 2*
- Wed., Feb. 27, 11:55 PM: *Weird Wednesday: Teenage Hitchhikers*
- Thurs., Feb. 28, 11:55 PM: *Terror Thursday: So Sad About Gloria*

CONVENTIONS

Here are details on conventions that FACT members, associates, and Favorite Authors will attend.

Mar. 1: **Staple! The Independent Media Expo**, Monarch Event Center, Austin, TX. "An event to promote independent media: comics, art, animation, and self-published literature." www.staple-austin.org

Mar. 14-16: **ChimaeraCon**, Crossroads Convention Center, San Antonio. Guests John Picacio, Marc Singer, Howard V. Tayler. www.chimaeracon.com

Mar. 27-30: **AggieCon 39**, College Station, TX. Media GoH Ellen Muth from *Dead Like Me*; Artist GoH Carl Lundgren; Anime GoH Tiffany Grant. Additional guests (as of Feb. 9) include: C. Dean Andersson, Darlene Bolesny, Steven Brust, Rachel Caine, Robert Conrad, Scott Cupp, Preston DuBose, Tom Knowles, Gloria Oliver, Mel White and Mark Worrell. aggiecon.tamu.edu

Mar. 28-30: **MidSouthCon 26**, Memphis, TN. Author GoH Eric Flint; Science GoH Ben Bova; Artist GoH Bob Eggleton; Comics GoH Len Wein; Gaming GoH Shane Lacy Hensley; Filk GoH The FuMP featuring Rob Balder; Toastmaster Selina Rosen.

www.midsouthcon.org

Apr. 25-27: **Nebula Awards Weekend**, Omni Austin Hotel, Austin, TX.

www.sfw.org/awards/2008/index.html

Apr. 25-28: **Corflu**, Las Vegas, NV.

www.corflu.org

May 30 – Jun. 6: **A-Kon 19**, Adam's Mark Hotel, Dallas, TX. The oldest continually running, anime-based convention in N. America.

www.a-kon.com

Jun. 6-8: **SoonerCon 2008**, Biltmore Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK. GoH John Ringo; Artist GoH Tom Kidd; Toastmaster Selina Rosen.

www.soonercon.com

Jun. 27-29: **ApolloCon 2008**, DoubleTree Hotel Houston Intercontinental Airport, Houston, TX. GoH Allen Steele; Artist GoH Brad Foster; Editor GoH Lou Anders; Fan GoH Anne K. G. Murphy.

www.apollocon.org

Jul. 18-20: **Lazy Dragon Con**, McKinney, TX.

www.lazydragon.com/con

Jul. 25-27: **Conestoga 12**, Tulsa, OK. GoH Diana Gabaldon; Artists GoH Stephen Hickman; Fan GoH Tim Miller.

www.sftulsa.org

Aug. 6-10: **Denvention 3/WorldCon 66**, Denver, CO. GoH Lois McMaster Bujold; Artists Guest Rick Sternbach; Fan GoH Tom Whitmore; Toastmaster Wil McCarthy.

denvention3.org

Aug. 15-17: **ArmadilloCon 30**, Austin, TX: GoH John Scalzi; Artist GoH Dean Morrissey; Fan GoH Kelly Persons; Toastmaster Bill Crider.

www.armadillocon.org

Oct. 3-5: **FenCon V**, Addison, TX. GoH Gregory Benford; Music GoH Three Weird Sisters; Fan GoH Gerald Burton; Special Guest Jay Lake

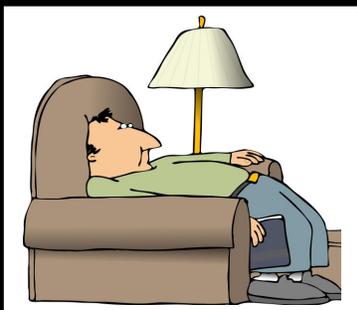
www.fencon.org

Oct. 10-12: **2008 Browncoat Ball**, Omni Hotel, Austin, TX.

www.browncoatball.com

ArmadilloCon 30
August 15-17, 2008
Doubletree Hotel,
Austin

**Worth getting
up for.**



Purchase memberships online at
www.armadillocon.org.

READING GROUP DISCUSSION REPORTS

NOVEMBER 5: *I AM LEGEND* BY RICHARD MATHESON

Submitted by A.T. Campbell, III

Eight of us gathered at the North Village Library for this meeting. Our topic was *I Am Legend*, a classic 50s SF/horror novel by Richard Matheson. A plague has turned most of the people on Earth into vampire/zombie-like creatures, and our story follows the story of Robert Neville, who may well be the last human alive. Four of us had read Matheson before. All of us started *I Am Legend*, and six finished the book.

We thought this was an entertaining read. One person felt the book was a deliberate refutation of the "mono-man myth" of Heinlein/ Campbell/ Astounding Stories so prevalent in the 50s, which argued that one man can change the world. It was argued that Matheson's work is more similar to other California-based writers of the 50s, including Ray Bradbury.

One person started the novel and found it got too depressing, since she could not see how Neville could survive. She also started to wonder whether everyone else was indeed a monster or if Neville was simply a crazy person killing normal people. She skipped to the end of the book and discovered several of Matheson's short stories, which she enjoyed much more. At least a couple of these stories were the basis for *Twilight Zone* episodes. She found the stories to be atmospheric, efficiently written, and creepy, with tongue-in-cheek humor. She said that this is not her type of book, but Matheson definitely has good writing chops.

Several people commented that this book does a great job at telling a story about a guy being alone. Neville accomplishes a great deal, and he's an interesting enough character to keep us engaged. We also appreciated how the author was brave enough to let bleak things happen in the book, including unfortunate events regarding animals.

One person felt a particularly strong connection to the story since he lives alone, has a dog, and has other things in common with Neville. He also is a major Matheson fan from way back, and he commented on the wonderful prose, the effective characterization, and the delightful short fiction at the end of the book. At the urging of some members of the group, he gave a brief overview of Matheson's writing career and how much of it was adapted to film and television.

Most of us thought the story worked well as a psychological study and as a metaphor. We thought the scientific explanation of vampires was a cool

idea, and particularly novel for the time it was written.

Our hard SF enthusiasts had issues with the scientific research Neville attempts to do at one point in the book. They wanted the answers to questions like "why did the mutation occur?" and "what caused the plague?" and "why did the vampires keep trying to contact Neville?"

With the Will Smith movie adapted from this book coming soon, we had a brief discussion of the prior movie versions, *The Last Man on Earth* and *The Omega Man*. We also wondered whether Will Smith would be able to play such an introspective character.

We concluded with a discussion of related books. Neville Shute's *On the Beach* was cited as a similarly downbeat novel from around the same time period. Joanna Russ's *We Who Are About to ... [Die]* was mentioned as a story about the last woman on Earth.

Overall this was a good discussion of a thought-provoking book. We are glad *I Am Legend* was brought back into print for new readers to discover.

After the meeting, we had a nice dinner at Fuddrucker's.

NOVEMBER 20: KEEPING IT REAL BY JUSTINA ROBSON

Submitted by A.T. Campbell, III

Nine people gathered at A. T.'s house for this meeting. Our topic, *Keeping it Real*, is a novel about a bionic woman, rock and roll, nuclear power, elves, and motorcycles. Only two of us had read Robson before. Eight of us started this book, with five finishing it.

We liked many things about this book. The story is simply fun. The narrative hooks the reader quickly and then moves quickly through to the end. The author fills in back story while the story is moving along, without tedious info dumps. The disparate elements work surprisingly well together. The book is filled with memorable images of magic. Jousting on motorcycles is a highlight.

Several members commented that when they were reading this book, people would notice the distinctive cover and ask them what the book was about. They all found it difficult to describe in few words.

In the universe of the novel, several divergent worlds (human, demon, elf, etc.) converge and it is possible to travel from one realm to another. We all thought this was a neat idea and well handled. Most of us found the first half of the novel, which takes place on a human world much like our own, to be more focused and engrossing. The story gets more convoluted in the second half in the land of the

elves, where clearly we're getting set up for a sequel.

The main character, Lila Black, is interesting. She seems to fit in everywhere, but not everyone else does. However some of us commented that Lila is not terribly good at her job. The guy she is guarding keeps getting kidnapped, and she falls in love at the most inopportune times.

We liked the elf, human, elemental, and demon societies, and the well-thought-out rules governing contact between individuals. "The game," a special type of interaction between two individuals, is well thought-out and integral to the story.

A couple of people had problems with the author's prose style. One noticed several instances of missing words, wrong word choice, etc. Another person complained of "too many adverbs".

At the end of the discussion, we tried to come up with examples of similar books. We thought this book had a lot in common with Terri Windling's *Borderlands* books and Aaron Allston's *Doc Sidhe* novels.

Overall we felt *Keeping it Real* was an enjoyable and different book. After the meeting, we had a nice dinner at Opal Divine's.

DECEMBER 3: THE LIGHTNING THIEF BY RICK RIORDAN

Submitted by A.T. Campbell, III

This meeting at the North Village Library attracted seven participants, including two first-timers. Our topic was *The Lightning Thief*, a young adult fantasy by San Antonio author Rick Riordan. The book is a modern-day tale about an adolescent boy, Percy Jackson, raised by his mother and an unpleasant stepfather. Percy discovers that his absent father is a Greek God, and that supernatural creatures are out to get him. This leads him to a summer camp for "half-bloods" and eventually to a big adventure. Two of us had read Riordan's prior books, which are mystery novels. Everyone at the meeting started and finished *The Lightning Thief*.

We enjoyed how this book revisited classic Greek mythology. It was fun to read about what gods do now vs. what they did in the past. We felt that much of this material might be new to a kid in its target age range. One person appreciated the underworld being located in Los Angeles. Another liked the modern twist of wings on sneakers.

We liked Percy and his cohorts. They were flawed and likeable, but not too reminiscent of Harry Potter and his friends. We liked Percy's mother and appreciated the final fate of his evil stepfather.

We admired Riordan's efficient writing style that was always clear and never boring. We felt that this book is well suited to its audience, children with

short attention spans. We appreciated the whimsical tone. Several of us reported finishing the book in either one or two sittings. One person commented that this is close to the best children's fiction she's read. She thought Riordan's story followed classic fiction tropes.

Several of us reported giving copies of this book to our early-teen children, nieces, and nephews. This has proven to be a popular gift, often passed around among groups of friends.

We found *The Lightning Thief* to be fun for kids of all ages. It was perfect holiday reading. One member said that she plans to read future books in the series when she needs cheering up. After the meeting, several of us had a nice dinner at Conan's.

DEC. 18: THE ANDROID'S DREAM BY JOHN SCALZI

Submitted by Elze Hamilton

Thirteen people attended a discussion of *The Android's Dream* by John Scalzi. Five people had have read Scalzi before. About 10 people started the book; almost all of them finished it. Most people liked this book, although they almost unanimously agreed it wasn't very deep. The characters left some readers wishing for more depth.

The plot of the book can be summed up as follows: "An interstellar scandal explodes when a human diplomat assassinates an alien diplomat by farting at him, albeit using a scent-emitting communicator. To forestall interspecies war, the government enlists former war hero and current uberhacker Harry Creek. His mission: to placate the aliens by finding a unique form of sheep used in the aliens' upcoming coronation ritual." (From *Booklist* via amazon.com.)

As one can guess from the synopsis, the value of this novel is mostly in the humor, and most readers agreed with that. Still, some people didn't find it very funny. At least one reader was put off by the chapter-long fart joke, easily the longest fart joke ever told, that the book opens with. The same reader admitted she could not get into the book until she seduced herself into it with a pizza and a large bottle of cheap red wine.

Another reader had an idea why that may have been necessary. The first few chapters don't help you to get into the book, because they go on without establishing what the book is about. The protagonist hardly shows up in the first few chapters, and when he does show up, it's not obvious that he's an important character. So if you don't enjoy long, dragged-out fart jokes, the beginning of the book may not motivate you to keep reading. However, once religion enters the storyline, and when the action starts focusing on Harry Creek, that's where it starts getting interesting, the reader

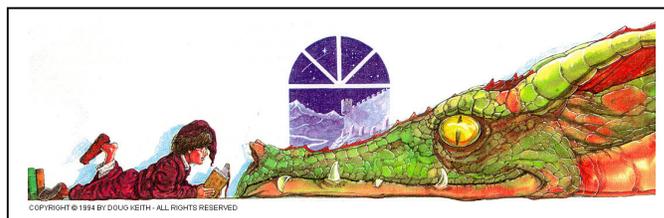
said. It's a pity, though, that Harry Creek was the one driving all the action without ever letting the female main character to take the lead. Some readers missed the heroine having an independent role. She just went along for a ride.

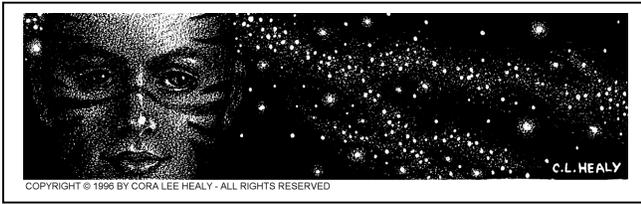
When it comes to fart jokes, a few readers admitted they find them funny, and the one in the book was found to be on par with the best of them. The setup where a person can insult another to their face without anyone else understanding what was going on, and the English translations of the scent insults, were hilarious.

Many readers thought religion was the most interesting aspect of the story. Some people got more out of it than just the chuckle factor. They were intrigued by how the two factions within the church of the Evolved Lamb played off against each other. The book explored questions of what is religion, what does being religious mean, although it did it in a very irreverent manner. An unusual angle of the cult of the Evolved Lamb was that its adherents were actively working to make the prophecies come true. One person said this part hit uncomfortably close to home, since in her opinion the US current government is working to make that happen in the Middle East.

One reader noted science and technology was not very credible in some places. As a computer expert, he criticized the scene where one of the main characters "hacks back" into the computer of a hacker that's trying to attack his server. Such hacking back would be impossible, because no attacker would be so stupid as to make his IP address visible. Another implausibility has to do with modeling a human brain down to quantum level, since it's impossible even in theory.

These glitches were outweighed by realistic portrayal of government institutions. The attempts of the State Department and Defense Department to undermine each other looked familiar to some people. And one reader testified that the level of nepotism in bureaucratic institutions portrayed in the book is just as it is in real life: everybody is somebody's brother or went to college with somebody. A few people noted that the title *Android's Dream* was misleading, since the book had nothing to do with Philip K. Dick. One reader added the lack of connection was a big bonus.





JAN. 22: THE STARS MY DESTINATION BY ALFRED BESTER

Submitted by Elze Hamilton

Thirteen people participated in the FACT reading group discussion of Alfred Bester's *The Stars My Destination*. Almost everyone had read something by Bester before. Many had read this book when it first came out. Almost all of those re-read it before the discussion. Only one person had not finished the book.

The Stars My Destination is set in the 24th century, when most humans have developed an ability to "jaunt," or to teleport. The protagonist, a bad-guy antihero named Gully Foyle, seeks to avenge an injustice done to him in the past. His corporate masters left him for certain death, which he escaped against all odds, and now his mission in life becomes to destroy them. They are hunting him too, since he knows a secret so important they'll stop at nothing to extract it from him. During this wild interplanetary chase, he (supposedly) matures mentally and emotionally, and discovers he has a special ability on which the fate of the world hinges.

Many people admired the visual impact of Bester's writing. Even if they initially read the book decades ago, the images from the book stayed with them: the burning man, the tattoo, the woman who saw in infrared (Olivia), the prison in France, the colony on Mars. One reader said the very fact that he remembered the events in this book was extraordinary, since he reads hundreds of books a year and can't remember what he read six months ago. The scene that left an unforgettable impression on him was the one where the blind woman, Olivia, saw Gully's face mask, and drew it out for her father. When he re-read the book, he was very surprised the scene was only two sentences. It had been etched into his mind as one of the most important scenes of the novel. Several readers noted that Bester uses "the proper words instead of a lot of words" to make a point, and that *The Stars My Destination* differs from many novels of today, that would take many more words to tell the same story.

Since the language of the book itself was highly visual, some people thought the graphical effects at the end were unnecessary. They even felt those effects aged the book a bit. A reader guessed Bester must have thought it was original, but he simply might not have been familiar with non-genre writers who had done it before. Other readers liked the

graphical effects, however. One person said it reminded her of *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

The aging of the book, or lack thereof, was an important part of the discussion. Most readers agreed that *The Stars My Destination* held up very well over time. "It didn't have computers, so we couldn't make fun of their using slide rules, etc," said a reader. But some others pointed out little details that gave the novel a dated feel in some places. For one thing, the rich people all seem to be heirs of the 20th century mega-corporations such as Gilette. It is as if new industries did not emerge for the next four hundred years. Second, the cities and the infrastructure looked the same as in the 20th century. Some argued, though, that with the prevalence of jaunting, the cities might have stagnated, because people did not have to live in the cities anymore. They could live anywhere they wanted and jaunt to work, so there was little reason to improve cities.

Another thing people thought was out-of-date was Bester's attitude towards and descriptions of women, especially "the ice princess thing about Olivia" (to quote a reader). No one, however, gave a concrete reason why it felt that way, except for a vague feeling that "the common way you talk about women and spaceships" has changed. More generally the readers noted that the main theme of psychic power-assisted teleportation was very 50s. Back then there was a widespread belief that ability for teleportation lay buried in the human psyche, waiting for the right circumstances to be brought out. There was even military research done in that direction, or rumors thereof. Unsupported by any evidence, this notion fell out of fashion.

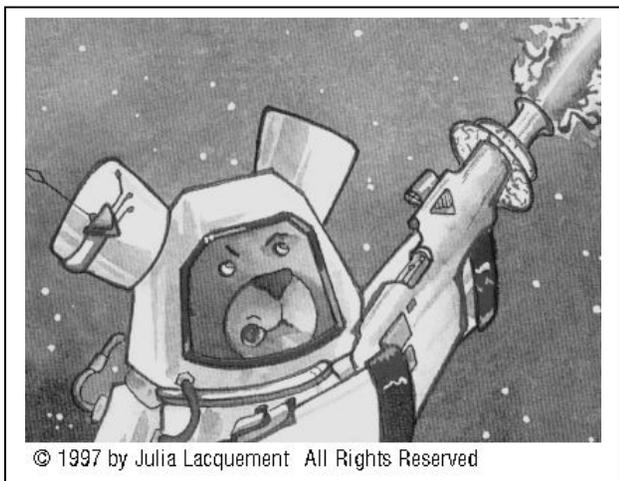
Personally I found the premise of jaunting a big flaw of the novel. For millions of years humans didn't have teleportation powers, and then all of a sudden everybody found out they had them? To me this seemed absurd, and it undermined my enjoyment of the book from the very beginning. Another reader countered that it's not impossible for new mental abilities to evolve in a short period of time. He referred me to *The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind* by Julian Jaynes, who argues that consciousness, or self-awareness, developed in humans in just a few generations around 3000 years ago. I still think that if humans had all of a sudden developed psychic powers, the society would have changed unrecognizably. The social structures would not have remained frozen in the fifties, as they are in *The Stars My Destination*.

Even if the future in this book seems a bit stale, one area where Bester was acknowledged to be innovative was the choice of protagonist. From the beginning Gully is described as a person with no redeeming values, and this impression only deepens early into the novel. The scene where Gully rapes a woman gave many female readers a pause. This

prompted some debate in the group whether the protagonist's behavior reflected Bester's own attitudes towards women. It probably didn't, concluded the readers: there are indications in the book that the author was critical of his character's behavior. One person said, "This isn't one of the books where attitude towards women is stark and negative, and the author seems to accept it... The author is very critical here. The ethical question is whether you can accept that this is understandable, although despicable [...] in light of things he's been through, and whether you believe there is redemption in the end. His final scene with scientific people is also a hint at the redemption he was trying to get."

Nonetheless, a few readers had mixed feelings about a novel that featured such an unlikable protagonist. One person said he used to feel he had better things to do than to read books where protagonists were assholes; however, somebody convinced him to give *The Stars My Destination* another chance, and he didn't regret it. Apparently at the time Bester wrote this book, an anti-hero was a novelty in science fiction. It was common for science fiction to portray future in which people got better and better. *The Stars My Destination* changed that. To quote a reader, "Bester brought SF out of Campbellian worldview. Campbell would not have touched these stories. They are not as engineered as Campbell liked."

As far as the protagonist's redemption, most readers agreed Gully experienced character growth. After being so obsessed with revenge, he finally starts to mature and realizes that revenge is not really where it's at. One reader speculated, though, that the ending might have been the best kind of revenge Gully could have over the humankind. On the face of it, Gully's final act is supposed to teach the humanity to become better, but its consequences are ambiguous, and it's not clear what his intentions were. Despite that, or perhaps because of that, some readers called the ending "brilliant."



BYLAWS OF THE FANDOM ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL TEXAS, INC.

Article I - Offices

Section 1. Principal Office.

The principal office of the corporation shall be in the City of Austin, County of Travis, State of Texas.

Section 2. Other Offices.

The corporation may also have offices at such other places within or without the State of Texas as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine or the activities of the corporation may require.

Section 3. Registered Office.

The registered office of the corporation shall be established and maintained at 1504 Norris, in the City of Austin, County of Travis, State of Texas.

Article II - Meeting of Members

Section 1. Annual Meetings.

Annual meetings of members for the election of directors and for such other business as may be stated in the notice of the meeting, or as may properly come before the meeting, shall be held at such places, either within or without the State of Texas, and at such times and dates as the Board of Directors, by resolution, shall determine and as set forth in the notice of the meeting. In the event the Board of Directors fails to so determine the time, date and place of the meeting, the annual meeting of members shall be held at the principal office of the corporation on the second Sunday of March at 2: P.M., Austin, Texas time, in each year. If the date of the annual meeting shall fall upon a legal holiday, the meeting shall be held on the next succeeding business day.

Section 2. Other Meetings.

Meetings of members for any purpose other than the election of directors may be held at such a time and place, within or without the State of Texas, as shall be stated in the notice of the meeting.

Section 3. Voting.

Each member entitled to vote in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation and these Bylaws shall be entitled to one vote, in person or by proxy, for each membership certificate held by such member, but no proxy shall be voted after the meeting for which the proxy was dated. Upon the demand of any member,

the vote for directors and upon any question before the meeting shall be by ballot. All elections for directors shall be decided by plurality vote; all other questions shall be decided by majority vote, except as otherwise provided by the Certificate of Incorporation or the laws of the State of Texas.

Section 4. Membership.

The officer who has charge of the membership ledger of the corporation shall at least ten days before each meeting of members prepare a complete alphabetically addressed list of the members entitled to vote at the ensuing election. Said list shall be open to the examination of any member, for a period of at least 10 days prior to the meeting at the registered corporate office. The list shall be available for inspection at the meeting.

Section 5. Quorum.

Except as otherwise required by law, by the Certificate of Incorporation or by these Bylaws, the presence, in person or by proxy, of 25% of the members of the corporation entitled to vote thereat shall constitute a quorum at a meeting for the transaction of any business.

Section 6. Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the members for any purpose, unless otherwise prescribed by statute or by the Certificate of Incorporation, may be called by the president and shall be called by the president or secretary at the request in writing of a majority of the directors or members entitled to vote. Such request shall state the purpose of the proposed meeting.

Section 7. Notice of Meetings.

Written notice, stating the place, date, and time of the meeting, and the general nature of the business to be considered, shall be given to each member entitled to vote thereat at such member's address as it appears on the records of the corporation, not less than ten nor more than fifty days before the date of the meeting.

Section 8. Business Transacted.

No business other than that stated in the notice shall be transacted at any meeting without the unanimous consent of all the members entitled to vote thereat.

Section 9. Action Without Meeting.

Except as otherwise provided by the Certificate of Incorporation, whenever the vote of members at a meeting thereof is required or permitted to be taken

in connection with any corporate action by any provisions of the statutes or the Certificate of Incorporation or of these Bylaws, the meeting and vote of members may be dispensed with, if all the members who would have been entitled to vote upon the action if such meeting were held shall consent in writing to such corporation action being taken.

Article III - Purpose

Section 1. To promote the understanding and appreciation of the literary field of science fiction and fantasy.

Section 2. To promote at least one annual literary symposium of writers and editors in the literary field of science fiction and fantasy.

Section 3. To support other similar symposiums and conventions.

Section 4. To make distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

Section 5. To perform such other activities as may be necessary or incidental to the listed purposes.

Article IV - Directors

Section 1. Number and Term.

The number of directors shall be determined by the size of FACT's membership as it is recorded at the start of the Annual Meeting. If the FACT membership exceeds one hundred and twenty (120+) members, the Board shall have nine (9) directors. If the FACT membership falls between sixty (60) and one hundred nineteen (119) members, the Board shall have seven (7) directors. If the FACT membership falls between ten (10) and fifty-nine (59) members, the Board shall have five (5) directors. And if the FACT membership shall fall below ten (10) members, the Board shall have the minimum number of directors required by law. The directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of members and each director shall be elected to serve until such director's successor shall be elected and shall qualify.

Section 2. Qualifications.

Each director, whether elected or appointed, must have been a member of the corporation for a continuous period starting at least one (1) year prior to the date of selection, and have served on a committee or as an officer of the corporation at any time or from time to time; provided, however, that if

a director shall have been removed for cause other than failure to comply with the provisions of Section 6 of this Article IV, such director shall thereafter be ineligible to serve as a director.

Section 3. Eligibility Lists.

In January of each year or no less than 50 days prior to the annual meeting, the lists of committee members and persons eligible for the board of directors must be published by the president, or, if the president is unavailable to fulfill this duty, by the vice president, or, if the vice president is unavailable to fulfill this duty, by the Registrar.

Section 4. Resignations.

Any director, member of a committee or other officer may resign at any time. Such resignation shall be made in writing, and shall be delivered to FACT via US mail or by facsimile (fax) transmission, or to a director or the appropriate officer of the organization by electronic mail (e-mail) or in person, and shall take effect at the time specified therein, and if no time be specified, at the time of its receipt by the president or secretary. The acceptance of a resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section 5. Vacancies.

If the office of any director, member of a committee or other officer becomes vacant, the remaining directors in office, though less than a quorum by a majority vote, may appoint any qualified person to fill such vacancy, and to hold office for the unexpired term and until such director's, committee member's or other officer's successor shall be duly chosen. The term "qualified person" includes, but is not limited to, members of the corporation meeting the requirements of Section 2 of this Article IV, but in every instance is limited to current members of the corporation.

Section 6. Attendance.

Each director, upon election and commencing with the first meeting after the election, shall be required to attend no fewer than three-fourths (3/4) of the regularly scheduled meetings and no fewer than one-half (1/2) of the special or called meetings.

Section 7. Removal.

Any director or directors may be removed either for or without cause at any time by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of all the membership certificates outstanding and entitled to vote, at a special meeting of the members called for the purpose. Immediate removal may be invoked by a

simple majority of the directors for failure to comply with the provisions under Section 6, at any regularly scheduled meeting or at any special meeting of the directors called for that purpose. Vacancies thus created shall be filled in accordance with Section 5.

Section 8. Compensation.

Directors shall not receive any stated salary for their services as directors or as members of committees, but by resolution of the Board, a fixed fee and expenses of attendance may be allowed for attendance at each meeting. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any director from serving the corporation in any other capacity as an officer, agent or otherwise, and receiving compensation therefrom.

Section 9. Action Without Meeting.

Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors, or of any committee thereof, may be taken without a meeting, if prior to such action a written consent thereto is signed by all members of the Board, or of such committee as the case may be, and such written consent is filed with the minutes of proceedings of the Board or committee.

Article V - Corporate Officers

Section 1. Officers.

The Board of Directors shall appoint officers, who shall consist of a president, a treasurer, and a secretary, and shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall hold office until their successors are appointed and qualified. In addition, the Board of Directors may appoint a chair and such assistant secretaries and assistant treasurers as it may deem proper. None of the officers of the corporation need be directors. The officers shall be appointed at the first meeting of the Board of Directors after each annual meeting. More than two offices may be held by the same person, except the offices of president and secretary, unless there is only one member. No person shall be qualified to be an officer of the corporation unless they are a legal resident of the State of Texas and a member of the corporation.

Section 2. Other Corporate Officers and Agents.

The Board of Directors may appoint such corporate officers and agents as it may deem advisable, who shall hold their offices for such terms and shall exercise such power and perform such duties as shall be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Chair.

The Chair of the Board of Directors, if one be elected, shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, and the Chair shall have and perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned thereto by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. President.

The president shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation and shall have the general powers and duties of supervision and management usually vested in the office of the president of a corporation. The president shall preside at all business meetings of the corporation if present thereat, and in the absence or non-election of the Chair of the Board of Directors, at all meetings of the Board of Directors, and shall have general supervision, direction and control of the affairs of the corporation. Except as the Board of Directors shall authorize the execution thereof in some manner, the president shall execute bonds, mortgages, and other contracts in behalf of the corporation, and shall cause the seal to be affixed to any instrument requiring it and when so affixed the seal shall be attested by the signature of the secretary or treasurer or an assistant secretary or assistant treasurer. The president shall also be empowered to chair a Nomination Exceptions committee, the purpose of which is to, and which is empowered to, reduce the candidate requirement for tenure of membership to three months or permit the nomination of a candidate lacking requisite committee service requirement for both elections and vacancies using the qualified person guidelines of Article IV, Section 5.

Section 5. Treasurer.

The treasurer shall have the custody of the corporate funds and securities and shall keep full and accurate account of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the corporation. The treasurer shall deposit all monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the corporation in such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The treasurer shall disburse the funds of the corporation as may be ordered by the Board of Directors, or the president, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements. The treasurer shall render to the president and Board of Directors at the regular meetings of the Board of Directors, or whenever they may request it, an account of all transactions made as treasurer and of the financial condition of the corporation. If required by the Board of Directors, the treasurer shall give the corporation a bond for the faithful discharge of the treasurer's duties in such amount and with such surety as the Board shall prescribe.

Section 6. Secretary.

The secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of members and directors, and all other notices required by law or by these Bylaws, and in case of the secretary's absence, or refusal or neglect to do so, any such notice may be given by any person thereunto directed by the president, or by the directors, or members, upon whose requisition the meeting is called as provided in these Bylaws. The secretary shall record all the proceedings of the meetings of the corporation and of directors in a book to be kept for that purpose, and shall affix the seal to all instruments requiring it, when authorized by the directors or the president, and attest the same.

Section 7. Assistant Treasurers and Assistant Secretaries.

Assistant treasurers and assistant secretaries, if any, shall be appointed and shall have such powers and shall perform such duties as shall be assigned to them, respectively, by the directors.

Article VI - Membership

Section 1. Certificates of Membership.

Every member of the corporation shall be entitled to have a certificate, signed by, or in the name of the corporation by, the chair or vice-chair of the Board of Directors, or the president or the treasurer or an assistant treasurer, or the secretary of the corporation, certifying such member's membership in the corporation. There shall be one class of membership, and each holder of a membership certificate shall be entitled to those rights as stated in Article II in these Bylaws. No member shall be entitled to hold more than one membership certificate.

Section 2. Lost Certificates.

New certificates of membership may be issued in the place of any certificates issued by the corporation, alleged to have been lost or destroyed, and the directors may, at their discretion, require the owner of the lost or destroyed certificate or such member's legal representative, to give the corporation a bond, in such sum as they may direct, but not exceeding any reasonable value, to indemnify the corporation against any harm on account of the alleged loss of any such new certificate.

Section 3. Transfer of Certificates.

Membership certificates shall not be transferable.

Section 4. Membership Record Date.

In order that the corporation may determine the members entitled to notice of or to vote at any meeting of members or any adjournment thereof, or to express consent to corporate action in writing without a meeting, or entitled to receive allotment of any rights, or for the purpose of any other lawful action, the Board of Directors may fix, in advance, a record date which shall not be more than sixty nor less than ten days before the day of such meeting, nor more than sixty days prior to any other action. A determination of members of record entitled to notice of or to vote at a meeting of members shall apply to any adjournment of the meeting; provided, however, that the Board of Directors may fix a new record date for the adjourned meeting.

Section 5. Membership Fee.

The Board of Directors may, at their discretion and subject to the rules of ratification outlined in Article II, Section 3 of these Bylaws, set a minimum annual fee for membership. Payment of said fee entitles member to a Certificate of Membership, as described in Section 1 of this Article. The initial membership period shall begin upon receipt of the annual fee and shall renew thereafter on a twelve-month cycle beginning on the first day of the month following initial receipt and ending on the last day of the twelfth calendar month. For the purposes of the annual fee, any membership renewed following a lapse of 30 days shall be treated as an initial membership. The Board of Directors may, at their sole discretion, set additional "honorary" fees in excess of the minimum. Payment of such voluntary fees does not confer additional corporate rights or privileges.

Article VII - Prohibition of Dividends

Section 1. Prohibition of Dividends.

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, as dividends or in any other manner, its members, directors, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation. Further, upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purpose of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or

the corresponding provisions of States Law) as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the County in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Article VIII - Corporate Seal

Section 1. Seal.

The corporate seal shall be circular in form and shall contain the name of the corporation, the year of its creation and the words "CORPORATE SEAL OF THE FANDOM ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL TEXAS." Said seal may be used by causing it or a facsimile thereof to be impressed or affixed or otherwise reproduced.

Article IX - Fiscal Year

Section 1. Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year of the corporation shall be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors.

Article X - Execution of Corporation Instruments

Section 1. Instruments.

All checks, drafts, or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the corporation shall be signed by no less than two officers, or agents of the corporation, and in such manner as shall be determined from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors.

Article XI - Notice and Waiver of Notice

Section 1. Notice.

Whenever any notice is required by these Bylaws to be given, personal notice is not meant unless expressly stated, and any notice so required shall be deemed to be sufficient if given by depositing the same in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the person entitled thereto at such person's address as it appears on the records of the corporation, or transmitted via facsimile (fax) to the person entitled thereto at such person's fax telephone number as it appears in the records of the corporation, and such notice shall be deemed to have been given on the day of such mailing or transmission. Members not entitled to vote shall not be entitled to receive notice of any meetings, except as otherwise provided by statute.

Section 2. Waiver of Notice.

Whenever any notice whatever is required to be given under the provisions of any law, or under the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation of the corporation or these bylaws, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to said notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed proper notice.

Article XII - Amendments

Section 1. Amendments.

These Bylaws may be altered or repealed and new Bylaws may be made at any annual meeting of the members or any special meeting thereof if notice thereof is contained in the notice of such special meeting, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members entitled to vote thereat. Upon the insertion or deletion of any Section or subsection of these Bylaws, the remaining Sections and/or subsections shall be renumbered as appropriate to reflect such amendment unless otherwise provided in the resolution authorizing such amendment.

(These Bylaws were last amended at the 2004 Annual Meeting, March 14, 2004.)

THE FANDOM ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL TEXAS, INC.

The Fandom Association of Central Texas, Inc. (F.A.C.T.) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit literary/educational corporation. To contact the board and officers as a group, send an e-mail message to **board2007@fact.org**.

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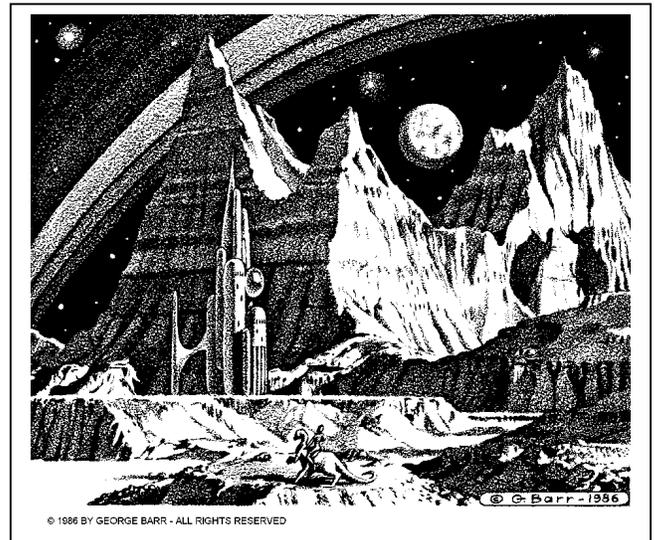
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PLEASE JOIN US for the annual presentation of SFWA's Nebula Awards® honoring the best in Science Fiction and Fantasy.

Open to the public, the Nebula Awards weekend features a variety of events and activities including the **Nebula Awards Banquet**, an on-site **Autograph Session** hosted by BookPeople, **Panels & Presentations**, **Hospitality Suite**, and more! The Nebula Awards Banquet and Ceremony will be held Saturday evening, April 26.

Use this form to mail in your registration; an online form will be available by mid-February at www.sfwawards.org/awards/2008. PayPal payments may be sent to execdir@sfwa.org.

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I am interested in participating in Friday evening 5:00-8:00 PM Autograph Session.

Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ Banquet Membership(s) (\$100 each through Saturday, March 1, 2008; \$125 thereafter)
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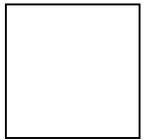
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The F.A.C.T. Sheet
The Fandom Association of Central Texas, Inc.
PO Box 26442
Austin, TX 78755



FACT NEEDS YOUR VOTE!

IF YOU WILL NOT BE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON MARCH 16, PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR VOTE USING THE ENCLOSED BALLOT. WE EVEN PROVIDE THE STAMP.

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JOIN US! ALL FACT MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ALL OF THESE EVENTS!

- Feb. 28 (Thursday), 7 PM: **FACT South Austin Reading Group**. Austin Public Library, Pleasant Hill Branch, 211 E. William Cannon Drive. *Glasshouse* by Charles Stross. Dinner follows.
- Feb. 29 (Friday), 7:30 – 10:30 PM: **Ursa Major Social Meeting/Party**. Location: Lynn Ward's apartment, 3711 Medical Dr. #1614, San Antonio. Call Lynn for directions and to confirm location 210-218-2800.
- Mar. 3 (Monday), 7 PM: **FACT North Austin Reading Group**, Austin Public Library, North Village Branch, 2139 W. Anderson Lane. *The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress* by Robert Heinlein. Dinner follows.
- Mar. 13 (Thursday), 7 PM: **FACT South Austin Reading Group**. Austin Public Library, Pleasant Hill Branch, 211 E. William Cannon Drive.
- Mar. 16 (Sunday), 1 PM: **FACT Annual Meeting**, Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek, 78701. BE SURE TO EITHER ATTEND OR VOTE BY MAIL USING ENCLOSED BALLOT!
- Mar. 18 (Tuesday), 7 PM: **FACT North Austin Reading Group**, *Farthing* by Jo Walton. Dinner follows. Contact reading@fact.org for location information.
- Jun. 14 (Saturday), 11 AM – 3 PM: **FACT Annual Boat Trip**. Details to follow!

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PLUS

FACT Sheet 2008 Election Supplement

Includes stamped and addressed ballot.

If you are not certain you will attend in person, please complete and mail in the ballot.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR FACT MEMBERSHIP?

Please take a moment now to review your mailing label to see when we think your FACT membership expired or will expire.

RENEW: To renew, go to www.fact.org. You can download a flyer to mail in, or you can pay online using Paypal.

ERROR? If you think we have made an error, please accept our apologies in advance and send a note to board2007@fact.org to help us correct any error.