



THE F.A.C.T. SHEET

Dec. 2006

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

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AND NOW FOR A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Holiday Greetings from Brian Price, the President of F.A.C.T.!

I love having F.A.C.T. around. My wife, Angela, and I moved to Texas just three and a half years ago. Finding all of you, a group of people who share our passion for Science Fiction and Fantasy in all of its forms, has really been great.

As President, one of my goals is to see F.A.C.T. as an organization stay healthy and, yes, grow. Wouldn't a WorldCon in Texas be awesome? I know there are folks talking about this possibility. We have some great momentum for this, coming out of our recent, very successful hosting of the World Fantasy Convention!

F.A.C.T. needs you!

For F.A.C.T. to stay healthy and to grow as much as needed to tackle a WorldCon, though, we need something. We need you. Your energy and your contributions will keep F.A.C.T. going and growing so that we can tackle challenges like bringing WorldCon to Texas.

So, what can you do?

1. GET ACTIVE IN FACT EVENTS: *The F.A.C.T. Sheet* has a list of what's coming up. Join us. The F.A.C.T. electronic mailing list has announcements of things like movie outings. Come! (Or propose your own!)

2. TALK: Angela and I joined because a coworker of mine told us about a F.A.C.T. event. Invite a friend to join you the next time you come to a Reading Group, Gaming Night or other event. There's a great Reading Group flyer that you could

e-mail to someone at

www.fact.org/reading/downloads/flyer.pdf!

3. COME TO A BOARD MEETING: We have them every month. The next one is on December 10, 2-4 PM, at the Carver Branch of the Austin Public Library (1161 Angelina St.). We have a great time. You'll hear about ways to join the fun of making things happen.

4. ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING: This is coming up in just a few months. Watch *The F.A.C.T. Sheet* for details. You'll get to meet other cool F.A.C.T. members. It will be fun, and we will choose the next set of F.A.C.T. officers and directors.

5. CONSIDER BECOMING AN OFFICER OR DIRECTOR: Speaking of choosing officers and directors, have you ever considered being one? In the next couple of months, I will be putting out the list of people eligible to be a director or an officer for F.A.C.T. Not sure about what the heck F.A.C.T. officers and directors do? Come to one of the monthly Board meetings! You can also contact any one of the directors or officers listed in *The F.A.C.T. Sheet*.



"Mercury" © 2006 by Anthony Ocean. See p.3 for more pictures and more about this Austin artist.

GO BUY THE BOOK!

A limited number of copies of *Cross Plains Universe*, the anthology released at the World Fantasy Convention, are left over and so available for purchase. Go to www.fact.org to purchase a copy. *Cross Plains Universe* is the Reading Group selection for January 9.

CORFLU QUIRE UPDATE

Don't forget that Corflu, the annual fanzine con, will be in Austin this year! Corflu Quire is coming up February 9-11, 2007.



Membership is up to 48 members. *The Brits are ahead*, currently outnumbering the Texans 3 to 1. *Help remedy this situation* by going ahead and purchasing your membership. Now through December 31, you can get an attending membership for \$50 or a supporting membership for \$20. Organizer Contact Pat Virzi is also looking for volunteers to help make the magic happen. Contact Pat to purchase a membership or to volunteer: 618 Westridge Dr., Duncanville, TX 75116, or corflu24@swbell.net. You can also purchase memberships via Paypal by sending the appropriate amount to corflu24@swbell.net.

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 F.A.C.T. Sheet Editor at the address on page 9.

FACT MEMBER BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

5	Lynn Ward
6	Earl Cooley
8	Aaron Allston
16	C. Dan Tolliver
28	Brian Murphy
29	Bill Parker

AUTHOR NEWS

Rick Klaw has had two book reviews published in recent issues of *The Austin Chronicle*:

Dark Harvest by Norman Partridge:
www.austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/review?oid=oid:418617

Thunderstruck by Erik Larson:
www.austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/review?oid=oid:424255

You can download a podcast of **Rick Klaw** and **Paul O. Miles** reading their story "Penny a Word," which appears in the World Fantasy anthology,

Cross Plains Universe, by going to:
revolutionsf.libsyn.com/index.php?post_id=147731

Bill Crider recently reviewed **Mark Finn's** new book *Blood and Thunder: The Life and Art of Robert E. Howard* in the blog Bill Crider's Pop Culture Magazine blog. It's a short read but may further pique your interest:
billcrider.blogspot.com/2006/11/blood-and-thunder-mark-finn.html

Lawrence Person and **Howard Waldrop** wrote a review of *The Prestige* for Locus Online. It's a fun read. "All year we've been complaining about the movies we've been reviewing here. We told you we'd let you know when Locus finally sent us to a good film. And now, in recompense for our suffering, we get to review *The Prestige*." Read the rest at:

locusmag.com/2006/Features/WaldropPerson_ThePrestige.html

James Gunn will be honored as the next Grand Master of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association at the Nebula Award Weekend May 11-13 in New York City. Mr. Gunn started writing science fiction in 1948 and is the author of 26 books and editor of ten. For more information, see www2.ku.edu/~sfcenter/news.htm.

Ursula K. Le Guin recently received the C.E.S. Wood Distinguished Writer Award. This award is presented to an Oregon author in recognition of an enduring, substantial literary career. The 20th Annual Oregon Book Awards took place on Friday, December 1, at the Portland Art Museum. The ceremony celebrated the state's finest authors and nearly 500 people attended, including Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams, and many past recipients of Oregon Book Awards and Oregon Literary Fellowships. Le Guin is an internationally-acclaimed author of dozens of books of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, translation and children's literature. She has won many other awards, including the Newberry, Nebula, Hugo, Locus and National Book Award.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FACT MEETINGS & GATHERINGS

December 9, 6 PM: **FACT Holiday Party** Location: 3601 Malone Dr. (Ed & Sam's house). BYOB.

Gift exchange. Questions? social@fact.org
December 10, 2-4 PM, Austin Public Library, Carver Branch (1161 Angelina St.): **Board Meeting**

December 19, 7 PM, north location: **FACT Reading Group: *Bad Prince Charlie*** by John Moore
January 9, 7 PM, south location: **FACT Reading Group: *Cross Plains Universe*** edited by Scott A. Cupp and Joe R. Lansdale

January 14, 2-4 PM, Austin Public Library, Carver Branch (1161 Angelina St.): **Board Meeting**

January 23, 7 PM, north location: **FACT Reading Group**: *Accelerando* by Charles Stross

OTHER READING GROUPS

December 13, 7 PM, Flight Path: Dark Forces Reading Group will discuss *Perfume* by Patrick Suskind

December 18, 7 PM, Bookpeople: The Ludicrous Speed Book Group will discuss *Altered Carbon* by Richard Morgan

January 10, 7 PM, Flight Path: Dark Forces Reading Group will discuss *Chinatown Death Cloud Peril* by Paul Malmont

January 22, 7 PM, Bookpeople: The Ludicrous Speed Book Group will discuss *The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K. LeGuin

THE MOVIES

Alamo Drafthouse: *Terror Thursdays* Series, FREE shows! At Alamo Drafthouse Cinema Downtown

December 7, 11:30 PM: *Devil Fetus*

December 14, 11:30 PM: *Terror Rituals*

December 21, 11:30 PM: *Blood Beach*

December 28, 11:45 PM: *Sinners Bloods*

December 12, 7 PM, Alamo Drafthouse Downtown: *Metropolis* (anime)

December 19, 7 PM, Alamo Drafthouse Downtown: *Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence*

CONVENTIONS

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

Feb. 2-4, 2007: **Ikkicon**, The Woodward Hotel & Conference Center, Austin, TX. Japanese animation and pop culture. Memberships \$30 until January 1.
www.ikkicon.com

Feb. 9-11, 2007: **CorFlu**, DoubleTree Hotel, Austin, TX. Fanzine fan convention. Membership currently \$50.
www.corflu.org/

Feb. 23-25, 2007: **ConDFW VI**, Radisson Hotel Dallas North, Richardson, TX. Guests: Harry Turtledove, Emma Bull, Will Shetterley, Bob Eggleton.
www.condfw.org/

Mar. 22-25, 2007: **AggieCon 38**, Texas A&M Memorial Student Center. Comic Artist GoH James O'Barr; Artists GoH Ruth Thompson; Major Guest Jana Oliver; Voice Actors Tiffany Grant & George Manley
aggiecon.tamu.edu/

Mar. 23-25, 2007: **MidSouthCon 24**, Holiday Inn Select, Memphis TN. GoH: Terry Pratchett; Artist GoH Don Maitz; Comics GoH Mark Waid; Media GoH Bill Blair: Special Guest: Janny Wurts.
www.midsouthcon.org/

Jun. 1-3, 2007: **A-Kon**, Adam's Mark Hotel, Dallas, TX. Guests include: Vic Mignogna, Spike

Spencer, Steve Bennet, Billy Tucci, Jake Tarbox, Scott Ramsoomair, Howard Tayler, Wendy Powell, Kyle Herbert, Brian Glass. Memberships currently \$30.

www.a-kon.com

Aug. 10-12: **ArmadilloCon 29**. Save the date. You know you're coming. Fabulous guests to be announced later.

ARTIST INTERVIEW: ANTHONY OCEAN

Austin artist Anthony Ocean shared a number of his fantasy works with *The F.A.C.T. Sheet* this month. You can see more of his work at his website: www.anthonyocean.com.

Comics he's reading: I'm currently reading Alex Ross's new series *Justice*. It's very fresh, something that hasn't really been done before. Marvel's new series *Civil War* also has a great story line, something that nobody has explored until now. Anything by Michael Turner is always a favorite, and right now I am reading his *Soulfire* series.



"Winter" © 2006 by Anthony Ocean

Favorite artists: Michael Turner is my absolute favorite artist. He is my inspiration. I think of him every time I do an illustration. His imagination is unmatched. He has broken new ground with poses,

collages, characters, stories, everything. I also appreciate that his lead character is always a woman. He stands for powerful, strong, graceful, female energy and I really admire that.

Jim Lee is also a favorite. He is a very talented artist, and I have really enjoyed watching him expand and grow within his style over the years.

Favorite day job: My best job ever was working for a glass artist by the name of Crystal Ouzilou. Her company is Trezora. She has the most amazing glass jewelry you'll find -- very fine detail and high quality, and also funky and hip. Check out her art at www.trezora.com. I was her assistant. It was a super great gig while it lasted. She ended up moving out of state.

Unusual venues for his art: Tattoos and banjos. I illustrated my own tattoo and other people's as well. I also illustrated two banjo heads for my musician friend Terry Allen Smith.



"Halcyon" © 2006 by Anthony Ocean

Comic book moment in real life: When I was a kid, I loved to roller blade. One day my friends and I decided it would be a good idea to go to the very top of an incredibly steep hill and coast down it as fast as we could. Not really paying attention to what we would do when we got to the bottom going 40 mph. We started down and things were going great when I noticed a few people diving into people's lawns to stop. As I looked back from watching them to see where I was going, I had about two seconds to see my own reflection in a nice wide mirror

sticking out from a really old Ford truck. BAM! Not often do you get to see the look on your own face as you slam face first into something. I did. I really don't want to see that again. At least I wore my helmet, right?

Current projects: I really enjoy doing commission work. My fiancé and I are collaborating on a piece for the first time, a phoenix, which has been really exciting. I am also currently working on a line of T-shirts.

Final thoughts: Thank you for the opportunity. If anyone has any questions (or if you would like to commission something!), then please feel free to contact me at o@anthonyocean.com.

READING GROUP REPORT

By A. T. Campbell, III

NOVEMBER 7: *THE ALGEBRAIST* BY IAIN M. BANKS

Eight readers gathered at Willie and Charles's place to discuss *The Algebraist*, a recent Hugo-nominated novel. All of us had read Banks before. Five had finished the book.

A few of us had been too busy working on the recently-concluded World Fantasy Convention to read much of the book. Since the organizer was among this latter group, this report may appear less informative than usual. It's hard to take coherent notes for a book discussion where one is unfamiliar with the book.

The story is a grand baroque space opera involving humans and Slow Dwellers, aliens who perceive time very slowly. The book is filled with puzzles, plot twists, aliens with mostly anthropomorphic personalities, wormholes, and interesting economic theories. There are "gee whiz" moments. The book explores what-if scenarios: "What if there were no limits?", "What if nothing was scarce?", and "What if a race was obsessed with death?" There were evil mega-cultures and a good libertarian giga-culture.

We liked the way this book was written. We appreciated the detail, the well-chosen prose style, its large scope, and the way Banks reveals information to us. At least three of us had enjoyed the story and its plot twists so much that they reread the book.

There was a brief discussion of how this book fits into Banks's work as a whole. We determined that this is not one of his "Culture" series before there is no faster-than-light travel. Several people noted the libertarian political undertone of this book and the rest of Banks's work. One member thinks Banks is the finest UK writer of science fiction.

After the meeting, several of us had a nice dinner at Texas Land and Cattle.

NOVEMBER 21: THE BIG OVER EASY BY JASPER FFORDE

Eleven of us gathered at A. T.'s house to talk about the first novel in Jasper Fforde's "Nursery Crime" series. There was one first-time attendee, and we welcomed back three members we had not seen for a while. Six people had previously read Fforde. Eight of us finished the book, and another was halfway through and expected to finish it soon.

The Big Over Easy is a detective novel set in a fantasy world, where Detective Inspector Jack Spratt is investigating the murder of Humpy Dumpty. The book is a send-up of fairy tales and the detective mystery genre.

We liked how this book understands and follows the traditions and subtext of *Mother Goose*. Spratt and his assistant (the contrary Detective Sergeant Mary Mary) often use nursery rhyme logic. Jack gets uneasy when he's around magic beans, and very tall people have a short life expectancy when they enter Jack's vicinity. We noted references to a Grimm Forest and Andersen Woods, which are likely to provide fodder for future adventures.

The British mystery elements were amusing. In the world of this book, all detectives have assistants who write up their adventures and submit them for publication. Job advancement (and membership in the exclusive Detectives Guild) is largely based on publications, which the academic members of our group found amusing. The names of other prominent detectives (Inspector Moose, Miss Maple, Lord Peter Flimsy, etc.) were amusingly familiar. And in the course of this book's mystery, we learn an awful lot about foot hygiene.

Beyond all that, Fforde created a deep and varied cast of characters. We grew to care about Jack Spratt and his wonderful blended family. In addition to being a good detective, Jack is a good parent. The way he handles his daughter dating a much older man is wonderful.

We liked other things. This book is clever and funny, and the jokes and puns are all thoroughly integrated into the story. Several of the book's settings, particularly Castle Spongg, are memorable. A few of us commented that they felt this book's this book's cover and overall packaging were fabulous and appropriate.

We found this to be a clever, deep, and wonderful novel. Fforde is a treasure. After the meeting, we had a nice dinner at Red Robin.



FACT BOARD MINUTES

By Elizabeth Burton

OCTOBER 2006

The monthly meeting of the board of directors for the Fandom Association of Central Texas was called to order by Board Chair Renee Babcock on Sunday, 8 October 2006, at the Carver Branch of the Austin Public Library, 1161 Angelina St., Austin, Texas, 78702, United States of America at 2:14 p.m. Present in addition to the chair were Board President Brian Price, Directors Elizabeth Burton, A.T. Campbell III and William Siros, FACT members Charles Siros, Mona Lisa Martinez and Jane Swatzell.

The Secretary presented the minutes of the September meeting. There being no additions, clarifications or corrections, the minutes were declared approved as presented.

OFFICER REPORTS

CHAIR

- Ms. Babcock advised she has had an active month. She went to the bank and changed the mailing address, paid the ArmadilloCon 28 hotel bill and made two ArmadilloCon reimbursements for a total of approximately \$7700. She noted the charity payments for 2006 and 2005 have not been made yet to her knowledge. She stated the rest of her time was spent working on World Fantasy Convention.
- Ms. Babcock advised she had received a call 6 October re: the passing of longtime FACT member and publications director Robert Reedy.
- The SMofCon call for applications Ms. Babcock posted to the FACT mailing list received no responses.

PRESIDENT

- Mr. Price reported that Karen Meschke's father has passed away, and that he sent flowers on behalf of the organization. Ms. Babcock noted he should arrange to send a similar remembrance to Robert Reedy's sister, although no details are available re: the services. She advised Mr. Reedy's sister wants to keep the memorial service small.
- Mr. Price stated that other than that he mainly spent the month making plans to attend WorldCon '08, adding that the open gaming session last month was a lot of fun.

TREASURER

- Treasurer Kimm Antell Carrillo's report, submitted via email, listed outstanding balances for the three existing accounts as of 9/29/06: FACT, \$6,657.76; ArmadilloCon, \$10,542.55; World Fantasy, \$77,764.95.
- Debits to the FACT account: 28 credit card transactions for ArmadilloCon 28 for a total of \$4617.03. Credits: memberships-\$421, PO Box reimbursement from Alamo-\$40, United Way-\$59.71 for a total of \$520.71.
- Debits to the World Fantasy account: anthology costs-\$5,578.82, Paypal fees-\$300.75 for a total of \$5,879.57. Credits: memberships-\$9705, banquet ticket sales-\$4,300, day trip payments-\$250 for a total of \$14,255.
- Ms. Carrillo reported outstanding accounts payable to the Doubletree Hotel, which Ms. Babcock noted in her report has been paid. Ms. Carrillo advised \$774.85 remains in the Paypal account, and that she is prepared to send the check to the ArmadilloCon 28 charity in the amount of \$798 in the coming week. She noted Ms. Babcock has the check for the charity donation for ArmadilloCon 27, in the amount of \$1,010, which will be mailed as soon as funds are available.
- Ms. Carrillo advised she will clear the existing Paypal account and set up a new one for ArmadilloCon that will allow for withdrawals of more than \$500 a month.

SECRETARY

The secretary advised she has not yet established a meeting place for the annual meeting. If all else fails, she will discuss with Carver chief librarian Cynthia Charles whether they have a room large enough to accommodate the meeting. Mr. Campbell suggested the branch where the WFC programming meeting was held would suit, and Ms. Burton advised she would check into it, although a more central location might be better for those members coming from the south.

SOCIAL DIRECTOR

Mr. Sugarbroad being absent, there was no social director's report.

REGISTRAR

Registrar Sonia Santana reported via email that there was one renewal in August prior to ArmadilloCon and 20 new and renewal memberships at the convention. There were two renewals and one new member in September, for a total active membership of 101.

HISTORIAN

Historian C. Dan Tolliver was not present, but had reminisced via the board mailing list about the early days when ArmadilloCon was held on the Columbus Day Weekend and ArmadilloCon 8 in particular. He also advised he should have the data for the member director available to send to the layout designer by the end of October.

MIS

Ms. Babcock noted that the mailing address on the website needs to be updated to the new post office box. MIS Director Charles Siros advised he has created email accounts for the newsletter editor and the secretary for the posting of official documents. Ms. Babcock asked if we have sufficient space under contract, and was advised by Mr. Siros that we are good for several years yet.

PUBLICATIONS

Mr. C. Siros advised the *FACT Sheet* will be sent using a link to download instead of as an email attachment. Ms. Babcock noted that the board needs to confirm Jennifer Juday as the editor following the death of Mr. Reedy. However, Mr. Campbell asked if the board had been cleared the appointment with Ms. Juday. Mr. W. Siros noted she needs to be informed such an appointment makes her head of the publications committee, which includes additional tasks. Ms. Babcock stated she didn't feel that was necessary, as there are only five more months in the year, and Ms. Juday has advised she's enjoying the job. The board did agree Ms. Juday needs to be told to submit monthly reports if she can't attend the meetings. Ms. Babcock volunteered to contact her on the matter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARMADILLOCON 28

Ms. Babcock reported that now the hotel bill has been paid, and that to her knowledge, except for two charity checks, no further monies will be going out. Ms. Carrillo has reminded her the convention committee needs to remind Esther Friesner regarding returning the payment made for her plane ticket. Mr. Campbell reported he has sent the list of program book advertisers with outstanding invoices to Karen Meschke, advising he believes more than half the revenue hasn't come in and that the total outstanding could amount to nearly \$800.

ARMADILLOCON 29

Ms. Babcock reported that not much has happened since last month, and she plans to invite the rest of her guests in the coming week.

WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION

Ms. Babcock reported attendance is up to roughly 900 members, and that the convention continues to get memberships every day. She noted there had been a planning meeting 7 October that went fairly well. She stated she been reliably informed Mr. W. Siros had spoken to those individuals who had not previously been attending to necessary business matters effectively. Ms. Babcock noted that with the convention only four weeks away, it was going to take up most of everyone's time. The programming schedule is essentially complete, and they will send to David Hartwell later today. The awards banquet has about 200 reservations. Membership growth has been steady for the last six months so the committee is building "wiggly room" in anticipation of possible high gate sales.

READING GROUP

Mr. Campbell reported the group is going just fine and continues to alternate among several locations. Meeting reports are coming out regularly in the FACT Sheet, and he feels people are enjoying the current books on the list. He did note there was low attendance at the last meeting, but that generally there have not been any books people hated or wondered why they were read.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Corflu: Ms. Babcock reported she had received a report from Pat Virzi. Mr. W. Siros queried whether this item should be moved into committee reports if FACT is sponsoring it. He also advised he had suggested resurrecting the *Texas SF Inquirer* for the event, adding they would need to make a formal request for permission to use to the title to preserve copyright. Mr. Campbell noted if they opted to do so it would be issue #51, as the last edition was in 1996.

2. Stepp Donation: Mr. Price suggested we use it as seed for charity auctions at ArmadilloCons. Ms. Babcock suggested asking Aaron Allston to look it over, as he might have a good idea what some of the items are worth.

3. Signature cards: The ongoing problem is for Ms. Babcock or Ms. Carrillo to get to the bank when it's open to turn them in. Mr. W. Siros offered to take them in, but Ms. Babcock pointed out he would need the resolution. She then questioned whether the changes even need to be made at this point, considering how late in the year it is and that for the time being either she or Ms. Carrillo can sign checks prior to giving them to the other party.

Mr. Campbell expressed concern that pre-signing checks negates the purpose of having two signatories, since the whole point is that one person shouldn't be in a position to determine what is spent. Ms. Babcock pointed out that the people currently on the accounts are fairly accessible. Mr. C. Siros noted that bank errors in the past have allowed us to coast, but the secretary is required by law to be on the account so it's better to have the cards in order.

Mr. W. Siros moved that the bank accounts be regularized with the current appropriate signatories: Kimm Carrillo, Elizabeth Burton, Renee Babcock, Brian Price for FACT; Kimm Carrillo, Renee Babcock, Elizabeth Burton for ArmadilloCon; Kimm Carrillo, Elizabeth Burton, Renee Babcock and Fred Duarte for World Fantasy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Price and approved with 4 ayes, no nays and 1 abstention.

4. Fan Antonio: Mona Martinez reported she has resigned from Ursa Major, and that Lynn Ward is now president. C. Siros noted it's now the responsibility of UM or some other group to come back to us if they are interested in pursuing the project and recommended we send out feelers to determine interest. W. Siros noted that once the directory is out there is nothing to prevent Mona from contacting San Antonio FACT members and setting up something independent of Ursa Major. The matter was tabled pending further developments.

5. Writer's League of Texas: Ms. Burton reported WLT Development Director Michael Hoinski has recommended a member of the board meet with the WLT president to discuss potential joint activities. The matter was table until after World Fantasy Convention.

6. Member Directory: Dan Tolliver is putting the data together. Mr. Campbell advised he believes he put the last one together and expressed concerns regarding the information to be included. He suggested having someone personally contact members to collect it to ensure everything was included. Ms. Babcock said she could contact Mr. Tolliver with the suggestion. Mr. Price wondered if it is not sufficient to do a barebones version this time and wait for feedback. Ms. Babcock and Mr. W. Siros advised they felt it better to have more information. It was requested Mr. Campbell contact Mr. Tolliver to discuss the matter.

7. Fencon: Ms. Martinez advised enjoyed hosting the party and reported that although there were a lot of parties, the room was full. She commended C. and W. Siros and Kurt Baty for helping. Ms. Babcock asked if she'll be attending DFW and would consider

repeating the task. Ms. Martinez advised she's thinking about it.

8. SmofCon: Ms. Babcock noted that, in view of the zero response to the call for applicants, she wants more clear-cut guidelines because we need to make the decision at the November meeting. Ms. Martinez reminded Ms. Babcock she had expressed interest, and added that her guest, Ms. Swatzell, was also interested.

9. Hotel Contract Committee: Nothing has been done to date. Ms. Babcock stressed that we do need to set convention dates and ensure they're available. Mr. Price and Mr. C. Siros will discuss that via email. Mr. W. Siros suggested getting a copy of the letter Ms. Carrillo sent to other hotels. Mr. Campbell suggested we might want to consider contacting other hotels, as the current site has limitations. However, Ms. Babcock advised guests and participants have stated how much they like the Doubletree.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mr. Price presented an email from Kimm Carrillo he received 7 October, along with a follow-up from the following day, advising she felt she was treated rudely and unprofessionally regarding the recent WFC meeting. The issue was regarding her attendance at the meeting, which was in conflict with a personal matter.

Mr. Campbell suggested that the board needs to establish a policy of convention chair attendance at meetings. Mr. W. Siros noted what constitutes an appropriate policy in this regard is hard to quantify in part because the organization has been such a laid-back group. He pointed out that one reason Ms. Carrillo and Mr. C. Siros were trying to develop the white papers was so new incoming officers could have historical information regarding procedures and policies.

Mr. W. Siros agreed there are no standards for meeting attendance or reporting, other than for actual board members. People respond as they need to or as they remember. This is not standard for similar organizations but procedures vary between the extremes. He stated that he feels the board should specify that officers need to attend meetings or, if impossible, provide sufficiently detailed reports.

The bylaws specify a director must attend 75% of meetings. Mr. Siros agreed to discuss the current issue with Ms. Carrillo. He advised each committee chair needs to establish early what the meeting attendance guidelines will be. Mr. C. Siros suggested every report should be presented both verbally AND in writing.

The board agreed the oversight committee would be convened if necessary.

2. Purchasing LCD projector: Ms. Babcock advised it would cost \$1000 to rent a unit from the hotel. Mr. C. Siros presented information on one available for \$800 to the board via the email list. Ms. Carrillo requested feedback on the unit from John Gibbons, who stated he felt it was more than adequate. The question arose whether the funds to purchase should come from the World Fantasy budget or FACT. Ms. Babcock cited the anthology project, in that FACT was purchasing the unit, and that would pay for it. Mr. W. Siros moved to purchase the projector presented or an equivalent model, seconded by Mr. Price. There being no objection, the motion was recorded as approved.

There being no other business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.



"Turning Away" © 2006 by Anthony Ocean

THE FANDOM ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL TEXAS, INC.

The Fandom Association of Central Texas, Inc. (FACT) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit literary/ educational corporation.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Renee Babcock, Chair & AC29
Elizabeth Burton
A. T. Campbell, III
Brian Price
Sonia Santana
Willie Siros
J.P. Sugarbroad

OFFICERS

President	Brian Price
Secretary	Elizabeth Burton
Treasurer	Kimberly Carrillo
Registrar	Sonia Santana
Historian	Dan Tolliver
MIS	Charles Siros
Social Director	J.P. Sugarbroad
Publications	Jennifer Juday

HOW TO JOIN FACT

Join us! FACT membership benefits include regular issues of *The F.A.C.T. Sheet* and the opportunity to participate in many social events. To become a member, please send membership dues to the FACT mailing address or go to www.fact.org and select "Join FACT."

The basic F.A.C.T. membership is \$21.00 per year. F.A.C.T. also has "special" classes of memberships. These memberships also run for the calendar year (12 months) from the date dues are received and come with some bonuses, in addition to the dividends of a regular membership.

- **Basic** (\$21.00) receives *The F.A.C.T. Sheet*
- **Sponsor** (\$50.00), in addition to the above, receives a F.A.C.T. shirt and button.
- **Patron** (\$150.00), in addition to the above, is entitled to a Convention Pass
- **Benefactor** (\$300.00) receives all of the above plus a F.A.C.T. mug.



"Estuary" © 2006 by Anthony Ocean

THE FACT SHEET

Editor Jennifer Juday

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First Class Mail

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

- 1 Charles G. Finney (*The Circus of Dr. Lao*), Jo Walton (*Tooth and Claw*)
- 2 Laura J. Underwood (*Dragon's Tongue*)
- 3 Doug Beason (*The E-Bomb*)
- 5 Susan Noe Rothman (SF poet & short story writer), Betsy Wollheim (editor)
- 7 Leigh Brackett (short stories, screenplay of *The Empire Strikes Back*)
- 10 George MacDonald (*Lilith*)
- 13 R.A. MacAvoy (Black Dragon series, The Lens of the World series), Tamora Pierce (The Song of the Lioness series)
- 14 Shirley Jackson ("The Lottery," *The Haunting of Hill House*)
- 16 Arthur C. Clarke (*2001: A Space Odyssey*), Philip K. Dick (*Flow My Tears, the Policeman Said*)
- 17 Jack Chalker (Well World series)
- 18 Michael Moorcock (Elric series), Stephen Spielberg (director)
- 20 Nalo Hopkinson (*Midnight Robber*)
- 21 Sean McMullen (*The Miocene Arrow*)
- 22 Charles de Lint (*Trader, Widdershins*)
- 24 Fritz Leiber (*Our Lady of Darkness*)
- 25 Rod Serling (*The Twilight Zone*; co-writer of *The Planet of the Apes*)
- 30 S.P. Somtow (*The Pavilion of Frozen Women*)
- 31 Bib Shaw (*The Ragged Astronauts*), Cecilia Holland (*Floating Worlds*), Connie Willis ("Inside Job"), Ellen Datlow (fiction editor of *Omni*)



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