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# THE F.A.C.T. SHEET



September 1999

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

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## Editorial Remarks

Come to ArmadilloCon! 'Nuff said!

--- A. T. Campbell, III

## Labor Day Party!

You're invited to a "Who Can Afford to Go to Australia Cook-Out and Potato Salad Bake-Off" party, which will be held on Labor Day. The party is sponsored by FACT.

The party will be held at 1204 Nueces (the former FACT office, and current residence of Willie Siros) on Monday, September 6. It will start at 12 noon and run as long as people want to stay.

We'll be cooking food outside on the grill. FACT will provide soft drinks, paper plates, utensils, napkins, and some meat (Okay, actually burgers and hot dogs, so more like meat by-products.) Condiments and side dishes are potluck, as are any more exotic grilling items like chicken breasts, bratwurst or portobello mushrooms.

The highlight of the party will be the "Potato Salad Bake-Off". Here are the rules:

1. Make it at home.
2. Bring it to the party.
3. Warn people of anything in it they may not want to eat because of allergies or restricted diets or they just can't stand it: shrimp, bacon, jalapenos, eggs, etc.
4. Voting by applause-meter. No Australian ballot. We can't afford Australia, remember?
5. A lovely ribbon will be awarded to the winner. Perhaps even a certificate.

We will turn on the sprinklers in the parking lot for anyone who wants to play in water. We'll also try to have the list of Hugo winners to announce.

Feel free to invite any FACT members (or others in the local SF community) who don't have e-mail.

For more information, contact Debbie Hodgkinson (Debbie\_Hodgkinson@radian.com) or Renee Babcock (r.babcock@mail.utexas.edu).

We'd appreciate it if you RSVP, so we'll know how much to buy in the way of supplies. You can e-mail me (Debbie\_Hodgkinson@radian.com) or phone Adventures in Crime and Space at 4SF-BOOK (473-2665).

Thanks!

--- Debbie Hodgkinson

## 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 7.*

## Award News

Results of the Mythopoeic Awards for 1999 were announced at Mythcon XXX/Bree Moot 4 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 1. Winners included *Stardust* by Neil Gaiman and Charles Vess (Fantasy Award for Adult Literature); *Dark Lord of Derkholm* by Diana Wynne Jones (Fantasy Award for Children's Literature); *C. S. Lewis: A Companion & Guide* by Walter Hooper (Scholarship Award in Inkling Studies); and *A Century of Welsh Myth in Children's Literature* by Donna R. White (Scholarship Award in Myth and Fantasy Studies).

The 1999 Will Eisner Awards were announced Friday, August 13, at Comic-Con International in San Diego. Honors went to "Devil's Advocate," by Matt Wagner and Tim Sale from *Grendel: Black, White, and Red* (Best Short Story); Hitman #34: "Of Thee I Sing," by Garth Ennis, John McCrea, and Garry Leach (Best Single Issue); *Usagi Yojimbo* #13-22: "Grasscutter," by Stan Sakai (Best Serialized Story); *Preacher* by Garth Ennis and Steve Dillon (Best Continuing Series); *300* by Frank Miller and Lynn Varley (Best Limited Series); *Inhumans* by Paul Jenkins and Jae Lee (Best New Series); *Batman: The Gotham Adventures* by Ty Templeton, Rick Burchett, and Terry Beatty (Best Title

for a Younger Audience); *Groo* by Sergio Aragonés and Mark Evanier (Best Humor Publication), *Grendel: Black, White, and Red* by Matt Wagner (Best Anthology); *Superman: Peace on Earth* by Paul Dini and Alex Ross (Best New Graphic Album); Batman: *The Long Halloween* by Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale (Best Reprint Graphic Album); *Plastic Man Archives, Vol. 1* by Jack Cole (Best Archival Collection); *Star Wars: A New Hope-Manga* by Hisao Tamaki (Best US Edition of Foreign Material); Kurt Busiek (Best Writer), Frank Miller (Best Writer/Artist), and Kyle Baker (Best Writer/Artist-Humor). Tim Sale (Best Penciller/Inker or Penciller/Inker Team); Alex Ross (Best Painter – Interior Art); Lynn Varley (Best Coloring); Todd Klein (Best Lettering); Brian Bolland (Best Cover Artist); Brian Michael Bendis (Talent Deserving of Wider Recognition); *The Comics Journal* (Best Comics-Related Periodical); *Batman: Animated* by Paul Dini and Chip Kidd (Best Comics-Related Book); Sandman Pocketwatch (Best Comics-Related Product); Hellboy status (Best Comics-Related Sculpted Figure); and *Batman: Animated* (Best Publication Design). Hall of Fame inductees included Murphy Anderson, Jack Cole, L. B. Cole, Bill Finger, Gardner Fox, Mac Raboy, Alex Schomburg, Joe Simon, art spiegelman, and Dick Sprang.

The final ballot for this year's World Fantasy Awards, covering the 1998 eligibility year, has been released. Awards will be presented at the World Fantasy Convention in Providence, Rhode Island the weekend of November 4-7, 1999. Nominees include ArmadilloCon 21 Guests Sean Stewart (*Mockingbird* for Best Novel) and Neil Gaiman ("Shoggoth's Old Peculiar" for Best Short Story). Past ArmadilloCon Guests with nominations include George R. R. Martin ("The Hedge Knight" for Best Novella), Patrick Nielsen Hayden (*Starlight 2* for Best Anthology), and Bob Eggleton (Best Artist).

## Comics News

Former Superman writer Elliot S! Maggin has written "Starwinds Howl", which he feels is the definitive story of Krypto, Superboy's pet. The story is online at his web site (<http://www.starwinds-howl.com/>). Maggin said he got the idea for the story when his seventh-grade child was recently reading a lot of Jack London.

## Fandom News

Fans in the Houston area should check out the Saturday Morning Ritual Breakfast Group. This loosely organized band of Science Fiction fans, writers, and NASA types meets every Saturday at the Buffet Express on the northwest corner of Bellaire and Wesleyan (4056 Bellaire). For more information, see <http://www.flash.net/~aajiv/>

Houston fan group Starbase Houston now has its own web domain: <http://www.starbasehouston.org/>

## Magazine News

*Artemis Magazine*, offering "science and fiction for a space-faring society," has just published its first issue. Ian Randall Strock edits this quarterly publication. The first issue has a cover by Alan Bean and contributions from Jack Williamson, Fred Lerner, Stanley Schmidt, Marianne Dyson, and others. For more information: <http://www.lrcpubs.com/artemismagazine.html>

## Media News

Here's more *Lord of the Rings* movie casting: Christopher Lee (Saruman), Liv Tyler (Arwen), and Sean Bean (Boromir).

Famke Janssen has joined the cast of the *X-Men* movie. She'll play Jean Grey, a telekinetic mutant.

SFX Online reports that the BBC2 plans to adapt Mervyn Peake's epic Gormenghast trilogy into a four-part TV series. The production is being described as a combination of "ingeniously conceived fantasy" and "action-packed comedy." Peake published the first Gormenghast book, *Titus Groan*, in 1946, followed by *Gormenghast* in 1950 and *Titus Alone* in 1959.

## Member News

The father of FACT member John Gibbons passed away in late August. The funeral was held Friday, August 27 in San Antonio.

Member Debbie Hodgkinson had an emergency appendectomy recently. She seems to be recovering well, but she'll be out of work for a couple of weeks.

## Obituary

**James White, 1928 – 1999.** Irish SF writer James White died Monday, August 23. He was best known for the "Sector General" books, starting with *Hospital Station* in 1962 and continuing through the forthcoming *Double Contact*. With Walt Willis, he co-edited the acclaimed fanzine *Slant*. White was the Guest of Honor at the 1996 WorldCon in Los Angeles.

## Writer News

Texas author **Elizabeth Moon** is making an extensive trip to Australia. In addition to attending the WorldCon, she'll be speaking in Adelaide (Austin's sister city) on September 15 at their Writers' Centre. She plans to send regular trip reports back to her newsgroup at [sff.net](mailto:sff.net) and other interested parties.

## Upcoming Events

### Meetings & Gatherings

*(Note: There will be no FACT Board meeting in September.)*

September 7, 7PM: **FACT Reading Group.**

Adventures in Crime & Space. 609-A W. Sixth St, Austin, TX (512) 473-2665. Topic: *Secret Realms* by Tom Cool

September 21, 7PM: **FACT Reading Group.**

Adventures in Crime & Space. Topic: *The Death of the Necromancer* by Martha Wells

October 5, 7PM: **FACT Reading Group.** Adventures in Crime & Space. Topic: *The Alien Years* by Robert Silverberg (also pick books)

October 19, 7PM: **FACT Reading Group.** Adventures in Crime & Space. Topic: *Stardust* by Neil Gaiman

November 2, 7PM: **FACT Reading Group.**

Adventures in Crime & Space. Topic: *Newton's Cannon* by J. Gregory Keyes

## Bookstore Events

Several signings are scheduled at Adventures in Crime & Space Bookstore (609-A W. Sixth St, Austin, TX 512/473-2665). SF/F author **Tad Williams** will sign *Otherland: Mountain of Black Glass* on Thursday, September 9, 4:30-6:00 PM. Gonzo writer **Joe R. Lansdale** will sign his new mystery novel *Freezer Burn* on Thursday, October 7, 5:30-6:00 PM. **Carolina Garcia-Aguilera** will sign her mystery novel *A Miracle in Paradise* on Wednesday, October 13, 5:00-7:00 PM. Artist/writer **James Gurney** will sign *Dinotopia: First Flight* on Tuesday, October 19, 6:00-7:00 PM, to be followed by a dinner excursion.

**Tad Williams** will also sign *Otherland: Mountain of Black Glass* at the Arboretum Barnes and Noble (10000 Research Blvd., Austin, TX; 418-8985) The signing will be Thursday, September 9 at 8 PM.

## Movies

*This list provides release dates on upcoming SF&F movies. Dates are subject to change.*

September 10: *Mato Grosso* (1999) (d. Matthew

McQuillan) Alien invasion thriller.

([http://members.tripod.com/~Amblin2/mato\\_trailer.html](http://members.tripod.com/~Amblin2/mato_trailer.html))

September 10: *Stigmata* (d. Rupert Wainwright)

Religious horror thriller with Gabriel Byrne and Patricia Arquette.

(<http://www.mgm.com/stigmata/>)

September 17: *Molly* (d. John Duigan) Elisabeth Shue

and Aaron Eckhart star in drama about a mentally challenged woman who becomes a genius via an experimental medical procedure.

(<http://www.mgm.com/molly/>)

October 2: *Under the Rainbow* (d. Carl James) Four second-generation space explorers, born in space,

visit Earth for the first time.

(<http://www.bunkfilms.com/films/rainbow/>)

October 8: *Lost Souls* (d. Janusz Kaminski) Horror film starring Winona Ryder and Ben Chaplin.

(<http://www.lostsoulsmovie.com/>)

October 15: *Scream if You Know What I Did Last*

*Halloween* (d. Keenen Ivory Wayans) Horror spoof starring the Wayans brothers, Cheri Oteri, and Jenny McCarthy.

October 15: *The Omega Code*. Thriller involving scholars have decoded the key to the Bible Code, which allows them to foretell the future. Starring Casper Van Dien, Michael York, and Catherine Oxenberg. (<http://www.theomegacode.com/>)

October 15: *Fight Club* (d. David Fincher) A group of rich yuppies have fist fights for recreation. Starring Brad Pitt, Edward Norton, Meat Loaf, and Helena Bonham Carter.

October 19: *Cold Hearts* (d. Robert Angelo

Masciantonio) Vampire film starring Marisa Ryan and Robert Floyd.

(<http://www.shiftworld.com/index2.html>)

October 22: *Bats* (d. Louis Morneau) Genetically mutated bats escape and it's up to a bat expert and the local sheriff to stop them. Starring Lou Diamond Phillips and Dina Meyer.

(<http://www.batsthemovie.com/btm/>)

October 28: *Godsend: The Evil Decimation* (d. Rocky Costanzo) Religious horror about a serial killer on a mission from God. Starring Alexandra Munroe and Jim Swanson. (<http://ocactors.com/godsend/>)

October 29: *The House on Haunted Hill* (d. William Malone) Horror remake starring Geoffrey Rush and Famke Janssen.

October 29: *Mononoke Hime* (d. Hayao Miyazaki) Japanese animated adventure, with an English screenplay by Neil Gaiman.

(<http://www.ntv.co.jp/ghibli/>)

## Conventions

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

September 2-6: **AUSSIECON THREE/1999**

**WORLDCON/SPAWNCON TWO.** World

Congress Centre, Melbourne, Australia. GoHs:

George Turner, Gregory Benford, Bruce Gillespie.

Memb: A\$250/\$170/£110 until 7/31/99;

A\$45/\$35/£25 supporting; A\$45/\$35/£25 children

3-12. Info: Aussiecon Three, GPO Box 1212K,

Melbourne VIC 3001, Australia; US Address: PO

Box 688, Prospect Heights, IL 60070-0688; UK

address: 45 Tilehurst Rd., Reading, UK;

info@aussiecon3.worldcon.org. Spawncon Info:

PO Box 215 Forest Hill Vic 3131, Australia; +03-

9803-9480 mortlieb@vicnet.net.au

September 10-12: **ARMADILLOCON 21** Omni South Park, Austin TX. GoH: Sean Stewart. AGoH: Wayne Barlowe, EGoH: Shawna McCarthy. FGoH: Hal Clement. TM: William Browning Spencer. Special Guest: Neil Gaiman. Program Participants: Aaron Allston, Mark Anthony, Bill Baldwin, Neal Barrett Jr., Austin Bay, M. Shayne Bell, Jayme Lynn Blaschke, Pat Cadigan, Lillian Stewart Carl, Stepan Chapman, Cat Conrad, Roxanne Conrad, Bill Crider, Scott A. Cupp, Bradley Denton, Marianne J. Dyson, Brad W. Foster, Jim Frenkel, Katharine Eliska Kimbriel, Rick Klaw, Susan J. Kroupa, Wil McCarthy, C. J. Mills, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Cary G. Osborne, Lawrence Person, Carrie Richerson, Caroline Spector, Warren Spector, Bruce Sterling, Joan D. Vinge, Don Webb, Martha Wells, K. D. Wenworth, Wendy Wheeler, Walter Jon Williams. Memb: \$20 advance, \$30 at door. Info: ArmadilloCon 21, Box 27277, Austin TX 78755; (512) 868-0036; e-mail: mona@io.com. website: <http://www.golem-computing.com/dillocon/>

September 23-26: **DEATH EQUINOX '99/ CYBER-PSYCHO CONVERGENCE III** Ramada Inn Downtown, Denver CO. GoH: Elizabeth Hand. Lit-Prof GoH: LarryMcCaffrey. AGoH: Gomez. TM: John Clute. Guests: Don Webb, Brian Hodge, Edward Bryant, more. Memb: \$55 at door. Info: Death Equinox '99, Box 581, Denver CO 80201; e-mail: [jsailing@netonecom.net](mailto:jsailing@netonecom.net); website: <http://cyberpsychos.netonecom.net/death-equinox/>

October 7-10: **INT'L EDGAR ALLAN POE CONFERENCE** The Jefferson Hotel, Richmond VA. Guests: John Dunning, John Astin & the Poe Performance. Memb: \$75 student, \$130 others. Info: Conferences & Institutes Registration, Pennsylvania State U, Box 10850, State College PA 16805; fax: (814)863-5175; website: <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/EdgarAllanPoe/>

October 22-24: **HUBCON III** University Center, Texas Tech University Campus, West Broadway and University, Lubbock, TX; 806-742-3636. GoH: Jeremy Bulloch, Eric Kristiansen, Lucid Press, Dr. James Whitlark. Theme: Halloween. Memb: \$25 until 9/1/99; \$35 at the door. Info: HubCon III, c/o Legion West, MS 2031-76, TTU, Lubbock, TX 79406; 806-789-1501; e-mail: [chairman@hubcon.org](mailto:chairman@hubcon.org). website: <http://www.hubcon.org/>

October 22-24: **MILEHICON 31** Sheraton, Lakewood CO; rms \$79 sngl/dbl, \$89 tpl/quad. GoHs: Lois McMaster Bujold, K.W. Jeter. AGoH: Robert Daniels, Jr. TM: Kevin J. Anderson. Memb: \$24 to 9/31/99, \$26 to 10/10/99, \$28 at door. Info: MileHiCon 31, Box 101322, Denver CO 80250;

(303) 657-5912; e-mail: [lindanel@-ix.netcom.com](mailto:lindanel@-ix.netcom.com); website: [www.econet.-com/milehicon](http://www.econet.-com/milehicon)

October 22-24: **TUSCON 26** Executive Inn, Tucson AZ. GoH: Laurell K. Hamilton. AGoH: Lee Seed. Memb: \$30 to 10/1/99, \$35 at door. Dealer table: \$45 (incl 1 memb); contact Cristi (520) 881-3709. Info: TusCon 26, Box 26822, Tucson AZ 85726.

## Meeting Minutes

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### THE FANDOM ASSOCIATION OF

### CENTRAL TEXAS - August 9, 1999

The Board of Directors ("the Board") of the Fandom Association of Central Texas ("FACT") convened in a regular meeting at the home of FACT members A.T. Campbell, III and Lori Wolf, at 3801 Hawkshead Drive, Austin, Texas on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1999 and the duly constituted officers and members of the Board were in attendance, thus constituting a quorum:

Lori Wolf	Chairman and Director
A.T. Campbell, III	Director
Fred Duarte, Jr	Director
Robert Reedy	Director
Karen Meschke	President
Shane Cook	Treasurer

The meeting was called to order 1:21ish per Chairman,, Lori Wolf. The Minutes of the July 1999 meeting were reviewed and no changes needed to be entered into the record. The July meeting minutes were approved with the change. A.T. made the motion to accept the minutes and Robert Reedy seconded, the vote was 4-0.

- I. Reports of the Officers of FACT
  - a. Chairman's Report - Lori reviewed the previous nights autographing with Walter Jon Williams which was held at Adventures in Crime & Space Bookstore, dinner at the County Line (thanks to Kurt Baty for his special contribution) and impromptu gathering at 1204 Nueces after dinner.
  - b. President's Report - Karen reported that she will be contacting Cliff Davis to include mention of FACT's table at the Texas Book Festival in November and to invite other fans to drop by any flyers regarding their events around the state of Texas
  - c. Vice President's Report - no sightings of Robert Taylor have been made in the past month

- d. Secretary's Report - The matter of FACT members making donation through the United Way have been cleared up. Dan Tolliver was not at the meeting and Lori needs his signature for FACT paperwork.
- e. Treasurer's Report - Shane received two bank statements for the month of July on Saturday at the autographing and stated the following two totals of FACT's totals are from the FACT account - \$30729.91, World Fantasy - \$2551.21, the ArmadilloCon statements have not yet been received.
- f. Registrar's Report - Carrie was not available, so no report was given.
- g. Social Director's Report-Renee was also not at the meeting., but was seen the previous evening and ideas were discussed with various FACT members for future events.
- h. MIS Report - Earl was not present so no report was given.
- i. Historian's Report - Robert had no report to give.

II. Committee Reports

- a. ArmadilloCon 21 - This report was given by AT who had received a phone call from Mona Gamboa earlier this day. Current membership is around 210, not including program participants. Mona believes the convention is close to their projected break even financial plans. There are 25-30 volunteers ready to attend and each will receive a T-shirt with a Sherlock artwork for their efforts. 39 dealers tables have been bought. All of the GOH travel arrangements have been completed. ArmadilloCon will have publicity stands at both ACS and Book People. Mona will be e-mailing Shane regarding art show info and requests she has received.
- b. ArmadilloCon 22 - Ruben Gamboa has begun contacting GOH's and hopes to have a program book ad in this years ArmadilloCon.
- c. World Fantasy - Fred said that the hotel sales staff was not available in August and a Sept 26<sup>th</sup> visit was in the works.
- d. Office - Karen will help clean out the office as Lori reported to her from the previous nights social event only a small amount of items will need to be moved. The some party supplies were used for the event last night.
- e. Publications - The August FACT sheet contained another more difficult crossword puzzle..
- f. Reading group - AT reported 8 folks attended the last reading group's discussion. The Jack Williamson book scheduled is now out of print

so new books to read will begin in the next month or so.

- g. Nominations Committee - is currently in hiatus pending election coverage.
- h. Bylaws Committee - Robert Reedy passed out copies of the last amended Bylaws from the March 14, 1999 meeting and stated that e-mail communications were ongoing between the members of the committee.

III. Old Business

- a. Autographings - Fred will talk with Willie to see what is available in the next few months.

IV. New Business

- a. Fred will represent FACT along with Sara from ACS at the UT Mall Back to School event on August 24<sup>th</sup>, he will have flyers for the reading group, FACT, ArmadilloCon, FACT, and World Fantasy.
- b. At 2:20ish, a motion was entertained and moved by all to adjourn

Respectfully submitted,  
 Karen Meschke  
 Acting as Secretary again (!)

(Note: By unanimous agreement of the Board, the September FACT Board meeting was canceled. The "action without meeting" was conducted via e-mail.)

## Solution to August Puzzle

D	E	A	T	H		E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C		B
A	N	D	R	O	I	D		S	A	Y	O	N	A	R	A
I	G	U	A	N	A		I	S	P		C	T		I	N
S	I	M	I		N	C		E	R		O	E	D		G
	N	A	L	O		O	M	N	I		C	R	A	N	K
D	E	R		L	E	S		T		B	O	Z		Y	O
E	E		A	D	A	M		I	L	L		O	H		K
C	R	O		F	T		E	A		U		N	E	O	
A		A	L	A	S		S	L	E	E	P	E	R		T
Y	I	K	E	S		A	C	S		J	A		E	T	H
	R		N	H			A	A		A	R	C	A	N	E
P	A	S	S	I	O	N	P	L	A	Y		O	F		O
R		A	M	O	K		E	T	D		T	U	T		R
I		B	E	N		R		E	E	Y	O	R	E		E
S	C	E	N	E		A		S	P	E	C	T	R	U	M
M	E	R			D	A	T	A			T		K	S	P

## Reading Group Report

by A. T. Campbell, III

### August 3: *Cosm* by Gregory Benford

The discussion of Gregory Benford's latest hard SF thriller drew a crowd of ten people. Eight had read the book and were there to discuss it, and two showed up

just to socialize and join us for dinner. The book is a near future story about a young physicist, Alicia Butterworth, who makes a breakthrough discovery. A large part of the novel is a straightforward but unglamorized portrait of the life of a working academic scientist.

Everyone found the writing style compelling and readable, particularly compared to the stylistic experimentation of Benford's Galactic Center books. We felt that the portrayal of a scientist's life and work is realistic. The details of Dr. Butterworth's life ring true, particularly her obsession with work and her neglect of a social life. Benford pulls off a convincing female viewpoint character. Her personality quirks seem quite believable for a scientist and a woman.

Dr. Butterworth's discovery, the pocket universe "cosm" of the title, fascinated several of us. It is an intriguing idea, and many of us kept turning the pages simply to find out more about the cosm. It proved to be a wonderful vehicle for incorporating existing theory about the life cycle of a universe into a novel.

This book only had minor problems. Several of the minor characters seem shallowly developed, particularly in comparison to the fleshed-out Dr. Butterworth. The speech patterns of the characters are too similar, so conversations often read like a person talking to himself. Also, none of us felt that the scientists in the book seemed as brilliant as they were supposed to be.

It was apparent that the audience for this book is different than the audience of Benford's Galactic Center books. Several years ago the Reading Group had discussed *In the Ocean of Night*, the first book of that sequence, and found it unremarkable. Most of the people who attended that earlier discussion are still in the group, and they all liked *Cosm*. One relative newcomer to the group, who'd actually liked the Galactic Center books, was disappointed by the small scope of *Cosm*'s story.

We feel that this book ranks in the upper tier of books about scientists. The details of scientists, universities, and laboratories all ring true. *Cosm* compares favorably to the works of such writers of "scientist fiction" as John Cramer and Paul Preuss.

### August 17: *Clouds End* by Sean Stewart

Eight people showed up for the discussion of *Clouds End*, a fantasy novel by ArmadilloCon 21 Guest of Honor Sean Stewart. Six had read the book, and the others were present to socialize or observe. The book is a heroic fantasy set in a fully imagined world. The story concerns a group of island people who get wrapped up in a struggle involving supernatural Heroes and the mysterious Mist. A young woman, Brook, encounters a

bird that turns into a twin of herself. Worse yet, the twin (called Jo) brings news of an ominous invasion. This causes Brook, Jo, and several of Brook's friends to embark on a quest of danger and self-discovery.

We found the world of this book to be a brilliant and wonderful piece of invention. Stewart created interesting and fleshed out civilizations and mythologies. One person commented that it seemed like a "harsher, fairyland Discworld." The characters seem like they fit well in this world, and their novel speech patterns are both unique and believable.

The story structure is unusual and complicated. It involved several interweaving plot threads. Also, people in the story often recite mythical stories, which tend to foreshadow events in the "main" story. Knots are an important element in the lives of these seafaring people, and Stewart works knots into every aspect of the story – including its structure.

The biggest problem with this book is that we didn't find the individual characters as interesting as the world they inhabit. We were more interested in descriptions of their society and its fascinating myths than in the careers and love lives of the relatively insignificant group of protagonists. And while most of Stewart's invented speech patterns work wonderfully, some of us had trouble with characters using "Spit!" as a swear word.

Overall we liked this book a lot. Even those who don't normally like fantasy liked this one. As usual for Stewart, *Clouds End* is unlike anything he'd written previously. We feel that Sean Stewart's approach to fantasy has little or nothing to do with traditional commercial "fat" fantasy, and for this we are grateful.

## ***Adventures* in Crime & Space Bookstore**

**10% Discount for FACT Members!**

609-A W. Sixth Street, Austin, TX (512)473-2665  
M-Th 11-8, F-Sa 11-9, Su 12-6  
<http://www.crimeandspace.com>

**New Used Out of Print Rare British American**

## The Fandom Association of Central Texas, Inc.

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

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### How to Contact FACT

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### How to Join FACT

FACT membership benefits include regular issues of *The F.A.C.T. Sheet* and the opportunity to participate in many social events (see the "Upcoming Events" column).

To become a member, please send membership dues to the FACT mailing address. The time of year in which you pay for membership determines the amount, so that in subsequent years your membership will come due in April or October.

If you join in:	Your dues will be:
May or November	\$29.75 (17 months)
June or December	\$28.00 (16 months)
July or January	\$26.25 (15 months)
August or February	\$24.50 (14 months)
September or March	\$22.75 (13 months)
October or April	\$21.00 (12 months)



**Editor** A. T. Campbell, III

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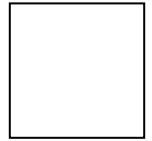
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**Editorial Contributions:** Karen Meschke ("Meeting Minutes," pp. 3-4); Shane Cook ("Income Statement, p. 4) A. T. Campbell, III ("Solution to July's Puzzle", p. 5, "Reading Group Report," p. 5, "SF Crossword Puzzle", p. 6).

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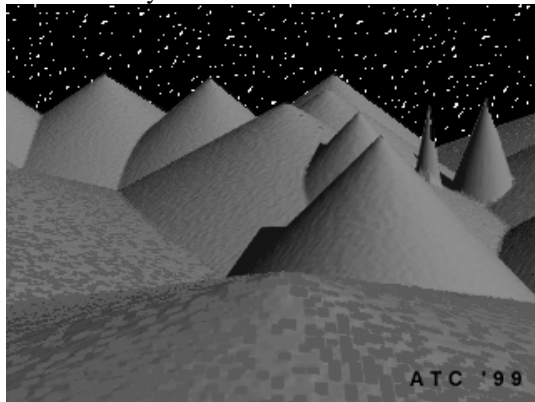
### FACT Member Birthdays

#### September

4 Tom Davidson  
18 Harry Beckwith  
25 Matthew Duarte

#### October

2 Cathy Beckwith  
12 Kennedy Poyser  
21 Betty Hall



### Celebrity Birthdays

#### September

1 Edgar Rice Burroughs (*A Princess of Mars*)  
10 Fay Wray (*King Kong*)  
13 Roald Dahl (*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*)  
17 Roddy McDowell (*Planet of the Apes*)  
21 H. G. Wells (*The Time Machine*), Stephen King (*The Stand*)  
25 Mark Hamill (*Wing Commander IV*)  
26 Linda Hamilton (*Terminator*)

#### October

2 Avery Brooks (*ST: DS9*), Persis Khambatta (*ST: The Motion Picture*)  
4 Charlton Heston (*Planet of the Apes*), Susan Sarandon (*Rocky Horror Picture Show*)  
5 Clive Barker (*The Books of Blood*)  
9 Miguel de Cervantes (*Don Quixote*)  
20 Martin Landau (*Space: 1999*)  
21 Ursula K. Le Guin (*The Lathe of Heaven*)  
23 Michael Crichton (*The Terminal Man*)  
27 Elsa Lanchester (*Bride of Frankenstein*)