

# FUTURE TIMES

THE FANZINE OF  
THE ATLANTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY

JULY 2002

VOL. 5, #7



## FUTURE TIMES

July 2002

Volume 5, Issue 7

\*\*\*\*\*

**Future Times** is the monthly publication of **The Atlanta Science Fiction Society**, a gathering of fans of Science Fiction, Fantasy and associated genres.

All art is copyrighted by the artist, all articles are copyrighted by the author, unless otherwise specified.

Club meetings are free and open to the public. An official membership in ASFS is \$12 annual, and includes a subscription to **Future Times**. **Future Times** is available to other 'zines for *the usual*. Contributors receive a free copy of that issue.

**The Atlanta Science Fiction Society** website is : [www.asfs.org](http://www.asfs.org)

ASFS also maintains an E-mail list hosted by Yahoo! Groups. Anyone interested may join by directing their browser to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ASFS>

Our Yahoo! Groups site has a calendar which lists upcoming club and local SF events.

The ASFS mailing address is:

**The Atlanta Science Fiction Society**  
P.O. Box 98308  
Atlanta, GA 30359-2008

**Thanks to contributors!** – Laurie Anderson, Anne Brunsgaard, Mark Bell c/o Jan Sides, John C. Snider, Brad Foster and Lewis Murphy.



Cover art by Charles Keegan. Mr. Keegan's work appears on the covers of Tor, Baen, DelRey, & Meisha Merlin publications. He won Best in Show at the 2000 World Fantasy Con Art Show. For more, see:

[www.KeeganPrints.com](http://www.KeeganPrints.com)

## June 2002 ASFS Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Lewis Murphy, ASFS Secretary

The June 2002 meeting of the Atlanta Science Fiction Society was called to order at 2:00, by President Anne Brunsgaard. There were 19 people in attendance.

The upcoming Sci-Fi Summer convention was discussed. It was decided to have a club table, but not to do a party, due to the small number of ASFS members able to attend this year.

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted as printed.

Vice President Aaron Dunne thanked the membership for helping with a room party at Vulkan. The party was attended by most of the convention guests.

Treasurer Dawn Benton reported that there was no change in the balance of the club treasury.

Publicity Director Jan Sides informed the membership that the Regal Hollywood 24 would not entertain club theater rentals during the summer months. The theater will be available again for rentals starting in mid-August.

Because of the loss of the Regal, other options were discussed, including use of the sky-boxes at the Stone Crest Mall theater, attending the Mondo Movie Night at Starland Drive-In, and attending the summer movies at the Fox Theater.

The business meeting was then adjourned. Georgia SF writer John Ringo then gave a lively and humorous presentation, which included reading from an unpublished short story.

=====

### **THANKS!**

A *thank you* goes out from the membership to John Ringo, for his taking time out of his busy schedule to speak at our June meeting.

### **ASFS Officers**

President - Anne Brunsgaard - [nausicaa@mindspring.com](mailto:nausicaa@mindspring.com)

Vice President-Aaron Dunne - [aarondunne@hotmail.com](mailto:aarondunne@hotmail.com)

Secretary - Lewis Murphy - [lmurp02@mindspring.com](mailto:lmurp02@mindspring.com)

Treasurer - Dawn Benton - [dhbenton@worldnet.att.net](mailto:dhbenton@worldnet.att.net)

Publicity - Jan Sides - [mithra@attbi.com](mailto:mithra@attbi.com)

Publications - Jayne Rogers-missjayne@mindspring.com

**John Ringo on (What Else?)  
Military Science Fiction**  
by John C. Snider



John Ringo (whose hard-hitting novels from Baen Books have been all the rage among fans of military SF) spoke at the June 2002 meeting of the Atlanta Science Fiction Society. A resident of Commerce, Georgia (about 70 miles northeast of Atlanta), Ringo hit the ground running two years ago with his first novel *A Hymn before Battle* - and he hasn't slowed down since. To date, he's written three books set in the Hymn universe, and co-written a trilogy (beginning with *March Upcountry*) with David Weber.

Ringo is friendly and outgoing, speaking with the energy of a stand-up comic. He had the audience rolling as he recounted tales from his days in the US Army (he was a veteran of the Grenada intervention). He also told the now-legendary story of how he got published by arguing with Jim Baen himself in a Baen Books chatroom (apparently his chutzpa piqued Baen's interest enough to have him look at the manuscript to Hymn, which had already been rejected by Baen's editors).

One of the hallmarks of Ringo's fiction is his depiction of the chaos of warfare and the fact that "in the military, everything goes wrong all the time." His pet peeve with, for example, David Weber's Honor Harrington novels is that Weber's military is a little too perfect. In a bit of good-natured revenge, Ringo read the first part of his hilarious unfinished short story "A Ship Called Francis", which is a kind of McHale's Navy/Catch-22 spoof set in Weber's Harrington universe. He plans to submit "Francis" for an upcoming anthology of HH stories. What's it like to work with an experienced writer like David Weber? Ringo readily admits: "David tells me what to write and I write it." Obviously, this is an over-simplified and perhaps too-humble account of their relationship. Weber writes a fairly detailed outline of the proposed novel and assigns Ringo to write what he writes best - action and combat. Ringo does confess, however, to "cheating" a little by using a *Dungeons & Dragons* handbook to generate some of the landscape from the *March Upcountry* series. Working with David Weber and Jim Baen has greatly improved his writing abilities, Ringo asserts. He makes every effort to give his characters distinctive personalities, and uses the time-honored technique (attributed to Poul Anderson) of ensuring that every page of his fiction is flavored with at least one "sensory word."



So what new projects can we expect from John Ringo? He plans to continue writing occasional opinion columns for the *New York Post* (turns out the editor is a Ringo fan), and he's working on a fourth installment to the Hymn series, tentatively titled *Hell's Fair*. He's developing a new series, set in the far future in a hyper-technological world in which "basically, everyone is a god." He'll explore how such a society would survive a collapse. Finally, someone in Hollywood has purchased the film rights to *A Hymn before Battle*, but according to Ringo "it's not going anywhere."

**New Genre Award in the South**

The Southeastern Science Fiction Awards (SESFA) have been launched! Here's the link:  
<http://www.scifidimensions.com/sesfa/sesfa.htm>

**Run For Your Lives!**

On July 20th, Marietta STAR Cinema Metro Atlanta's HOME of The Rocky Horror Picture Show Unleashes a Spine-Chilling Mad Scientist Spectacular Featuring: Re-Animator and The Rocky Horror Picture Show (both films Rated R) plus! Bonus Short Films by Local Mad Scientists: RORSCACH PRODUCTIONS ([www.greycountry.com](http://www.greycountry.com)) & Wacko Productions [www.wackoproductions.net](http://www.wackoproductions.net)). For Prices and Showtimes Call 770-971-3511

Marietta STAR Cinema  
1355 Roswell Road Marietta Georgia 30062

**SF Film Masterpiece Reborn**

This July, Fritz Lang's 1927 masterpiece METROPOLIS will be back in select theaters. A restored 147-minute version of the film, featuring newly discovered footage and a new score by composer Gottfried Huppertz and a 65-piece orchestra is being released by Kino International. Check out the official Web site <<http://www.kino.com/metropolis/index.html>> for more details on the restoration. (As reported by DVDFile.com)

**Upcoming Area Conventions and Events**

**July**

July 26-28: LibertyCon 16. Chattanooga, TN. CANCELLED. (Cancellation due to a fire at host hotel. LibertyCon will be held next year.)

**August**

Aug 30-Sept 2: DragonCon 2002. Hyatt Regency Atlanta/Atlanta Marriott Marquis. Guests: Tracy Hickman, Timothy Zahn, Margaret Weis, and many more. Memberships: \$60 until 7/15, then \$75. Info.: Dragon\*Con, PO Box 16459, Atlanta, GA 3032-9998; 770/909-0115; [dragoncon@dragoncon.org](mailto:dragoncon@dragoncon.org); Web- [www.dragoncon.org](http://www.dragoncon.org)

## Smallville in the Big City

By Anne Brunsgaard

Here's a show I never thought I'd enjoy - I'm not a fan of Superman and I positively retch at teen angst dramas - nevertheless I ended up really liking Smallville, a show about the teen angst of a young Superman, i.e. Clark Kent.

It's not so much the storyline that I watch for, it's the well-defined characters whose interactions with each other and reactions to stress, though a bit predictable, are fun to watch and unfold at a good pace. The characters have heart and, even though they are just too gorgeous and well dressed to be believed, I found I began to care about them in spite of myself.

Unexpectedly, one of the most interesting characters turns out to be Lex Luthor. Yes, an already bald young Lex just happens to live in Smallville, exiled there by his domineering father to prove himself by running the smallest factory in the LuthorCorp empire. In the pilot episode, Clark uses his "special abilities" to save Lex's life and after a bit of initial wariness, they become fast friends, almost the brothers they each never had. Of course, Lex wants to know how Clark could have saved him and Clark has to lie about it, even to his friend, so a current of unacknowledged distrust runs beneath the surface of their friendship. We the viewers know that, down the road, Clark and Lex become enemies, but watching the twists and turns in that road is part of the pleasure of the show.

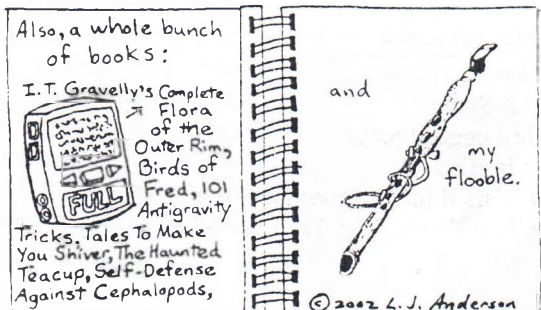
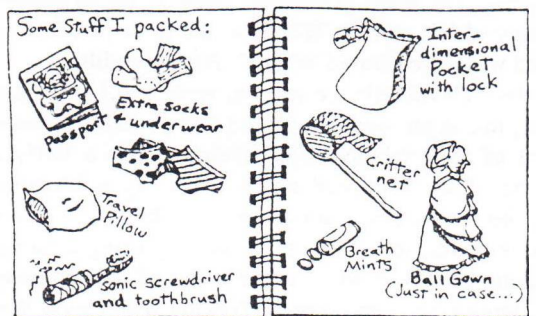
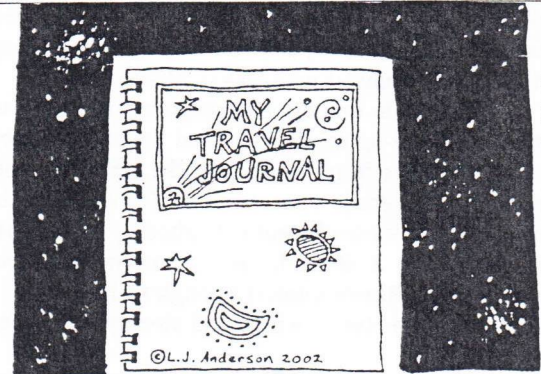
The show's opening sequence is (uniquely) used to show the back story of the meteor crash in Smallville and Clark being found by a flabbergasted John and Martha Kent. I should mention for all you Dukes of Hazzard fans out there that Clark's adoptive father is portrayed by the guy who played Bo Duke (or is it Luke? the blonde one) and, speaking for myself, he's lost none of his attractiveness with age.

The plot lines of each episode deal mainly with three things - Clark and his parent's efforts to keep his origin and abilities a secret, Clark's gradual discovery of new abilities (yes, he's still learning) and the usually negative effects of the "meteor rock", as it's called, on the residents of Smallville. That last one, I will warn you, is beaten to death with a stick. Just about every episode seems to deal with yet another person given terrible powers by the glowing green rock, which seems to have wedged itself into every nook and cranny in Smallville. Of course, those affected inevitably end up in conflict with young Clark, who is of course allergic to their source of power. It is at least interesting to watch him get his future superhero training while trying to figure out how to even get near the person he's fighting without getting kryptonite sickness. (How weird, as I type this, apparently the spelling program doesn't recognize a word like Smallville, but it does recognize kryptonite. Huh!)

What I personally find most intriguing about the show is Clark's discovery of new abilities and his everyday uses for the ones he has. Watching him casually lift tractors or ram fence posts into the ground with his bare hands while "doing chores" on the farm is a hoot. His parent's must save

a lot of money on hired help. I can't wait until he discovers he can fly, though I've heard that may not happen on the show, not sure why. The writers also manage to throw in a fair amount of humor, primarily by slipping in Superman in-jokes from the obvious, like the Smallville High mascot's uniform (guess) to the subtle, or so my husband tells me, I don't know enough of the S-man mythos to pick them all out.

To sum up, if you like a well-written, character driven show, then you should definitely give Smallville a chance. I know I'm glad I did. Since its summer, you can probably catch the reruns on the WB and get caught up for the season opener in the fall. If the season ender is any indication, it oughta be a doozy.





## RECIPES FROM BEYOND

Collected by L.J. Anderson

It looks like multi-legged critters are "in" this summer, and with that in mind, we present you with:

### Chocolate Spiders

- 1 (12 Oz.) Pkg chocolate chips
- 1 can chow mein noodles (may not need all of them)
- 1 pk M&Ms. Plain Chocolate Candy

Melt chocolate in microwave. Stir in noodles.

Drop by spoonfuls onto waxed paper.

Add 2 M&M's for spider eyes.

NOTE: Add 2 to 4 tablespoons water, if needed, to thin chocolate.

**Fun Facts:** The Goliath (or Giant) Tarantula of South America and the Thailand Black (or Edible) Tarantula of east Asia are actually eaten in those regions. They are roasted over a fire to burn off the hairs, and supposedly taste like prawns. According to the Bay Area Bug-Eating Society (BABES), 100 grams of spider contain approximately 10 grams of fat and 63 grams of protein (or 126% of your daily recommended intake of protein). They contain negligible amounts of everything else, including cholesterol.

### Sources:

- <http://www.angiesrealm.com/halloween.html>
- <http://www.planetscott.com/babes/nutrition.htm>
- <http://www.arachnophilic.com/burrow/lunch.htm>

### Some Spiders in Science Fiction:

- SPIDER-MAN by Peter David (2002) (A good guy-spider)
- SPIDER WORLD: THE TOWER by Colin Wilson (2001) (Bad-guy spiders, 1st of a series)
- A DEEPNESS IN THE SKY by Vernor Vinge (1999) (Good alien spiders; book won a Hugo)

### This Summer's Multi-Legged Movies:

- The Scorpion King
- Spider-Man
- Lilo & Stitch
- Eight-Legged Freaks
- Men In Black II
- Star Wars II (or V, depending on your view)
- The Two Towers (aka The Lord of the Rings, Part 2)

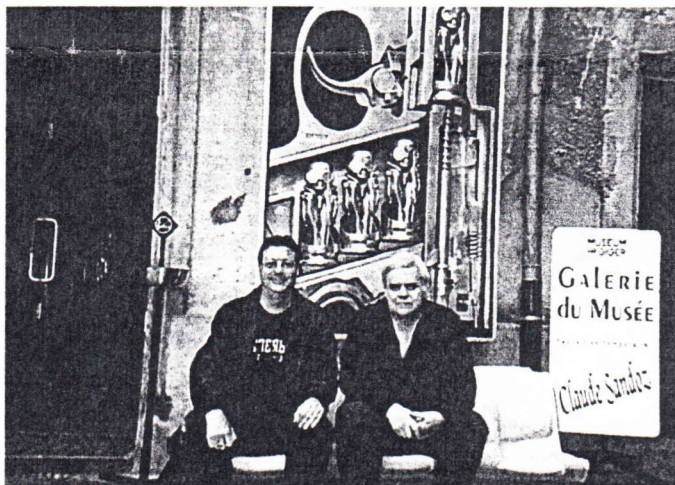


## News from Abroad

brought to by Jan Sides via Mark Bell

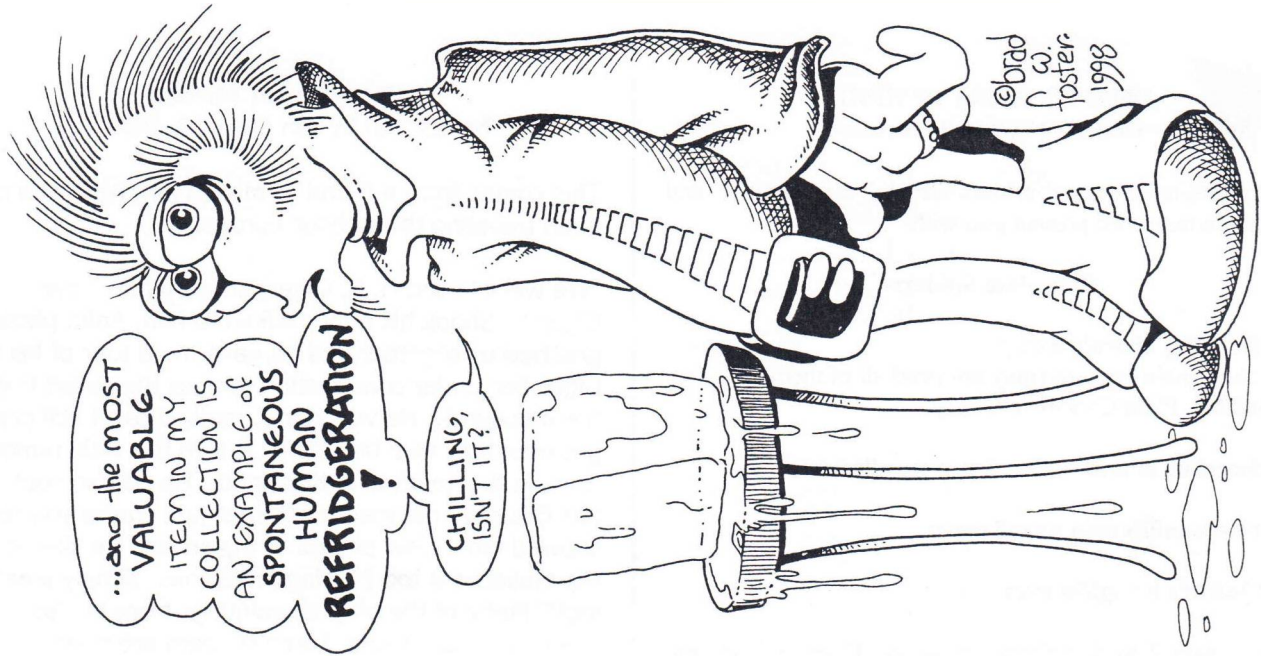
This comes from a friend of mine, Mark Bell, who has been traveling throughout Europe.

"We went to the H. R. Giger museum and I met Giger!!! Shook his hand, talked to him, Anita photographed us together and he gave me a tour of his new Giger Bar under construction (across the street from the museum). He was really, really nice. I still can't get over how nice he was!!! It is in this little remote town in the south of Switzerland. He was so cool. He has this dirty old man laugh that just cracks you up. I showed him a few photos of my art and he liked it. His museum is too f\*\*\*ing incredible. Simply amazing!!! Many of the original paintings from his Necronomicon are there. Some of them are huge. The painting off of the cover of that book and also the fold-out painting are there in full glory; huge and incredible. Many other pieces of work are much smaller than expected and very detailed. Simply incredible. Really wish you could have been with me!!! Well, now I can die happy. :-)"



## Changes of Address

Please remember to notify ASFS of your change of mailing address, so you won't miss an issue of **Future Times**. Address changes can be emailed to: [missjayne@mindspring.com](mailto:missjayne@mindspring.com)



**FUTURE TIMES**  
 The monthly newsletter of  
**The Atlanta Science Fiction Society**  
 P.O. Box 98308  
 Atlanta GA 30359-2008



Alvin Langdon Coburn 1882-1966

Mimosa  
 PO Box 1350  
 Gaithersburg MD 20885  
 3120?

