



# ASFS future Times

-OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE ATLANTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY-

Volume 1, Issue 8

August, 1998

In this issue, those lazy days of summer continue..



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*The ASFS Future Times* is the official publication of The Atlanta Science Fiction Society, a gathering of aficionados of the Science Fiction and Fantasy genres (in all media). ASFS meets the first Sunday of every month at 2:00 p.m. Meetings consist of a formal business meeting, followed by a program item (guest speakers, videos, group discussion, etc.), each lasting approximately one hour. ASFS produces a club newsletter, containing local items of interest, reviews, artwork and news of upcoming events. Other activities include dinners, film premieres, and attending area conventions. Dues are \$12.00 per year, to cover the cost of the newsletter, programs and activities. *The ASFS Future Times* is published monthly. Subscriptions are \$12 annual/\$1 per issue or trade.

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To submit to the *ASFS Future Times*, please e-mail [valhalla@dscga.com](mailto:valhalla@dscga.com) with article/art or send a 3.5" disk formatted for Windows (all text oriented files can be read).

For more information, send e-mail to [asfsl@juno.com](mailto:asfsl@juno.com), or write to ASFS, P.O. Box 98308, Atlanta, GA 30359-2008.

## **Atlanta Science Fiction Society Officer Directory**

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**July 4, 1998**

The July meeting of the Atlanta Science Fiction Society was held on Saturday, the Fourth of July at the home of Regina Kirby (and spouse). The date was changed from the traditional first Saturday of the month in order to have a holiday cookout.

Chairman Ian Letendre called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m. There were 10 members, and several other interested parties, in attendance.

In old business, the treasury reported the additional dues for 3 new members. The dates and location of upcoming meetings were reviewed. Ken Poskey reported that club T-shirts were still available. Chairman Letendre reminded members that a vote on the Society by-laws is scheduled for the August meeting. Members are asked to make suggestions/amendments at that time.

In new business, the deadline for the August issue of *Future Times* was given, along with submission guidelines. Lewis Murphy reported on the establishment of the club lending library, making fanzines and other publications available to paid members for one month at a time (from meeting to meeting). The library will be maintained by Lewis Murphy

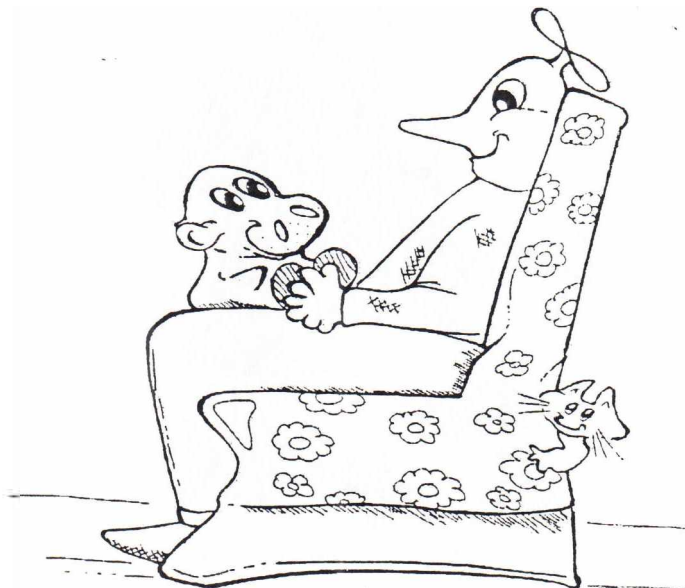
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and Jayne Rogers. Former Chairman Randy Cleary donated a copy of the Southern Fandom Confederation Handbook to the lending library. A list of upcoming conventions was reviewed. Regina Kirby will use club funds and donations to provide a gift of chocolates to the staff of WorldCon in Baltimore. Flyers and newsletters will also be taken. Chairman Letendre reported on his discussions with Ed Kramer regarding ASFS hosting a breakfast at DragonCon. It was determined that a separate breakfast was not possible, and ASFS may provide a breakfast as part of the Con Suite. A final decision was tabled until the idea could be discussed with the DragonCon consuite director. The scheduling of the September meeting as a program item at DragonCon was also discussed. Input was provided by John Tackett, the convention's programming director, who was in attendance at the meeting. Copy for the program book will be written by Lewis Murphy. Chairman Letendre mentioned expanding the lending library to include books. It was discussed by the membership. Randy Cleary recommended using the club a network to locate books, rather than having a standing library. No final decision was made, pending further discussion. This ended new business, and the meeting was opened to the floor.

Lewis Murphy proposed approaching the Science Fiction and Mystery Bookshop about providing members with a 10% discount in exchange for advertising in the *Future Times* and other general publicity. The idea met with general approval, with others suggesting genre related businesses which could also be approached. This led to mention of the need for club membership cards. Michael Leibmann offered to work on a card design.

Ian Letendre proposed making some type of book donation to the Buckhead branch of the Fulton Co. Library, as a sign of appreciation for use of their meeting space (and as a contribution to overall literacy). This met with overall approval of those in attendance. A final decision was tabled until details could be worked out. At approximately 5:00 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.



## MY CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE BY IAN LETENDRE

Welcome to another issue of the *ASFS Future Times*, official publication for the Atlanta Science Fiction Society. Summer is in full swing for most of us. Spending weekends at barbecues, movies and conventions is where many of us are hanging out at.

I would like to give a real big 'THANK YOU' to Regina & Bill Kirby for hosting the July 4th BBQ/meeting. A fun time was had by all. In total, there were about twenty or so of us. Most were from the club, but there were several other BNFs there as well. The weather was nice, the food was great (enough to feed at least 50), and the company was wonderful. Another thank you for this event goes out to Bob Goodfriend for supplying the fireworks. It really added nicely to the festivities. We even had some surprise guests, including members Avery Davis & Debbi Golden, who are now living and working in Tucson, AZ.

Onto a more serious note, I return to college at the end of August, and I don't feel I will be able to put in the quality time this newsletter needs. Which means that when a deadline comes up for the newsletter, I need articles by that date. No if, and or buts about it. I admit on my end that I have not heavily chased people down for submissions, but if the organization intends to have a monthly 'zine, then I need all work by the specified deadlines. To help ensure that this occurs, I will print a deadline schedule in the next issue. Also, each issue will have the next issue's deadline listed on the mailing address portion of the current issue. See this issue to understand what I mean. Cooperation is greatly appreciated to ensure that each issue comes out smoothly.

In activity news, Regina & I have discussed the possibility of having a club get-together at Stone Mountain Park. This would be an evening event, and we would basically stay for dinner (byof & byob) and the laser light show. More info will follow at the August meeting. If interested, contact Regina via e-mail.

Next month is DragonCon, so we as a club are getting geared up for that. Officially, we will be providing a donation to the Con Suite for Sunday morning. I will be there to hand out club fliers and let everyone who goes to the con suite about us. We will also be hosting a panel, which will serve as our September meeting. Since many of the club members work for convention staff, we all agree that it would be wiser not to host a club "recruitment" table this year.

Many exciting activities worked up for the organization. I hope to see many of you at the events approaching us all. We are looking to throw a Halloween party for October, a Thanksgiving Pot Luck in November and a possible Winter Holiday party in December.

Until next month....

# Upcoming Regional Conventions

## August

**August 5-9. Bucconeer/56th WorldCon; Convention Center, Baltimore, MD.** GoH: C.J. Cherryh, Milton A. Rothman, Stanley Schmidt, Michael Whelan, Charles Sheffield, J. Michael Straczynski. Memberships: \$165 ATD, \$30 Supporting. Info: Box 314, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701; 410/JOE-BSFS;bucconeer@pineline.com; baltimore98@access.digex.net; Web- www.bucconeer.worldcon.org

## September

**Sept. 3-6. Dragon\*Con, Atlanta Hyatt Regency/Apparel Mart, Atlanta, GA.** Guests: Harlan Ellison, Ray Bradbury, Ray Harryhausen, and over 200 more. Memberships: \$60 ATD. Info: Box 47696, Atlanta, GA 30362; 770-909-0115, 770-623-6321, dragoncon@dragoncon.org; Web- http://www.dragoncon.org (Note- the ASFS September meeting will be held as a program item on Sunday at DragonCon)

**Sept.4-6. Mephit Furmeet, Holiday Inn East, Memphis, TN.** GoH: Bill Holbrook. Memberships: \$30 ATD (Furry fandom). Info: Box 771803, Memphis TN 38177; growltiger@mindspring.com; Web: www.mfm.home.ml.org

**Sept.5-6. Vulkan Ft. Lauderdale, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.** (Media) Info: 12237 SW 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Cooper City, FL 33330; 954-434-6060; joemotes@aol.com

**Sept. 11-13. OutsideCon, Camp Marrymount, Fairview, TN.** Fan Guest: Jason Loveday (Camping event) Memberships: \$25 until 9/1/98, \$35 ATD. Info: Robert W. Embler, PO Box 30695, Clarksville, TN 37040; Web: http://www.telalink.net/~badger/outside.html

**Sept. 25-27. South Hurricon, Best Western Busch Gardens, FL.** (Miniature gaming) Info: 1416 Forsyth way, Brandon, FL 33511; 813-661-0641; rhattscott@aol.com

## October

**Oct. 9-11. Anime Weekend Atlanta, Marriott N Central, Atlanta, GA.** (Anime) Memberships: \$25 until Sept 1, \$30 ATD. Info: Box 13544, Atlanta, GA 30324; 404-364-9773; awa@anime.net; Web: www.anime.net/~awa

**Oct. 9-11. Constellation 17, Huntsville, AL.** GoH: Mike Resnick, Tim Powers, Bob Eggleton, David O. Miller. Info: constell@traveller.com; Web: www.hsv.tis.net/~constell/constell/

**Oct. 9-11. Necronomicon '98, Radisson Inn-Sabal Park, Tampa, FL.** GoH: C. J. Cherryh. Guests: Jane Fancher, Barbara Delaplace, Jack Haldeman. Memberships: \$18 until 9/15/98, then \$25. Info: Necronomicon, PO Box 2076, Riverview, FL 33568; 813-677-6347; RagedyAnn@compuserve.com; Web: www.stonehill.org

**Oct. 9-11. Wargamers Reunion 8, Town Center, Smyrna, TN.** (Gaming) Info: 1011 Waters Edge Cir., Mt Juliet, TN 37122; 615-754-6376; smc-peak@nashville.org

**Oct. 16-18. Collectorama, Lakeland Center, Lakeland FL.** Admiss.: \$3 (Comics/collectables) Info: Box 4049, Boca Raton, FL 33429; 800-447-4590

**Oct. 16-18. KarmaCon '98, Asheville, NC.** Membership: \$10. (Gaming) Info: Box 19866, Asheville, NC 28815; 704-274-4194; ben@karmacon.org; Web: www.karmacon.org



## Convention Review: InConjunction

*This review was sent in to us by Leigh Kimmel in Illinois. Leigh is a furry artist and has sent several pieces of art for our newsletter. If interested, her art is available for commissions to the club. She can be reached at: [kimmel@siu.edu](mailto:kimmel@siu.edu). Her website is <http://members.tripod.com/~kimmel/1hk-webpage.html>. While this is an out of state con review, I hope you enjoy it and may feel inclined to attend this con yourself down the road.*

### InConjunction Review

InConJunction was held over the 4th of July weekend at the Marriot in Indianapolis. This year there was a special pre-session writers' workshop with the "Kris and Dean Show" (Kristen Kathryn Rusch and Dean Wesley Smith). This was an intensive presentation on the ins and outs of the publishing business. The sessions on Thursday concentrated on the mechanics of writing saleable commercial fiction, while the sessions on Friday concentrated on the business side of a writing career, including dealing with agents, sales figures to know, and the basics of living on a writer's budget.

The Friday session overlapped the setup and first few sessions of the convention itself, so I had the enjoyable experience of hurrying to help unload dealers' stuff, then running to the workshop, then running back to help in the dealers' room, as well as getting my art checked into the Art Show.

The con suite was good as always, with a generous supply of snackies and pop. There were a few parties on Friday evening, but they were pretty disappointing, unfortunately. There was a Babylon 5 party and a couple of publicity parties for other conventions.

On Saturday I spent most of my time helping in the dealers' room, although I did get out for two panels by Vincent DiFate on art and the business of art. I also checked on my art, and discovered that one of my pieces had actually sold.

Immediately after the dealers' room closed for the evening, it was time for the art auction. Although I didn't have any pieces on it, I always enjoy seeing what things go for. However this year people weren't spending that much and there were very few bidding wars, none particularly heated. This matched what I saw in the dealers' room.

There was only one party that evening, so after supper I spent the time before bedtime working on a novel.

On Sunday there wasn't that much activity, other than getting my art checked out of the art show and helping in the dealers' room. Then it came time to pack up everything, say final good-byes, and head back home.

## Movie Reviews

by Regina Kirby

The Summer is here and that means lots of movies vying for your movie dollar. Here is my take on several of the latest.

### Armageddon: ★ ★ ½

The ad says 'Take the ride of your life'. If this is the best I have to look forward to I might as well shoot myself now. The special effects are great, no denying that. They blast you all through out the film. And blast is what I mean, as in loud. But the story is very predictable, to the point where I was saying the lines just before the characters by a third of the way through the movie.

Also the science behind the story is weak. It just wouldn't look the way they did it. It was also cut very fast. I think another review I saw on TV said it best: It was like seeing a 2 hour commercial for the film. ( Wonder what the director usually does? Direct commercials and music videos, what a surprise!) I generally like Bruce Willis films but I am glad that I went to a matinee showing instead of paying \$7. Go see Deep Impact if you want an asteroid/disaster film.



### Small Soldiers: ★ ★ ★ ½

This is a fun film. Denis Leary plays the part of a CEO of a mega-conglomerate that buys out a toy company. After seeing a multimedia presentation on the Commando Elite, a new set of soldiers, where the toys are shown punching their way out of the package, he asks "Can the toys really do that?" "Well...no.", tentatively says one of the two designers that Leary hasn't fired with the take over. "I want them to do that!" says Leary and that's where the fun begins.

The other designer had come up with a idea for a set of monster toys, that even though they look weird, are meant to be nice, sweet and educational. Leary says that the Commando Elite need enemies to fight and promptly elects the monstrous looking Gorgonites. He also says he wants them on the shelf in 3 months. Forget all that safety testing stuff!

This movie is directed by Joe Dante, who directed Gremlins. If you like those films you will definitely like this one.



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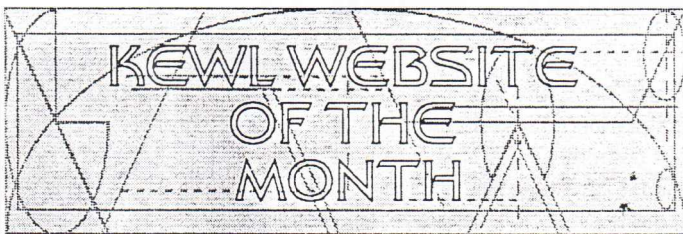
**Lethal Weapon 4:** ★ ★ ★

The fourth installment of the Lethal Weapon series adds Chris Rock to the cast as a new detective who always seems to be trying to get on the good side of Danny Glover's character, Murtaugh. You find out why shortly into the film, although Murtaugh doesn't until close to the end. Joe Pesci is back as Leo, who has become a private eye and spends a good part of the film trying to perfect his tailing technique. There is a scene with Rock and Pesci talking about cel phones that is so funny you will be falling out of your seat. Riggs(Gibson) and Lorna Cole (Renee Russo) are having a baby and trying to figure out if they want to get married.



But the real story is that Riggs and Murtaugh try to stop the Chinese Triads from doing their illegal business in the U.S. The Triads (led by Jet Li) & Chinatown's mob boss Uncle Benny, have imported Chinese slaves to pay for an artist to create counterfeit Chinese currency which they will use to buy the heads of the Triads, called the Four Fathers, back from the Chinese military. Riggs & Murtaugh stumble onto the plan by accident but are soon up to their necks in it.

Lots of the action you have come to expect. If you liked the other 3 films, you won't be disappointed with LW4.



Every month we feature one to two websites that we find that are just too cool not to share with fellow SF fans. If you have a site that you know of that you want to share with other club members, please e-mail them on in and the editorial staff will check them out. Not all sites need to relate to SF directly, but must relate to fandom in some form (no porn sites please).

**K'Mel's Guide To Klingon Cyberspace -**

A shameless plug goes out here for John Tackett's website. Many local members already know John & may have visited his site. However, if you have not, check it out. If you aren't local, don't know John, still check it out. John keeps his site primarily as a resource for Klingon Fandom, however, he does have some other interesting links to odd fannish sites.

**SatanTrek -**

<http://members.tripod.com/~tzimisce69/satantrek.html>

This is a **REALLY** sick site. It was forwarded to me by several different people all as shocked as I. The entire

premise of this site is that *Star Trek* is a work of the devil. It contains a total pro-Christian view, skewed. However, if you are a Vampire: The Masquerade player (I am), you would recognize that part of the URL is tzimisce, which is a type of vampire for the game, and that it is followed by "69". Go figure. Anyways, how serious can someone be taken when they refer to Captain Janeway as "Satan's Whore"? I think some fans have WAY too much time on there hands to devote a site to this topic, but it is worth a good chuckle.

**SF Site - <http://www.sfsite.com>**

A wonderful site to promote a variety of SF resources. Great place to check out links to international clubs, SF literary magazines, book reviews, etc. This is updated monthly in a magazine format. I found it to be decent place to find links for getting published professionally.



**Baryon, June 1998.**

Produced by Barry Hunter of Rome GA. A well-written collection of book reviews and commentary.

**The Geis Letter, #50, July 1998**

Produced by Richard E. Geis, PO Box 11408, Portland, OR 97211-0408. Price \$1.00/issue. Contains book reviews and l.o.c., 8 pages.

**Omegazine #97**

Produced by the Omega Society. This Florida based group does their own SF video productions. The 'zine details the latest projects and includes a comic strip version of the videos.

**Twink #10**

Produced by EB Frohvet. Longish 'zine (30 pages), covers SF and other topics. LOC by pros and BNFs, book reviews and more.

*All fanzines are available to ASFS members in a library-like format. Members may sign out fanzines at monthly meetings for one month (until the next meeting). See Jayne Rogers or Lewis Murphy for sign-out sheet and fanzines.*



## A Statement About the Future of RiverCon

**A**S THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM APPROACHES, we have decided to retire RiverCon, Louisville's annual science fiction and fantasy convention, after the 25th convention in the year 2000.

After much consideration, this decision was based on two main factors. The first, and foremost, was that we do not wish to continue running RiverCon beyond that time when we can still do it well, and can do it with enthusiasm and fresh ideas. We want RiverCon to end on a high note as a successful and enjoyable convention, not only for the members but also for those running it as well.

The second factor relates to our committee members. We have enjoyed an association with a fine group of talented and dedicated people who have been working on and supporting RiverCon for many years. However, it is obvious that this same group of people cannot continue to run RiverCon indefinitely. Replacing retiring committee members, department heads, and even staff has become increasingly difficult. By establishing an ending date, we have hopefully provided that "light at the end of the tunnel" that will give all our committee members (and ourselves!) the incentive to stay with RiverCon through the very last one.

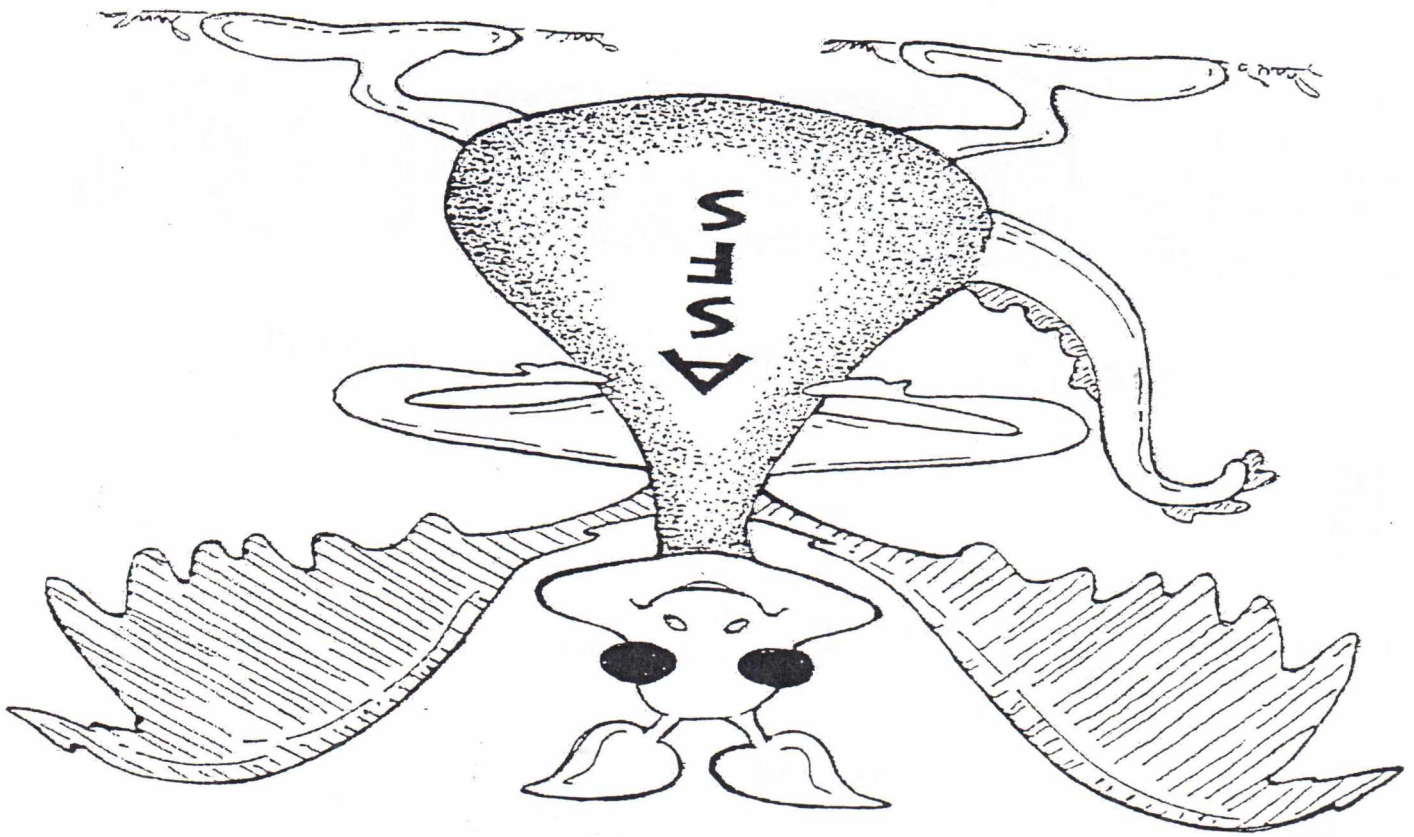
The RiverCon name and distinctive logo will be retired with the convention. The names "RiverCon" and "NorthAmeriCon" are service marks of the Louisville Science Fiction Association, Inc., and cannot be used without the express written permission of the Association's Board of Directors.

Any group that wishes to begin a new SF convention in Louisville does so with our best wishes. If asked, we will be happy to offer any advice, wisdom, and guidance our cumulative decades have given us. We want to make it clear, however, that any new Louisville SF convention will be completely independent of RiverCon and its present committee, even if there is an overlap of individual members.

We sincerely hope that the many people who have attended and enjoyed RiverCon over the years will continue to do so through the year 2000. We and the RiverCon committee offer our thanks and appreciation to all those who have given us their support and enriched our lives since RiverCon began its long voyage way back in 1975.

For the time being, we invite you to attend RiverCon XXIII, July 30 - Aug. 1, 1998; RiverCon XIV, July 30 - Aug. 1, 1999; and finally, RiverCon XXV, July 28 - 30, 2000.

*Steve and Sue Francis,  
RiverCon Co-Chairs  
June 28, 1998*



The Atlanta Science Fiction Society  
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