



# THE F.A.C.T. SHEET

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

2007, Issue 6 Early July

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## JOIN US!

**All FACT members are invited to all of these events!**

- July 14 (Saturday), 2 PM: **ArmadilloCon Planning Meeting**, 1317 Bunratty Circle, Pflugerville, TX 78660, 512-989-5585. All committee members needed.
- July 14 (Saturday), 6 PM: **Adult Gaming**, 1317 Bunratty Circle, Pflugerville, TX 78660, 512-989-5585. We will have several games going as well as the end of the Astros game and whatever baseball is on after that for those of you who don't like playing games.
- July 17 (Tuesday), 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, *When Gravity Fails* by George Alec Effinger. Details: reading@fact.org
- August 6 (Monday), 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, *The Last Witchfinder* by James Morrow. North Village Branch of the Austin Public Library. Details: reading@fact.org
- August 10-12 (Friday-Sunday): **ArmadilloCon**, Doubletree Hotel North. Come! Invite your friends! Buy books and art! Play games! Hang out at the bar!
- August 12 (Sunday), 9-11 AM: **FACT Board Meeting**, Doubletree Hotel North. If you have never been to a Board Meeting, please consider this one. Everyone is invited.
- August 21 (Tuesday), 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, *Hurricane Moon* by Alexis Glynn Latner

## HELP WITH ARMADILLOCON 2007!

ArmadilloCon 29 is fast approaching! The next planning meeting will be held on Saturday, July 14,

at 2 PM. The location will be 1317 Bunratty Circle, Pflugerville, TX 78660, 512-989-5585. All committee members are needed at this meeting. If you are not on a committee but want to assist, please contact Chair Renee Babcock at r.babcock@mail.utexas.edu. All FACT members are invited to help make ArmadilloCon happen!

**Take a few minutes to help with Fannish Feud!** One of the most popular panels we have every year at ArmadilloCon is Fannish Feud. In this panel, we pit pros against the fans and ask them questions collected before the convention. Contribute to the Fannish Feud questions by giving us the answers. The questions are listed on the website. Please help us by filling out the form at [www.armadillocon.org](http://www.armadillocon.org). The form is anonymous and your answers are a great help.

Finally, be sure to log on to [www.armadillocon.org](http://www.armadillocon.org) to **purchase an ArmadilloCon 29 membership!**

## FACT NEEDS YOU!

FACT is looking for a **Social Activities Manager!** Would you be willing to *instigate FACT gatherings*? Our goal is to have at least one social activity scheduled per month. Examples include: author appearances, film showings (new releases, IMAX showings, special nights at the Alamo Drafthouse, Movies in the Park, etc.), museum exhibitions, and the occasional party. Bear in mind that would be the instigator not the solely responsible party. *The more active FACT gets, the more fun we will have.* If interested in learning more, please contact a Board Member or send a message to board2007@fact.org.

## APOLLOCON REPORT

*Submitted by A.T. Campbell, III, Fan GoH*

I had a great time in Houston at ApolloCon as Fan Guest of Honor! The friendly and competent committee put together a well-organized and fun convention. Things started off well on Friday when my wonderful gift basket arrived. It was filled with Houston/Texas goodies including salsa, root beer, pralines, astronaut ice cream, and an ApolloCon T-shirt that featured the names of all the guests -- including mine.

Opening Ceremonies on Friday evening were a lot of fun. Chair Mark Hall did a great job introducing

the guests and opening the con. The first guests introduced, Filk Guests Graham and Becca Leathers, performed a song when they were introduced. This was followed by Editor Guest David Hartwell giving an a capella rendition of "Teen Angel (all the verses!)", a teen ballad from 1960. I was introduced next, but there was no way I was going to sing. I made some brief remarks and thanked the con for having me.

I was on eight program items, including five that I moderated. My panels were on literary topics, film, and conventions. I already knew everyone on all the panels I moderated, so I didn't have any problems with difficult panelists. There was a difficult audience member or two, though.

I conducted the interview for David Hartwell and it went well. David's career in science fiction is so vast and he's such a comfortable speaker that it was easy. We talked about his first exposure to SF (Tom Swift), his Ph.D., how he got into fandom and publishing, notable writers he edited, and the World Fantasy Convention. Near the end I brought out a surprise from my book collection: a Hartwell-edited Philip K. Dick novel, *Confessions of a Crap Artist*, with a cover painting featuring Ben Yalow, the famous SF fan. David took it in stride and acted like he'd planned it, and this led to an interesting discussion of Philip K. Dick.

My Fan Guest of Honor interview, conducted by Martha Wells, went smoothly and had a much bigger turnout than I expected. I was pleased to see a friend from OwlCon 1, my first convention, in attendance. Martha knows me well, so she knew what questions to ask. I mainly told stories about working on conventions (particularly OwlCon, ArmadilloCon, and LoneStarCon). We talked a lot about exceptionally good guests (Vincent Di Fate, Martha Wells, Sean Stewart), rock star guests (William Gibson and Neil Gaiman), and notably bad guests (whom I described but did not name).

On Friday and Saturday evenings I visited all the room parties (FenCon, ArmadilloCon, and Space Squid), and on Sunday I spent a fair amount of time at the Dead Dog party. I got to meet several fans new-to-me from Houston and Dallas. It was a full and fun weekend, and I would heartily recommend ApolloCon to anyone in Texas looking for a fun convention.

## APOLLOCON ROOM PARTY 2007

*Submitted by Mona Martinez, Convention Event Coordinator*

Hello all! We had a room party at ApolloCon and it was a blast! Tons of food and drink, great guests, and plenty of stimulating conversation, were to be found at this party.

First guest to arrive was a gentleman, Brad Frank. Next was writer Shanna Swenson. I got to fawn over her on behalf of a friend who had just recommended her books to me a week before. She was flattered and I showed restraint by not whipping out my cell to call my friend so she could talk to Shanna. She was waiting for the chocolate tasting party to start, but we came out with the sweeter deal by having her there.

Mr. R.S. Wells, brother in law of Patty Wells, came by. He was happy to see that Patty was getting recognition at ArmadilloCon. He was truly touched on her behalf and proud to say he was her brother in law.

We had three of the four redheads of the apocalypse and the three LARPer of Amtard in full costume to give us color and flare. Oh, and I should also mention the belly dancers!

From Austin, Kurt Baty and his wife Michelle, Karen Meschke, and the Siros brothers of course were there. Oh, and how could I forget, the Fan Guest of Honor, A.T. Campbell attended too! Big congratulations to A.T. on this honor! It's always great when the home team show up bringing some good conversation. In fact, Chuck enjoyed himself so much he was one of the last to leave.

Artists Jolie Bonnette, Rocky Kelley, and Jeff Sturgeon joined us, giving the party a bit of a bohemian feel. Jolie told me it was her second year showing at ArmadilloCon and was very happy with the results from her first year showing there.

The award for last guest to attend the party and travel the longest distance to attend ApolloCon goes to David Hume from Canada. How cool is that!?! He found the con on line and said why not?

There were so many regular attendees, I hate not to mention them! All of them great and having a good time.

I do have to give a "shout out" about two young men that helped with the party, Nate Padgett and Daniel Krawisz, both from Austin. They helped me unload, load, put up signs, and move everything when I booked our party on the wrong floor. They were great!!!

And we'll be ready for the next con room party at FenCon. See you there!

## AWARDS AT CAMPBELL CONFERENCE

The Campbell Conference was held 6-8 July at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. The winner of the John W. Campbell Award for best science fiction novel of 2006 is: *Titan* by **Ben Bova**. Second place went to *The Last Witchfinder* by **James Morrow**. There was a tie for third place: *Farthing* by **Jo Walton** and *Blindsight* by **Peter Watts**.

The winner of Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award for best science fiction short story of 2006 was also announced. The winner is "The Cartesian Theater" by **Robert Charles Wilson** (originally published in *Futureshocks*). Second place went to "A Billion Eves" by **Robert Reed** (*Asimov's*), and third place to "Lord Weary's Empire" by **Michael Swanwick** (*Asimov's*).

The Pilgrim Award, which honors "lifetime contributions to SF and fantasy scholarship," was given to **Algis Budrys**.

## 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 [publications@fact.org](mailto:publications@fact.org).*

## FACT MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

FACT members with recent or upcoming birthdays include **Elze Hamilton** (June 10), **John Moore** (June 13), **Carrie Richerson** (June 15), **Clifton Davis** (June 17), **Gus Rodriguez** (June 26), **Fred Duarte, Jr.** (June 29) and **Renee Babcock** (July 24).

## AUTHOR & PUBLISHER NEWS

From **Mike Resnick**: **Gardner Dozois** went in for quintuple bypass surgery recently. According to Resnick's message of July 7, all is going well and he is expected home soon.

**Ellen Klages**, who will be a guest at ArmadilloCon, will have her story "In the House of the Seven Librarians" reprinted in *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror 2007: 20th Annual Collection*.

The family of Austin author **Marj Krueger** (**Jayge Karr**) has arranged with Space Services, Inc., of Houston to launch some of her ashes into space on two different flights. The first is scheduled to launch sometime late in the third quarter of 2007 and will orbit the earth. The second is scheduled to launch sometime in 2009 and will either land on or orbit the moon. Read a bio of Marj Krueger at [tinyurl.com/32hosg](http://tinyurl.com/32hosg).

FACT Member **John Moore** sold his latest book, *A Fate Worse than Dragons*, to a German publisher.

Former ArmadilloCon Editor Guest **Jim Minz** has recently joined Baen Books and will be relocating to North Carolina.

SF and fantasy writer **Fred Saberhagen** died on June 29 at the age of 77. He had a long and distinguished career. He began publishing in 1961 with short stories in *Galaxy* and *If* magazines. He published his first novel, *Berserker*, in 1967. He was the author of the Berserker stories, and also the Old Friend of the Family vampire tales. *Ardneh's Sword*, which was published in a mass-market

edition in May, was his last book. His family will announce a date for a memorial celebration later this year. Suggested charities for memorial donations are the SFWA Emergency Medical Fund, Doctors without Borders, Catholic Relief, and John 23<sup>rd</sup> Catholic Church in Albuquerque.

## MEDIA NEWS

From SyFy Portal: *Star Trek XI*, which "will reportedly relive the earliest adventures of Capt. Kirk and Spock," is expected to begin filming in November. Iceland is under consideration as a location. See the complete article at [tinyurl.com/2to56o](http://tinyurl.com/2to56o).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jasper Fforde** will be signing at the Barnes & Noble Arboretum (1000 Research Blvd.) on August 3rd at 7:30 pm.

Author **Julie Kenner** will be in the spotlight at 2:00 on Wednesday, August 1, when she appears at the library in the Georgetown Friends of the Library Hill Country Authors Series. The third book in her popular series about a demon-hunting soccer mom, *Demons are Forever*, comes out in July. Ms. Kenner's talk will focus on her journey from the world of practicing law to the world of being a work-at-home writer and mother of two kids under age six. She's calling it "Demons in the Dishwater: A Writer's Life," and looks forward to answering questions from the audience. Come prepared to have a good time! Tickets for the event, which include delicious desserts from the Red Poppy Cafe, are \$13 if purchased before August 1. They are on sale at the Friends' bookstore, Second Hand Prose, on the second floor of the library, or from Louise Beyer at 512-635-3447. Tickets purchased the day of the event will be \$15.

BookPeople will be holding a book release party on July 20 for **J.K. Rowling's** *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. The party starts at 10 p.m. Books will be handed out at 12:01 a.m. Vouchers for the book/party are in sale now and going fast.

## OTHER READING GROUPS

- July 11, 7 PM, Flight Path: The Dark Forces Reading Group will discuss *The Vampire Tapestry* by Suzy McKee Charnas
- July 16, 7 PM, Bookpeople: The Ludicrous Speed Book Group will discuss *City of Saints and Madmen* by Jeff VanderMeer
- Aug. 20, 7 PM, Bookpeople: The Ludicrous Speed Book Group will discuss *Meq* by Steve Cash

## MOVIES & TV

Alamo Drafthouse  
Note: "The AFS summer series will present a wide array of science fiction styles and themes from Czechoslovakia, France, the UK, Italy, Japan, the

US, and, most intriguingly, the former Soviet Union (represented by four new 35mm prints of films perhaps never seen in Texas)." -- Chale Nafus, Director of Programming, Austin Film Society

- July 10 (Tues.), 11:50 PM: *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* opens
- July 11 (Wed.), 9:45 PM: *Master Pancake Theater* series: *Conan the Barbarian*, Alamo South Lamar
- July 13 (Fri.), 7 PM: *Movies in the Park (Round Rock)*: *The Astronaut Farmer* starring Billy Bob Thornton. Free.
- July 14 (Sat.), 7 PM: *Movies in the Park (Lockhart)*: *E.T.*
- July 17 (Tues.), 9:45 PM: *AFS Essentials* series: *The Heavens Call (Nebo Zovyot)*, Alamo South Lamar.
- July 18 (Wed.), 11:59 PM: *Weird Wednesday* series: *The Sword and the Sorcerer*, Alamo South Lamar. Free.
- July 25 (Wed.), 8 PM: *The Princess Bride*. Outdoors at Central Market at 38<sup>th</sup> and Lamar. Free.
- July 25 (Wed.), 9:45 PM: *Master Pancake Theater* series: *Conan the Barbarian*, Alamo South Lamar
- July 31 (Tues.), 9:45 PM: *AFS Essentials* series: *To the Stars By Hard Ways*, Alamo South Lamar

## CONVENTIONS & THE LIKE

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

- Jul. 28-30: **Conestoga**, Radisson Tulsa, Tulsa, OK. Literary SFF con. GoH Laurell K. Hamilton; Artist GoH John Picacio; Toastmaster Elizabeth Moon; Fan GoHs Richard and Michelle Zellich; Special 1632 GoH Eric Flint.  
[www.sftulsa.org/conestoga](http://www.sftulsa.org/conestoga)
- Aug. 10-12: **ArmaddilloCon 29**. Literary SFF con. GoH Louise Marley; Artists GoH Gary Lippincott; Editor GoH Sharyn November; Fan GoH Patty Wells; Toastmaster Howard Waldrop.  
[www.armaddillocon.org](http://www.armaddillocon.org)
- Aug. 24-26: **Bubonicon 39**, Wyndham Airport Hotel, Albuquerque, NM. Literary SFF con. GoH Vernor Vinge; Toastmistress Jane Lindskold; Artist GoH William Stout; Auctioneer Robert E. Vardeman.  
[www.bubonicon.com](http://www.bubonicon.com)
- Sept. 21-23: **FenCon IV**, Crowne Plaza North Dallas, Addison, TX. SFF & Filk Con. Music GoH Tom Smith; Fen GoH Kathleen Sloan; Artist GoH David Mattingly; Special Guest: Toni Weisskopf.  
[www.fencon.org](http://www.fencon.org)

## READING GROUP REPORT

By A. T. Campbell, III

### NEW BOOKS CHOSEN

- July 17: *When Gravity Fails* by George Alec Effinger
- August 6: *The Last Witchfinder* by James Morrow
- August 21: *Hurricane Moon* by Alexis Glynn Latner
- September 3: *The Solaris Book of New Science Fiction* edited by George Mann
- September 18: *In the Company of Ogres* by A. Lee Martinez
- October 1: *The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K. Le Guin
- October 16: *Seeker* by Jack McDevitt
- November 5: *I Am Legend* by Richard Matheson
- November 20: *Keeping It Real* by Justina Robson
- December 3: *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan

### MAY 7: FLEDGLING BY OCTAVIA E. BUTLER

Ten people gathered at the North Village Branch of the Austin Public Library for this discussion of Octavia E. Butler's final novel. We had one first-time attendee. The story deals with a young woman who wakes up with no memory and tries to determine who and what she is. She quickly learns that she is not human, but instead is a member of a humanoid species with many characteristics of vampires. She eventually comes to learn a great deal about her heritage and the social structure of her race. Eight of us had read Butler before, and eight started and completed this book.

Some of us had trouble finding copies of *Fledgling* to read, despite the trade paperback being out for only a few weeks. We suspect that bookstores and libraries had trouble figuring out where to shelve this book, since it deals with vampires but has no horror elements.

The protagonist's story is told in first-person, and the author does a beautiful job of developing the story's world, the plot, and the narrator's emerging personality. One person commented that the book was effortless to read. Many of us felt Butler's prose style was superb.

Several of us pointed out that this story deals with Butler's common obsessions: race and otherness. The social structure of the vampiric race is well thought out, and it is presented over the course of the novel without tedious info-dumps. The vampires are seriously about science, and they are exploring eugenics and cloning.

The relationships of the vampires to humans are carefully developed. The two races turn out to be symbiotic, with the vampires calling all the shots. Some elements of this relationship are sexual, and we found the scenes illustrating this creepy. One

member wondered why so many authors are interested in vampire sexuality. The symbiosis is basically a voluntary and humane form of slavery. We found this disturbing, but appreciated how the author developed the concept so well. It challenged us to consider whether a symbiotic life was worth living. One quote from a human to his vampire illustrates this: "Do you love me or do I just taste good?"

The end of the book is a courtroom drama between different factions of the vampires. This was an effective way to present more of the world of vampires, particularly how members of a race of near-immortals might argue serious issues. But we generally felt the trial was an artificial device that hurt the narrative momentum, and therefore our enjoyment of the story.

We all appreciated Butler's clear writing. Most of liked the story a lot. A couple of people didn't connect with this book as much as with some of Butler's prior work, but they said they still liked it. One member said this book was the most thought-provoking he'd read in several years. One of us usually does not like vampire books, but really enjoyed Fledgling's exploration of otherness. She said that she almost cried when she got to the end, since we would not be seeing any more books from Octavia Butler.

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

## **MAY 22: I HOPE THE WORLD CAN TAKE IT BY ARTEMUS SHELTON**

Nine people showed up at A. T.'s house to discuss the new novel by Reading Group member Art Shelton. The novel is a near-feature cyberpunk science fiction novel full of action. The story follows a data courier who gets into trouble when carrying some especially secret information. One member had read Shelton's work before in a writing group. Eight of us started the book, and five finished it.

The story starts with a bang and never lets up. Most of us got involved with the main character and action quickly, and the story kept us going until the end. The surprise twist near the end is well-executed. Some of us felt that the story reads like a screenplay.

This book works well as an action novel. We did not see as many new concepts and technologies as we would prefer in a science fiction novel. Most of the SF ideas here seem to come from the fiction of William Gibson, and a couple of us thought this book felt like a sequel to the film *Johnny Mnemonic*.

Our favorite supporting character was the Asian grandmother that gets pulled into the adventure. We thought she had a lot of potential, and wished she could have taken on a larger role in the story.

The writing shows promise. Shelton exhibits an ability to write action. There are several nice passages of descriptive prose. We wished some of the supporting characters had been developed better. A couple of us were bothered by inconsistent use of italics, but were not sure if this was the fault of the author or the proofreader. We think the author needs to learn more about writing in first-person voice, which is notoriously difficult. For example the narrator is portrayed as an uneducated person, yet he sometimes uses vocabulary that such a person would not know.

Overall we were pleasantly surprised by this early work of Mr. Shelton. Many of us know several aspiring writers, and we feel that Shelton has accomplished more than most by completing the book and making it readable. We encourage him to continue writing and to dreaming up big ideas.

After the meeting, we had a nice dinner at Mongolian Grille.

## **FACT BOARD MINUTES**

*Submitted by Elizabeth Burton*

### **MAY 2007**

The monthly meeting of the board of directors for the Fandom Association of Central Texas was called to order by Board Chair Brian Price at the Carver Branch of the Austin Public Library, 1161 Angelina St., Austin, Texas, at 2:09 p.m. Present in addition to Mr. Price were Directors JP Sugarbroad, Elizabeth Burton, Jennifer Juday and C. Dan Tolliver, FACT members Kurt Baty, Wendy Snyder and Angela Price and guest Jessica Price. Director Charles Siros arrived at 2:13 p.m. and ArmadilloCon 29 Chair Renee Babcock at 2:24 p.m. Member Fred Duarte arrived at 3:11 p.m.

The secretary presented the minutes of the April meeting, advising she had already been apprised of several corrections prior to the meeting. There being no additions, clarifications or corrections, the minutes were declared approved as amended by the consensus of the board.

### **OFFICER REPORTS**

#### **CHAIR**

Mr. Price reported he had acquired several items for FACT from his grandmother's estate—a "portable desk" for the secretary and a gavel for the Chair. He noted a record attendance of 11 at the previous day's gaming, the largest number ever. The next session is scheduled to be held at Ed Scarbrough's house. Mr. Price then requested those present observe a moment of silence in memory of Life Member Lisa Greene.

#### **PRESIDENT**

The president not being in attendance, no report was presented.

#### **TREASURER**

- As of April 30, 2007, the net assets were: FACT, \$2,578.37; ArmadilloCon, \$3870.56; World Fantasy, \$25,570.01.
- Revenues received: FACT, \$264.19; ArmadilloCon, \$420.00; World Fantasy, none.
- Expenditures: FACT, \$773.82; ArmadilloCon, \$708.81; World Fantasy, \$5.10.
- Mr. Sugarbroad noted there are significant accounts payable and receivable that remain outstanding on the World Fantasy account that were not included in his report. He was advised these matters are being attended to. He advised he is still waiting final data from ArmadilloCon 28 treasurer Karen Meschke.
- Following his arrival, Fred Duarte presented Mr. Sugarbroad with the 2006 tax forms for his signature.

#### **SECRETARY**

- Ms Burton advised she had sent invitations to all board members and committee heads giving them access to the FACT Events Calendar on Google. She noted she was adding events posted to the FACT mailing list as they arose.
- She reported she had contacted Sara Cooper as requested by the board regarding submission of a registrar's report. She advised Ms Cooper had not received the membership database Mr. Price had sent as an attachment. Mr. Price advised he would send it again, but Ms Burton suggested he upload it instead as a password-protected file to an account she had established at Media Max to provide board members and committee heads an easy way to exchange files other than via email.

#### **SOCIAL DIRECTOR**

Mr. Tolliver queried whether San Antonio events are going to the FACT mailing list. The board requested he add them to the calendar and send a copy to the list.

#### **REGISTRAR**

No report.

#### **HISTORIAN**

Mr. Tolliver advised he had not engaged in FACT-related activities during the preceding month.

#### **MIS**

- Mrs. Carrillo reported she had been tied up with personal matters so had not done much work on the website. She requested a copy of the current membership list. Ms Babcock wondered if Mrs. Carrillo is getting mail sent to her as the MIS because her email box is bouncing mail for being full. Mr. Siros advised the problem arose because that address is a catch-all for mail sent to the FACT domain mail address, resulting in its filling with spam very quickly.
- This led to a discussion of several requests by new board members/committee heads that they be removed from the board mailing list because of the extreme amount of spam coming to it. It was suggested that a new address be assigned to the list and not posted on the website, where it could be harvested as the last one was.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

Ms Juday reported an issue of the FACT Sheet had been published and the next is awaiting sufficient content.

#### **PUBLIC RELATIONS LIAISON**

No report

#### **CONVENTION EVENT COORDINATOR**

No report

#### **QUARTERMASTER**

Mr. Siros reported he has obtained the equipment necessary to customize the handcarts and has discussed the project with Mr. Baty. He advised he hasn't been able to conduct a new inventory. Ms Babcock requested five copies of Cross Plains Universe for the World Fantasy Award judges.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **ARMADILLOCON 28**

No report

##### **ARMADILLOCON 29**

Ms Babcock noted the committee had met; the annual mass mailing is May 19 at Mrs. Carrillo's home, where the next meeting will also be held. She advised Mrs. Carrillo, who is in charge of programming, had a problem with participants not receiving their invitation and has been resenting them. Mr. Price advised he would like to bring the items from the Stepp donation to the mailing to get help in dividing it into lots if time permits.

##### **WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION**

- Ms Babcock reported they are still awaiting information on outstanding accounts receivable and payable. She noted some of the award shipments were received in damaged condition.

The plaques were supposed to be replaced, but she has received information that suggests it hasn't been done. Mr. Price suggested Mr. Sugarbroad contact Mrs. Carrillo in her capacity as convention treasurer to obtain the necessary documentation to settle accounts. President William Siros was to have contacted Fred Duarte to ensure replacement plaques are sent. However, Mr. Duarte advised he had sent them once and will do so again.

- Ms Babcock reminded the board that R. E. Howard Days is the second weekend in June, and requested at least one person go there as an ambassador and donate copies of *Cross Plains Universe* and money—probably \$3,000. She added that she expects to spend about \$5,000 for this purpose, but should recoup much of that based on what's still owed. Mr. Duarte said he'll check his schedule to see if he can go and will pencil it in. However, it needs to be determined which is the best day to attend and make the presentation—perhaps in conjunction with the annual banquet on Friday.

#### READING GROUP

Mr. Siros said the last two meetings have been very well attended, and that the book for the coming week is by a FACT member. He added that the group needs to decide if they want to stay at the current library location, meeting on Monday rather than Tuesday.

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. **Pat Virzi Gift:** Ms Juday advised she had contacted Dennis Virzi for suggestions regarding what might be appropriate and appreciated most.
2. **Stepp Donation:** Mr. Price advised he may contact Scott Zrubek regarding displaying art items from the collection for sale at the art show at ArmadilloCon.
3. **Signature cards:** Mr. Sugarbroad advised he brought the forms to be signed by those not previously on the account, but that he wanted to postpone doing so until his request for a check-signing policy change was decided.
4. **InstaCon:** Ms Babcock reported some very exciting weather, and that she hasn't had time to do an expense sheet but will later. She had a lot of fun and gave away book bags from WFC, and there was some good discussion. She noted ALAMO is doing a WorldCon bid, so future InstaCons will be sited in cities they are considering as possible locations. She thanked the board for the opportunity to attend.
5. **Eeyore Grant:** Tabled until the first of next year, to be added at that time to the calendar for readmission to agenda.

6. **Utility Cart:** Mr. Siros advised the project had been sidetracked by life events, but he is still working on it.
7. **Board Retreat:** As the retreat couldn't be held on the original date planned, the board agreed to reschedule it for 15 July at noon; Mr. Siros is to book the hotel room.
8. **Hotel Committee:** Mr. Duarte advised the hotel wants additional money for event room rental, adding he believes they are willing to negotiate. He will come up with a counter-offer. Mr. Siros advised he and Mr. Baty were planning to raise membership rates for ArmadilloCon 30 in any case. Mr. Price stated it appears a committee meeting is called for as soon as possible.
9. **Events Calendar:** A link on the website to the calendar needs to be set up. Ms Burton will ask Mrs. Carrillo to do so.
10. **Member Directory:** Tabled

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. **Sam's Club:** The question was raised as to who should be on the account, which is due to be renewed. The board agreed Melissa Tolliver and Renee Babcock were essential. A discussion ensued regarding the necessity of having more than that and it was determined at least one board member should be included. Mr. Price was recommended.
2. **Check Signing Policy:** Mr. Sugarbroad requested the board consider a change in the check signing policy that would authorize a single signatory for checks up to \$100. Although Frost Bank ostensibly verifies the currently required dual signature, their disclosure states they do not guarantee this will be done, resulting in our being charged for a service that may or may not be provided. If we drop the check verification, we can set up a policy that allows for a single signer—the treasurer—or any other two authorized signers for items up to \$100, two signatures for all higher amounts on all accounts. Mr. Sugarbroad made a motion to that effect, seconded by Ms Burton.  
  
However, Ms Babcock advised she would also like to be able to write small checks with herself as single signer. The board deeming this logical, Mr. Sugarbroad amended his motion to included convention Chairs, which amendment was also seconded by Ms. Burton.  
  
There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.
3. **Book Project:** A proposal was received from Scott Cupp and Joe Lansdale for publication of an anthology for ArmadilloCon 30. Mr. Siros moved to table this matter pending additional

research, seconded by Mr. Sugarbroad. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. **Lisa Greene Memorial:** As the original plans for Ms Greene's memorial fell through, plans have been made to hold a wake for her at 5 p.m. 19 May after the mass mailing at the home of Ed Scarborough. Mr. Siros noted that if FACT wished to donate to the festivities it would be appreciated. Ms Burton moved a \$50 donation be made for that purpose, second by Mr. Sugarbroad. Ayes: 5; Abstain: 1.
5. **Friends of Fandom Donation:** A donation of \$500 to Friends of Fandom in Houston for their assistance with WFC was requested. Mr. Siros suggested \$1,000 was not outside the realm of possibility. Ms Babcock advised she would like to have at least a \$20,000 balance for future use. Mr. Sugarbroad suggested referring the matter to the WFC committee for their recommendation and so moved. Mr. Tolliver seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
6. **Change of address:** Ms Babcock noted that the current post office box shared with ALAMO will revert solely to them at the end of June, and that the new box number needs to be on all documents and correspondents notified thereof. Ms Juday stated she will contact those sending us newsletters. Mr. Sugarbroad will contact Karen Meschke to make certain she has the new address on items she sends out on behalf of WFC. Ms Babcock will return the key to old box to ALAMO.
7. **FACT Flyer:** Ms Juday requested board approval to attend to production of 800 flyers for the mass mailing. She was referred to Mrs. Carrillo for past versions.

There being no other business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

#### **THE FANDOM ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL TEXAS, INC.**

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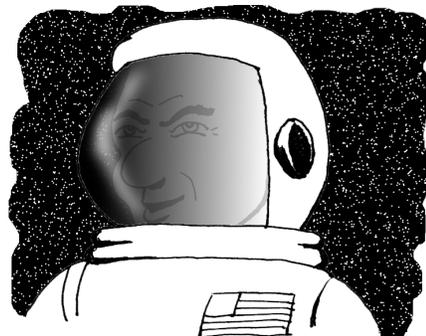
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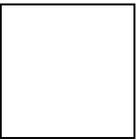
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The F.A.C.T. Sheet  
 The Fandom Association of Central Texas, Inc.  
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## First Class Mail

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### JOIN US!

*All FACT members are invited to all of these events!*

- July 14 (Saturday), 2 PM: **ArmadilloCon Planning Meeting**, 1317 Bunratty Circle, Pflugerville, TX 78660, 512-989-5585. All committee members needed.
- July 14 (Saturday), 6 PM: **Adult Gaming**, 1317 Bunratty Circle, Pflugerville, TX 78660, 512-989-5585. We will have several games going as well as the end of the Astros game and whatever baseball is on after that for those of you who don't like playing games.
- July 17 (Tuesday), 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, *When Gravity Falls* by George Alec Effinger. Details: [reading@fact.org](mailto:reading@fact.org)
- August 6 (Monday), 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, *The Last Witchfinder* by James Morrow. North Village Branch of the Austin Public Library. Details: [reading@fact.org](mailto:reading@fact.org)
- August 10-12 (Friday-Sunday): **ArmadilloCon**, Doubletree Hotel North. Come! Invite your friends! Buy books and art! Play games! Hang out at the bar!
- August 21 (Tuesday), 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, *Hurricane Moon* by Alexis Glynn Latner