

חדשות האגודה – יוני 2025 The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy

תל אביב: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "דבר רודף דבר" מאת ג'ודי טיילור (ספרים בעלמא, 2025), ויתקיים ביום ה', 26.6, בשעה 19:30, בדירה בת"א. לקבלת המיקום יש להירשם במייל של דפנה קירש (dafna1485@walla.co.il), [ובדף האירוע בפייסבוק](https://www.facebook.com/events/1041913523811981).

ירושלים: מועדון הקריאה יעסוק בספר "המוסד השמימי" מאת אייזיק אסימוב, ויתקיים ביום ג', 24.6, בשעה 20:00 לפרטים על המפגשים ניתן להצטרף לקבוצת הפייסבוק או ליצור קשר במייל עם המרכזת, גלי אחיטוב sal.maple@gmail.com, ולהצטרף לוואטסאפ המועדון.

כל האירועים של האגודה מופיעים בלוח האירועים (שפע אירועים מעניינים, הרצאות, סדנאות, מפגשים ועוד)

לקבלת עדכונים שוטפים על מפגשי מועדון הקריאה ברחבי הארץ ניתן להצטרף לרשימת התפוצה או בדף האגודה בפייסבוק.

Society information is available (in Hebrew) at the Society's site: <http://www.sf-f.org.il>

This month's roundup:

- **Special Wartime Issue (#21) – The Final front? The War with the Ayatollah, Dictator of Iran**
- **SHEER SCIENCE – In memory of Aharon Sheer (z"l 1936-2015) – Founding editor of CyberCozen**
- **Our usual tidbits from the Web + Pics by Sanchez + 2 Movie reviews**

– Your editor, Leybl Botwinik

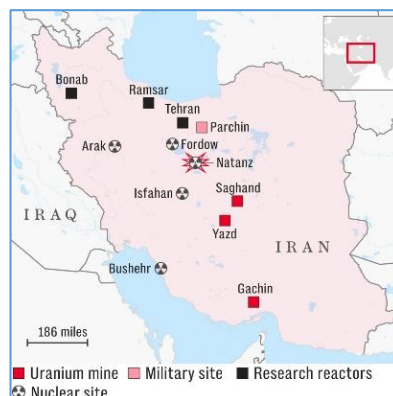
Special Wartime² Issue #21

Things have certainly heated up since last week (June 12-13) ... I was planning on finishing up this issue and releasing it on Friday morning or Saturday night. However, as our readers know, everything changed – the State of Israel made an unprecedented pre-emptive strike on the Islamic Republic of Iran. This in response to their treacherous dictatorship preparing nuclear weapons to carry out its well-known and well-publicized final solution plan to destroy the State of Israel (Jews, Muslims, Christians, and anyone else in the area including 'Palestine' and the Al-Aqsa Mosque).

Almost Science Fiction

If you would have asked someone a few days earlier, what the likelihood of tiny Israel (population just under 10M) attacking Iran (population of 90M), you would have been told that you are fantasizing – **Pure Science Fiction**. For one, the distance between the two is tremendous.

The shortest straight flight line between them is 1,071 mi (1,724 km) as per Google. In addition, Israel covers only about 22,000 km², whereas Iran is approximately 1,650,000 km² in size and its terror infrastructure and military and nuclear sites are spread far & wide apart.



And yet, tiny Israel has courageously taken it upon itself to save the West from its fear of the dictatorial terror regime in Iran (not unlike the free world's fear of Nazi Germany in the 1930's, prior to WWII). Such fear leads to appeasement and kowtowing to dictatorships. Take for example the French Government's initial refusal to permit Israel's Elbit to present its military wares at the Paris air show this month – and then, when finally OKed, they tried to cover up the display with a black tarp (see photo).



Israel's daring move was made, not because it needs to protect Western society (see photo above) – but because Iran has been working on killing Jews and trying to destroy Israel, for decades – mostly indirectly via its terror proxies (Lebanese Hezbollah and Gazan Hamas + Iranian armed and trained terrorists and militias in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen). Its recent move to speed up and upgrade 400Kg of almost nuclear grade plutonium, together with an advanced ballistic missile industry whose drones and rockets can cover 2000+ kms, meant that there was no more time to wait for the Iranian regime that openly proclaims Israel (and the USA too, by the way) should be destroyed.

Without going into the extraordinary military achievements of the IAF (Israel Air Force), it's important to underscore that Israel had targeted Iranian military, governmental, and nuclear sites and personnel, whereas Iran has (like its proxies) indiscriminately targets ALL of Israel – civilians, young, and old, residential and commercial sites, as well as hitting at least one major Israeli hospital (Soroka in Beer Sheva) and a mosque (in Haifa).

BTW: Most Arabs & Iranians are rooting for Israel. Will the USA join the good fight too?

***** BREAKING: Trump's USAF took out Fordo and 2 other Iranian nuclear sites. HISTORIC !!! *****

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As of June 12th – now, partly out-of-date (e.g. now day 624 since Oct 7th, 2023):

We find ourselves 614 days into the war, since the horrendous attack by the Arab terrorists from Gaza on October 7th, 2023. Since then, support has been freely given the terrorists (thanks to Israel, many are no longer alive) by Hezbollah in Lebanon, Houthis in Yemen, and countless others in the region – all run by the maniacal, manipulative, regime in Iran – who openly call for the destruction of the USA and of Israel (UN/ICC/ICJ don't see this as a call for genocide? "Depends on the context"?).

The State of Israel has been under constant attack even from the West. Canada, Britain, France (so called friends of Israel), and others such as Spain, Ireland, and more, seem to ignore the statement by the terrorists that they would willingly do the same (attack Israel, rape, maim, kill and burn alive civilians – young and old – and take hostages – living or dead) "again and again".

53 hostages are left that need to be freed. Of these, it is estimated that only between 20-22 are still alive. An uncertain number, since no one (e.g. Red Cross) has visited them, to see how they are, nor has Hamas released info on the state of their health...

Sheer Science*:

Are We Living a Simulation???

*In memory of Aharon Sheer (א"ה) – Founding Editor

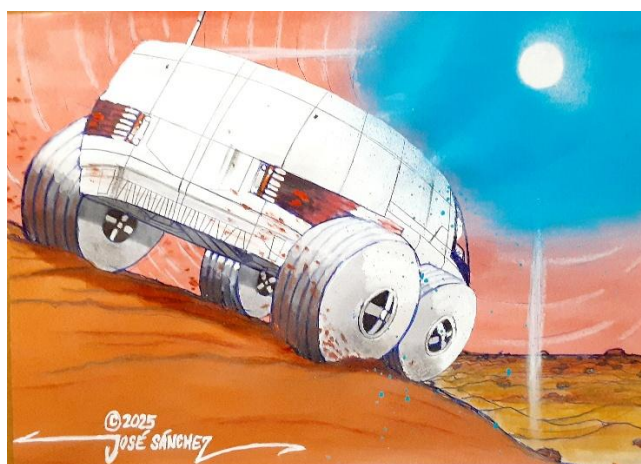
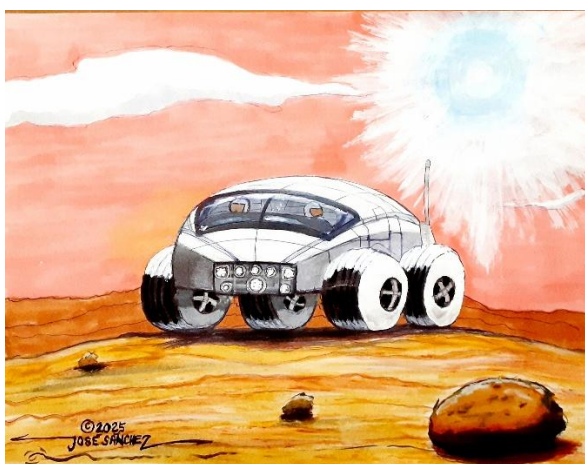
Gravity Is Evidence We're Living in a Simulation, New Theory Suggests

“What if gravity — the force that keeps us stuck to the planet — is actually just the Universe trying to save processing power? According to physicist Melvin Vopson, this isn't just the random musing of a stoned Silicon Valley programmer; it's the basis of a serious scientific theory. One that kind of, sort of presupposes that life as we know it is, indeed, a simulation.

Vopson's study says the Universe might be a giant cosmic PC trying to run itself efficiently. And gravity is one of the tools it uses to make things run more smoothly. Gravity, he suggests, is what happens when the Universe wants to keep things tidy. When stuff clumps together in space, it's not just mass attracting mass; it's a cheat code to reduce the processing load....”

Read it all here, on Vice.com:

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/gravity-is-evidence-were-living-in-a-simulation-new-theory-suggests/?ref=thefuturist>



Concept art for an Advanced All Terrain Buggy (AATB) vehicle for Mars land surveillance and exploration, expected for possible deployment in the 2030's.

— Jose Sanchez

Two Quick Reviews

By Leybl Botwinik

Borderlands (2024)

What can I say? I found it entertaining in many ways, with not a few comic moments (cliches, of course). It's like a roller coaster ride – and not everyone likes roller coaster rides...

Now, don't get me wrong. It's a totally dumb movie, with rip-offs of other movies/plots (for example, the setting and some of the scenes/bad guys reminded me of Mad Max scenes).

IMDB, for example, rated the movie at a low 4.7/10.



Rotten Tomatoes had a very low rating too, with reviewers writing things like:

- “Another movie game bites the dust... boring ... feels like it's been recycled before in previous movies”
- “Waste of time ... cliché and horrible plot... only reason I watched was for Kevin Heart”
- Etc.

Plot (from Rotten Tomatoes):

Lilith (Cate Blanchett), an infamous bounty hunter with a mysterious past, reluctantly returns to her home, Pandora, the most chaotic planet in the galaxy. Her mission is to find the missing daughter of Atlas (Edgar Ramirez), the universe's most powerful S.O.B.

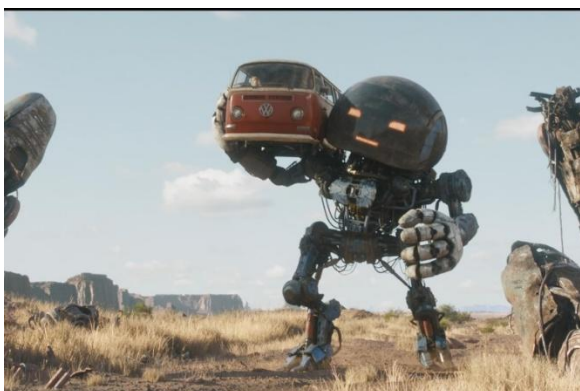
Lilith forms an unexpected alliance with a ragtag team of misfits -- Roland (Kevin Hart), a seasoned mercenary on a mission; Tiny Tina (Ariana Greenblatt), a feral pre-teen demolitionist; Krieg (Florian Munteanu), Tina's musclebound protector; Tannis (Jamie Lee Curtis), the oddball scientist who's seen it all; and Claptrap (Jack Black), a wiseass robot.

Together, these unlikely heroes must battle an alien species and dangerous bandits to uncover one of Pandora's most explosive secrets. The fate of the universe could be in their hands -- but they'll be fighting for something more: each other. Based on one of the best-selling videogame franchises of all time, welcome to **BORDERLANDS**.

The Electric State (2025)

The movie plot had some potential but seemed to get bogged down in the parallel universe of a retro 1990's (see "Plot" below). What I particularly found out of place was the accumulation of strange robots that didn't seem to make sense to me. Most movie robots and automatons are streamlined – when they don't look human/humanoid. They are either shiny-polished or rough-looking (e.g. if they are 'worker drones'). Still, the special effects were quite interesting – see the link at the end.

Plotwise, it looked like a serious movie with some serious messages. However, the funny-looking robots got on my nerves and distracted me from the issues of concern: Human-Robot interaction and relationships; Good-guys vs. bad guys; etc. I don't think the casting was done very well. Even the two key bad guys didn't seem serious enough. IMDB gave the movie a low rating of 5.9/10.



Plot (from Rotten Tomatoes):

The Electric State is a spectacular adventure from the directors of "Avengers: Endgame" set in an alternate, retro-futuristic version of the 1990s.

Millie Bobby Brown (Stranger Things, Enola Holmes, Damsel) stars as Michelle, an orphaned teenager navigating life in a society where sentient robots resembling cartoons and mascots, who once served peacefully among humans, now live in exile following a failed uprising.

Everything Michelle thinks she knows about the world is upended one night when she's visited by Cosmo, a sweet, mysterious robot who appears to be controlled by Christopher -- Michelle's genius younger brother whom she thought was dead. Determined to find the beloved sibling she thought she had lost, Michelle sets out across the American southwest with Cosmo, and soon finds herself reluctantly joining forces with Keats (Chris Pratt, Guardians of the Galaxy, Jurassic World), a low-rent smuggler, and his wisecracking robot sidekick, Herman (voiced by Anthony Mackie).

As they venture into the Exclusion Zone, a walled-off corner in the desert where robots now exist on their own, Keats and Michelle find a strange, colorful group of new animatronic allies -- and begin to learn that the forces behind Christopher's disappearance are more sinister than they ever expected.

MORE to see:

The amazing special effects in Netflix's 'The Electric State'

<https://www.space.com/entertainment/the-special-effects-in-netflixs-the-electric-state-look-amazing-but-we-cant-stop-thinking-about-the-animatronic-mr-peanut-cameo-video>



Fun from the Web

- **Is the universe really infinite? Astrophysicists explain**
<https://www.popsci.com/science/is-the-universe-infinite/?ref=thefuturist>
- **AI-Powered Rescue Dogs**
<https://nautil.us/ai-powered-rescue-dogs-1204738/?ref=thefuturist>
- **Science, Promise and Peril in the Age of AI**
<https://www.quantamagazine.org/series/science-in-the-age-of-ai/?ref=thefuturist>
- **AI Will Change What It Is to Be Human. Are We Ready?**
<https://www.thefp.com/p/ai-will-change-what-it-is-to-be-human?ref=thefuturist>
- **Experiments to dim the Sun**
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2025/04/22/experiments-to-dim-the-sun-get-green-light/?ref=thefuturist>
- **Researchers create most human-like robot skin yet**
<https://www.popsci.com/technology/human-like-robot-skin/?ref=thefuturist>
- **Satellites show 28 US cities are sinking, including NYC and Chicago**
<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/satellites/satellites-show-28-us-cities-are-sinking-including-nyc-and-chicago-infrastructure-can-be-silently-compromised>
- **Ad: Let's go to space – Do it virtually with Curiosity Stream documentaries**
<https://www.stacksocial.com/sales/curiosity-stream-standard-plan-lifetime-subscription>
- **Camouflaged critter wears severed insect body parts like a coat**
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/caterpillar-bone-collector-moth-spider-camouflage?ref=thefuturist>
- **Scientists Just Watched Metal Heal Itself—and They Can't Explain How**
<https://www.vice.com/en/article/scientists-just-watched-metal-heal-itself-and-they-cant-explain-how/>
- **Scientists reveal exact date universe will end: 'Sooner than we feared'**
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-14703651/scientists-warn-universe-end-sooner-thought.html?ref=thefuturist>

MOVIES/TV

- **Forget Darth Vader: The Empire has never been scarier than in 'Andor' season 2**
<https://www.space.com/entertainment/space-movies-shows/forget-darth-vader-and-the-emperor-the-empire-has-never-been-scarier-than-in-andor-season-2>

GAMES

- **One Of Marvel's Most Exciting Games Isn't A Hero Shooter Or Fighting Game**
<https://kotaku.com/marvel-cosmic-invasion-preview-beat-em-up-tribute-games-1851784757?ref=thefuturist>

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