



Volume 23 Number 11 Issue 281

April 2011

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

March was a busy month again. It will be nice next year when Megacon is in February.

I went to the International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA). I got to spend some more time this year at the conference. There were some amazing papers. Connie Willis' luncheon speech was fun. Thanks to Mark Wingfield and Joe Berlant, who let me work at the ICFA bookroom. It was a blast.

Megacon was fun but to close to the end of the month to prepare a report. I will do a report next month. I will also have picture from the convention.

Thanks to Paul and Kathy Vincenti for inviting me to his "Saturday night after Megacon" artists' party.

Next month, the Hugo nominees and I hope to review one of the Hugo novel nominees.

Till next time!

Events

International GI Joe Convention

March 31-April 1

Dolphin Hotel and Convention Center

1500 Epcot Resort Boulevard

Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830

\$12 Adults, \$8 Children 5-12

Guests: Larry Hama (comic book writer)

Kirk Bozgian (GI Joe product manager)

Morgan Lofting (voice actress, Baroness)

For more info: www.gijoecon.com/fl2011/

DeLand Collectibles Show

April 17

DeLand Conference & Business Center

1301 E. International Speedway Blvd.

DeLand, Florida

\$3 adults

Guests: Johnny Martino (actor)

Richard & Gary Lester (film makers)

Bill Black (comic creator and film maker)

For more info: cfcollectibles.com/?page_id=27

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Awards

The [2010 Stoker Final Ballot](#) has been released:

(source [Locus](#) website)

Winning titles will be announced at the [Stoker Weekend](#) in Long Island NY, June 16-19, 2011.

Superior Achievement in a Novel

- *Horns*, Joe Hill (William Morrow)
- *Rot and Ruin*, Jonathan Maberry (Simon & Schuster)
- *Dead Love*, Linda Watanabe McFerrin (Stone Bridge Press)
- *Apocalypse of the Dead*, Joe McKinney (Pinnacle)
- *Dweller*, Jeff Strand (Leisure/Dark Regions Press)
- *A Dark Matter*, Peter Straub (DoubleDay)

Superior Achievement in a First Novel

- *Black and Orange*, Benjamin Kane Ethridge (Bad Moon Books)
- *A Book of Tongues*, Gemma Files (ChiZine)
- *Castle of Los Angeles*, Lisa Morton (Gray Friar)
- *Spellbent*, Lucy Snyder (Del Rey)

Superior Achievement Long Fiction

- *The Painted Darkness*, Brian James Freeman (Cemetery Dance)
- *Dissolution*, Lisa Mannetti (Deathwatch)
- *Monsters Among Us*, Kirstyn McDermott (*Macabre: A Journey through Australia's Darkest Fears*)

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April OASFIS Calendar

OASFIS Business Meeting

Sunday, April 10, 1:30 PM, Orange Public Library (Downtown Orlando, 101 E. Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801, 407.835.7323). Come join us as we discuss the works of David Drake.

SciFi Light

Saturday April 16, 6:00 PM, Mama Nems (805 South Kirkman Road Orlando). Come join us and discuss ***The Warded Man*** (aka ***The Painted Man***) by Peter V. Brett. For more info contact Steve Grant.

To contact for more info:
OASFIS Business Meeting 407-823-8715

- ***The Samhanach***, Lisa Morton (Bad Moon Books)
- ***Invisible Fences***, Norman Prentiss (Cemetery Dance)

Superior Achievement in Short Fiction

- “Return to Mariabronn”, Gary Braunbeck (***Haunted Legends***)
- “The Folding Man”, Joe R. Lansdale (***Haunted Legends***)
- “1925: A Fall River Halloween”, Lisa Mannetti (***Shroud Magazine*** #10)
- “In the Middle of Poplar Street”, Nate Southard (***Dead Set: A Zombie Anthology***)
- “Final Draft”, Mark W. Worthen (***Horror Library IV***)

Superior Achievement in an Anthology

- ***Dark Faith***, Maurice Broaddus & Jerry Gordon, eds. (Apex)
- ***Horror Library IV***, R.J. Cavender & Boyd E. Harris, eds. (Cutting Block)
- ***Macabre: A Journey Through Australia's Darkest Fears***, Angela Challis & Marty Young, eds. (Brimstone Press)
- ***Haunted Legends***, Ellen Datlow & Nick Mamatas, eds. (Tor)
- ***The New Dead***, Christopher Golden, ed. (St. Martin's Griffin)
-

Superior Achievement in a Collection

- ***Occultation***, Laird Barron (Night Shade Books)
- ***Blood and Gristle***, Michael Louis Calvillo (Bad Moon Books)
- ***Full Dark, No Stars***, Stephen King (Simon & Schuster)

OASFIS People

Steve Cole	407-275-5211 stevepcole@hotmail.com
Susan Cole	407-275-5211 sacole@mindspring.com
Arthur Dykeman	407-328-9565 adykeman@bellsouth.net
Steve Grant	352 241 0670 stevegrant@embarqmail.com
Mike Pilletere	mike-sf@webbedfeet.com
David Ratti	407-282-2468 dratti@eudoramail.com
Juan Sanmiguel	407-823-8715 sanmiguel@earthlink.net
Patricia Wheeler	407-832-1428 pwheeler11@cfl.rr.com

Any of these people can give readers information about the club and its functions. To be included in the list call Juan

- ***The Ones That Got Away***, Stephen Graham Jones (Prime Books)
- ***A Host of Shadows***, Harry Shannon (Dark Regions)

Superior Achievement in Non-Fiction

- ***To Each Their Darkness***, Gary A. Braunbeck (Apex)
- ***The Conspiracy Against the Human Race***, Thomas Ligotti (Hippocampus)
- ***Wanted Undead or Alive***, Jonathan Maberry & Janice Gable Bashman (Citadel)
- ***Listen to the Echoes: The Ray Bradbury Interviews***, Sam Weller (Melville House)

Superior Achievement in a Poetry Collection

- ***Dark Matters***, Bruce Boston (Bad Moon Books)
- ***Wild Hunt of the Stars***, Ann K. Schwader (Sam's Dot)
- ***Diary of a Gentleman Diabolist***, Robin Spriggs (Anomalous Books)
- ***Vicious Romantic***, Wrath James White (Needfire Poetry)

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Recon

April 28-May 1
International Palms Resort and Conference Center
1300 N. Atlantic Avenue
\$25 pre-reg, \$35 at the door
Guest: Stanley F. Kubiak (game publisher)
For more info: www.hmgs-south.com

The Adjustment Bureau

WARNING SPOILERS

The Adjustment Bureau is based on the short story "The Adjustment Team" by Philip K. Dick. It was made by Media Rights Capital and distributed by Universal Pictures. The film stars Matt Damon, Emily Blunt, Anthony Mackie, Michael Kelly and Terence Stamp. The film was written and directed George Nolfi.

David Norris (Damon) is a Congressman running for the Senate. He loses after an embarrassing story is published in the *New York Post*. While preparing his concession speech, Norris meets a beautiful woman Elise (Blunt) who inspires him to give a more honest speech criticizing the marketing of candidates. Weeks later, two men wearing hats in a New York park conspire to delay Norris on his way to work. The man assigned to the task, Harry Mitchell, fails to delay Norris. Norris meets the woman again on the bus. Norris and Elise hit it off. Elise gives Norris her phone number and he goes to work. At work Norris sees a group of men with hats freezing all the people in the building and doing something to his friend and former campaign manager Charlie Traynor (Kelly). Norris tries to escape but he is captured. The men warn Norris not to reveal their existence and destroy the card with Elise's phone number. Mitchell later meets with Norris on a boat; water interferes with the men's power of detection, so Mitchell explains more about the nature of him and his colleagues. The men are part of an organization called the Adjustment Bureau. It is their job to keep the world going according to the Plan put together by the Chairman. Occasionally, to maintain the Plan, the Bureau has to come in and make alterations. Traynor had to be adjusted in order for his business dealings to go according to the Plan. Three years later, Norris meets Elise by chance and the Bureau men try to break up their reunion. An older Bureau man, Thompson (Stamp), is assigned to break up Norris and Elise. Thompson explains that Norris's and Elise's destiny cannot be fulfilled if they stay together. Norris leaves Elise in order to let her career as a dancer progress. Eleven months later, Norris is pursuing a successful campaign for the Senate. He finds out that Elise's career is going great and that she will be married. Norris bumps into Mitchell. Mitchell cannot tell Norris that Elise is happy. Mitchell and Norris form a plan for Norris to intercept Elise before her wedding, using the systems of doors the Bureau men use to travel. Norris must find Elise and evade the Bureau men.

This film expands on Dick's original story in which a man fails to get to work on time and discovers the Adjustment Team in action. The man finds out about the Adjustment Team and goes on with his life. In the movie the concept is tied to a love story and looks at the conflict of chance versus fate. Norris wants to challenge fate. Norris knows he is a happier and better man with Elise. He only gives Elise up when he is told that her dream of being a star dancer will be stifled by staying with him. When he finds out she is not happy, Norris takes his chances and fights the Bureau men and looks for the Chairman himself. There are times we think the world or fate is against us. Nolfi makes this idea real in this film. The Bureau men believe that mankind must stick to the Plan in order to survive. They show no mercy, since they see mankind's demise as the alternative. The audience cheered Norris as he fought the powers of fate.

The love story is great. The film takes time to build a relationship between the two. The dialogue between Norris and Blunt is great and feels real. The film presents two people getting to know each other and falling madly in love, and Damon and Blunt do a good job pulling it off. We want them to get together and defeat the Bureau men.

The chase at the end is incredible. Nolfi does a great job showing it from Elise's point of view. One minute we are in the New York courthouse, and by opening a door, we are in Yankee Stadium, and through another door we are immediately taken to Liberty Island. We feel Elise's amazement. This creates a great moment for the film. Elise is overwhelmed by seeing Norris and the fantastic journey he takes her on. Norris must quickly convince Elise to follow him in this incredible chase. The film shows Mitchell and Norris plan the route to the courthouse which demonstrates the film's internal logic.

It is great to see the first true science fiction film of the year. Some say that certain gaps in the film's logic put this film in the fantasy genre. These gaps are too minor to be concerned about. This is a film of ideas. It is about the individual against an incredibly powerful entity. It is about fighting for your right to choose your own destiny and not have others do it for you. It is about not giving up on love when you find it. This is all done with a minimum of special effects.

Black Jack

ブラック・ジャック

Black Jack is a manga by Osamu Tezuka. It was originally serialized *Shukan Shonen Champion* in 1975-1978 with additional specials that were published up to 1983. Vertical Inc. has published an English translation of the series in 17 volumes (12 have been released at this time of writing).

Black Jack is a mysterious Japanese surgeon. He dresses in black with a cape. He is also distinguished by a scar and a patch of dark skin on his face. He is an incredibly skilled surgeon but does not hold a medical license. He charges large fees for his services. He lives by an intricate personal code which allows him to waive his fees for those who cannot afford it. Despite his eccentricities, his services are called for all over the world. Black Jack is often the surgeon of last resort since he is willing to attempt the most difficult operations.

His only companion is Pinoko. She appeared in the third story of the series. Black Jack had to remove an unformed twin from a patient. He was able to put the unformed twin into a robotic body and named her Pinoko, a feminine form of Pinocchio. Although she has the body of a child, she is technically 18 years old. Black Jack treats her as a ward, but she thinks of herself as his wife. She assists him in surgery, and helps take care of his house. There are several stories which focus on Pinoko.

Dr. Kiriko is another recurring character. He is a doctor who specializes in euthanasia. Black Jack thinks Kiriko is too quick to dispense his services without giving treatment a chance. Kiriko thinks he is alleviating suffering and feels Black Jack

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cannot see the limits of medicine. The stories which he appears in focus on the argument on euthanasia.

Osamu Tezuka at the time of Black Jack's creation had already established himself as a legend in manga and anime with series like *Tetsuwan Atom* (aka *Astro Boy*) and *Jungle Emperor* (aka *Kimba, the White Lion*). Tezuka had studied and practiced medicine before going on his art. In the series there are great anatomy and physiognomy details during the surgery scenes. Most of the stories focus on a medical problem or circumstance. Many stories deal with someone suffers a horrible accident (there were a lot of car accidents in this series) and injuries which are beyond the scope of regular doctors. Black Jack comes in only to face resistance due to his unlicensed status, the unorthodoxy of his methods or his high fees. Black Jack would become one of Tezuka's most popular works. It would be adapted in anime several times and once done as a live action series.

There is a fantastic or science fiction elements occasionally interspersed with the medical aspects of the stories. Pinoko's cybernetic body is a recurring example. Black Jack is able to reattach whole limbs successfully. It is implied the stories are taking place a few years in the future from the publication date. One story mentions successful limb transplants with animals in the Soviet Union. It may have been that Tezuka was hoping that this would be possible in the years to come. Some are completely far-fetched, such as a mind transplant which happened early in the series. Sometimes Black Jack performs surgery under extraordinary circumstances. He has operated on himself twice. Once he had to operate in the dark and work from memory.

Elements of *Black Jack* are very similar to *Doctor Who*. Black Jack and the Doctor are mysterious and brilliant eccentrics. Their adventures take them to exotic locations. While they possess great power and knowledge they have limits. Black Jack has lost patients and the Doctor encounters problems he cannot solve. This makes their victories more meaningful, since it is not a sure thing. Romantic love also eludes Black Jack. Like the Doctor, as the series progresses, we learn more about Black Jack's background.

Tezuka is able to develop characters in a short space of time. The stories are about 20 pages each. Tezuka makes the reader care about the characters. We want Black Jack to solve each one's problems since it usually improves these characters' quality of life. We also despise the villains who are usually selfish, short sighted and greedy.

Tezuka's art style uses caricature. He reuses characters in across anime and magna series. This is termed the Tezuka Star System. Just as television and film directors like to use the same actors in different parts, Tezuka likes to use the same characters in different roles.

If you want a mysterious hero and compelling drama, grab any of these volumes. It is great introduction to one of the masters of graphic story telling.

Special thanks to Clarissa Graffeo of the Anime World Oder podcast for getting me into Black Jack at AFO 10.

The Dervish House

by
Ian McDonald

In April 2027, nanotechnology is being used and Turkey is a member of the European Union. In a span of 5 days, six individuals' lives will change forever in Istanbul, Turkey.

A woman's head explodes on a tram. Necedet, a slacker living with his activist brother Ismet, witnesses the explosion. After the explosion, he starts seeing djinn. Can Durukan, a nine year old boy with a heart defect which requires him to wear sound suppression, sends his BitBots (a group of several small robots which rearrange themselves into a snake, bird, monkey and rat) to get a closer look. He sees a robot surveying the scene. This robots chases Can's BitBots and gets destroyed in the process. Can tells this to his friend and neighbor Georgios Fenrentiou, a retired Greek economist. Georgios is recruited by a government think tank to analyze the bombing. Can, Necedet, and Georgios live in the dervish house of Adem Dede Square in the Eskiköy district of Istanbul. The dervish house also has an art gallery run by Ayşe Ekroc. She is asked to find a Mellified Man, a mummy encased in honey, and a legendary artifact. The search will take her to heart of ancient Istanbul. Ayşe's husband, Adnan Soriğlu, a gas trader, is working on a deal which will bring him and his partners incredible wealth. Leyla Gültaşlı, a marketing graduate, misses a big interview due to the tram explosion. She is asked by her family to help her cousin get his technology business off the ground. Her cousin and his colleague plan to write code on the unused DNA in the cells of the human body. This will make it possible to build computers inside the human body. The only problem is that due to an early business deal, whoever holds one half of a miniature Koran, holds half the company. Leyla goes to search for the second half of the Koran in order to prevent future problems.

Istanbul is a character in this work. It is a place which is at the crossroads. Istanbul faces Europe in the west, the Arab world in the east and Russia in the north. Here is a place where the ancient and the modern live side by side. It is a center of world trade and scientific development. McDonald shows this co-mingling between ancient and the modern. McDonald immerses the reader into the culture. He uses the Turkish alphabet in the text and uses many Turkish words. The book demands careful attention and readers may have to look up several words and terms.

The characters all have gripping storylines. Ayşe goes after the Mellified Man because of the challenge of the find. This takes to her to ancient and mystic underbelly of the city. We see she has a passion for the artifacts themselves, rather than their monetary value. Adnan is able to put together a complex business deal and is able to come up with a new plan when the situation changes. He is also fanboy of old animated shows and Turkish football (aka soccer). Can wants to show he is not limited by his heart condition and finds the connection with the robot that chased his robots and the tram suicide. He lives his dream being a boy detective. Georgios has to face his past while trying to figure out the nature of the tram incident. Leyla wants

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her own independence and to get her career started. Necedet wants to understand what he experienced after the attack and what to do with himself.

McDonald is able to tie in all these stories. Each one of the characters' stories interact with each other some way. The characters are in the right place at the right time and history is made in big and small ways. A terrorist plot is halted not by guns, knives or fists but by the unrelated actions of one of the characters.

There are some great ideas in the novel. The concept of the BitBots is great. It is fun when Can guides the Bots through the streets of Istanbul, changing their form when needed. Adnan's plans are intricate, and I feel they were inspired by the economic news of the last few years. There are new ideas involving nanotechnology in this novel, some of which are scary. The idea of a biological encoder is awe-inspiring.

McDonald does a great job of bringing a sense of wonder to an exotic part of our world.

Pictures at ICFA



Clockwise starting at the top right:
Guest of Honor Connie Willis (OASIS 5 Guest of Honor),
Guest Scholar Andrea Hairston,
Special Event: "Talking About the Ridiculous" (left to right)
Andy Duncan, Andrea Hairston, Connie Willis, Terry Bisson



SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
IN ORLANDO

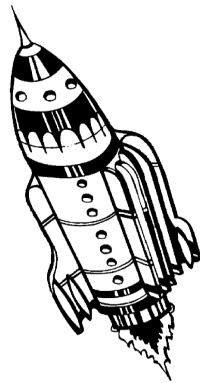
OASIS 24

May 27-29, 2011

Writer Guest of Honor

David Drake

*Hammer's Slammers, Lord of the Isles
Northworld, Patriots*



Hotel Information

\$79/night, single-quad
through 5/6/11
Mention OASIS for rate

Sheraton Orlando Downtown
400 West Livingston St.
Orlando, Florida 32801
407-843-6664
1-800-574-3160

Artist Guest of Honor

Tommy Castillo

*Dragons, Myths & Mayhem,
Grimm Fairy Tales Beauty & the Beast,
Batman, Green Arrow*

Filk Guest of Honor

Carla Ulbrich

*"Live From Outer Space", Leftovers
Sick Humor, Professional Smart Aleck*

Gaming info will be at
www.warhorn.org

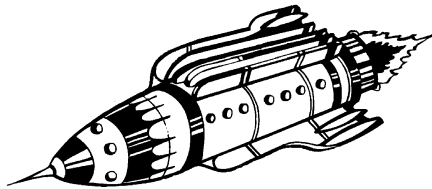
Weekend Memberships:

\$30 until 1/1/11,
\$35 until 4/30/11,
\$40 at the door.

Make checks payable to:

OASFiS
PO Box 323
Goldenrod, FL 32733-0323
More info at
www.oasfis.org

OASFiS
P.O. Box 592905
ORLANDO, FL 32859-2905



Joe Fan
123 Sesame Street
Orlando, FL 32805