



**A WORD FROM THE EDITOR**

March was a busy month as usual with Megacon, ICFA and Easter. All three were great/ Thanks to David Hartwell, Joe Brelant, and Mark Wingenfeld, who let me work at the ICFA bookroom. It was a blast.

Next month hopefully a Hugo review and some pictures from the picnic.

**Events**

**UCF Bookfair**

April 5  
 UCF Arena  
 Free  
 Guests: Avi  
 Aria Kane  
[education.ucf.edu/bookfest](http://education.ucf.edu/bookfest)

**Away Mission Tampa**

April 11-13  
 Hilton Tampa Westshore Hotel  
 2225 N Lois Avenue  
 Tampa, FL 33607-2355  
 \$69 General Admission (other packages on website)  
 Guests: William Shatner (James T. Kirk, *Star Trek*)  
 Alice Eve (Carol Marcus, *Star Trek: Into Darkness*)  
 John DeLancie (Q, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*)  
 Suzie Plakson (K'ehleyr, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*)  
 Kevin Sorbo (Hercules, *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys*)  
 Eddie McClintock (Lattimer, *Warehouse 13*)  
 Leonard Nimoy (Spock, *Star Trek*)  
 (Note Nimoy is via Skype)  
 Bill Hatfield, (writer)  
 K.L. Nappier, (writer)  
 Larry Nemecek, (writer)  
 Marc B. Lee  
[www.away-mission.com/events.html](http://www.away-mission.com/events.html)

**Kahotic Kon: Chapter 3 Viva Las Khaos**

April 11-13  
 Sheraton Tampa East  
 10221 Princess Palm Avenue  
 Tampa, FL 33610  
 \$40 for the weekend, other packages on website  
 Guests: Scott McNeil (voice actor)  
 David Vincent (voice actor)  
 Brittney Karbowski (voice actor)  
[www.khaotickon.com](http://www.khaotickon.com)

**Alt\*Con**

April 10-11  
 Donald L. Tucker Civic Center  
 505 W. Pensacola St  
 Tallahassee, FL 323301  
 \$15 for weekend, \$10 per day (regular)  
 \$13 for weekend, \$8 for weekend  
 Guests: RJ Haddy (puppeteer)  
[www.tallahassee.altconflorida.com](http://www.tallahassee.altconflorida.com)

**Recon 2014**

April 24-27  
 International Palms and Resort  
 6515 International Drive  
 Orlando, FL 32819  
 \$15 pre-reg, \$25 at the door (HMGS members)  
 \$25 pre-reg, \$35 at the door (non HMGS members)  
<http://www.hmgs-south.com/>

**North Florida Comic Show**

April 13  
 Ramada Inn Mandrain  
 3130 Hartley Rd.  
 Jacksonville, FL. 32257  
 \$5 at the door  
 Guests: T.S Robinson (writer)  
 And many other artists  
[northfloridacomicon.com](http://northfloridacomicon.com)

### April OASFiS Calendar

#### OASFiS Picnic

Sunday, April 6 12:30 PM, Lake Downey Park (10107 Flowers Avenue Orlando, Florida 32825). Come and have some fun.

#### SciFi Light

TBD. Information will put on the club website. For more info contact Steve Grant.

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

### 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

#### OASFiS Meeting

Date: 3-9-2014

Officers: Peggy Stubblefield, David Ratti, David Lussier, and Juan Sanmiguel

Members: Arthur Dykeman, Patricia Wheeler

Guests: Ken Konkol, Bob Yazel

Juan reviewed last month's minutes. Ken discussed the sequel to Ben Bova's Mars novel that has been previewed on the Baen's website.

New meeting locations were discussed. Juan brought up Bikkuri Lounge which is used by the Propeller Anime group for anime presentations. The Habañero, on Aloma and Semoran, was suggested. The Fashion Square Mall meeting room is also a possibility. Sci-Fi Lite meetings could be used to check out these possibilities.

It was decided not to do a relaxicon. We need to focus on getting a hotel for OASIS 27. We will need to focus on marketing the convention. Juan will contact the UCF Holiday Inn for an estimate.

There will be no business meeting in April.

The OASFiS Picnic will be held on April 6 at the Downey Park at 12:30. Peggy will get the burgers, hot dogs, and buns. Steve Grant will cook. Juan will get the coolers from Peggy and fill them with ice for the drinks.

The International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA) will be starting on March 19, 2014. The Writer Guests of Honor were Nnedi Okorafor and Ian MacDonald. Juan brought last year's ICFA book. Megacon will be the following Friday, March 21. Juan had brought the Megacon preview book.

Away Mission Tampa will be on April 11-13. The main guest of honor will William Shatner. Juan brought an Away Mission flyer.

*The Wind Rises*, the Oscar nominated animated film by Hayao

Miyazaki, is still playing in the central Florida area. The film is a fictionalized biography of Jiro Horikoshi, the designer of the Mitsubishi A5 and A6 Zero fighter planes.

Science Fiction and Fantasy films did well at the Oscars. *Gravity* won most of the technical awards and Best Director. *Frozen* won Best Animated feature and Best Song. *Her* won for Best Original Screenplay. Best Animated Short went to *Mr. Humblot* which also had a SF/F feel.

Arthur mentioned that the new *Cosmos* series will be debuting tonight. The show is a sequel to the 1980 Carl Sagan series. It will be hosted Neil DeGrasse Tyson.

Bob recommended the new *Robocop* movie. He thought *Pompeii* was not good.

Juan saw *Peabody and Sherman* and her. He recommended both. *Ancillary Justice* by Ann Leckie was discussed. Peggy summed up the novel. An artificial intelligence that once ran a starship escapes in an ancillary body and goes to kill the ruler of her government. This is Leckie's first novel. Patricia found it disconcerting. Berq, the main character calls everyone she. This is default gender pronoun. Patricia asked how could Berq remember all of the centuries worth of memories, Juan answered saying the individual bodies used by the ships AIs were augmented. Peggy brought up how class was discussed in the novel. The Radch are a hierarchical society. Change is very slow in this society. Juan compared the Artificial Intelligences (AI) to the Minds (AIs in the Iain Banks Culture novels. The AIs in *Ancillary Justice* do not talk to each other anymore, unlike the Minds. Peggy thinks they should have created a new gender neutral pronoun and that the world of the novel was interesting.

Books for May were recommended. David Lussier recommended *The Martian* by Andrew Weir. The new John Ringo zombie novel was also recommended. Juan wanted to read a Ian MacDonald book due to his attendance at ICFA.

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Patricia wanted the new novel in Ben Aaronovitch's *Rivers of London* series. *Wolf in Shadow* by John Lamshead was selected for May's book. Juan noted there several copies in the Orange County Library.

Juan mentioned the Nebula Award nominees. He read out the nominees for Best Novel.

- *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*, Karen Joy Fowler (Marian Wood)
- *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*, Neil Gaiman (Morrow; Headline Review)
- *Fire with Fire*, Charles E. Gannon (Baen)
- *Hild*, Nicola Griffith (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
- *Ancillary Justice*, Ann Leckie (Orbit US; Orbit UK)
- *The Red: First Light*, Linda Nagata (Mythic Island)
- *A Stranger in Olondria*, Sofia Samatar (Small Beer)
- *The Golem and the Jinni*, Helene Wecker (Harper)

The meeting adjourned at 3:15PM.

#### Award News

Academy Awards  
(source *Wikipedia* entry)  
Speculative Fiction winners

#### Best Director

Alfonso Cuaron- *Gravity*

Best Writing—Original Screenplay  
Spike Jonze - *Her*

#### Best Animated Feature

*Frozen* - Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee, and Peter Del Vecho

#### Best Animated Short

*Mr. Hublot* - Lauren Witz and Alexandre Espigares

#### Best Original Score

*Gravity* - Steven Price

#### Best Original Song

"Let It Go" from *Frozen* - Karen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez

#### Best Sound Editing

*Gravity* - Glenn Fremantle

#### Best Sound Mixing

*Gravity* - Skip Lievsay, Niv Adiri, Christopher Benstead and Chris Munro

#### Best Cinematography

*Gravity* - Emmanuel Lubezki

#### Best Film Editing

*Gravity* –Alfonso Cuaron and Mark Sanger

#### Best Visual Effects

*Gravity* – Tim Webber, Chris Lawrence, Dave Shirk, and Neil Corbould

#### Arthur C. Clarke Awards

(source *Locus* website)

The six titles on the 2014 Arthur C. Clarke Award shortlist have been announced:

- *God's War*, Kameron Hurley (Del Rey UK)
- *Ancillary Justice*, Anne Leckie (Orbit)
- *The Disestablishment of Paradise*, Phillip Mann (Gollancz)
- *Nexus*, Ramez Naam (Angry Robot)
- *The Adjacent*, Christopher Priest (Gollancz)
- *The Machine*, James Smythe (Blue Door)

This year's judges are Duncan Lawrie and Ian Whates for the British Science Fiction Association, Sarah Brown and Lesley Hall for the Science Fiction Foundation, and Georgie Knight for SCI-FI-LONDON. Andrew M. Butler is chair of judges. Tom Hunter is awards director.

The winner will receive a £2014 prize and a commemorative engraved bookend. The winning title will be announced May 1, 2014, at the Royal Society in London.

#### Horror Grandmaster

(source *Locus* website)

Brian Keene will named Grandmaster at the World Horror Con in Portland, OR in May 8-11, 2014.

#### YA Awards

(source *Locus* website)

Nominees for the Detcon1 Award for YA and Middle Grade Speculative Fiction have been announced:

#### Young Adult

*Allegiant* by Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegen Books)  
*The Coldest Girl in Coldtown* by Holly Black (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)  
*The Dream Thieves* by Maggie Stiefvater (Scholastic Press)  
*The Summer Prince* by Alaya Dawn Johnson (Arthur A Levine Books)

#### Middle Grade

*Handbook for Dragon Slayers* by Merrie Haskell (HarperCollins)  
by Rick Riordan (Disney-Hyperion)  
*Zombie Baseball Beatdown* by Paolo Bacigalupi (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

Winner will announced at Detcon 1: on July 25-27, 2014

Letters

1706-24 Eva Rd.  
Etobicoke, ON  
CANADA M9C 2B2  
March 28, 2014

Dear OASFiSians:

I've got the latest issues of the Even Horizon, number 316, and her comes another valiant effort to write up some comments for the issue at hand.

Megacon now has a regular attendee from Toronto...if you saw someone dressed as a cartoon Hercules, that was Dave Ross. You might remember him as Powdered Toast Man from the previous year.

My letter...the big event with Abney Park up here is the Grand Canadian Steampunk Exposition, which also has Steam Powered Giraffe and more guests to come, and will be held at Fort George in Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario, September 12-14. Looks like it will be quite the event; hope we can go to it.

We finally have some spring here, but a huge storm has hit the Maritime provinces, with upwards of a foot and a half of snow in many places. They got what most of the east coast got some time ago, they just get more of it more often. Juan, you wonder how Florida compares to California and other states when it comes to fannish events...the best comparison I can offer is to tell you to download Science Fiction/San Francisco from eFanzines.com. That zine lists extensive events in the Bay Area alone. Might give you some ideas for events in Florida, and ways to publicize them.

Anyway, I think that's all I can do for right now...many thanks for this, and I will keep an eye out for the e-mails that connect me to more issues.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

*There have been a few steampunk events in the Florida but I unable to come. I hope to see one soon. I am always amazed at the creativity I see at cons and other events.*

*I do occasionally read the Science Fiction/San Francisco fanzine. I glossed over the events section and I should look at it again. It would surprise me if the Bay area has as much activity as all of Florida.*

A Conference and a Convention

This year Megacon 2014 and the 35<sup>th</sup> International Conference for the Fantastic in Arts (ICFA) were going to take place on the same weekend. ICFA is a Wednesday to Saturday event and Megacon is a traditional Friday to Sunday convention. I decided that I could do both. I decided not to go to ICFA on Friday and skip Megacon on Saturday.

I do volunteer work at ICFA before the conference. It involves working in the book room. The Sunday before ICFA, I helped Mark Wigenfeld, Glennis LeBlanc, Joe Berlat, and Peter Halasz take the boxes of books and other ICFA equipment from a storage facility to the Airport Marriott. This took about six trips with three vehicles. The next day we began sorting the books and placing them where they needed to go. On Monday, I focused on the single books, these are used hardbacks or trade paperbacks which were not written by past conference attendees. Tuesday, I helped sort out the M-S books that were recently published books but not written by any of this year's conference participants. This put the skills I learned as a library page to good use.

ICFA starts mid-afternoon on Wednesday. The conference badge was impressive. The art was by June Dillion, Hugo nominated artist. About an hour before the Opening Ceremonies, there is a book sale in front of the room where the ceremonies are held. This is a good way to see the conference attendees. I worked at the table and if someone wanted a receipt or pay by credit I would take them to the bookroom where their purchase could be processed. The table did a nice bit of business and we were able to make people aware of the book room (the room itself is away from the major traffic lanes and new attendees might miss it).

After putting the books away from the pre-Opening Ceremonies book sale, I got to see the rest of the opening ceremonies panel. The panel was **Imagining Empires** with Istvan Csicsery-Ronan Jr, Steve Erickson, Ian MacDonald, and Gary K. Wolfe (moderator). By the time I got there, they were discussing MacDonald's novels about emerging economies around the world.

There were two paper discussions on **Dune** by Frank Herbert. In the last few years I have been thinking of how works in Science Fiction date themselves and how long they remain relevant. During these sections there were five papers written on a novel that is almost 50 years old. Some of the authors of these papers showed there massively tagged editions of the book. I noted during one of the question and answer period that the only thing that has dated **Dune** was its attitude to computers. In **Dune**'s backstory, artificial intelligences tried to dominate humanity and were overthrown and as a result, there are no computers in the **Dune** future. I thought this was plausible in the 1960s when computer took up huge rooms but now it is hard to believe a device one can now practically wear will turn against you. Removing computers in **Dune** is the reason for the development of the Mentants, people who are trained to think logically like a computer.

I had dinner with local writer Mari Ness. Writers Emily Jiang and Keffy Kehrli were also there. I suggested to Ness to

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## Pictures at ICFA



Clockwise starting at the top left:  
Writer Guest of Honor Nnedi Okorafor  
(left to right) Rick Wilber and Writer Guest of Honor Ian MacDonald  
Opening Ceremony Panel– **Imagining Empires** (left to right): Ian MacDonald, Steven Erikson, Istvan Csiesery-Ronan, and Gary K. Wolfe (moderator)



(Continued from page 4)

post some reviews of *Once Upon a Time* on Tor.com. I notice she was Tweeting about the show while an episode was being broadcast. Since Ness was already writing reviews for Tor.com, I tweeted to her to review the episode since Tor.com stopped reviewing the show after the first season. The next day Mari had a review of the last episode on the site. She will be doing this semi-regularly. I heard that Tor.com might cut back on media reviews. This would be a mistake since someone who is into media may come to Tor.com, read the media reviews, and maybe checkout the rest of the site. I talked about the *Veronica Mars* film with and the Beijing Worldcon bid with Emily Jiang. Keffy and I did not agree with many things like Dave Gibbons art in *Watchmen*, but he presented his arguments well, so we agree to disagree. After dinner, I briefly went to the opening day reception.

On Thursday, I decided to start the day with a bike ride from the hotel to Semoran and Lake Underhill and back. The ride went well and I felt charged for the rest of the day. OASIS guest Rick Wilber interviewed Ian MacDonald, one the ICFA Guests of Honor. The talk occasionally went to sports. Soccer was a big element in MacDonald's novels *Brasyl* and *The Dervish House*. MacDonald is working on a book set on a Lunar colony. He is working on creating the culture by thinking what food and sports the colony would have. MacDonald worked on the Northern Irish version of *Sesame Street*. He had to learn how to write in the show's style. The show wanted to focus on conflict resolution. One of the big days working on the show was the day the box came with the specially designed Muppet for the show. MacDonald explained how the Muppeteers operated the Muppets. They would watch a small monitor at their feet so they could see their Muppet and control its actions. MacDonald also wrote a TV movie based on the British series *Doomwatch*. Gerry Davis and Kit Pedlar, creators of the Cybermen for *Doctor Who*, created the original show. The show is about a government scientific watchdog group that kept an eye out for potentially dangerous applications of science. Pedlar got the idea when he successfully ordered the material to build an atomic bomb. MacDonald explained the mellified man. A person would eat and drink nothing but honey and do it to the point where they sweated honey. The person died and placed in coffin filled with honey and after a century, the contents of the coffin were rumored to have healing properties. In *The Dervish House*, one of the characters is searching for a mellified man in Istanbul. I asked about the animated show he described in *The Dervish House*. He said it was like *Thundercats*, one of the characters in the novel was a fan and he and his friends nicknamed themselves after the Ultralords from the show. I told MacDonald that was something rarely seen in Science Fiction, hearing about Science Fiction show in a Science Fiction novel.

I sat with Cecilia Tan at the Guest of Honor Luncheon. I have seen Tan at several Worldcon parties for Circler Press, her erotic Science Fiction and Fantasy press. I praised her novel, *The Siren and the Sword*, for its moments of intimacy. She also told me that despite living in Boston, she is a New York Yankee fan like my father. Tan took very good notes on Nnedi Okorafor's speech and posted it on her blog (blog.cecilianan.com/?p=1782). Okorafor talked about visiting one of her students in jail when she became the first African

American to win the World Fantasy Award. She was angry at how her student, despite his best efforts, was caught up in the system. After she left the jail, she got text messages saying she won the World Fantasy Award. She then started to think of a race of genetically engineered people who never knew freedom because they were never free. This became her novel, *The Book of the Phoenix*. She discussed teaching Science Fiction and Fantasy to her students, and her childhood. She ended the speech by quoting from Ben Okri's book *Birds of Heaven*, "It's easy to forget how mighty stories are. They work with all the internal materials of mind and self... They become part of you and change you."

The next day was Friday and Megacon. It was a rocky start since I forgot my receipt and I had to go back to my house and get it. While that was annoying, it gave me the opportunity to get a reasonably priced lunch and I did not miss anything. This side trip just cut into my browsing time in the Dealers Room. All About DC with Jimmy Palmiotti, Dan Jurgens, Ethan Van Sciver, Rob Hunter and David Finch was a bit of a disappointment. There was no one from editorial to answer the big questions about the current state of the DC Universe. Palmiotti insisted that people sit in the empty VIP rows. The panel was asked about doing comics digitally. Jurgens and Palmiotti are conscious about the digital version when writing. Palmiotti says that artist Amanda Conner feels the need to add extra detail in her art that will show up if the image is enlarged. Digital comics are great for some books that do not have a large following, since they can be produced with less overhead and risk for the company. The panel looked at the collaborative process. Palmiotti asks the artist what they want to draw. When the writer and artist are not getting along it will show up in the comics. Hunter explained that some artists just want the script and meet their deadlines. Jurgens and Van Sciver think the writer and artist should work closely. Hunter would like to work on a Superman comic and Van Sciver wanted work on Plastic Man. Palmiotti hopes that the work they do in comics has some influence in other media like television, films and video games.

Alex Feltz discussed Anime 2013: What We Were Watching. Feltz based this panel on what clips he could get from the studios and not from any Best of Lists. The anime he talked about are as follows:

- Nagi no Asukara* – Humans once lived in the sea but some went to live on land and forgot their past. A land human befriends some students who live in the sea.
- Nyaruko: Crawling with Love!* – Two high school students face the terror of Cthulhu like monsters
- Genshiken 2* – More adventures of the Society for the Study of Modern Visual Culture.
- Monogatari* (Season 2) – High School students deal with the paranormal.
- Nekomonogatari (Black)* – prequel to Monogatari
- Magi – The Labyrinth of Magic* – A different take on Aladdin and Ali Baba.
- Jormungand* – A female arms dealer helps a former child soldier find those responsible for killing his family.
- Akira* – The classic Science Fiction film is re-released in Blu-Ray for its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Blood Lad* - A vampire named Staz likes the human world.

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# Megacon 2013 Costumes



From Left to right  
Top Row—Arnold Rimmer: *Red Dwarf*, Asuna and Kirito: *Sword Art Online*, Catwoman, Jane Jetson  
Bottom Row—Tom Servo and Joel: *Mystery Science Theater 3000*, Mega Man, Artemis: *Young Justice*, Survey Corp member: *Attack on Titan*, Superman as a Blue Lantern.



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Fuyumi is turned into a ghost when she wandered into the demon world. Staz will help Fuyumi regain her humanity since it will allow him to go to the human world.

**Dangaropa The Animation** – Student gets into a prestigious school. The only way to graduate is to kill one of your fellow students or be one of their victims.

**Kill La Kill** – Ryouko wants to avenge her father and believes the student council president of Honnouji Academy knows who killed him. Ryouko receives a sentient school uniform that augments her strength and allows her to take the fight to the Academy. This is way over the top comedy.

**Silver Spoon** – A boy goes to an agricultural high school to get away from his parents. There he learns where his food comes from and makes friends. This is based on the manga by Hiromu Arakawa, the creator of *Fullmetal Alchemist*.

**Stella Jo-Gakuin C3-Bu** – Yura goes to Stella Women's Academy and has a hard first day. She joins the school airsoft club called C<sup>3</sup>(command, control, and communications) and bonds with her team mates.

**High School DxD** – A high school student is killed on his first date, reincarnates as a devil and becomes a minion to a high-level devil.

**Persona 3** – A boy transfers to a new high school and discovers there are monsters on campus. He will learn empathy and fight these dark forces.

**Garden of Sinners** – Mikiya Kokuto is fascinated by two things, Shiki Royogi and some mysterious deaths in his town. He finds that the two are connected and there are supernatural forces at work.

**Hayore! Nyaruko-san** – Follow-up to *Nyaruko: Crawling with Love!*

The Megacon Anime Music Video (AMV) contest was held on Friday this year. There were 22 entries. The music videos were really good this year. There was a great video with the *Glee*'s duet of Journey's "Faithfully" done to footage from *Sailor Moon*. Another video used Phil Collins' "Strangers Like Me" to footage from *Inu Yasha*. The awards are as follows (format-award: anime video maker, song title by group, anime):

Best Social Commentary: GuntherAMVs – "Wings" by

Macklemore, *Kuroko no Buske* and *Durarara*

Best Comedy: BAD ASTERICK - Bill Nye the Science Guy theme, *Steins; Gate*

Best Action: Lacard – "Get Jinxed" from *The Leagues of Legends* video game soundtrack, *FLCL*

Best Drama: The Asian 777 – "Night Rider" by Draper (featuring Phoebe Ray), *Chuunibyou demo Koi ga Shitai!*

Best in Show: Aqua Sky Productions – "A Good Day to Die" by Kevin McCourt, *Attack on Titan*

All videos can be found on You Tube and links are at the Anime Sushi Facebook page.

Due the Anime Music Video contest, I was a little late to Paul Vincenti's artist party. There was a good spread and great company. We also got to see some art Vincenti was working on, including a piece about Vincent Price. I was not

able to stay very long since I had to get up early for a paper session at ICFA.

The session was titled "Feminism, Fairy Tales and Fan Fic" Jeana Jorgenson examined how non-monogamous relationships were presented in Fairy Tales in her paper "Tales of Magic, Morality, and ...Monogamy? Understanding Non-monogamous Relationships in Fairy Tales." It was very detailed and included a story of the devil showing a husband his wife's infidelity. I asked Jorgenson afterward, why did the Devil do this because it seems out of step with C.S. Lewis' take on the Devil that his objective is to separate us from God. She explained that story simply treated the Devil as a trickster. I wonder what changed between those stories and Lewis' interpretation of the Devil. Amanda Firestone examined fanfic based on the Young Adult book series *The Mortal Instruments* in her paper "'This Could Hurt. A Lot.': Problematic Representations of Women's Virginity in *The Mortal Instruments* fanfic". She discovered that most fanfic based on the lead characters in *The Mortal Instruments* book series depicted painful depictions of first time sex and what this is saying about the state of sexual education in the United States since most of this fan fiction is written by young people. What was interesting is that *The Mortal Instruments* romantic leads are possibly brother and sister (though in later books it is discovered that they are not). This is an idea I have seen used twice in Anime (*From Up on Poppy Hill* and *Sword Art Online*) and supposedly it is a common trope in anime. I asked Amanda if she knew of this and any ideas of why this is being used as a trope. She was not aware of it being used in anime. Stacie L. Haines' "Christina Among the Goblins: Goblin Market and Feminist Fantasy" brought up some interesting points and made me want to read the poem "Goblin Market" by Christina Rossetti. Afterwards I went to reading with Mari Ness. She read a story of a modern take on the Tooth Fairy that she could not publish due to some format issues, but it made a major editor interested in her work. Then I went to be in the *Locus* picture at the pool and after that, I helped at the book room with processing the winners of the silent auction. Mari Ness knew someone who went to Megacon and they texted or tweeted to her about how crazy it was. That is where I first heard of the traffic congestion getting near to the Orange County Convention Center (OCCC) and the huge crowds at Megacon.

Because of that congestion, I decided to work 2 hours at the bookroom on Sunday morning. Most of the work consisted of boxing books and preparing them to be taken to the storage unit. It was about a 15-minute wait to park at the OCCC and another 15 minutes to walk to the building. I went to Dealers' Room to say hi to artists Paul Vincenti, Stan Morrison, and Rebecca Nipper. I went to Wil Wheaton's presentation. Wheaton said he would be back for another episode of *The Big Bang Theory*. He will continue to host his table top game show on the Internet and will be doing a game show on a cable channel. He explained how he got a role on the webseries *The Guild*. He was a fan of the first season and met with creator/lead actress Felicia Day. He was offered the role of a loathsome rival gamer which he jumped at. At the end of his talk, he did a lighting round, only answering yes or no questions for about 2 minutes.

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# Megacon 2013 Panels



Top Row (left to Right): All About DC: Dan Jurgens, Jimmy Palimotti, Rob Hunter, Ethan Van Sciver, and David Finch

Middle Row: John Barrowman, Wil Wheaton

Bottom Row: Improvised dance at Megacon.



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Alex Feltz show previews of upcoming anime shows of the Spring 2014 season. Again these were shows that had preview clips he had access to.

**Black Bullet** - (Kinema Citrus) A near future, where humans have been defeated by the viral parasites named Gastrea. They have been exiled into a small territory and live in despair, side-by-side in terror. In this world trapped in darkness—Rentaro, a boy living near Tokyo and member of the "Civil Security"—an organization specializing in fighting against the Gastrea—is used to accomplishing dangerous tasks. His partner is Enju, a precocious young girl. They fight thanks to their peculiar powers until one day, when they receive a special assignment from the government. This top secret mission is to prevent the destruction of Tokyo...

**Hitsugi no Chaika** (Bones) Toru Acura is a 20-year-old retired soldier meandering through life now that the war has ended. He encounters Chaika Trabant, a 14-year-old sorceress carrying a coffin, and follows her in hopes of finding meaning to his life again. The two travel with Toru's adopted sister, Akari, the employed member of the group and thus Toru's source of income.

**Kanagami no Asobi** (Brains Base) Yui Kusanagi, who is ordered by Zeus, a god and the headmaster of a school he created, to teach the meaning of love to young and handsome gods.

**Keroro** - (Sunrise) - Keroro will be a flash anime airing on television and will have a new title of Keroro instead of Keroro Gunsou.

**Mahouka Koukou no Rettousei** - (Madhouse Studios) - Magic is a product of neither legends nor fairy tales, but instead has become a technology of reality since a time unknown to people. Supernatural power became a technology systematized through magic, while magic became a technical skill. A "Supernatural Power User" became a "Magic Technician." Magic Technicians (in short, Magicians) are nurtured through Magic High Schools and Universities. This is a story about: Tatsuya, a defective elder brother low achiever. Miyuki, a perfect, flawless younger sister high achiever. They enroll at a Magic High School.

**Mangaka-san to Assistant-san** (Zexcs) - A life description about the mangaka Aito Yuuki and his assistant Ashisu Sahoto. Aito doesn't understand the feelings of the characters on his stories. So he asks Ashisu to help him.

**No Game No Life** (Madhouse Studios) - The story centers around Sora and Shiro, a brother and sister whose reputations as brilliant NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) hikikomori (shut-in) gamers have spawned urban legends all over the Internet. One day, they are summoned by a boy named "God" to an alternate world. There, God has prohibited war and declared this to be a world where "everything is decided by games" - even national borders. Will Sora and Shiro, the good-for-nothing brother and sister, become the "Saviors of Humanity" on this alternate world?

**Tomako Love Story** (Kyoto Animation) - Movie is part of the *Tomako Market* series. Tomako, a girl who runs her

family rice cake shop, is stuck with a magical bird. The story focus on her life and this freeloading bird.

**Jojo's Bizarre Adventures 3** - (David Production) In a Japanese jail sits 17-year-old Jotaro Kujo: punk, fighter, delinquent...and possessed by a force beyond his control! Around the world, evil spirits are awakening: "Stands," monstrous invisible creatures which give their bearers incredible powers. To save his mother's life, Jotaro must tame his dark forces and travel around the world to Cairo, Egypt, where a hundred-year-old vampire thirsts for the blood of his family. But the road is long, and an army of evil Stand Users waits to kill JoJo and his friends...

**Gochuumon wa Usagi Desu Ka** - (White Fox) Kokoa arrives at the cafe Rabbit House one day, excited for rabbits. She actually all but lives in that cafe. She meets lots of different girls there, including a tiny and cool girl named Chino, a tough and soldier-esque girl named Lize, a spacey and quintessentially Japanese girl named Chiyo, and the ordinary but dignified Sharo.

**Captain Earth** - (Bones) One night right before summer vacation, Daiji Manatsu, a second-year in high school, sees a weird round rainbow floating in the sky above Seed Island (Shuushi/Tane Island) and ventures there alone. He has seen this rainbow before. With the memories of his father's mysterious death and an encounter of a mysterious boy and girl, Daiji arrives on the island while the alarm of a building labeled "Earth Engine" is going off. Someone asks him "Are you a captain?" just as robotic intruders from Uranus called "Kiltgang" arrive.

**Break Blade** - (Production I.G) - In the continent of Cruzon, an impending war between the Kingdom of Krisna and the nation of Athens is brimming. The people of this land are able to use quartz for whatever purpose they desire. Yet one person, Rygart Arrow, is not. He is an "un-sorcerer," a person unable to use quartz. But this characteristic will enable him to pilot an ancient Golem, one strong enough to put up a fight against the invading army of Athens.

**Blade and Soul** - (Gonzo) A thousand-year peace is coming to an end. The fledgling Wind Empire strives to overthrow the fading Stratus Empire and unite the four continents in a new era of equality—albeit an equality enforced by military might. Amid this mortal trouble and strife come the ancient Darksiders, with the nefarious Jin Seoyeon as the harbinger of their return... and with the people fighting among themselves, there may be no one to oppose their evil plans and save the world. Based on the Korean MMORPG "Blade & Soul".

**Soul Eater Not!** (Bones) - Join Tsugumi Harudori in the "NOT" class at Death Weapon Meister Academy, a school dedicated to training transforming weapons like Tsugumi and the meisters who will wield them. Many "NOT" (Normally Overcome Target) students aspire to join the elite "EAT" (Especially Advantaged Talent) class. But it may take Tsugumi some time to find her confidence-- and a partner -- at this crazy school!

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I saw Mark Baumgarten, the host of *The Mark Who 42* podcast, and loaned him my copy of John Nathan-Turner's (the last producer of classic *Doctor Who*) biography. We hope to do a show on John Nathan-Turner in the near future. We tried to get in the *Doctor Who* panel but it was packed. The panel, like last year, did not have a core question and did not go anywhere so missing it was not a major loss.

Megacon was reported to have 75-80K people. It certainly felt bigger than previous Megacons. The problem with Megacon is that the programming is so small. Megacon has barely 1.5 tracks of programming not counting Anime and gaming programming, so there is not much for the attendees to do and that causes congestion at the Dealers' Room. Dragon\*con has about 20 tracks of programming and is about the

same size as Megacon. The only bad thing about Megacon for me was missing out seeing people. There were many people like Kent Ward (of the Propeller Anime club), Norm and Denise Liddell (USS Haven *Star Trek* club), Nick Roche (convention game show host), and Gerald Rathkolb (*Anime World Order* podcast) I did not get to see. Part of this was I skipping Saturday, but part of it was the sheer size of the con.

Next year ICFA and Megacon will be in different months. ICFA will be on March 18-22, 2015. Megacon will be on April 10 – 12, 2015.

*Special thanks to Todd H. Latoski of Comic Related (comicrelated.com) whose transcript of the All About DC was a great help with this report. Special thanks to Cecelia Tan for her report of Nnedi Okorafor's speech. Information for the Spring 2014 anime season came from Anichart.*

## Megacon 2013 Costumes

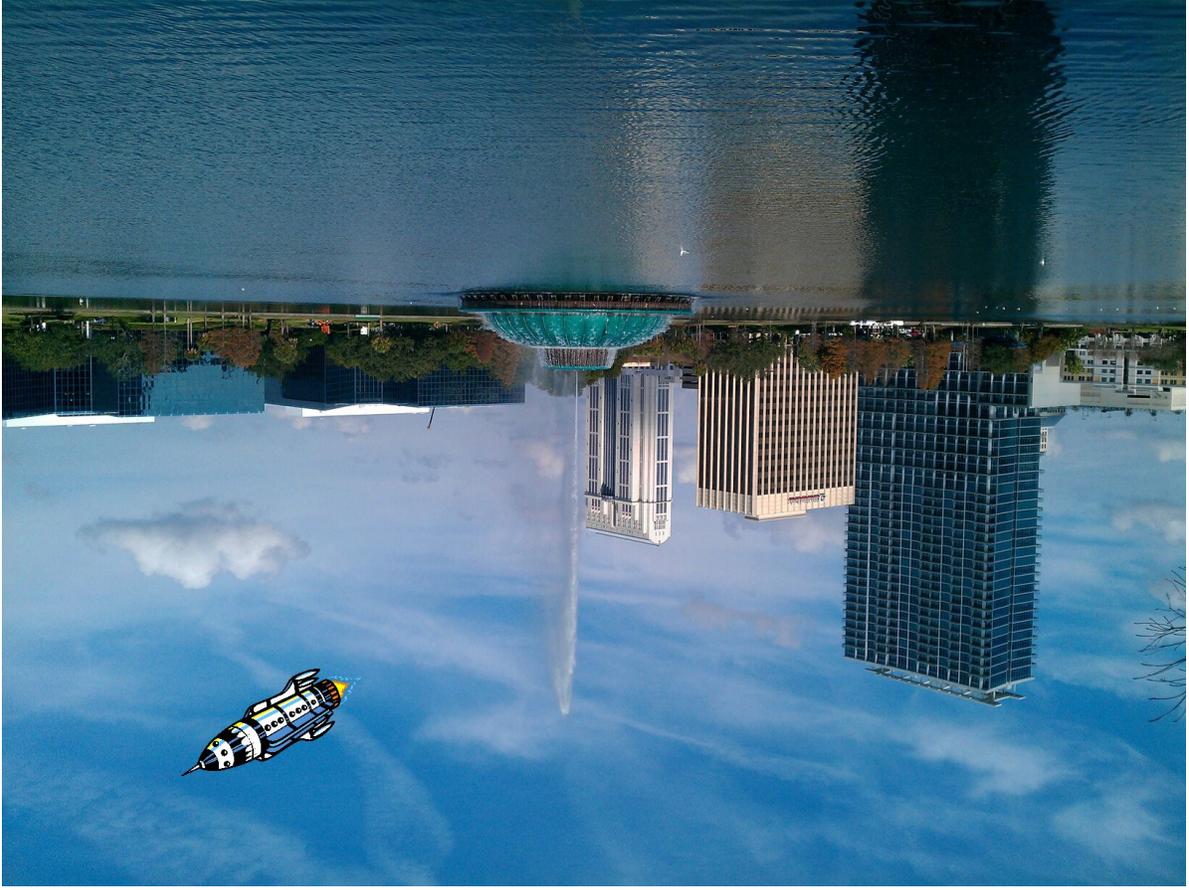


From Left to right

Top Row- Elsa and Mary Poppins: *Frozen* and *Mary Poppins*, Voltron, Nonon Jakuzure: *Kill La Kill*, Asuna: *Sword Art Online*, Bob Fett and Jasmine: *Star Wars* and *Aladdin*

Middle Row- Kiki: *Kiki's Delivery Service*, Apes in Starfleet, Dr. Zoidberg: *Futurama*, Green Arrow and Red Arrow.





Joe Fan  
123 Sesame Street  
Orlando, FL 32805

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

