



**A WORD FROM THE EDITOR**

Another exciting month in 2011. There was a shuttle launch unfortunately it was not seen in some places due to overcast. The Orlando Fringe Festival had several science fiction/fantasy plays including *Doctor Whose Line Is Anyway?*, *The Supporting Cast*, *Pandemonium*, *Ghosties and Ghoulies* and *Longe Legged Beasties and Things that Go Bump in the Night*, *Dog Powered Robot and the History of the Future*, *My Monster*, *Bitches of the Kingdom* and *Captain Discovery: The Edible Musical*. The month ended with OASIS 24.

Thanks to Walter Bryan and Mark Wigenfeld for their photos.

Next Month, a review of one of the Hugo nominees.

**Nebula Awards Winners**

(source *Locus* website)

The 2010 Nebula Awards winners were announced on Saturday, May 21st during the 2010 SFWA Nebula Awards Weekend, held in Washington DC

**Novel**

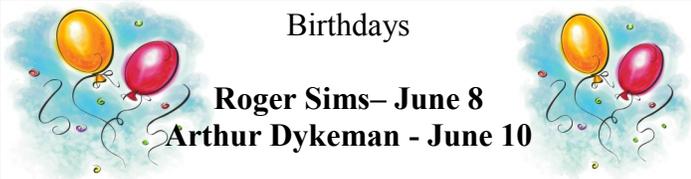
*Blackout/All Clear*, Connie Willis (Spectra)

**Novella**

“The Lady Who Plucked Red Flowers beneath the Queen’s Window”, Rachel Swirsky (*Subterranean Summer* ’10)

(Continued on page 2)

**Birthdays**



**Roger Sims– June 8**

**Arthur Dykeman - June 10**

**Events**

**Pariahcon**

June 10-11

Imperial Swan Hotel & Suites

4141 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL

Guests:

Aaron Dismuke (voice actor)

Sonny Strait (voice actor)

Eileen Stevens (voice actor)

Atrix Entertainment (game developers)

\$25 at the door

[www.pariahcon.com](http://www.pariahcon.com)

**Metrocon**

June 17-19

Tampa Convention Center

333 S. Franklin Street

Tampa, FL.

\$60 for 3 days at the door

Guests:

Max Brooks (writer, *World War Z*)

Crispin Freeman (voice actor)

Scott McNeill (voice actor)

Kyle Herbert (voice actor)

Brad Swaile (voice actor)

Kara Edwards (voice actor)

Doug Smith (voice actor)

Terrance Zdunich (actor)

David Stanworth-Snafu Comics

Yaya Han (costume designer)

Ashley Clark (web comic creator)

[www.metroconventions.com](http://www.metroconventions.com)

### June OASFIS Calendar

#### OASFIS Business Meeting

Sunday, June 12 1:30 PM, Orange Public Library (Downtown Orlando, 101 E. Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801, 407-835-7323).

#### SciFi Light

Saturday June 25, 6:30 PM, **Name of the Wind** by Patrick Rothfuss at El Inka Grill (4106 Town Center, Orlando, FL). For more info contact Steve Grant

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

*(Continued from page 1)*

#### Novelette

“That Leviathan, Whom Thou Hast Made”, Eric James Stone (*Analog* 9/10)

#### Short Story (tie)

‘Ponies’, Kij Johnson (*Tor.com* 1/17/10)

“How Interesting: A Tiny Man”, Harlan Ellison® (*Realms of Fantasy* 2/10)

#### Ray Bradbury Award

*Inception*

#### Andre Norton Award

*I Shall Wear Midnight*, Terry Pratchett (Gollancz; Harper)

### OASFIS People

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

Alice Sheldon AKA James Tiptree, Jr. and Michael Whelan received the Solstice Award.

John E. Johnston received the SFWA Service Award.



The Nebula Winners  
Back Row (left to right)  
Jack McDevitt,  
(for Harlan Ellison)  
Rachel Swirsky,  
Connie Willis,  
Eric James Stone,  
Emily Whitten,  
(for Terry Pratchett)  
Shawna McCarthy,  
(for Alice Sheldon aka  
James Tiptree Jr.)  
Steven Silver  
(for *Inception*)  
Front Row  
Jim Fiscus  
(for John E. Johnston)  
Kij Johnson,  
Michael Whelan  
Photo by Mark Wigenfeld

### The End of *Smallville*

On May 13, 2011, the last episode of *Smallville* was broadcast. It was on for 10 years and consisted of 218 episodes. It is now the longest American science fiction show, breaking the record formerly held by *Stargate SG-1*. It is also the longest show inspired by a comic book superhero and the longest show based on Superman.

*Smallville* was a frustrating show. The show had a rule which the show's creative team followed, "No tights or flights". This would have been OK had the show been planned out. After the first couple of seasons Clark had all of Superman's traditional power except flight. He was more like the invulnerable version of the Flash rather than the Superman. The writers had to come up with some lame mental or physical block to explain away his lack of flight. I could understand holding back on the costume, although he wore the El family crest (the traditional Superman S) on his clothes for the last two seasons, but it was irritating seeing this flightless Superman for years.

The show for some reason decided to go with the idea of Jor-El and Krypton being evil. Clark had translated an inscription as implying that he should impose Kryptonian values on Earth. This goes against most portrayals of Krypton. My ideal Krypton was of a forward thinking society with super science which simply ran out of time. Krypton deserves to survive but is doomed. The implication that they were imperialistic or malevolent goes against that image. As a cheap way to create tension, the writers made Clark resist any type of interaction with the spirit of his father. Most Kryptonians were shown as being hostile. Zor-El, Kara's (Supergirl) father and Clark's biological uncle, is resurrected and tries to kill Clark. In Season 9, the main villains were clones of Kryptonian survivors who come under the influence of a clone of General Zod and try to take over the Earth. Toward the end of the series, the writers tried resolve the issues between Clark and Jor-El. If the series was planned out this conflict might not have been necessary.

The show's creators should have worked out a way to have Bruce Wayne/Batman on the show. Batman's tense but respectful relationship with Superman is now a crucial part of the mythology. They should have included the Bruce meeting Clark and presented the clash of their world views. Supposedly there was an issue of having the rights to use Batman on the show. It seems that they brought in Oliver Queen/Green Arrow to try and fill the Batman role. The Green Arrow does not have the status of Batman in the DC Universe. Batman is one of the big three in DC pantheon, the others being Wonder Woman and Superman. If Clark is to play opposite someone, it has to someone of equal status, and the Green Arrow, try as he might, does not fit the bill.

After Lex Luthor left the show, a new way of creating drama was to have the main characters moralize all the time. At some point in the episode, two characters (one was usually Clark) would argue that they have the moral high ground and the other should let them handle the problem or to assume all the risk. This went on episode after episode. It was as if the writers needed a few minutes to fill, and they used these scenes to do it.

The series finale included one big letdown. The tenth season promised a confrontation between Clark and Darkseid. Darkseid was created by comic book legend Jack "The King" Kirby as one of the most powerful villains in the DC Universe,

and is only used when the stakes of the story are high. I was looking forward to having young Clark facing the alien overlord, but he did not. Darkseid appeared approximately a total of 15 minutes during the entire season. When the big confrontation came at the end, Darkseid possessed Lionel Luthor and was easily dispatched in less than 5 minutes. It was also disappointing not seeing any of Darkseid's traditional enemies like Orion (although he was mentioned briefly), Mister Miracle and the Forever People. On the plus side we did some of Darkseid's minions: Granny Goodness, Glorious Godfrey, Desaad and the Female Furies.

So why did I watch the show for ten years? Well, despite the problems, it was about Superman. As the first comic book superhero and one whom all comic superhero can trace their pedigrees to, he embodied the classic story of the immigrant coming to America and making a good life for himself and others. Though he is one of the most powerful beings on Earth and could easily conquer us, he wanted to be our friend. He is the moral compass of the DC Universe.

Lex Luthor, played by Michael Rosenbaum, was a compelling character. He started as a character trying to find his own path. Like in his classic Silver Age's origin story, he and Clark are friends. I wondered what would make Luthor go bad. Luthor was a great intellect who tried to solve the mysteries of Smallville, particularly Clark's secret. He would eventually become distrustful of the super-powered beings he encountered in the show. He used his wealth to help mankind to fight these super humans. When Luthor was written out of the show, a great source of tension left with him, and for the next three years would try to replace it with a new threat each season. This produced mixed results. It might have been better to wrap up the show when Rosenbaum decided to leave.

*Smallville* gave us a look, if through a funhouse mirror, at the DC Universe. All of Superman's supporting cast and rogue's gallery appeared on the show. Other DC characters appeared on the show were Impulse, Green Arrow, Black Canary, J'onn J'onzz, Aquaman, Zatanna, Cyborg, Mera, Dr. Fate, the Golden Age Sandman, Hawkman, Stargirl, Cosmic Boy, Saturn Girl, Lightning Lad, Blue Beetle and Booster Gold. The characterization may have been a bit off, but it allowed them the possibility of showing up in new DC live-action productions. My biggest disappointment was not having Abin Sur, the Green Lantern of Earth's sector before Hal Jordan, appear on the show. I thought the writers could have him appear in the last season and use it as a promotion for the Green Lantern feature film.

My favorite *Smallville* episode was "Legion", written by comic book writer Geoff Johns. Cosmic Boy, Saturn Girl, and Lightning Lad of the Legion of the Superheroes come from the future to help Clark. The Legionnaires are frustrated that Clark is not the person expect him to be. They represent the comic fans, who watch the show and are frustrated that Clark is not the Superman they are familiar with. This was the episode which was about the show itself.

Now that *Smallville* is gone, what is next? Hopefully, *Smallville* shows that live-action superheroes can be successful on television. There is series in the works for the CW based on Raven of Teen Titans. I would not mind seeing a new live-action Superman series or special a few years down the road.

The neverending battle continues.

### My Encounters with Green Lantern

I first encountered Green Lantern on *All New Superfriends Hour* in 1977. This was the second incarnation of Hanna-Barbera's adaptation of the Justice League. The show was divided into four segments, with the last segment paired up one of the main characters (Superman, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, Batman and Robin) with rarely seen Superfriends. I do not think the show's writers understood what the power ring could do because, instead of flying, Green Lantern used his power ring to create vehicle constructs. The next Hanna-Barbera series, *Challenge of the Superfriends* was slightly better, because the show explained the Green Lantern's ring's inability to effect anything colored yellow, and presented Green Lantern's origin. This is that his name is Hal Jordan, a test pilot, who was given the power ring from a dying alien, an intergalactic space patrolman. Then the show introduced Sinestro, a villain with a yellow power ring who would usually fight Green Lantern.

My love of the character inspired me to read any comic which had the Green Lantern in it. It was a great era for Green Lantern comics: I regularly read them at my local library. Dave Gibbons, fresh from doing the art for the *Doctor Who* comic, was the artist for the comic book. Through my reading, I learned about the Green Lantern Corps, their oath, and their sponsors the Guardians of the Universe. The comics at that time would had a back-up feature called *Tales of the Green Lantern Corps*, which were short stories of one of the other Green Lantern Corps members. One story sticks in my mind: about a young woman who lives on planet whose culture rejects space travel or even star-gazing. She is selected to be a Green Lantern. The Guardians contact her in a manner which does not violate her beliefs, and give her the special dispensation of patrolling only her own planet, allowing another Green Lantern to patrol the space sector. I thought this was very forwarding-thinking, showing respect to a belief system we may not agree with.

The 90s were a very challenging decade for the Green Lantern, specifically Hal Jordan. During the resurrection of Superman, Coast City (Jordan's home) was destroyed. As a result, Jordan went mad and destroyed the Corps and would eventually become a villain called Parallax. Gathnet, the one surviving Guardian, gave artist Kyle Rayner the last power ring and he became the new Green Lantern. Hal Jordan tried to rewrite history in the *Zero Hour*, sacrificing himself by restarting the sun in *Final Night*, and becoming the host to the Spectre. I was not happy with this. Killing a popular character did not bother me. It was turning a hero into a crazed super-villain that was bothersome. Unlike Hal Jordan, Barry Allen, the Silver Age Flash, died while helping DC's heroes die honorably, while DC heroes fighting the Anti-Monitor. If DC felt a need to create a new Green Lantern, they could have given the old Green Lantern a better send off.

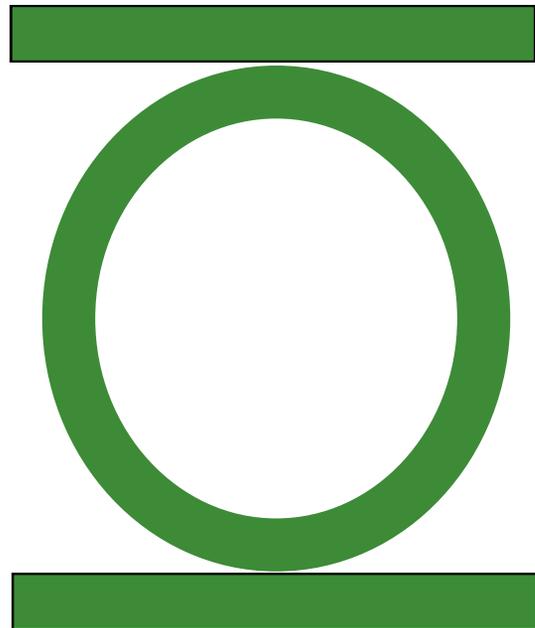
In 2005, Geoff Johns wrote *Green Lantern: Rebirth*. The sole purpose of the series was to bring back Hal Jordan to life, and start restoring the Green Lantern Corps. Johns would expand the universe in a major way by creating a Lantern Corps for each color of the rainbow. When I heard about this, I was a bit skeptical. Bringing back Hal Jordan was great, but it seemed to be crass commercialism to create all these new Corps. Then I

read that each Corps was associated with an emotion. The emotional spectrum consisted of: Red (Rage), Orange (Avarice), Yellow (Fear), Green (Willpower), Blue (Hope), Indigo (Compassion) and Violet (Love). Each of these Corps would relate to each other in a unique way. This was all to set up the *Blackest Night* storyline. In that story, the dead were reanimated by black power rings and could only be stopped by the other Lantern Corps working with each other.

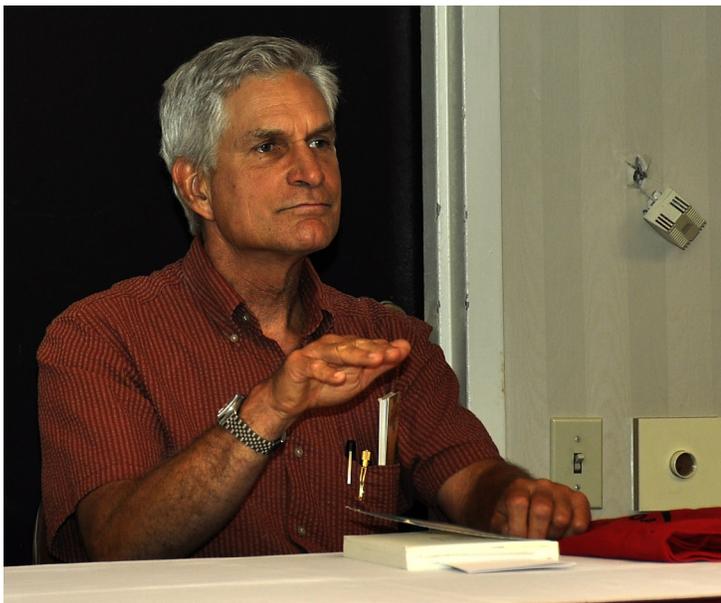
The appeal of the Lanterns was that anyone could be a Lantern. One just needed to have a connection to an emotion, and an imagination to create effective constructs. Hal Jordan's appeal was that he was already special to begin with. He was a test pilot and pushed himself to the edge. All of the characters in Lantern saga are interesting and well-developed.

On June 17, 2011, the first Green Lantern feature film will come out. It seems the film makers are using elements of Geoff Johns' *Green Lantern: Secret Origins*, which is something fans have been waiting for a long time. Hopefully it is the start of a series. It would be great to see the other Lantern Corps, and the fall of Sinestro on the big screen

Long Live the Corps.



# OASIS 24



Clockwise starting from the upper left.  
Writer Guest of Honor: David Drake  
Filk Guest of Honor: Carla Ulbrich  
Masquerade lineup.  
Photos by Walter Bryan



To be announced

Hotel Info:

May 25-27, 2012  
Author Signings,  
Costume Contest,  
Live Music and Comedy,  
Anime and Video Programs,  
Art Show and Auction,  
Informative Panel Talks,  
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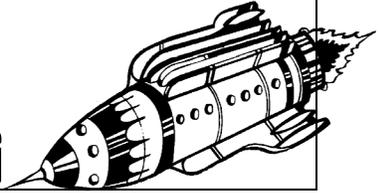
, \$35 until 4/30/11,

\$30 until 1/1/11

Weekend Memberships:

# OASFIS 25

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