

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Busy month. Always something going on. Two picnics, one convention, one holiday and lot preparation work.

Next month might squeeze in some commentary on certain film about a popular SF TV series. I also have to some pictures from the convention. Till next time.

Events

Eycon

May 8-10
 The Florida Hotel and Conference Center
 1500 Sand Lake Road
 Orlando, Florida
 This convention is focused on the film *Twilight*
 Guests:

Jackson Rathbone (Jasper Hale)
 Peter Facinelli (Carlisle Cullen)
 Kellan Lutz (Emmett Cullen)
 Edi Gathegi (Laurent)

\$70 for three days General Admission
www.eyeconfla.com

CraetureCon

May 30-31
 Central Fl. Fairgrounds
 4603 W. Colonial Dr.
 Orlando, FL 32808
 \$8 Adults, \$5 children(5-12)
www.creaturecon.com

The Wrath of Con

May 29-30
 4200 Marriott Drive
 Panama City Beach, Florida
 Guests:
 Jerry Doyle (Garibaldi, *Babylon 5*)
 Andrea Thompson (Talia, *Babylon 5*)
 John Billingsley (Phlox, *Star Trek Enterprise*)
 Chase Masterson (Leeta, *Star Trek:DS9*)
 \$40 for three days
www.wrathofcon.org

Zoë's Tale

By
 John Scalzi

This book is part of the same series that comprises *Old Man's War*, *The Ghost Brigades* and *The Last Colony*. *Zoë's Tale* is a sequel to *The Last Colony*. It tells the story of *The Last Colony* from the point of view of Zoë Boutin-Perry, the adopted daughter of John Perry and Jane Sagan. Perry and Sagan are the main characters of *The Last Colony*.

In the future Earth is in competition with other races for colony planets. The Colonial Defense Force (CDF) is made up of augmented humans who fight for these colony worlds. Perry and Sagan were veterans of CDF and are now colonial administrators. They are asked to establish a new colony on the planet Roanoke. This settlement is unique because the settlers are from established colonies and not from Earth. When the colonists arrive on Roanoke, it turns out not to be the planet they were expecting. The colonists find out that a coalition of alien races called the Conclave wants control over all colonization. The Colonial Union (CU) has hidden the location of Roanoke to frustrate the Conclave. Furthermore, the CU has restricted the colonists use of advance technology, since it would give away their position. For a year the colonists go about the business of building a colony. Eventually their location is discovered and the Conclave comes to remove the colonists from Roanoke.

Zoë is a special teenager. Her father Charles Boutin was experimenting with storing consciousness outside the human body. An alien race known as the Obin was interested in this research. The Obin had no consciousness and wanted Boutin to give it to them. The Obin had found Zoë as a survivor of an alien attack while her father was away. They used her to bargain with Boutin. Boutin pursued his research with the Obin. Boutin was later killed and Zoë was placed in human hands. The CU offered to finish Boutin's work if the Obin agreed to an alliance. In return the Obin wished to guard Zoë out of respect for her father. They received their consciousness and Zoë has two Obin bodyguards, which she named Hickory and Dickory. Hickory and Dickory follow her everywhere and broadcast their experiences to their race, who are still learning the idea of consciousness.

It is interesting to see the story of *The Last Colony* from the bottom-up. Zoë while important was not the main decision-

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May OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, May 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 Peter David.

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

maker in *The Last Colony*. One sees the predicament of the colony from the point of view of Zoë and her peers. They make the best of a hard situation further complicated by losing the technology they are used to. Zoë is smart and snarky. Zoë is able to think and stand up for herself. She reminds one of Heinlein's Podkayne from *Podkayne from Mars*. Zoë has the added burden of being a celebrity to an entire race. The Obin will do anything Zoë asks. This will have severe consequences but will help save Roanoke.

Scalzi does a good job of making this a stand-alone book. One does not need to read the previous novels to know what is going on. It does encourage people to read or reread *The Last Colony*. The novels complement each other very well.

Scalzi is also clever with the description. He will give you an idea of what an alien looks like by comparing it to something familiar, and then say it is not exactly like that familiar item. This gives the reader an idea of what something alien looks like but leaves room for the reader's imagination to tweak the image any way he or she desires.

This was a good book, expanding on the universe and the characters of the previous book. It is a very worthy Hugo nominee.

Award News

Nebula Awards

Source (*Whatever* (John Scaliz Blog) and *Locus* website)

The 2008 Nebula Awards were presented on Saturday, April 25 in a ceremony at the 2009 Nebula Awards Weekend held in Los Angeles, California.

Novel: *Powers* - Ursula K. Le Guin (Harcourt, Sept. 2007)

Novella: "The Spacetime Pool" - Catherine Asaro (*Analog*, March 2008)

Novelette: "Pride and Prometheus" - John Kessel (*The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, Jan. 2008)

Short Story: "Trophy Wives" - Nina Kiriki Hoffman (*Fellowship Fantastic*, Martin H. Greenberg and Kerrie Hughes, eds., DAW Books, January 2008)

Script: *WALL-E* - Andrew Stanton & Jim Reardon. Original story by Andrew Stanton & Pete Docter (Pixar, June 2008)

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

Andre Norton Award: *Flora's Dare: How a Girl of Spirit Gambles All to Expand Her Vocabulary, Confront a Bouncing Boy Terror, and Try to Save Califa from a Shaky Doom (Despite Being Confined to Her Room)* - Ysabeau S. Wilce, (Harcourt, Sept. 2008)

Harry Harrison was honored as Damon Knight Grand Master, while M.J. Engh was honored as Author Emerita. Joss Whedon was named recipient of the Bradbury Award for excellence in screenwriting and Victoria Strauss was honored with 2009 SFWA Service Award for her work with Writer Beware. Additionally, SFWA inaugurated the new Solstice Award, bestowed upon individuals who have made a significant impact on the science fiction or fantasy landscape, and is particularly intended for those who have consistently made a major, positive difference within the speculative fiction field. Honorees for 2009 were Kate Wilhelm, Martin H. Greenberg and the late Algis Budrys.

Philip K. Dick Award

The winner is a tie between:

- *Emissaries From the Dead* by Adam-Troy Castro (Eos) (OASIS guest)
- *Terminal Mind* By David Walton (Meadowhawk)

The Philip K. Dick Award is presented annually for distinguished science fiction published in paperback original form in the US and is sponsored by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society.

FX 2009

The Florida Extravaganza (FX) was held on April 17-19, 2009 at the Orange County Convention Center. The Guest of Honor was Leonard Nimoy. Other media guests included Jonathan Frakes (Riker, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*),

Lindsay Wagner (*The Bionic Woman*), James Marsters (Spike-*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Angel* Captain John Hart-*Torchwood*, Brainiac-*Smallville*), Jewel Staite (Kaylee, *Firefly*), Morena Baccarin (Inara, *Firefly*), James Kyson Lee (Ando, *Heroes*), Juliet Landau (Drusilla, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Angel*), and Julie Benz (Darla, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Angel*). Comic Artist Michael Golden was a Special Guest of Honor. Other comic guests of honor included Oliver Coipel (Thor, *House of M*), Rueben Procopio (Disney), Ben Templesmith (IDW's *Doctor Who* comic), Mark Texeira (*Ghost Rider*, *Moon Knight*), Matt Fraction (*Uncanny X-Men*, *Invincible Iron Man*) Jim McCann (*New Avengers: The Reunion*) and Arthur Suydam (*Marvel Zombies*). The following OASIS guests were also at FX: Stan Morrison, Paul Vincenti, Jeffrey Breslauer, Glenda Finkelstein, Linda S. Cowden, and Kimberly Raiser.

FX programming keeps getting better but there were absence some of the major guests. Lindsay Wagner, Jonathan Frakes and James Kyson Lee did not do any programming. This was particularly odd in the case of Mr. Lee, since he is on a popular show currently in production. Some of the panels and Q&A's were held on the main stage which was in the Dealers Room (aka the Exhibit Floor). This was a bad place to have panels due to the fact that the PA system would drown out the panel participants. FX still uses wristbands for one day memberships. It would be nice if they have convention registration staff put on the wristbands, as they do at nightclubs. The security at the Dealers Room door would have to put the wristbands on. Three-day members got name tags although they were not encouraged to write their names on the badge.

Tom Croom discussed **Nuts and Bolts: The Giant Robots of Anime**. Croom gave a rough history of giant robot anime highlighting *Giant Robo*, *Robotech* and *Transformers*. Croom talked about the backlash after Optimus Prime was killed in *Transformers: The Movie* (1986), and said that at that time he complained that he had a dead action figure. This led to a rewrite of *GI Joe: The Movie* in which was a lead character was going to get killed. It was surprising to learn the original Optimus Prime action figure was about \$50 in the 1980s, I had assumed it was in the \$20 range. The talk digressed into other topics related to media. Croom and the audience recollected how Lucasfilm suppressed the *Star Wars Holiday Special*. Some had questioned whether it happened or not. The merits of the special were discussed. If you were a kid at the time the *Star Wars Holiday Special* was broadcast it, rocked. Watching it as an adult you wondered what the makers of the special were thinking.

There were two panels focusing on the works of Joss Whedon. There was a panel featuring **Women of the Whedonverse** in which Morena Baccarin, Jewel Staite, Julie Benz, Juliet Landau, and Clare Kramer discussed favorite episodes and what they brought to their parts. They ended their talk with a special presentation on Andy Hallet. Andy Hallet played Lorne on *Angel* and died earlier this year of heart failure. They showed a film highlighting his performances in *Angel*. James Marsters also remembered Hallet at his talk. Marsters noted that Hallet had to tolerate irritating contact lenses while playing Lorne. The lenses would make him tear all the time. Hallet took it in stride and rarely complained. Marsters fielded several questions from the fans, and plugged his concert later that night.

Costuming was strong this year at FX. One young woman did a stunning recreation of Vampirella. The X-Men were represented in the forms of Storm, Cyclops, and Magik. The Comedian, Rorschach, Doctor Manhattan (wearing a suit) and the original Silk Spectre were walking around. One fan did a excellent recreation of Mayuri Kurosuchi, captain of squad 12 in the anime *Bleach*. The mask nailed the character. There were several Heath Ledger inspired Jokers. The local Klingons were well represented. There were people wearing Classic Trek era Starfleet shirts. This is probably due to upcoming movie. One costumer looked like he was about to take off as the Rocketeer. There was a woman who did a excellent recreation of Thor's archenemy Loki. There was another fan who did an excellent job bringing back Marvel's 1970's character Ms. Marvel. There was a life size Barbie in a box. One costumer came as the Octo-Mom with eight baby dolls taped to her chest. Many of these costumes appeared at the Wasabi Anime Costume Contest.

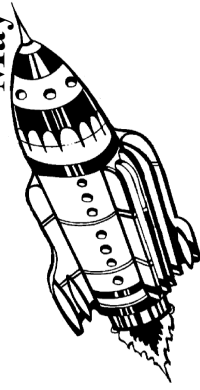
Leonard Nimoy had a Q&A session on Sunday. Originally it was an extra cost to go to the talk starting at \$125 for the cheaper seats. The talk was made open to the convention and those who paid where given an autograph tickets for Nimoy (\$65 value), a poster of the new movie and assorted Trek swag. Nimoy declared his enthusiasm for the upcoming film. He said he was impressed by JJ Abrams' (director), Roberto Orci's (screenwriter) and Alex Kurtzman's (screenwriter) respect for the original series. Nimoy mentioned that a dealer gave him a copy of a film he did called *The Brain Eaters* (1958). Nimoy planned to show it to his wife. He also mentioned his wife was a cousin to director Michael Bay (*The Transformers*). The first question that was asked was "What was your favorite color?" Nimoy handled this question in a humorous manner. During the talk he explained the development of the story of *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*. The idea started by discussing the problems of communicating with another species. Shannon Croom, wife of Wasabi Anime's Tom Croom, asked about Nimoy's upcoming appearance on the Fox Network's *Fringe*. Nimoy said he will appear at the end of the season finale and there are plans for two appearances next season. Vulkan Game Show Coordinator, Nick Roche asked if Nimoy has seen any of the fan made *Star Trek* productions. Nimoy said he had not had a chance to.

There were other things of interest at the convention. There was the **Project Vinyl Jam** in which artists were given a blank Mez-It figure and paints. The artists painted on the figure for 90 minutes. The figures were auctioned off after the convention and proceeds given to the American Cancer Society. OASIS Artist Guests of Honor Stan Morrison and Paul Vincenti participated in the event. Vincenti borrowed my Swiss Army knife to cut a hole in his figure's back. Then he put some foam wings into the back of the figure and painted it as the Balrog from *Lord of the Rings*. Morrison painted his as a Spartan from the *300*. Jason Dorough and Celeste Monsour discussed the history of their website and podcast, *Fandomania*. The convention had a Disney pin trading event. Steve Rude, creator of the popular comic *Nexus*, gave an artist demonstration. There was a dealer who had a copy of *Captain America* #1 (which appeared in 1941). This was perhaps the most expensive and culturally significant comic I had ever seen. There was a prop panel by the local costuming group Wolfpack Elite.

FX was great way to see fellow fans and was a fun but tiring weekend.

SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
IN ORLANDO
OASIS 22

May 22-24, 2009



Guest of Honor

Peter David

*Sir Apropos of Nothing,
Woad to Wuin,*

*Tong Lashing, Darkness of the Light,
Tigerheart, Star Trek: New Frontiers,
The Incredible Hulk*

Hotel Information

\$99/night, single-quad
through 5/18/09
Mention OASIS for rate

Sheraton Orlando
Downtown
60 South Ivanhoe Blvd
Orlando, FL 32804
407-425-4455

Weekend Memberships:

\$30 until 1/1/09,
\$35 until 4/30/09,
\$40 at the door.

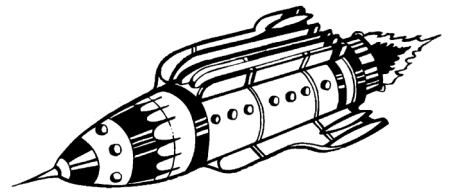
Make checks payable to:

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P.O. Box 592905
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More info at
www.oasfis.org

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