



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Getting ready for AFO, Star Wars Celebration and Worldcon. Hope to see some of you there.

Next month we will have the Hugo Winners. There may be an Anime Festival Orlando and Star Wars Celebration report.

I will accept any contributions and please check out our Yahoo group (search OASFiS). See you next month.

Events

Anime Festival Orlando

August 6- 8
Wyndham Orlando Resort
8001 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819
Guests: Tony Oliver, Tommy Yune, Dan Southworth,
Jason David Frank, David Yost, Reuben Langdon,
Jessica Straus, Sonny Strait
\$50 for all three days
www.animefestivalorlando.com

Star Wars Celebration V

Orange County Convention Center Hall E1
9899 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819
Guests: George Lucas (creator, producer, director)
Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker)
Carrie Fisher (Leia Organa)
Anthony Daniels (C-3PO)
Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca)
Ray Park (Darth Maul)
Adult 4-Day Passes - \$128(pre Aug 10) ,
\$145 at the door
Adult Sat Passes - \$54(pre Aug 10) ,
\$60 at the door
Adult Passes (non Sat) - \$48 (pre Aug 10)
\$54 at the door
www.starwarscelebration.com/

Mizucon

August 20-22
Hyatt Regency Miami
400 South East Second Avenue
Miami, Florida, USA 33131-2197
Guests: Stephanie Sheh (Orihime, *Bleach*)
Scott McNeill (Hihenheim, *Full Metal Alchemist*)
David Williams (ADR Director ADV films)
Michael Sinterniklaas (Dean Venture, *Venture Brothers*)

If you register to stay 2 nights or more at the Hyatt Regency Miami during the convention, you will receive 1 FREE adult 3-day badge and each additional badge will be \$40
\$50 at the door for a three day membership
www.mizucon.com

Chibi-Pa: GO!!!

August 27-29
Hilton Airport Palm Beach Hotel
West Palm Beach, FL
Guests: Dave and Brian (comedians)
Jennie Breeden (web cartoonist, *The Devils Panties*)
\$30 for the entire weekend
\$15 at the door for Friday or Sunday
\$25 at the door for Saturday only
www.chibipa.com/news.php

Award News

2010 Mythopoeic Awards

(Source *Locus* website)

The Mythopoeic Society has announced the 2010 Mythopoeic Award winners:

Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature:
Lifelode, Jo Walton (NESFA)

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August OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, August 8, 1:30 PM, Orange Public Library (Downtown Orlando, 101 E. Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801, 407-835-7323). Come join us as we discuss *Galileo's Dream* by Kim Stanley Robinson.

To contact for more info: 407-823-8715

SciFi Light

Saturday August 21, 6:00 PM, Yellow Dog Eats Café (1236 Hempel Ave Windermere, FL). The Book will be announced on OASFiS website. For more info contact Steve Grant

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Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature:
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon, Grace Lin (Little, Brown)

Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies:
Tolkien, Race and Cultural History: From Fairies to Hobbits, Dimitra Fimi (Palgrave Macmillan)

Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Myth and Fantasy Studies:
One Earth, One People: The Mythopoeic Fantasy Series of Ursula K. Le Guin, Lloyd Alexander, Madeleine L'Engle and Orson Scott Card, Marek Oziewicz (McFarland)

In addition, Michael Millburn's "Art According to Romantic Theology: Charles Williams' Analysis of Dante Reapplied to J.R.R. Tolkien's 'Leaf by Niggle'" is the winner of the first Alexei Kondratiev Student Paper Award, given for a paper read at the Mythcon conference.
All winners were announced at Mythcon 41, held July 9-12 2010, in Dallas, Texas.

2010 Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award Winner

(Source *Locus* website)

Mark Clifton is the winner of Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award. The Award is intended to bring attention to lesser known science fiction writers. Clifton's best known work (co written with Frank Riley), *They'd Rather Be Right* was the second novel to win the Hugo. This was announced at Readercon on July 8-11, 2010.

2009 Prometheus Awards

(source *Locus* website)

This award is presented by the Libertarian Futurist Society. The awards will be presented at Aussiecon 4, the 68th annual Worldcon, to be held September 2-6, 2010 in Melbourne, Australia. Each Kollin will receive a gold coin and plaque.

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

- Best Novel - *The Unincorporated Man* by Dani & Eytan Kollin (Tor)
 - Hall of Fame - *No Truce with Kings*, by Poul Anderson
- Poul Anderson's novels have previously won the Prometheus Award (in 1995, for *The Stars are also Fire*), and the Hall of Fame Award (1995 for *The Star Fox* and 1985 for *Trader to the Stars*). Anderson also received a Special Award for lifetime achievement in 2001.

For the Win by Cory Doctorow

In his last Young Adult novel, *Little Brother*, Cory Doctorow had a teen use the technology available to take on an intrusive American administration. In *For the Win*, the opposition is foreign authoritarian governments and criminal thugs.

The time is the near future. Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games (MMORPG) are extremely popular. These are virtual worlds where players from all over the world play. This creates an interesting side business: gold farming. Gold farming is the business of scoping out the games and figuring out the quickest way of finding the virtual gold with the least effort. The gold farmers sell the gold or the information to less skilled players who use this knowledge to level up (become more formidable in the games). Gold farming becomes very lucrative even though the game companies do not support it. Teams of players, teens mainly, do the actual work. The profits attract an unsavory element. In China and India local bosses hire these players to mine the gold for them in exchange for pay. While the pay is better to what many of these children are used to, they are living under the thumb of these bosses. If they complain about the job arrangement, they can be fired or worse. Matthew Fong and his friend Lu try to start their own independent operation in Shenzhen, China. They are struck down by their former employer, who does not want competition. In Dharvi, India

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(near Mumbai), Mala, aka “General Robotwalla”, and her friend Yasmin are facing similar hardships. In Malaysia, a woman named Big Sister Nor attempts to organize the gold farmers with a new union, the International Workers of World Wide Web (IWWWW) or “Webblies”. Nor is using the same technologies which make the games possible to organize these workers. Jiandi, an Internet talk show host with 12 million listeners, meets Lu after being beaten up in a gold farming strike and covers the Webblies actions on her show while staying two steps ahead of Chinese Authorities. Leonard Goldberg aka Wei Dong, a California teen who worked with Matthew and Lu online, goes to China to help. Connor Prikkel, an economist whose analysis of the value of MMORPG game items (all virtual) has made him a rich man, heads an effort to stop the gold farmers. Ashok Balgoganda Tilak, a Hindu activist and economist who is helping Big Sister Nor in India, forms a plan to gain control of the game economies in order to give the Webblies some leverage with the game companies. A new revolution is about to occur, one that cannot be contained by borders.

Doctorow understands the information age the power and it can have. The technology the average person has access to is extremely powerful. Using equipment that one can find at a Best Buy or Radio Shack, one can have television, radio or movie studio capable of producing a quality product. The Internet knows no borders, and world communication has never been easier.

For the Win is a thematic sequel to **Little Brother**. In **Little Brother**, a teen is able to use the technology at hand to practice civil disobedience against a corrupt and incompetent Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Doctorow ups the ante in **For the Win**. Where Marcus had some legal protection from DHS, most of the foreign protagonists have none against their adversaries. They face physical intimidation, incarceration without any due process, rape and death. Since the concept of their work is unknown to the older generation, it is hard for the Webblies to get help from well-established labor organizations. Despite this Mala, Yasmin, Matthew, Lu and Jiandi continue to fight for their rights. Like most revolutions, this one gets messy and Doctorow does not shy away from that. The end of the novel is not an overwhelming victory over the bosses, but a success where a more-stable labor situation can be established.

Doctorow is able stop the action and go into the macroeconomics that drives the book’s plot. The theories are put forth in a clear and concise way. These sections are not boring and given the recent economic upheavals very relevant. This is the main science **For the Win** explores.

Inception

WARNING POSSIBLE SPOILERS

Inception was written and directed by Christopher Nolan (**Batman Begins**, **The Dark Knight**). The cast consists of Leonardo De Caprio, Ellen Page, Ken Watanabe, Joseph Gordon-Hewitt, Tom Hardy, Marion Cotillard, Cillian Murphy and Michael Caine.

Set in the near-future, technology has been created for people to interface with other people’s dreams. One industry

created by this technology is extraction, stealing information from people’s minds during their dreams. “Inception” is putting an idea in someone’s mind which is considered virtually impossible. Cobb (De Caprio), an extractor and fugitive in the US, is offered amnesty in exchange for committing inception. Cobb must convince a businessman’s son, Robert Fisher (Cillian Murphy),¹ to disassemble his father’s empire. Cobb assembles a top notch team of experts including a neophyte Ariadne (Page) for the assignment. Cobb explains the dream interface technology to Ariadne, who must design the dream worlds needed to pull the job. Cobb, desperate to be reunited with his children, does not expose the team to the full risks of the job. Ariadne finds out that Cobb’s guilt over the death of his wife is a threat to the mission. There is no way to abort the mission. They must plant the desired idea into Fisher’s mind or be trapped in an intense dream state which they may never escape.

Nolan does a good job of setting up this world. The film is a mix of science fiction and caper picture like **Oceans 11**. The exposition on how the dream tech work is done mainly through conversations. The film does not drag during these scenes. Nolan also creates the surreal world of dreams. If you ever had a lucid dream then this is the film for you. This world is an unnerving one. The idea that someone can enter your head during dreams is frightening. I was always told you were always free inside your head. In this world this is no longer true. The only saving grace is that inception is very difficult. Nolan sets up the possibility of the concept working by having Cobb’s team studying Fisher and figuring out how to manipulate him toward the desired action.

Cobb is a passionate man. The inception job is a means to an end. He is willing to risk it all to get back to his children. Cobb’s failure to deal with his past could prevent that.

The other characters are not as developed. We do not know anything their pasts. Their role is to fulfill a part of mission.

Ariadne is an effective viewpoint character. The audience learns the most about dream interface technology as she learns it. The only bad thing is we do not know why she is joining Cobb. One assumes it is for the money or intellectual challenge of designing the dreamscapes needed for the task. We also do not know why Ariadne chose a bishop chess piece as her totem (an object that helps a dream agent determine if they are in the real world or not).

The film’s ending may anger some. One is not sure if Cobb achieved his goal or he is still trapped in a dream world. This has a certain appeal since it means the ending is determined by the outlook of the viewer. If the viewer is a pessimist then Cobb is trapped in a dream. If they are optimists then Cobb succeeded and is living with his children. It is nice to have a movie that does not spell out everything and leaves something to the viewer’s imagination.



**SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
IN ORLANDO**

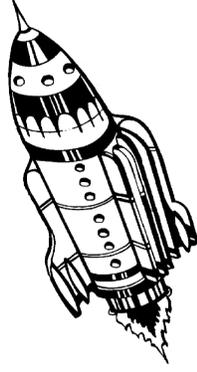
OASIS 24

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

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

Joe Fan
123 Sesame Street
Orlando, FL 32805

More to be announced

Gaming info will be at
www.warhorn.org

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Weekend Memberships:
\$30 until 1/1/11,
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\$40 at the door.

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