



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Getting ready for Anime Festival Orlando 13, *Star Wars* Celebration VI, and Worldcon in Chicago. Hope to see some of you there.

There was a lot going on this month.

Florida Supercon happened on pre-4th of July weekend in Miami. Unfortunately, I did not have time to do a proper report, but got some pictures. It was a great convention for old school comic book fans since Roy Thomas (writer and former Marvel Editor-in-Chief), Carmine Infantino (artist and DC Editor-in-Chief), Howard Chaykin (writer and artist), Neal Adams (artist) and Denny O’Neill (writer and editor) were there.

We had a great 4th of July party at Patricia’s. Next was Ancient City Con 6 in Jacksonville and Southern Media Con. Again, I did not have time to do a proper report but I got some pictures of the former event. They were both fun cons I wish I could spent some more time there.

Next month there may be an Anime Festival Orlando and *Star Wars* Celebration report.

Events

Anime Festival Orlando 13

August 3– 5

Wyndham Orlando Resort

8001 International Drive

Orlando, FL 32819

Guests: Jason David Frank(Green Ranger, *Power Rangers*)

Jason Narvy (voice actor)

Dan Southworth (Skull, *Power Rangers*)

Richard Epcar, (voice actor)

Tara Strong, (voice actor)

Sonny Strait (voice actor)

Dan Southworth (actor, *Power Rangers*)

Ellyn Stern (voice actor)

Grey Delisle (voice actor)

DC Douglas (voice actor)

Kyle Hebert (voice actor)

\$50 for all three days

www.animefestivalorlando.com

Mizucon

August 17-19

Hyatt Regency Miami

711 N.W. 72nd Avenue

Miami, Florida, 33126

Guests: Monica Rial (voice actor)

Lisa Ortiz (voice actor)

Doug Smith (voice actor)

If you register to stay 2 nights or more at the Doubletree Miami Airport during the convention, you will receive 2 FREE adult 3-day badges

\$45 at the door for a three day membership

www.mizucon.com

Star Wars Celebration VI

Orange County Convention Center Hall E1

9899 International Drive

Orlando, FL 32819

Guests: Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker)

Carrie Fisher (Leia Organa)

Anthony Daniels (C-3PO)

Kenny Baker (R2-D2)

Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca)

Ian McDiarmid (Emperor Palpatine)

Kevin Smith (film director)

Adult 4-Day Passes - \$135 pre con ,

\$145 at the door

Adult Sat Passes - \$54 pre con ,

\$60 at the door

Adult Passes (non Sat) - \$48 pre con

\$54 at the door

www.starwarscelebration.com

Award News

2012 Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award Winner

(Source *Locus* website)

Frederic Brown is the winner of Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award. The Award is intended to bring attention to lesser known science fiction and fantasy writers. Brown is best know for his

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August OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, August 12, Brick and Fire Pasta and Pizza Parlor (Downtown Orlando, 1621 South Orange Ave Orlando, Florida 32806)

To contact for more info: 407-823-8715

SciFi Light TBD

For more info contact Steve Grant

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short story "Arena" which was adapted for both the *Outer Limits* and *Star Trek*. His novels include *What a Mad Universe* (1949) and *Matrians, Go Home* (1955). This was announced at Readercon 23 on July 12-15, 20112

2012Prometheus Awards (source *Locus* website)

This award is presented by the Libertarian Futurist Society. The awards will be presented at Chicon 7, the 69th annual Worldcon, to be held August 30-September 3, 2012 in Chicago, Illinois. Delia Sherman, Ernest Cline, and the estate of E.M. Foster will receive a gold coin and plaque.

- Best Novel
- ***Ready Player One***, Ernest Cline (Crown)
- ***The Freedom Maze***, Delia Sherman (Small Beer)
- Hall of Fame -
"The Machine Stops", E.M. Forster (1909)

2011 Rhysling Award Winners (source *Locus* website)

This award presented by the Science Fiction Poetry Association.

Short Poem

First Place
"The Library, After", Shira Lipkin (*Mythic Delirium* 6/11)

Second Place
"The Lend", Erik Amundsen (*Stone Telling* 9/11)

Third Place
"In Translation", Lyn C.A. Gardner (*Tales of the Talisman* Summer '11)

Long Poem

First Place
"The Curator Speaks in the Department of Dead Languages", Megan Arkenberg (*Strange Horizons* 6/27/11)

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

Second Place

"The 25-Cent Rocket: One-Quarter of the Way to the Stars", G.O. Clark & Kendall Evans (*Dreams and Nightmares* 5/11)

Third Place

"The Legend of the Emperor's Space Suit (A Tale of Consensus Reality)", Mary Turzillo (*New Myths* 12/11)

Poems are chosen by the membership of the SFPA, who vote on a list of nominations made by individual members and published in the *Rhysling Anthology*. Winners are regularly reprinted in the annual *Nebula Awards Anthology*.

Spirited Away

I first saw *Spirited Away*, then the latest Hayao Miyazaki/Studio Ghibli film, at the end of JACON 2002. At that point, I had seen *Kiki's Delivery Service* and *Princess Mononoke*. *Princess Mononoke* was just incredible. I really wanted to see what Miyazaki did next. I was completely blown away. *Spirited Away* won the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature film, despite having a limited English release, and competing against more well-known films, like Disney's *Lilo and Stich* and Fox's *Ice Age*. It was the only anime ever nominated for the Hugo. I later used clips from the film to create my first anime music video. The film was recently shown at the Enzian (Orlando's alternative movie theater). After 10 years, the film still holds up.

Ten-year-old Chihiro (Daveigh Chase) is moving to her new house. On the way there, her father makes a wrong turn and finds what appears to be an abandoned theme park. While exploring the park, they find a buffet. Chihiro walks around while her parents eat the food. A young boy tells her to leave. She

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Florida Supercon



Clockwise starting at the top left
Katniss Evergreen,
Representatives from all the Lantern Corps,
Captain America,
Some Power Rangers

Thanks to Mark Baumgarten for lending me his iPhone while my camera was in the shop.



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returns to the buffet to find her parents have turned into pigs. Chihiro is trapped in a spirit world. Haku (James Marsden), the young who warned her to leave, tells her to apply for a job at the bath house which will keep her safe until they can make a plan to save their parents. Chihiro is able to get employment from the bathhouse's owner, the witch Yubaba (Suzanne Pleshette), and is renamed Sen and sent to assist Lin (Susan Egan), one of the more-human looking workers at the bath house. While there Chihiro has to deal with a stink spirit, a wounded Haku, a mad spirit who eats her fellow workers, a giant baby, and she has to save her parents.

Chihiro is one of the great heroines of all time. She starts off as sullen and whiny. She is not happy with having to relocate and losing her old friends. Chihiro finds that she has what it takes to face these fantastic challenges during her adventures. Chihiro is the first to realize there is something odd with the place her family has found, and does not eat the food. She listens to the advice that Haku and others give her. Peter David wrote an article which pointed out that Dorothy in the 1939 *Wizard of Oz* did not really have any agency of her own. She depends on her friends to rescue her. While Chihiro does get help, she has the follow-through to solve her own problems. She has to face Yubaba's physical and mental intimidation (Yubaba has a large head with beak like nose and a small torso) on her own and demands a job. She cures the stink spirit of his affliction. She saves Haku from his injuries. At the end of the story, there is little that can frighten Chihiro.

There are no villains in this film. Yubaba is mean, greedy, and involves Haku in some nefarious schemes, but she is not out to hurt anyone or take over the world. "No Face", the spirit that goes mad, is being influenced by the negative elements around him and needs help. Situations get out of control and Chihiro and her friends have to fix the problem.

The images in this film are incredible. No one does landscapes like Miyazaki. The sky, vegetation, texture, and water look so real. There is always something new to look at. There are sentient frogs. There are radish spirits. There is magically-animated soot which moves coal into the boiler. There is a boiler man with six arms. There are three bouncing heads which are servants for Yubaba. There are spirits that appear as mere shadows. There is a jumping lantern which is tribute to Miyazaki's friends at Pixar. There are trains that go over the water. We are convinced when creatures defy gravity. This is shown by how the air moves around the object or a shot of the ground moving away. There is so much to see in this film, it merits re-watching.

The team at Disney did an excellent job in dubbing the film in English. They went with casting someone close to Chihiro's age. Chase does a good job of conveying Chihiro's fear and anxiety and her confidence at the end. Suzanne Pleshette makes Yubaba and her twin sister Zeniba distinct. When she tells Chihiro she is not worthy of her bath house it is really scary. Susan Egan portrays Lin with the right amount of sassiness. Tara Strong shows both the strength and immaturity of Boh, Yubaba's giant baby, with her voice. David Ogden Stiers shifts easily from cantankerous to compassionate as Kamaji, the bathhouse boiler man.

The success of this film brought the world's attention to the work of Studio Ghibli. Since then, Studio Ghibli films are

regularly-released in the United States. This brought more interest to anime and changed the way the world looks at animation.

Rocket Girls
by
Housuke Nojiri

Everyone wants to go into space, right? Everyone wants to go and have an adventure in the final frontier. Yukari Morita becomes an astronaut as a means to an end. Her desires are a more Earthbound, but as her training progresses, she begins to understand people's love of space.

Sixteen-year-old Yukari is searching for her father, who disappeared during his honeymoon. Her search takes her to the Solomon Islands in the Pacific. She comes to the base of the Solomon Space Authority (SSA), a Japanese private space venture. The SSA is trying to get a manned space flight program started. They are having a difficult time getting their new rocket working properly. In order to make their sponsor's deadline, the SSA opts to use an older-model rocket which will work, but has never carried a human payload. They plan to scrap all excess weight on the rocket, so it will take an astronaut. Yukari's weight of 37 kilograms makes her ideal astronaut material to the SSA. The SSA's director, Nasuda, promises to help Yukari find her father in exchange for her services as an astronaut, so Yukari begins the strenuous training regimen of required. Soon other teenage girls are recruited by the SSA. Can they face the physical and mental challenges in order to become astronauts? Will Yukari be able to reunite her family?

The science here is pretty plausible. The biggest extrapolation is the new skin-tight space suits designed by Motoko, the SSA's chemist. They provided the protection needed for space but are not as bulky as current space suits. There is also a new fuel that SSA is developing. The chemistry is over my head, but it feels plausible. Nojiri takes into account the economics of space. The SSA has to develop a system which can get a person into space as cheaply as possible. Nasuda wants to provide cheap access to space in order to maintain satellites. This would give these satellites longer life and also make them more cost-effective.

This story also has a light hearted side. The SSA is the classic underdog taking a project that appears bigger than them. The members of SSA are fanatically dedicated to getting a person into space. Dr. Satuski has the ability to determine an individual's height and weight by sight and likes to take people to the edge of their physical limits in the centrifuge. Motoko has a tendency to create large explosions for her experiments. Nasuda will do anything to keep the SSA going and that includes exploiting the appeal of Yukari and her fellow astronauts appeal. There are also some humorous parts related to the space flights themselves, such as when Yukari's capsule lands at her old school in Japan twice!

This is a great combination of hard science and comedy. *Rocket Girls* does not shy away from the risks associated with space travel, but also it does not take away the awe of it. *Rocket Girls* reminds us that going into space can be fun.

Ancient Comic Con VI



Going to left to right.
Catwoman,
Charlotte Elbourne from Bloodlust

Here's a tip from **OASIS 26**, in
Orlando, May 24-26, 2013.
You're welcome!

**Here's a novel idea...
Pay us less money!**

For 25 years, OASIS has been the convention run *by fans, for fans*, and run for fun, not profit. Ask about our events and guests; you'll *know* you want to come to OASIS 26. We always make your Memorial Day Weekend memorable!

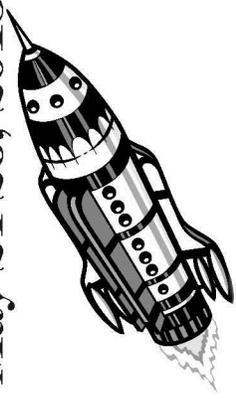
But why pay **\$40 at the door** for all three days? You get the same great convention for **\$30 if you pre-register before January 1, 2013**. Pre-register before **April 30, 2013** and you pay only **\$35!** Pay us less money by paying us *now!*

Memorial Day Weekend 2013, OASIS 26 brings you...

- ▶ **Guest of Honor Seanan McGuire** (*Discount Armageddon* and the *October Daye* series) - more guests coming soon
- ▶ **Free Book Signings** by our author guests
- ▶ The biggest little **Art Show and Sale** of any Florida con
- ▶ The infamous **Cthulhu Chili Cookoff**: test your original chili recipe on our guests and the audience
- ▶ **Movies and Videos**, famous and long-lost, all day
- ▶ **Role Playing, Strategy and Card Gaming**
- ▶ **Panels, Costume Contest, Filk Music and fun**
- ▶ **Real-world space science** and updates from NASA
- ▶ **Great stuff to buy** from our dealers

Joe Fan
123 Sesame Street
Orlando, FL 32805

OASIS 26
May 24-26, 2013



We're negotiating hotel and guests right now. **Don't wait;** your membership will get you a great room and rate!

Mail check or money order, *made out to OASFiS*, to:

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PO Box 323

Goldenrod FL 32733-0333

Register online with PayPal on our web site! See details at

www.oasfis.org/oasis

Presented by OASFiS
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