



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Spent some time working on OASIS 26 and doing my Hugo reading. All the nominees are very good and deserve to be recognized.

Next month, I plan to checkout both Florida Supercon and Ancient City Con. There should be opportunities for some pictures at both those events. There will be a couple of reviews



Ascendio 2012
July 12-15
Loews Portofino Bay Hotel
5601 Universal Blvd.
Universal Orlando
Orlando, Florida 32819
Harry Potter Conference
Asfan Azad (Padma Patil)
Chris Rankin (Percy Weasley)
\$250 Full Registration, \$75 Day Pass
More memberships available at website
hp2012.org

Orlando Anime Day
July 14
International Palms Resort & Convention Center
6515 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819
\$3 at the door
www.orlando.animeday.net/

Ancient City Con V
July 20-22
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
Terrance Pavilion 1
225 Easy Coast Line Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32202
\$45 at the door for 3 days, \$10 for Friday
\$20 for Saturday, \$15 for Sunday
Guests:
Gary Roen
Kevin Ranson
T.S. Robinson
ancientcitycon.com

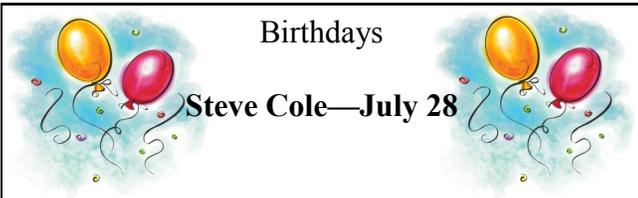
Southern Media Con
July 20-22
Hilton Bayfront
333 First Street South
St Petersburg, FL 33701
www.stonehill.org/vid_con.htm

Events

Dice Tower Con
July 5-8
Ramada Gateway Kissimmee
470 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway - Kissimmee,
FL 32619
Gaming
\$35 for weekend
www.boardgaming.info/convention/index-2.php

Birthdays

Steve Cole—July 28



July OASFiS Calendar

4th of July Party

12:30 PM, Patricia Wheeler's House, 8029 Citron Court Orlando, FL (see page 4)

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, July 10, 1:30 PM, Brick and Fire Pasta and Pizza Parlor (Downtown Orlando, 1621 South Orange Ave Orlando, Florida 32806) Come join us as we discuss the 2012 Hugo nominees.

SciFi Light Summer Film Series

Friday July 27, 7:00 PM, *Metropolis* directed by Fritz Lang at Garden Theater (160 West Palm Street, Winter Garden, FL 34787). For more info contact Steve Grant

To contact for more info:

OASFiS Business Meeting 407-823-8715

OASFiS People

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Juan Sanmiguel	407-823-8715 sanmiguel@earthlink.net
Patricia Wheeler	407-832-1428 pwheeler11@cfl.rr.com

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

Awards

(Locus website)

The 2012 John W. Campbell Memorial Award finalists have been named:

- *Ready Player One*, Ernest Cline (Crown)
- *This Shared Dream*, Kathleen Ann Goonan (Tor)
- *Soft Apocalypse*, Will McIntosh (Night Shade)
- *Embassytown*, China Miéville (Del Rey)
- *The Islanders*, Christopher Priest (Gollancz)
- *The Highest Frontier*, Joan Slonczewski (Tor)
- *Dancing with Bears*, Michael Swanwick (Night Shade)
- *Osama*, Lavie Tidhar (PS)
- *Robocalypse*, Daniel H. Wilson (Simon & Schuster)
- *Home Fires*, Gene Wolfe (Tor)
- *Seed*, Rob Ziegler (Night Shade)

The finalists for the 2012 Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award have been announced:

- “Six Months, Three Days”, Charlie Jane Anders (Tor.com 6/8/11)
- “The Copenhagen Interpretation”, Paul Cornell (*Asimov's* 7/11)
- “Ghostweight”, Yoon Ha Lee (*Clarkesworld* 1/11)
- “The Old Equations”, Jake Kerr (*Lightspeed* 7/11)
- “The Man Who Ended History: A Documentary”, Ken Liu (*Panverse Three*)
- “The Paper Menagerie”, Ken Liu (*F&SF* 3-4/11)
- “The Choice”, Paul McAuley (*Asimov's* 2/11)
- *Silently and Very Fast*, Catherynne M. Valente (WSFA; *Clarkesworld* 10/11)
-

“The Man Who Bridged the Mist” by Kij Johnson (*Asimov's* 10-11/11) was a finalist, but Johnson, a juror, removed it from consideration.

Both awards will be presented during the Campbell Conference Awards Banquet, to be held July 5-8, 2012 at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

The winners of the 2012 *Locus* Awards have been announced:

Science Fiction Novel: *Embassytown*, China Miéville (Del Rey; Macmillan)

Fantasy Novel: *A Dance with Dragons*, George R.R. Martin (Bantam; Harper Voyager UK)

First Novel: *The Night Circus*, Erin Morgenstern (Doubleday)

Young Adult Book: *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making*, Catherynne M. Valente (Feiwel and Friends)

Novella: *Silently and Very Fast*, Catherynne M. Valente (WSFA; *Clarkesworld*)

Novelette: “White Lines on a Green Field”, Catherynne M. Valente (*Subterranean* Fall ’11)

Short Story: “The Case of Death and Honey”, Neil Gaiman (*A Study in Sherlock*)

Anthology: *The Year’s Best Science Fiction: Twenty-eighth Annual Collection*, Gardner Dozois, ed. (St. Martin’s Griffin)

Collection: *The Bible Repairman and Other Stories*, Tim Powers (Tachyon)

Non-fiction: *Evaporating Genres: Essays on Fantastic Literature*, Gary K. Wolfe (Wesleyan)

Art Books: *Spectrum 18: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art*, Cathy Fenner & Arnie Fenner (Underwood)

Artist: Shaun Tan

Editor: Ellen Datlow

Magazine: *Asimov’s*

Publisher: Tor

Winners were announced during the *Locus* Awards Weekend in Seattle WA, June 15-17, 2012.

Redshirts

by
John Scalzi

A stereotypical character that is killed shortly after being introduced is called a “redshirt”. In the classic *Star Trek* those in the Starfleet Engineering and Service Division wore red shirts. Many of the characters killed off in each episode came from this division. Sometimes the term “redshirts” has been used either in the scripts of shows as *Lost*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and *Warehouse 13*. *Redshirts* explores what would the live of these characters would be like.

It all begins when Ensign Andrew Dahl is assigned to the Universal Union starship *Intrepid*. He starts to notice odd things about the ship. Lower-ranking officers seem to have a tendency to die on away missions in some unusual ways. Some crew members seem to have figured out how to avoid the senior officers who appear to be connected to these deaths. After narrowly surviving an away mission, Dahl seeks to find the answers about the unusual nature of the *Intrepid*. A fellow crew member has a theory which is beyond belief, but Dahl observes that the facts support this incredible theory behind *Intrepid*’s casualty rates. If Dahl and his friends cannot find a solution, they may also find themselves next to die on an away mission.

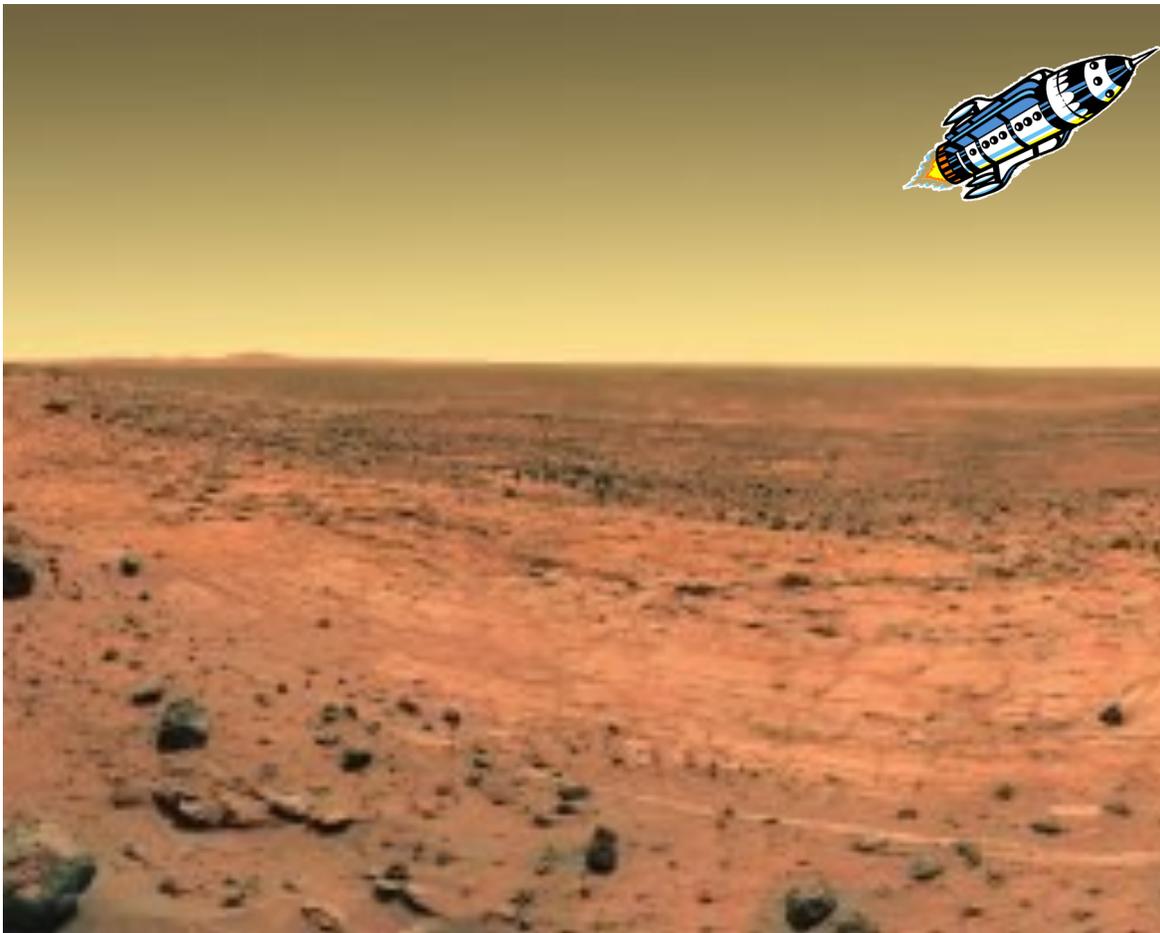
Dahl is not satisfied with the status quo. He cannot accept living in fear, as many of the more established members of *Intrepid* crew do. He thinks outside the box and does not accept the theory immediately. The events of the next mission prove it. He is willing to take a chance of a risky solution. Dahl would rather try to solve the problem than avoid it.

Redshirts is the opposite of an “idiot plot”. The “idiot plot” is a plot that can only work if everyone in the story is an idiot. This usually happens as way to create tension or jeopardy in the story. When the characters in *Redshirts* behave irrationally, it is because of an outside force, the one that has to be dealt with. Once Dahl and the others realize what is going on they rebel against the idiot plot, and gain control of their lives.

Scalzi is able to lighten the situation with humor. There are a couple of times that Dahl’s team has to take someone prisoner. In order to keep each under control, they take their pants away. It is very effective and funny to see the prisoner dealing with being pant-less during an escape. This is really necessary, since the situation is so dire.

There are no real villains in the novel. No one has it in for Dahl and his friends. The force which is working against Dahl is never fully explained. The solution is not the destruction of this force, but working within the rules of the situation.

At the end of the novel everyone is more empowered than they were at the beginning. Dahl and his friends are back in control of their fate. Their actions are also able to liberate others. This is covered in three codas which focus on characters not directly connected with Dahl. The codas reinforce the need for people to take control of their own lives rather than simply drift by or allow others to determine their destiny.



Ray Bradbury

The first thing that comes to my mind about Ray Bradbury was that he was the science fiction writer English teachers liked. He showed up regularly in English text books. I remember reading “Mars is Heaven” aka “The Third Expedition” in an English text in what was once called junior high. I remember my sophomore (and senior) English teacher in high school holding Bradbury in higher regard than other writers in the field. He gained the admiration of the mainstream literary establishment.

Bradbury, Asimov, and Clarke were the writers who regularly appeared on television when I was growing up. They would show up on a science show or some news show about something science fiction-y. One time my brother gave me a tape of Ray Bradbury being interviewed by Larry King. This would have been in the mid-80s. The interview was at an interesting point in Bradbury’s life: he had just flown in an airplane for the first time.

I think by that time I had read most of the classics: *Fahrenheit 451*, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, *The Illustrated Man* and *The Martian Chronicles*.

Fahrenheit 451 taught me how reading can be subversive and how that is not necessarily a bad thing. I thought it is better to be thinking and critical of the world than dumb and being happy all the time, like most of the citizens of Montag’s

world.

Something Wicked This Way Comes shows that ordinary people can face a powerful supernatural force and win. Neil Gaiman and Hayao Miyazaki also explored this theme. This was a powerful message in the 80s where the Jasons and Freddy Kruegers seem to always have the upper hand.

The Martian Chronicles was my favorite. I know Bradbury himself felt it was more fantasy than science fiction, but to me it felt like the latter. The Martians were depicted as true aliens who had a culture that deserved to be preserved. Despite the Martians’ best efforts, humans overcame them, which seemed a bittersweet victory. In “The Night Meeting” a Martian and a human meet. They are both ghosts to each other, and try to prove the other exists. They realize they are from another time but cannot agree who is in the past. The human sees ruins, whereas the Martian sees a populated city. The Martian shows the human that in the end it does not matter who is in the past since civilizations rise and fall. It is best to enjoy the moment. I always wondered if the Martians in *Stranger in a Strange Land* were a homage to Bradbury’s Martians since both had powerful psychic abilities.

At LA Con IV, the 2006 Worldcon, I saw Bradbury give a talk. He explained how he met a carnival showman, Mr. Electrico, as a young boy. He touched the young Bradbury after being electrocuted and said to live forever. The way he told that story made me believe it was possible that he could.

Best Fan Cast

I love radio. I think the idea of voices from the air is so neat. In the early 80s NPR had a show called *NPR Playhouse* which presented a radio play version of *Star Wars: A New Hope*, *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* and broadcasted *The Hitch Hiker Guide to the Galaxy* in the United States. When podcasts started to come out I was a big fan. When over-the-air radio in Orlando recently took a turn for the worst, I started listening to more podcasts while driving.

The idea of a Hugo for Best Fan Cast started in 2010 when *StarShipSofa*, a British podcast, asked if it could be nominated for Best Fanzine. The Worldcon decided to let it be on the ballot. It won the Hugo for Best Fanzine in 2010. There was some controversy whether a podcast should compete with traditional fanzines, many of which are still in a print format but are distributed electronically. This year the Worldcon created a special category for Best Fan Cast. A fan cast is any non-professional audio- or video-casting with at least four episodes that had at least one episode released in 2011. This category received over 326 ballots. I will discuss each of the nominees in the order in which I will vote, from fifth to first place.

StarShipSofa is a weekly podcast produced by Tony C. Smith. Each episode contains a work of short fiction, usually a novelette and/or a short story. There are a couple of non-fiction columns which cover book reviews, radio shows, science, and poetry. The stories that are picked out are some of the best short fiction. The fiction is read aloud rather than performed as a radio play and the show has great readers. All of the fiction is from well-known science fiction writers. The only reason I rate this so low is because *StarShipSofa* is more like a semi-prozine than a fanzine, and should be nominated as such, as I did on my ballot.

The Coode Street Podcast is a weekly podcast produced and hosted by Jonathan Strahan and Gary K. Wolfe. Strahan is a noted Australian anthologist and review editor for *Locus*. Gary Wolfe teaches at Roosevelt University in Chicago and has been reviewing novels in *Locus* for over 20 years. Strahan and Wolfe see the show as a continuation of the discussion they had about the science fiction field with their friend and *Locus* founder and publisher Charles N. Brown. This podcast is very academically-oriented. They discuss the state of the field, and awards and interview writers. Strahan and Wolfe have a genuine love for the field, though I sometimes question their opinions on certain works. They give an interesting view of the field.

SF Signal Podcast is released twice a week and is hosted by John DeNardo and JP Frantz and produced by Patrick Hester. The podcast that comes out at the beginning of the week features a couple of people discussing a topic. It feels like a convention panel. The second weekly podcast is an interview with a science fiction/fantasy writer. The panel podcast topics are very interesting. Recent topics include military science fiction, the length of the moratorium on book spoilers, female superheroes, and NASA vs Trek. The conversation is easy to follow, and it is pretty engaging.

Galactic Suburbia Podcast is a weekly show based out of Australia and is hosted by Alisa Krasnostein, Alex Pierce, and Tansy Rayner Roberts and produced by Andrew Finch. Krasnostein is an engineer and independent publisher. Pierce is a

reviewer and teacher. Roberts is a fantasy writer. The show discusses the latest news about science fiction and fantasy. The hosts then discuss what they have been reading and/or watching in their "Culture Consumed" section. The show brings feminist issues to the forefront, and they give listeners an insight of the Australian speculative fiction scene. It is both easy-going and passionate about the issues the hosts care about. As an American male, it is great to get these observations on the field.

SF Squeecast is a monthly podcast hosted by Lynn Thomas and produced by Carole Brown. The regular contributors include Elizabeth Bear, Paul Cornell, Seanan McGuire, and Catherynne M. Valente. Thomas and the other contributors come to discuss science fiction and fantasy works that they wish to praise or "squee" about. Occasionally, they will discuss a topic like Christopher Priest's rant against the nominations made by the Arthur C. Clarke Award judges. The show usually invites a guest. That guest is asked nine amusing questions, which include their favorite joke, favorite word and first book read on their own volition. This is a great place to hear of cool things to look for, including books, comics, television, film, game or alternate media.

Hopefully, the Best Fan Cast will gain some momentum and become a permanent part of the Hugos.



SF/Fantasy Books That Shaped America (source *File 770* RSS feed)

The Library of Congress launched a multi-year Celebration of the Book on June 25 with its exhibition of Books That Shaped America. James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, explains: "This list of 'Books That Shaped America' is a starting point. It is not a register of the 'best' American books—although many of them fit that description. Rather, the list is intended to spark a national conversation on books written by Americans that have influenced our lives, whether they appear on this initial list or not."

SF and fantasy books making the cut are:

- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *Stranger in a Strange Land* by Robert Heinlein
- *Tarzan of the Apes* by Edgar Rice Burroughs
- *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
- *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum

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

OASIS
PO Box 323
Goldenrod, FL 32733-0323

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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Register online with PayPal on our web site! See details at www.oasfis.org/oasis

