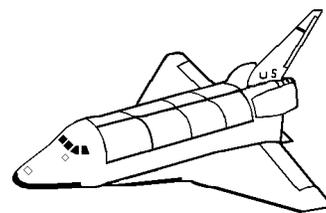


The



SHUTTLE

Our 20<sup>th</sup> Year of Publication May 2000

The Next NASFA Meeting is 13 May 2000
Business Meeting to be at the Regular Time and Location
Program to be Held at Robin Ray's House — see below
ConCom Meeting to be Held 11 May 2000

Oyez, Oyez

The next NASFA meeting will be 13 May 2000. Note that this is a week earlier than the usual schedule (due to Deep-SouthCon). The meeting will start at the regular time (6P) and the regular location (room 130 of the Madison City Municipal Building), but from there we deviate a bit.

The May program will be Sam Barron of Suncoast Video speaking on Japanese Animation. Due to the need for AV equipment, we will relocate following the business meeting and hold the program at Robin Ray's house.

Speaking of which, the May after-the-meeting meeting will be at Robin Ray's house — 111 Wingfield Drive in Madison. Call her at 464-9818 if you need directions.

May ConCom Meeting Set

The first Con+Stellation XIX: Virgo con committee meeting will be held 11 May 2000 at Robin Ray's house. Contrary to previous rumors this will be an eating meeting with the eating starting at 6:30P and the meeting proper afterwards.

The food theme will be "things even a virgin wouldn't eat."

It was announced that future monthly concom meetings will generally be held on the Thursday immediately preceding each month's club meeting. Stay tuned, of course, for changes from that schedule.

Ben Bova to Speak in Huntsville

Science fiction author and editor Ben Bova has been announced as one of the keynote speakers at NASA's second "Turning Goals into Reality" conference in Huntsville AL. The conference will be held Thursday and Friday 18-19 May 2000 with Mr. Bova's presentation scheduled for the Awards Banquet the first night. There will also be a Marshall Space Flight Center open house during the day Saturday 20 May (see story elsewhere in this issue) and a pre-conference reception Wednesday night 17 May.

The conference is intended primarily for NASA and their contractors but is open to everyone. Email < tgir@msfc.nasa.gov > for registration information. The cost (payable by credit card only) is \$125 and early registration is recommended due to limited seating. For more information, including a tentative schedule, check out the conference web site < http:// tgir.msfc.nasa.gov/ >.

Inside this issue...

Table with 2 columns: Item and Page Number. Includes NASA Open House Set, Japan Reportedly to Bid for Worldcon, Minutes of the April Meeting, NASFA Calendar, NASFA Receivables, Book Reviews, Hugo and Campbell Awards Nominations, Analysis of Hugo Nominations, and Letters of Comment.

Deadline for the June 2000 issue of The NASFA Shuttle is Friday, 2 June 2000.

# NASA Open House in May

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center is having a free open house Saturday 20 May from 9A-6P. The public is encouraged to attend. You should enter Redstone Arsenal at gate 7 (Martin Road on the Huntsville Airport side), gate 8 (Goss Road from Jordan Land), or gate 9 (Rideout Road) and follow the signs to MSFC and the open house.

Quoting from one of the ads, the following attractions are promised: "astronauts, exhibits, giveaways, hot gas firings, movies, souvenirs, and space flight hardware."

## Japan Reportedly to Bid for Worldcon

The on-line version of *File 770* < <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/mglyer/f770/index.html> > has reported that Japanese fandom will finally be bidding to host the Worldcon, probably for 2005 or 2006. According to a letter from Takumi Shibano there has been no official announcement yet but that a bid chair has been selected (Hiraoki Inoue) and more details should be available by this coming summer. Again according to Mr. Shibano, the formal bidding process may not start until the Millennium Philcon (2001 Worldcon).

## April Minutes

as reported by unofficial under-secretary Jim Kennedy

President Anita E. called the meeting to order at 1825. As usual, Barney was the bangee of choice. Ewoks are still AWOL.

Anita remembered the crickets, and a discussion (digression) of camels ensued.

### OLD BUSINESS

Mike Cothran announced that the first concom meeting will be in May (as reported on the cover of the last *Shuttle*), not in April (as recorded in the minutes from the March NASFA meeting). (There, is that all clear?)

The discussion of camels continued. Anita observed that she had lost control of the meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

It was decided that the hearts should go the other way. (If you have to know, ask Robin Ray.)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was announced that there were no announcements.

### CONVENTION BUSINESS

There is still no Artist Guest of Honor and no Master of Ceremonies. Any volunteers? Mike Cothran said that Marie will present these as a *fait accompli* at the May NASFA meeting.

After some discussion, a motion passed 14-1 authorizing the absent Samuel Smith to proceed, at his discretion, with a bid for the 2K+2 DSC. Anita gave Sam a congratulatory phone call.

Mike Cothran announced that the first concom meeting will be 11 May at Robin Ray's house. This will be an eating meeting, with the theme being "Things Even A Virgin

Wouldn't Eat."

### ANNOUNCEMENTS REVISITED

(for those who slept or knitted through them the first time)

It was announced that Catherine de Camp died earlier this week. (It was reported elsewhere that she died quietly on 9 April.)

President Anita E. gaveled the meeting to adjournment at 1902, once again mercilessly smashing the Barney-encrusted plinth.

## NASFA Calendar

### MAY

- 11-14 World Horror Con 2000 — Denver CO.
- 11 Con†Stellation ConCom Meeting at Robin Ray's house. Eating at 6:30P, business following.
- 13\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business at the Madison City Municipal Building. Program (7P) and ATMM at Robin Ray's house. **NOTE: This meeting date was advanced one week due to conflict with DSC.**
- 14 BD: Debbie Hughes.
- 14 Mother's Day.
- 16 BD: Linda Bolgeo.
- 19-21 Son of BeachCon/DeepSouthCon 38 — Jeckyll Island GA.
- 19-21 Nebula Awards Weekend — New York NY.
- 19 BD: David O. Miller.
- 20 Armed Forces Day.
- 20 BD: Mike Glicksohn.
- 22 Victoria Day.
- 26-28 LibertyCon 14 — Chattanooga TN.
- 26-28 Oasis 13 — Orlando FL.
- 26-29 TachyCon 11 — Orlando FL.
- 27 BD: Kathy Paulk.
- 29 Memorial Day.

### JUNE

- 11 BD: Rhett Mitchell.
- 14 Flag Day.
- 17\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at the Madison City Municipal Building. ATMM TBD.
- 18 Father's Day.
- 19 BD: Julius [Julie] Schwartz. This is also the projected release date of Julie's book *Man of Two Worlds* — *My Life in Science Fiction and Comics* from Harper Entertainment.
- 28-02 SFRA 2000 — Cleveland OH.
- 29-02 Dragon\*Con 2000 — Atlanta GA.

### JULY

- 01 Canada Day.
- 02 BD: Deb Stone.
- 04 Independence Day.
- 06 BD: Mary Axford.
- 08-09 2000 J. W. Campbell Conference — Lawrence KS.
- 15\* NASFA Meeting — 6P Business, 7P Program, at the Madison City Municipal Building. ATMM TBD.
- 24 BD: Jay Johns.
- 28-30 Rivercon XXV — Louisville KY. This is the final Rivercon.
- 29 BD: Mark Paulk.



extension of the current situation and then shows one conceivable consequence of such inaction in a way that should shame some people into pushing for more activity. While I don't agree that all the features presented in this book are soundly based, I think there are enough things that can happen to Earth of this nature that it can serve as a wake-up call. The book has a happy ending, but only because the bad things that happen conveniently wait 30 more years or so from the present time during which critical preparations were made by enterprises outside the establishment. If they happened today, humanity would be wiped out.

**Earthweb** by Marc Stiegler, Baen Books, May 1999, Mass Market Paperback, ISBN 067157809X, 320pp, \$6.99. Reviewed by Randy B. Cleary.

Every five years for the last twenty, a huge world-destroying alien ship has come to our solar system bent on the total annihilation of humankind, each one tougher than the last. Mankind has destroyed four of these "Shiva" ships using all its resources just to get a small commando-style team onboard to blow it up from the inside. This novel is the story of the last ditch effort to stop "Shiva V" and how the Earthweb (the all encompassing Internet of the future that has effectively created a totally interconnected world) makes it possible. It focuses on a small cast of characters and their individual and collective efforts toward this effort. It's sort of a combination of *Ender's Game* meets *Rendezvous with Rama* meets *Doom* with cyberpunk themes.

This is a standard "set 'em up and knock 'em down" style plot. It moves at a good clip and has plenty of action. The extrapolation of the Internet and how it will change the world is presented in an interesting and clever fashion. Several of the web ideas so crucial in the book are in development right now. The characters are not deep but there is some effort to make them more than two-dimensional actors. If you like action and plausible extrapolation of current trends into the future, then you'll love this book. If you like complex plots and books about complex interactions of character relationships, you might not.



I enjoyed this book and found it an easy and fun read, though I did keep getting a déjà vu feeling as if I was playing a shoot-them-up video game. Politically I like the idea of the web taking more power away from the state and de facto giving it to the individual. I would have liked to know a little more about the why and how of the Shiva ships though. Perhaps in the sequels, we'll find this out.

You can read the first few chapters of Earthweb at <<http://www.baen.com>>.

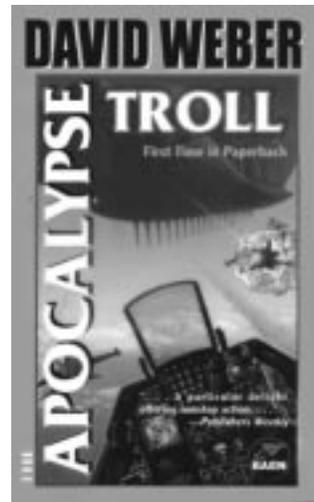
You can read other information related to Earthweb at <<http://www.the-earthweb.com>>.

**The Apocalypse Troll** by David Weber, Baen Books; January 2000, Mass Market Paperback, ISBN 0671578456, 398pp, \$7.99. Also available in a January 1999 hardcover from Baen.

Reviewed by Randy B. Cleary.

Hundreds of years in the future, humankind is on the verge of finally defeating an alien foe bent on the total annihilation of all other sentient species. In the ultimate "Hail Mary" plan, the enemy sends an assault force back in time to the 21<sup>st</sup> century to destroy Earth before first contact. Colonel Ludmilla Leonova's task force detects this sneak attack and engages the enemy in battle all the way back to 21<sup>st</sup> century Earth. There, the battle (but not the war) ends over a United States naval group in the middle of the Atlantic. Unfortunately, one of the enemy, a "troll" or alien cyborg, survives with a full ship of advanced weapons and technology. Colonel Leonova is the sole human survivor and escapes only with her flight suit and side arm (pretty amazing pieces of technology). Leonova is rescued by a SEAL commander, Richard Aston, with the connections to help Leonova in her mission. She knows she must destroy the "troll" before it completes its mission to destroy Earth or worse yet, enslave it. And now she has no choice but to enlist the aid of the local "primitives."

This is an action-filled book with real super-heroics. It's sort of *Star Trek: First Contact* meets *FootFall* meets Tom Clancy. I thought it was fun that the final confrontation takes place in and near Asheville, North Carolina (as I'm from North Carolina and am familiar with the area). The scenario is interesting in pitting basically the current level of technology against vastly superior technology of the "troll." There are some interesting extrapolations of current political situations in the next decade or so that set the stage for the book. This is not about ordinary people rising to meet a challenge. It's about extraordinary people rising to meet the ultimate challenge. Again, this is another pretty straight-forward "set 'em up and knock 'em down" style plot. There's not a whole lot of character development, but the relationship between Leonova and Aston does evolve (as expected). I found it a quick and entertaining read. It's a fairly self-contained story so I doubt there will be sequels, but that's really up to Weber and the Market.

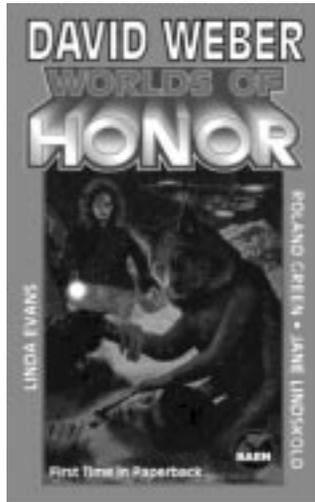


**Worlds of Honor** edited by David Weber, Baen Books, March 2000, Paperback, ISBN 0671578553, 414pp, \$6.99. Also available in a February 1999 hardcover from Baen. Reviewed by Randy B. Cleary.

David Weber, Linda Evans, Roland Green, and Jane Lindskold all contribute a total of five separate stories set in Weber's Honor Harrington universe. This book is the second to allow different authors explore this universe. The first was *Echoes of Honor*, which I recommend reading first. Despite the fact that I still have not read any actual Honor Harrington novels, I found this book a very entertaining read. From the trends, I would not be surprised that a whole series of novels, where the treecats are the star and not Honor Harrington, might be feasible.

“The Stray” by Linda Evans continues to explore the origins of treecat and human relationships that occurred long before Honor Harrington. This story is a mystery/crime-style story where a human and the treecats must work together to solve the cause of a tragic air crash. I enjoyed this story and thought it was as well written but not as emotionally gripping as the first account of treecat and human contact in *Echoes of Honor*.

“What Price Dreams?” by David Weber explores the effects that treecats in general and specifically have on a young princess destined to be Queen. The ultimate state of the treecats in relation to the Empire is decided. There is a heavy political intrigue element to the story. It was well paced with good character interaction and development. Though, the situations seemed a little forced at times, I found them interesting.



“Queens Gambit” by Jane Lindskold is similar in tone to “What Price Dreams?” where a young princess suddenly becomes Queen (who may be familiar to readers in an older version as Honor Harrington’s monarch, Elizabeth III) after the tragic death of the father, the King. This is another mystery/crime-style story where humans and treecats work together to save the day. There is also a lot of political intrigue in this story with good character interaction.

“The Hard Way Home” by David Weber is an honest-to-goodness Honor story with a young (not yet Captain) Honor Harrington who must overcome natural obstacles and bone-headed superiors to rescue the victims of a snow avalanche. The supporting characters are well fleshed out and interesting. This is a disaster/adventure-style story. I enjoyed it.

“Deck Load Strike” by Roland J. Green is the shortest and perhaps the weakest story in the collection, in my opinion. It’s an account of when the Manticore (good guys) and People’s Republic of Haven (not-so-good guys) came into conflict over a planet of strategic value. It’s a bit dry and depressing and really is about a small land-based conflict, so don’t expect any grand space battles. The characters are not well fleshed out so I did not care too much about what happened to them in the end. If you like battle accounts, you might have a different opinion though.

## 2000 Hugo Awards and John W. Campbell Award Nomination List

The Hugo Awards, given each year at the Worldcon, are voted on in advance of the convention by the membership of the current year’s con. Thus you must be a member (attending or supporting) of Chicon 2000 to vote in this year’s Hugo balloting. The John W. Campbell Award is not a Hugo (it is sponsored by Dell Magazines) but is voted on in the same way as the Hugos. The deadline for returning ballots is 31 July 2000. Mail ballots to Chicon 2000 Hugo Awards, P. O. Box 3407, Merrifield VA 22116-3407 or fax them to 312-946-3779.

To learn more about the Hugo Awards and the John W. Campbell Award you can visit Chicon’s Hugo web page at <<http://www.chicon.org/hugos>>. Contact the Hugo Administrator through the Hugo postal address above or via e-mail at <[hugos@chicon.org](mailto:hugos@chicon.org)>.

### BEST NOVEL

(334 nominations for 183 novels)

*A Civil Campaign* by Lois McMaster Bujold (Baen) <<http://www.dendarii.com/>>

*Cryptonomicon* by Neal Stephenson (Avon)

*Darwin’s Radio* by Greg Bear (HarperCollins UK; Del Rey) <<http://www.gregbear.com/>>

*A Deepness in the Sky* by Vernor Vinge (Tor) <<http://www.tor.com/sampleDeepness.html>>

*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* by J. K. Rowling (Bloomsbury; Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic Press) <<http://www.harrypotter.com/>>

### BEST NOVELLA

(191 nominations for 58 novellas)

“*The Astronaut From Wyoming*” by Adam-Troy Castro and Jerry Oltion (*Analog* 7-8/99) <<http://www.sff.net/people/J.Oltion/>>

“*Forty, Counting Down*” by Harry Turtledove (*Asimov’s*

12/99)

“*Hunting the Snark*” by Mike Resnick (*Asimov’s* 12/99) <<http://www.fortunecity.com/tattooine/farmer/2/>>

“*Son Observe the Time*” by Kage Baker (*Asimov’s* 5/99)

“*The Winds of Marble Arch*” by Connie Willis (*Asimov’s* 10-11/99) < <http://www.starsend.com/authors/cw/cwhome.htm> >

### BEST NOVELETTE

(168 nominations for 130 novelettes)

(six nominees due to a tie)

“*Border Guards*” by Greg Egan (*Interzone* 10/99) <<http://www.netSPACE.net.au/~gregegan/>>

“*The Chop Girl*” by Ian R. MacLeod (*Asimov’s* 12/99)

“*Fossil Games*” by Tom Purdom (*Asimov’s* 2/99) <<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/tompurdom/>>

“*The Secret History of the Ornithopter*” by Jan Lars Jensen (*F&SF* 6/99) < <http://users.uniserve.com/~janlarsj/janlarsj/> >

“*Stellar Harvest*” by Eleanor Arnason (*Asimov’s* 4/99)

“*10<sup>16</sup> to 1*” by James Patrick Kelly (*Asimov’s* 6/99) <<http://www.nh.ultranet.com/~jimkelly/>>

### BEST SHORT STORY

(189 nominations for 158 short stories)

“*Ancient Engines*” by Michael Swanwick (*Asimov’s* 2/99)

“*Hothouse Flowers*” by Mike Resnick (*Asimov’s* 10-11/99) <<http://www.fortunecity.com/tattooine/farmer/2/>>

“*macs*” by Terry Bisson (*F&SF* 10-11/99) <<http://www.terrybisson.com/>>

“*Sarajevo*” by Nick DiChario (*F&SF* 3/99) <<http://www.sff.net/people/Nickyboy/>>

“*Scherzo with Tyrannosaur*” by Michael Swanwick (*Asimov’s* 7/99)

### BEST RELATED BOOK

(167 nominations for 74 related books)

*Minicon 34 Restaurant Guide* by Karen Cooper and Bruce Schneier (Rune Press) < <http://www.mnsthf.org/minicon/minicon34/> >

*The Sandman: The Dream Hunters* by Neil Gaiman and Yoshitaka Amano (DC Comics/Vertigo < <http://www.dccomics.com/> >)

*Science Fiction of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* by Frank M. Robinson (Collectors Press)

*The Science of Discworld* by Terry Pratchett, Ian Stewart, and Jack Cohen (Ebury Press) < <http://www.lspace.org/> >

*Spectrum 6: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art* edited by Cathy and Arnie Fenner (Underwood)

### BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

(304 nominations for 106 dramatic presentations)

*Being John Malkovich* (Single Cell Pictures/Gramercy Pictures/Propaganda Films) Directed by Spike Jonze; Written by Charlie Kaufman < <http://www.beingjohnmalkovitch.com/> >

*Galaxy Quest* (DreamWorks SKG) Directed by Dean Parisot; Story by David Howard; Screenplay by David Howard and Robert Gordon < <http://www.galaxyquest.com/> >

*The Iron Giant* (Warner Bros. Animation) Directed by Brad Bird; Book by Ted Hughes; Screenplay by Brad Bird and Tim McCanlies < <http://www.irongiant.com/> >

*The Matrix* (Village Roadshow Productions/Groucho II Film Partnership/Silver Pictures) Directed by Andy and Larry Wachowski; Written by Andy and Larry Wachowski < <http://www.whatisthematrix.com/> >

*The Sixth Sense* (Spyglass Entertainment/Hollywood Pictures) Directed by M. Night Shyamalan; Written by M. Night Shyamalan < <http://movies.go.com/sixthsense/> >

### BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR

(203 nominations for 66 editors)

**Gardner Dozois** (*Asimov's Science Fiction*) < <http://www.asimovs.com/> >

**David G. Hartwell** (*Tor/Forge; Year's Best SF*) < <http://www.panix.com/~dgh/> >

**Patrick Nielsen Hayden** (*Tor Books; Starlight*) < <http://www.panix.com/~pnh/> >

**Stanley Schmidt** (*Analog Science Fiction and Fact*) < <http://www.analogsf.com/> >

**Gordon Van Gelder** (St. Martin's Press; *Fantasy & Science Fiction*) < <http://www.fsmsg.com/> >

### BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

(196 nominations for 103 artists)

**Jim Burns** **Bob Eggleton**

**Donato Giancola** < <http://www.donatoart.com/> >

**Don Maitz** < <http://www.paravia.com/DonMaitz/> >

**Michael Whelan** < <http://www.glassonion.com/> >

### BEST SEMIPROZINE

(168 nominations for 38 semiprozines)

*Interzone* edited by David Pringle

*Locus* edited by Charles N. Brown < <http://www.locusmag.com/> >

*The New York Review of Science Fiction* edited by Kathryn Cramer, Ariel Hamion, David G. Hartwell, and Kevin Maroney < <http://ebbs.english.vt.edu/olp/nyrsf/nyrsf.html> >

*Science Fiction Chronicle* edited by Andrew I. Porter < <http://www.sfsite.com/sfc/home.htm> >

*Speculations* edited by Kent Brewster < <http://www.speculations.com/> >

### BEST FANZINE

(195 nominations for 94 fanzines)

*Ansible* edited by Dave Langford < <http://www.ansible.demon.co.uk/> >

*Challenger* edited by Guy H. Lillian III

*File 770* edited by Mike Glycer < <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/mglyer/f770/index.html> >

*Mimosa* edited by Nicki and Richard Lynch < <http://jophan.org/mimosa/> >

*Plokta* edited by Alison Scott, Steve Davies, and Mike Scott < <http://www.plokta.com/> >

### BEST FAN WRITER

(191 nominations for 147 fan writers)

**Bob Devney** < <http://members.aol.com/~bobdevney/> >

**Mike Glycer** < <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/mglyer/f770/index.html> >

**Dave Langford** < <http://www.ansible.demon.co.uk/> >

**Evelyn C. Leeper** < <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/4824/> >

**Steven H Silver** < <http://www.sfsite.com/~silverag/> >

### BEST FAN ARTIST

(164 nominations for 101 fan artists)

**Freddie Baer** **Brad Foster** **Teddy Harvia**

**Joe Mayhew** **Taral Wayne**

### JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD

#### FOR BEST NEW WRITER

(110 nominations for 72 writers)

An award for the best new writer whose first work of science fiction or fantasy appeared during 1998 or 1999 in a professional publication. Sponsored by Dell Magazines.

**Cory Doctorow** (2<sup>nd</sup> year of eligibility) < <http://www.craphound.com/> >

**Thomas Harlan** (1<sup>st</sup> year of eligibility)

**Ellen Klages** (2<sup>nd</sup> year of eligibility) < <http://www.exo.net/~ellen/> >

**Kristine Smith** (1<sup>st</sup> year of eligibility) < <http://www.sff.net/people/ksmith/> >

**Shane Tourtellotte** (2<sup>nd</sup> year of eligibility) < <http://www.webspan.net/~smt/> >

Note on the web addresses listed: these are provided by Chicon to show, where possible, the appropriate home pages for the nominees. If you know of any web pages that should be linked from the Hugo Nominees page, please e-mail your suggestions to < [webmaster@chicon.org](mailto:webmaster@chicon.org) >.

## Analysis of 2000 Hugo Awards Nomination List

by Mike Kennedy

Herewith are just a few random thoughts about some of the recently-released Hugo nominations.

### BEST NOVEL

As predicted in last month's Shuttle, *A Civil Campaign* (Lois McMaster Bujold) made the nomination list. Given the current furor over J. K. Rowling's work, it was probably equally predictable that *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* would make the cut. Other nominated works (*Cryptonomicon*, *Darwin's Radio*, and *A Deepness in the Sky*) were for well-received books by well-known authors (Neal Stephenson, Greg Bear, and Vernor Vinge respectively).

## SHORT FICTION CATEGORIES

As usual, *Asimov's* dominated the short fiction nominations, this year getting eleven of the sixteen novella, novelette, and short story nominations. Other than *Asimov's*, only *F&SF* could manage more than one nomination, with a total of three. *Analog* and *Interzone* each received one nomination. One interesting non-pairing came in the novelette category where "Forty, Counting Down" (Harry Turtledove, 12/99, *Asimov's*) received a nomination while its companion piece "Twenty-One, Counting Up" (Turtledove, 12/99, *Analog*) did not. This perhaps lends additional credence to my impression that the likelihood of a Hugo nomination for short fiction depends strongly on where the piece is published.

## BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

In a weird sort of "upset," this category did not receive the most nominations, "losing" to the Best Novel category 304 to 334. It will be interesting to see if the same relationship holds true in the final balloting. Also in an upset, *Star Wars Episode I* failed to make the Hugo ballot. The items that did make the ballot were all theatrical movies — no TV episodes this year. The five nominated movies included one broad comedy (*Galaxy Quest*), one "family" movie (*The Iron Giant*), one just plain odd movie (*Being John Malkovich*), and two "serious" movies (*The Matrix* and *The Sixth Sense*). Which one is finally voted best may depend as much on the type of movie preferred by the voters as by the relative merits of the films.

## BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR, ARTIST, SEMI-PROZINE, FAN WRITER, and FAN ARTIST

None of these categories contained any particular surprises or anything I want to comment on.

## BEST FANZINE

Two of the nominated fanzines (Dave Langford's *Ansible* and the multi-editor zine *Plokta*) hale from the UK. The other three (*Challenger*, *File 770*, and *Mimosa*) come from this side of the pond. *Challenger* is the most demonstrably Southern of those zines, edited by New Orleans' own Guy H. Lillian III. *Mimosa* has southern roots, too, though editors Nicki and Richard Lynch currently reside in Maryland. Perennial nominee *File 770* is of course edited by Mike Glyer out of California.

# Letters of Comment

EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC-EMOC

Jim Woosley  
2621 Hoffman Drive  
Huntsville AL 35810

12 April 2000

[...] I'm glad you also liked *A Civil Campaign*, and I hope it garners the recognition it deserves. *Ashes of Victory* [by David Weber -ED] is also a strong novel and I hope to have time to say more about it soon. However, work is work...

I had to take a moment to respond to Harry Warner's letter regarding SF love stories. While I agree that the romance of Kimball Kinnison and Clarissa MacDougall was not the centerpiece of the Lensman series, the romances of Richard Seaton and Dorothy Vaneman, and of Martin Crane and Peggy, played a major role in *The Skylark of Space*, and although it was less significant in the other Skylark books, was still a contributing factor to the ongoing charm of the series. Also, that in Doc's later work (*The Galaxy Primes*, *Subspace Explorers*,

and *Subspace Encounters*) and in the series that Steve Golden wrote from his novella "Imperial Stars," romance played a stronger role, usually in the form of an ongoing cooperative at-work-and-at-home relationship between the principals.

And while we're discussing SF/fantasy love stories, don't forget the powerful "interspecies" relationships between Dayne and Adam, and between Jack and Rhea, in Holly Lisle's first and third Devil's Point novels for Baen. If relationships between humans and fallen angels struggling to relearn love can be classified as "interspecies."

Well, back to the salt mines. Sodium peroxodisulfate today, yum yum.

[Love has never threatened to displace space battles or aliens as a plot device in science fiction, but it's nice to know that I'm not the only one who has noticed that it *is* there if you look for it. -ED]

POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC-POC

Sheryl Birkhead  
Address TBD

15 April 2000

Hi — it *seems* that I've bought a house — not certain yet. Took only about four hours from my walk-through to an accepted contract. That was 4-13 — today was the inspection... just waiting on the radon/well/septic results. If it all goes a planned [I] should be moving May 1 or thereabouts.

Hey — I didn't get the Baen package this year — sigh.

No one will sell land to me — there are covenants — house must be *big* — so I decided I'd *have* to find a place and now way I could afford *land* — so the one I settled on is .68 acres — just a postage stamp! If this works — should move the first week in May — we'll see!

[Well, by the time this issue gets to you I hope you've been settled in your new place for a couple of weeks. It *might*, in fact, be a lot longer than that, depending on how well the postal service does in forwarding this! -ED]

LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC-LOC

Harry Warner, Jr.  
423 Summit Avenue  
Hagerstown MD 21740

26 April 2000

Congratulations to you for getting the April issue of the *Shuttle* to me in perfect condition. Within the past two weeks, I've received one fanzine with all its pages missing about one-third of their original area via a ragged diagonal tear and another fanzine's last two pages, with no sign of what happened to the other 66 pages.

Since Jim Woosley reviewed *A Civil Campaign*, I've actually read the book, something I almost never manage to do until a new release is five or ten years old. I found your assessment of it quite close to my own. I'm sure Miles Vorkosigan will be on everyone's list of the best ten science fiction characters created in recent years, when someone gets around to compiling a poll, and the dinner party in this book might rank at the absolute top of a poll to determine the most riotous meal in the history of science fiction. I kept wondering if Jane Austen had partaken regularly of LSD, would she have written a novel like this one? I'm glad it won the Romance

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award and I trust it will do well at Hugo voting time.

Barcodes are gradually gaining on computers in my concept of the most obnoxious things in the world. The damage to Sheryl's postcard is just one sample of their nuisance value. Recently they've been appearing on record jackets, spoiling the art, and on book jackets where they ruin the designer's careful balancing of the format.

The *NASFA Receivables* column contains a strong hint

that another fanzine never reached me at all. Down with three barcodes on every envelope. They may contain coded instructions to destroy instead of routing information.

[Yeah, I just *love* getting the occasional baggie from the post folk containing a few shreds of a magazine or letter clinging to a distressed address label. Of course, sometimes it was junk mail even before it became just plain junk — which brightens things up considerably. -ED]

*NEWS FLASH: Huntsville Bids for 2002 DeepSouthCon  
 — Sam Smith Elected Bid Chair — Site Selection Vote to  
 be held 21 May at DeepSouthCon 38, Jeckyll Island GA*