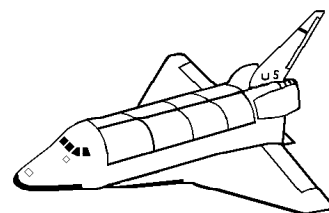


The



SHUTTLE
June 2005

*The Next NASFA Meeting Will Be 18 June
2005 at the Regular Time and Location*

*The Next Con+Stellation ConCom Meeting Will Be
7 July 2005 at Marie McCormack's House*

🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next NASFA meeting will be **18 June 2005** at the **regular time and location**.

The **June program** is TBD at press time. The **June after-the-meeting meeting** will be at Mike Kennedy's house; 7907 Charlotte Drive SW, Huntsville.

Due to space (and time!) limitations, the ongoing adventures of PieEyedDragon will not appear in this issue. It is scheduled to resume next month.

NASFA Calendar

JUNE

- 01 BD: Glenn Valentine.
- 02 Concom Meeting: Marie McCormack's house.
- 02 BD: Lloyd Penney.
- 03-05 ConCarolinas — Charlotte NC.
- 10-12 Sci-Fi Summer Con 2005 — Atlanta GA.
- 14 Flag Day.

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Deadline for the July 2005 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 1 July 2005.

Our 25th Year of Publication!

him, because he said we're hilarious. He asked if we had any questions. Obviously, the first question was, does he play spades? Steve asked him what part of the Arsenal he works in. Barry works on simulations, which many of us can relate to. After he mentioned that he majored in computer engineering, we started talking about literal-minded engineers, and the limited value of PhD degrees and statistics.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48P. Many of the members went on to the Huntsville Stars game at 7:05P, which served as the program and After-The-Meeting Meeting.

The Star Wars Saga

Being Mostly a Belated Review of *Star Wars: Episode VI — Return of the Sith*

by Doug Lampert

Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith; PG-13; Starring Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman, Hayden Christensen, Ian McDiarmid, Samuel L. Jackson, Jimmy Smits, Frank Oz, Anthony Daniels, Christopher Lee, et al.; Directed by George Lucas; Written by George Lucas; Produced by George Lucas and Rick McCallum; 140 minutes

Mike asked for a review of *Star Wars Episode III — Revenge of the Sith*, so I will start with a short one. Episodes I and II set the bar for Star Wars movies awfully low and *Revenge* is clearly better than that. I think there are vague signs of some chemistry between Padme and Anakin (others disagree, but I think they are letting memories of Episode II intrude), there are definite hints that some of these people do in fact know how to act, the special effects are the best in any of the Star Wars movies, and the physics is no worse than in any of the other movies. I have not seen any of the Clone Wars animated shows that are supposed to add background and haven't read any books based on the first three movies, but such sources are available and I am told add substantially more detail on the motivations and actions of various characters. If you sat through all the other movies you definitely want to see this one.

Now for the real review: *Episode VI — Return of the Sith*.

Some years ago *Star Wars: Episode VI* was released under the name *Return of the Jedi*. This was a mistake. Having now viewed the entire sequence it's quite clear that the Jedi did not return.

In the prequels we have learned that Jedi are trained from age five or less, eight is already too old; Sith start training at whatever age they are when the master takes them as an apprentice. Luke is about 18 when his training starts and in expanded-universe materials starts training others who are also already adults. He doesn't seem very Jedi-like here.

Jedi are detached from everything and everyone but the Jedi order, they don't care for anyone else, and they are celibate; Sith use their passion to add to their power with the force. Luke's training is to avoid acting when motivated by fear, anger, and hatred, but nothing is said about avoiding love, friendship, and caring. In the expanded-universe materials both Luke and Leia get married and Leia at least has children. Not very Jedi-like — in fact Anakin's failure to remain single and celibate provides the most important motivation for his betrayal of the Jedi.

Luke is not an Old Republic Jedi; if there can be "Dark Jedi" then presumably there can be "Light Sith," and that

would be the correct term for Luke. He calls himself a Jedi because he has no idea what Jedi means. How could he? His total training time with Obi-Wan and Yoda can't be more than a few weeks, and during that time Obi-Wan and Yoda lie like rugs. Most of what he knows about being a Jedi he makes up as he goes. In the expanded universe Luke does encounter other force users and learns force manipulation from some of them, but these characters are not reliable sources about the Jedi code and can't teach it.

What's interesting is that this must be intentional. Obi-Wan and Yoda knew where Luke and Leia were, their big hope and plan at the end of *Revenge of the Sith* appears to be "wait for the kids to grow up and then let them fight."

This is an odd plan in the first place. Why would they expect Luke or Leia to be better than Yoda? And if they think training should start earlier why let it wait? It is possible that Owen and Beru refused to allow Obi-Wan to train Luke but would Bail Organa have refused to let Leia be trained? Even if we assume that Owen and Beru did keep Obi-Wan from training Luke, why did Obi-Wan give Luke to them in the first place? Why find families to raise either of the children if the tradition is that Jedi raise the younglings themselves quite nearly from infancy?

When Luke finally is trained there is no mention made of avoiding all emotions and passions, just "dark" emotions and passions. When Luke wants to rescue his friends in *The Empire Strikes Back* Yoda doesn't try to tell him that his friends are better off dead and that he should be glad when they die since that will be one less thing to care for. He simply tells Luke that he isn't ready and warns him about self-fulfilling prophecies. Maybe after 800+ years he has finally learned how to deal with people, but more likely he advised Anakin as a Jedi and Luke as a non-Jedi.

An obvious explanation to all of this is that there is a giant continuity error; that Lucas hadn't made up the details of the Jedi Order prior to making *A New Hope* and that there are problems since they were made out of order. But no work of fiction can explicitly give you all the background. A claim of inconsistency or a continuity error should be made only when there is no other reasonable explanation. And, I think there is a consistent explanation for Luke's training.

Assume that the old Jedi knew their training and methods were actually greatly reducing their practical ability to use the force. They would not have really cared about reduced force abilities; old Jedi practices make a fine program to breed the ability for force manipulation out of the galaxy so they presumably don't really value force manipulation. From what we see the Sith are correct and passion does strengthen ability to use the force. There is no sign that delayed training actually weakens a Jedi substantially. Neither Luke nor Anakin is weak in force manipulation. Anakin is too young to make a master but appears to be better than most masters at fighting and force manipulation; Luke is able to succeed where the entire old Jedi order and Obi-Wan failed.

So why do they train from early childhood? That's easy — the Jedi are using early childhood indoctrination to produce their prized "detachment." Separation from their families is early enough to allow the child to largely forget his actual family and to remove any chance of the child learning about normal human relationships by example. Thus Luke and Leia were given more or less normal home upbringings in the hope that this will produce people more capable of the passion and caring so disdained by the old Jedi. It worked. Luke was still too weak to beat the emperor but he was strong enough to both

defeat and turn Vader, and cared enough about his family to be motivated to do so.

Thus it is no accident that Luke is never given advice or training comparable to that given to Anakin.

The real problem with this theory is that it does nothing for *Episode III — Revenge of the Sith*. This movie is obviously intended to be a tragedy, but a tragic flaw or mistake is needed for a good tragedy. A story where the hero tries his best, does the best he can, and still fails isn't a tragedy, it's just a poor story. The tragedy is that things could have been better and this requires that the protagonist make a serious mistake.

Anakin make mistakes, but I personally think the worst one is that he does not cut off Yoda's head right after Yoda's stupid "anyone that you care about is better off one with the force (aka dead) and you will be better off when you let go of your concern for them" speech. Let's see Yoda: Do dead Jedi also become one with the force? Why yes they do! So they are better off dead. Do Jedi care for each other? Sure looks like it. So Jedi who remain alive should want to let go of their concern for other Jedi through the deaths of those Jedi. So by your logic when one Jedi betrays and murders another it is actually a win-win situation, let's do the right thing.

The fundamental question Anakin faces in this movie is who to trust and follow between the Jedi and Palpatine, but I see no reason at all that he should trust the Jedi! The Jedi completely failed to do anything for Anakin's mother (and with Yoda's little speech it becomes obvious that they approve highly of anyone he loves dying in agony). They ask Anakin to spy on his friend Palpatine at a time when spying on Palpatine is arguably treason against the Republic. Later, Mace is prepared to kill Palpatine despite his being an unarmed prisoner and still the elected leader of the Republic. (In fact Mace's justification is almost identical to that provided to Anakin by Palpatine to kill Dooku.) They claim to value democracy yet they are a self-perpetuating oligarchy elected by no one but themselves and claiming quasi-governmental authority. And, they obviously don't trust Anakin and are hiding things from him. I just can't see how not trusting the Jedi can be considered a mistake. And if distrust of the Jedi is not a mistake, then neither is at least considering the claims of their enemies. His "flaw" is that the author forgot to give him enough supernatural insight to realize that the Jedi are just stupid not evil, while Palpatine is evil not stupid. Yawn.

For that matter, I am not sure the Jedi are actually *not* evil. Their actions and words don't match well, and when they do match it is to indicate that they want everyone Anakin loves dead. Were I Anakin, I think I would take the other side on that basis. They are hypocrites at best; they act based on a claimed concern for freedom and democracy, yet detachment leading to inaction is their claimed ideal. Apparently if Yoda cares about something it is worth saving but if Anakin cares about someone they should die.

Possibly the rest of the Jedi are the tragic heroes. But the problem with this is that none of them but Mace, Obi-Wan, and Yoda has a real role in the current movie, so if one or more Jedi are intended to be the tragic heroes it must be one of them. I have trouble with a tragic flaw of "too stupid to live." If Mace had taken Anakin with him to face Palpatine then Anakin would have seen why Mace thought he was too dangerous to take prisoner. Not trusting Anakin to help with an arrest you are attempting only based on his information is strange at best. Instead Anakin walks in right after the Emperor has let Mace "win" to set the scene for Anakin. If Yoda and Obi-Wan had let Anakin help in the war he would not have been so exposed to

Palpatine (and since Anakin has saved Obi-Wan's life ten times over why does Obi-Wan not want to take him on a dangerous mission). If anyone had bothered to help when Anakin was having nightmares about his mother and then offered help or advice when he was worried about Padme, he would not have turned. But, they appear to have deliberately allowed their prophesied savior's mother to die and convinced him that their advice was bad. If, when they grew distrustful of Palpatine, any of the Jedi had bothered to consider where the clone army came from or just who it was programmed to obey they might have lived. And, for that matter using the clone army at the start of the war as a stopgap against an unexpected threat is reasonable, but they are years into a major war and their galaxy-wide Republic still hasn't found any citizens who care for it enough to fight for it off their home planets (but Palpatine has found plenty of separatists).

Had the Jedi been backed by a mixed force including citizen soldiers as well as clones, they would have been far harder to kill. In fact, Yoda is the only one we see on a planet where many of the soldiers are not clones and this is a major reason why he lives. Doesn't anyone who loves freedom question having an army of sentients programmed for absolute obedience with no freedom of their own? Fortunately the last of the old Jedi is dead prior to the end of the last movie so they will not be able to contaminate Luke with their "wisdom." Everything we see about the Old Republic and the old Jedi Order says to me that these groups (collectively if not individually) deserved what they got. Was the Empire really any worse? I note that the Empire seems to have been able to recruit citizen soldiers and to have done so.

NASFA Receivables

by Randy B. Cleary

Here are the items received by NASFA since last time.

Cargo Cult Books & Notions, March/April 2005; 2804 Stuart Street, Berkeley CA 94705; 510-549-3018; 70701.2154@compuserve.com — A 14 digest page source for science fiction, fantasy, and horror books and DVDs.

ConNotations, Volume 14, Issue 6, December/January 2004/5 and Volume 15, Issue 2, April/May 2005; Editor: Stephanie L. Bannon, Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society, P. O. Box 62613, Phoenix AZ 85082; <Editors@casfs.org> — These news zines had 20 newsprint pages each of SF media news, reviews, and club and convention listings. The first had an interview with Janny Wurts and Don Maitz. The second had an interview with Ben Bova.

De Profundis, 382-389, November 2004-June 2005; Editor: Marty Cantor, c/o The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, 11513 Burbank Boulevard, North Hollywood CA 91601; <www.lasfs.org> — These club zines have club minutes, event calendars, and member info.

File 770: #144; Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Avenue, Monrovia CA 91016; 626-305-1004; <MikeGlycer@cs.com> — 40 pages of news for and about fandom with essays, con reports, and more. Check out <Trufen.net> on Glycer's recommendation for fresh fan news.

FOSFAX 211, April 2005; Timothy Lane and Elizabeth Garrott, The Falls of the Ohio Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, P. O. Box 37281, Louisville KY 40233-7281 — This genzine has 68 pages of articles, features, con and trip reports, reviews, and letters of comments with a political bent.

Nice Distinctions, 9; Editor: Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine Street, Yonkers NY 10704-1814; 914-965-4861; <hlavaty@panix.com> — This personal zine had 4 pages each of discussion and essay style writing.

OASFIS Event Horizon, Issues 209–213, December 2004–April 2005; Editor: Leslie R. Hammes, The Orlando Area Science-Fiction Society, P. O. Box 592905, Orlando FL 32859-2905; <lhammes@cfl.rr.com>; 407-263-5822 — These five small club zines have club minutes, events, and info.

Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin, Volume 8, Number 7; Editor: R. B. Cleary; 138 Bibb Drive, Madison, AL 35758-1064; <rbcleary@bellsouth.net>; <www.southernfandom.com> — This 18-page organization zine has essays, convention reports, reviews, minutes, fanzine listings, news, convention listings, club listings, and letters of comment.

Top Movies?

Time magazine has published an unranked list of the top 100 movies of all time, chosen by their critics Richard Corliss and Richard Schickel. Well, some of the choices are series of movies rather than individual movies, so noticeably more than 100 movies are represented. Still, the list stirred up some minor controversy because of some of the movies left off the list (other critics mentioned films like *Gone with the Wind*, *North by Northwest*, *Annie Hall*, and *Apocalypse Now*).

The full list, including links to info on each movie, can be found on the web at <www.time.com/time/2005/100movies/the_complete_list.html>. A list of some of the more obvious sf/fantasy genre — and some arguably-related-if-not-quite-sf/f — films on the list can be found below.

Blade Runner (1982)

Brazil (1985)

Bride of Frankenstein (1935)

Dr. Strangelove: or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964)

E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial (1982)

Finding Nemo (2003)

The Fly (1986)

Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1956)

It's A Wonderful Life (1946)

King Kong (1933)

The Lord of the Rings trilogy (2001–03)

Metropolis (1927)

Pinocchio (1940)

Psycho (1960)

Star Wars (not the series) (1977)

Ugetsu (1953)

Awards Roundup

CLARKE AWARD

The Arthur C Clarke Award is presented annually to the best science fiction novel which received its first British publication during the previous calendar year. The Award is chosen by jury.

The winner of the 2005 Clarke Award is *Iron Council* by China Miéville. He accepted the award at a ceremony at the English Heritage Lecture Theatre, London, on Wednesday, 11

May 2005. The Award consists of an inscribed plaque in the form of a bookend, and a cheque. The value of the prize matches the year (£2005 this year).

Other works on the final list were *River of Gods* by Ian McDonald, *Cloud Atlas* by David Mitchell, *Market Forces* by Richard Morgan, *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger, and *The System of the World* by Neal Stephenson.

FOUNTAIN AWARD

The Speculative Literature Foundation has announced the winner and honorable mentions for the 2004 Fountain Award <www.speculativeliterature.org/Awards/SLFFountainAward/2004.php> for “a speculative short story of exceptional literary quality, chosen from work nominated by magazine and anthology editors.” Jurors were Matthew Cheney, Gavin Grant, Patricia McKillip, Vandana Singh, and Alison Smith.

The winner is “**The Annals of Eelin-Ok**” by Jeffrey Ford (*The Faery Reel*). Honorable Mentions include “Cold Fires” by M. Rickert (*The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*), “The Faery Handbag” by Kelly Link (*The Faery Reel*), “The Golden Age of Fire Escapes” by John Aegard (*Rabid Transit: Petting Zoo*), “The Immortal Feet” by Katharine Haake (*One Story*), “The Lethe Man” by David J. Schwartz (*Say...*), “Music Lessons” by Douglas Lain (*Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet*), “Retrospective” by Sonya Taaffe (*Not One Of Us*), “Things Penguins Do” by Katherin Nolte (*Fence Magazine*), “The Wolf at the Door” by Rebecca Curtis (*StoryQuarterly*), and “Zavtra aptBaZ” by Liz Williams (*Scheherazade*).

PRIX AURORA AWARDS NOMS

The Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association presents the Prix Aurora Awards <www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora> annually at Canvention, the Canadian national science fiction convention. The host convention for 2005 is Westercon 58 “Due North” <www.calgaryin2005.org> being held 1–4 July 2005, in Calgary Alberta. The 2005 finalists are:

Best Long-Form Work in English

Meilleur livre en anglais

Fallen Angel, Stephanie Bedwell-Grime (Telos Publishing, November 2004)

Survival, Julie E. Czerneda (DAW Books, May 2004)

Radiant, James Alan Gardner (Eos HarperCollins, 2004)

Black Brillion, Matthew Hughes (Tor, November 2004)

The Alchemist's Daughter, Eileen Kernaghan (ThistleDown Press, August 2004)

Wolf Pack, Edo van Belkom (Tundra Books, 2004)

Meilleur livre en français

Best Long-Form Work in French

Terre des Autres, Sylvie Bérard (Alire, 2004)

Les Mémoires de l'Arc, Michèle Laframboise (Médiaspaul, 2004)

Les Jours de l'ombre, Francine Pelletier (Alire, mai 2004)

Oniria, Patrick Sénécal (Alire, 2004)

Suzanne, ouvre-toi, Yves Steinmetz (Éditions de la Paix, 2004)

Best Short-Form Work in English

Meilleure nouvelle en anglais

“**The Smile on the Face**,” Nalo Hopkinson (*Girls Who Bite Back: Witches, Mutants, Slayers and Freaks*, Sumach Press)

“**The Forgotten Ones**,” Karin Lowachee (*So Long Been Dreaming: Postcolonial Science Fiction & Fantasy*, Arsenal Pulp Press)

“**Mikeys**,” Robert J. Sawyer (*Space Stations*, DAW)

“**Enlightenment**,” Douglas Smith (Interzone 194, September–October 2004)

«**Jigsaw**,» Douglas Smith (*Odyssey*, Trifolium Books)
«**When the Morning Stars Sang Together**,» Isaac Szpindel (*ReVisions*, DAW)

«**The Luck of Willie Lumen**,» Hayden Trenholm (*Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine* #3)

Meilleure nouvelle en français

Best Short-Form Work in French

«**Galdana**», Richard Blanchette (*Solaris* 150)

«**Anne de la Terre**», Mehdi Bouhalassa (*Solaris* 148)

«**Ceux qui ne comptent pas**», Michèle Laframboise (*Solaris* 149)

«**Poussière de diamant**», Mario Tessier (*Solaris* 151)

Best Work in English (Other)

Meilleur ouvrage en anglais (Autre)

Julie E. Czerneda and **Isaac Szpindel** for editing *ReVisions* (DAW Books)

Nalo Hopkinson and **Uppinder Mehan** for editing *So Long Been Dreaming: Postcolonial Science Fiction & Fantasy* (Arsenal Pulp Press)

Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine, Karl Johanson, ed. <www.neo-opsis.ca>

Odyssey: Tales From the Wonder Zone, Julie E. Czerneda, ed. (Trifolium Books) [anthology]

Relativity: Essays and Stories, Robert J. Sawyer (ISFiC Press, November 2004) [book]

Meilleur ouvrage en français (Autre)

Best Work in French (Other)

Dû au manque de nominations, aucun prix ne sera décerné dans cette catégorie. (No prize to be awarded due to a lack of sufficient nominations.)

Artistic Achievement

Accomplissement artistique

Lar deSouza <www.lartist.com>

Stephanie Ann Johanson <www.neo-opsis.ca/art>

Jean-Pierre Normand <www.svbell.com/jpnormand/index_jpn.htm>

Martin Springett <www.martinspringett.com>

Ronn Sutton <ronnsutton.com>

Fan Achievement (Publication)

Accomplissement fanique (Publication)

MensuHell, direction: Francis Hervieux <www.geocities.com/mensuhell>

Opuntia, Dale Speirs, ed. (Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2E7)

Fan Achievement (Organizational)

Accomplissement fanique (Organisation)

Roy Miles (I.D.I.C.)

Greg Cairns aka Meaty Fontana (VCON)

Rebecca M. Senese (Space-Time Continuum)

Joan Sherman (I.D.I.C.)

Brian Upward (I.D.I.C.)

Fan Achievement (Other)

Accomplissement fanique (autre)

Made in Canada, Don Bassie (website) <www.geocities.com/canadian_sf>

Karen Linsley, filksinging

Bright Weaving CD, Martin Springett <www.martinspringett.com>

Larry Stewart, entertainer / personnalité: amuseur

Urban Tapestry, filksinging <www.urbantapestry.org>

SIDEWISE AWARDS NOMS

Finalists for the 2004 Sidewise Awards for Alternate History <www.uchronia.net/sidewise> have been announced. Judges for this year's awards are Steven Silver, Nicholas

Gevers, Karen Hellekson, Evelyn Leeper, Jim Rittenhouse, Robert Schmunk, Stuart Shiffman, and Kurt Sidaway. Winners will be announced at Interaction, the 63rd World Science Fiction Convention, in Glasgow the weekend of 4–8 August 2005. The nominees are:

Best Long-Form Alternate History

Philip Roth, *The Plot Against America* (Houghton Mifflin)

Best Short-Form Alternate History

L. Timmel Duchamp, “The Heloise Archive” (*Love’s Body, Dancing in Time*, Aqueduct Press)

Warren Ellis, **Chris Weston**, and **Laura DuPuy Martin**, *Ministry of Space* (Image Comics 2001/2004, reprinted 2005)

Sean Klein, “Five Guys Named Moe” (*SciFiction* 23 February 2004)

John McDaid, “The Ashbazu Effect” (*ReVisions*, Czerneda and Szpindel, eds., DAW Books)

Chris Roberson, “Red Hands, Black Hands” (*Asimov’s*, December 2004)

Lois Tilton, “The Gladiator’s War: A Dialogue” (*Asimov’s*, June 2004)

MYTHOPOEIC AWARDS NOMS

The Mythopoeic Fantasy Awards <www.mythsoc.org/awards.html> are presented in several categories for books published during the previous year that “exemplify the spirit of the Inklings” or “contribute to Inklings scholarship.” Reissues (such as paperback editions) are eligible if no earlier edition was a finalist. Books from a series are eligible if they stand on their own; otherwise, the series is eligible the year its final volume appears.

Winners of this year’s awards will be announced at the Tolkien 2005 conference (incorporating Mythcon XXXVI) in Birmingham, England, 11–15 August 2005. The nominees are:

Mythopoeic Fantasy Award, Adult Literature

Kage Baker, *The Anvil of the World* (Tor)

Susanna Clarke, *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell* (Bloomsbury USA)

Elizabeth Hand, *Mortal Love* (HarperCollins)

Patricia A. McKillip, *Alphabet of Thorn* (Ace)

Gene Wolfe, The Wizard Knight series, consisting of *The Knight* and *The Wizard* (Tor)

Mythopoeic Fantasy Award, Children’s Literature

Kevin Crossley-Holland, Arthur Trilogy, consisting of *The Seeing Stone*, *At the Crossing Places*, and *King of the Middle March* (Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine Books)

Nancy Farmer, *Sea of Trolls* (Atheneum)

Monica Furlong, Trilogy consisting of *Wise Child*, *Juniper*, and *Colman* (Random House)

Garth Nix, The Abhorsen Trilogy, consisting of *Sabriel*, *Lirael: Daughter of the Clayr*, and *Abhorsen* (Eos)

Terry Pratchett, *A Hat Full of Sky* (HarperCollins)

Mythopoeic Scholarship Award for Inklings Studies

Jane Chance, ed., *Tolkien the Medievalist* (Routledge, 2003)

Janet Brennan Croft, *War and the Works of J. R. R. Tolkien* (Praeger Publishers, 2004)

Matthew Dickerson, *Following Gandalf: Epic Battles and Moral Victory in The Lord of the Rings* (Brazos Press, 2003)

Doris T. Myers, *Bareface: A Guide to C. S. Lewis’s Last Novel* (University of Missouri Press, 2004)

Anne C. Petty, *Tolkien in the Land of Heroes* (Cold Spring Press, 2003)

Mythopoeic Scholarship Award for Myth and Fantasy Studies

William Patrick Day, *Vampire Legends in Contemporary American Culture: What Becomes a Legend Most* (University Press of Kentucky, 2002)

Jerry Griswold, *The Meanings of Beauty and the Beast* (Broadview Press, 2004)

Stephen Thomas Knight, *Robin Hood: A Mythic Biography* (Cornell University Press, 2003)

Teya Rosenberg, ed., *Diana Wynne Jones: An Exciting and Exacting Wisdom* (Lang, 2002)

LOCUS AWARDS FINALISTS

Voting in this year's *Locus* <www.locusmag.com> reader's poll closed 1 May 2005 and the winners of the Locus Awards have been determined. Winners will be announced at this year's Westercon in Calgary. Prior to that, *Locus* has chosen to announce the top five finishers in each category, styled as "finalists." (Where six items are listed in a category, there is a tie in one of the top five positions.) The finalists are:

Best Science Fiction Novel

The Algebraist, Iain M. Banks (Orbit)

Eastern Standard Tribe, Cory Doctorow (Tor)

Forty Signs of Rain, Kim Stanley Robinson (HarperCollins UK; Bantam)

The Baroque Cycle: The Confusion (volume 2) and *The System of the World* (volume 3), Neal Stephenson (Morrow)

Iron Sunrise, Charles Stross (Ace)

Best Fantasy Novel

The Dark Tower: Song of Susannah (book 6) and *The Dark Tower* (book 7), Stephen King (Grant/Scribner)

Iron Council, China Miéville (Del Rey)

Going Postal, Terry Pratchett (Doubleday UK; HarperCollins)

The Family Trade, Charles Stross (Tor)

The Wizard Knight: The Knight and *The Wizard*, Gene Wolfe (Tor)

Best First Novel

Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell, Susanna Clarke (Bloomsbury)

The Coyote Kings of the Space-Age Bachelor Pad, Minister Faust (Del Rey)

Trash Sex Magic, Jennifer Stevenson (Small Beer)

The Year of Our War, Steph Swainston (Gollancz; Eos)

City of Pearl, Karen Traviss (Eos)

Best Young Adult Book

Abarat: Days of Magic, Nights of War, Clive Barker (HarperCollins)

The Faery Reel: Tales from the Twilight Realm, Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling, eds. (Viking)

The Blue Girl, Charles de Lint (Viking)

Gifts, Ursula K. Le Guin (Harcourt)

A Hat Full of Sky, Terry Pratchett (Doubleday UK; HarperCollins)

Best Novella

Stephen Baxter, *Mayflower II* (PS Publishing)

Bradley Denton, "Sergeant Chip" (*F&SF*, September 2004)

Lucius Shepard, *Viator* (Night Shade)

Charles Stross, "The Concrete Jungle" (*The Atrocity Archives*)

Gene Wolfe, "Golden City Far" (*Flights*)

Best Novelette

Stephen Baxter, "PeriAndry's Quest" (*Analog*, June 2004)

Peter S. Beagle, "Quarry" (*F&SF*, May 2004)

James Patrick Kelly, "Men are Trouble" (*Asimov's*, June 2004)

Kelly Link "The Faery Handbag" (*The Faery Reel*)

China Miéville, "Reports of Certain Events in London"

(*McSweeney's Enchanted Chamber of Astonishing Stories*)

Jeff VanderMeer, "Three Days in a Border Town" (*Polyphony 4*)

Best Short Story

Jeffrey Ford, "The Annals of Eelin-Ok" (*The Faery Reel*)

Neil Gaiman, "Forbidden Brides of the Faceless Slaves in the Nameless House of the Night of Dread Desire" (*Gothic!*)

China Miéville, "'Tis the Season" (*Socialist Review*, December 2004)

Howard Waldrop, "The Wolf-man of Alcatraz" (*Sci Fiction*, 22 September 2004)

Gene Wolfe, "Pulp Cover" (*Asimov's*, March 2004)

Best Magazine (*Locus* excluded)

Analog Science Fiction, Science Fact

Asimov's Science Fiction

The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction

Realms of Fantasy

Sci Fiction

Best Publisher

Ace

Baen

DAW

Del Rey

Tor

Best Anthology

The Locus Awards: Thirty Years of the Best in Science Fiction and Fantasy, Charles N. Brown and Jonathan Strahan, eds. (Voyager Australia; Eos)

The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror: Seventeenth Annual Collection, Ellen Datlow, Kelly Link and Gavin Grant, eds. (St. Martin's)

The Year's Best Science Fiction: Twenty-First Annual Collection, Gardner Dozois, ed. (St. Martin's)

Year's Best SF 9, David G. Hartwell and Kathryn Cramer, eds. (Eos)

Between Worlds, Robert Silverberg, ed. (SFBC)

Best Collection

Mother Egypt and Other Stories, Kage Baker (Night Shade)

The Collected Short Fiction Of C. J. Cherryh, C. J. Cherryh (DAW)

Phases of the Moon: Stories of Six Decades, Robert Silverberg (Subterranean; ibooks)

The John Varley Reader, John Varley (Ace)

Innocents Aboard, Gene Wolfe (Tor)

Best Editor

Ellen Datlow

Gardner Dozois

David G. Hartwell

Patrick Nielsen Hayden

Gordon Van Gelder

Best Artist

Kinuko Y. Craft

Bob Eggleton

Donato Giancola

Frank Kelly Freas

Michael Whelan

Best Non-Fiction

The Gernsback Days: A Study of the Evolution of Modern Science Fiction from 1911 to 1936, Mike Ashley and Robert A. W. Lowndes (Wildside)

Ray Bradbury: The Life of Fiction, Jonathan R. Eller and William F. Touponce (Kent State)

The Wave in the Mind: Talks and Essays on the Writer, the Reader, and the Imagination, Ursula K. Le Guin (Shambhala)

The Annotated Brothers Grimm, Maria Tatar, ed. (Norton)

Dancing Naked: The Unexpurgated William Tenn, William Tenn (NESFA)

Best Art Book

Alan M. Clark, *The Paint in My Blood: Illustration and Fine*

Art (IFD)
Spectrum 11: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art,
Cathy and Arnie Fenner, eds. (Underwood)
Paul Kidby, *The Art of Discworld*, Terry Pratchett (Gollancz;
HarperCollins)
Luis Royo, *Fantastic Art: The Best of Luis Royo* (NBM)
Gahan Wilson, *The Best of Gahan Wilson* (Underwood)

Letters of Comment

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

Michael D. Glicksohn
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24 May 2005

I was delighted to read that at least some NASFA members are baseball fans! Far too few of us (bless you, Harry Warner) in fandom. I bought six pairs of tickets for the Toronto Blue Jays this season and have so far seen them lose twice. And some of my fondest baseball-game memories are from small stadiums at non-professional levels. Hope y'all have a great time and enjoy some good ball and some good beer!

I hadn't heard that Joe Siclari won DUFF. He'll make a fine representative of North American fandom and will very probably produce a trip report I can enjoy somewhere down the line.

Thanks for listing my birthday yet again. Turned 59 last week: next year two big events: #60 and retirement. (Lloyd's kinda cute for a kid, eh?) The big party (three days including a pig roast) is next weekend, #26 in a series ending at #27. Drop in if you happen to be in the area!

I haven't seen the *Hitchhiker* movie yet and won't for a while but I was interested in your review. I happen to be a huge fan of the radio serial (that was my first exposure to Adams' classic work) and since I grew up with science fiction on BBC radio I thought their version of his story was undoubtedly the best possible medium for it. Nothing that has happened since that first appearance has changed my mind but eventually I'll watch this movie version and see how I feel about it. (I had the pleasure of buying Douglas Adams a pint of beer in a London pub many years ago and at the time he didn't think there'd ever be a successful film version of the story. Too bad he didn't live to see what came to pass.)

I do think you're a little callous in your "dismissal" of Adams' non-HHGTTG work. Personally I thought his other books were excellent, every bit as good or better than the work he's most known for, successful both as mysteries and sf.

I like to see someone else who knows the word "lustrum" as it's always been a favourite of mine. Right up there with "postprandial" and "antipodean."

[Tsk, tsk, Mike. Our AA Huntsville Stars aren't the majors but they're certainly a *professional* team. Several of the NASFAns who went to the game after the May meeting are indeed baseball fans, but some were not. After all, a group trip can be enjoyable just for the company. Thanks for the birthday party invite (please accept my wishes for many happy returns!) but I wasn't able to take you up on it. For some reason a quick trip up to Toronto just didn't seem wise. I may have been overly-dismissive of Adams' non-Hitchhiker work but I didn't intend to imply it was of poor quality — only that his publicly-perceived career hinged in very large part on the Hitchhiker

pentology trilogy. As for my use of "lustrum," I suspect I first saw the word in use in one of your LoCs somewhere, though I suppose it's possible I ran across it elsewhere first without it making an impression on that occasion. -ED]

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3 June 2005

It's exactly deadline day for submissions, so here I am on a Friday with a letter of comment on the May *Shuttle*. At least I'm not sending in my usually late letter. It has been a busy time...

As you look at the calendar, yesterday was my 46th birthday, and we celebrated in fine style because it coincided with one of our fannish pubnights, so it looked like a huge party. Presents and a decadent dessert, the whole bit. Had to go to work for a couple of hours, but I returned for more good fun with good friends. That's a birthday I'll remember for a good long time. Combine that with the good times we had at our 22nd anniversary celebrations on May 28, and I have another good reason to enjoy the spring.

(Suppose I should make a few comments about the zine, hm?)

The John Moore books sound like they'd be a fun read, but so many authors are taking potshots at the Harry Potter books, it's become almost passè. Lord Voltmeter? Gimme a break! *Shrek* was about enough of a parody of the Arthurian-style of old English society. It's bad enough there's been so many recent parodies of *Lord of the Rings*. (I prefer the oldest parody, National Lampoon's *Bored of the Rings*. Let's just hope they don't try to make *that* into a movie...)

Greetings to Pie Eyed Dragon! Interesting adventures, but I may not be familiar with the David Lynch part of Chapter 8 here. Can't catch "ben Loden" here, either. Chapter 9 shows just how powerful the dragon is, in proximity to a singularity. However, it also shows that the dragon is not immortal or impervious. Watch your step, PED! When the universes collide, you might get hit with shrapnel.

Hi, Mike... thank you for a wonderful weekend at your home, and thanks to Susan for putting up with us all for another year. The Balkanization of fandom means that one group will certainly mourn the passing of Bill Bowers, but other groups will never hear or know, and that's a shame. I loved the *Lord of the Rings* movies, and would like nothing better than to see them again or get the DVDs, but I probably won't see the stage version. I checked the prices... ouch! Same goes to the upcoming return of the Tolkien convention that was in Toronto some years ago... the memberships are quite expensive, and I have my doubts that I'd go, as much as I'd like to. I think I will stick with a re-reading of the books. This is one of the few books that I can completely submerge myself in, and follow Frodo and Sam while feeling that I truly am in Middle-Earth. It's a taste of that good old sensawunda we all miss.

Time to wrap it, and hope that you all enjoy the spring and summer... we never get enough of it, or enough time to enjoy it. See you all next issue.

[Well, happy birthday wishes to you, too, Lloyd! Doug loaned the two books from last month's reviews to a mutual friend

headed for summer vacation. Can you say beach reading? I'd probably choose something different for the beach, but then I wouldn't be actually *on* the beach anyway. PED's "benLoden" may be a distant relative of today's bin Laden clan, though when one is working across multiple universes it's hard to know. -ED]

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

PieEyedDragon
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4 June 2005

No, the Gyaos do not/will not have Magic — thank goodness. That is my slim advantage. They will have numbers.

That Puck has a big mouth. I was never happy about my adventure in Middle-earth. I will tell the whole Tale to *him* and make *him* write it!

For the bibliographically challenged; most of the original Oz stories can be read on-line at <www.welcometooz.net>. Select number two, *The Marvelous Land of Oz*, to read what

historian Baum wrote about Tip.

Baum *did* know about the transgender transformation. (If he also knew the parentage of the "Wicked Witch of the West" he did not mention it. He was writing for another time, after all. Maguire reveals this detail. Elphaba was maligned by her enemies, and did not do many of the vile things ascribed to her.)

The Road To Oz (sorry, no Hope and Crosby here) includes the first mention of the Radium Crown.

Speaking of Road trips, my Final Exam at Magic School (over 6000 years ago) involved a trip to Middle-earth. Read that as classic "Hero's Journey." I did not have a very good time.

That's the news from Lake Grænalón, where all the men are tall, all the women are strong, and all the children...can be real *monsters*!

[I'm sure several of our readers will thank you for the pointer to the Oz stories online, PieEyed. Be sure to keep an eye on those *monsters* kids. -ED]



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