

ASFACTS 2010

SPOOKTACULAR OCTOBER EDITION

2010 HUGO AWARD WINNERS

by Cyriaque Lamar

The 2010 Hugo Award Winners were presented September 5 at Aussiecon 4, the 68th World Science Fiction Convention, in Melbourne, Australia. Who were among the big winners? China Miéville, Paolo Bacigalupi, and *Moon*.

Here's the full list of Winners:

BEST NOVEL: [Tied] *The City & The City* by China Miéville, and *The Windup Girl* by Paolo Bacigalupi. **NOVELLA:** "Palimpsest" by Charles Stross. **NOVELETTE:** "The Island" by Peter Watts. **SHORT STORY:** "Bridesicle" by Will McIntosh.

RELATED WORK: *This is Me, Jack Vance! (Or, More Properly, This is "I")* by Jack Vance. **GRAPHIC STORY:** *Girl Genius*, Volume 9: Agatha Heterodyne and the Heirs of the Storm by Kaja and Phil Foglio.

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION - LONG FORM: *Moon*, **DRAMATIC PRESENTATION - SHORT FORM:** *Doctor Who*: "The Waters of Mars."

EDITOR, LONG FORM: Patrick Nielsen Hayden, **EDITOR, SHORT FORM:** Ellen Datlow. **PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:** Shaun Tan.

SEMI-PROZINE: *Clarkesworld* edited by Neil Clarke, Sean Wallace & Cheryl Morgan. **FAN WRITER:** Frederik Pohl. **FANZINE:** *StarShipSofa* edited by Tony C. Smith. **FAN ARTIST:** Brad W. Foster. **JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD:** Seanan McGuire.

It was also announced at Aussiecon 4 that Chicago's Chicon 7 will host the 2012 World Science Fiction Convention August 30-September 3, 2012. Chicon 7's guests include Mike Resnick, Rowena Morrill, and John Scalzi.

ASFS LOOKS FOR NEW HOME... AGAIN

by Craig Chrissinger, co-executive secretary

After a year of ASFS at the Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel, it was announced last month that the group will need to find a new home come March 2011.

The move is necessitated by the hotel becoming a

Sheraton at the end of this month, and thus being subject to corporation guidelines on rental prices. The contract we signed goes through December 2010 at \$45.00 a month (thus club dues were increased last October).

Our liaison at the hotel was able to get us a \$75 rate for January and February 2011, thus giving us a few extra months to find a new place. After that, the Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel would run the club \$100 a month — more than we can afford.

ASFS, started in June 1965 at Roy Tackett's house, was fortunate not to pay any rent for more than 44 years. Before the Albuquerque Grand, meetings had been held in members' homes, bank community rooms (gone, especially post-9/11), Oddfellows Hall, the downtown PNM Building, Sirloin Stockade, the UNM Law School, the Lovelace Education Building, Irysh Mac's, Grant Middle School and Huff Studio.

Unfortunately, with most members wanting to keep meetings on Friday evenings and those lasting more than 90 minutes, finding a new location may be difficult for under \$55 with seating for 40-50 people theater-style (plus parking).

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Club Elections & Aussie Con Trip Reports Tonight!** Intrepid travelers Kevin Hewett & Randi Tinkham talk about their trips Down Under, with slides even. Plus, Three offices need to be filled for Nov 2010-Oct 2011, and the "challenge ingredient" for December chosen (see below). Voting rules apply, based on attendance at the club and dues paid to date.
- **November 19:** A special visit from Colorado author Connie Willis (and thus a week later than normal), fresh off her *All Clear* book tour.
- **December 10:** The 6th ASFS Dessert Cook-Off, and short SF-oriented holiday films. Plus, the annual issue of *SITHFACTS* will be distributed (deadline Sunday, Dec 5). We'll be in the Bernadillo Room on the 2nd Floor of the hotel!
- **January 14, 2011:** The long-awaited visit of Diana Gabaldon. At least that's the plan...
- **February 11:** Unknown this far out. We do know there will be a Valentine issue of *ASFACTS*.

Craig Chrissinger, normal editor. **Darth Vader**, guest editor each December. Please Send All Correspondence to — PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176-7257. Phone: (505) 266-8905. E-mail: cwccraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for the Albuquerque SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. **NEXT DEADLINE: Sun, Dec 5.** **Club Officers:** Kevin Hewett & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Kathy K Kubica, Moderator. Jessica Coyle, Alternator. Jack Skeleton, Halloween Advisor. **Bubonicon Co-Chairs:** Craig Chrissinger & Kristen Dorland (505) 459-8734.

A search for a new location is ongoing now. Anyone who has an idea is encouraged to do the basic research on rental cost, size of space (again 40 people at least), whether food/drink is allowed (at least in December), how late we can meet (10:00-10:30 pm is preferable), parking availability, and an open schedule for the 2nd Friday of most months (we take holidays into account). Contact Craig or Kevin with as much information as possible to present to the club membership.

Approved unanimously in September 2009, Individual dues are currently \$2.50 per meeting or \$25.00 a year; while Households are \$3.50 a month or \$35.00 annually (please make checks to Craig Chrissinger so he can cash them for the club). With rent being a cruel reality, dues are vital and necessary.

E.C. TUBB DIES AT 91

British novelist Edwin Charles Tubb died in England Sept. 10, on the same day that his final novel, the dystopian epic *To Dream Again*, was accepted for publication in 2011. He was 91 years old.

His contributions to the genre were immense. Tubb wrote over 130 novels, including 33 volumes of the *Dumarest of Terra* series, which begins with *The Winds of Gath*. Earl Dumarest is a young Earth boy who stows away on a spaceship, and instead of tossing him out an airlock, the captain takes him under his wing. By the time he becomes an adult, he's traveled so far that nobody has even heard of Earth and people think it's just a legend.

Tubb also wrote six *Space: 1999* novels and many other stand-alone novels, some under various pseudonyms. He edited the final twenty issues of *Authentic Science Fiction* magazine and co-founded the British Science Fiction Association. His short story "Little Girl Lost" was adapted for American television in 1972.

GREEN SLIME AWARDS HANDED OUT

In a ceremony August 29 at Bubonicon 42 at the Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel in Albuquerque, NM, Kathy Kelley-Kubica presented the following with recognition of their wretchedness in the last 12 months:

Film: *The Last Airbender* (an agonizing experience, clunky dialog, bad 3-D),

Technical Trends: Fake 3-D, added in post-production (either plan to film as 3-D or don't do it),

Television: *The Gates* on ABC (enough with cheap vampire romance/soap operas),

SyFy Movie: *Stonehenge Apocalypse* (too many plots – choose one, please; no continuity),

Novel: *Divine Misdemeanors* by Laurell K. Hamilton (the actual mystery takes a backseat),

Book Cover Art: *Sir Dominic Flandry: Last Knight*

of *Terra*, unknown artist, for novel by Poul Anderson,

Toy: DC Direct Blammoids (some adorable, other are just wrong).

SNYDER TO REBOOT *SUPERMAN*

Zack Snyder beat out at least five other directors who were reportedly in the running to reboot *Superman*—including *Deja Vu*'s Tony Scott and *Moon*'s Duncan Jones —and has been chosen by Warner Brothers and Legendary Pictures to direct the newest installment in the Man of Steel's big-screen franchise, reported *Blastr* in early October.

Snyder, who directed *Watchmen* and *300*, and is nearing completion on *Sucker Punch*, confirmed the news to *Deadline* by saying:

"I've been a big fan of the character for a long time, he's definitely the king of all superheroes, he's the one. It's early yet, but I can tell you that what David and Chris have done with the story so far definitely has given me a great insight into a way to make him feel modern. I've always felt he was kind of awesome. I'll finish *Sucker Punch* and get right at it."

MILEHICON PREPARES FOR 42ND CELEBRATION

Milehicon, Colorado's longest-running SF convention, will celebrate its 42nd incarnation October 22-24 with a "Hitchhiker's Guide" theme at Denver's Hyatt Regency-Tech Center on East Tufts Avenue near the southern end of the Mile High City. This year's Guests of Honor are authors Katherine Kurtz and Rachel Caine. Artist Guest is Donato Giancola, who has won three Hugos, eight Chesley Awards, and one World Fantasy Award; and Toastmaster is Paolo Bacigalupi, author of the highly decorated *Windup Girl*.



Other guests that New Mexicans may recognize include Daniel Abraham, Mario Acevedo, Doug Beason, David Boop, Peri Charlifu, Craig Chrissinger, Fred Cleaver, Daniel and David Dvorkin, Cynthia Felice, Warren Hammond, Sarah Hoyt (Sat only), Jim Humble, Wil McCarthy, Charles & Tauni Orndorff, Robin Owens, Melinda Snodgrass, Jeanne Stein, Robert Stikmanz, John Stith (Sat only), David Lee Summers, Ian Tregillis, James Van Pelt and Carrie Vaughn.

Programming starts at 3 pm Friday, which some offered items as a mini writer's conference, the Improvocation, the Milehicon Mix, Munch & Mingle, a Texas Hold'em tournament, the Critter Floatilla Race, and

"Carrie and The Midnight Hour."

Saturday is full of events, such as the con suite coffee klatch sponsored by Who Else Books, costuming demos, performances by Serpenthmoon, a bellydancing workshop, science presentations, the Costume Masquerade, SF Outburst, and the Literacy Auction. Sunday offers up such sport as the Critter Crunch, the GoH remarks, the art auction, Closing Ceremonies and the Dead Dog.

Memberships are \$42 at the door for all three days, with daily rates also offered. The Hyatt Regency is offering rooms at \$89 single/double and \$124 triple. More information can be found at www.milehicon.org. Hotel reservations 303-779-1234 (discount code G-10MI).

SF BOOK GROUP READS ON

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets 7:30 pm Monday, October 18, at Page One to discuss *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* by Michael Chabon.

The group then focuses November 15 on 2010 Locus Award winner *Boneshaker* by Cherie Priest.

Meetings of D&D are open to all interested readers on the 3rd Monday of each month. Books for discussion are chosen two months in advance, and group members receive a 20% discount on them. For more info, contact Yvonne at piebald@juno.com or Craig at 266-8905.

PROLIFIC ACTOR MCCARTHY DIES

Kevin McCarthy, the veteran stage and screen actor best known for his starring role as the panicked doctor who tried to warn the world about the alien "pod people" who were taking over in the 1956 science-fiction suspense classic *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, died September 11. He was 96 years old.

McCarthy died of natural causes at Cape Cod Hospital in Hyannis, Mass., said his daughter Lillah.

During a career that spanned more than 70 years, beginning on stage in New York in the late 1930s, McCarthy played Biff Loman opposite Paul Muni's Willy in the 1949 London production of *Death of a Salesman*. Reprising his role in the 1951 film version opposite Fredric March, he earned a supporting-actor Oscar nomination and won a Golden Globe as most promising male newcomer.

McCarthy had appeared in several other films and had a string of TV anthology-series credits behind him when he was cast as Dr. Miles Bennell in *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, director Don Siegel's thriller about an unsuspecting California town whose residents were being replaced by emotionless alien clones grown in oversized seed pods.



In the film's most memorable scene, McCarthy's frantic Bennell runs into traffic, screaming to motorists, "Stop and listen to me! They're not human! ...Can't you see? Everyone! They're here already. You're next!"

The low-budget film became an enduring cult classic that was selected for preservation in the Library of Congress' National Film Registry in 1994.

McCarthy, who made a cameo appearance in the 1978 remake, got a lot of mileage out of the original film in his later years, appearing often as a guest at film festivals and autograph shows.

"I must say I'm enthralled by the power of the picture all over the world," he told the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* in 2000. "It's the science-fiction picture of our time. The toasts just keep coming my way."

McCarthy dismissed assertions that *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* was an allegory about the communist infiltration of America or an indictment of McCarthyism.

"There was no assignment of political points of view when we were making the film," he told the *Bangor Daily News* in 1997. "People began to think of McCarthyism later. I thought it was really about the onset of a kind of life where the corporate people are trying to tell you how to live, what to do, how to behave. And you become puppets to these merchants that are somehow turning individuals into victims. It seemed to me to be about conforming, the need to control life so it would be more tolerable."

McCarthy's long career included numerous guest appearances on TV series including *The Twilight Zone*, *Burke's Law*, *Flamingo Road* and *Murder, She Wrote*.

He appeared in about 50 films, including *An Anna-polis Story*, *40 Pounds of Trouble*, *The Prize*, *The Best Man*, *Kansas City Bomber*, *Buffalo Bill and the Indians*, *Piranha* and *The Howling*.

The son of a lawyer and his homemaker wife, McCarthy was born Feb. 15, 1914, in Seattle. He and his two brothers and sister – Mary McCarthy, who later became an author and wrote the bestselling novel *The Group* – were orphaned when both parents died in the 1918 flu epidemic, and were sent to live with relatives.

McCarthy began acting in the 1930s at the University of Minnesota, where, on a dare from a friend, he played a bit part in *Henry IV, Part 1*.

In addition to his daughter, he is survived by his wife of 31 years, Kate Crane McCarthy; children James Kevin McCarthy, Mary Dabney McCarthy, Tess McCarthy and Patrick McCarthy; stepdaughter Kara Lichtman; a brother, Preston; and three grandchildren.

VAUGHN TALKS FUTURE BOOKS

During a visit to Bookworks on July 20, Colorado author Carrie Vaughn answered questions from the audi-

ence and revealed future book plans.

Vaughn announced that the ninth Kitty Norville book will be titled *Kitty's Big Trouble*, which had just been approved. "It's set in San Francisco's Chinatown, and, yes, it is a tribute to John Carpenter," she said.

In the next couple of months, Vaughn will appear in two anthologies – the revised *Wild Cards I*, and *Songs of Love and Death* edited by Martin and Dozois.

She also is working on *Kitty's Greatest Hits*, a Kitty Norville short story collection planned currently for August 2011 from Tor. It will include a new novella about Cormac, telling "what happened to him while he was away."

Next April, Tor will release *After the Golden Age*, Vaughn's look at a super-powered family and how a daughter, Celia, comes to terms with her past. It's being called a "homage to Golden Age comics."

Vaughn said her next young adult novel, *Steel*, will be released in March 2011. The main character is 16 years old and a competitive fencer. In the book, she finds herself transported to a 18th century pirate vessel. Vaughn also said she is working on a proposal to try to sell a sequel to *Voices of Dragons*.

BOOK SIGNINGS COMING UP

A couple of big-name authors will be having signings in Albuquerque in the next two months. Here's a look at what's coming up:

- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19: Albuquerque's Stephen R. Donaldson is at Bookworks 7:00 pm to discuss and sign *Against All Things Ending*, the penultimate book in his latest Thomas Covenant series. Steve was unable to attend Bubonicon 42, so here's your chance to see him this year. Bookworks is at 4022 Rio Grande Blvd NW (just north of Griegos, next to the Flying Star Café).

- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20: *New York Times* bestselling author (and multiple award-winner) Connie Willis will be at Page One Bookstore 3:00 pm to discuss and sign *All Clear*, the second half of her newest WWII time-travel adventure (started with *Blackout* in March). Connie also was unable to attend Bubonicon 42, so please come visit with her. Page One Bookstore is located at 11018 Montgomery Blvd NE (southwest corner of Juan Tabo and Montgomery).

BUBONICON 42 SLIGHTLY BREAKS RECORD, SUCCESSFUL DESPITE THE ECONOMY

With 643 memberships, Bubonicon 42 was the largest fan-run New Mexico convention to date (though just six people bigger than 2009). Even with various projects, equipment purchases and repair work, this year's convention made about \$650 profit and was a major suc-

cess! "Life, the Universe and Everything" proved there was no need for panic, indeed.

In the end, Bubonicon 42 donated a total of \$800 to non-profit organizations and for the replacement of a broken vehicle window. The Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University and the local Roadrunner Food Bank were given \$300 each, while \$150 was donated to the Watermelon Mountain Ranch (animal rescue) and \$50 was sent to Who Else Books in Colorado to assist with the insurance deductible on their van's side window (broken in vandalism).

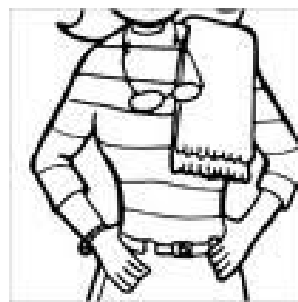
Bubonicon 42 saw several new participants in programming – David Boop, Craig Butler, Aaron Campbell, Ralph Chapman, Linda Deck, Doranna Durgin, Leonid Korogodski, Susan Krinard and Jeanne Stein.

The 7th Annual Authors Afternoon Tea (coordinated by Pati Nagle, Jane Lindskold and Joan Saberhagen, with several assistants), the Chapa'ai of Fortune game (run by the Orndorffs of Colorado Springs), the Tentaclecraft concert, Sarah Clemens' slide show and art demo, Peter David's GoH presentation and reading, the Costume Contest, the screenwriting and comic book panels, the alternate publishing workshop, the Vagon Poetry Slam, and Eddie Dethlefs' Sing-a-Long Video Block were all well received.

The Art Show had 39 artists displaying their wares with sales of \$6,408. It wasn't a record, but the show had very respectful sales with 46% of all items sold. The Sunday Auction was down from 2009 with total sales of \$1,038 (*Froomb* went for just \$45). Of that, more than 92 percent of that money went to Bubonicon. The Charity Auction on Friday was up from 2009 but down from 2008, raising \$686 (also donated was \$31 from Speer Estate books sold at ASFS).

So, despite the economy showing its hand in lower bids throughout the weekend, Bubonicon 42 was a success. The 7th year at the Albuquerque Grand (to be a Sheraton by the end of October) was difficult at times with major renovation construction going on inside the building and out in the main parking lot. Still, that didn't stop the Bubonicon family from having a good time – nor the hotel staff from their usual pleasantness and assistance.

COSTUME CONTEST AWARDS: Best of Show went to the Crew of the *Serenity* (Tanner and Richard Foust, Jacpui Ortega, Andy Staats and Charlie Fitch), Best Workmanship was the Clock Lord, the Last Time Traveler of the Apocalypse (Taran Bonn), Best *Hitchhiker* Theme went to Slartibartfast (Steve Sutherland), Most Animal Magnetism was the Fantastic Mr. Dent (Craig Fox), Best Judges' Bribe was Clown Prince at the Beach (Julian Wolf), and Best Group Presentation



ASFACTS, October 2010

was the *Hitchhiker's* Haven Robe Collection (Randi Tinkham, Jessica Coyle, Kevin Hewett, Nate Joy, Kennard Wilson, Christie Jury, Katie Orgler and Shawn Roberts). Honorable Mentions went to the Alien Hunter Family (Janel Burmeister, Charlie & Eloisa Ingram), Princess Leia of the Valley and Han Cholo (Diane Gray and Pat Phelan), Oliver Twist, Steampunk Style (Kaitie Bearden), and Tara Serra, a companion from *Firefly* (Megan Pribyl).

ART SHOW AWARDS: Professional to Sarah Clemens, Amateur to Kerry Maffeo, Student to Keara Dayton, and Beast of Show (con theme) to Michael McAfee.

All in all, the con went as well as could be expected under the renovation circumstances thanks to every individual who pitched in! So, a tip of the con-com's hats to everyone who contributed their time & efforts!

Finally, congratulations to Kristen Dorland and Craig Chrissinger, who were confirmed as the Bubonicon 43 co-chairs in August. BUBONICON 43 will be held August 26-28, 2011, at the Sheraton Airport Hotel, with Guest of Honor S.L. Farrell, Toastmaster Ian Tregillis, and Guest Artist John Picacio. Good luck to the 2011 team (suggestions/ideas are being taken now), especially since Perry's con takes place just five days after the Reno Worldcon ends!

AUSSIE CON BULLET REPORT **BACK HOME POST-TRIP THOUGHTS**

by Carrie Vaughn, originally posted Sept 21 & 28, 2010

I'm back from Australia! And I'm even conscious. Two glasses of wine and the season premiere of *Castle* seem to have done the trick for keeping me awake until a reasonable bed time, then putting me to sleep for a good ten hours, and I actually woke up rested. We'll see how I feel around 4 pm. And now, quick notes...

- * My newish TV has an SD card reader. I can show my 500+ pictures on my TV!

- * I had a fantastic time. It really was a dream trip. You know how I know? The latest copy of *Budget Travel* magazine was home when I got here, and an article on "ultimate dream destinations" includes a picture of Uluru/Ayers Rock.

- * I didn't win a Hugo (it helps to get nominated first), but I was honored to accept the Hugo for Paolo Bacigalupi, who tied with China Mieville for Best Novel. So very cool.

- * The Australia Worldcon was fun, for many reasons. Thanks also to Galaxy Books in Sydney and Rendezvous Books in Melbourne for having me over to sign and chat and stuff.

- * If you see a store labeled "Digiridoo Specialists," do you believe them? Or maybe you'd just better digiridon't.

- * Yes, I tried Tim Tams. Aussies wanting to ex-

plain Tim Tams to Americans: it's like if you took two graham crackers, covered them in chocolate, stuck them together with frosting, and covered the whole thing with more chocolate.

- * Two words: flying foxes.

- * It occurs to me that if aliens ever visit Earth, they'll decide that Queen Victoria must have been the most important person ever to have lived ever, because they'll find statues of her all over the world.

- * Can someone explain *The Tribe* to me? Apparently it's an older kids sci-fi TV show that was filmed in New Zealand, but never really made it to the US. I caught a couple of episodes while in Melbourne and it looks like something I would have absolutely adored when I was 12. A little like *Saved by the Bell* meets *Mad Max*. Is this a fair appraisal? And what's up with the face paint? (Ah, the joys of catching on ongoing SF show smack dab in the middle of the run...)

- * I should get a hell of a lot of frequent flyer points.

- * *Wild Cards* fans who've seen the Sydney Opera House: Takisian battle cruiser? Yes? (I will confess, I cried a bit when I saw the Opera House for the first time. The same way I cried a bit when I saw the Empire State Building.)

- * I greatly amused a couple of the locals with my reactions to some of the local birds. Which is to say, lots of species of parrots and cockatoos run wild in Australia, which for an American birdwatcher is pretty amazing. So I would see like, oh, a sulfur crested cockatoo and completely freak out. Like, "OMG holy crap that's a COCKATOO sitting on a lamp post, just sitting there. A cockatoo! OMG!!!!"

The locals looked at me rather oddly, and patted my head in a kind manner. Because, to an Australian, what I had just said sounded a lot like, "OMG holy crap that's a PIGEON sitting on a lamp post, just sitting there. A pigeon! OMG!!!!"

- * Duck-billed platypuses are smaller than I thought, and much, much cuter in person.

- * The 6' long gray reef shark did not eat me, but there was a moment there when I wondered...

- * The local guides get very amused by this whole "everything in Australia is poisonous" meme. They'll try to reassure you and say that really, the critters here aren't that dangerous, and people rarely encounter anything that will truly hurt them. And then they'll say, "But you really do need to watch out for the box jellyfish, they're nasty. And you really do need to keep your hands in the boat on the crocodile river tour. No, really, you do. . ."

- * Only heard Men At Work's "Down Under" and "Tie Me Kangaroo Down" once each the entire time I was there.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Carrie Vaughn for giving permission for this reprint of her post(s). Check out Carrie's blog at [HTTP://CARRIEV.WORDPRESS.COM](http://CARRIEV.WORDPRESS.COM).

BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

Legacies: Shadow Grail #1 by Mercedes Lackey and Rosemary Edghill, Tor Teen 2010, tp \$9.99, 320 pages. Review by Jessica Coyle

Legacies begins with the death of Spirit White's parents and sister in a horrific car accident. As she has no other family, Spirit is taken in to Oakhurst Academy, a combination orphanage and well-to-do boarding school. It turns out that all of the students at the school are actually magicians, and Spirit is informed that she is one too. Shortly after her arrival at the school, Spirit and her friends realize that students are mysteriously disappearing, and they begin to investigate why.

The first book in what is obviously intended to be a series, *Legacies* is not as good as one would hope considering it is written by Mercedes Lackey and Rosemary Edghill, two established genre authors. Spirit White and her friends are never fully developed as characters, and the motivation behind their actions is not always clear. The "mystery" within the book is also not very satisfactorily explained. The reader feels as if a solution is thrown together at the last minute, and a lot of questions are left unanswered.

Also, with the exception of vampires, the authors make an attempt to touch upon almost every popular trope within the YA fantasy realm, and it just gets tedious as the book goes along. While it is very apparent that the book is the first of a series, I don't know that it will find enough of an audience to continue past the first installment.

Flinx Transcendent: A Pip & Flinx Adventure by Alan Dean Foster, Del Rey 2010, reprint mmpb \$7.99, 448 pages. Review by Mike McCommas

In space, empath's can hear you scream....

Having not read any of the *Flinx* series for some time, I was worried that I may get lost while reading Alan Dean Foster's *Flinx Transcendent*. Fortunately, most authors try to make their books stand on their own and for the most part *Transcendent* does. There are occasional references to Flinx's past that will tease the newcomer or otherwise challenge faulty memories like mine, but you can blow right through these and continue with the main story. This is the last of the *Pip & Flinx* books and it finishes the series arc well, with a good bit of humor at the end.

Flinx's curiosity sends him and his minidrag Pip to the reptilian AAnn home world of Blasusarr, in disguise. After some adventures, the AAnn allow Flinx to leave. He now has a renewed focus to attack the Great Evil threatening to destroy our galaxy and, realizing he cannot do this alone, returns to Clarity.



Clarity Held has been waiting for him on Nur after recuperating from helping Flinx during a previous battle with the Order of Null. While on Nur Flinx joins up with the insect-like thranx named Truzenzuzex and his partner, the human Tse-Mallory, who've been looking after Clarity. Unfortunately, the Order of Null has also been waiting for Flinx, so once again Flinx and his friends are on the run.

Flinx's goal is to find the roving Tar-Aiym weapons platform he discovered years ago, in the long-shot hope that it may prove effective against the Great Evil. More adventures ensue involving another alien technology more powerful than anything from the Tar-Aiym. And on top of everything else, Flinx eventually has to deal with his sister, another empath. One can't choose family, after all.

This is the kind of fun, space-opera-style science fiction I enjoy: space ships, ray guns, alien technologies and plenty of action. "Mike-E Likes It" score: 1/5 Fiber, 4/5 Sugar.

All Clear by Connie Willis, Bantam Spectra 2010, hc \$26.00, 643 pages (release date October 19).

Review by Jessica Coyle

All Clear, the partner volume to Connie Willis' *Blackout* (released February 2010), picks up exactly where the previous volume left off. Three historians from Oxford have traveled back in time to study different events in WWII, but they became stuck in London during the Blitz when their drop points back to the future refused to open. The story moves between six different characters as Willis weaves together the mystery of why the historians have become trapped in the past with a wonderfully researched history of England during the War. The reader learns about the many different WWII heroes of England, including soldiers, ambulance drivers, code breakers, air raid wardens, and many more. *All Clear* also looks at history from the point-of-view of time travelers who are concerned about the ability of one person to change the course of history in a way that will irrevocably change the future as well.

Willis' latest addition to her series of time travel novels, which includes *Doomsday Book* and *To Say Nothing of the Dog*, stands up well when compared to her previous works. Fans of WWII history will enjoy the obvious research that Willis has done to achieve her setting, and others will be sucked in by Willis' ability to get readers to care about the fate of her three stranded main characters.

As *Blackout* and *All Clear* were originally written as one novel, it is difficult to separate the two, and I highly recommend reading the first before attempting the second. Both are engaging novels that the reader will not regret spending time with.

Iron Man: Virus by Alex Irvine, Del Rey 2010, mmpb \$7.99, 288 pages. Review by Bandit

Warning: Details follow.

Hopefully, *Iron Man: Virus* will never be made into a movie. The bad guy is ridiculous, Tony Stark is stupid,

and the plot devices are infantile.

The bad guy is a Nazi that cannot die. He has a CRT in his torso and a telepathic box for a head. He uses telepathy to control HYDRA, the evil organization founded by Madame Hydra. She gets hers in the first couple of pages, in a plane explosion. For an evil person, she is rather trusting of a body-shifting telepathic Nazi. She gets resurrected as a six-pack of "Kill Bill" type assassins. More later...

Tony Stark is developing a next generation suit and weapons. In the process he gets increasingly paranoid, starting to ignore his friends and confidants.

Most of the problems I have with the storyline are because Stark acts like an idiot, clones are trivial to create, and the engineering process is unrealistic.

After Mama Hydra is killed, an army of Happy Hogan clones attack SHIELD headquarters. Stark will have nothing to do with Happy after that. In the aftermath, Stark is persuaded to appear at a charity event to raise money for the injured and killed SHIELD operators, even though they are a government group. This is obviously a setup, and HYDRA attacks, killing many more.

The "Virus" in the title comes from the aftermath of the attack. Stark takes an injured HYDRA soldier back to his own lab, where tech in the soldier plants a virus into the Stark Industries IT system. The virus has two goals: steal the Iron Man suit and weapons information, and cause general destructions on the IT system.

This is one of the main problems I have with the story. Stark is just stupid. He gets rid of the thousands of employees, including the IT and engineering staff. He does all of the engineering on the suit himself, trusts his IT even after he knows it was infected because he was stupid, and actively locks out anybody who can help him.

Another problem is the ease the bad guy can clone people: it takes only days to create the Happy army, the Mama Hydra assassins, and anybody else who he feels like. The assassins come out of the clone process fully adult, trained, and otherwise ready to go.

The book has one minor interesting device. At the start of most chapters, there is either a patent application for a tech or weapon used in the suit (thus in the end fight), or a speech by the bad guy to his troops on strategy and tactics and how HYDRA was going to take over the world.

In short, this Alex Irvine book is a contender for the Green Slime Awards. I would be more willing to read three *Gor* books before re-reading this dreck.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS — JULY 2010: GAME SHOW FUN



Thirty-three people attended as two teams were forged to play SF Outburst, in which players try to guess 10 possible answers that fit a given genre category.

Vic's Vixens was the winner

with 101 points over rival B.O.B. with 89 points. The Vixens were Vic Milan, Kathy Kubica, Jessica Coyle, Roslee Orndorff and Harriet Engle. BOB was made up of Danielle Pollock, Julie Heffernan, Duke McMullan, Amy Mathis, Daisy Raimos, Brent Williams and Matt Locklin.

Most difficult categories were "Green Slime Winners," "Worldcon Cities, Not USA," "Other Shows For Serenity Actors," and "DC Comics - Film & TV."

AUGUST: DON'T PANIC - BUBONICON PREVIEW

Thirty-five people were present for the preview of Bubonicon 42's programming schedule and the t-shirt/tote bag artwork, followed by con business and the screening of two episodes of the BBC's *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. The meeting took place in Valle Grande 1 of the airport hotel - with new carpet and new wallpaper!

Attendees were told about how the hotel's renovations might affect Bubonicon 42, and reminded that there would be no sit-down restaurant and possibly no ATM.

FUTURE CON BUSINESS: Running unopposed, Kristen Dorland and Craig Chrissinger were confirmed at the co-chairs for Bubonicon 43 in 2011.

FILM: It took a couple of tries to get the show running properly. On the first attempt, there was no narration. After fixing that audio problem and starting again, the electrical cord was accidentally tripped over. So, the third time was the charm for two episodes of the *Hitchhiker's Guide*. Apparently, it was a lesson in not panicking...

SEPTEMBER: CON REPORTS/CLUB FUTURE

With some club members and NM authors still in Australia, 39 people heard how Bubonicon 42 did (see separate piece in this issue), listened to DragonCon and William Gibson's reading reports, and discussed how the airport hotel's renovations will affect ASFS in the near future.

CLUB BUSINESS: It was announced that ASFS will no longer be able to meet at the airport hotel as of March 2011 due to rental costs going way up. Suggestions were made to research the Doubletree Hotel, the MCM Elegante, Sandia Courtyard, Ares Wargames, an apartment complex's clubhouse, Active Imagination, the Albuquerque Museum, on Kirtland AFB, UNM's Continuing Education building, hospitals, and bank center community rooms. Anyone with an idea was asked to do the research on space, rental price, parking and availability for the club to consider in the next four months.

DRAGONCON: Megan Pribyl talked about her experience in Atlanta during Labor Day weekend. She said there were 40,000 people in five hotels this year, and that on Saturday of the con 59 tracks were going at some points. The vendors took up three ballrooms, and it took Megan 2 1/2 hours to go through them. "And I walk pretty fast," she said.

Steampunk was really big this year, and the nightlife was huge. "It's awesome," she commented. "We stayed at

the party hotel. My roommates actually didn't bring enough food for us, but they overestimated how much alcohol we would need."

Megan said she went to a sing-along panel for *Buffy*, and to the Robot Wars. Her friends and she even tried the *Star Wars* speed dating. And she attended several film-making panels.

"The best costume I saw was a steampunk *Wizard of Oz*," she noted. "They were really, really good. There also was a stormtrooper with a light saber though his chest. I dressed as Codex from *The Guild*, and I went to some Guild panels. They took my picture, so I might be in a *Guild* comic. I had a very good time."

WILLIAM GIBSON APPEARANCE: Patricia Rogers and Craig Butler shared their impressions from William Gibson's appearance at the Main Library downtown from the Monday before the meeting. "His voice is a really low register, and hard to hear at the back of the room," Craig noted. "He's very humble and modest." Patricia added that Gibson seemed to have a good sense of humor, and had good answers for everyone's questions.

"He was very open," Craig said. "He said when he's on deadline, he'll write seven days a week. I think he said, 'Fat congeals on the griddle if you let it sit there.'"

They also said Gibson is happy with one of two *X-Files* episodes he wrote, and told the story of how the cyberpunk writer said he met show creator Chris Carter.

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

EEEK! OUT OF TIME, OUT OF ROOM! What else is new? I cut this issue a little close since I did two movie screenings this week (including Wes Craven's *My Soul To Take* last night at 10 pm - which meant I got home about 12:20 am) and did extra hours at Page One. BTW, *Soul* is a turkey with a lame ending...

The other genre film I've seen is *Resident Evil: Afterlife*. Yes, Alice is a strong female character, but this movie needed to figure out when it was ending. It had three or four ending points. And then it just kept going... Also, where does Alice find hair dye after the Apocalypse? (She was auburn with red highlights last movie. This time her clones and she have raven hair.)

Still gotta catch up on TV's *Chuck & Big Bang Theory*. *Raising Hope* is a nice comedy addition. I'm reading Jane Lindskold's *Five Odd Honors* & then will start Cherie Priest's *Boneshaker*. I enjoyed Carrie Vaughn's *Kitty Goes To War*...

MILEHICON 42 is in two weeks in Denver. Jessica and I are looking forward to it as usual. I'm doing SF Outburst, and Randi Tinkham is helping with their Pan-Galactic Gargleblaster contest. Should be fun! I think we're going to the Tut exhibit at Rose Beetem's museum and possibly Who Else Books. I'm also thinking about that "Beaker and the Brain" tattoo I dreamt up.

Last October I mentioned that *Fangoria* owed me big money. This Halloween season, supposedly I might be getting paid some of that payment for writing articles. Woo hoo!

THANKS TO Jessica Coyle, Carrie Vaughn, Mike McCommas and Bandit for contributions. More needed in December!

Happy Halloween & Thanksgiving! Out of room, Craig C.

Albuquerque SF Society

CLUB ADDRESS: PO Box 37257

Albuquerque, NM 87176-7257

EDITOR: CRAIG CHRISSINGER
cwcraig@nmia.com