

ASFACTS 2013

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN SPOOKTACULAR OCTOBER EDITION

LOCALS WIN AT SAN ANTONIO, DETROIT GETS 2014 NASFiC

New Mexicans and former Bubonicon Special Guests were among the big winners at LoneStar 3, the San Antonio Worldcon, held over Labor Day weekend. In addition, the Bubonicon-backed Detroit bid won the right to put on the 2014 NASFiC.

In the Masquerade, held August 31, Albuquerqueans Rebecca & Kevin Hewett and Serge Mailloux, plus Australian Janice Gelb won Most Humorous in the Master Class for Rebecca's *Star Trek* Public Service Announcement.

Winners for the Hugo Awards and for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New

Writer were announced September 1 at the 71st World Science Fiction in Texas. A full list follows:

Best Novel: *Redshirts* by John Scalzi, Best Novella: *The Emperor's Soul* by Brandon Sanderson (BUBONICON 44 GOH), Best Novelette: "The Girl-Thing Who Went Out for Sushi" by Pat Cadigan, Best Short Story: "Mono no Aware" by Ken Liu, Best Related Work: *Writing Excuses, Season Seven* by Brandon Sanderson, Dan Wells, Mary Robinette Kowal, Howard Tayler & Jordan Sanderson, Best Graphic Story: *Saga, Volume One* written by Brian K. Vaughn with art by Fiona Staples.

Best Dramatic Presentation – Long Form: *The Avengers*, Best Dramatic Presentation – Short Form: *Game of Thrones*: "Blackwater," screenplay written by George RR Martin (OF SANTA FE, NM), Best Professional Editor, Long Form: Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Best Professional Editor, Short Form: Stanley Schmidt, Best Professional Artist: John Picacio (BUBONICON 43 GUEST ARTIST).

Best Semiprozine: *Clarkesworld*, Best Fanzine: *SF Signal*, Best Fancast: *SF Squeecast*, Best Fan Writer: Tansy Rayner Roberts, Best Fan Artist: Galen Dara, John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer: Mur Lafferty, and the Big Heart Award went to Tom Veal.

And in voting for the 2014 NASFiC (since the Worldcon is in London), Detroit edged out Phoenix 231-210. Bubonicon had thrown its support behind the Detroit bid last fall as Phoenix was planning for the same weekend as Bubonicon 46. With Detroit's win, Bubonicon

faces no competition in the southwest for its 2014 dates.

DetCon 1, the 2014 NASFiC in Detroit, will be held July 17 to 20, reports *File 770*. The Guests of Honor will be author Steven Barnes, artist John Picacio, multi-talented fans & academics/pros Bernadette Bosky, Arthur D. Hlavaty and Kevin J. Maroney, scientist Helen Greiner, filkers Bill and Brenda Sutton, plus ConChairs Emeritus Roger Sims & Fred Prophet (chairs of the 1959 Worldcon, Detention). Memberships are \$55 adult, \$25 child, and \$35 supporting through the end of 2013. Voters who pre-supported automatically get attending memberships. www.detcon1.org.

GRANDMASTER FREDERIK POHL DIES

by David Barnettt, Theguardian.com

Frederik Pohl, one of the few writers who was truly deserving of the overused epithet "grandmaster of science fiction", died September 2 at the age of 93.

His granddaughter Emily Pohl-Weary broke the news when she tweeted, "Rest in peace to my beloved grandfather Frederik Pohl, who showed me by example how to be an author. 1919-2013." Many people learned of the SFWA Grandmaster's death during the last day of

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Game Show & Club Elections Tonight!** Three Offices need to be filled for January-December 2014, and the "challenge ingredient" for December chosen (see below). Voting rules apply, based on attendance and dues paid to date. And then it's time for the "Stop That Apocalypse Game Show" with Kevin & Rebecca Hewett.
- **November 8:** Hoping for an author appearance.
- **December 13:** The 9th ASFS Dessert Cook-Off, and short SF-oriented holiday films. Plus, the annual issue of *SITHFACTS* will be distributed (deadline Sunday, Dec 8). Please help us clean up our room at the end of the evening!
- **January 10, 2014:** Science Talk or a club discussion of what members read in 2013...
- **February 14:** Either a club discussion of what members read in 2013, or a Science Talk. Plus the 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: cwcraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for the Albuquerque SF Society. *SITHFACTS* out each December. **NEXT DEADLINE: Sun, Dec 8.** **Club Officers:** Kevin Hewett & Craig Chrissinger, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Harriet Engle, Moderator. Kennard Wilson, Alternator. Jack Skeleton, Halloween Advisor. **Bubonicon Co-Chairs:** Craig Chrissinger & Caci Cooper - bubonicon@gmail.com.

the San Antonio Worldcon.

Pohl was born November 26, 1919, to Frederik George Pohl (a salesman) and Anna Jane Mason. Pohl Sr. held a number of jobs, and the Pohls lived in such wide-flung locations as Texas, California, New Mexico and the Panama Canal Zone. The family settled in Brooklyn when Pohl was around seven.

From his first published work in 1937, a poem entitled "Elegy to a Dead Satellite: Luna," printed in *Amazing Stories* magazine under the pseudonymous byline Elton Andrews, Pohl turned out an astonishingly huge body of work.

He will perhaps be best remembered for his 1977 novel *Gateway*, which won the Hugo Award the following year. A multilayered novel describing a space-station in a hollowed-out asteroid, built by a long-gone alien race that had left behind hundreds of spaceships which humanity was learning to operate through trial and error, the novel also scooped the Locus, Nebula and John W Campbell awards and is considered a major milestone in SF writing today.

Among his other award-winning novels are *Beyond the Blue Event Horizon*, which was a finalist for the Hugo and Nebula Awards, and *Jem*, which won the National Book Award in 1979. He edited and coauthored work with some of the greatest figures in science fiction, including Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke, New Mexico's Jack Williamson, Lester del Rey, L. Sprague de Camp and Robert Heinlein.

In his book on science fiction, *New Maps of Hell*, Kingsley Amis called Pohl "the most consistently able writer science fiction, in its modern form, has yet produced."

Even in his advanced years, Pohl embraced the internet and was an inveterate blogger, posting his latest mis-sive in late August – a piece on poverty in which he wrote, "Everyone knows that the principal thing lacking in the poor is the same all over the world. Its name is Money."

In his 1978 book, *The Way the Future Was*, Pohl, who grew up in Brooklyn, New York, explained how he joined the Young Communist League in 1936 because it was pro-union and anti-Hitler, Mussolini and racism.

He served with the US Army in World War II and was stationed in Italy with the 456th Bombardment Group, and then acted as a literary agent for the science fiction writing group, The Hydra Club. He became a copywriter for *Popular Science*, a literary agent for a host of sci-fi writers, and the editor for the magazines *Galaxy* and *If* from 1959 until 1969, with *If* winning three successive Hugo awards. He also became an editor for Bantam Books, where he acquired classic works including Samuel R. Delany's *Dhalgren* and Joanna Russ's *The Female Man*.

In the 1970s, Pohl reemerged as a novel writer in his own right, with books such as *Man Plus* and the Heechee

series. He won back-to-back Nebula awards with *Man Plus* in 1976 and *Gateway*, the first Heechee novel, in 1977. Two of his stories have also earned him Hugo awards: "The Meeting" (with Kornbluth) tied in 1973 and "Fermi and Frost" won in 1986.

The Science Fiction Writers of America named Pohl its 12th recipient of the Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award in 1993 and he was inducted by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame in 1998, its third class of two deceased and two living writers.

Following news of his death, writers and fans took to the social networks to tweet their tributes to the writer.

British SF author Ian McDonald tweeted: "Saddened to hear of the death of Fred Pohl... everyone seems to have met him which in my book is a Good Thing."

San Francisco-based writer Rudy Rucker said: "Fred Pohl was one of the wittiest SF writers ever."

Fantasy author Raymond E Feist said on Twitter: "RIP Fred Pohl. A truly gifted, legendary storyteller, who taught me a lot about the business as well as the craft."

The general mood was summed up by fan Debra Kay, who tweeted simply: "R.I.P. Frederik Pohl. Thanks for the stories."

Pohl was one of those writers with a social conscience who achieved truly legendary status in his lifetime. A quote of his trotted out in the hours after his death can perhaps be read two ways: one as a desire to entertain, another as a rallying call for humanity to create a better world. "You can't really predict the future. All you can do is invent it."

STEVEN GOULD TO WRITE AVATAR BOOKS

James Cameron has tapped noted science fiction writer Steven Gould of Albuquerque to write four standalone novels that will be set in and expand the *Avatar* universe originated in the 2009 film, stated the *Hollywood Reporter* in late August.

Titles, stories and release dates for the books have not yet been announced. Cameron begins filming the first *Avatar* sequel next year. The movie is set to be released in December 2016.

Gould is best known for *Jumper*, about a boy who can teleport through space that was turned into a 2008 film starring Hayden Christensen and Rachel Bilson. He was a finalist for the Nebula Award, and is president of the Science Fiction Writers of America.

"Steven Gould is one of the shining lights in contemporary science fiction," said Cameron. "I've long admired the worlds and characters he's created in his books and stories. We're very fortunate to have Steven bring his formidable talents to the *Avatar* universe. He is already working closely with me and the screenwriters to flesh out the expanding world of *Avatar*."

Gould spent two months in Los Angeles, working and consulting with Cameron while negotiating a con-

tract – thus missing this year’s Bubonicon, which he intended to attend.

SF BOOK GROUP READS ON

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets 7:30 pm Monday, October 14 (a week early), at Page One Bookstore to discuss *1984* by George Orwell. The group then meets November 18 to talk about *The Long Earth* by Terry Pratchett and Stephen Baxter.

Meetings of D&D are open to all interested readers on the 3rd Monday each month. Books for discussion are chosen two months in advance, and group members receive a 20% discount on them. For more info: Leah at skycaptain1883@yahoo.com or Craig at 266-8905.

GREEN SLIME AWARDS HANDED OUT

In a ceremony August 24 at Bubonicon 45 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown Hotel in Albuquerque, NM, Green Slime Mistress Jessica L. Coyle (with assistance from sock puppets) presented the following with recognition of their wretchedness in the last 12 months:

Film: *After Earth* (Boring film, stiff Will Smith, horrible Jaden Smith, lazy story)

Television: *Primeval New World* (Wooden plotting, no chemistry among cast)

SyFy Movie: *Chupacabra vs the Alamo* (More like demonic Chihuahuas, horrible green screen effects)

Estrada or Nada Award (Special Con Chair Award): CBS for changing *Under the Dome* so much it barely resembles Stephen King’s book

Direct To Video: *Nazis at the Center of the Earth* (Bad CGI & acting, ridiculous story, too much slasher action at beginning)

SF Novel: *Breaking Point* by Kristen Simmons (“sloppy, bad version of Hunger Games,” cheesy dialog and descriptive similes)

Book Cover Art: *Captain Vorpatril’s Alliance*, art by Dave Seeley (just awful, in bad taste)

Toy: *Spidey Bubble Blower* (Leaks all over, goofy looking, very weak blower)

A.C. CRISPIN PASSES AWAY

SF author A.C. Crispin died September 6 of cancer. She was 63 years old.

Crispin created the *Starbridge* space opera series, starting with solo novel *StarBridge* in 1989, and co-writing six additional books with authors including Kathleen O’Malley, Jannean Elliott, Deborah A. Marshall, T. Jackson King, and Ru Emerson. Crispin’s *Storms of Destiny*, published in 2005, was meant to be the start of the *Exiles of Bog’urain* fantasy series.

She collaborated with Andre Norton on *Witch World*

novel *Gryphon’s Eyrie*, and was also known for her tie-in novels, including several well-regarded *Star Trek* books, the *Star Wars* Han Solo Trilogy, and assorted film novelizations. She was named a grandmaster by the International Association of Media Tie-In Writers in 2013.

Ann Carol Crispin was born April 5, 1950, in Stamford CT. She served as Eastern regional director and vice president of SFWA, and co-founded watchdog group Writer Beware with Victoria Strauss in 1998, warning authors about scam contests, unscrupulous publishers, and fraudulent literary agents.

On September 3, Crispin posted a note online announcing that her cancer had progressed and her condition was deteriorating. “I am doing the best I can to be positive but I probably don’t have an awful lot of time left. I want you all to know that I am receiving excellent care and am surrounded by family and friends.” She is survived by her husband, author Michael Capobianco.

COREY’S EXPANSE NOVELS TO TV

James S.A. Corey’s SF series *The Expanse* will be headed for television, scripted by Mark Fergus and Hawk Ostby, reported *Variety* in early September. Corey, the moniker for writing duo Daniel Abraham and Ty Frank, has penned three novels in the series to date: *Leviathan Wakes*, *Caliban’s War* and *Abaddon’s Gate*, in addition to a handful of shorter stories. Three additional novels in the series are forthcoming.

Fergus and Ostby, who will script the pilot for the show, have a wealth of SF experience together – working on such films as *Children of Men*, *Iron Man* and *Cowboys and Aliens*. They will also serve as executive producers, along with Sean Faniel, Jason Brown, Andrew Koove and Broderick Johnson.

The series takes place in an inhabited solar system with political tensions between Earth, Mars and the Outer Planets. The story follows Captain James Holden and his crew as humanity comes into contact with an alien life form that has the potential to reshape the solar system.

VAN VOGT MANUSCRIPT UP FOR AUCTION

A.E. Van Vogt’s original revised typescript for *Slan* will go under the hammer at Heritage Auctions Rare Book Signature Auction on October 17, reports *File 770*.

The author’s note with the manuscript indicates Van Vogt edited it himself from the magazine version, then sent it to August Derleth at Arkham House for further editorial input. The novel was finally published in 1946.

For some lucky bidder it’s a chance to own a little piece of history from the novel that birthed the battle-cry, “Fans are Slans!”



HARRISON FORD TALKS BLADE RUNNER 2

Forget Indiana Jones and Han Solo – it sounds like Harrison Ford's other iconic sci-fi role might also be coming out of retirement, reported Syfy's Blastr in early October.

After *Prometheus*, Ridley Scott got on a sequel kick, and there have been rumors for a while now that he was tinkering with a follow-up to his legendary classic *Blade Runner*. Well, it looks like he's also been talking to former Replicant-hunter Ford about the gig.

Ford opened up to IGN about the project and revealed he's been meeting with Scott about the movie, specifically his potential involvement. He also drops the bombshell that he'd be "happy" to work with Scott again to bring the world of *Blade Runner* back to life.

In the interview, Ford says, "Yeah, we've been chatting about it... I truly admire Ridley as a man and as a director, and I would be very happy to engage again with him in the further telling of this story."

ARTIST JOAN HANKE-WOODS DIES

Joan Hanke-Woods, who was Bubonicon's very first Artist Guest in 1987, was found dead September 16 in her Chicago apartment. She was 67 years old.

Her art appeared in *Galaxy*, *Fantastic Films*, *The Comics Journal* and many fanzines. She was nominated for the Best Fan Artist Hugo Award every year from 1980 to 1986, and finally won that last time. She also was Guest of Honor at Windycon in 1984.

Delphyne Joan Woods was born November 11, 1945, and grew up in the suburbs of Chicago. She attended North Park College, and lived in San Francisco in the late '60s before returning to Chicago. She worked in advertising, fashion art and newspaper production, and from the 1980s on was mostly employed as a legal secretary.

BBC CONFIRMS LOST *WHO* FOUND

Good news for Whovians! BBC News has confirmed long-running rumors that lost *Doctor Who* episodes had recently been found. According to the British network, BBC Worldwide is set to confirm the exciting news at a press screening taking place around October 11 that a number (just how many is being kept under wraps for now) of early *Doctor Who* episodes were returned home to Auntie Beeb.

In all, 106 episodes from the early years of the SF series featuring the first two Doctors – William Hartnell's First Doctor and Patrick Troughton's Second Doctor – are currently missing because the BBC destroyed a staggering amount of original transmission tapes back in the 1960s and 1970s.

However, a lot of those episodes had been trans-

ferred to film for the foreign broadcasters, which saved a few of those heretofore-thought-forever-lost episodes.

Back in 1991, the full four installments of "The Tomb of the Cybermen," featuring Doctor number Two Patrick Troughton, were discovered in Hong Kong. This time, the lost *Who* episodes are rumored to come from Ethiopia.

The extraordinary find coincides with the 50th anniversary of the long-running series, which will celebrate its half-century on Nov. 23 with a special episode titled "The Day of the Doctor," starring Matt Smith, David Tennant, Jenna Coleman, Billie Piper and John Hurt.

WB SAYS THEY 'NEED' WONDER WOMAN

For fans wanting to see a live-action version of *Wonder Woman*, the prospects have almost become a punchline these days. But DC's lady warrior apparently has one big proponent who might have the pull to finally make it happen, reported Syfy's Blastr in early October.

From aborted TV series, to Joss Whedon's failed attempt at a movie before signing his Marvel deal, *Wonder Woman* has been close to becoming real a few times. But no luck yet on pulling it all together.

Well, it turns out Warner Bros. CEO Kevin Tsujihara knows the company has let the superhero genre at large become a "missed opportunity" for the company's deal with DC – but he wants to remedy that, and *Wonder Woman* seems to be at the top of the list.

Tsujihara told the *Hollywood Reporter*, "We need to get *Wonder Woman* on the big screen or TV." A short and sweet pronouncement, which may lead to the Amazon Princess finally getting another shot in Hollywood.

BUBONICON 45 BREAKS RECORDS IN 2ND YEAR AT MARRIOTT UPTOWN

With 980 attendees, Bubonicon 45 was the largest fan-run New Mexico convention to date (an impressive 146 people larger than 2012). With increased attendance and smart spending, this year's convention easily added to the nest egg – and various improvements can be considered for the future. It was, simply, a major success! Lots of people seemed to bring their lucky charms and not fear Superstitions.

In the end, Bubonicon 45 donated a record \$4,250 to non-profit organizations. The Williamson Library Collection at Eastern NM University and the local Roadrunner Food Bank were given \$1,500 each, while \$1,000 was donated to the Albuquerque Public Library Foundation (to help with the North Valley Library's arson losses) and \$250 was given to New Mexico PBS to help with programming costs.

Bubonicon 45 saw eight new participants in pro-

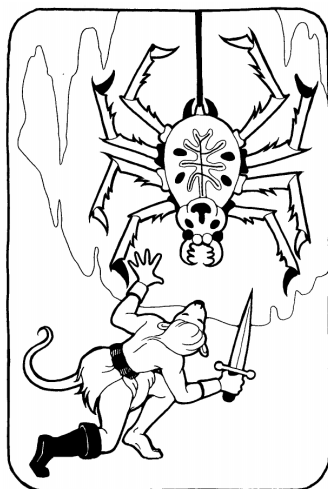
gramming – Carol Berg, Claire Eddy, Josh Gentry, Catherine Plesko, Joel Shepherd, Jim Sorenson, Warren Spec-
tor and Courtney Willis; plus the return of Doug Beason,
Suzy M. Charnas, Diana Gabaldon, Debbie Lynn Smith
and Sam Sykes.

Well-received programming included the 10th An-
nual Afternoon Tea, George RR Martin's reading, Martin
& Tim Powers' one-on-one discussion of dark fantasy,
Diana Gabaldon's writing workshop on sex scenes, Audi-
ence Expectations, Mechanics of Time Travel, Aspiring
Writers 102, Assassins & Serial Killers in Fantasy, Alan
F. Beck's slide show, the Costume Contest and Green
Slime Awards, Opening Ceremonies, Plesko's science
talk, and the Co-Guests of Honor presentation.

The Art Show had 47 artists displaying their wares
with sales of \$11,519, setting a new record. The Art
Show sold 41.6 percent of all artwork entered. The Sun-
day Auction was down a tad from 2012 with total sales of
\$2,206 (though *Froomb* went for \$300). Of that, 61 per-
cent went to Bubonicon. The Charity Auction on Friday
also was down from 2012, raising \$1,524.

No matter what the continuing world economic situa-
tion, Bubonicon 45 was a success. The 2nd year at the
Albuquerque Marriott Uptown went very smoothly, even
with some minor changes in programming rooms. And
it's still true that a large percentage of the hotel staff are
closet fans!

COSTUME CONTEST AWARDS: Best of Show went to
The Grim Reaper (Ken Coombes), Best Workmanship
was Jasmine You (Dee Skinner), Best Presentation went
to Lucky Gets Lucky (Leah Ransom & Geneva Schult),
Best Youth Costume was Science Duo (Jennifer Balulis
with Julie Heffernan), Best Superstitious Theme went to
La Llorona (Jackie Coombes), Best Recreation went to A
Message from Video Ranger (Alyssa Kersting), Best
Judges' Bribe was Saul Goodman from *Breaking Bad*
(Danae Lopez), Best Group Presentation went to Gender
Swap Steam-Powered Giraffe (Lizzie Schneider, Kayla
Moorman & Willow Gulley), and Best Use of Unusual
Materials was awarded to Max and His Robot: Robusta
Rita (Cindy Iacovetto). Honorable Mentions went to



Voodoo Queen with Doll &
Victim (Anna & Kathy
McKibben, Arya Benally),
Mr Smith & Mrs Jones
(Michael Harle & Leandra
Flores), Welcome to the
Night Vale (Megan Wal-
lace & Lilian Hoines),
Steampunk Belle (Allison
Sasso), and Gandalf the
Grey (Jay Nelson).

ART SHOW AWARDS:
Professional to Jim Hum-
ble, Amateur to Lannie
Pijajlic, Student to Naomi

Pascal, and Beast of Show (con theme) to Jamie Wal-
bridge.

All in all, the con went very well thanks to every
individual who pitched in! So, a tip of the con-com's hats
to everyone who contributed their time & efforts! And
special appreciation to Kristen Dorland, who has retired
from the position of co-chair.

BUBONICON 46 will be held August 1-3, 2014 – *three
weeks early* – at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown
(Louisiana & I-40), with Guests of Honor Jack Campbell
& Cherie Priest, Toastmaster Steven Gould, and Guest
Artist Darla Hallmark. Rooms are \$99 single-double,
\$109 triple-quad. Yes, the same rates as in 2013. Plus
plenty of restaurants within walking distance, and easy
access to the interstate!

Good luck to the 2014 team during their third year at
the Marriott (suggestions/program ideas are being taken
now at bubonicon@gmail.com). It will be interesting
with Bubonicon so early, but at least the con shouldn't
lose as many people to Europe travel (London Worldcon)
that way!

BOOK REVIEW ROUND-UP

***Treecat Wars* by David Weber and Jane Lindskold, 2013 Baen Books, hc \$18.99, 394 pages.**

Review by Kevin Hewett

Treecat Wars is the third YA novel in the Honorverse
which explores the initial contact between humans and
treecats. This book picks up where the previous one, *Fire
Season* by David Weber and Jane Lindskold, left off.
Stephanie Harrington and her treecat, Lionheart, leave the
planet Sphinx and travel to the capital planet of the Star
Kingdom to further her education as a junior ranger. Dur-
ing this trip she becomes involved in thwarting a plot to
declare the treecats non-sentient and hence unlock the vast
wilderness of Sphinx to exploitation by a wealthy clique
of Manticoran aristocrats.

Meanwhile on Sphinx, a clan of treecats needs to relo-
cate due to the extensive damage in their home range from
the forest fires. However, their migration route is blocked
by another clan of treecats. Stephanie's best friends, Jes-
sica and Anders, must mediate between the clans before
war breaks out between the clans. To further complicate
things, Jessica and Anders friendship is changing into a
romantic attraction, leaving both confused and dismayed
by Stephanie's apparent betrayal.

This book is a wonderful addition to the Honorverse
and is highly recommended to all fans. However, the story
requires knowledge provided in the earlier books in the
series, so read those first!

***Parasite: Parasitology Book 1* by Mira Grant, 2013 Or-
bit, hc \$20.00, 512 pages. [To be released October 29]**

Review by Jessica Coyle

Parasite, the first book in Mira Grant's (a.k.a. Seanan
McGuire) new trilogy, is set in a near future where people

are free from illness thanks to the SymboGen Corporation and their creation of the Intestinal Bodyguard tapeworm. The tapeworms live inside people's intestines and protect them from and cure them of a myriad of disease.

Sally Mitchell's life was saved by her Intestinal Bodyguard after a horrible car accident, but she is left with no memory and has to re-learn everything from how to walk to language to societal norms. Six years after her accident, Sally is able to have a job and lead a fairly normal life, but, in exchange for the payment of her medical treatments, she is required to report much of her life to and undergo fairly frequent medical testing by SymboGen. The more that SymboGen intrudes into her life, the more Sally begins to question their operations and the rather secretive science behind the Intestinal Bodyguard tapeworms. With the help of her boyfriend, Nathan, Sally sets out to uncover SymboGen's secrets, and uncovers more than she ever dreamed.

As a fan of McGuire's work under both her own name and as Grant, I was very eager to read this novel. *Parasite* is a quick and enjoyable read, and it has a lot of fast-paced action that I feel fans of authors such as Michael Crichton would enjoy. That said, I do feel as if McGuire is treading a lot of the same thematic ground that she already covered in her *Newsflesh Trilogy* (government/corporate conspiracies, gullibility of the general populace, etc), and this made parts of the book feel as if I had read them before. I also questioned the feasibility of some of the science in the book, but, as a former liberal arts major, that was not as much of a distraction for me as it might be for others. Overall, the book was a fun distraction, and I would recommend it to those looking for a fun, action-filled novel.

***Vicious* by V.E. Schwab, 2013 Tor Books, hc \$24.99, 368 pages.** **Review by Craig Chrissinger**

In V.E. Schwab's first adult SF novel, she takes a comic-book premise (the origin story) and creates an effort that is both fun and intriguing – two college roommates come to recognize that they share a sharpness and ambition below the masks they show to the world. In their senior year, Victor and Eli are interested in research on super-heroes, labeled as "ExtraOrdinaries" (EOs) in this near-future world. The questions they ask are whether EOs actually exist, and if so, are they born or created. Theories are postulated, and within days of each other, the two experiment with near-death experiences. The results are frightening and not what they expect.

Ten years later, Victor has broken out of prison and taken in a girl who can bring back the dead to help him in his mission of revenge. Eli has spent the years tracking down and eliminating every super-powered person he can find, declaring that they are an abomination to God.

Vicious jumps back and forth in time to reveal details of their experiments, Victor's time in jail, how they both gain sidekicks, and the build up to their climatic collision. The story is full of suspense and wit, and asks what makes someone a hero or a villain. Morality is twisted and questioned in a very entertaining fashion. It is a clever and cool

comic-book adventure without the pictures. Recommended.

***Blood of Tyrants: Temeraire Book 8* by Naomi Novik, 2013 Del Rey, hc \$26.00, 448 pages.**

Review by Al Kulp

Blood of Tyrants is the eighth installment in Naomi Novik's Temeraire series. I adore it, as I have read the others, but it is not a good starting place. It is hard to critique it without giving away spoilers for the entire series. Dragons the size of aircraft and political intrigue set in the Napoleonic era make the whole series a good read for me.

A large portion of this episode takes place in Imperial China, but the plot does also end on the beginning of one of Napoleon's worst defeats in our timeline. I really want to see how she handles it, as it is a very global war in her timeline. She has a great sweeping narrative style to her writing.

I definitely recommend the series to anyone interested in alternative history or dragons, but don't start with this one, as she does great character development but it's best to know some of the characters' back stories. Temeraire is Novik's saga, and a grand one in my opinion. She has an old fashioned feel to her writing. It's sort of like Horatio Hornblower on Pern.

So, yes, this book is for those who already love the series. Otherwise pick up *His Majesty's Dragon*, the first novel in the series.

***The Burning Sky: Elemental Trilogy 1* by Sherry Thomas, 2013 Balzer + Bray, hc \$17.99, 480 pages.**

Review by Geneva Schult

When I first read the back cover, I was mildly put off by the boiler plate "prince saving the kingdom with the help of his plucky sidekick" motif. However, when I opened the book I read this (edited) synopsis: "At Eton College, a pupil named Archer Fairfax returned from a 3-month absence caused by a broken bone. Almost every word in the preceding sentence is false. Archer Fairfax had not suffered a broken limb. He had never before set foot in Eton. His name was not Archer Fairfax. And he was not, in fact, even a he. This is the story of a girl who fooled a thousand boys, a boy who fooled an entire country, a partnership that would change the fate of realms, and a power to challenge the greatest tyrant the world had ever know. Expect magic."

Now THAT is a great intro! I read the book in two days, and it was quite the pleasure. This story takes place in three locations: England; inside the "mage realm" domain of which the prince is ruler; and inside a magical book that trains royal users in combat, strategy and academics, to better run the domain. Some similarities to the *Harry Potter* world exist, such as mundanes not knowing about magic users, teleporting, portals, and wands. However, that is where the familiarity ends.

This story has new, unusual twists that make it original and fresh. It is an engaging, age-appropriate young adult novel about the prince of a magical land, who, to

defeat an evil empire, needs the help of the world's greatest elemental mage, who can control all four elements, who turns out to be a charming adolescent girl.

Read it!

***Under a Graveyard Sky* by John Ringo, 2013 Baen Books, hc \$25.00, 384 pages. Review by Kevin Hewett**

Under a Graveyard Sky is the first in John Ringo's new series about the coming Zombie Apocalypse. It follows a family of "Doomsday Preppers" who get an early warning from a relative working for a multinational bank that a manmade virus has been detected which turns people into flesh-eating zombies.

The first part of the book deals with the initial preparations to survive the coming breakdown of civilization, the corporate led efforts to develop a vaccine, and the escape of the last survivors from Manhattan. This is by far the most interesting part of the novel as we learn the details about the characters and the world that Ringo has created.

The second part deals with the decisions that the patriarch of the family makes in trying to locate survivors of the plague to restart civilization. This involves the locating and clearing of lifeboats, pleasure craft and ships of all types which are floating in the Atlantic Ocean. It becomes repetitive as there are only a finite number of methods that can be used to assault zombie infested ships.

Recommended only for zombie fans who love blood-soaked adventure.

***Warbound: Grimnoir Chronicles 3* by Larry Correia, 2013 Baen Books, hc \$25.00, 448 pages.**

Review by Becky Davis

Sheldon Leonard's ghost did not visit me after I read this third volume in Larry Correia's *Grimnoir* series. The literary ghost probably should have been Toshiro Mifune or one of the anime goliath monsters.

Jake Sullivan, a Heavy, and nominal hero of this series, and Toru Tokugawa of the Iron Guard of Nippon have old animosity from the second volume, *Spellbound*. But they each suppress their hatred of the other in order to defeat the Pathfinder, a small piece of an alien life-sucking Evil which would defeat the Hero powers which have spread around the earth since the late 1890s. This Pathfinder converts ordinary humans into super-powered minions to help open the world to its own evil Master.

Sullivan and Tokugawa each recruit Actives (power wielders, which are defined by a glossary in the back of the book) and Grimnoir knights to take out the Pathfinder. They try first in Alaska (held by a Chinese/Japanese Imperium in Correia's world), then in Shanghai. Buckminster Fuller plays a small role as a distracted Cog physicist ("he has a thing for domes") commanded to build a weapon to kill the Pathfinder. Griorgi Rasputin (the Black Monk), FDR and J. Edgar Hoover also appear in small roles in the book.

An unlikely weapon grows in this volume of the series: Faye Vierra, the young telekinetic Active of the first

book has grown in power, and in her resignation to being a force for both killing and redemptive good. She becomes a power fulcrum and plank to lift the world away from the encroaching alien Evil. She now channels multiple powers through the force of one called the Spellbound: an Active magical spirit, which is smart, fast and evil (the Elder Council of Grimnoir knights fear it). They want her dead, but they need her to help the other knights stop the Pathfinder.

Correia crafts plots and subplots throughout the book, along with epic (film-worthy, or graphic novel-worthy) battles with body parts strewn over wide areas. His plots and management of locales have improved. His battles (numerous), though epic and traumatic, are more comic novel than reporter-accurate. Heroes fly through the air above 10 feet to inflict terrible damage on implacable foes. Evil minions die horribly and heroes survive killing wounds. This is manga or anime rather than a 1930's real life struggle which leads to World War II. That's the goal of Correia's series. His view of which of his characters will be the fulcrum and lever for the terrible energies played out in that war will be plot and core for between one and two more books.

Correia works hard to keep Faye Vierra, Jake Sullivan and Toru Tokugawa as sympathetic characters. But you can be sure that the author will focus on some other characters to build his series to its final epic conclusion. My Power tells me so.

***Box Office Poison* by Phillipa Bornikova, 2013 Tor Books, hc \$24.99, 320 pages.**

Review by Craig Chrissinger

In her second urban fantasy, Phillipa Bornikova (Melinda Snodgrass) takes lawyer Linnet Ellery to Hollywood for a clever and entertaining look behind the scenes when human actors decide to file a lawsuit in protest of exquisitely beautiful elves getting all the TV and movie roles. Ellery, a human working for a vampire law firm, is there to serve as arbitrator along with a more experienced vampire lawyer. Of course, she soon discovers a sinister scheme in Tinsel Town – someone wants to destroy the fragile peace that exists between elves, vampires, werewolves and humans. On the surface, famous elven actors suddenly commit terrible acts of violence, and Ellery wonders what is beneath these bizarre events.

Bornikova has fun in *Box Office Poison* showing off a deep understanding of how movies and TV shows are made, including set visits; and even pokes a little fun at Hollywood. But she also creates a mystery and legal thriller that is intriguing and entertaining. There is more going on here than just elves going crazy and humans becoming jealous of casting decisions. Just like the first Linnet Ellery adventure (*This Case Is Gonna Kill Me*), this book is a fun, fast read with strong storytelling. Linnet is growing as a character and Bornikova is obviously becoming more comfortable with the world she has established.

This one is recommended, and it will be interesting to see what happens in book three.

***Battle Magic* by Tamora Pierce, 2013 Scholastic Press, hc \$17.99, 464 pages.** **Review by Jessica Coyle**

Battle Magic, the latest Young Adult novel by celebrated author Tamora Pierce, is set in the world of her *Living Circle* novels. It follows the story of Living Circle Dedicate Rosethorn, the plant mage Briar Moss, and Briar's student, Evvy, on their travels. The book finds the trio on their way to the country of Yanjing, where Rosethorn and Briar are invited to study the Emperor's famous gardens. They have heard much about the war-like emperor and his desire to conquer the lands surrounding Yanjing, but they believe that their magic will protect them.

The longer that they spend in the royal court, the more the three discover about the Emperor's plans to conquer the neighbor country of Gyongxe, home to the First Temple of Rosethorn's Living Circle religion. Briar, Rosethorn, and Evvy, with the help of Parahan, a slave to the Emperor, set out to warn Gyongxe. The four commit themselves to the battle against Yanjing, and end up sacrificing more than they ever expect.

As a longtime fan of Pierce's work, I have been looking forward to this book's release for quite awhile. Her last *Living Circle* novel, *Melting Stones*, was by far her weakest novel, and I was curious to see if she could redeem the series with *Battle Magic*. I definitely enjoyed the book, and feel it is a good example of Pierce's typical blend of adventure, mystery, and eventual triumph. I found the storyline of the young apprentice Evvy (whose character was probably the biggest problem in *Melting Stones*) to be the anchor of the book in a way that really makes readers care about her. I highly recommend *Battle Magic* to fans of Young Adult Fantasy adventures.

***The Rise of Ransom City* by Felix Gilman, 2013 Tor Books (reprint), tp \$15.99, 368 pages.**

Review by Geneva Schult

I was expecting a standard "steampunk" novel. Boy was I surprised. The unusual story of *The Rise of Ransom City* sounds like it was written by the lovechild of Mark Twain and the main character in *The Music Man*.

A huckster, Harry Ransom, travels out West to hawk his Apparatus that makes a golden light that is not electricity, traveling from town to town, putting on a show to earn money to get to the next town. As the story unfolds, told by a narrator, in snippets taken from the main character's memoirs, you begin to notice odd things.

The main war, being fought by the Line and Agents of the Gun, turns out to be between immortal Demons that serially inhabit humans (Agents) as long as they live, and Spirits that inhabit the giant railroad Engines of the Line. The Folk, magical yet deadly native people (drow elves?), provide the sigil that powers the mechanical invented Apparatus with otherworldly fey energies.

The Apparatus turns out to have the power to obliterate the Engines and the Demons permanently. Ransom becomes a captive of the Line, and although rich and cosseted, is working from the inside to sabotage the Engines

while being forced to make many versions of the Apparatus. There is a love story with a fierce female inventor. The narrator also tells his tale of acquiring all the parts of the memoir which were written piecemeal and mailed all over the country.

Felix Gilman's novel is best read in chapters over time, as a little Harry Ransom goes a long way. However I kept returning to it, wanting to find out what happened next, and if Ransom City ever got built. The epilogue has a great ending.

ASFS MEETING REPORTS — **MAY 2013: FILM NIGHT**

Thirty-one people attended a Film Night, and chose to view Bert I. Gordon's tale of teenagers grown huge, *Village of the Giants* (featuring a very young Ronnie Howard, slow-mo dancing, and a theme song that sticks in your head). Also shown were the short features: "The Abominable Snow Rabbit" (Bugs Bunny & Daffy Duck), "Mort Unbound" from *The Penguins of Madagascar*, and "I Was a Penguin Zombie" from *The Penguins* again.

JUNE: ACE PREVIEW & IAN TREGILLIS

For the first ASFS of summer, 45 people were present for an ACE 3 preview from Craig A. Butler and a visit from Santa Fe author Ian Tregillis.

Butler told the crowd that the third ACE would have "less big names, with more focus on events and such. We have the Costume Contest, videogames with contests and tournaments, licensed comics appraisers, Sci-Fi Speed Dating, three movie cars, the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, an Artemis starship bridge simulator, Lego museum, the Albuquerque Scale Model Society, the Tromadance NM Film Festival with *The Stink of Flesh* in 3-D, an anime room, offsite after-parties, panels - including one on *Breaking Bad* - lots of guests such as Neal Adams, signings and more."

After a short break, Tregillis talked about his *Milkweed Triptych* trilogy and its third book. "I signed this contract in 2007 or early 2008, so I'm amazed now to see all three books on a shelf," he commented. "I'm pleased with them overall."

His next book, *Something More Than Night*, will be out in December and is a stand-alone effort. Tregillis said, "I'm very happy with it. It's the Raymond Chandler-influenced, angel detective novel. Claire Eddy of Tor was my editor on *Something*, and she's a big noir fan. She made me a better writer."

Tregillis revealed that he is almost finished with the first book of a new trilogy, which will be out from Orbit. "Tentatively, it's called *The Clackers Trilogy*," he revealed. "It's a world based on the Dutch becoming world leaders with clockwork men, which marries alchemy to early tech. I recommended calling it 'clockpunk' because there's no steam technology in it."

"The Clackers look like clockpunk Terminators," he continued. "They're relentless and never tire. They never stop. There are various forms of Clackers. There are servitors, military types and stem winders. They are self-aware, so one of the philosophical debates throughout the books is whether they have free-will."

Asked about his writing style, Tregillis replied, "I can't write by the seat of my pants. I have to have an outline. At a bare minimum, I have to know the beginning and the end. It gets more detailed as I go."

He doesn't write much magic-based fiction, he admits. "Here's the thing about magic," he said. "It's impossible to create a self-consistent world once you introduce magic. It's kind of like fuzzy-ball logic."

After the *Clackers* trilogy, Tregillis said he is "percolating some ideas in the back of my head. They may come to light, they might not."

CLUB BUSINESS: Kristen Dorland addressed the group about Bubonicon, and changes to the convention's structure and relationship with ASFS. "Bubonicon has been incorporated, it's growing close to 1,000 people, and it has expanding revenue," she stated. From now on, the current con committee will produce nominees for con chair, then take a vote of confidence. If more than one nominee is confirmed, then a vote will take place at ASFS under the established voting rules.

JULY: SUSAN KRINARD DROPS IN

Forty-two people came out at the height of summer to hear local author Susan Krinard talk about her new urban fantasy trilogy that starts with *Mist*.

Krinard said she came up with *Mist*, which uses Norse mythology, "before the *Thor* movie, but they have similarities. I chose Norse mythology because it hasn't been done as much. First, I wrote a story for the *Chicks Kick Butt* anthology, and I knew I wanted to expand it. I sent out a proposal for a three-book series, and everyone turned it down but Tor. I'm not thrilled with the cover. Something has happened to her arm - it has no bend. Her arm and face are a little weird. I did get to tell them she shouldn't have a bare midriff with tattoos."

Talking about how she was first exposed to science fiction, she said, "It was a teacher reading *A Wrinkle in Time* to us. I was hooked instantly. And then I would sneak peeks at comic books like *Thor* and *The Sub-Mariner*. I liked the sci-fi ones the most. I grew up in San Francisco and attended art school, where I flunked out. I now live in Albuquerque with my husband, three dogs and two cats."

Krinard then read some blurbs from her website, the book's back cover, monsterread.com, and from *Mist's* prologue - set in 1942 Norway during World War II and then in current-day San Francisco.

She said the second book in the trilogy is *Black Ice*, and that the third is supposed to be titled *Battle Storm*.

To finish, she held a drawing for a copy of *Mist*. Fred Aiken was the lucky winner!

AUGUST: B'CON PREVIEW & SHORTS

Forty-five people visited St. Andrew Presbyterian Church to get a preview of Bubonicon 45's program schedule and Alan F. Beck's artwork for the t-shirts. Craig Chrissinger and Kristen Dorland also answered some questions from the audience.

After that preview, a smaller audience stayed for the screening of several shorts to try out Bubonicon's new short-throw digital projector in the field before the con. People were treated to "Read, Set, Zoom" (Road Runner & Coyote), "It's About Time" and "I Was a Penguin Zombie" from *The Penguins of Madagascar*, "A Circus Wakes Up" from *RiffTrax*, *Laser Squad Action Force*, part of *Robot Chicken's DC Comics Special*, and "Skorca!" from *The Penguins* again..

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

THIS HAS BEEN an odd Fall so far. Seems like the weather can't make up its mind. One day it's hotter than usual, then we see rain like the southwest can only imagine, and then cold fronts come through. It's one sign of the apocalypse, I tell you.

So might be the 10-day (so far) Government Shutdown. If only these knuckleheads could come up with solutions and compromises instead of kicking all the sand and toys out of the sandbox. It's childish behavior, and I sympathize with everyone on furlough - and the many fans in New Mexico who soon may be without work, too. Maybe an alien invasion apocalypse?

MILEHICON 45 is next weekend. Looking forward to it, and a little extra time in Denver. We'll be busy with Bubonicon hosting the con suite for two hours - plus I'm on two panels, and helping with SF Name That Tune & possibly the Literacy Auction. Still, it will be good to see Connie Willis, Carrie Vaughn, Melinda Snodgrass, Ian Tregillis, Robert Vardeman, and our various Colorado fan friends.

OF THE THREE really good movies I've seen recently, only one qualifies as science fiction - *Gravity* with Sandra Bullock and George Clooney. It's a tense, well-acted tale of space disaster and survival. I found it fascinating and visually beautiful. It helps that director Alfonso Cuarón is the guy who made *Children of Men* and the best of the *Harry Potter* films. The other two recommended films are dramas with excellent casts - Ron Howard's tale of Formula One racing, *Rush*, and another based-on-a-true-story film, *Captain Phillips* with Tom Hanks. I also have seen *Riddick* with Vin Diesel. It's closer to *Pitch Black* in spirit, and is actually fairly entertaining with a side of cheese.

STILL TRYING TO wrap our heads around having 980 people at Bubonicon 45, and about next year's con being three weeks early. Wow, pretty darn incredible. Can I sleep now?

SOME OF YOU have heard that St. Andrew Presbyterian Church had their copper wire ripped out/stolen September 30. It's appalling and a real shame. We're passing around the hat tonight for donations, and Bubonicon also is helping.

THANKS TO Geneva Schult, Kevin Hewett, Jessica Coyle, Becky Davis and Al Kulp for contributions (also to Leah Ransom for suffering through a book). More needed in December, please!

Happy Halloween & Thanksgiving!

Out of room, Craig C.



UPCOMING FAN EVENTS

+ **MILEHICON 45** takes place Friday-Sunday, Oct 18-20, at the Hyatt Regency Tech Center in Denver. Special Guests Seanan McGuire, Catherynne M. Valente, Ian Tregillis and Aaron Miller, plus folks such as Mario Acevedo, Paolo Bacigalupi, Carol Berg, Peri Charlfu, Warren Hammond, Tim Simpson, Melinda Snodgrass, Jeanne Stein, Robert Vardeman, Carrie Vaughn, Connie and Courtney Willis and more. Opening Theme is "Faeries & Goblins." Panels, Readings, Art Show, Dealers Room, Dr. Science, Masquerade, Critter Crunch, Gaming, SF Name That Tune, Literacy Auction and more. Bubonicon sponsors the con suite Friday evening! \$46.00 at the door. Hotel 303-779-1234. www.milehicon.org.

+ **INDEPENDENT COMICS EXPLOSION**, a local creators showcase, is Noon-4:00 pm Saturday, Oct 19, at Kaboom Test Labs, 10250 Cottonwood Park Road, Suite E. Admission is free. Contact Ben Girven, ijuststarted@egocomics.com.

+ **THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW**, the cult classic musical, screens 11:00 pm Saturday, Oct 19, at the Guild Cinema, 3405 Central Ave NE. Special event \$20.00, with a prop bag provided. www.guildcinema.com.

+ **THE GUILD**, all 6 seasons of Felicia Day's web series, screens Oct 21-24, at Santa Fe's Jean Cocteau Cinema - with Skype appearances from the cast! Two seasons per day and a marathon on Thurs, Oct 24. www.jeancocteaucinema.com.

+ **RIFFTRAX LIVE: NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD**, with

funny comments on George Romero's 1st zombie film, is 7:00 pm Thursday, Oct 24, at the Century Rio, Century Downtown and Regal Cottonwood. www.fathomevents.co

+ **BRIAN JAY JONES**, former ABQ resident, talks about and signs *Jim Henson: The Biography* 2:30 pm Saturday, Oct 26, at Page One Bookstore, Montgomery & Juan Tabo NE, www.page1book.com - and 1:00 pm Sunday, Oct 27, at Bookworks on Rio Grande Blvd NW, www.bkwrks.com.

+ **DANIEL ABRAHAM**, ABQ author of fantasy & space opera, talks 2:00 pm Monday, Oct 28, for the UNM Honors College course, "Meet the Authors: Exploring the Creative Process," in Room 21, ground floor of the UNM Student Health Center Building (across from the Student Union). Free & open to the public. Contact Leslie Donovan, ldonovan@unm.edu.

+ **BIG ASS SPIDER**, a 2013 film of a gigantic arachnid attacking Los Angeles, screens 5:00, 7:15 & 9:30 pm Thursday, October 31 (Halloween) at the Guild Cinema. \$8.00 - cash only. Bubonicon 46 and Stranger Factory are prize sponsors. www.guildcinema.com.

+ **DARYNDA JONES** of Portales and **Shea Berkley** of ABQ talk about and sign their latest YA fantasy/paranormal efforts, *Death, and the Girl He Loves* & *The Fallen Prince* respectively, 3:00 pm Saturday, Nov 2, at Page One Bookstore, www.page1book.com.

+ **7000 BC**, the local comics group, meets 1:00 pm Saturday, Nov 9, in Santa Fe. Contact Jeff, belmondo@swcp.com.

Albuquerque SF Society

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Next Deadline: Sunday, December 8, 2013

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