



Handicapping The Hugos The Drink Tank Issue 168



Last year, I did OK. I got a few dead-on (though how could anyone have doubted that the James Tiptree book was the obvious winner) and I missed a few. I did well enough that I thought I would give it another try and go through all the stuff again.

It also meant I had a lot of reading to do.

I had done most of the short stuff as they came out (including one complete category) and the novels were tougher. I also went back and read all the fanzines, looked into the various editors, talked to some people and basically made myself more aware of the works of the editors and such.

And as always, I've discovered that there should be a few fixes to the awards themselves.

The one that has stuck in my head more and more is the short form editor categories. I say get rid of them and replace them with a Best Magazine and Best Anthology Hugo, at the same time rolling the Semi-Pro Magazines in with the Best Magazine Hugo. I think Best Editor Long Form is probably a good category to keep, unless you just want to give the editor a Hugo to go along with the Best Novel and so on. It's a thought, but I doubt it'll ever happen. I really think that best magazine would be a good idea.

OK, enough about that. Let's get down to the nuts and bolts of the issue: saying who's gonna win it all!

BEST FAN ARTIST

(Last Year's Winner: Frank Wu)

Folks left off the list- Dan Steffan, Kurt Erichsen, Harry Bell, Frank Wu

5th- Teddy Harvia

Content in Chris Garcia Zines- 0.

Pros- A former winner and a big name for a couple of decades. Nominated pretty much every year since 1988, with wins in 1991 and 1995.

Cons- hasn't had much, if any, new material popping up in zines.

Work to see: <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/4159/>

Odds- 15-to-1

4th- Brad W. Foster

Content in Chris Garcia Zines- Several pieces, including the cover of at least two issues. Many Chris For TAFF art pieces.

Pros- Multi-time winner and frequent contributor to fanzines. Style has evolved over the last couple of years.

Cons- Not a huge art show guy, which has been a huge help for recent winners. Vote splitting with some folks between Brad and Stiles.

Works to see: The Cover of the Sec-

ond Annual Giant Sized Annual (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/266978/The-Drink-Tank-Giant-Sized-Annual>)

Odds- 5-to-1

3rd- Taral Wayne

Content in Chris Garcia zines- a lengthy interview with Frank Wu in The Drink Tank. A few pieces of writing and an art piece or two.

Pros- Next Year's Fan Guest of Honor at WorldCon. Long-standing artist of note who was nominated in 1988, 89, 90 and again in 2000 and 2001. One of the founding artists in Furry Fandom. Has done covers for Hugo nominated fanzines like File 770 and Challenger. Is my personal choice.

Cons- Didn't have as much art out there as some on the list. The push for Stiles this year will probably hurt him more than the others, or he'd win the thing in a walk.

Works (and words) to see- <http://efanzines.com/DrinkTank/DrinkTank153.pdf> and <http://efanzines.com/DrinkTank/DrinkTank154.pdf>

Odds- 3-to-1

Even First- Steve Stiles

Content in Chris Garcia Zines- 0,

though he's offered and I've just dropped the ball.

Pros- one of the best known fan artists ever. Has won the Rotsler Award, numerous FAAn Awards, done covers for many zines, won TAFF, killed Hitler, and just about everything else you can do in fandom except winning a Hugo. Has a bloc of fans pushing for him to finally win the one that he's probably deserved for 30+ years.

Cons- For some reason, the Hugo Voting audience hasn't embraced him.

Works to see- <http://efanzines.com/EK/e135/stiles.htm>

Odds- 2-to-1

Even First- Sue Mason

Content in Chris Garcia zines-0, but



has said she'll try and send something.

Pros-well-loved English Fan Artist whose pieces in zines like PLOKTA have many fans. Won twice before (2003 and 2005)

Cons- is up against the Stiles Machine. Hasn't had quite as many works out there this year as previous.

Works to see- <http://plokta.com/plokta/issue37/issue37.pdf>

Odds- 2-to-1

If this isn't the year for Steve Stiles, I just don't think it's gonna happen. And it might not be the year for Steve. If there wasn't such a strong push for him from the Fanzine Fans, I'd say it would be Sue in a walk. This year might well be the year that Stiles is finally awarded the Hugo, but Sue's still got an inside track. Frank Wu probably would have won it again if he hadn't said he wasn't going to accept the nomination, but maybe not. I really can't call it any clearer than a Mason-Stiles deadheat.

BEST FAN WRITER

(last year's winner- Dave Langford)

Folks left off the list- James Bacon,

Frank Wu, Jay Lake, Claire Brialey, John Coxon, John Hertz, Peter Weston, Lloyd Penney

5th- Chris Garcia

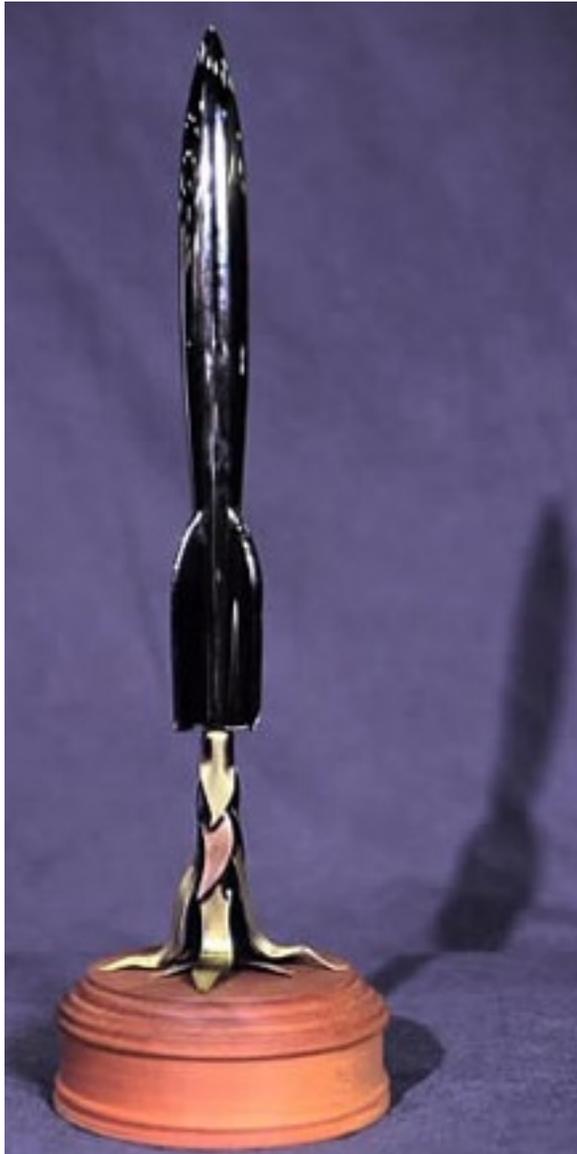
Content in Chris Garcia zines- Not as much as you'd think.

Pros- Likable fellow who got the most nominations last year. TAFF helped raise profile. Has had articles on both sides of the Atlantic.

Cons- Least read of any of the nominees. Not the best writer you'll ever find. In the same category with Langford and Scalzi, which means he ain't winning.

Things to Read- <http://efanzines.com/DrinkTank/index.htm> and <http://efanzines.com/Procrastinations/procrastinations03.pdf>

Odds- Slim to none, but I'll be generous and say 20-to-1



www.scribd.com/doc/267025/Vonnegut

Odds- 7-to-1

3rd- Cheryl Morgan

Content in Chris Garcia zines- a couple

4th- Steven Silver

Content in Chris Garcia Zines- A few articles, including a very good one in the Vonnegut issue, by far the most read issue of The Drink Tank.

Pros- Really good writer and nice guy who is widely read in many areas. His Hugo Nominated Fanzine Argentus is a good one!

Cons- Doesn't have the name that Morgan, Scalzi or Langford do. Not nearly as widely read as any of those three.

Things to Read- <http://www.sfsite.com/~silverag/argentus.html> and <http://www.scribd.com/doc/267025/Vonnegut>

3rd- Cheryl Morgan

Content in Chris Garcia zines- a couple

of pieces, an LoC and a piece of faanfiction.

Pros- great writer and wonderful person whose zine Emerald City (please bring it back!) was a Hugo winner in 2004. She's been doing great stuff and I believe this is her fifth appearance on the ballot, having come closer to conquering the Langford Powerhouse in 2004 than anyone but Scalzi.

Cons- Doesn't have Emerald City to show off how great her stuff is, though she still has a successful blog. There are matters of personal politics that might keep her down a bit. Her name is also neither Scalzi nor Langford.

Stuff to read- <http://www.emcit.com/emcit.php> is the archive of all the great Emerald City content.

Odds- 5-to-1

2nd- Dave Langford

Content in Chris Garcia zines- An excellent article on Eastercon from 2007

Pros- Has won the freakin' thing 20+ times! He's a great writer and a great guy. Ansible would probably be running away with the Best Fanzine Category if he hadn't named it a Semi-Pro

Cons- He's won the freakin' thing 20+ times! His exposure is slightly less

than John Scalzi's.

Stuff to read- <http://www.news.ansible.co.uk/> and <http://www.scribd.com/doc/267011/Issue-126>

Odds- 3-to-1

Winner- John Scalzi

Content in Chris Garcia zines- an interview with James Bacon in Journey Planet.

Pros- Yes, he's a pro and a fairly big name one as well. His blog is hugely read and he's a really good writer.

Cons- Yes, he's a pro. That rubs some people the wrong way.

Stuff to read- <http://scalzi.com/whatever>

Odds- 2-to-1

I asked a few friends to send me their thoughts on what should win for the various categories.

Niall Harrison

Best fan writer: here I have to go with Scalzi; I do think he's the one who's most consistently entertained me over the year (sorry), and more selfishly I'd like to see the point that Online Writing Counts put in stone.

Good points. I'm thinking he'll



take it too, but it'll be close just because it seems like voting Langford is so automatic. I still would like the award to go to someone who has a strong involvement with fanzines (and far more folks read Ansible on-line than in print). I've often said that who is eligible has little to do with who you should vote for. I always put my votes with the folks who write the best stuff for fanzines and not even consider the stuff that folks write on-line. Others, perfectly validly, may vote for the folks who have the best blogs and completely ignore the folks who write for zines. Both of those are perfectly legit reasons for voting for people. Everyone has a filter they use and they're all valid as

long as they're within the frame work of the rules for the category. I always look at it as that's the widest piece you can let through, your personal sieve may have a finer mesh.

I just wonder what it will be like in a world where Dave Langford lost?

BEST FANZINE

(Last Year's Winner- Science Fiction Five Yearly)

Folks left off the list- Banana Wings, Prolapse, eI, The Knarley Knews

5th place- Argentus

Content From Chris Garcia- In issue 6 there was some, but nothing in the most recent issue

Pros- Excellent zine with an excellent list of contributors.

Cons- readership level is slightly below those of the top three zines. Newest zine on the ballot. Only one issue a year.

Where to find it: <http://www.sfsite.com/~silverag/argentus.html>

Odds- 10-to-1

4th Place- The Drink Tank

Content from Chris Garcia- between 3 and 10 thousand words an issue. Also



layout. Very rarely art.

Pros- a zine with a readership that actually votes for the Hugos. Some folks who submit to The Drink Tank don't appear in other zines. Issue about Kurt Vonnegut was widely read. At times, it's been a very fun zine. Nearly the most nominated zine last year.

Cons- It's a crudzine at heart. Readership is probably 20% of what the bigger ones on the ballot get. Lots of typos and weak layout. Lost to No Award on First Place votes.

Where to find it: <http://efanzines.com/DrinkTank/index.htm>

Odds- 8-to-1

3rd place- PLOKTA

Content from Chris Garcia- An article in 2006 and some LoCs.

Pros- popular zine made by popular people in the popular country of Great Britain! Some of the most fun layouts you'll ever see.

Cons- Only one issue in

2007.

Where can you find it: <http://www.plokta.com>

Odds- 4-to-1

2nd Place- File 770

Content from Chris Garcia- LoCs and

an article for the 30th Anniversary Issue.

Pros- long-standing newszine that's always top-notch and has become more frequent again after a brief lull.

Cons- nothing major.

Where you can read it: <http://efanzines.com/File770/index.htm>

Odds- 3-to-1

Winner- Challenger

Content from Chris Garcia- LoCs and an article a while back.

Pros- long-running zine by Guy Lillian that has a great contributor list, some wonderful art and design and great writing. Did very well in the voting and nominations last year (Number 1 in Noms and Number 2 in votes)

Cons- Nothing major.

Where you can look at it: www.challzine.net/index.htm

Odds- 2-to-1

Niall Harrison Again

Best fanzine: do you know, I haven't read Argentus or Challenger? But of the others, I go with the Drink Tank.

I gotta thank Niall for the nod, but I don't think there's any way. I may be able to swing a lot of votes from the BArea (and I that'll make all the difference between me being fourth or fifth), but Challenger's placing well last year might do the trick for it to win. I thought that File 770 had a very good year, and releasing the 30th Anniversary issue right as voting started might have an effect. PLOKTA is the zine I'd give to people who don't know much about fanzines because it's flashy and well done. It might be close, but I'm thinking (and voting) that Guy wins it all.

BEST SEMI PRO ZINE

(Last Year's Winner: Locus)

What's Not on the Ballot- Internet Review of Science Fiction, Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet, Clarkesworld (which is now a Pro Market)

5th Place- Helix

Chris Garcia Content- 0

Pros-Good magazine with some fresh content. On-line system is highly accessible.

Cons- Readership isn't as wide as others on the list. Little buzz overall.



Where to find it: <http://www.helixsf.com>

Odds- 15-to-1

4th Place- Interzone

Chris Garcia Content- 0

Pros- Good stuff that often produces Hugo nominees. Won the award by in 1995.

Cons- It ain't what it used to be.

Where to find it: <http://ttapress.com/category/interzone/>

Odds- 10-to-1

3rd Place- The New York Review of Science Fiction

Chris Garcia Content: 0

Pros- very smart and regular. I think it might be my favourite related zine. The masterful David Hartwell as editor.

Cons- not nearly as beloved as Locus or Ansible.

Where to find it: <http://www.nyrsf.com>

Odds- 7-to-1

Second Place- Ansible

Chris Garcia Content- a couple of mentions of me during my TAFF race.

Pros- It's Dave freakin' Langford, so it's always gonna compete. Generally good information and one of the few fanzine-like things that still gets Mainstream Fandom reading.

Cons- Content is really geared towards a certain audience that's not quite as broad as Locus.

Where you can find it: <http://>

www.news.ansible.co.uk

Odds- 5-to-1

Winner- Locus

Chris Garcia Content- I think they listed my name when I was nominated last year.

Pros- It's Locus. That's like being Dave Langford in the Best Fan Writer (every year but this year, that is). Widely read by fans and non-fans alike. One of the best known magazines in SF.

Cons- People might be tiring of always giving it to Locus.

Where you can find it:
www.locusmag.com

Odds- Even money

Niall Harrison

Semiprozine: well, I'd love to see NYRSF win at last. But of course it won't.

OK, let's talk inevitability. When I think of the word inevitable, I think death, taxes and Locus winning this damn award whenever it's not given out in the UK. This year, nothing broke through that would make me think that anything else is going to win and that's sad. I think that the Internet Review of Science Fiction is my favourite Semi-Pro, but they did take a long

break last year. Still, I think that the New York Review of SF is nowhere near IRoSf for readability.



BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

(Last Year's Winner: Donato Giancola)

Who's Not on the Ballot- Donato Giancola (I can't remember if he said he'd decline this year), Whelan, Comic Book artists other than Phil Foglio, anyone I really appreciate other than Phil Foglio

6th through 2nd Place- Bob Eggleton, John Harris, Stephan Martinere, John Picacio and Shaun Tan

Chris Garcia interaction with those guys- 0 (though I might have met Bob Eggleton once)

Here's the thing, I don't know any of these artists. I'm sure I've seen their work, but I'm not in the know on any of them. There's very little buzz as well around any of them. I have to say that I think we'll see none of these guys win because there's so much buzz around...

Winner- Phil Foglio

Interaction with Chris Garcia- We've met a bunch of times and I interviewed him for MoronLife.com at WonderCon a few years back

Pros- A wonderful artist whose comic Girl Genius is brilliant. A fan favourite and former Hugo winner for Best Fan Artist (and will be joining Jack Gaughan as the only guy to win both, I think). The Buzz around the guy is red hot.

Cons- Comic artists haven't done well over the years.

Find it at: <http://www.girlgeniusonline.com/>

BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR- SHORT FORM

(Last Year's Winner: Gordon Van Gelder)

Who's Not on the Ballot- Mike Resnick, Gardner Dozois, Nick Mamatas

5th Place- Jonathan Strahan

Contact with Chris Garcia- None

Pros- edited one of the best anthologies of the year (The New Space Opera, which I loved!) and did The Best Science Fiction and Fantasy of the Year.

Cons- Eclipse One wasn't great. Not a magazine editor and has less exposure than the other names on the list

Odds- 17-to-1

4th Place- Ellen Datlow

Contact with Chris Garcia- We've done a couple of panels together, including one in Seattle a few years back.

Pros- A great name and well-loved by fans everywhere.

Cons- Slowed down and not nearly as visible as she was 2 or 3 years ago.

Odds- 10-to-1

3rd Place- Stanley Schmidt

Contact with Chris Garcia- None.



Pros- The long-standing editor of Analog. Has been on the ballot so many times. Analog had a better than usual year.

Cons- He's the Susan Lucci of the Hugos with more than 20 noms (in

fact, I think he's closing in on 30) and no wins. Not as big a name as Gordo Van G. Only one fiction nominee, a serialized Novel, on this year's ballot.

You can find info at- <http://www.analogsf.com>

Odds- 8-to-1

2nd Place- Sheila Williams

Contact with Chris Garcia- She once sent a very nice personal rejection letter to me.

Pros- Asimov's has produced a lot of winners. 7 of this year's fiction noms were from Asimov's.

Cons- Asimov's was good this year, though not great.

You can haz information- <http://asimovs.com>

Odds- 4-to-1

Winner- Gordon Van Gelder

Contact with Chris Garcia- A couple of Alas rejections in the early 2000s, a couple of panels over the years, including a good one on SteamPunk.

Pros- Great editor of F&SF, which had a really good year in 2007. Easily the biggest name on the ballot. Four Hugo Fiction nominees on the ballot.

Cons- He won last year, but other than that, nothing'

Where to infomate- <http://www.sfsite.com/fsf/>

Odds- 2-to-1

And Niall adds...

Editor Short Form is tough, but probably Sheila Williams - I thought Asimov's had a strong year. Gordon Van Gelder and Jonathan Strahan bubbling under.

I didn't think Asimov's was that great this year, but F&SF has a wonderful year, especially with the December issue being the best of any

of the big three I've read in ages. Still, Niall's not the only one who has mailed me with the thought that Sheila's got a great shot at it. I think Strahan is going to be passed over even though his was the best anthology of the year. That's why I would say make it Best Magazine and Best Anthology. I think leaving Gardner off the ballot was a bad thing, even though he's got a bunch. His stuff was great this year.



BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR- LONG FORM

(Last Year's Winner: Patrick Nielsen-Hayden)

Who's Not on The Ballot- I have no idea.

5th Place- Beth Meacham

Contact with Chris Garcia- I met her once a few years ago.

Pros- Long-standing in the field working for Ace and has had a long run at Tor.

Cons- Probably the least known name on the ballot to the Everyfan out there.

Odds- 10-to-1

4th Place- Lou Anders

Contact with Chris Garcia- None

Pros- I believe he edited Brasyl, a Best Novel nominee. Long-standing name.

Cons- Doesn't have quite the standing of the others on the list.

Odds- 8-to-1

3rd Place- Ginjer Buchanan

Contact with Chris Garcia- We've met once, but my Dad said he talked to her a couple of times in the 70s or 80s.

Pros- Long-standing with great, long-term roots. Edited Halting State which is on the Hugo Ballot for Best Novel.

Cons- Not many that I can see. There are two names that are probably bigger than Ginjer on the ballot.

Odds- 4-to-1

2nd Place- Patrick Nielsen Hayden

Contact with Chris Garcia- We chatted briefly at EasterCon.

Pros- won last year. Edited John Scalzi's The Last Colony, which is on the ballot for best novel.

Cons- None, really.

Odds- 3-to-1

Winner- David Hartwell

Contact with Chris Garcia- 0

Pros- Big name and a great editor. Better known for NYRSF, but his fame carries over. Edited Rollback.

Cons- None, really.

Odds- 3-to-2

Niall Say...

Best Editor Long Form: give the editors' wiki a plug, won't you? <<http://www.sfeditorwatch.com/i>> Alas it doesn't have any info on Beth Meachem, but the other pages are pretty comprehensive. As is often said, it's a hard category for outsiders to judge. The editor who's published the most books I'm interested in is clearly PNH (Jo Walton, Susan Palwick, Ken MacLeod, Emma Bull) -- but he also looks after Terry Goodkind and Ben Bova. On the other hand, it's probably publishing Terry Goodkind that allows him to publish Walton et al; so my vote stays with him.

And I have the same feeling for Dave Hartwell, who edited books by Mark Ferrari, Kathleen Goonan, Rucker, Modesitt, Sawyer and others. I really thing this is the start of a trend. I think we'll see it alternate between Hartwell and PNH for the next few years. And I don't think that's a bad thing at all. I'd like to see Ginjer win it, but I don't see it happening soon. There are a lot of folks who would point to PNH and say that he's the man to beat every year, but Hartwell's got a following and a strong a list if you look it up. I'm going with Hartwell this year and PNH for next. Of course, it's hard to handicap a ballot you ain't seen yet, but I'm willing to make the leap!



BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION- SHORT FORM

(Last Year's Winner: Dr. Who, Girl in the Fireplace)

What's Not on the List- Guidolon: The Giant Space Chicken The Direc-

tor's Cut, Pushing Daisies Pie-lette, Dummy and Girth, Lost Season Finale, The Simpsons Halloween Episode, the Chad Vader YouTube shorts[more about that in the discussion]

5th Place- Star Trek New Voyages "World Enough and Time"

Did Chris Garcia It? Yes...yes I did.

Pros- Come on, everybody loves Trek! And it's got Takei!!!

Cons- Fan films don't win. Period.

Odds- 15-to-1

4th Place- Torchwood 'Captain Jack Harkness'

Did Chris Garcia See it? Yes.

Pros- It's easily the best episode of Torchwood that's not from the season that just ended. It's also all about the dreamy Capt. Jack!

Cons- Have you heard what a lot of fans say about Torchwood?

Odds- 10-to-1

3rd Place- Dr. Who 'Human Nature'/ Family of Blood

Did Chris Garcia See it? Yes I did.

Pros- It's Dr. Who and it's a great Dr. Who set at that.

Cons- Not the best Dr. Who of the Season, nor as good as The Girl in the Fireplace.

Odds- 6-to-1

2nd Place- Battlestar Galactica 'Razor'

Did Chris Garcia See It? No. I refuse to watch BSG until they bring back Dirk Boragarde and Lorne Green!

Pros- Everyone was so excited and seemed to love the thing.

Cons- It's BSG.

Odds- 3-to-1

Winner- Dr. Who 'Blink'

Did Chris Garcia see it? On the Flight over to England on my TAFF trip

Pros- Great episode of Dr. Who. Easily the best I've seen of the third season and right up there with the best ever done. Smart, fun and feisty. There's not much Doctor in it, but that only amps up when he does show.

Cons- There's no much Dr. in it.

Odds- 2-to-1

Let me bark a little. This is far from the best of the Short Crop this year. Far, far, far from it. Yeah, I'd still

go with Blink over just about anything that I can think of, but the absence of Pushing Daisies is a crime. Easily the best thing on TV right now in the English Language. There's also the lack of Lost, which had a pretty good season and a great finale that I thought was some of the best television of the year.

The lack of anything from the short film world was troubling also. Guidolon was one that was very funny and played a bunch of places. Driftwood was another on the festival circuit. I know they can't win simply because of numbers, but it would be nice to see them nominated.

To me, there's nothing better than Chad Vader. It's some of the best comedy on YouTube and the stuff was just hilarious. Put together as a single entity, it'd still be in the Short Form category and it was awful funny.

To Niall!

Dramatic Short Form should be one of the Doctor Who episodes -- I'd give the edge to "Human Nature" -- and I say this as someone who is not a huge Who fan. But for those three weeks last year it felt like a different show.

It was good stuff, no question, but I thought that Blink was much more compact and powerful. Maybe it was the fact that those eps just felt so different that I didn't care for them as much, being that I am a Who fan.



BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION- LONG FORM

(Last Year's Winner: Pan's Labrynth)

What's Not on the List- Transformers, La Antena, Appleseed Ex Machina, Bridge to Terabithia, AvP: Requiem, Grindhouse, The Simpsons Movie (it's SF!)

5th place- The Golden Compass

Did Chris Garcia Pay to See it? Not on your life!

Pros- An adaptation of a very popular book series. Eye Candy all over the place (Daniel Craig, Nicole Kidman,

CGI).

Cons- generally, folks thought it stunk so bad that a sequel has been suspended.

Odds- 20-to-1

4th Place- Stardust

Did Chris Garcia pay to see it- Yes.

Pros- An adaptation of Neil Gaimen that was highly awaited. Well-written and fun. Very strong performances from folks you wouldn't normally think of as great actors (Michelle Pfeiffer, that guy who played the lead).

Cons- not well-received at first release, though it did better among some than among serious Gaimen fans. Over-shadowed by at least one other adaptation on the ballot.

Odds- 10-to-1

Third Place- Harry Potter And The Order

of the Phoenix

Did Chris Garcia Pay to see it? Yes. Twice in fact. (and it was The Lovely and Talented Linda's first date with me!)



Pros- Well-done adaptation that was partly fueled by the rage that the release of the final book kicked up.

Cons- Some complained it wasn't as much of the book as they'd have liked.

Odds- 3-to-1

2nd Place- Enchanted

Did Chris Garcia Pay to See it? No, but Evelyn and I watched it together.

Pros- a Lovely Musical with a charming cast and solid script. Very strong performances from people who could have easily skated through this one. Evelyn (standing in for young girls everywhere) was amazed.

Cons- kinda lightweight

for some fans, possibly. Disney ain't exactly won a lot of these over the last decade or so.

Odds- 3-to-1

Wiiner- Heroes: Season 1

Did Chris Garcia Pay to See It: No, but it's on free TV and I still didn't watch but a couple of episodes.

Pros- A very popular long-form drama that most would say was one of the best reasons for there to be TV in the 2006-07 season.

Cons- It's a TV show and the argument that it's just one long story doesn't hold water in the face of the many other shows that were forced to be nominated for only one episode

Odds- 2-to-1

I Mr. Niall Says...

Dramatic Long Form should be Heroes, which for all its wobbles is more ambitious and more consistently entertaining than any of the films on the ballot.

My rant is this: Heroes should stay in Short Form. I really don't like this idea of Arcs being in long form. And still, no Pushing Daisies which had an arc that wasn't completed in 2007, but was started (and there is precedent for that!) and is the best!

BEST RELATED B°K

(Last Year's Winner:)

What's Not on the List- Not sure

5th Place- Brave New Worlds: The Oxford Dictionary of Science Fiction

Chris Garcia Contact- I read a large swatch of it at the Library.

Pros- nearly exhaustive book of facts. Probably more respected outside of the SF community than any of the others on the list.

Cons- not exactly light (or cheap) reading. More respected outside the SF community than in it.

Odds- 12-to-1

4th Place- Breakfast in the Ruins: Science Fiction in the Last Millennium

Chris Garcia Contact- Read parts at a couple of different cons and then got a copy for myself.

Pros- A great view of the field and of names that folks tend to forget. Well-written and Malzberg is a favourite.

Cons- not the typical book you'd pick up and dig into for a lot of fans. Other pieces on the list have a higher profile.

Odds- 7-to-1

3rd Place- The Arrival

Chris Garcia Contact- None at all.

Pros- Graphic novel without words. It's beautiful and moving and one of the things I'd give to someone who says that Comic Books ain't art

Cons- it's a graphic novel and there are still people who say that comic books can't be art.

Odds- 7-to-1

2nd Place- Emshwiller: Infinity x Two

Chris Garcia Contact- Bought it with great speed because I'm an Emsh fan. First read an article in eI that Earl mentioned the book.

Pros- Great book about one of the true legends in the field. The exploration of his film years is excellent. Heavily pushed in FilmFax and got a mention on NPR.

Cons- Ed Emshwiller's been gone a long time and isn't the name in every fan's ear that he was say 20 years ago. Not as high profile as the winner.

Odds- 5-to-1

Winner- The Company They Keep: C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien as Writers in Community by Diana Glyer

Chris Garcia Contact- I met Diana once or twice and read and loved the book. Got it into a couple of Libraries on recommendation.

Pros- Great book about a very popular topic. Written by a well-known member of fandom.

Cons- Not hugely available.

Odds- 4-to-1

Niall Harrison Returns

Best Related is, for me, an impossible choice between two excellent examples of their kind: Shaun Tan's The Arrival and Barry Malzberg's Breakfast in the Ruins. How do you choose between a book of criticism and a graphic novel? My sympathies lie with Malzberg,



but either would be a great winner.

I think it comes down to fannish name rec. I'm still not sure that Diana is the first Glyer people would name, but the material and the subject matter make it a winner in my eyes. I would still say the Emsh book is the best thing on the list, and it has a posse.

BEST SHORT STORY

(Last Year's Winner: Impossible Dreams by Tim Pratt)

What's Not on the List- It's A Wonderful Life by Michaela Roessner, Requirements for the Mythology Merit Badge by Kevin N. Haw, Titanium Mike Saves the Day by David Lavine

5th Place- Distant Replay by Mike Resnick

Pros- Popular writer and Hugo voter fave.

Cons- Not Mike's best work, and nowhere near the best thing on the ballot. He's also kinda over-shadowed by some of the other names up there too.

Where you can read it- http://www.asimovs.com/_issue_0805/Distantreplay.shtml

Odds- 17-to-1

4th Place- Last Contact by Stephen Baxter

Pros- Big name Brit writer writes like one and give us a decent story.

Cons- Decent's about as much as I'd give it. Not the widest read anthology, either. Is the only story without a weblink.

Where to find it- <http://>

www.solarisbooks.com/books/newbookscifi/sf-newbooksf.asp

Odds- 15-to-1

3rd Place- "Tideline" by Elizabeth Bear

Pros- One of my favourite writers who has a great following doing a story that I thought was one of the strongest on the ballot.

Cons- Bear's not as well known as a couple of other people on the ballot, and this isn't the kind of story that often wins.

Where to find it- <http://www.elizabethbear.com/tideline.html>

Odds- 7-to-1

2nd Place- "Who's Afraid of Wolf 359?" by Ken MacLeod

Pros- Great story in what was probably the best anthology of the year (Visual Journeys might be right up next to it). Great story from a popular author. This is easily my personal fave of the nominees and one of the best stories of any length I read in 07.

Cons- Anthology story, which has hurt some other noms in the past.

Where to find it- <http://outofthiseos.typepad.com/blog/files/KenMacLeodWhosAfraidofWolf359.htm>



*Casa de WorldCon Hugo Award
Concept Art from Mo Starkey*

Odds- 4-to-1

Winner- “A Small Room in Koboldtown” by Michael Swanwick

Pros- A Hugo Voters’ Fave does a story that is pretty good, though far from the best Swanwick. Personally, I only half-enjoyed it.

Cons- Not his best.

Where to find it- http://www.tachyonpublications.com/pdfs/A_Small_Room_in_Koboldtown.pdf

Odds- 3-to-1

On to Niall

Short story is a bit of a dog’s dinner of a category this year, but the MacLeod and the Baxter aren’t bad.

Now, I have to agree that this is easily the weakest of the categories this year for nominees. Novelette and Novela are where it’s at this year. Still, the MacLeod was fantastic. Many folks are saying that Elizabeth Bear is one to watch, and I agree since she’s a personal fave, but I don’t think that she’s at the point where just showing up on the list makes her the front runner. That distinction belongs to Swanwick, no question. True, not the best story of the year, but one that’s good enough to get the rocket. I have to say that it’s not a good year.



BEST NOVELETTE

(Last Year’s Winner: The Djinn’s Wife by Ian McDonald)

What’s Not on the List- The Fiddler of Bayou Teche by Delia Sherman, Mystery Hill by Alex Irvine (and that’s a Crime as far as I’m concerned!)

5th Place- Glory by Greg Egan

Pros- Great story in a great anthology. Egan had a really great year in 2007. The opening paragraph might be my favourite of all the nominees. I’m not

sure why, but it really painted the tone for the entire piece for me.

Cons- Not the best Greg Egan story on the ballot nor the best in this category, as much as I enjoyed it. Still, when it’s Anthology vs. Magazine, magazine usually wins.

Where you can read it- <http://outofthiseos.typepad.com/blog/files/GregEganGlory.pdf>

Odds- 8-to-1

4th Place- “The Cambist and Lord Iron: a Fairytale of Economics” by Daniel Abraham

Pros- I really liked it and I’ve enjoyed stuff by Abraham for a while.

Cons- Not the best story on the list and not the biggest name either. Not available for web reading, which will probably end up hurting it.

Where you can read it- You gotta buy Logorrhea from BantamSpectra if’n you wanna read it.

Odds- 6-to-1

3rd Place- Dark Integers by Greg Egan

Pros- taut and lovely story from a guy who I think writes taut and lovely stories.

Cons- There's the split factor (since I know folks who really enjoy his other nommed story) and there's a gorilla in the category...to a degree.

Where you can read it- http://www.asimovs.com/_issue_0805/DarkINtegers.shtml

Odds- 5-to-1

2nd Place- Finisterra by David Moles

Pros- A Really good story that just has to be read twice to really absorb everything.

Cons- Slightly less name recognition than the winner I've called. And few call him a Genius.

Where you can read it- <http://www.sfsite.com/fsf/fiction/dm01.htm>

Odds- 4-to-1

Winner- The Merchant and the Alchemist's Gate by Ted Chiang

Pros- This is the story that 2008 will be remembered for. Easily the best thing on the ballot outside of the novel

category. Chiang is one of those writers who will be changing the face of the genre over the next decade. It's a remarkable story and one that kept me reading and reading all the way through. As many have said, Chiang is a genius.

Cons- none really, though that Moles fellow has a good following.

Where you can read it- <http://www.sfsite.com/fsf/fiction/tc01.htm>

Odds- even money

Onward, to Niall!

Novellette should be Chiang, but it's only just ahead of David Moles' story, for me. I've been a little underwhelmed by Egan's recent stuff, so I wouldn't put either of his stories at the top of my ballot.



A sign of just how good a year F&SF had are the top two stories here. Moles and Chiang both put out great stuff that will be justly rewarded. I think that Chiang is an amazing writer and this one really hooked me. While I was rereading everything on the short-

side, I had to stop and serious take in The Merchant and the Alchemist's Gate. It is seriously amazing stuff. I love Finisterra and thought it was the best thing in the issue of F&SF it was in, which is weird because I usually enjoy the Short Stories more. Go figure.

This was a good year for the Novelette. I think that F&SF solidifies itself with this category. Sadly, the Egan piece from this year's best anthology will not make it. Sadness.

BEST NOVELLA

(Last Year's Winner: A Billion Eyes by Robert Reed, which killed me because Julian: A Christmas Story really deserved it!)

What's Not on the List- Dr. Muffett's Island by Brian Stableford, Alien Archeology by Neil Asher, The Bird Shaman's Girl by Judith Moffett, The Master Miller's Tale by Ian MacLeod, Murder in the Flying Vatican by Albert Cowdrey

5th Place- The Fountain of Age by Nancy Kress

Pros- It's a popular author writing in a popular venue. She's got other Hugos, in fact.

Cons- it's a far weaker story than anything else on the ballot and any of

those I mentioned above.

Where you can read it: http://www.asimovs.com/_issue_0801/PBFountainofage.shtml

Odds- If there's justice, 100-to-1, but realistically, 12-to-1

4th Place- Memorare by Gene Wolfe

Pros- Legendary author putting a great story out in the best magazine of last year. Probably the story on the ballot that stuck with me the longest in a good way. He also invented the Pringles machine, which should earn him a Nobel Prize in Awesome.

Cons- Wolfe as an author hasn't stayed nearly as in the minds of the average Hugo voter. There are also those, long-standing those in fact, who truly believe that Wolfe is Over-Rated. I've never been a huge fan, but this is a good story.

Where you can read it: <http://www.sfsite.com/fsf/fiction/gw01.htm>

Odds- 8-to-1

3rd Place- Stars Seen Through Stone by Lucius Shepard

Pros- A good story in the Best Magazine of 2007. It was easily the best Shepard thing that's been out there in a good long while.



Cons- Not the best Shepard piece I've read and he's seldom done well in the voting. I thought this was the weakest of last year's F&SF novelas.

Where you can read it: <http://www.sfsite.com/fsf/fiction/l1s01.htm>

Odds- 6-to-1

2nd Place- Recovering Apollo 8 by Kristine Kathryn Rusch

Pros- The Opening: 'Richard remembered it wrong. He remembered it as if it were a painting, and he were observing it, instead of a living breathing memory that he had a part of.' That's the kind of writing that I love and it gets better. One of the best pieces in any of the mags last year and my fave from Asimov's in good long while.

Cons- Not too many, but she's up against one of the Hugo voters' faves. Where you can read it: <http://www.sfsite.com/fsf/fiction/gw01.htm>

Odds- 4-to-1

Winner- All Seated on the Ground by Connie Willis

Pros- Connie Willis is not only a giant name in SF, but she's also a huge Hugo voter favourite. It's also a very funny, kinda strange and well-constructed story.

Cons- It's kinda light and a little airy. If it wasn't a Connie Willis story, it probably would not be on the ballot.

Where you can read it: http://www.asimovs.com/_issue_0805/allseated.shtml

Odds- 2-to-1

Mr. Harrison makes the following note-

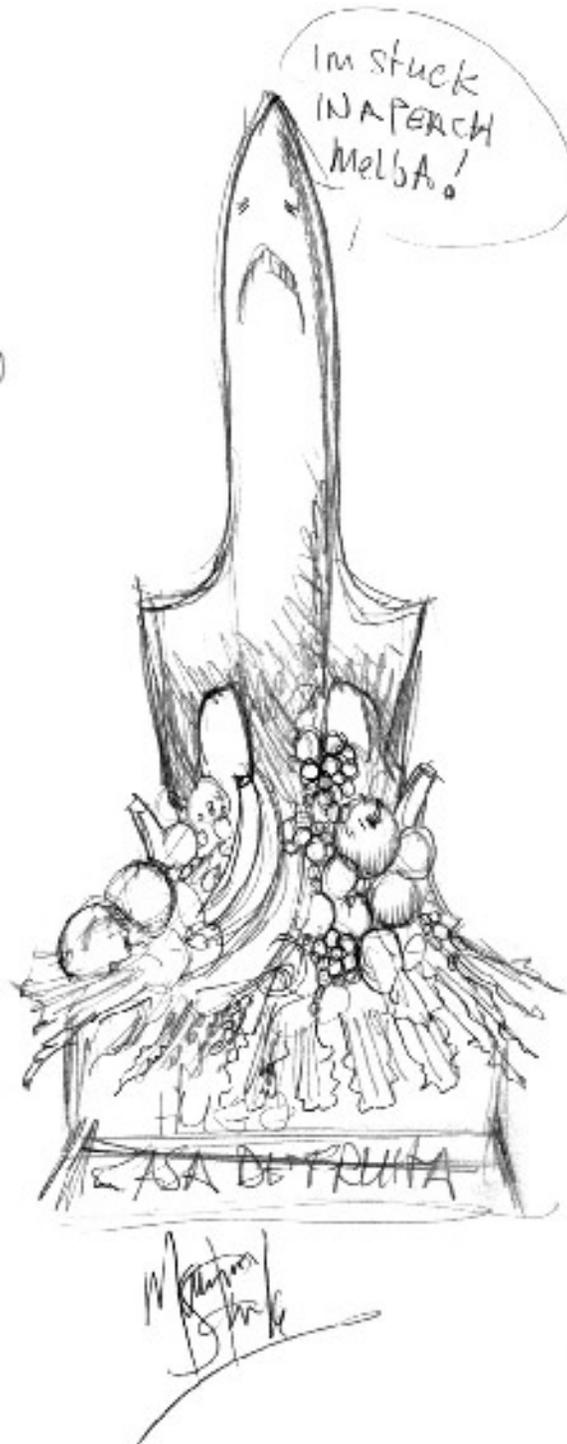
Novella should be a two-horse race between Shepard and Wolfe, with my preference being Shepard (even though Wolfe has never won a Hugo); I thought the Kress, Rusch and Willis stories all minor stuff.

Total agreement on the matter of the Wolfe piece. I'm not big into Wolfe, but this was a good story and memorable. I think Shepard's is good, but not my fave. I wish Wolfe would take it, but I'm not sure this is the story to do it. Willis, on the other hand, is beloved, even though the story was kinda fluff.

The Kress story annoyed me seriously. I thought it was very weak. I'm not a big fan of Kress to begin with, but this wasn't even as good as her normal stuff. I do know that folks believe she's great, but I'm not one of them. I didn't even like her Hugo-winning stuff.

Shepard is a good choice, and I'd put it above Wolfe too, but I think it's going to turn out to the Traditional Willis win.

And I think Rusch is good stuff.



BEST NOVEL

(Last Year's Winner: Rainbow's End by Vernor Vinge)

What's Not on the List- Mainspring by Jay Lake, Spook Country by William Gibson, In War Times by Kathleen Ann Goonan (and this is a massive crime as it was easily the best thing that Goonan's ever put out and the second best novel of the year in my eyes)

Special Note: Four of the Books are available to WorldCon Members. For details go to <http://scalzi.com/whatever/?p=576>.

5th Place- Rollback by Robert J. Sawyer

How Long did it take Chris Garcia to finish his first reading? I tried for 3 days and gave up.

Pros- Popular writer (won the Hugop for Humans, the less-great sequel to the very good Hominids) and is a really nice guy who is a voter fave.

Cons- note that I couldn't finish it, and he's one of my favourite writers.. It wasn't as good as his other novels of the last decade. This category should be a two-horse race, and he ain't one of 'em!

Odds- 12-to-1

4th Place- The Last Colony by John Scalzi

How Long did it take Chris Garcia to finish his first reading? 5 days, though a couple of them were only an hour or two.

Pros- Very popular writer and all-around nice guy. Easily the writer on the list with the most popular blog. The book is pretty good, too. I made it through in a pretty quick period, which is always a good sign. He's got a really strong following.

Cons- not nearly as good as Old Man's War, which is the gold standard for some when it comes to Scalzi's work. There are people who didn't much care for it (the Hugo Nomination Panel at LosCon had Kathryn Daugherty saying that it was not a book she cared for and was agreed with by many in the audience). It's a two horse race and he ain't one of them.

Odds- 12-to-1

3rd Place- Halting State by Charles Stross

How Long did it take Chris Garcia to finish his first reading? About a week.

Pros- Great novel that is really impressive and really good reading. It's one part heist novel, one part near-future fun. There's a lot of good stuff in here



and I'm probably going to write about it in my Games and Gaming issue. It's the most fun novel I've read recently. Stross is a popular guy with Hugo voters and has won before. Stross was one of the GoHs at Eastercon and that tends to help folks get themselves Hugos. He lost last year to Vernor

Vinge and there could be some sympathy for that.

Cons- It's a two horse race and he ain't one of them. Not Stross' best novel, but it's on the same plane as Accelerando. It's a shame, because it's a very good novel.

Odds- 5-to-1 Winner (Tie)- Brasyl by Ian McDonald

How Long did it take Chris Garcia to finish his first reading? 4 days and a second leisurely reading over a week.

Pros- The author of River of Gods comes back with a near-masterpiece! It's an amazing weaving of three Brasils into a single magnificent novel. Easily the best pure science fiction novel on the list. There's a lot of great stuff and the presentation of Brasil is as vivid and tragic and joyous and strange as you can come up with. And there's quantum theory too! Wonderful, wonderful stuff.

Cons- Is one of two horses in a two horse race. It's not as perfect as the other horse, but it's more in-line with traditional Hugo winners.

Odds- 2-to-1

Winner (Tie)- The Yiddish Policeman's Union by Michael Chabon

How Long did it take Chris Garcia to finish his first reading? 6 days.

Pros- Perhaps the finest writer in America today writing at the peak of his powers. His book *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* won the Pulitzer and his book *Summerland* won the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award. *The Yiddish Policeman's Union* is better than all of those and has replaced *Fatherland* as my favourite Alternate History Novel. If it doesn't win the Sidewise Award, there's no such thing as Justice! Easily the finest novel of the year and along with *Perdido Street Station* and *Kav and Clay*, one of the best novels of the 21st Century so far. Will be the only novel on this list remembered in 50 years. Chabon is one of the greatest defenders of genre to the mainstream world.

Cons- Is one of two horses in a two horse race. The problem isn't the work, it's the author and the genre. Chabon is considered a mainstream author and that'll hurt him with many readers. The book, along with being an Alternate History, is a detective story.

Odds- 2-to-1

Rant time. In a fair universe, there is no other novel that should win than Chabon's masterpiece. It's easily the best thing I've read this

year. A powerful and entertaining book and one that I think will long last in people's minds.

The problem is Kurt Vonnegut. He always claimed to be a mainstream author and didn't much care for fandom and said so. From that point on, there's been trouble for folks who don't wave the flag of Science Fiction Author. Chabon certainly doesn't, but dammit, his is easily the best work on the list and is better than *In War Times*, which was my other fave novel of the year. *The Yiddish Policeman's Union* deserves the Hugo, but *Brasyl* is a brilliant piece of the traditional SF by an SF writer and that gives it a great advantage.

Who will win? I dunno. I could see it ending in a tie, but I'm not able to put one over the other. There's the Best Book of the nominees and the Best SF Novel of the nominees. It's impossible for me to choose one...but I really believe that it should be Chabon. I will be writing specifically about the two books in relation to each other over the next few weeks because I think this really is a turning point.

So, what about the whole? How does the ballot look. There were a few criminal non-inclusions (Claire Brialey and *Banana Wings*, Donato Giancola, *In War Times*, *Mystery Hill*) and there were some things that made it on that I am still not happy with (the Kress piece, the Sawyer novel) but all-in-all,

I think it went pretty well. I'm still not sure I deserve to be on the ballot, but that's a cross I must bear.

So, what about next year? I think the Drink Tank might slip off the list of Fanzines as *Prolapse* and maybe a couple of other new-comers make the list. I might be clinging by my fingernails to a Fan Writer spot as I suspect that we'll see Lloyd Penney on the ballot for Montreal. If there's justice, Fan Artist will see Dan Steffan on the list and maybe the return of Frank Wu. For the pros...who the hell has any idea now?



Fannish Memory Syndrome

by Steve Green

There's a curious disconnect at the "fannish" end of the Hugos. Unlike the Faan Awards (where voters self-select through their interaction with the fan community) or the Novas (which restrict voting to Novacon members able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of British and / or Irish fanzines), the more famous of the three honours is decided by anyone who can overcome the challenge of posting their registration cheque to the current worldcon.

This may explain why the results announced each Labor Weekend rarely bear any resemblance to those unveiled at Corflu or Novacon, most noticeably in the category of best fanwriter. Whilst Dave Langford is inarguably one of the most skilled and witty wordsmiths active in fanzines, his near-monopoly of that particular statuette since 1985 (it only slipped through his fingers in 1986 and 1988) is somewhat at odds with the views of Novacon members, who ranked him at 14th= place last November (and didn't nominate *Ansible* at all, which seems rather careless). In comparison, the period 2003-2008 has seen fellow Britfan Claire Brialey's own writing decisively snatch four out of five Novas and three out of six

Faan Awards.

The fanzine Hugos show more variety, even if *Banana Wings* (Claire's long-running collaboration with 2007 Nova-winning fanwriter Mark Plummer) has yet to add one to its 2007

Faan Award and mantlepieceful of Novas (five since 1996). Nor do I expect the recent success of Peter Weston's *Prolapse* on both sides of the Atlantic to be echoed in Denver this coming August, although its online distribution via eFanzines (a route Claire and Mark preferred not to follow) will definitely shift the odds in Peter's direction.

At the heart of this divergence, as always, is the tendency of worldcon members to rely more upon vague familiarity than informed choice, rather as casual customers target brand-name

pharmaceuticals over generics. It's no coincidence that the one fannish Hugo where a sharper focus is required, that of fan artist, has been presented twice to Sue Mason since 2003, a period during which she also received three Novas (Hugo winner Frank Wu, like Faan Award recipients Steve Stiles and Dan Steffan, was excluded from this ballot due to his nationality, of course).

Given the diminished influence of traditional "fanzine

fandom" upon the wider sf culture, it may already be too late to restore these Hugo categories even to the level of credibility they enjoyed twenty years ago, but it's not beyond the realm of possibility that future worldcons could encourage their members to engage with these activities and to refrain from voting in areas where they lack sufficient background. Better a smaller, core electorate than an annual parade of hollow rockets.

Finally, a welcome commercial break. Back in *The Drink Tank#144*, I touched upon the high quality of entries for the Delta Film Award, the competition I administer for Manchester's annual Festival of Fantastic Films.

The 2006 winner – and recipient of much praise at similar events on both sides of the Big Pond – was Karl Holt's hilarious horror comedy *Eddie Loves You*, which I'm delighted to report is finally available to download free at Karl's website, <http://www.darklineonline.co.uk/ely.html>. Just keep telling yourself: it's only a cuddly toy... it's only a cuddly toy...



Art this issue is- Jay Christianson for the Cover, drawings from Frank Wu and Mo Starkey, FMS art from Steve Green and photo by Dave McCarty of Takashi Kinoshita's design for the 2007 Hugo and the rest of the Hugo Statue photos were by Michael Benveniste

Five Things About the Hugos

...and more specifically, why I have never voted for them.

1. I have almost never been able to afford a Worldcon membership. I have attended exactly two Worldcons in the past, ConJose and L.A.con IV. Prior to that, the cost was simply out of my reach. I realize that if you buy memberships early enough, they're not that expensive, but I cannot normally plan three years in advance for *anything*.

Right now, attending memberships for the 2009 Worldcon are \$190. I don't buy supporting memberships, because that's not a gamble I can afford to spend money on. Even when I am *probably* attending an event, I end up buying at the last minute, because my budget for cons is drawn from resources the month of the con. If I have \$50 available right now, there are more urgent things to spend it on than even a supporting membership.

2. In a similar vein, I gave up books to have children. No, really. I used to have lovely first edition hardbacks of the writers I valued -- Margaret Atwood, Sheri Tepper, Alice Walker, Katherine Kurtz, like that. But then I had children, and lived on a tight enough budget that such things become frivolities. Even things like library visits became few and far between. When we could afford books, they were for the children, not for adults in the house. When I wanted to start buying books for myself again, the cost of new paperbacks had gone up so much that even that was

out of the question. I just got out of the habit, and have never gotten back in again. Even now, I buy more books for my children than for myself.

3. I stopped reading modern male writers during the 1980's.

When I tell people this -- especially the sort of people one finds in a Fanzine Lounge at a con -- they often think I'm joking, or crazy. It's true, though. As a young woman in feminist academia, I found myself more aware of the voice of male writers vs. female ones. The characters *really* bothered me. During that era, there was such a mania for Heinlein and for "powerful" female characters who were still basically male fantasy images. We used to say that once you took a film class in college, it ruined watching movies forever, because instead

of just watching a movie, you start noticing things like lighting choices and angles and pacing and crap like that. Well, in the same way, once I started looking at fiction through the lens of feminist literary criticism, I was a lot less willing to overlook character cliches for plot, things like that. To be fair, there are some writers that have always transcended that for me -- Harlan, David Brin, Cory Doctorow -- but I still tend to read from a strongly academic feminist perspective.

4. Alright, I'm going to just be blunt and say it: I don't know that the Hugos matter

to me. I don't intend that in a bad way or dismissive way. I think this touches on one of the Big Questions about fans and cons and readers and "core fandom" and all those other things, but I'll try to explain.

I think that it's reasonable to say that the amount of value an individual puts on the vote results of a larger group depends on the extent to which the individual either identifies with or respects the larger group. In this case, I have mixed feelings about identifying with the larger community of fans enough to get value from the Hugos as a recommendation. Conversely, I don't know that I'd expect the larger community to value my opinions, either.

5. One last thing about the Hugos, and that's that all of these other ideas aside, I am happy when my friends are nominated,

and when they win. I think the nomination of the Drink Tank is a lovely thing. I like Frank Wu's work. There are other nominees that I'm sometimes happy to see on the short list. Like pretty much everyone else, I like it when things I appreciate get wider recognition. I don't know that I like it enough to be willing to nominate or vote, though.

Leigh Ann Hildebrand is a semi-regular columnist for the Drink Tank and has been often wronged by it's editor.

