



**CHALLENGER**

# CHALLENGER sub-mission

Guy H. Lillian III, editor \* P.O. Box 53092 \* New Orleans LA 70153-3092

GHLIII@yahoo.com \* 504/821-2362 \* GHLIII Press Publication #906

Illustration by Mark Fults, from CHALLENGER #2.

To quote a friend, "it's that time of year again..." Yes, that time of year, when thoughts of old fans and young blithely turn to dreams of **Hugos** ...

The Millennium Philcon (c) has sent forth its nomination ballots for the 2000 Science Fiction Achievement Awards. Its empty lines shriek to me for attention ... and I am far too ill-read to provide what is needed. Usually, I send forth an e-mail begging for assistance in filling the ballot with worthy nominees, but this time, I'm eschewing spam ...and plugging forth this physical flyer. In a few weeks, well before the March 31<sup>st</sup> ballot deadline, I may send forth another mini-**Challenger**, passing along what I've heard. Please, if you know of a good candidate in any of the categories, share that opinion with me. I *don't* want to send in a half-empty ballot.

I do have some recommendations of my own. I call the name of *Toni Weiskopf* to your attention for Best Editor, as well as that of the ever-nominated, ever-neglected *Stanley Schmidt*. In Best Artist, it's time we nominated *Barclay Shaw*, and in the Fan categories, may I urge consideration for *Charlie Williams*, *Alan White*, *Bryan Norris*, *Julia Morgan-Scott*, *Marc Schirmeister*, *Steve Stiles* ... any of the legion of superb pen-people who have done so much to dress up our fanzines. For Best Fan Writer, *Arnie Katz*, *Bob Devney*, *Gene Stewart*, *Terry Jeeves* ... the list is staggering of writers who have illuminated the fannish life with their prose, and it is fandom's disgrace that so few have been honored. And of course the fanzines they publish in ... **Trap Door**, **Erg**, **The Knarley Knews**, **Twink**, and many others.

None of the people I've mentioned for the "general" awards have won Hugos before, and all deserve award recognition. It's a personal crusade of mine to open the Hugos – so long a closed circle – and honor deserving folks who have not already made that happy march to the podium. I hope you'll join me. **Spread the wealth** – name nominees for whom the Hugo will mean the most.

In the "Best Related Book" category, I've already listed *Julius Schwartz's* magnificent autobiography, **Man of Two Worlds**. Publication of this gem gives fandom the chance to honor the founder of fanzines and the father of the Silver Age of super-heroes for the first time with our ultimate bauble. In the categories honoring specific fictional works, Mike Resnick's "Elephants of Neptune" was a stand-out short story in *Asimov's*, and in the dramatic category, I cheer for **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** along with **The X-Men** and **Frequency** ... but I beg *you* to name other quality items.

Semi-finally, a sad announcement – **Challenger's** website has been erased from the Net, through no fault either of mine or of Richard Brandt's, the generous soul who has been handling this increasingly important outlet for me. I have some back issues available, so if anyone would like to scan a full-scale **Chall**, let me hear from you!

And finally, as it is indeed That Time of Year ... **HAPPY MARDI GRAS!**