In an exclusive photo by The Wrong Stuff shutterbug Peter Parker, Chicon 7 Toastmaster John Scalzi was caught passing a wad of $100 bills to Chicon 7 Chair Dave McCarty.

It is unknown if this was a final payment for being named Toastmaster, an appointment many had questioned given Scalzi’s relative lack of Worldcon experience (his first Worldcon was only 9 years ago!).

An alternate theory is that the money was payment to insure that Scalzi wins the Best Short Story Hugo Award, for which he is nominated. Notice that McCarty is holding a Hugo, perhaps to be given as a token to seal the agreement.

To his credit, McCarty does not appear to be personally financially gaining from this. However, there have been several recent large deposits to the Chicon 7 bank account, leading this reporter to wonder first, just how much George R.R. Martin would spend from his Hollywood funded, Scrooge McDuck inspired, money bin to win “The Big One,” as he has termed the Best Novel Hugo.

Second, there is the question as to whether McCarty is an honest politician who stays bought, or if he could be swayed by greater amounts of money from other nominees in a category.
Hugo Ballot Scandal!!!
(No, Not the One on the Previous Page, A New One!)

The Wrong Stuff has learned that the three Doctor Who episodes on this year’s Hugo ballot are not the episodes that received the most nominations.

An anonymous Hugo Administrator told us “Hey, we figured it’d have to be the Gaiman episode, a Moffat episode, and one with two Amy Ponds. So we didn’t look at the ballots too closely”.

The actual episodes making the ballot were The Curse of the Black Spot, Night Terrors, and, oddly enough, “all the mentions of Inspector SpaceTime on Community”.

Votes for The Doctor’s Wife will go to Curse, those for A Good Man Goes To War to Terrors, and those for The Girl Who Waited to Inspector SpaceTime.

“Does it really make a difference? We all know the Who fans only vote for the Who episodes, and then it’s random which one wins. They’re all pretty much the same; it’s about a guy with a long scarf and flying telephone box who fights exterminators, right?”

Barkley To Propose Young Child Hugo Category

In an exclusive interview with The Wrong Stuff, Chris Barkley, the proposer of this year’s Young Adult Hugo category, revealed that next year he wants to get the Hugos to appeal to an even younger audience by proposing a Best Young Child category for SF and fantasy books that appeal to the toddler set.

“It’s important that we get really young kids involved in fandom, and the best way to do that is to give them a Hugo category that can be their sandbox,” said Barkley.

To work around the argument that categories such as “Young Adult” or “Young Child” are too ill-defined, Barkley may retitle his proposal to be the Best Board Book Award.

Peter Sagal Update Update Update
(Now With 40% Less Moose)
(But 100% More Flying Squirrel!)

Peter Sagal will not only be attending the remainder of Chicon 7, but he has been placed on every remaining program item. If he can be caught, The Wrong Stuff’s staff plans to surgically attach moose antlers to his head.

Gale Crater Announces For 2015

Gale Crater, Mars, has thrown its hat into the ring for the 2015 Worldcon, with the Curiosity rover as bid chair. Curiosity was quoted as saying “I have a rock disintegrating laser and am nuclear powered; who can stop me? Besides, it’s winnable..”