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THE MT VOID

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1. And the Hugo winners are:

Best Novel:

_ T_ h_ e_ V_ o_ r_ G_ a_ m_ e by Lois McMaster Bujold, Baen Books

Best Novella:

"The Hemingway Hoax" by Joe Haldeman, IASFM April 1990

Best Novelette:

"The Manamouki" by Mike Resnick, IASFM July 1990

Best Short Story:

"Bears Discover Fire" by Terry Bisson, IASFM, August 1990

Best Non-Fiction Book:

_ H_ o_ w_ t_ o_ W_ r_ i_ t_ e_ S_ c_ i_ e_ n_ c_ e_ F_ i_ c_ t_ i_ o_ n
_ a_ n_ d_ F_ a_ n_ t_ a_ s_ y by Orson Scott
Card, Writer's Digest Books

Best Dramatic Presentation:

_ E_ d_ w_ a_ r_ d_ S_ c_ i_ s_ s_ o_ r_ h_ a_ n_ d_ s, 20th Century Fox

Best Professional Artist:

Michael Whelan

Best Professional Editor:

Gardner Dozois

Best Semiprozine:

_ L_ o_ c_ u_ s, Charles Brown

Best Fan Artist:

Teddy Harvia

Best Fan Writer:

David Langford

Best Fanzine:

_ L_ a_ n'_ s_ L_ a_ n_ t_ e_ r_ n, George Laskowski

John W. Campbell Award:

Julia Ecklar

2. I got a piece of mail from one of my readers (oops, I almost said "loyal readers"--hmmph!) who said he liked reading my weekly comments almost as much as reading Dave Barry. I think it was intended kindly. Can you believe it? ALMOST AS MUCH AS DAVE BARRY. Jeez. Thanks for the compliment. Well, the almost a compliment. Here I sweat bullets to write these columns and what happens? I get told I am almost as good as Dave Barry. Well, let me tell you something:

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1. This Dave Barry is a complete unknown. I have never even heard of him. I have asked around the office and _ e_ v_ e_ r_ y_ b_ o_ d_ y has heard of me.
2. Dave Barry and I both write a weekly column. But I also hold down a job as an engineer. I have to in order to keep body and soul together. I get paid not one red cent for my writing. Dave Barry writes one column a week and makes a living off of it. And a darn good living. He lives down there in Florida and has a yacht and long-legged blondes and red-heads just for doing what I give you free.
3. I am better looking than Dave Barry. And he drinks beer.
4. I have been writing my column since before anyone ever heard of Dave Barry. I have been writing this stuff for members of the science fiction club since 1978. That is a very large percentage of my life considering that I am only 24 now (and have been most of the time I

have been writing).

5. What Dave Barry writes is essentially fiction; what I write is news. Barry is free to make up all sorts of garbage and put it in his writing since he is writing for a national audience who have no way of verifying the things he puts in his columns. I write for a small intimate community. Most people who read what I write work for AT&T in New Jersey. If what I say is not absolutely true, there would be a whole lot of people who would know it. I have to be absolutely honest in my column.
6. Dave Barry's humor really is my humor. He sends trucks past my house at night with these big parabolic things on the top that suck up my funny ideas while I sleep and then he uses them in his column. The police say they know he is doing it but can't do anything to stop him. Honest.

Mark Leeper
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...mtgzy!leeper

A man has generally the good or ill qualities which he attributes to mankind.

-- William Shenstone

CHRONOSEQUENCE by Hilbert Schenck
Tor, 1990 (1988c), ISBN 0-812-50320-1, \$3.95.
A book review by Evelyn C. Leeper
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Hilbert Schenck writes about New England and the ocean. Most

of his novels deal with these two connected topics. There is usually an off-shore island, some mysterious happenings, and an explanation for all of it that goes back to some strange force present for the last two hundred years or so. The only problem is that all these stories seem to be alike after a while.

In Chronosequence, we have the main character (a woman scientist--Schenck also uses female protagonists a lot) buying an old New England diary at an auction in London. The diary recounts strange events that happened during a storm off Massachusetts in the 19th Century. (Oh, yes, Schenck also likes storms.) Then someone tries to steal the book, other people try to finagle it from her, and a lot of other secret-agent-type stuff goes on. This part seemed to me largely unnecessary--there was a perfectly goof story without it. But that story would have been about two hundred pages instead of three hundred, and rumor has it that publishers want longer books. (Most of Schenck's earlier novels are in the two-hundred-page neighborhood.) Schenck does a reasonably good job of incorporating this material, but I think the novel would have been better, and more affecting, without it.

Schenck is not an author for everyone, but his approaches to love and humanity make his books stand out from the plethora of hardware/military science fiction. And if New England and the ocean are Schenck's medium, then love and humanity are his message. Give

Chronosequence a try. (Also recommended are such earlier works as AttheEyeoftheOcean.)