

ConNotations

Volume 11, Issue 2
April/May

The Bi-Monthly Science Fiction, Fantasy & Convention Newszine of the Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society

24 Frames

Movie News & Reviews
By Lee Whiteside

Upcoming Movie Production News

Currently filming in Australia is a live action version of *Scooby Doo*. It stars **Freddie Prinze, Jr.** as Fred, **Matthew Lillard** as Shaggy, **Sarah Michelle Gellar** as Daphne, **Linda Cardellini** as Velma, and **Rowan Atkinson** as bad guy Mondavariou. Scooby Doo will be all CGI. Warner Bros.is comparing the movie to *Ghostbusters* and *Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein* with a very broad plot summary of "Scooby and the gang will be called upon to save the world"

Also filming is the **Sam Raimi** directed *Spiderman*. It stars **Tobey Maguire** as the web slinger and Peter Parker, **Willem Dafoe** as Norman Osborn/The Green Goblin, **Kirsten Dunst** as Mary Jane Watson, **J.K. Simmons** as J. Jonah Jameson, "Macho Man" **Randy Savage** as "Bone Saw" McGraw, **Rosemary Harris** as Aunt May, and **Cliff Robertson** as Uncle Ben. Also appearing in small roles are Raimi's buddy **Bruce Campbell** and Raimi's brother Ted.

Filming has begun on *Matrix 2*, which will bring most all of the cast back from the first movie and will feature **Keanu Reeves** as a superhero Neo as seen at the end of the first movie. Plans are to film a second sequel immediately after the first one, or right after the likely actor and writer strikes are settled. Look for it to open in December 2002.

Principal photography on the *Lord of*
(Cont'd on page 10)

SF Tube Talk

By Lee Whiteside

The End is Near, For Some Shows Anyway...

We're coming up on the final episodes of "*Star Trek: Voyager*", "*Xena: Warrior Princess*" and (once again this year) possibly the final episodes of "*The X Files*". We've also got rumors on the new *Star Trek* series "*Enterprise*" as well as news on a new *Babylon 5* TV movie plus SciFi Channel airings of the *Babylon 5* spinoff series "*Crusade*". All this plus other news in this issue's SF Tube Talk.



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Star Trek - The Latest Ending and a New Beginning

We're into the final stretch for *Star Trek: Voyager* with the last batch of new episodes starting on April 11th with "*Q2*". The producers have been pretty quiet about the final, two hour episode airing on May 23rd. There will be no major buildup to the finale as was needed with *Deep Space Nine*, but we have been promised some sort of resolution, all taking place in the final
(Cont'd on Page 14)

ReAnimation

Anime Reviews
By Craig L. Dyer

with contributions from Heather Schultz

Ratings are one to five stars

1=poor

5= Fantastic

Reviewed in this issue are:

******Street Fighter Alpha The Movie**

*******Dual Vol. 2: Student Housing**

*******Dual Vol. 3: Artifacts DVD**

**** **Tenchi Muyo! Trouble Hatches**

**** **Sailor Moon: Hearts in Ice**

**** **Sailor Moon: Black Dream Hole**

I have had few hours to look at a few new tapes and DVD's.

**** **Street Fighter Alpha:**

The Movie (D)

Dubbed, 90 Minutes, MANGA

DVD: \$29.95 VHS Dubbed: \$19.95

VHS Subtitled: \$29.95

A black cloud hangs over Ken and Ryu's reunion. Brought together by the mysterious death of their master, the two warriors must overcome a challenge unlike any they've faced before. Ryu is unexpectedly confronted with the appearance of Shun, a boy claiming to be the long-lost brother he never knew. Shun enters a martial arts competition and
(Cont'd on Page 8)

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BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

CASFS Sponsored Groups:

GLENDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY: 1st Thursday of each month at 7PM, 5959 W Brown, Glendale

April 5: Road Marks by Roger Zelazny

May 3: Ghatti's Tale: Finder's Seekers by Gayle Greeno

June 7: Callahan's Crosstime Saloon by Spider Robinson

For information on the Glendale group contact Sue Martin at 623-939-7815

BARNES & NOBLE METRO CENTER: 4th Thursday of each month 7PM

April 26: Star Wars: Rogue Planet by Mike Stackpole - Additionally we will be joined by Jeffrey Landis, author of Mars Crossing, who will discuss his book.

May 24: Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

June 28: Cities In Flight by James Blish
For information on the Barnes & Noble group contact Stephanie at 602-973-2341
If you would like CASFS to sponsor a book discussion group near you, please contact Stephanie at (602)973-2341

Other Book Groups

BORDERS FANTASY & SCI-FI

BOOK DISCUSSION: 4th Wednesday of each month at Borders, 7320 W Bell at 7PM

Pick up your copy of ConNotations at these locations:

Borders Book Stores

2402 E Camelback, Phoenix, AZ

(602) 957-6600

870 N 54th St, Chandler, AZ (480) 961-4915

1361 N. Alma School Rd., Mesa, AZ (480) 833-2244

4555 E. Cactus Rd., Phoenix, AZ (602) 953-9699

7320 W. Bell Rd., Glendale, AZ (623) 487-9110

All About Books and Comics

5060 N. Central, Phoenix, AZ (602) 277-0757

810 S. Ash, Tempe, AZ (480) 858-9447

4022 E. Greenway, Phoenix, AZ (602) 494-1976

Stalking Moon Comics & Collectibles

5775 W Bell Rd #B-6, Glendale, Arizona (602) 896-9992

Book Exchange Plus

2601 E Bell #14, Phoenix, AZ (602) 867-1018

Things For Thinkers

4500 E Speedway Blvd #36, Tucson, AZ (520) 326-7679

Amazing Discoveries

2545 E Speedway #155, Tucson, AZ (520) 320-0338

April 25: Mists of Avalon by Marion Zimmer Bradley

May 23: Darwinia by Robert Charles Wilson

June 27: City Of Bones by Martha Wells
For contact Deborah and Tanya at 623-487-9110

BORDERS OTHER WORLDS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP - Third Thursday at 6 p.m. 2402 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. Contact: (602) 957-6660
Facilitator: Eric Bouchard: the-rock1@juno.com

April 19 - The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman

May 17 - TBA

T.H.E.M.

Last Monday of each month - Book discussion with T.H.E.M. - for more info contact ew@asu.edu

INFORMATION LINE: For up to date information on each month's CASFS and fan sponsored sci-fi related events call (602)973-2341 and select option 7 for a pre-recorded message. There is also a weekly email update. If you wish to receive the email update send your email address to Stephanie at leigh@casfs.org

ARIZONA BOOK FESTIVAL

April 7, 2001

The Fourth Annual Arizona Book Festival is a free springtime event hosted by the Arizona Humanities Council, on Saturday, April 7, 2001 at Margret T. Hance Deck Park (Third Street south of McDowell Road) in Phoenix. Appearing at the CASFS Booth (Booth 122) will be (times tentative):

Noon: Adam Niswander

1 p.m. - Michael A. Stackpole

2:30 p.m. - John Vornholt

3:00 p.m. - Diana Gabaldon

We will also be having a "Science Fiction and Fantasy in Arizona" discussion panel with some (maybe all) of the authors at 2 p.m. on the AllTel stage.

At the LepreCon booth (Booth 121), we'll have representative artwork on display and may have some local artists in attendance.

LOST & FOUND

If you lost anything at a LepreCon, HexaCon or CopperCon in the past two years, please contact Stephanie at 602-973-2341 and describe the item. I'd like to reunite these items with their owners if possible.



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GAMERS CORNER

By Bob LaPierre

Hello and welcome to the second issue of gamers corner. Today I'd like to review some of the d20 product released by my friends at Sword & Sorcery Studios and Necromancer Games. Oddly enough they're related. White Wolf was looking for a partner to break into the d20 market and Necromancer's slogan "Third edition rules, First edition feel" caught their attention. They collaborated on Sword & Sorcery Studios.

As I mentioned last issue SSS was first to release a monster book (Creature Compendium) and they followed up in February with "Relics and Rituals" a book of spells, magic items, ritualistic magic, and relics/artifacts. The rituals are simply cooperative magic with traditional trappings but they have some wonderful effects. The relics are ranged from a slightly overpowered weapon to items that should NEVER be held by PCs. About 40% of the content is specific to the Scarred Lands, a DnD world SSS is creating for its modules. The Creature Compendium has a Scarred Lands content of about 70% but with a little tweaking I have found that only 15% is totally resistant to use in other worlds. With similar tweaking R&R has the same usability. Necromancer Games released their first module at about the same time as the Players Handbook hit the shelves. It was a down-loadable item called "The Wizard's Amulet". They followed up with "The Crucible of Freya" and the first part of a multi-level dungeon that I think is Rappan Athuk but I left my copy at work and today is deadline (sorry Clark & Bill). I haven't been able to play these but I am familiar with them through prepping to run them. They run in magic typically between the sparseness of Greyhawk and the plenitude of Forgotten Realms. They mostly remind me of those days when I used to use the charts in the DMG (1e) to equip an opposing party. I have read elsewhere that "there is too much magic in these adventures." Know what? That is poppycock. The magic levels have such a first edition feel with high levels of dungeon crawling and good occurrence of monsters using the items they have. These modules bring back the excitement of your first dungeon experience while at the same time having the ease of the d20 system. This is a very good time to be a gamer.

Next month I was going to do some of White Wolf's product just to tie everything together but ... since they now have the contract for "Ravenloft" I will hold off until I can add that to the review. Next month I will play it by ear. If you have any questions or comments about this column I can be reached at the_lop@casfs.org <mailto:the_lop@casfs.org>
May all your rolls be 20's
Bob LaPierre <<Gamers Corner2.doc>>

Who's Who This Issue

Managing Editor: Stephanie Bannon

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Gary Swaty

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Submission Info: Writers and artists are encouraged to submit work for publication. While we cannot pay you for your efforts your work will be seen by over 4,000 fans across the Southwest and the country. You will retain the copyright to your work for future publication. To submit your work or for more information please write to: ConNotations; PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082-2613 or contact us via Email at Editors@casfs.org
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PRO NOTES

By Daryl F. Mallett

Well, Estrella War XVII happened in Queen Creek in February and it was a great event. Fandom's **Renee Snyder** and **Alec Knudson** tied the knot there (again, in their SCA personas) and it was a nice event. We had fans **Shaya Clark**, **Kathy Pempiller** and **T. J. Starbuck** out from Minneapolis, also, for the event. We have another wedding this month, again of local fans **Jeff Jennings** and **Nola Yergen**. Congratulations!

Brian W. Aldiss writes: "You catch me as I come back from Paris, that pearl of cities. There, I attended the launch of two of my books in translation. My hosts were my charming publisher, Editions Métaillé. The books are *White Mars* and *The Cretan Teat*. I was interviewed by *Le Figaro* and *Le Monde*, among other journals. The hospitality of the French could not be bettered. British and American publishers please copy. Next week I go to a private viewing of a new documentary about **Stanley Kubrick**, in which I feature, among many others. Commentary by **Tom Cruise**."

Aaron Allston says that "Sidhe Devil, the sequel to *Doc Sidhe*, will be released by Baen Books in June. My upcoming convention appearances include StellarCon, AggieCon, LepreCon, and Dragon*Con. Please take a look at my appearances page, <http://www.io.com/~allston/apprsked.html>" for more information.

David Brin writes that all of his numerous events and book information is "listed at <http://www.kithrup.com/brin/>."

Beat writer **Brio Burgess** has received her "M.A. in English Writing [and is] now forging ahead for [her] M.S. in Secondary Education." As usual, she has "other things in the works..."

Paul Castiglia is still working at "the Archie's Weird Mysteries comic writing gig..."

Editor **Ellen Datlow** "and contributors to *A Wolf at the Door*, the children's fairy tale anthology, had a very successful signing at Books of Wonder in NYC March 3rd. **Jane Yolen** read her story. While signing stock, we discovered that the book is in its fourth printing! (I thought it was in its second.) I'll be attending The International Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts (IAFA, Mar. 21-25, Ft. Lauderdale, FL), the Nebula Awards (Apr. 26-29, Los Angeles, CA), The World Horror Convention (May, Seattle, WA) and teaching Clarion West in July."

Candas Jane Dorsey's "book of short fiction, with some speculative or slipstream stories and some mainstream stories, came out in June 2000 from NeWest Press of Canada (orders to joel@newestpress.com). My novel, *A Paradigm of Earth*, will appear in Fall 2001 from Tor Books of New York. I traveled to do some book promotion in February, and am going to ICFA in

Florida in March to do a reading. The Fall books from Tesseract Books, of which I am publisher, are out. They are: *Resisting Adonis*, by **Timothy J. Anderson**; *Ten Monkeys Ten Minutes*, by **Peter Watts**; *The Slow Engines of Time*, by **Elisabeth Vonarburg**; and *The Rain is Full of Ghosts*, by **Zoe Landale**. Tesseract Books is part of the professional publishing program run by The Books Collective, a writers' and editors' cooperative. Orders from admin@bookscollective.com or through our U.S. distributors."

Artist **Max Espinoza** tells us "my play, 'Weather Permitting,' has had its first reading and will probably go into production next year in Orange County, CA. **Ruben Gerard** is still working on his comic strip and looking for a distributor."

Beverly Friend "ran the academic track at Chicon, appeared on several panels at Capricon [and is] heading for IAFA in Florida in a few weeks."

The ever-beautiful and ever-elusive **Diana Gabaldon** reports that she is "putting together a compilation of interviews for my webpage – it's been very busy here for the last few months! So far as news goes, I guess the biggest bit is that we have an actual signed, sealed contract with a production company to make a mini-series of *Outlander*—and they in turn have at least a tentative commitment from ABC. They also have a script (which I haven't had either nerve or time to read yet), which their ABC contact likes, and (they tell me) as soon as the revised script goes in, said contact is proposing to take it to the Ultimate Powers there. If they like it, then they issue an Ordeer (something like a Royal Proclamation with money attached, I understand), and people start casting and shooting and all that. Personally, I am trying not to pay any attention to this, so I can finish *Fiery Cross*, which is coming together in excellent shape, hindered only by the Fierce Rush...[of Life]. "[**Editor's note**: Diana will be Local Author Guest of Honor at CopperCon 21 this coming September]

Actor **Dean Haglund**, best known for his role as one of the Lone Gunmen on *The X-Files* reports that he "and the other guys are really busy shooting in Vancouver at this time" for his new breakaway series called, appropriately, *The Lone Gunmen*. "Thanks to everyone for writing, and for their support of *The X-Files* and *The Lone Gunmen*. It's going to be very cool."

David G. Hartwell has "just turned in my Year's Best SF volume 6 to Harper Eos, to appear in June. **Kathryn Cramer** and I have also turned in our Year's Best Fantasy, to appear in July, same publisher."

Minnesota writer/editor **Pam Keeseey** reminds us in the warmer climes that on the day she wrote this information, "it's a whopping 48 degrees here." Issue #2 of Pam's new online monster movie magazine, *MonsterZine.com* ([http://](http://www.monsterzine.com)

www.monsterzine.com) has been posted, including articles by **Frank J. Dello Stritto** and **Andi Brooks** on **Bela Lugosi's** 1951 tour of England in a production of *Dracula*, as well as the second part of a multi-part essay by **M. Christian** on villains of the horror film. Next issue: *BioHorror* and the Frankenstein legacy.

Kay Kenyon tells us: "My latest book, *Tropic of Creation*, received a starred review in *Publishers Weekly*, and that seemed to launch the book into great sales. It was also picked up by The Science Fiction Book Club, and came out in December as a featured alternate. I will turn in *Maximum Ice* to Bantam in April. I am hoping to take a vacation in Hawaii between now and then. Let me rephrase that: I **WILL** be going to Hawaii, and the book be damned. I hope to see lots of friends at the *Nebulas* in Los Angeles, as well as at *Norwescon*. No, we were not buried under rubble from the 7.1 earthquake in Seattle. But are definitely less smug about the solid ground beneath our feet. And humbled by the power of a minor shrug of the planet." Her website is at <http://www.kaykenyon.com>.

Daryl F. Mallett is pleased to report that *Pilgrims and Pioneers: The History and Speeches of the Science Fiction Research Association Award Winners*, co-edited with **Hal W. Hall** (SFRA Press, 2001), has **finally** gone to press and will be shipped soon. Wail!, by Beat writer **Brio Burgess** (Jacob's Ladder Books, 2001) and *Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective in Paperback*, by **Gary Lovisi** (Gryphon Publications, 2001), both edited by Mallett, have been turned in. Mallett and fellow Arizona writer **Adam Niswander** are working on two scripts for a new television series being pitched to Fox, and he is working as a co-producer/co-screenwriter/co-author on a film called *First Rose of Spring* with fellow SCAdian & writer **Sheryl Flournoy**, in which he will also play the role of Zar the Wizard/Narrator. Mallett is also editing *Things in Revolt* by **Lev Lunts** for Xenos Books and the latest issue of *True Crime Classics* magazine for Gryphon Publications. He will be appearing at the annual *Paperback Collector's Convention* (end of March, Mission Hills, CA).

Susan R. Matthews writes: "What's been going on in my life? I had an earthquake—gosh darn it!—and it rattled my teeth, I mean to tell you! I have delivered *Angel of Destruction* to my editor, **Laura Anne Gilman** at Roc. Here is my big news, though: my editor has given me the tentative go-ahead to do the fourth *Kosciusko* novel for my next book (projected publication date: October, 2002). She'll give me final clearance once she's had a chance to review the outline. *The Devil and Deep Space* (as in "caught between a rock and a hard place") follows fairly immediately upon the action of *Hour of Judgment*." I'm really looking forward to it. I went to *Rustycon* in January and had a lovely time. *Rustycon* is a small con, but it's

among the most good-spirited conventions I've attended recently. I probably mentioned having gone to *Orycon* in November and really enjoying it. I will be attending *Norwescon* in April and *V-Con* in May. I expect to go to the *Worldcon* this year in Philadelphia as well. At the *Worldcon*, I hope to have a "Compuserve Survivors of the Koscuisko Campaigns" get-together for people who have taken an interest in his Excellency over the years. We discussed "Colony Fleet" on the Compuserve Readers' Group portion of the *Science Fiction Literature* bulletin board; a good time was had by all. I'm looking forward to attending *SakuraCon* in April."

Minnesota writer **Lyda Morehouse** has her story, "Twelve Traditions" (*Science Fiction Age*, May 1999) in its final year of eligibility for The John W. Campbell Award. She also says: "I have to let you all know that my novel, *Archangel Protocol*, is ON SALE NOW!! Though it still won't be out until May 8, 2001, you can pre-order the book at www.barnesandnoble.com! Or, if you really want to treat me right, you can go to my website (<http://www.lydamorehouse.com>) and order through there (the link is on my fiction page)." She will be appearing as a panelist at *Minicon* (Apr. 13-15, Minneapolis, MN) [<http://www.mnstf.org/minicon/minicon36/>], *MarsCon* (May 11-12, Bloomington, MN) [<http://www.marscon.com>], and *WisCon* (May 25-26, Madison, WI) [<http://www.sf3.org/wiscon/mainpage.html>]. Lyda will also be guest lecturer at The Midwest Fiction Writer's "Spring Basics" Workshop (Apr. 28) [<http://www.midwestfiction.com/Workshops/wrkshops.htm>] and teaching "Mars Needs Writers!" at The Rochester Young Writers Conference (May 16-17, Rochester, MN). She will also be doing book signings at The Minnesota Historical Society's Museum Store (May 9, St. Paul, MN); Uncle Hugo's Bookstore (May 19, Minneapolis, MN); Dreamhaven Books (May 23, Minneapolis, MN); Barnes & Noble (May 29, Madison, WI).

Slovakian artist **Martina Pilcerova** is "working on the cover for the U.S. book *Nightside City*, by **Lawrence Watt-Evans**, for FoxAcre Publishing."

Arizona artist **Annette Sexton-Ruiz** has had a baby! **Patrick Thomas Sexton** was born Sunday, February 4, 2001, at 8:33 p.m. He weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz., and measured 19.5 " long. Congratulations!

Joan Slonczewski reports "Brain Plague is coming out in paperback in March; it's had rave reviews, including a blurb in *The New Yorker*."

Shawn Strider reports that the website for Sypher Studios has been updated once again. You can find it at www.sypher.net.

Actor and SF fan **Tadao Tomomatsu** writes: "Hi Ho, Kiddies! 'Tis I, Uncle Albert, a.k.a. Tadao Tomomatsu. In short...I've finished shooting part of a pilot in the last week. The good news is

(Cont'd on page 17)

Musical Notes

by Tom Tuerff

Well, one of the people who you see in the filk rooms at all the local cons has just put out a CD. The problem is, I can't review it objectively.

Because it's mine.

It's called "Something to Sell at My Gigs," and if you'd like to buy it (reviews so far have been really great and it's getting airplay in Pittsburgh --go figure), go to the "Gigs and CD News" link on my website: <http://hometown.aol.com/nudeadguy>

That's all the promotion I'm going to do here. But since I'm still waiting for someone, ANYONE, to send me a CD to review (please, God, or Goddess, or Grand Wazoo, get the Bringers' CD out soon!), I thought I'd tell you what I learned in the making of mine. A lot of you who play music regularly are probably thinking about making a CD to sell at cons or on line or at gigs of your own. Here are some of the things I learned in making my CD.

1. Determine your budget before you record. There are three parts to financing a CD project: recording it, producing it, and promoting it. A budget will help you figure out where you can record and for how long. Pretty basic but essential. There are hundreds of recording studios in your area. Chances are you can find

one that will fit your budget and do it all correctly. In short, have a good idea what it's going to cost so you don't go over budget.

2. Be prepared to go over budget. I did, you will. Trust me.

3. Plan to record more songs than you intend on using. I recorded the basic tracks for 12 songs. I ended up using 11 of them. This was due to a couple of things. First, I couldn't get the right instrumentation for the song I didn't use, plus it was clear from listening to the basic track that my heart just wasn't into it. If time and money hadn't been a problem, I had three others I wanted to record on top of that one.

4. Make sure at least one song on the CD is unbelievably commercial. Look at the songs you're recording and ask yourself, "If I was a radio programmer, which of these songs would I play?" The song on my CD that's getting the most airplay is a tune called "P.O.P.," which is light and funny and bouncy and tuneful and SHORT. That's a very important word, "short." If you don't have a commercial song, write one.

5. Be prepared for happy accidents. The studio I chose is usually used by loud punk rock bands. My engineer had never recorded an acoustic guitar before. However, this learning process turned out to be a great thing, because I'm sure getting a lot of good comments on how nice the guitar sounds on my album.

6. Use the best musicians you can afford. If you can't afford to pay them, buy them something nice. It helps if you have musical friends who play better than you do. But if you need to hire professional musicians, keep in mind that they can cost you up to \$100 an hour. Although some will be happy to see \$100 for the day.

7. Know when to stop. It's very easy to nitpick everything you do, because you want it to be perfect, but if you're on the clock, you're going to have to admit that some things are as good as they're gonna get. (I fell into this trap until my wife calmly but firmly said, "Tom, stop f**king with it and release the goddamn thing! Christ!")

8. Don't burn your own CDs. I know it's expensive to have a company do it, but there's a reason, folks. When you get your CDs from a company that makes them for a living, you know you're going to get a professional-looking product. You know it's going to work in every CD player in the country (you can't be sure of that with a burner). The company will shrinkwrap it for you and make it look as professional as possible. Some will even give you a bar code for free, so you can sell it anywhere. Do your homework and let somebody else do the dirty work.

9. Promote the sucker like crazy. My CD has a bona fide filk song on it, plus lots of songs that people request both at filksings and at my gigs. Find places to play other

than just conventions-coffeehouses, bars, you name it. Even if you just play open mike nights, find out where they are in your area and play and sing your heart out.

10. Sit back and watch the money trickle in. Face it-you ain't Britney Spears and you're not Capitol Records. Charge what the market will allow to make your money back as quickly as possible, but don't expect to get rich. The folk/filk audience is so small that most of us are in this just to make a little extra spending money, anyway.

11. When you make your CD, send it to me for review! That, of course, is a given, right?

Tom Tuerff reviews filk and appropriate folk CDs for ConNotations. Contact him at ttuerff@aol.com <<mailto:ttuerff@aol.com>> or through his website at <http://hometown.aol.com/nudeadguy>



© Sue Dawe

Blue Planet Book

ConClusion

CES
by Jeff George

Here are some highlights from the 2001 CES show I just attended!

It's the world's premier technology education and networking event. More than 89% of the industry's buying power comes to CES. That's over \$72 billion, and by the size of the crowd and the number of new products on the show floor, the 2001 International CES will be bigger than ever.

According to figures just released by the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), sales of consumer electronics goods from manufacturers to dealers will surpass \$95.6 billion in 2001. This total will set a new annual sales record and represents a six percent increase over the 2000 total, making 2001 the ninth consecutive year of growth for the industry. In fact, CEA revised its year-end 2000 estimates of sales up to \$90.1 billion, a tremendous ten percent increase over the 1999 figure of \$81.9 billion.

Highlights:

- * Xbox, Microsoft's long-awaited and ultra-cool new video game console with enhanced graphics, increased memory and greater multi-user capabilities
- * Plug-ins that turn your Palm into a telephone, camera or music player
- * Home networks that control alarm systems, distribute TV and connect to the Internet
- * Machines that recommend TV shows based on your viewing preferences
- * Satellite Radio was highly promoted.

Radios that give you better sound, enhanced satellite program options and the ability to get the signal anywhere in the U.S. With a small antenna you can pick up close to 100 different radio channels anywhere in the U.S. A lot like the channel selection offered with digital cable and Dish Network/Direct TV, you can now get audio like that on your car radio.

* PAN or Personal Area Network is the latest innovation in Bluetooth access, where wireless technology is propelling us into a new dimension in connectivity. This small-form, low-cost radio solution works to connect all your wireless portables.

* DVD-RW, supposedly all the major manufacturers have agreed to a common format so they are all compatible (i.e. not Beta Vs VHS, DIVX vs DVD, etc).

* DVCR - Digital Video Recorders the wave of the future, maybe. They were real cool though!

* Video cameras that use a CD instead of tape

* There were lots of demos of high definition TV, flat screens, plasma screens, and all sorts of stuff to make you drool and eventually empty your wallets to buy when they become available.

The big push at this year's show is DIGITAL and ways to expand the usefulness of a PC. Both Craig Barrett, Intel CEO, and Bill Gates of Microsoft showed off new ways to use your PC around the home with portable appliances that allow you to use your computer anywhere in the home. Intel even used the Blue Man Group in their presentation. Microsoft is pushing their Ultimate

TV system with adds a Digital Video Recorder to Direct TV plus added interactivity via WebTV. Dish Network will be coming out with a model with a DVR as well, but is not interested in adding an internet on your TV component other than their current arrangement with Web TV. They will be offering an internet capability for computers though.

The content providers are starting a new round of discussion on copy protection for their product. This includes but is not limited to preventing you from recording a show off cable if they so desire. The manufacturers are aware of the efforts by Hollywood to limit the advance of technology and are working to try to prevent the limitations they are trying to put on them.

Gallifrey One: A Review by Mike Willmoth

The Twelfth Regeneration of Gallifrey One was the 12th annual Dr. Who (and SF/F) media convention held in Los Angeles, California. This year it ran Friday February 23 through Sunday February 25, 2001, at the Airtel Plaza Hotel in Van Nuys, CA. It is usually President's Day Weekend, but for some reason ended up a week later this year. It's been at this hotel since I've been attending the convention, about 5 years now (missing two years ago). The Guests-of-Honor were **Sarah Sutton** (Nyssa, Doctor Who), **Mark Strickson** (Turlough, Doctor Who) and **Bonnie Langford** (Melanie Bush, Doctor Who). Other "guests" (we might call them participants locally) were **Mark Altman & Robert Burnett** (Sci-Fi Universe, Free

Enterprise movie), **Peter Anghelides** (author, Kursaal and Frontier Worlds), **Stephen Austin** (actor, Space Rangers and Sliders), **Bill Baggs** (owner of BBV audio and video production company), **Keith Barnfather** (Doctor Who Appreciation Society and Reeltime Pictures), **Bill Blair** (background artist, Babylon 5 and Deep Space Nine), **Arnold T. Blumberg** (co-author of Doctor Who collectibles), **Lisa Bowerman** (actress, audio Doctor Who CDs), **David Allan Brooks** (Max Eilerson, Crusade), **Simon Bucher-Jones** (author, The Taking Of Planet 5), **Jo Castleton** (Natasha Alexandra, Auton 2 - Sentinel), **Tim Choate** (Zathras, Babylon 5), **Jeff Cioletti** (creator, Millennium's End: The Fandom Menace), **Stephen Cole** (editor, Penguin Books and author, Vanishing Point), **Paul Cornell** (author, Doctor Who novels), **Sue Cowley** (manager, BBC Worldwide), **Nigel Fairs** (actor, BBV), **India Fisher** (actress, Doctor Who audio CDs), **Denise Gentile** (Lise Hampton-Edgars, Babylon 5), **Gary Gillatt** (former editor, Doctor Who Magazine), **Jason Haigh-Ellery** (producer, Doctor Who audio CDs), **Frank Kelly Freas** (illustrator, former LepreCon GoH), **Clayton Hickman** (assistant editor, Doctor Who magazine), **Craig Hinton** (author, Doctor Who novels), **Eric Hoffman** (fan, SF film), **Marjean Holden** (Dr. Sarah Chambers, Crusade), **Chris Howarth** (co-author, The Completely Useless Encyclopedia), **David J. Howe** (author, Doctor Who factual researcher), **Matt Kiene & Joe Reinkemeyer** (senior consultants, Andromeda), **Steve Kriozere** (writer, Sliders and Nightman), **Alistair Lock** (sound engineer, Doctor Who audio CDs), **Steve Lyons** (author, Doctor Who novels), **Steve Melching** (screenwriter, Men In Black: The Animated Series and Starship Troopers Chronicles), **Jon De Burgh Miller** (author, Doctor Who novel), **Mojo** (special effects supervisor, Foundation Imaging and former LepreCon GoH), **Marjorie Monaghan** (Number One, Babylon 5), **Iona Morris** (voice actress, X-Men cartoon), **Larry Niven** (author, former LepreCon GoH), **Dave Owen** (reviewer, Doctor Who magazine), **Lance Parkin** (author, Doctor Who novels), **Lars Pearson** (author, Doctor Who novels), **Beata Pozniak** (President Susannah Luchenko, Babylon 5), **Kay Reindl** (screenwriter, Millennium and X-Files), **Justin Richards** (author, Doctor Who novels), **Steve Roberts** (senior engineer, BBC), **Philip Segal** (long-time Doctor Who fan), **Mark Allen Shepherd** (Morn, Deep Space Nine), **Jill Sherwin** (author, The Definitive Star Trek Trivia Book), **Zack Stentz & Ashley Miller** (writers, Andromeda), **Dave Stone** (author, Doctor Who novels), **Keith Topping** (author, Doctor Who novels), **Robert Trebor** (Salmoneus, Hercules: The Legendary Journeys), **Ethlie Ann Vare** (senior staff writer, Andromeda), **Dan Vebber**

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Surviving Disney's California Adventure

By Shane Shellenbarger

Unless you've been under a complete media blackout, you must know that February saw the opening of a new theme park: Disney's California Adventure. D.C.A. is a mixed bag, a little bit classic Disney, a little bit average amusement park, neither fish nor fowl. I feel that in trying to be all things to all people Disney has sabotaged itself.

Located immediately south of Disneyland, D.C.A. shares ticket booths with its sister park, with the storefronts of Downtown Disney to the west. Gigantic letters spelling out C-A-L-I-F-O-R-N-I-A greet as you enter the park. Walking under a scaled down version of the Golden Gate Bridge that supports the Monorail as it glides overhead, you enter the Sunshine Plaza facing a 50-foot-tall sun backed by a fountain demonstrating a constantly changing wave pattern.

To the right of the entrance is Condor Flats, part of the Golden State portion of the park with shops and eateries themed around transportation. The main attraction here is Soarin' Over California, arguably the most entertaining ride in the park. In Soarin', riders are given safety instructions by Patrick Warburton (He played Puddy on "Seinfeld", provided the voice of Krok in Disney's "The Emperors

New Groove" and will soon play "The Tick") and then board a hang-glider-like contraption that lifts them up for a banking, sloping flight over the California wilderness, rural, and urban landscapes. The ride ends with a night flight over the Disneyland Park. My only complaints are that if you are in the first row nearest the screen you can see the top of the screen, if you're in the second and third row you can see the dangling feet of the riders above you, and riders in the third row can see the bottom of the screen. Flaws in the original copy left permanent specks on the film, some of which appear to look like a Mickey Mouse head or (stretching the imagination) other hang gliders in the distance. I also wish that the "Imagineers" had softened the transitions between locations by using clouds. For maximum enjoyment, I recommend sitting in the #1 row as far to the side as possible.

Leaving Condor Flats, heading counterclockwise, we pass by the slightly hidden entrance which guests of the Grand Californian Hotel use to come and go from the park. This hotel is influenced a bit by Frank Lloyd Wright and a great deal in the Arts and Crafts style of architecture. Similar to the Wilderness Lodge in Orlando and the Sequoia Lodge in Paris, G.C.H. has an open, airy feeling with fine appointments and attention to detail, beginning with the stained glass sliding doors at the entrance, the Art Nouveau lamps at Registration, Mickey

Mouse chandeliers and a gigantic stone hearth surrounding a room containing a fireplace.

Restaurants include The Napa Rose, an upscale restaurant with 200 seats and an extensive collection of California wines. The Storytellers Cafe is for family dining, with 290 seats, buffet and menu dining, and character breakfasts. The Hearthstone Lounge contains a full bar with baked goods and gourmet coffee in the morning. Finally, White Water Snacks is a poolside snack bar that serves pizza, hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks and hard liquor. The Napa Rose and White Water Snacks offer views of the new park. There are three pools designed to serve various needs: The main one containing a slide is the Redwood Pool, with a kiddie pool shaped like Mickey Mouse, and the quiet Fountain Pool. If you feel like a work out the Eureka Springs Health Club has an exercise facility with two spas, dry and steam saunas and two massage rooms.


In addition to the guest entrance to DCA, the Grand Californian has easy access to Downtown Disney containing shops and restaurants including the World of Disney (the largest Disney store on the west coast), the Rainforest Cafe, the House of Blues, the ESPN Zone, the Lego Imagination Center, and an AMC 12 Screen Theatre, plus many more.

Our room continued the Arts and Crafts theme with furniture and wood moldings from that architectural discipline. The bathroom included the normal amenities

plus a hair dryer and a close-up mirror. The water closet employed a compressed air tank that was efficient, saved water, and about as loud as a shuttle lift-off. The shower curtain contained characters from Bambi, reminding us where we were. There was a mini-bar that registered each item as it was removed, so you don't want to pull out anything unless you are prepared to pay for it when you settle up at checkout. The Grand Californian Hotel contains 750 guest rooms and 38 suites. Prices range from approximate \$265 for courtyard views to approximately \$400 for park view concierge rooms with suite prices varying. While we were there our room price was \$250 one night and \$280 the next because we originally reserved the room for one night and the rate changed when we added the second night. The Disneyland Hotel with its 990 rooms or the Paradise (formerly the Disneyland Pacific Hotel) with its 502 rooms at the following rates: Standard Rooms: \$190 - \$255, Concierge: \$270 - \$310, Suites: \$350 - \$2,000. If cost is a greater concern over closeness to the park, you might want to consider non-Disney hotels. Information is available from the Anaheim/Orange County Visitors Bureau Lodging Directory.

Back in D.C.A., we come around a turn and see a towering grizzly bear garbed in a flotation vest, holding an oar. This is the entrance to the Grizzly River Run, a

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The SF Tube Talk NATPE Experience

by Lee Whiteside

When I found out that this year's NATPE convention was going to be in Las Vegas, I made sure I got registered as press so I could check out the various new and returning SFTV shows as well as whatever other celebrities turned up.

First of all, what the heck is NATPE? It is (or used to be) an abbreviation for the National Association of Television Production Executives and started as a means for TV Executives to get together to share ideas with each other. According to the www.natpe.org web site, the organization's mission statement is "NATPE, the alliance of media content professionals, is the world's largest and most influential nonprofit television programming and software association dedicated to the continued growth and convergence of all content across all media."

The convention was held in mid-January in the mammoth Las Vegas convention center as well as a few events held in the Las Vegas Hilton convention center. The show is more than just about selling syndicated shows to the U.S. market. There were lots of companies there to sell to international markets and areas devoted to British programming,

Canada, France, Spanish, animation and New Technology. Most of the major studios had big booths. Very few of them were there looking for press publicity. Some did put press kits in the press room, but at the booths, they were mainly interested in doing business with their customers.

Official NATPE activities began first thing Monday morning with a 5K run that had **Kevin Sorbo** (the busiest celeb at the convention) as the Official Starter. After that there were some panels as well



© Lee Whiteside

as the ALTV Sessions (the Association of Local TV, not anything to do with "Weird Al"). At lunchtime was the 41st International Broadcasting Awards Luncheon, where awards were given for the World's Best Commercials. The awards were hosted by **D.L. Hughley** and **Mo'Nique** with Special Guest Presenters **John O'Hurley** (The Price is Right), **Kevin Sorbo** (there he is again) and **Judge Mills Lane**. **Mo'Nique** introduced **Kevin** as the star of An-dro-mee-da, which **Kevin** did seem a bit annoyed at. Tuesday morning the exhibit floor was

opened to all the attendees and the show was on. I concentrated mainly on the genre shows, trying to catch celebrities for photos and short interviews with mixed success.

Let's take a tour through the exhibits to see what was going on at various booths during the show.

Paramount - Lots of celebrities, but not much mention of Star Trek. They were promoting Becker going into strip syndication and had the entire cast there on Tuesday including Terry Farrel. Of interest to SciFi fans was the new movie review show, Hot Ticket, which will be hosted by **Leonard Maltin** and **Todd Newton** starting this fall.

Studios USA - With **Xena** and **Cleopatra 2525** about to end, and not much emphasis on **Invisible Man's** syndicated run, the big news for Studio USA was selling a daily syndicated strip for **Crossing Over** with **John Edward**, which has been a steady ratings grabber for SciFi. USA did very well with the show at NATPE and signed up a good number of big stations to start airing the show this fall. All the trade press on it made it the surprise hit of the show.

Lion's Gate - **Adrian Paul** was there to promote **Tracker**, a new series that would he would star in as an alien bounty hunter, tracking down escapees from an alien prison. They all managed to escape through some sort of wormhole that deposited them all in Chicago. Paul's character goes there to track them all

down and teams up with Mel, a "hard-luck girl who is finally on the road to salvation as a cub reporter for a Chicago newspaper." According to most recent press reports, they've lined up 70% of the country, including the Chris-Craft station group which includes KUTP-45 in Phoenix.

Full Moon - **William Shatner's Full Moon Fright Show** was their main promotion. It will be a weekly movie series featuring movies from the Full Moon catalog with **William Shatner** hosting. They intend to have contests where viewers can win a chance to co-host the show with **Shatner**, appear in a Full Moon movie, or win a date with a Full Moon Scream Queen. **Shatner** was there signing autographs and talking up the show with station executives.

Promark - Distributors of **The Secret Adventures of Jules Verne** for U.S. Syndication. They had several props from the show, including a model of the airship and several HDTV monitors set up running the series in widescreen. They had the four main cast members each day, with **Chris "Jules Verne" Demetral** and his wife were hanging out at the booth pretty much all day Wednesday. I got a chance to talk with **Chris** for a while about the show and prospects for a second season. They haven't had a commitment for a second season yet, but he was optimistic about it. He really enjoyed getting a chance to see the show in

(Cont'd on page 8)



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NAPTE

(cont'd from page 7)

HDTV at the booth.

New Line Television - They had a mock up of a burning building to promote a reality series about firefighters. They didn't have much in their booth to promote *The Lost World*, but they did have ads in all the trades about the show being renewed for a third season.

Alliance Atlantis - They were promoting CSI for international sales and had the entire cast there. They were also promoting the Canadian series *Starhunter*, for U.S. syndication. It stars **Michael Pare** as a bounty hunter who's trying to find his son as he hunts down criminals in space on a ship named Tulip.

MGM didn't have much at their booth to promote their genre shows. I did verify with them that the seventh season of *The Outer Limits* starting on SciFi in March would also show up in syndication.

Tribune Entertainment - Tribune is riding high on the success of *Andromeda* and formally announced it's renewal as well as *Beastmaster* and *Earth Final Conflict*. They had *Andromeda* cast members (**Kevin Sorbo**, **Keith Hamilton Cobb**, **Lisa Ryder** and **Lexa Doig**) at their booth a couple of times, mainly hanging around so attendees could get their pictures taken with them. They were also promoting the new series, *Mutant X*, and have gotten a good number of stations to sign up for that show. It will feature a group of genetically engineered humans fighting genetically engineered bad guys in a straight ahead superhero series. Not specifically based on *The X-Men* or the Marvel comic also titled *Mutant X*, but it is being co-produced with Marvel. Head writer will be **Howard Chaykin**, who has had experience with TV production (*The Flash*, *Viper*) as well as comics (*JLA: The Secret Society of Super Heroes*, *Son of Superman*, *American Flag*, and *Black Kiss*).

Fireworks Entertainment - Co-producers for a bunch of shows, giving them international distribution, Fireworks had the *Andromeda* cast members on Wednesday afternoon. Since this appearance wasn't listed in all the trades, it was a much quieter spot. A couple of Brit reporters were there to tape interviews with them for a Sky TV show. They also had some very nice looking four page publicity brochures for *Andromeda*, which I managed to get a couple of them signed (one of them will be in the charity auction at the upcoming LepreCon 27 convention). When **Sorbo** saw it, he wanted to make sure he got some to take with him. He also asked about getting some of the large posters they had hanging from the rafters, intending to get some of them to his fan club for charity auctions.

Columbia Tristar Television - They had stars from *Sheena* and *VIP* there to meet their customers. Unfortunately, if you didn't have an appointment, you weren't able to get in.

Pearson Television - They had cast

from *Baywatch Hawaii*, plus **Andrew Dice Clay** and their Game show hosts at the booth. One of the shows they were promoting was *Colosseum*, starring **Andrew Dice Clay** as a New York fight promoter who time travels back to the heyday of the Roman Colosseum and ends up being the promoter there. Latest word from the trade press is that the show didn't get enough stations to sign up for it, so it won't be happening.

Freemantle Corp. - Freemantle was promoting *Black Scorpion*, for which they have international distribution rights. **Michele Lintel** was there as well as her stunt double, **Julie Michaels**, who was in the full Black Scorpion costume.

Other things of note at the show were some tapings of *Jeopardy* at the Las Vegas Hilton, including Celebrity Jeopardy. One session had **Kevin Sorbo** (yes, Kevin again) who went up against **Jane Krakowski** from *Ally McBeal*, and **Mike Piazza** of the New York Mets. Kevin hung in there, but had too much trouble early on getting used to the buzzer and Piazza prevailed. Kevin still got a \$10,000 check for his charity, A World Fit For Kids. Also appearing in another session was **Seth Green** (*Buffy*, *Austin Powers*), who was beaten by US Women's soccer champion **Brandi Chrestain**.

At the show, I ran into **Marc Scott Zicree**, who was there to talk to some of the studios about his projects, *CORE* and *Magic Time*, as well as talk to some of the producers about possible freelance work. While waiting for the doors to open for one panel, I talked with a VP for Glen Larson productions, who was there to talk with various people about a possible *Battlestar Galactica* revival (which does appear to be happening).

There was a lot of new technology companies there, including Real TV, AOL TV, Microsoft's Ultimate TV, Texas Instruments, Sun Microsystems, a bunch of HDTV companies, and many other smaller companies with various type of internet and production equipment.

Overall, it was fun to actually get to attend the convention instead of just reading the trade reports on it. If you'd like to see even more info and pictures, check out the full report, photos, and brochure scans at the SFTV website at www.sftv.org/napte.

VideoPhile

**Lady and the Tramp II
Animated
Walt Disney Pictures**

This is a reasonable sequel to the Disney film "Lady and the Tramp". Lady and the Tramp have a family that includes Scamp their son. Scamp is rebellious. He knows only his safe yard. He wants adventure. He wants to be a JUNKYARD Dog.

Scamp also knows nothing of the history of his parents, who are trying to protect him from the world. Scamp escapes into the REAL world. This begins the adventure and lessons learned for a young dog.

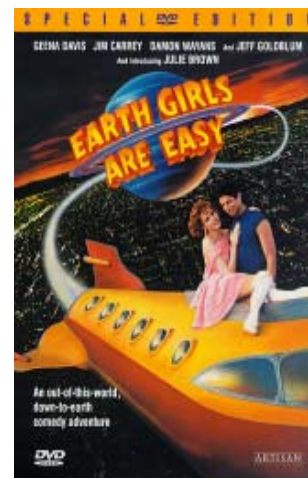
The animation on this film is very good but there are problems. Some problems with this film are demonstrated when at the end of the film, the making of the film is presented and compared to the original. The new film has no shadows, no darkness, no evil, and nothing is really bad. When you compare this to the original film which used light and darkness/shadows as a tool the new film falls short. This film is all cheery and light and you feel sorry for the villains, if you can identify them.

Though this film brings back many of the original characters, the story is weak and there is very little character identification. Also though the songs are by Grammy Award Winner Melissa Manchester and Oscar Winner Norman Gimbel, they are total unmemorable.

Disney needs to keep out of the trap many other studios have gotten into: underestimating children. For a film to be good, an adult must also be able identify with and enjoy the film. This is a film emphasizing that your family is always there. It is a love story, with a moral and strong family values. It is very good for children under the age of eight and romantic very young girls. I do not think this film will keep the attention of older children and adults. - **Barry Bard**

**Earth Girls are Easy
Artisan Entertainment**

This movie wasn't the biggest movie of the 1980's. In fact it barely got released to movie theatres and has mainly been seen in multiple airings on Comedy Central. As a relic from the 80's, it still deserves a look now that its out on DVD.



The cast is pretty impressive, and most went on to bigger and better things. It stars Geena Davis as a Valley Girl who has a spaceship full of hairy aliens land in her swimming pool. She ends up taking them to her hairdresser friend (played by Julie Brown of "Homecoming Queen's Got a Gun" fame) who manages to trim them up, revealing Jeff Goldblum,

Damon Wayans and Jim Carrey. Lots of fun is had teaching the aliens how to act human and thwarting Davis's ex-fiance, played by Charles Rocket. It also features lots of 80's music and several musical numbers.

If you've seen it several times on Comedy Central, why bother with the DVD? For one, it's uncut, in widescreen and has no Comedy Central logo onscreen the whole time. It also has some special features, including some behind the scenes bits, some bloopers, and a really extended version of a bizarre dream sequence from the movie. To top things off, there's sing-along versions of all the musical numbers from the movie. - **Lee Whiteside**

**Bedazzled
20th Century/fox
Brendan Fraser, Elizabeth Hurley**

Elliot Richards (Brendan Frazer) is a nerd in a modern office (cubicles included) who falls in love with Alison Gardner (Frances O'Connor) who doesn't even know he exists. Elliot says he will sell his soul to the Devil for Alison. The Devil (Elizabeth Hurley) is glad to help Elliot by granting him seven wishes. Thus the comedy adventure begins, ending with Elliot realizing he just needs to be himself and exert himself. There is an unusual subplot ending, with the Devil and God working together to help a person.

Though the costuming of Elizabeth Hurley is wonderful (always skin tight and exotic) the movie isn't.

This is a light comedy that is slow at times and some of the jokes are a little old. (The movie has been done before.)

But if you enjoy a light comedy, that has some good special effects (including Hurley's costumes), this is a good one to rent. - **Barry Bard**

ReAnimation (Cont'd from page 1)

manifests the same fearsome Dark Hadou that Ryu has been plagued with. But before Ryu has the chance to consider whether Shun's timely appearance might be more than coincidental, agents of the insidious Shadowlaw organization kidnap the boy.

Ok, I was surprised. Street Fighter Alpha was gripping intense action that draws you in and doesn't let go. Well worth getting. -CLD [Editor's Note: I understand they intend to turn this into a TV series if it hasn't already happened.]

***** **Dual Vol. 2: Student Housing**
***** **Dual Vol. 3: Artifacts**
75 Minutes each, PIONEER
Rating - 13+

**Dual Vol. 2: Student Housing (D)
Contains Episodes 5-7.**

Kazuki's old life is gone. Now, in the parallel world, he must juggle his life as a Core Robot Pilot along with his school-

(Cont'd on page 9)

ReAnimation (Cont'd from page 8)

work, and the most difficult subject of all is girls! It's bad enough to share the house with the most beautiful girl in the school, but then D, the alien girl moves in, and his teacher invades his bedroom! Now, when Rara reveals its most powerful weapon, will Kazuki be up for the challenge, or suffer a crushing defeat?

Dual Vol. 3: Artifacts DVD Contains Episodes 8-10.

Caught behind enemy lines! When a seriously injured Kazuki awakens, he finds himself in the clutches of the infamous Miss Rah! Or is she? Kazuki is confused when Miss Rah tends to his wounds and even cooks for him! What's Kazuki to do? Meanwhile, the Rara army has come up with a plan that will ensure their victory. Get rid of Kazuki.

Both are better than the Dual Vol. 1: Visions.(****) They were well worth wait



after seeing the first Volume. A group of us at our open house sat down late in the evening and watched the first three Volumes of Dual. Everyone highly enjoyed them and wanted more..In fact, several people said that they needed to buy all three in DVD.

The DVD versions feature both English and Japanese soundtracks and the option

to have or not have subtitles, which means one purchase can satisfy all the Anime fans in the house. Dual is one you most have in your Video Collection. I hear that a fourth volume is coming out soon. I will keep you posted.-CLD.

****Tenchi Muyo! Trouble Hatches Episode #1 - Ryoko Resurrected Episode #2 - Here Comes Ayeka! Episode #3 - Hello Ryo-ohki! AIC/Pioneer LDC, 75 minutes English Dubbed \$14.98 Rated: All

Tenchi Muyo! Trouble Hatches is a really cool movie. I think that kids and teens will love it. The first episode, "Ryoko Resurrected" is my favorite. A really cool part is where Tenchi doesn't listen to his father, and he pays the price. Now he has girl aliens in his house. And they force him to go on space adventures instead of going to school! **Heather Schultz - Age 11**

[Editor's Note: Sailor Moon apparently comes in edited and unedited versions. The edited versions are rated All while the uncut versions are rated 13+]

****Sailor Moon: Hearts in Ice Optimum Productions/Pioneer Entertainment LP English Dubbed 60 Minutes Recommended for Ages 5 and Up VHS: \$14.98 DVD: \$29.98

Sailor Moon: Heart in Ice is a great movie. It is one of the best Sailor Moon movies I have seen. I like Sailor Moon because she is a bit of a klutz. She isn't the most coordinated Sailor Scout. (Actually she's the least coordinated Sailor Scout.) Sailor Moon is also food and guy crazy. Mind you, she still loves Tuxedo Mask. In this film, an evil Snow

Queen tries to invade and take over the Earth. The Snow Queen is trying to find a special crystal which will allow her to cover the Earth in ice, making it permanent winter! Sailor Moon has to find the crystal before the Snow Queen does. And, as if that's not enough, Sailor Moon's life gets even more complicated when Luna, the guardian cat of the Sailor Scouts, falls in love with a human astronomer - **Heather Schultz - Age 11**



****Sailor Moon: Black Dream Hole Optimum Productions/Pioneer Entertainment LP English Dubbed 60 Minutes Recommended for Ages 5 and Up VHS: \$14.98 DVD: \$29.98

Sailor Moon: Black Dream Hole is the best Sailor Moon movie I've seen yet! In it, Rini gets kidnaped and falls in love with a guy who becomes the protector of dreams. Sailor Moon almost eats a piece of a Jungle Gym because she dreams it is a donut. You have to see this movie, because it is funny and fun, and a pleasure to watch.- **Heather Schultz - Age 11**

ConClusion (cont'd from page 6)

(writer, Futurama), **Nick Walters** (author, Doctor Who novels), **Harry Werksman & Gabrielle Stanton** (writers, Farscape and Earth: Final Conflict), **Jeffrey Willerth** (Kosh, Babylon 5), **John Bro Wilkie** (actor, Space: Above & Beyond and Voyager), **Peter Woodward** (Galen, Crusade).

This year we had intended on driving over from Phoenix, AZ, on Thursday and back on Monday. However, due to my wife's work schedule and remodeling of our kitchen, we left on Friday and returned on Sunday. The drive over was dry and the drive back was wet. I don't quite know why it rains on the same weekend as G1 each year, but it does. Must have something to do with the critical mass of British nationals or something Anyway, we arrived in the evening so we had to wait to register until Saturday, but that didn't stop me from wandering around and visiting whatever programming I found.

As it turned out, I missed meeting **Tim Choate** whom I really wanted to meet in person. Alas, he appeared earlier in the day. So did **Marjean Holden**. I did manage to catch Doctor Who Wants To Be A Millionaire, but it got silly after about the 6th contestant and I left. I visited ConSuite briefly and threw in the towel to get some sleep. Other items we missed were: BBV Preview 2001, GoH talks, Fan Video Made... Simple?, Video Killed the Doctor Who Fan and The Festival of Weng-Chiang (carnival gaming, booths, etc.).

Saturday we got up late, registered and went out for lunch to our favorite Japanese restaurant nearby, Kyushu Ramen. Upon returning we caught **Mojo** and Those Amazin' Effects. Here he showed us slides (using dual projectors) of 3D artwork where we had to wear special glasses (not colored ones). They were amazing. He hopes to put together a 3D calendar of shots in the future. Next came Andromeda: The Writing Team where numerous members listed above talked about their life writing for this popular show and answering some questions. I asked about Double Helix where, at the end, Tyr's "wife" is given two vials and asked by her mother to choose one (red or blue). Were these for suicide, abort a child, or what? They left it open for the viewer to interpret. There was another GoH talk, so I hit the art show and put some bids on items, then the dealers room. I made it back in time to hear about Big Finish and the Doctor Who audio CDs. The actresses were charming and I later chatted them up in the Dealers Room where we discussed the special effects by the sound engineer during their panel. Following them were the ladies of B5 (Monaghan, Gentile, Pozniak and the newscaster, Jane from ISN, Maggie Egan). It was interesting hearing about their backgrounds, how they got onto B5, etc. Gentile comes

(Cont'd on page 10)

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24 Frames (Cont'd from page 1)

the Rings has ended, but film crews are hard at work on special effects shots and some aerial filming for scenery as well as things like the flooding of Isengard. In an interview with Empire Online, **Christopher Lee**, Saruman in the Lord of the Rings films and Count Dooku in the upcoming Star Wars movie, said "I've said before that the Lord of the Rings, in my opinion - Star Wars speaks for itself, of course, it'll be titanic as a film, they all are and deservedly so - but the Lord of the Rings will, I think, create cinema history because I don't think anybody will have seen anything quite like it." Empire also reports that Lee has read the Tolkien trilogy every year since it has been published and he commented about acting in the movies that "One's dreams don't always come true." He added, "But this one has." New Line has set the premier of *The Fellowship of the Ring* for December 19th, 2001. *Star Wars Episode II* is planned for a May 22, 2002 release date.

Upcoming Movie Previews (April through mid-June)

First of all, there's a good number of genre movies coming over the next couple of months as we start to get into the summer movie season.

Just opened at the end of March is *Spy Kids*, which has gotten good advance buzz on it. It stars **Antonio Banderas** and **Carla Gugino** as a husband and wife spy team who are captured by their arch-enemy, Fegan Floop (**Alan Cummings**). Their kids, Carmen (**Alexa Vega**) & Juni (**Daryl Sabara**) come to their rescue. Also appearing in the movie are **Tony Shalhoub**, **Cheech Marin**, **Robert Patrick** and **Teri Hatcher**.

Also in April is the live action *Josie and the Pussycats*, which looks to be geared more towards teens who like today's music and may not have much appeal to those who remember the actual cartoon it is based on. *Just Visiting* is a time travel comedy based on a 90's French film about an 11th Century French Knight (**Jean Reno**) and his squire (**Christian Clavier**) who are transported to the present day by a wizard (**Malcolm McDowell**). **Christina Applegate** also stars as characters from both time periods. Lots of hi-jinks and fish out of water plot elements in what could be a fun movie to see. And, of course, there's *Pokemon 3*, which your kids probably know all about and want to have you take them to see it!

May's first big movie is *The Mummy Returns*, which is a sequel to the 1999 hit with **Brendan Fraser** (Rick O'Connell), **Rachel Weisz** (Evelyn Carnahan), **Patricia Velazquez** (Anck-Su-Namun), and **Arnold Vosloo** (Im-Ho-Tep) returning. Also appearing is WWF star **The Rock** as The Scorpion King. It is set ten years after the first movie when the mummified bodies of Im-Ho-Tep and Anck-Su-Namun have been brought to a

London museum. Rick and Evelyn's 9 year old son is caught in the middle as two ancient powers return to life and battle it out.

Also in May is the long awaited CGI/live action comedy *Shrek* from Dreamworks. It features **Mike Myers** as Shrek, an ogre who wants to be different. Instead of pillaging the countryside and terrorizing farmers, he wants to be a brave knight. Also appearing are **Cameron Diaz** (Princess), **Eddie Murphy** (The Donkey), **John Lithgow** (The Villian) and **Linda Hunt** (The Witch). A work in progress version of the movie was screened at the ShoWest trade show in March and got a very positive response.

Memorial Day weekend sees the big-budget **Michael Bay** film *Pearl Harbor*, starring **Ben Affleck**, **Cuba Gooding, Jr.** and many others dealing with the events surrounding the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Also opening that weekend is the comedy *Cats and Dogs*, which stars **Jeff Goldblum** as Professor Brody, a scientist about to come up with a cure for allergies to dogs. However, what we find out is that cats and dogs have been fighting each other without humans realizing it and the cats set out to sabotage Brody's work. Providing voices for the cats and dogs are **Tobey Macguire**, **Alec Baldwin**, **Susan Sarandon**, **Michael Clarke Duncan**, **Joe Pantoliano**, and **Jon Lovitz**.

Opening in early June is *A Knight's Tale*, starring **Heath Ledger** as a squire in 14th century France who impersonates his deceased master in jousting tournaments. He rises in stature and nobility but he's doing it to take down an evil-doer. Also starring are **Mark Addy** as Ledger's friend and **Paul Bettany** as Geoffrey Chaucer (the writer of *The Canterbury Tales*, which reportedly inspired the movie).

Ivan Reitman's science fiction comedy *Evolution* has been moved up a month to June 8th. It stars **David Duchovny** (which is why he hasn't been on *The X-Files* much this season) as a community college science professor who gets involved with his geologist buddy (**Orlando Jones**) who is investigating a recent meteor crash near a small New Mexico town. The meteorite contains alien organisms that immediately start evolving and threatening all life on Earth. It also stars **Julianne Moore** as a government scientist and **Sean William Scott** as a fireman. The four band together to find a way to stop the alien organism's evolving.

Also in early June is *Swordfish*, about a charismatic spy (**John Travolta**) hired by the CIA to enlist a computer hacker (**Hugh Jackman**) recently released from prison to help steal \$6 billion in unused government funds. In exchange, the hacker will regain custody of his daughter and start a new life. **Halle Berry** also

stars as an agent working for Travolta.

Mid-June sees the *Tomb Raider* Movie starring **Angelina Jolie** as sexy Indiana Jones like archeologist Lara Croft. Expect lots and lots of action and tight t-shirts. Opening the same weekend will be Disney's latest animated feature, *Atlantis: The Lost Empire*. Set in the late 19th century, Smithsonian researcher Milo J. Thatch (**Michael J. Fox**) is recruited to go on an underwater quest to discover the lost continent of Atlantis. Other voices include **Claudia Christian**, **Jim Varney**, **James Garner**, **David Odgen Stiers** and **Leonard Nimoy**. It is an action/adventure, not a musical.

Upcoming Movie Release Dates

(Dates VERY subject to change)

Mar 30 - Spy Kids

Apr 6 - Josie & The Pussycats, Just Visiting

Apr 11 - Pokemon 3

May 4 - The Mummy Returns

May 18 - Shrek

May 25 - Pearl Harbor, Cats and Dogs

Jun 1 - A Knight's Tale

Jun 8 - Evolution, Swordfish

Jun 15 - Tomb Raider, Atlantis,

Jun 22 - Dr. Dolittle 2

Jun 29 - A.I.

Jul 6 - Kiss of the Dragon

Jul 13 - Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within

Jul 18 - Jurassic Park 3

Jul 27 - Planet of the Apes

August 2001 - Osmosis Jones, Collateral Damage, Jason X, Ghost of Mars, Rollerball

Fall 2001 - Queen of the Damned, 13 Ghosts, Bones, 2001: A Space Odyssey (re-issue), Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Monsters, Inc. Fellowship of the Ring

ConClusion (Cont'd from page 9)

across like she does on the show. Pozniak got on because of her work to get the US to recognize International Womens' Day; she's originally from Poland. Monaghan is also like on the show and would really like to sing opera. Egan was a hoot and full of character, unlike her character. She plugged the union's role in the potential upcoming writers strike. We went out for dinner to a pizza/Italian restaurant before returning to the hotel in the drench. I caught part of the Cabaret, a G1 regular event, where some of the "guests" perform or sing or do magic or whatever. The best part I saw was where Fisher played an editor for Shakespeare's Hamlet trying to convince him to shorten this or change that. It was quite good and funny; I can see why she was chosen for the audio CDs. Some of the other Saturday events missed were Queer as Fiction, Charity Benefit Auction for CdLS Foundation, Andromeda Rising, An Hour With **Larry Niven** and autographs. I also crashed before the dance started unlike last year where I was still awake and it was amazingly ener-

getic. I also hit some of the parties this year, LosCon 28 particularly.

Sunday we went out for breakfast to a Denny's clone across the street from Coco's (which was packed). After checking out of the hotel we did some events. We missed Crusade with Woodward and Brooks, but we saw it last year. Willerth's video showing Babylon Park (both videos) was pretty interesting. They were definitely parodies and used some voices by his wife **Pat Tallman** (Lyta, B5) and **Robin Atkins-Downes** (Byron, B5). The State of Doctor Who Fandom would have been interesting, but we were still at breakfast. Fifty Years with Freas would also have been good, but was opposite Babylon Park. There was a film screening of Millennium's End that we caught part of. We decided to hit the road before it got too late and missed the Closing Ceremonies and High Tea following. We got home around 10pm as it was, but I much prefer to travel the day after con. Since this year it wasn't a holiday weekend we couldn't do that. Hopefully, next year will return to the regular dates. We also missed the Scottish Highland Games because of the date shift.

So, this year's con was fun and we got to see or meet more actors. We saw **Daniel Dae Kim** (Crusade), **Carrie Dobro** (Crusade), **Herbert Jefferson Jr.** (Battlestar Galactica), other minor actors from Babylon 5 and so on. I ran into another Compuserve member and an engineer that I remember talking with from years ago there. I don't remember the parties from previous years, but maybe I just never made it to them. Overall, it was a fun but short con visit. Their attendance was around 2nd best all time, but since they had no Doctor from the series this year that might explain the slightly lower numbers. The only problem I saw was the lack of a restaurant guide. When I went looking for one I got a long explanation from someone at the Information Desk about someone bringing the master, not finding any paper to make copies with, and chucking the idea. Otherwise, it all seemed to run well. I stuck my head into the video room a few times, but didn't recognize anything showing at the time. From the schedule they had lots of Doctor Who stuff, of course, but not much else.

If you are a Doctor Who fan, then you should definitely consider this convention. If you're a fan of sf/f media in general, then the same can be said since you're unlikely to see any other collection of actors without dropping big bucks elsewhere. The only other con I've heard has a fair representation of actors is AgamemCon in Burbank in June (this year). I've never been to that con due to timing close to LepreCon and Westercon. Bottom line, we had a great weekend.

If you have any questions or comments about this review, or would like additional information that I have on file for Gallifrey One, please send me email at mwillmoth@compuserve.com

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Contact Information:

Hexacon 11

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Local Author: Diana Gabaldon

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Mark Roland, artist, whose work includes this piece:



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LEPRECON

SF Tube Talk (cont'd from page 1)

two hours. One rumor is that the final episode, tentatively titled “*Endgame*”, will Open 23 years in the future after the ship has returned to the Alpha Quadrant with Tuvok in an asylum claiming that Admiral Janeway is an imposter. We’ll also see the grown up daughter of B’Elanna Torres and Tom Paris, Miral, as well as Naomi Wildman’s 9 year old daughter, Sabrina. According to Trek producer **Ken Biller** “...the finale will involve the Borg, which has always been Voyager’s arch-nemesis. It’s going to be a rip-roaring, slam-bang action adventure full of twists and turns and surprises....It’s certainly been a challenge to end this series in a way that is both satisfying and surprising. Hopefully, we’ll give you that.”

Before we get to the finale, there’s six more one hour episodes leading up to the finale. First up is “*Q2*”, featuring the return of **John de Lancie** as “Q” as well as de Lancie’s son, **Keegan**, as Q’s teenaged son. Q brings his son to visit “Aunt Kathy”, hoping that she’ll teach him some virtues and help to settle him down some. Needless to say, he’ll be more of a pain than his father ever was. Next up is “*Author, Author*”, where the crew gains the capability for some direct communication with the Alpha Quadrant and are able to talk to the friends and family in real time. It features return appearances of **Dwight Schultz** as Reginald Barclay and **Richard Herd** as Admiral Paris. Since The Doctor doesn’t have any family to communicate with, he uses the opportunity to pitch a holo-novel he has written to publishers that is the story “of a ship stranded on the other side of the galaxy with a strangely familiar crew; a crew that barely tolerates their holographic doctor who lives in virtual slavery”.

“*Friendship One*” involves more interfacing with Starfleet when Voyager is asked to look for a 21st Century Earth probe, Friendship One, that should be near Voyager’s current position. They find the probe, but find it being put to an unpredicted use by a Delta Quadrant civilization. “*Natural Law*” finds Seven of Nine and Chakotay marooned in a hostile alien environment. In “*Destiny*”, Voyager comes across an imperiled Talaxian settlement, reuniting Neelix with his people. Rumors are that Neelix may stay with them once they are saved. In the final hour long episode, “*Renaissance Man*”, The Doctor must become a master of disguise in order to save Captain Janeway, impersonating Janeway, Torres and other crewmembers in the process.

A New Enterprise

The rumors are flying fast and furious and by the time you read this there may have been an official announcement. As of press time, the only hard facts from Paramount is that the Fifth Star Trek TV series is planned for this Fall on UPN. Several long time production staff have

been working on designing the new series including Scenic Arts Supervisor **Mike Okuda**, Production Designer **Herman Zimmerman**, and Senior Illustrator **John Eaves**. Executive Producer **Rick Berman** has confirmed the series will be set in a different time frame than the current Trek series have been. What time period is still under wraps, officially.

As you might have guessed, there’s been lots of rumors on the premise of the new series as well as some rumors on the lead casting. Most rumors tend to agree that it will be set on a spaceship named Enterprise, and the title of the series just may be “*Enterprise*” without any “*Star Trek*” in the title.

Some reports have set the series about 100 years before the original Star Trek series and others have claimed it would be about 100 years after the Current Trek series. Information from a casting call sheet has circulated on the internet and been referenced by TV Guide that indicates the show’s captain will be Captain Jackson Archer who “exhibits a sense of wonder and excitement, as well as a little trepidation about the strange things he will encounter”.

The latest rumors have **Scott Bakula** of *Quantum Leap* fame being up for the role. Also on the ship would be a Vulcan science officer T’Pau (in the pre-TOS version) or a Romulan officer (in the post Voyager version). The Chief engineer would be Charlie ‘Spike’ Tucker, a southerner with country charm, but little experience dealing with aliens. The medical officer would be the exotic alien Doctor Phlox, the helmsman would be Joe Mayweather, a mid-20’s African American, the Armory officer would be Malcolm Reed, an early 30’s by the book British soldier, and the communications officer would be Ensign Hoshi Sato, a late 20’s exo-linguistics expert. Again, none of this has been confirmed by Paramount and could just be bogus info circulated to throw the fans off track.

X-Files - Mulder’s Back (Finally)

With the first two episodes (“*Deadalive*” and “*Three Words*” in early April, we finally get Fox Mulder back on *The X-Files* show, although not necessarily working on them in an official capacity. In “*Three Words*”, Director Kersh turns the X-Files over to Doggett, leaving Mulder in an unknown position while he deals with his abduction and the aftermath. In “*Empedocles*”, Agent Monica Reyes makes a return appearance that leads into the investigation of some sort of entity that moves from body to body. There’s some Mulder and Scully scenes that end with Scully having some sort of attack and a trip to the hospital. In “*Vienen*”, we have a return appearance by the Black Oil when a mysterious death on an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. Doggett is Assigned to investigate, but Mulder beats him there. The next episode, currently untitled, features a nod to the X-Files fans in the person of Agent Leyla Harrison, who has been wanting to work on the X-Files and

began as an accountant with the FBI and has been following Mulder and Scully’s work. She is teamed up with Doggett when Scully begins her leave of absence, and she and Doggett investigate some sort of reptile creature and they (or just Doggett) end up getting trapped and Mulder comes to the rescue. For “*Es-sence*”, the first half of the two part season finale, Scully’s mom introduces her to a “helper” that comes highly recommended who is to help Scully with the final part of her pregnancy. Of course, the helper has some connections to the doctors involved with Scully’s pregnancy and when confronted by Mulder, Skinner and Doggett, insists that she is there to help protect Scully and her “special” baby. She indicates that the baby is the perfected result of the human/alien hybrid. As for the season (series?) finale, the truth about Scully’s baby should finally be revealed, although as of press time, there’s been zero info about what may or may not happen. In any case, it will be leaving the show at a point that could continue into a ninth season with limited, if any, presence of Mulder, but likely with Doggett, Scully and Agent Reyes. If FOX doesn’t come to terms with **Chris Carter**, they can always just move on to movies. I’d be willing to bet that FOX does everything they can to keep the X-Files on the air.

As to the **Lone Gunmen** spinoff, the initial ratings for it’s debut were not bad, but have slid significantly and the Friday debut was not very strong, just slightly about what **Freakylinks** had been getting. Assuming FOX doesn’t pull the series, we can look forward to the episode “*Planet of the Frohikes*” with the Gunmen finding a super-intelligent monkey that had been engineered during the Cold War to be a special assassin that now wants to be free. Other episodes will see a very comical appearance by **Mitch Pileggi** as Skinner, a guest appearance by **Michael McKean** as the Area 51 head Morris Fletcher seen in the X-Files “*Dreamland*” episodes. The season finale will reveal more about Eve Harlowe and may also feature a guest appearance by another X-Files cast member.

Elsewhere on FOX, **Dark Angel** will up the ante a bit, finally bringing Lydecker’s boss, Madame X, into the show. She will be played by **Nana Visitor**. According to comments made by the producers and reported in an Entertainment Weekly article, a second season is not certain for the show. Ratings have leveled off and it has been an expensive show to produced, running over budget a lot of the time. Upcoming episodes include “*Shorties in Love*” where Original Cindy’s old flame returns to town, not knowing that her mysterious past is about to catch up with her, “*Pollo Loco*” where an escaped X-5 is discovered to be a serial killer and Max must try to stop him from killing more people. It is also the first appearance by Nana Visitor. “*I and I Am A Camera*” sees an apparent stalker turn into a

seemingly superhuman ally when Max and Logan investigates a string of unexplained murders.

Buffy & Angel

The WB’s dynamic duo of **Buffy** and **Angel** may end up on different networks next season. FOX Televisions contract with the WB expires after this season and FOX and The WB were unable to come to terms on a contract renewal and FOX is now free to shop the show to other networks, including its own. At press time there was no new info on the situation, so look for some sort of announcement by the time the networks announce their fall schedules in May.

In the meantime, both shows will be heading full steam towards their season finales. On **Buffy**, the season finale is also the 100th episode of the series and it looks to be a big finale with lots of guest stars and a big climax to the season-long arc, including, reportedly, a big crossover with **Angel**. From various reports, here’s what you can expect on the remaining **Buffy** and **Angel** episodes this season. After laying their mother to rest, Buffy and Dawn must deal with their father, who wants to take Dawn back with him. Xander and Willow travel to Los Angeles to notify Angel about the death of Buffy’s mom, however they aren’t able to find Angel and end up in the demon karaoke bar. Cordelia runs into Harmony in Los Angeles, not realizing she is now a vampire, and Angel learns about Joyce’s death from Harmony, leading to a trip to Sunnydale to comfort Buffy. Spike’s Buffy Robot is completed and it poses as Buffy. Anya is offered a chance to get her demon powers back. Over in L.A., Cordelia starts getting visions more often and more intensely, leading to concerns about her state of health. Gunn is also pressured to leave Angel Investigations and go back to protecting his turf. After receiving a new hand, Lindsey discovers it is tainted and part of a plot by Wolfram and Hart to discredit him. Rumors on the final episodes are all over the place, but it’s pretty certain that we’ll learn the full details about Ben, Glory and Dawn. It looks likely we’ll see a return visit by Oz (**Seth Green**) as well as most of the Angel cast joining the Scooby Gang in the final confrontation with Glory.

The WB put **Roswell** on hiatus to see how **The Gilmore Girls** would fare on Monday nights. It will return in mid-April to finish out the season, which could be its last if ratings don’t pick up for the final episodes.

In “*Off the Menu*”, an experiment goes terribly wrong and several members of the gang are held hostage by a familiar face and a stunning revelation occurs about one of the aliens. “*Heart of Mine*” sees some of the gang coming to terms with each others and their relationships while the rest consider their future. In “*Cry Your Name*” an unthinkable tragedy befalls the group and they must come together in its aftermath. “*Its Too Late &*

(Cont’d on page 15)

SF Tube Talk (cont'd from page 14)

Its Too Bad” sees Liz determined to find out the truth about things while some of the group deal with heartfelt revelations, hidden insecurities and thoughts of leaving Roswell.

Back on UPN, they're finally going to start airing their mid-season genre shows in April. *“Special Unit 2”* will take over the *“7 Days”* time slot starting April 11 and *“All Souls”* will start airing on Tuesday nights on April 17th. It will air opposite *“Angel”* and *“Dark Angel”*, at least it doesn't have the word Angel in it's title. As mentioned in the last issue, *“Special Unit 2”* is about a special Chicago police force going after gargoyles and other creatures still around. *“All Souls”* is about a haunted hospital with plenty of strange things going on.

Also, in case you were wonder what has happened to *“The Tick”*, FOX has held it back for the summer or fall as strike insurance. They do have nine half hour episodes made and we'll get to see them eventually.

Xena's Turning Japanese

Moving to syndication land, we've got the final episodes of *Xena: Warrior Princess* to look forward to, and they're doing some interesting things with some of them. Starting off is this year's clip show, *“Send in the Clones”*, with **Claire Stansfield** appearing as a Xena fan in the near future that brings Xena and Gabrielle back to life via cloning. *“The Last Centaur”* will bring back the ghost of Ephiny and we'll see her grown up centaur son, Xenon, who Ephiny isn't happy about how he's been behaving and asks Xena to straighten him out. *“Soul Possession”* will be a flashback episode with a framing sequence featuring the

modern day Xena fans first seen in *“Deja Vu All Over Again”*. They discover a lost scroll from which we'll learn what happened to Gabrielle between *“Sacrifice II”* and *“A Family Affair”*. After that is an alternate timeline episode, *“When Fates Collide”*, which answers the question *“What would have happened if Caesar hadn't betrayed Xena?”*. We'll see Caesar, Brutus, Alti, and Joxer. *“Many Happy Returns”* is a comedy featuring Alexandra Tydings as Aphrodite. To end out the season and the series is a two part episode with the working title of *“Japan”* in which Xena and Gabrielle journey to Japan for their final TV adventure.

Also ending its run is *Cleopatra 2525*, which theoretically has just one more episode left to finish up the series, likely airing in May. The last new episode, *“The Voice”*, left the team ready to face a massive Bailey invasion.

Elsewhere in Syndication, *Andromeda* will resume new episodes in mid-April to finish out its first season. They have already started filming the second season, planning on getting a plenty of episodes in the can before the likely Actor's Strike. Leading off the new episodes will be *“The Devil Take the Hindmost”* where Dylan and Rev Bem get into a battle with some slavers and we learn a lot about Rev and the Wayist philosophy. *“Star-Crossed”* features **Michael Shanks (Stargate SG-1)** as the avatar of another sentient ship who Andromeda falls in love with, only to be betrayed. Next is *“Fear and Loathing in the Milky Way”* sees Harper taken away from the ship and we learn that he can be dangerous when in trouble. Rumored to feature a return appearance of the Nightsider villain from the pilot, Gerentex. *“The*

Honey Offering” will focus on Tyr and the Nietzscheans. *“It Makes a Lovely Light”* features Beka Valentine and explores her character and skills as a pilot as well as exploring *“why slipstream is basically more of an art than a science.”* It goes to all sorts of interesting places,” according to producer **Robert Hewitt Wolfe**. The season finale, *“...Its Hour Come Round at Last”*, will see the return of the mysterious *“Enigma”* first seen in *“Harper 2.0”*. We'll learn more about him and his connection to the



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Magog. We'll also learn more about Trance Gemini, some of it possibly related to Enigma.

SciFi Prime Reshuffled and the Short Crusade

Over on the cable networks, SciFi's Monday prime lineup didn't last very long, with *The Invisible Man* moving back to Friday nights and *First Wave*, *Jules Verne*, and *Black Scorpion* moving to Saturday nights. Joining the Friday lineup are all new episodes of *The Outer Limits* as well as the continuing adventures of *Farscape* in it's third season. As expected on *Farscape*, Aeryn Sun didn't stay dead very long, but it is a good bet that Zhaan's sacrifice to save Aeryn will turn out to be fatal. The ratings for both *Black Scorpion* and *Jules Verne* have

not been good and likely won't be improving with the move to Saturday nights. SciFi has already announced that the fourth season of *Lexx* will take over *Jules Verne's* slot in late July. *The Invisible Man* will go right into its second season in early April. SciFi will be starting the second season of their short film series *Exposure* in April. Look for more offbeat and bizarre productions to turn up late on Sunday nights.

Starting April 9th, Monday through Thursdays at 8 pm ET/PT, SciFi will air the thirteen episodes of the *Babylon 5* spinoff *Crusade* right after the daily repeats of *Babylon 5*. They look to be airing in the order that creator **J. Michael Straczynski** has asked for, so don't bother with worrying about the changes in uniforms between some episodes.

Just as this issue was going to press, SciFi has announced the production of a new *Babylon 5* TV movie titled *“Babylon 5 - The Legend of the Rangers”*. It is being written and produced by **J. Michael Straczynski** and will take up the story of the legendary Ranger fleet as they attempt to restore order to hundreds of civilizations devastated by the Shadow War. According to **Straczynski**, it will take place just under three years after the events of *“Objects at Rest”*. There is currently one *Babylon 5* character in the script, a *“fan favorite”*. The movie will also serve as a pilot for a possible series. Where *Babylon 5* was strong drama with action/adventure elements, **Straczynski** says the movie and potential series will be *“a little more skewed toward adventure with underlying drama (which is about what you'd expect from the Anla-Shok). It's got some great characters, and it's a lot of fun.”* Filming is scheduled for mid-May and it will likely air later in the year. Considering that the repeats of *Babylon 5* have been getting equal or better ratings than most of SciFi's first run shows, its very likely a new series will result from this.

SciFi Soundtracks

For those of you who like to listen to the music from your favorite shows, GNP Crescendo has had several SF TV related releases in the last few months in addition to their large catalog of *Star Trek* music. They've just released a CD with the soundtrack from the SciFi miniseries *“Frank Herbert's Dune”* with music by **Graeme Revell**. Recent releases have been *“Lexx: The Series”* with music by **Marty Simon**, *“Farscape”* with music by **SubVision (Chris Neal, Braedy Neal and Toby Neal) & Guy Gross**, and a soundtrack CD for the *“Robocop: Prime Directives”* miniseries with music by **Norman Orenstein**.

Next issue we'll take a look at some of the new shows turning up on SciFi this summer, including a new *Robocop* movie miniseries and preview some of the new fall shows, including *“Smallville”*.

For more news and SFTV schedule information, check out The Magrathea/SFTV Pages at www.sftv.org.



Imperial Outpost Games

Darren Johnson

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white-water raft ride that would not be smart to ride unless it was summertime and you wanted to wet down and cool off. You enter round rafts from a moving circular platform, belt yourself in and wait as you lazily drift toward the lift belt. Rising up the belt affords a close-up view of the peak that is supposed resemble a grizzly bear (or a howling wolf) and soon you are playing Soaking Roulette or who's-going-backward-over-the-falls. I've ridden Roaring Rapids in Six Flags Magic Mountain and I found that to be a wetter and more thrilling ride than Grizzly River Run. Still, I wouldn't advise you to take an unprotected camcorder along for the ride.

The next stop would have been the Redwood Creek Challenge Trail, but on-and-off rains closed this attraction. From what I've been able to gather, it's a place with rope bridges, forts, and climbing structures reminiscent of Tom Sawyer's Island in Disneyland, but with easier access. Also in this section is the Ahwahnee Camp Circle where storytellers present legends and myths of the people indigenous to California.

Heading toward Golden Dreams, I encountered one of the street performers, a mobile vine. The performer wears stilts, garbed in a camouflage costume covered with ivy leaves. With amazing flexibility and dexterity, the performer stuck a variety of poses that can only be described as a human topiary.

Golden Dreams is a 23-minute theatrical presentation that tells the struggles and aspirations of California's ever varying population. Hosted by Whoopi Goldberg as Califia, the "spirit of California", her image is projected onto the three-dimensional faces of two statues that bracket the film screen in a method that was first utilized in the graveyard set of the Haunted Mansion in Disneyland. The film also portrays Goldberg in various roles as a nexus for change in the history of the state. It's a moving film and more realistic and darker than most Disney productions. Golden Dreams had its operating problems, probably due to the image projection system.

Entering the Palisades Pier area, my eye falls on the Golden Zephyr. However, it wasn't operating during my stay and its swinging rocket-cars appear to be from an off-the-shelf ride that you'd probably be able to find at most state fairs. Next door is the Jumpin' Jellyfish, a ride for small children or fearful adults. Across the way is the Mulholland Madness, a mid-sized roller coaster that could be called a latter day version of the Mad Mouse coaster found in many older amusement parks. Recreating the L.A. streets twists and turns, you are in a speeding car carrying four people to their apparent doom. I enjoyed it more than once.

Several food vendors are located in this corner of the park with such catchy names as Catch A Flave, Malibu-Ritos, and Pizza Oom Mow Mow. I didn't eat at

any of them but I did notice that their prices were the usual high priced amusement park fare.

The Orange Stinger appears to be a giant orange rind with bumblebees buzzing within. You secure yourself into a swinging chair (State fair ride) and the ride operator spins you around and around. Been there, rode that.

The S.S. Rustworthy is a play area that resembles a fireboat complete with water guns and will be a big hit when summer heat needs to be beat.

Next stop is the Maliboomer, the best thrill ride in the park. The ride consists of three towers with four rows of ejection seats in which you are strapped down and divested of any and all objects that might tear loose. After a period of anticipation designed to raise the blood pressure of the riders, you are launched 180 feet straight up and press against the restraints when you reach the top. You start to drop back down and feel the sensation of weightlessness just before you bounce. Another off-the-shelf ride that can be a precursor to an even bigger thrill: The Big Shot atop the Stratosphere Tower in Las Vegas is perched at 1,149 feet.

Games of the Boardwalk are your typical ring-tossing-basketball-shooting-baseball-pitching games of "skill" that are designed to separate you from your money. Not much different from those at any fair and the prizes aren't even Disney characters.

The Sun Wheel is similar to a Ferris wheel with two types of enclosed cars, one fixed to the outer edge only, the other rides within an oval-shaped track that swings the car as the wheel revolves. It's a slow moving, slow loading ride that affords a good overview of the park.

Fabricated out of brass and fiberglass are the whimsical sea creatures of King Tritons Carousel. The animals travel up-and-down while a calliope plays Beach Boys tunes. It's a mild ride that will be fun for families with younger children.

The California Screamin' is the parks signature roller coaster and it's pretty good. Designed after the traditional wooden coasters of the 1920's you'll find a few notable exceptions. Instead of a chain lift hill, you're launched at 55 mph along 215 feet of track up the first hill through a series of banking turns at a maximum angle of 76 degrees. The height tops out at 120 feet with a drop of 108 feet along a track that is 6,072 feet in length, with an ovoid loop backed by a Mickey Mouse silhouette on steel track that weighs nearly 6 million pounds.

Leaving the south end of the park and heading back into the Golden State section, we took the tour of the Boudin Bakery, hosted on video by Rosie O'Donnell and Colin Mochrie (from ABC's "Whose Line is it Anyway?") showing how the San Francisco bakery creates it's world-famous sourdough French bread based on its 150-year-old recipe. One of the employees told us that they give away bread samples randomly throughout the day, but give away much

more just before closing. The Mission Tortilla Factory tour is simpler and shorter with a fresh baked tortilla at the end. The Golden Vine Winery hosts a wine tasting and gives a film presentation on wine making. The Bountiful Valley Farm grows seasonal fruits and vegetables

Just past the farm is It's Tough To Be A Bug!, the 3-D theatre-style attraction cloned from the original that resides in the Animal Kingdom in Orlando. Developed before the release of the film, "A Bug's Life", It's Tough To Be A Bug! is hosted by Flik (voiced by "NewsRadio" actor Dave Foley with a brief appearance by the malevolent Hopper (voiced in the film by Kevin Spacey.) This attraction employs something for four out of the five senses including the smell of a "stink bug" and the feel of bugs leaving the theatre via the backs of the benches upon which the audience is seated. I find it superior to the Disneyland attraction, Honey, I Shrunk The Audience.

The Hollywood Pictures Backlot is the smallest of the themed "lands" and contains the best and the worst attractions in the park. Disney Animation is the best, containing a trimmed down version of the animation section of the Disney/MGM Studios in Orlando. Walter Cronkite and Robin Williams host "Back to Neverland", a live-action and animated film with Williams in the role of one of the Lost Boys. The short film explains the process of making an animated film and uses the comic talents of Williams to good effect. An interactive exhibit builds on the knowledge acquired in the previous exhibit. It allows you to create an animated strip of paper, do a voice-over of a Disney film snippet, and asks you questions to determine which Disney character you are most like. Next is a visit to an animator's "studio" where an actor interacts with animated characters and living animators on television monitors to demonstrate the development of an animated character, in this case, Mushu the dragon (voiced by Eddie Murphy) from "Mulan."

The Hyperion Theater is a 2000-seat venue designed for live performances. We saw Steps in Time in which a hip Fairy Godmother shows a teenage boy that dreams can come true. The dancing and singing were fine, the acting was good, but the plot was so thin that I found myself not caring about any of the characters.

The Hollywood Backlot Stage is an outdoor area for street performers. There was never anyone in evidence during our visit.

Jim Henson's MuppetVision 3-D is another transplant from the Disney/MGM Studios in Orlando. Crowds were small and we sat up front to observe the audio-animatronic penguin band. It's best to observe the 3-D film effects mid-theater or further back. If you've never seen this attraction in Orlando or if you're a Muppet fan, this is a must-see!

Finally, we come to Superstar Limo,

purportedly a tongue-in-cheek look at that wacky tinsel town known as Hollywood. You're supposed to be the next big star on your way to your film's premier and along the way you spot stars like Regis Philbin, Melanie Griffith, Antonio Banderas, Cindy Crawford, Drew Carey, Tim Allen, and Cher. This ride earns my vote for worst ride in the park. I can't fathom under what circumstances it was designed or approved. It should be the first ride to be replaced.

Weather during our stay was intermittent rain that probably contributed to the sparse crowds. Other factors may have been the media hype that would tend to scare off those who anticipate mega-mob scenes at a park opening or the anticipated breakdowns that can plague a new park or the fact that Disney suspended the selling of Annual Passes except under specific circumstances. A three-day Park-Hopper pass for \$111.00 per adult was available to hotel guests. Things may pick up this summer when Disneyland hits peak capacity. While I generally enjoyed my stay, there was no experience that was so unique that it would draw me back anytime soon.

Disney's California Adventure:
<http://disneyland.disney.go.com/disneylandresort/CaliforniaAdventure>
<http://www.laughingplace.com/Info-ID-DLGuide-Visit-DCAAttGuide.asp>
Anaheim/Orange County Visitors Bureau Lodging Directory: <http://www.anaheimoc.org/lodging.asp>
Disneyland Resorts:
<http://disneyland.disney.go.com/disneylandresort/ResortHotels/index?id=230>

Grand Californian Hotel:
<http://www.laughingplace.com/Info-ID-DCA-Hotel.asp>
<http://www.laughingplace.com/News-PID501860-501860.asp>

The King Of Beasts Rules Over L.A. Theatre Scene By Shane Shellenbarger

The lion is often called the king of beasts and Disney's, 'The Lion King' is defiantly able to 'lord' its stature over the other touring Broadway shows. Staged at the beautifully renovated Pantages Theatre, 'The Lion King' is visually stunning and emotionally satisfying. 'The Lion King' tells the coming-of-age story of a young lion cub named Simba as he experiences the life altering adventures and struggles that force him to accept the responsibilities of adulthood and his destined role as king. Having seen the animated movie only marginally prepared me by making the plot and music familiar to me, after that, everything else was a departure to a strange and wonderful place.

The opening parade of animals through the audience onto the stage is a show starter par excellence.

The costume design by Julie Taymor is

Lion King (cont'd from page 16)

a fascinating fusion of actors and characters that forces the audience in a dilemma: to whom do you pay attention? Taymor, along with Michael Curry, also designed the masks and puppets, and they maintain the surrealistic atmosphere that permeates this musical play. Having so many creative irons in the fire can only enhance Taymor's direction, allowing her to understand the best ways for the cast to maximize the use of their costumes, their movements, and the scenery.

Unlike one-person plays that are often held on bare stages with few props that allow the audience to concentrate on the performance of the actor, 'The Lion King' has too many things going on at once. The characters aren't restricted to the cast, but are also contained in the props, scenery, and stage that the cast uses and moves through. Headdresses of grass swing and sway upon the heads of

dancers. Characters of light and shadow are created with suggestion and substance. Drought is woven from the fabric of cloth, a hole, and a tilted stage. No one element of the production overwhelms another, but all ingredients are combined to produce a most satisfying theatrical experience. My only complaint was in the purely technical flaw of sound reproduction, but even that problem couldn't dim the brilliance of this show. Even if you didn't care for the animated film, you MUST see this musical before its run ends on October 1st, 2001.

Pantages Theatre:

<<<http://www.seeing-stars.com/OnStage/Pantages.shtml>

<<<http://www.nederlander.com/pantagesdir.html>

<<<http://www.casenet.com/concert/pantages.htm>

The Lion King Stage Production:

<<<http://disney.go.com/disneyonbroadway/lionkingla/index.ht>

Pro Notes (cont'd from page 3)

that the pilot will be airing. The show is called Prank Attack. Done for Fox Family Network. However, it will be airing on FOX TV (your local stations...or the regular airwaves and not cable, as I understand it). Airing in the kids timeslot (around 9 a.m. here in the Los Angeles area) on March 31 (Saturday). It is a kids game show/surprise, you are on Candid Camera, sort of show. There are three segments...and, 'til the cutting room floor, I believe I am still in one of the main segments. There are at least three pranks...and I have no idea the length of the show. And, trust me, you will recognize where I am...I think I'm the only Asian actor they have...eh, go figure. So, that's the short story. Prank Attack...kids Saturday morning kinda show. March 31. Just a note: this is **NOT** a series as of yet. It depends on how well

the show goes over on the 31st. Oh, and I am the Fan Guest of Honor at Demicon (May 2001, Des Moines, IA)."

Scott P. "Doc" Vaughn, freelance illustrator and comic artist, is still hard at work on Hero-Lore, his SF/fantasy comic book awaiting distribution. Scott's M&V Magazine is hoping to have a new issue out at last in time for the summer convention circuit and is looking for materials to fill up "this creative forum of Art, Humor and Literature, so if you're interested, visit M&V online at <http://www.mandvonline.cjb.net>. The M&V webpage has had a recent complete revision. Scott's freelance work and Hero-Lore art and info can be found at <http://www.scottpvaughn.cjb.net>." Scott intends to appear at several cons this year, including The International ComicCon in San Diego "to promote my freelance art, the Hero-Lore comic book and online

(Cont'd on page 18)

TUSCON 2/3

Pro Notes (cont'd from page 17)

comic, and our other projects. Also, **Tamera K. Frahm** is writing a short graphic novel called "Harvest Brides" this year that I am illustrating and that we hope to finish a small print run version in time to sell at Artist's Alley at ComicCon this year. I'm trying to do a new issue of M&V in time too... Oh, and we got engaged." Congratulations!

Janine Ellen Young is "busy, busy, busy." She will be at: Norwescon (Apr. 12-15, Seattle, WA), The UCLA Book Fair (Dangerous Visions booth, Apr. 28-29, Los Angeles, CA), and The International ComicCon (Jul. 19-22, San Diego, CA). Her husband, comic book writer **Doselle Young**, who writes *The Monarchy* will be at: Norwescon (Apr. 12-15, Seattle, WA), Wondercon (Apr. 20-22, Oakland, CA), and The International ComicCon (Jul. 19-22, San Diego, CA). She also reports: "I did an interview for *Dreamwatch Magazine* (that's a U.K. publication) which came out in their Feb. edition and has just reached the States now. It has the cast of *Angel* on the cover. The interview was nicely done and is, in general, a very nice spread. We are pleased. In addition, just in case we neglected to tell you, *The Bridge* has been nominated for The Philip K. Dick Award. The winner is announced just prior to or at NorwestCon in Seattle in April. We'll keep you posted."

DarkTales Publications reports: "After a minor delay, DarkTales Publications' presses are running again plus we have some great news to tell you about. Go to your local newsstand and pick up a copy of the latest *Wicked Magazine*. There's an article on DarkTales Publications in their Spring Issue with Hannibal on the cover. (FYI, we're on page 79). DarkTales Publications wins Jobs in Hell 2000 Excellence Award for Best Publisher. We want to thank all of the writers, editors and customers that voted for us. Thank you very much, it means a lot to us. DarkTales' new pricing schedule is now up. Check out our online catalog at <http://www.darktales.com/current.htm> to see a complete list of our available titles and their new prices. See the savings! We've also extended the 40% off holiday special on J Michael Straczynski's book *TRIBULATIONS* until the first printing runs out. Go to our main page for details at www.darktales.com and get your copy at the lowest price possible while supplies last. Our new Horror Publication Preview page is now up at www.darktales.com. Just click on the red starburst half way down the page to see the cover art of our newest upcoming titles before they're available. *Dead but Dreaming*, *New Excursions into the Lovecraftian Universe* is now open for submissions. **Keith Herber**, former editor for *Call of Cthulhu* roleplaying game and author of countless expansion and resource books, and **Kevin Ross**, contributor to over thirty supplements for *Call of Cthulhu*, will co-edit this anthology series. For all the details visit the submission guidelines page at <http://www.darktales.com/subs.htm>. January Titles Now Available (at <http://www.darktales.com/current.htm>):

Holy Rollers, a chapbook novella by **J Newman**; *Natural Selection*, a chapbook novella by **Weston Ochse**, (co-author of *Scary Rednecks*). February Titles Now Available: *DeadFellas*, a chapbook novella by **David Whitman** (the other half of the *Scary Rednecks* duo is back!); *Six-Inch Spikes*, a trade paperback collection of erotic horror stories by Bram Stoker Award-winning author **Edo van Belkom**. Entries will be put together, and the official drawing for the J Michael Straczynski Kinesis Keyboard Giveaway Contest will take place at the World Horror Convention in Seattle Washington, the final weekend of May 2001. The winner of the drawing will receive the keyboard in the mail so you need not attend to qualify. The only way to enter is to purchase a copy of *Tribulations* from DarkTales.com. And last but not least, **Victor Heck's** *The Asylum* will be published in Spain by HT Editores in June 2001, one month before the second edition of *The Asylum*, *The Violent Ward*, will be published here in the States. Stay tuned."

Del Rey Books reports its recently released and upcoming books list. In January: *The Silent Gondoliers*, by **William Goldman**; *Sagittarius Whorl*, by **Julian May**; and *Colonization: Down to Earth*, by **Harry Turtledove**. In February: *Manifold: Space*, by **Stephen Baxter**; *Colonization: Aftershocks*, by **Harry Turtledove**; *Star Wars – Darth Maul: Shadow Hunter*, by **Michael Reaves**; *Sword in the Storm*, by **David Gemmell**; and *Riders of Leviathan*, by **Toni Anzetti**. In March: *The Wolf Knight*, by **Alice Borchardt** [I am enjoying this series so much and recommend it heartily — DFM]; *Pavane*, by **Keith Roberts**; *Pegasus in Space*, by **Anne McCaffrey**; *Babylon 5: The Passing of the Techno-Mages, Book I: Casting Shadows*, by **Jean Cavelos**. In April: *The Skies of Pern*, by **Anne McCaffrey**; *Star Wars: Essential Guide to Alien Species*, by **Ann Margaret Lewis**; *Blade of Tyshalle*, by **Matthew Stover**; *Star Wars: The New Jedi Order – Edge of Victory: Conquest*, by **J. Gregory Keyes**; *Starfire: Hangfire, Book VI*, by **David Sherman** and **Dan Cragg**; *Mortalis*, by **R. A. Salvatore**; *Dragonflight*, by **Anne McCaffrey**; *Dragonquest*, by **Anne McCaffrey**; *The White Dragon*, by **Anne McCaffrey**. In May: *Hell on Earth*, by **Michael Reaves**; *Ascendance, Book One in the Second Demonwars Saga*, by **R. A. Salvatore**; *The Best Military Science Fiction of the Twentieth Century*, ed. by **Harry Turtledove** and **Martin H. Greenberg**; *Star Wars: Rogue Planet*, by **Greg Bear**; *Midnight Falcon*, by **David Gemmell**

That's it for now. If I've missed anybody, I apologize for the oversight. Please pass this along to your pro colleagues (artists, writers, actors, etc.) and have them let us know what we're doing so we can publicize it! Hope your New Year is shaping up pretty well all around!

In Our Book

Babylon 5: The Passing of the Techno-Mages Book 1: Casting Shadows by **Jeanne Cavelos** based on an original outline by **J. Michael Straczynski** Paperback; Del Rey; \$6.50

Casting Shadows is the start of the third *Babylon 5* novel trilogy from Del Rey. This trilogy follows the techno-mages through the a good chunk of the *Babylon 5* storyline and the first book looks at events that happened before we first saw the techno-mage *Elric* in the second season *Babylon 5* episode "The Geometry of Shadows". The book focuses on *Elric* and his apprentice *Galen*, who we later meet in the *Babylon 5* movie "A Call to Arms" and learn more about during the short-lived *Crusade* series.

The book covers several months that occur at the same time of the first season of *Babylon 5*. We see *Galen* preparing for his initiation into becoming a technomage. As an apprentice, he gets his powers from a chrysalis that is attached to him during his training. When he becomes a full techno-mage, he will have the technology merged with him. We learn a lot about how they make some of their "magic" as well as what they have to go through in order to become a techno-mage. Through the course of the book, *Galen* finds out some of the secrets of the techno-mages as well as some dangerous powers that he alone has the capability to unleash. He also falls in love with *Isabelle*, another apprentice who he joins on a fact-finding mission about *The Shadows* that goes terribly wrong.

Through the events of the novel, we learn why the techno-mages were leaving known space and we see the events happen that effect *Galen* strongly that are only hinted at in a couple of the *Crusade* episodes. Knowing now the details of those events, we now know why it was so important for *Galen* to find the *Well of Forever*.

Cavelos captures *Galen* and *Elric* quite well in the novel and gives us a Detailed look into the lives and society of the techno-mages. She also weaves in a few references to events going on elsewhere in the *Babylon 5* universe to give us a feeling of how the novel fits into the *Babylon 5* storyline. *Straczynski* has said that he feels this trilogy is the best of the three. If you enjoyed the previous two trilogies, you should waste no time in picking up the start of this one. - **Lee Whiteside**

Cryptonomicon
by **Neal Stephenson**
Perennial, 918 pp., \$16.00

A ripping good yarn about the search for World War Two Axis gold. Well, it's a lot more than that. It's the author's

masterpiece, his magnum opus wherein he covers the topics that are most important to himself. Any science fiction reader interested in computers would enjoy this historical novel. Although not science fiction, it has that cynical, cyberpunk sense. Three story lines are intermixed. The creation of a Japanese cache of war gold in the Philippines is one. Several adventures detail the Allies' secret cryptography operations in World War Two. The grandchildren of the WWII bunch pursue computer encryption. Their business schemes for an island data haven get sidetracked into a quest to recover the gold. Besides the adventures, you get to learn about Turing machines, mathematics, and making secret codes. The 'Cryptonomicon' itself is a WWII cryptography manual which is continually updated over the years. A ten-page mythological analysis of WWII is one of the more interesting digressions. But this is no dry, academic plod. The biting, frequently humorous wit makes me chuckle. And the ending is a spectacular piece of symbolism. - **Michael Griffin**

Slayer: The Revised and Updated Unofficial Guide to Buffy The Vampire Slayer by **Keith Topping** Paperback; Virgin Books; \$7.95

As with any popular show, in addition to any official guide books, there are also unofficial guide books and *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* is no exception. With *Slayer*, *Keith Topping* has put together a guide in the tradition of *Andy Lane's* *Babylon File* books, taking a detailed look at each episode with a British perspective. The update guide covers to the end of Season 4 of the series, whereas the first edition went to the end of season 3. Make sure you are getting the latest edition, since copies of the first one are still on the shelves.

For each episode, *Topping* does a one or two paragraph summary of each episode plus listing the guest star, writer, director and US and UK original transmission date. Following this, he then devotes two to four pages of commentary on the episode, broken down into several specific categories. These include: "Dreaming is Free", where dream sequences are analyzed and the season 4 finale "Restless" takes up a whole page for this section; "Denial, Thy Name in Joyce" where instances of *Buffy's* mom ignoring her daughter's activities are pointed out; "References" details pop culture references; "It's a Designer Label" which points out fashion statements and gaffes; "Bitch" where the girls being really nasty are identified; "Awesome!" where the cool monsters and other neat things are pointed out; "Logic, Let Me introduce You to this Window" which notes the bloopers, plot holes and other continuity glitches; "Quote/Unquote" where the best bits of dialogue are noted; and, of course, "I Just Love Your Accent" where *Top-*

In Our Book (Cont'd from page 18) ping discusses Buffy's "charmingly Californian view of the British". Topping usually adds some Notes, Critques, and Soundtrack references for each episode as well.

Overall, it's a fun way to revisit the series when you don't have access to your VCR. It's also fun to look for things pointed out in the guide as you re-watch an episode. It is much more organized than the official Watcher's Guide, and a lot more fun, too. - **Lee Whiteside**

Rules of Conflict!
by Kristine Smith
Eos, 373 pp., \$6.50

This is unlike any science fiction novel I have read. It is a rhyme wrapped in a mystery contained in an enigma. The rhyme: "One of Six for Tongue of Gold, Two for Eyes and Ears, Three and

Four for Hands of Light, Five and Six for Earthly Might." Captain Jani Kilian is Two of Six, the Eyes and Ears of a cultural exchange team. The mystery: who killed the human leaders on a planet during a massacre by the alien idomeni. The enigma: why is the military covering up that Jani killed her commander then. The story uses office politics in Earth's military bureaucracy, eighteen years after the event. Jani is a paper documents examiner, which gives her diplomatic power with the idomeni. How archaic yet exotic. I think the main thing that makes old science fiction become outdated isn't the technology but gender relations, what used to be called sex roles. It isn't so jarring that starship computers ran on vacuum tubes. It's that the women were meek little helpers of the men. All this has changed. Make the hero into a woman, allow swearing in thought and dialog, and you've got Smith's modern brand of science fiction. Jani is bio-augmented with idomeni genes, and this gives her superpowers and life-threatening medical problems. Which serves the conflicting purposes of her friends and enemies, both human and alien. Intriguing intrigues. - **Michael Griffin**

The Fox Woman
By Kij Johnson
Tor, 380 pp, \$14.95

I will admit I was snagged by the title and cover art. I decided to review this book because it is so different that some readers may pass it by and thereby miss something extraordinary.

Kitsune is a female fox who lives under an abandoned house with her brother, mother and grandfather. The family who owns the house comes back. Yoshifuji has lost his position in government and has come back to his family home to meditate. His wife, Shikujo, is not very happy at living in the wild country but since she is determined to be the most perfect wife possible, she will not allow

her husband to see her unhappiness. Their son is the happiest, being able to play in the dirt and chase butterflies.

Kitsune and her family are soon run out of their comfortable den. They should leave and find a new, secure den but Kitsune is consumed with curiosity about the humans. She begins to watch Yoshifuji and even attempts to read the poetry he writes and leaves lying out one night. Her grandfather tries to convince her that her curiosity is dangerous but it's too late for Kitsune, she's fallen in love with Yoshifuji.

Yoshifuji's fascination with the family of foxes who live in the garden is grating to his wife. She sees the foxes as harbingers of bad luck. Japanese culture was full of stories of foxes who spirited off unsuspecting humans and she worries for her husband and son. Eventually, she returns to the capital with her son, unable to cope with her husband's growing obsession with the foxes or her own dreams about a fox lover.

Grandfather fox, seeing that his granddaughter is hopelessly in love with the human, consents to help her become human. His love for his granddaughter drives him to help her realize her love rather than live unrequited. The process requires the entire fox family to become human; something Kitsune's brother and mother rebel against.

One night, Kitsune, as a lovely human woman, lures Yoshifuji into her home and the family contrives to keep him there by means of an elaborate fantasy that Yoshifuji wants to believe in. His memories of his wife and his other life become vague and unimportant. His world is now his lovely new wife, her brother as his companion and the most beautiful and perfect home he has ever seen. He regains his position with the government and his joy is complete with the arrival of his new son.

The reality is that the foxes are still foxes and the perfect home is a dirt den under the garden. The magical part of this story is whether you believe Kitsune is actually a woman or still a fox; even she isn't sure. Shikujo is called back from the capital with the news that her husband is missing and she discovers that being the perfect wife is not the best way to love her husband. Kitsune fights desperately, calling on the gods to help her, to preserve her fantasy and her husband and son. The question is which life does Yoshifuji want?

The story is presented by diary entries by Yoshifuji, Shikujo and Kitsune. The prose is lyrical and tastes very Japanese. Through this medium I learned something about Japanese culture that I had not understood before; the significance they put on appearance reaches deeply into their communication with each other. The choice of words, paper and style contribute to the message and because of the extreme formality, people and their real feelings often get separated.

This is what Yoshifuji and Shikujo also learn.

A lovely story; well developed and creatively presented. If you enjoy the mystical side of Japanese culture or are intrigued by something different, read this book. - **Catherine Book**

The Lust Lizard of Melancholy Cove
By Christopher Moore
Avon Books, Inc., \$13.00, 304 pp

Another tidbit from Christopher Moore!! (see last Connotations) I love this guy's stuff; original doesn't begin to describe it. This serving stars a town constable, Theo, who grows his own pot in a garden and a Xena-type wannabe, Molly, who had a brush with fame as Kendra, Warrior Babe of the Outland (B movies). The so-called villain in this opera is Steve, a sea-monster who is thousands of years old, maybe more, who gets turned on by depression.

You see, a woman killed herself and her psychiatrist, Val, gets a case of conscience. Val's method of treatment consisted primarily of prescribing lots of drugs to cure whatever ailed her patient but, after the suicide, decides that she really needs to actually treat these people so pulls all the prescriptions. The result is a town full of depressed people. This miasma of depression is like a smorgasbord for Steve. But Steve hasn't been topside for a millennia and mistakes a gas tanker for local wildlife. His attempt to get it on with the big silver momma results in a need to hide himself while he heals parts of his body. He has the amazing ability to camouflage himself as anything and he picks a mobile home, right next door to Molly. After Molly watches him eat the paperboy, she steps in to rescue two ladies from the local church and ends up becoming Steve's girlfriend.

Adding to the fun is Steve's biological mechanism of making his prey horny as hell to draw them close enough to eat them. This has an interesting effect on the town in general. It affects an old blues singer, who had an encounter with one of Steve's relatives some years back and watched his best friend get eaten and the local pharmacist, who gets his jollies wearing a snorkel and fins while getting it on with dolphins.

There is also a real plot behind all these insane characters that involves discovering who really murdered the apparently suicidal woman and what mysterious things are happening on a nearby ranch and what does the sheriff have to do with any of it. The fun is watching the characters play their parts. The hook in the story is that nothing would have come of the murder if Steve had not visited Pine Cove. If you have a sense of the ridiculous, you'll love this story. - **Catherine Book**

Intrigues: Book One of the Blending

Enthroned
by Sharon Green; Eos;
\$6.50; 418 pp

Honest, don't try this at home.

I started a book that's about number SEVEN in a series of interesting characters. They're a mix of magics; each has a strong talent and when the six get together, they can combine their strengths in interesting ways.

Now, I know an author can't recapitulate the whole darn tell from the beginning in every book, it would really fry the regular readers of the series. Now, Ms. Green did give us some background about this "Blending" which is the ruling power in the novel's neck of the woods. Of course, not everyone is pleased about this particular "blending", as they've just upset the ruling nobility apple cart and gotten way too plebeian for the disposed (and very disgruntled) powers_that_were.

So this novel tells of the magical struggles of the six as they try to clean house in the kingdom and set up a new way of doing things: hiring and firing with as little death_dealing as possible. And to keep alive and growing their more democratic approach to ruling...and themselves as well.

But honest, I have no idea what I read! I did read the book cover to cover and steadily on through a week's time...but because you really had to know who these people were and what they had gone through previously, this book was a wash for me. Not the author's fault obviously...

But like I said at the beginning.: Don't do as I did! Start the series at the proper beginning. It's called: The Blending: The Convergence. You'll be a much happier (and knowledgeable) camper by the time you reach this tale! - **Sue Martin**

Shrine of The Stars:
The Third Book of Confluence
by Paul J. McAuley
Eos; \$18; 372pp.

Now, I did this series correctly: I've read the previous two wonderful novels and really enjoyed this third one...though of course, there's been a year's gap between Book Two and Three.

This is a mighty fine book. Once again McAuley takes us to the wonderful rich and vibrant world of Confluence, the artificial world constructed by the long_since disappeared Preservers who had peopled it with 10,000 bloodlines. Our Hero Yamamanama, is the last of the Builders, or so he has been told and it is his Destiny to shake the world of Confluence out of its stupor and the strangle hold of the bureaucracies that have encrusted society into stiffness like an over_abundance of barnacles.

Yama, as he is called, is the voice of reason throughout, constantly question the rules and the nature of the world around him. His Quest is to not only find

(cont'd on page 21)

JAMES READE

In Our Book (cont'd from page 19)

himself and his heritage, but to change the world.

You can tell by my use of capitals, that this is a Siddhartha kind of tale. Or maybe, more of a tropical and humid Titus Groan.

In this third novel, Yama, once again a prisoner of the evil Dr. Dismas, must try to escape and continue his journey, while his loyal followers Tibor and Pandaras seek to rejoin him. In the travels of these characters we get into the inner bowels of Confluence where it's working machineries are, and we discover just what the world's myriad "shrines" are all about. We meet more new and fascinating denizens. And Yama, more than previously, realizes what he's supposed to do for Confluence.

Again, McAuley's rich imagination and story_telling carry you along. This is such an amazing and eccentric collection of life forms and cultures, bizarre (without being too gross) rituals and arcane strictures. It's refreshingly different.

My only caveat: It sort of wandered in ever smaller circles at the end. Much as a three book series cries out for a good strong finish, this series ended a little soft and vague. Not in its conclusion really, which is full circle from the beginning and a decent enough way to ends the story, but that it just drifts and ends with a small bump at the shore. I wish it had been more emphatic.

Nevertheless, this is great series and well worth the price of hardbacks. _ **Sue Martin**

Gilgamesh

by **Stephen Grundy; Morrow**
\$26; 575 pp.

Have you ever read the "oldest human epic" (this would be the original Gilgamesh)? I did, in a Penguin edition about 20 years ago. It's not very long, as some of it's missing.

Basically, it is a tale of a king of Uruk (in Sumeria, Mesopotamia) Gilgamesh, ("two-thirds god; one third man") the

strongest human around and Enkidu, a man fashioned by the gods to be his counterpart, to rival and humble the impetuous young king.

The tale covers some of their adventures subduing a monster in a great cedar forest nearby, killing the Bull of Heaven, after the goddess Ishtar comes to Gilgamesh and offers herself. He spurns her. And then Gilgamesh's beloved Enkidu falls ill and dies after twelve miserable days. Gilgamesh, bereft, tries to win Enkidu back from the dead, by storming the Netherworld to take Enkidu back to the land of the living, but to no avail.

He returns to Uruk a chastened man.

This is it in a nutshell. Grundy obviously expands the story and makes it richer, toying with the characters (and the spelling of their names). He makes Enkidu and Gilgamesh, not only best friends, but lovers too. This proves support for the last hundred pages of the book, fifty of which cover Enkidu's painful, slow death and Gilgamesh's agony as he tries everything to wrest his beloved back from the dead.

Beside Enkidu, there is the Shamhatu, a priestess of Inanna (Ishtar) who helps lure Enkidu to civilization and who is the strong steady heart of the story. She constantly tries to leash in Gilgamesh who is much like an exuberant puppy; happily involving Enkidu in all his plans and laughing in the face of the god's desires and attendant rituals.

But Destiny doesn't like it's tail pulled, even by a larger-than-life character like Gilgamesh.

I liked this book. I love books about the Far East, especially in ancient times. And Grundy did a wonderful job evoking the time and place. There are battles and treachery and sex; and it makes for a very entertaining historical fantasy. It makes me want to go and find my copy of "Rhinegold," Grundy's other novel (which sounds like it is a retelling of the legend of Siegfried and the Rhine Maidens and all that Wagnerian drama).

- **Sue Martin**

Club Listings

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Please check your club listing for errors. Please send corrections and updates to the editor in writing or via email)

ADRIAN EMPIRE A medieval and renaissance recreationist club. Sword-fighting, arts, banquets, masquerades, dances. meets every Wednesday night from 7-10pm at Encanto Park. All are welcome. Free. For details, call (602)582-6990.

ARERIAL MIRAGE JUGGLING CLUB International Juggling Association affiliate club meets 7-10pm Wednesday evenings at Encanto Park. No dues, everyone welcome. All levels skill exchange in many areas of object manipulation. Devils' Club meets Fridays 5pm north of the Hayden Library on the ASU campus. For more info, call (602) 585-7623, or write 2326 E. Electra Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85024.

ARIZONA LANBASHERS LEAGUE A collaboration of computer gaming enthusiasts, the Arizona LANbashers League throws quarterly LANparty events. Between parties, support is given to local groups who wish to advertise their own gatherings. We have no set genre of games and play anything from strategy games to first-person shooters to driving/flying simulations. No annual membership is required and admission to an event ranges from \$5-\$15. See our webpage for current events. Email: azlanbashers@earthling.net Web: <http://www.gibbed.com/all> VoiceMail: 602-306-9339

THE AWAY TEAM: The Away Team, is a general sci-fi appreciation group that meets once a month for discussion of various sci-fi news regarding several mediums to include: television, movies, video, books, comics, magazines, collecting, and so forth. The meetings are comprised of news, review and comment, BBS/computer news and help, meeting new members, video presentations, games, and socializing fun! Food and drinks are provided, via a \$3 munchie fee (per meeting) to compensate the host. (No other fees are involved.) The electronic home of the Away Team, is the Lightspeed Space Station BBS at (520) 325-6674.... Member ages for the group range from 13-40-something with both male and female members. Other activities include null-modem link gamefests, group theater movie viewings, convention trips and more. Have sci-fi fun in a relaxed, low-structure environment. **NO RUBBER EARS ALLOWED!!** For questions, you can call the BBS, or write to: LSS c/o R. Martin; 2522 N. Sparkman Blvd.; Tucson, AZ 85716

BASFA Baja Arizona Science Fiction Association, a non-profit organization. Puts on TUS-CON Convention annually.

CENTRAL ARIZONA SPECULATIVE FICTION SOCIETY, INC. (CASFS) The non-profit corporation that puts on CopperCon conventions, SmurfCons, HexaCons, occasional regional cons, and publishes ConNotations. Best described as SF/F generalists with a strong bent towards literary SF/F. Guests welcome - meets at 8pm on the last Friday of each month in January thru September and the second Friday in October, November and December at JB's Restaurant, 2560 W. Indian School in Phoenix, AZ. Write PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082-2613 or call Stephanie L. Bannon (602)973-2341 for information. Web www.casfs.org

THE DARK ONES (Dark-wunz) n. 1) An organization formed for the expression and exploration of various cultural themes including, but not limited to, the Dark Ages and the Renaissance through forms of art including, but not limited to, painting, drawing, writing, photography, spoken word, and acts of characterization. 2) a member of this organization. 3) Information available at (602) 978-9314.

DAYSTAR HOLT Arizona's first and longest-running Elfquest fan club. Daystar meets to talk about EQ and related stuff, develop characters, publish stories in our 'zine *Playelf* and create an annual calendar. Other common interests include music, bellydance, camping and of course, SF. Membership is free (18 or over) and is attained by group vote after you attend two meetings or holt-related get-togethers. Meetings are usually the first Saturday of each month; for more info, call Tom or Janice at (602) 581-2258. They have a website up at <http://members.home.net/jeanderson/daystarholt.html>

DESERT LURKERS Tucson based Babylon 5 fan club. Meets and communicates via listserver over the Internet. Anyone with e-mail access can subscribe to the Desert Lurkers by sending e-mail to b5-l-request@dragon.org and putting "subscribe" (minus the quotation marks) in the subject line. Interested people can contact Alexander Goodrum at E-mail address: goodrum@AZStarNet.com

EARTHLINK SCI-FI CLUB SF generalists with some focus on comics and environmental issues. Meets at various conventions and occasions. Publishes a quarterly newsletter called Cosmic Wavelengths. For information contact them at 8508 E. San Lorenzo, Scottsdale, AZ 85258, or call Nohl Rosen at (602) 991-8847.

THE EMPIRE OF CHIVALRY AND STEEL, INC. The Empire of Chivalry and Steel specializes in the general recreation of the culture of the Middle Ages including all of the Art Forms, Events (Feasts, Tournaments, Ceremonies and Wars) and Combat Arts covering the years of 800AD up to 1650AD and any location within Europe or its explored territories. For more information contact

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A History of the Society for Creative Anachronism in Verse and Song.

It has come to be known as "The Knowne World Songbook" The songs are nearly all filk, having been written and sung from the early 1970s to the present. There are 418 8 1/2" x 11" pages.

Compiled and edited by Mistress Catriona Macpherson, aka Milly McCloskey

Cost: \$15.00 post paid, \$12.00 if picked up in person (prior arrangement required)

Contact Info: Milly McCloskey, 7213 N 37th Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85051 or millymcc@casfs.org

Club Listings (Cont'd from page 21)

Bart Smith (Phoenix) (602)937-6995 or Leonard Bird (Tucson) (520)742-2432

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF JEDI KNIGHTS

Members of the Tatooine Base have revised the International Brotherhood of Jedi Knights, a not-for-profit fan club dedicated to Star Wars. Membership is \$8.00 U.S. and/or \$11.00 (Canada/foreign) and includes a membership packet consisting of a one year subscription to *The New Jedi Times* (published 6 times a year), membership card, IBOJK charter & bylaws information on Jedi studies and a free gift. Checks should be made to either Patty Vance or Elizabeth Laignel. For further information send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The I.B.O.J.K.; P. O. Box 5459; Glendale, AZ 85312-5459; or call either Patty or Lilly at (602) 843-8303. May the Force show you the way of the Jedi!

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION COUNCIL

Meets every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. Meeting at the Westridge Mall (75th Ave. and Thomas Rd. Phoenix, AZ. The IFC is regimental (Using Ranks and structured simmialrly to ST) but has social events as well. Attends local Creation And Trek Production Cons, and ST Movie premiers. POC for IFC is A/Fleet Admiral John Nelson (602) 934-3987 or by voice mail (602) 409-7169 or c/o P.O. box 14370 Phoenix, AZ 85063-4370. E-Mail: Bnelson502@aol.com Membership Approx 35-50. The Bi-Monthly newsletter is *Cactus Log*.

THE JEDI KNIGHTS Meetings are the 3rd Sunday of each month. For more information call Carol Alves, Publicity, (760)244-9593 or write Jedi Knights, c/o Jim Lowerre, 12291 Meade Street, Garden Grove, CA 92841-3629

LEPRECON, INC. One of the two Phoenix area corporations that put on yearly conventions. Best described as SF/F generalists with a main thrust into SF/F art. Guests are welcome. The meetings are quarterly on the second Saturday of February, May, August & November unless otherwise notified. August is the annual meeting where board positions are determined. For more information, write PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285 ; call Mike Willmoth at (480) 945-6890 or Email: mwillmoth@comupserve.com

THE PHOENIX FANTASY FILM SOCIETY

A Phoenix based club interested in the entire realm of SF, Fantasy and Horror film. PFFS has been in existence for 25 years, meeting every 6 weeks in member's homes. Dues are \$10 per year. Membership includes newsletters, an annual film awards and various outings. For information, contact PFFS, P.O. Box 34023, Phoenix, AZ 85067 or call David Storck at (602) 274-7404, e-mail: Menzeez@aol.com.

PHOENIX JAPANIMATION SOCIETY

Local chapter of Japanimation/general animation oriented fans - meets monthly. Membership is free, though

optional monthly newsletter is \$5/year or \$.50 per month. Call Tom Perry at (602) 996-2196 or write 3241 E. Altadena, Phoenix, AZ 85028.

RAGE ACROSS THE SOUTHWEST

A Live Action Theatre Troupe based out of the ASU campus in Tempe, AZ. It is dedicated to the game Werewolf: The Apocalypse by White Wolf publishing. Contact Mike McLaughlin at (602)461-5842 or write 1730 W Emelita Place #2025, Mesa AZ85202-3144 or email to warlok@aztec.asu.edu

RAW GAMES (Role-players & Wargamers, Inc.)

Role-players & Wargamers, Inc. is the Valley's oldest role-playing and wargaming club. Currently meeting at Carrow's Restaurant at 7th Street & Monte Vista in Phoenix every Sunday from 3pm-9pm (except during conventions and other special events). Open to new members - call (602) 849-9515.

ROLE PLAYING GAMES CLUB (RPGC)

The official gaming club of Az. State University. Activities include: live-action roleplaying games, tabletop gaming, conventions, parties, etc. General meetings are open to the public and are held every Friday at 6pm in ASU's Memorial Union. Dues are \$5/semester. For more info, contact Michael McLaughlin, 1730 W. Emelita #2025, Mesa, AZ 85202-3144, or call (602)464-3144; RPGC@asu.edu

SCIENCE FICTION CONTINUUM

The Science Fiction Continuum: An Independent Star Trek and Sci-Fi club in Phoenix, AZ. The SFCOM is an active club that participates in Local Phoenix, and Southwestern Star Trek and Sci-Fi conventions and movies. The SFCOM has three different divisions. The SFCOM itself, a free group where fun is the name of the game. The Deep Space SolarFlare (DSSF) an active member club in the International Federation of Treker's (IFT). This group is based on DS9 (a space station). And the IKV Sto-Vo-Kor (Independent Kilngon Vessel). A Klingon Bird of Prey, roming the desert looking for battle. Are the Fed's too soft, looking for combat, feel the call to glory. This is the ship for you. Membership in the SFCOM is free! To join DSSF or the Sto-Vo-Kor a nominal fee for the national clubs involved and uniforms. For further information contact President John Nelson at (602) 409-7169 or on the internet at; BNelson502@aol.com or check out our web site. <http://www.thesfcom.com>

SFACE (Speculative Fiction And Computer Enthusiasts) Phoenix College's one and only connection to the worlds of speculative fiction, including science fiction, fantasy, and horror as well as table top, live action and internet gaming, SFACE also serves as a guide through the Internet - both teaching basic use and utilizing as a source of speculative fiction. For more info contact Dr Ray Bromley at bromley.ray@a1.pc.maricopa.edu. The

SFACE Web site is found at <http://www.pc.maricopa.edu/departments/studentact/organizations/sface/>

SHADOWKEEP BBS Intelligent conversation, awesome graphics, stupendous door games, unworldly filebank, RPG forums, QWK message system and online RPG BBS-moderated games! Our BBS is mainly RPG oriented and we offer many services to GMs and players. No fees necessary for users who post intelligent messages! \$5 in credits to new users. Over 20 conferences and 10 doors to choose from! Shadowkeep BBS - PCBoard 15.2/M - US Robotics 28.8 Modem. Phoenix, AZ (602)245-0919; Connect at 2400-28800

THE SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM

The kingdom of Atenveldt doth lie in the state of Arizona. Within the fair kingdom can be found six Baronies: Atenveldt, Mons Tonitrus, Twin Moons, SunDragon, Tir Ysgithr and Ered Sul. For more information on any of these or for general information on thy past tomorrows thou mayest contact Mistress Myrddina o Dolwyddelan (Terry Schwartz) PO Box 584, Sonoita AZ 85637 (520)455-5835 Email: myrddinal@aol.com www.atenveldt.org

THE SOUTHWEST COSTUMER'S GUILD

The Southwest Costumers Guild is a loose organization of persons interested in all facets of historical, cultural, science fiction, fantasy, and humor cos-tume. Members are often seen on stage and behind the scenes at most local and regional Science Fiction Conventions masquerades. They meet on the last Sun-day of each month at various members' homes in the greater phoenix area. For details. Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix, AZ 85609 or call Randall Whitlock at (602)995-7514, email: costumers@casfs.org or Website: <http://members.aol.com/souwesgld/guilg.html>

STARBASE TUCSON Tucson Arizona based Star Trek club. For info call Geof Wood at (520) 746-1822 or write Starbase Tucson ; 3314 E. Benson Hwy ; Tucson AZ 85706. Email:pegasis409@aol.com

STONEHENGE BBS Enjoy over 60 online games including TradeWars 2002, StarFight, The Pit, Dirty Play, Usurper, LORD, and Battle Grid (new, like Battletech). Topical message boards, E-Mail, and Network Echoes. 1000's of files to download: utilities, games, GIF pictures, & more every day! Stop by and give us a try at Stonehenge BBS (602) 947-2223, FidoNet 1:114/120, 300-9600bps, V.32/V.42bis, 24 hours a day.

TARDIS TARDIS is a Phoenix-based General SF/Fantasy Fan Club, specializing in International media SF/Fantasy since 1983. TARDIS meets every two weeks at different locations around the valley. Activities include watching videos, discussions, parties, fund-raisers, auctions, games, camping trips and outings. We also maintain an active presence at local conventions. TARDIS publishes a monthly informative newsletter, *The Index File*, with a national circulation which is included with membership. Annual membership is just \$12.50. You can contact us at P.O. Box 63191,

Phoenix, AZ 85082-3191, Voice Mail at (602) 864-0901, E-mail TARDIS-Info@primenet.com or visit <http://www.primenet.com/~jgeorge/tardis.html>

TEKWAR FAN CLUB Sanctioned by the series' production companies and the USA Network! It is THE information conduit between the fans and the series! Fan club membership will bring you the following 1) subscription to the info filled Tek Informer newsletter; 2) official TekWar Fan Club membership card and kit. Membership is by regular mail only and the newsletter and materials will not be reproduced electronically. To join the action and initiate your annual membership, make check or moneyorder out for \$12.50 to: Official TekWar Fan Club (Membership section), 2522 N Sparkman Blvd., Tucson AZ 85716-2417

T.H.E.M. T.H.E.M. is ASU's science fiction and fantasy club. Weekly meetings are held in the Memorial Union, with dates to be announced after the semester starts. For more information, contact Erik Wennstrom, email: ew@asu.edu Phone: 480-968-5257. To subscribe to our listserve, send a message to them-request@asu.edu.

TUCSON FAN ALLIANCE E-Mail Address is Bkoehler@Juno.com or DMitchell1@Juno.com.

Z-PHILES are the ariZona x-PHILES. We maintain a mailing list for news and get-togethers of fans of the X-Files living in Arizona. We get together in both the Phoenix and Tucson areas. To subscribe, send an empty message to z-philes-subscribe@egroups.com

UNITED FEDERATION OF PHOENIX

A Phoenix area Star Trek and general SciFi fan club. We are a social club that meets every two weeks at various locations around the Phoenix area. The UFP has been meeting for over 20 years of continuous activity. Dues are \$10/per year prorated when you join; no restrictions. Membership includes membership roster and monthly newsletter. Come to any two meetings at no obligation. For information, write the UFP at PO Box 37224, Phoenix, AZ 85069, or call Jim Strait at (602) 242-9203. Web page: <http://www.U-F-P.org> or Email to Info@U-F-P.org

UNITED WHOVIANS OF TUCSON

A well-informed and very active Dr. Who club. \$15 yearly membership includes four issues of their fanzine - TARDIS Time Lore - written by semi-pros and other dedicated fans. For more information, contact The United Whovians of Tucson at P. O. Box 13541, Tucson, AZ 85732-3541. Also, you can contact the president at kfbuwot@aol.com or the UWOT webmaster at unitedwhovians@aol.com Web page at: <http://www.azstarnet.com/~hgadlng/uwotclub.htm>

Convention Listings

AZ Book Festival, April 7, 2001 The Fourth Annual Arizona Book Festival is a free springtime event hosted by the Arizona Humanities Council, on Saturday, April 7, 2001 at Margret T. Hance Deck Park (Third Street south of McDowell Road) in Phoenix. The Book Festival will feature the largest gathering of authors on hand for readings, discussions, to answer questions and sign books. Adam Niswander, John Vornholt, Michael A. Stackpole and Diana Gabaldon will be at the CASFS booth plus a panel at 2 p.m. in the Alltel booth. An assortment of exhibitors including CASFS, LepreCon Inc, booksellers, publishers, libraries, bookmakers, artisans and even reading groups will offer something for every interest and every level of reader. For further information please contact: info@azcurrentevents.com

ConFurence 12 (Burbank, CA) **April 19-22, 2001** Hilton Burbank Airport Hotel and Convention Center. Guests of Honor: Writer-Jymn Magon, Artist-Monika Livingstone, Illustrator-Mike Kazaleh Pre-Registration Attending Membership \$35 through March 12, 2001 The ConFurence Group, c/o Darrel L. Exline, P.O. Box 84721, San Diego, CA 92138-4721 Voice: 619-223-9482, Fax: 619-523-9814, Email: info@confurence.net, Website: <http://confurence.net>

LepreCon 27 (Scottsdale, Arizona) **May 18-20, 2001** Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort Artist GoH: Stephen Hickman, Author GoH: Michael A. Stackpole, Local Artist: Robert Ross, Music: Echo's Children. Memberships \$25 through 8/31/00, \$30 through 12/31/00 \$35 through 5/01/01, \$40 at the door. Kids 7-12 half price, Children 6 and under are free when accompanied by and adult Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort, 7601 E. Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale, AZ (480) 991-2400.

What is CASFS?

What is really behind putting on a convention? What the funds raised by a convention used for? Why not attend a meeting and find out? We're the sponsor of ConNotations, CopperCons, HexaCons, SmerfCons and other conventions. We are a charitable, non-profit organization that exists to further science fiction, fantasy and science fields in Arizona. CASFS currently meets at the JB's Restaurant at 2560 W Indian School Rd in Phoenix (NW corner of I-17 and Indian School). The meetings begin at 8PM and are held on the last Friday of the month Jan. Through Sept. And on the second Friday of the month Oct through Dec. Everyone is invited to attend two meetings as a guest (non-member). Membership rates are \$12/year plus an initial \$3 application fee and rates are pro-rated for the amount of the year remaining. For more info Call: Stephanie L. Bannon (602)973-2341 Webpage: www.casfs.org email: casfs@casfs.org

Rooms \$73 + tax S/D/T/Q, Suites \$125 + tax S/D/T/Q Info: LepreCon 27, PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285 Phone: (480) 945-6890 Email: lep27@leprecon.org, WWW: www.leprecon.org/lep27

BayCon 2001 (San Jose, CA) **May 25 - 28, 2001** San Jose Double Tree Hotel. Writer Guest of Honor - Rudy Rucker, Artist Guest of Honor - Bill Hartmann, Fan Guest of Honor - James and Kathryn Daugherty, Special Guest - Poppy Z. Brite. (\$60 12/1/2000 - 2/28/2001)(\$65 3/1/2001 - 4/30/2001)(\$70 5/1/2001 on & at the door) BayCon 2001, Attn: Registration, P.O. Box 610427, San Jose, CA 95161-0427 Website: <http://www.baycon.org>

AgamemCon V (Burbank, CA) **June 8-10, 2001** Burbank Airport Hilton, Babylon 5 and SF Media oriented convention. Guests include: Tracey Scoggins, Alexandra Tydings, David A. Brooks, Bear Burge, Bill Blair, David Allen Brooks, Claudia Christian, Tim Chaote, Peter Jurasik, Richard Lynch, Tracy Scoggins, Judson Scott, Jeffrey Willerth, Peter Woodward, Andromda writers Zack Stentz, Ashley Miller, and Ethlie Ann Vare plus science guests from NASA, JPL, Boeing and OASIS! Full Science programming track Memberships \$30 to 8/31/2000; \$40 to 11/30/2000; \$50 until 5/15/2001 and \$60 at the door. Kids 8-12 half price, 7 and under are free. Info: AgamemCon, PMB# 330, 92 Corporate Park, Suite C, Irvine, CA 92606; Email: orrock@ix.netcom.com; www.agamemcon.org

Gathering 2001: City of Angels (Los Angeles, CA) **June 22 - 25, 2001** The Fifth Annual Gathering of the Gargoyles, Sheraton Universal Hotel, 333 Universal Terrace Parkway, Universal City, CA 91608 Tel: (818) 980-1212, Toll Free: (888) 627-7186, Fax: (818) 985-4980. Special Guests: Marina Sirtis, Thom Adcox-Hernandez, Crispin Freeman. Memberships: \$40 Adult (age 15 and up) - 1/1/2001 to 5/15/2001, \$20 Child (age 10 to 14) - 1/1/2001 to 5/15/01, \$FREE Hatching (age under 10) before 5/15/2001. Website: <http://gathering.gargoyles-fans.org>

CritterConDiego (San Diego, CA) **July 20 - 21, 2001** The ConFurence Group, P.O. Box 84721, San Diego, CA 92138-4721 619-523-9814 (evenings), Email: info@confurence.net, Website: <http://confurence.net>

HexaCon 11 (Scottsdale, AZ) **July 27-29, 2001 NEW DATES!!** Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort. Arizona's Largest Annual Gaming Convention Memberships: \$15 until 12/31/2000, \$20 thru 06/25/2001, \$25 at the door. Special Thursday night events for pre-registered members only. Info: Hexacon 11, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082 Phone: (602) 973-2341; Email: the_lop@casfs.org

Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort, 7601 E Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale, AZ (480) 991-2400. Rooms: \$67 + tax S/D/T/Q. Suites \$100 + tax S/D/T/Q

Costume College 2001 (Van Nuys, CA) **July 27 - 29, 2001** Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave, Van Nuys, CA Call: 1-800-350-1111 for room reservations. \$65 ICG/CGW Members until June 15, 2001, \$90 Non-ICG/CGW Members until June 15, 2001, Join CGW (\$12 one year Membership) Make Checks Payable to Costumer's Guild West, P.O. Box 3052, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670-3052 Info: Call (818) 343-0723 or Email: Carolyn@costumecollege.org Website: <http://www.costumecollege.org>

Bubonicon 33 (Albuquerque, NM) **August 24 - 26, 2001** Guest of Honor: Sarah Zettel, Toastmaster S.M. Stirling Memberships: \$20 thru Feb. 14, 2001, Send All Payments, Suggestions & Inquires To: NMSF Conference, P.O. Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176 General Info: (505) 266-8905 or (505) 232-2892 - Noon to 9:30 pm Art Show: (505) 796-0933 / (505) 293-8671 Website: members.aol.com/bubonicon

CopperCon 21 (Scottsdale, AZ) **Sept 7-9, 2001** Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort. Author Guest: Julian May; Artist Guest: Mark Roland, Local Author: Diana Gabaldon, Music Guest: Heather Alexander. Membership \$25 thru Dec 1, 2000, \$30 thru April 1, 2001, \$35 thru Aug 1, 2001, \$40 at the door. Kids 7-12 half price, 6 and under free with paid adult membership. Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort, 7601 E Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale, AZ (480) 991-2400; Room rates are \$67 plus tax S/D/T/Q, Suites \$125 plus tax. Info: CopperCon 21, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082, Email: leigh@casfs.org Phone (602)973-2341

TusCon 28 (Tucson, AZ) **November 9-11, 2001** at the really spiffy InnSuites. GoH: Chelesea Quinn Yarbo, AGoH: Newton Ewell; TM: Ed Bryant. Events include: Meet the Authors and Artists, Panels, Readings, Video Room, Dealers Room, Art Show, Game Room, LAN Computer Gaming, Masquerade, Adult

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Masquerade, and ConSuite. Memb: \$35 until 5/20, \$40 until 9/9, \$45 after. Onedays: \$15/30/15 (F/S/S); kids 6-12 half price. InnSuites, 475 N Granada Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701 (near I-10 and St Mary's Road) (520) 622-3000. Reg Suites \$69, 2_Rm Suites \$79 (mention "TusCon" to get these rates). Room rates include a real breakfast! Info: TusCon 28, PO Box 26822, Tucson, AZ 85726. Webpage: <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa> Email: basfa@earthlink.net

Generic Convention Registration Form

Name: _____

Badge Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ memberships for _____ convention.

(See calendar for mailing address)

More info on ___ Masquerade ___ Art Show ___ Volunteer ___ Other

