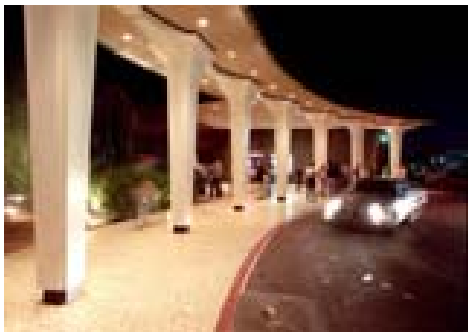


ConNotations

Volume 13, Issue 2
April/May
2003

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

What Are Your Cine Capri Memories?



Many of you have had memorable movie experiences at the old Cine Capri Theatre and we'd like to hear about them. Tell us about seeing the original Star Wars movies, sitting through a Star Trek movie marathon, or being there in the audience for the final screening of Titanic, when they tore down the old theatre. Only the Fannish memories remain. We'd like to share the best ones with other readers in the next issue of ConNotations. Please send them to us via email to leewsftv@yahoo.com or via snail mail to Lee Whiteside, PO Box 4306, Mesa, AZ 85211.

The Cine Capri Theatre at 24th St. and Camelback closed its doors in early 1998 to make way for a new office building on the site. If you have driven along the northern part of Loop 101 lately, you may have noticed a "New Cine Capri" banner on the new Harkins multiplex being built at Scottsdale Road and Loop 101. Harkins is building a new Cine Capri Theatre that will be the centerpiece of a new 14 theatre multiplex incorporating some elements of the old theatre into the new along with more modern attributes. Plans are to open the new theatre in July. We'll have more on the new theatre and any special plans Harkins has for the grand opening in the next issue.



Featured Inside

SF Tube Talk

All the latest news about Science Fiction TV shows
by Lee Whiteside

24 Frames

All the latest Movie News
by Lee Whiteside

The Costume Closet

Costuming Articles
Dark Fantasy Costuming
by Tasha Cady

Pointless Meandering

Comics News and Views
by Brandon Huigens

Musical Notes

Filk News and Reviews
by Tom Tuerff

ConClusion

Convention Reviews
Comic Con Part 3
by Shane Shellenbarger

Gamers Corner

Video Game 101
by Shane Shellenbarger

Screening Room

Reviews & Opinions
of Current Movies

Videophile

Video News and Reviews

In Our Book

Reviews of new Books

Musty Tomes

Reviews of Classic SF/F Books

Special Features

Cine Capri Memories

Plus our Regular Features:

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Convention List &
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In This Issue

News & Reviews

SF Tube Talk	3
24Frames	3
ConClusion	9
Screening Room	9
The Costume Closet	10
Pointless Meanderings	15
Videophile	16
Musical Notes	17
Gamer's Corner	18
In Our Book (Book Reviews)	19
CASFS Business Report	21
Musty Tomes	24

Special Feature

Cine Capri Memories by Lee Whitseide	1
-----------------------------------------	---

Convention & Fandom

Calendar of Events	14
Club Listings	22
Convention Listings	24
Convention Registration Form	24

Art Work

Sherlock	2, 21
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SF Tube Talk

TV News & Previews

By Lee Whiteside

We're into the final stretch of the 2002/2003 season with lots of season and series finales on their way plus a few debuts on cable. I've got news on all your favorite shows plus some info on pilots in production that might turn up on TV screens this fall.

This will definitely be the final season of *Buffy The Vampire Slayer*, ending with the series finale on May 20th. There had been talk about continuing on with **Sarah Michelle Gellar** in the title role but she officially announced that this would be her final season with the show. There are discussions going on between UPN and FOX about possible spinoffs that could happen, everything from Faith, Willow, Giles or Dawn taking the lead and continuing the adventures or some of the cast moving to Los Angeles to join up with Angel (assuming it gets renewed). No one is committing to anything as of yet, and at press time they are still filming the final episodes so they may not yet know which characters will be around to be available for a spinoff. Of course, being dead in the Buffyverse doesn't always mean you are out of the picture.

How things will all end up is a tightly guarded secret but the spoiler sites will likely dig up some juicy tidbits once the episodes have been filmed. In the meantime, here's a rundown of what is coming up on *Buffy* and *Angel*. In Sunnydale, Willow will bring Faith (the true Vampire Slayer) back from Los Angeles to help out in the fight against The First. Also showing up in Sunnydale will be Caleb, a former man of God who's turned to the dark side and now follows the First. He will cause lots of problems for Buffy and the Slayers in Training. Playing Caleb will be a familiar face to **Whedon** fans, **Nathan Fillion** (Captain Mal on *Firefly*). **Whedon** told *Variety* that "**Nathan Fillion** has a leading man's looks, but he's actually horribly evil, so he makes Caleb the epic foil for Buffy that he needs to be. Caleb calls himself a preacher, but his habit of murdering girls and his alliance with the darkest evil known to man makes him exactly the sort of guy whose ass Buffy needs to kick." The Scoobies will discover another seal to the Hellmouth that Caleb and The First are protecting and looking to activate. Faith will make a very strong impression on the Slayers in Training, usurping Buffy's command of them, taking them on a field trip to the Bronze and getting them in trouble. There's little leaked about how things will play out at the end of the series, but expect a few surprise appearances in the final episode and most likely a few casualties before the end.

Over in Los Angeles, The Big Bad controlling (or impersonating) Cordelia will be played by yet another *Firefly* refugee, **Gina Torres**. Following Faith's departure for Sunnydale, expect to see a return appearance or two by **Gwen Raiden** as Angel and crew try to find out who The Beast's boss actually is and likely get things resolved in time to turn

up in Sunnydale for the final *Buffy* episode. As to whether *Angel* will continue past this year, The WB hasn't given any strong indication of what their plans are and they will likely look closely at how the series does down the final stretch of new episodes that started with Faith's appearance.

Back in Kansas on *Smallville*, the final February episode, *Rosetta*, guest starring movie Superman **Christopher Reeve** drew in *Smallville*'s best numbers ever. The show has been performing very well this season and there's a good chance that The WB may move it to a new night in the fall. *Smallville* will resume new episodes in mid-April in a run to mid-May for the season finale. Over the course of those episodes, Lex's relationship with Dr. Bryce continues apace and may result in wedding (or attempt at such) by the season finale. Specific episodes include "Visitor" where another young man shows up in town with powers similar to Clark's including an item that may hold more information about Krypton, "Precipice" has Clark defending Lana's honor too aggressively with a local frat boy who then sues Clark over his injury. Also, the new Sheriff in town notices Clark's frequency of appearances at crime and accident scenes and will be keeping a close eye on him. In "Witness", some jocks enhanced by Kryptonite hijack a truck of refined meteor bars and in "Accelerate" Lana, Clark and others start seeing what appear to be ghosts. Rounding out the season will be "Calling" and "Exodus", for which nothing is yet known.

Debuting at the end of March on Sunday nights on The WB is *The Black Sash*. The WB describes the series as such: "Martial arts star **Russell Wong** (*Romeo Must Die*) stars in this unique drama as an ex-cop who sacrificed everything and must now rebuild his own life as a teacher and mentor to a diverse group of teenagers. From the writer and executive producer of *The Karate Kid* and *Kiss of the Dragon*, and the executive producers of *Smallville*, The WB's *Black Sash* features a multi-generational cast, dazzling martial arts and stories of hope and redemption. As an undercover narcotics cop, Tom Chang (**Wong**) paid a high price for staying true to his values. Framed and wrongly incarcerated in Hong Kong for allegedly smuggling heroin, he loses his career, his wife and the right to see his daughter. All he has left are the blazing skills of a master martial arts combatant. Now, after five years in a Hong Kong prison, Tom has come home to San Francisco, intent on restoring his life." Also starring in the series is **Mako** as Master Li, Tom's mentor along with a group of teens and young adults that Tom teaches the ways of martial arts as he also fights to regain his family. The WB has ordered six episodes and it will air on Sunday nights following *Charmed*.

Back to UPN and the Star Trek Universe, *Enterprise* continues to draw decent, but not spectacular ratings. It sounds like there will be some changes coming soon in the show, possibly due to pressure to make the show more exciting and a better draw. In recent interviews,

(cont'd on page 5)

24 Frames

Movie News

By Lee Whiteside

Box Office Report - Daredevil debuted with a strong opening weekend (for a winter release), taking in \$45 million over President's Day weekend but tapering off pretty quickly and looking to end up with a bit over \$100 million. That's good enough for there to be a second *Daredevil* movie in development as well as a solo movie for **Jennifer Garner** as Elektra. As expected, *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* has had longer staying power with over \$330 million US as of mid-March surpassing the *Fellowship of the Ring* by \$20 million while *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* having ended up with a bit over \$260 million US, about \$55 million below the first Harry Potter movie. They will both likely add a few more million when they hit the second run theaters but look to have pretty much run their course in the theaters. Unlike with *Fellowship of the Ring*, there will not be an extended preview of the third LOTR movie, *The Return of the King*, attached to *The Two Towers* to draw in some additional box office. It was considered, but **Peter Jackson** and crew are busy preparing the extended version of *The Two Towers* for DVD release later this year and getting the final movie finished and didn't want to take the time to put together a special feature. The *Agent Cody Banks* movie with **Frankie Munz** opened strong in mid-March and it's studio has already committed to a second movie. It will start filming in Europe in April after **Munz** is done with his current season of *Malcolm in the Middle*.

Trying to keep up with the *Superman* rumors is getting to be a super-human task. Rumors about **Brett Ratner** departing for **Michael Bay** have been denied and not come to pass, however the latest rumor about **Ratner** is that his contract with Warner Bros. has expired and they either need to negotiate a new one with him or find a different director. **Josh Hartnett** and **Paul Walker** have both declined the chance to play Superman, apparently not wanting to tie themselves down to a three movie, seven year, commitment. Other actors reported in the running include **Brendan Fraser** (*The Mummy*) and **Matthew Bomer** (*The Guiding Light*). **Jerry O'Connell** (*Kangaroo Jack*, *Sliders*) has indicated that he has tested for the role and would be interested in taking it on while **David Boreanaz** (*Angel*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*) ended up rumored to be up for the role but denied ever being in contention when he was asked about it. As for other characters, **Rob Lowe** (*West Wing*) has been rumored for the role of Lex Luthor and rumored contenders for Lois Lane include **Lara Flynn Boyle**, **Catherine Zeta-Jones**, **Cameron Diaz**, **Lucy Liu** and **Julianna Margulies**. At press time, **Brett Ratner** announced that he would not continue with the *Superman* movie, stating "I have chosen to withdraw as



Lee Whiteside

director of *Superman*. The difficulty of casting the role of Superman has contributed to my decision. I appreciate the efforts of Warner Brothers and the entire production team during this process."

Catwoman continues in development with a new script re-write in progress following the departure of **Ashley Judd** in order to do an extended Broadway run. According to trade paper reports, **Halle Berry** will now take on the role with French Director **Pitof**. **Berry** is also set to star in the **Joel Silver** produced WB supernatural film *Gothika*, with **Robert Downey Jr.** and **Penelope Cruz**. Rumors are that **Nicholas Cage** is in training to take on the role of Prince Namor in a *Sub-Mariner* movie.

In official movie news (yes, there is actual confirmed news to report), **Alfred Molina** has been cast to play Doctor Octopus in the *Spiderman* sequel. **Molina** has recently received many awards and nominations for his role as artist Diego Rivera in the movie *Frida*.

Also announced is that **Alex Tudyk**, Wash in TV's *Firefly*, will play the animation reference for the robot character of Sonny in the movie adaptation of *Isaac Asimov's I, Robot*. **Wil Smith** plays a detective investigating a crime that may have been committed by the robot Sonny. The movie will be directed by **Alex Proyas** (*Dark City*) and starts filming in May. *The Hellboy* movie has started filming in Prague. **Guillermo Del Toro** wrote and it directing the movie starring **Ron Perlman**, **Selma Blair**, **John Hurt** and **Jeffrey Tambor**. Look for a Summer 2004 release.

For the third Harry Potter movie, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, **Michael Gambon** has taken on the role of Professor Dumbledore, replacing **Richard Harris** who passed away late last year. **Gary Oldman** plays Sirius Black, an evil Wizard who has escaped from the Azkaban prison. Filming is currently underway for the movie planned for a Summer 2004 release.

Production on *Mad Max: Fury Road*, the fourth Mad Max Movie with **Mel Gibson** and **George Miller** directing has been delayed until the fall due to the prospect of an Iraq war. With the logistics required for the movie, the producers decided to hold off production until the global climate is more secure.

In other casting news, **Chris Owen** will play King Arthur in a **Jerry Bruckheimer** produced, **Antoine Fuqua** directed take on the King Arthur legend

(cont'd on page 4)

24 Frames (cont'd from page 3)

for Disney. They are in negotiations with **Stephen Dillane** to play Merlin.

Tomb Raider 2 More Realistic. In a report from SciFi Wire, **Jan de Bont**, the director of the upcoming *Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life*, said that the movie will be based more in reality, concentrating on the ancient and modern worlds and less fantasy based than the first movie. They have gone all over the world for locations, including the crater of an active volcano and there will be double the action in the movie. Look for it to hit the theaters on July 25.

Production is gearing up on the live action *Thunderbirds* movie, based on the **Gerry Anderson** Supermarionation series from the 1960's (currently airing on Tech TV). The Tracey sons will be played by mostly unknown kids and teenagers. Playing father Jeff Tracey will be **Bill Paxton**, **Sophia Myles** will be Lady Penelope, **Ron Cook** will be Parker, Penelope's driver, **Ben Kingsley** will be The Hood, and **Anthony Edwards** will be Brains. According to an interview in SFX Magazine, *Thunderbirds* creator **Gerry Anderson** has not been contacted by the producers of the movie and is not involved with it at all. Directing will be **Jonathon Frakes**.

Scheduled to start filming in July is *Brothers Grimm*, being directed by **Terry Gilliam**. **Matt Damon** and **Heath Ledger** will play the brothers who "travel the countryside pulling off exorcisms but soon come upon a real fairy tale curse requiring genuine courage," according to the Hollywood Reporter. Also appearing as villains will be **Robin Williams** and **Jonathan Pryce**.

Movie Previews for April and May, 2003

After a relatively dry spring, things start to pick up for genre movies in April and May (especially May!). Here's what to look forward to in the theatres in the next couple of months.

House of 1,000 Corpses (April 11) - Finally being "unleashed" into theatre's on April 11th (in a limited release to 50 cities, Phoenix likely included) will be **Rob Zombie's House of 1,000 Corpses**. Originally planned to be released in 1991 by Universal Studios, they dropped the movie when they felt it could only be released with a NC-17 rating and didn't want any part of it. **Rob Zombie** then shopped it around and finally found a distributor for it with Lion's Gate Films. Supposedly the movie has gotten a "R" rating, creating a new category of "sadistic violence/gore" from the MPAA. The movie is set in the 1970's and follows two young couples who get stranded in rural Texas when they are seeking the mysterious "Dr. Satan". They take refuge from a storm in a creepy mansion that is a literal house of horrors. Expect lots and lots of blood and gore.

Bulletproof Monk (April 16) For many years, a mysterious monk with no name (**Chow Yun-Fat**) has zigzagged the

globe to protect an ancient scroll - the Scroll of the Ultimate - which holds the key to unlimited power. Now the monk must find a protege, the scroll's next guardian. Kar (**Seann William Scott**) is an unlikely candidate, a streetwise young man whose only interest is himself. But when he saves the Bulletproof Monk from capture, the two become partners in a

scheme to save the world from the scroll's most avid pursuer. Together with the help of a sexy and elusive young woman named Bad Girl (**King**), they seek out and face the ultimate enemy in a spectacular final battle. The movie is based very loosely on a 1999 comic mini-series published by Image Comics.

Identity (April 25) This is the story of ten complete strangers who are stranded at a remote desert motel during a raging storm who soon find themselves being murdered... as their numbers thin out, they turn on each other, as each tries to figure out who is the killer. Stars include **John Cusack**, **Jake Busey**, **Rebecca DeMornay**, **Clea DuVall**, and **Ray Liotta**.

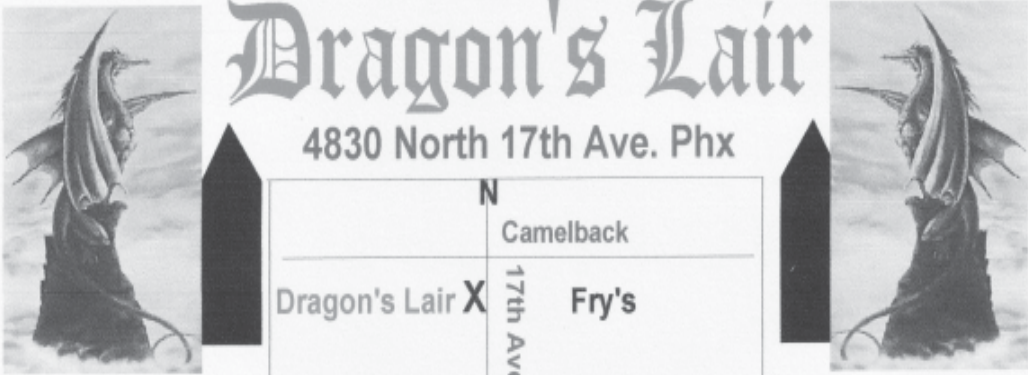
X2 (May 2) - The Summer movie season kicks off in early May with the second X-Men movie. All of the main cast from the first movie are back plus a bevy of new mutants including Nightcrawler (**Alan Cumming**), Deathstrike (**Kelly Hu**), Iceman (**Shawn Ashmore**), The Beast (**Steve Bacic**), Colossus (**Daniel Kurzman**) and others who will likely only be seen in glimpses but will likely turn up in later films. In addition to dealing with Magneto and his Mutants, the X-Men do battle with William Stryker (**Brian Cox**) who is out to destroy all Mutants. From the previews, expect to see Wolverine finding out more about his origins, the mutants fighting off an attack

on their academy, the return of Senator Kelley (**Bruce Davison**), and lots of special effects comic-book action.

The Matrix: Reloaded (May 15) - *X2* will have the top spot for two weeks and then the first of two sequels to be released this year for *The Matrix* takes over the box office for several weeks at least. The official description of the movie is "Neo, Morpheus, Trinity, and the rest of their

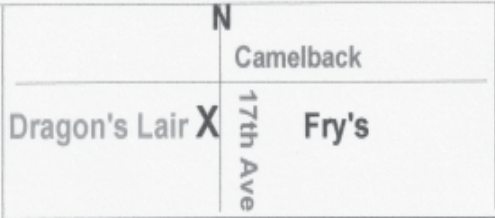
crew continue to battle the machines that have enslaved the human race in the Matrix. Now, more humans are waking up out of the matrix and attempting to live in the real world. As their numbers grow, the battle moves to Zion, the last real-world city and center of human resistance. "Expect a real nasty cliff-hanger, but we'll only have to wait until

(Cont'd on page 5)



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24 Frames (cont'd from page 4)

November for the resolution. In conjunction with the two movies, they have produced a series of animated film shorts to be collected on DVD in June called Animatrix. The shorts will tell stories within the Matrix universe and will be released initially via the web via www.whatisthematrix.com (with one having been attached to the movie Dreamcatcher).

Pokemon 5 (May 16) - Opening in limited release (and completely



overshadowed by some other movie opening that weekend) will be the fifth Pokemon movie. Ash and Pikachu travel to the Water Capital of the world, Alto Mare, where they meet two new Pokemons, the brother/sister pair of birds called Latias and Latios who protect a treasure called the Droplet of the Heart,

which is the target of a pair of thieves, Zanna and Rion. As the town gets accidentally flooded, the Droplet becomes endangered... can Ash save the day?

Bruce Almighty (May 23) **Jim Carrey** is Bruce Nolan, a human interest TV reporter in Buffalo, N.Y. who is becoming disenchanted with life despite his popularity and a loving girlfriend (**Jennifer Aniston**). When he has the worst day of his life, he rants and raves against God, only to have God show up (**Morgan Freeman**) and endows Bruce with His divine powers and challenges

him to do a better job.

Finding Nemo (May 30) The latest Pixar (**Toy Story**, **Monster's Inc**) effort is about two fish (Marlin and his son, Nemo) who get separated from each other in The Great Barrier Reef. Nemo is captured and ends up in a fish tank in a dentist's office while his dad sets out

to rescue him. If you thought the cast of characters in Toy story was pretty loopy, the characters in this one, especially the ones trapped with Nemo in the fish tank, have been described as on a par with **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest**. Definitely a kid's movie that adults may enjoy just as much, if not more.

SF Tube Talk (Cont'd from page 3) producer **Rick Berman** has indicated that the season-ending cliffhanger will send the show in a new direction that will significantly change the mission and tone of the show next season. To get there, we'll see the following episodes when the show resumes new episodes at the first of April. "**The Crossing**" sees the Enterprise swallowed by an otherworldly vessel occupied by non-corporeal creatures who invade the bodies of crew members and trade consciousness with them. In "**Judgement**", Captain Archer stands accused before a Klingon tribunal of conspiring against the Empire, and his only hope of escaping a death sentence or life in the dilithium mines of Rura Penthe is an aging and disenchanted Klingon lawyer with little energy or enthusiasm for the case. Guest starring and donning a Klingon headpiece will be **J.G. Hertzler** (General Martok on **DS9**).

Ensign Mayweather takes a trip to his home ship, the E.C.S. Horizon in "**Horizon**", and finds out things haven't been the same since his father, the Ship's captain, died. Especially when the ship comes under attack by an unknown alien species. In "**Breach**", Enterprise is asked to evacuate a team of Denobulan geologists from deep underground in a planet that has been taken over by a military faction. Phlox also has to deal with an Antaran who refuses treatment from Phlox due to bad blood between

their races. In "**Cogenitor**", while studying a star in the early stages of going supernova, Enterprise encounters a race called the Vissians (whose captain is played by **Andreas Katsula**, **Babylon 5's** G'Kar). The two crews get along famously, until Trip Tucker gets a little too curious about a member of the species' third gender - a nameless individual called a 'cogenitor.'" The big sweeps episode looks to be "**Regeneration**" where a team of Starfleet researchers finds a damaged Borg sphere buried in the Arctic. Of course, when the scientists unearth the Borg drones, they start getting assimilated. Next will be a mostly flashback episode about the testing of the Warp Five engine and Tucker and Archer making a test flight without Starfleet's knowledge. There will be a double bill of new episodes on May 21st to end the season with. First will be **Bounty**, where Archer is captured by a bounty hunter when the Klingon's put a bounty on Archer's head. Following that in the second hour of prime-time will be the previously mentioned season finale.

Twilight Zone on UPN has continued to do fair to so-so ratings, having gotten a boost for the **Bill Mummy** episode "**It's Still a Good Life**". There's not much info on upcoming episodes. Look for **Keith Hamilton Cobb** and **Gordon Michael Woolvett** of **Andromeda** making an appearance in the episode "**Cold Fusion**" when the show resumes new episodes in April. Unless something happens, don't

(Cont'd on page 6)

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SF Tube Talk (Cont'd from page 5)

expect UPN to renew the show for next season.

On *Alias*, the post-Super Bowl episode did a series reset, taking down the Alliance and SD-6, allowing Sydney and Vaughn to work together openly but also allowing Sloane free reign to do what he really wants to do. Series creator **J.J. Abrams** admitted that they did it partly to simplify the show to make it easier to come into fresh plot lines. It appears to have worked to some extent, giving the series an additional ratings boost during February series and an early commitment from ABC for a third season. FOX has also given **24** a third season commitment already. The series has been performing very well, especially with *American Idol* as a lead-in recently. It's been fun to see a lot of actors from other shows turn up in the series, like **Michelle Forbes** (*ST:TNG*'s Ensign Ro) and **Daniel Dae Kim** (*Crusade* and *Angel*). FOX is also maybe going to air the remaining episodes of *Futurama* before the season is over, but they may end up with a few to air this summer.

John Doe has continued to do fairly well for FOX on Friday nights and may just be a keeper for next season. ABC's new Monday night shows, *Veritas: The Quest* and *Miracles*, took an early exit during February sweeps in favor of reality show repeats, but have resumed airing episodes through March and likely into April (unless they get pulled for lower ratings). *Miracles* will likely go down as yet another show that really doesn't work on network TV but could have thrived on cable while *Veritas: The Quest* will likely be quickly forgotten.

Over on cable, SciFi ended its series run of *Farscape* and the current season of *Stargate* in late March. Leading up to the finale, the ratings for *Stargate* have been good and it continues to be SciFi's highest rated series, while *Farscape* trailed by several tenths of a ratings point, not coming up with any sizeable ratings improvement to help the show find another home. Efforts to keep the show alive will continue at www.savefarscape.com, however. Besides getting featured on the BBC's website when they aired the final episode, the Save Farscape crew also arranged for ads on local cable networks and The Dish Network during the series finale to alert fans to the status of the show.

The season finale of *Stargate SG-1* saw **Michael Shanks** as Daniel getting involved with events on our plane of existence which will lead to his return as a regular in Season Seven, starting in June on SciFi. I'll have more about the new season next issue. For those watching season five of *Stargate* for the first time in syndication, you'll finally get to see the episode "Meridian" that introduced **Corrin Nemec** as Jonas Quinn and saw Daniel Jackson ascend to a higher plane of existence in May. Other episodes airing for the first time outside of Showtime will be "Menace", which introduces a young woman who has a surprising connection to the replicators, "The Sentinel" in which SG-1 enlists a pair of criminals to help save a world from the Goa'uld, and "Revelations"

where SG-1 must come to the rescue of the Asgard when their secret base is attacked by the Goa'uld. This will finally get *Stargate SG-1* fans who didn't watch the show on Showtime fully up-to-date with the series.

Debuting on SciFi at the end of March and running through April and May is *Tremors: The Series*. There's not much episode specific info to report on the show. Debuting on SciFi on April 4th is their reality series *Scare Tactics*, hosted by **Shannen Doherty**, is a "hidden-camera show that turns fears into realities by placing ordinary people in situations inspired by science-fiction and horror films." The show has already garnered publicity for being sued by one participant who claims she suffered injuries when the limo she was riding in was attacked by a monster as part of a *Scare Tactics* stunt. This may not last too long with SciFi's viewers already having rejected *The Dream Team*, which was quickly moved to a 9 am time slot after getting really bad ratings in it's 11 p.m. nighttime slot.

Also starting up on Wednesday nights on SciFi will be the 1997 FOX series *Roar*, starring a young **Heath Ledger** as Conor, a 20-year old orphaned Celtic prince in 400 A.D. who is destined to unite the Celtic clans to rid the island of the invading Romans. FOX aired the series in the summer of 1997 but left five episodes unaired and this will be the first time the entire series has aired in the U.S. The series features a fair amount of magic and sorcery as Conor and crew fight against the evil Queen Diana and her 400 year old sorcerer Longinus. Definitely worth checking out, especially now that the entire series can be finally seen. I'm looking forward to seeing it much more than the *Tremors* series.

Elsewhere on the cable remote, USA network is finishing up it's second series of *The Dead Zone* (with episodes repeating a week and a half later on SciFi) a week early. The last two episodes will be "Playing God",

guest starring **Ally Sheedy** (fellow brat-packer star of **Anthony Michael Hall**), where Johnny Smith gets together with some high school friends to support one who is waiting for a heart transplant. During the get-together, Johnny realizes one of his other former classmates will end up being the heart donor and he has to decide what, if anything, he should do about it. In the season finale, "Zion", we get a glimpse into Bruce's life when he and Johnny go to Indianapolis for the funeral of Bruce's father, played by **Louis**

aGossett, Jr. When Bruce touches his father's body at the same time as Johnny touches Bruce, giving Bruce a "Dead Zone" experience with his father. Also produced but not scheduled to air is *The Hunt for Osama*, which likely has been pulled due to the current political climate. In the episode, Johnny is recruited by a secret branch of the CIA to use his abilities to help them track down Osama Bin Laden. When we will see the episode is unknown.

(cont'd on page 7)

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SF Tube Talk (cont'd from page 6)

Over on Showtime, after having scheduled the final episodes of *Odyssey 5*, they unscheduled them and have not yet indicated when they will air. The same for the second season of *Jeremiah*. It is possible they might turn up on the Showtime schedule in May, but June is more likely. Showtime will have one new genre show, *Dead Like Me*, likely starting in July. **Ellen Muth** is a slacker teen named George who meets an untimely death only to find that her job in the after-life is that of a Grim Reaper, whose job is to shepherd souls to their afterlife destinations. Also starring as other Grim Reapers are senior reaper Rube (**Mandy Pantinkin**), bubbly Betty (**Rebecca Grayheart**), regular guy Mason (**Callum Blue**), and Roxy (**Jasmine Guy**), a "no-nonsense reaper who moonlights as a meter maid for extra cash".

Over on the Cartoon Network, their big news is that they will be airing a *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* cartoon series starting this fall. The series will consist of twenty 2-3 minute shorts that will air between other Cartoon Network programming. It will tell stories set between *Star Wars: Episode Two* and *Star Wars: Episode Three*. *Clone Wars* will be produced at Cartoon Network Studios by a team led by **Genndy Tartakovsky**, the creator of *Samurai Jack* and *Dexter's Laboratory*. The Cartoon Network description of the series is "As Clone Wars unfolds the valiant

Jedi Knights lead the Republic's Clone Army against many new and ruthless adversaries across the galaxy. These new characters, epic battles and intricate stories will add an exciting new dimension to the Star Wars saga."

Cartoon Network will also have a new weekly series of *Duck Dodgers*, featuring Daffy Duck, Porky Pig and Marvin the Martian premiering in July with the previously announced *Teen Titan* series starting in August. New episodes of the *Justice League* will not start airing until October.

And finally, as has been the case of late, there's not much news on upcoming episodes of the various first-run syndicated series. *Andromeda*, *Mutant X* and *She Spies* have all been picked up for another season. According to his official website, *Andromeda's Keith Hamilton Cobb* has left the show, although they have an option to use him for four episodes. Rumors are that Dylan Hunt will have a new crew member who will function as a sidekick along the lines of Ialoul on *Hercules*.

SciFi has announced some of the cast for the *Battlestar Galactica* four hour miniseries that will air this fall. **Edward James Olmos** ("*Blade Runner*") will play Commander Adama, **Mary McDonnell** ("*ER*") will be President Laura Roslin, **Jamie Bamber** ("*Band of Brothers*") is Lee "Apollo" Adama, and **Katee Sackhoff** ("*The Education of Max Bickford*") is Kara "Starbuck" Thrace. The re-imagining is described in the initial press release as "After decades of

peace with the Cylons (robots built by humans but with enough intelligence to turn against their designers), the humans of Kobol are virtually annihilated in a sneak attack. With a small remnant of humanity surviving aboard the last remaining Battlestar, Commander Adama and President Laura Roslin opt to make a run for it in the Galactica, hoping to reach the humans' legendary home world of Earth, while pursued through space by the fanatical, now humanoid Cylons..." The script was written by **Ron Moore** (*TNG, Roswell*), will be directed by **Michael Rymer** (*Queen of the Damned*) and is Executive Produced by **David Eick** (*American Gothic, Hercules: The Legendary Journeys*). Females will play a larger role. Starbuck is a ballsy female fighter pilot and Lieutenant Sharon "Boomer" Valerii will be a rookie pilot not as sure about herself. The Cylons will be more technological in the mini-series, including a sexy humanoid one called "Number Six" that seduces Gaius Baltar. Colonel Tigh, the Galactica's XO, is a heavy drinker with an adulteress wife. This will definitely be more adult than the original series and has already been coming under attack by long-time fans who wanted to see a revival with original cast members. For lots of details and in-depth coverage of the mini-series, check out www.battlestargalactica.com.

For upcoming developments, the networks have a good number of genre shows going to the pilot stage. How many of them will make it onto the fall schedule will be determined in early May when the networks decide who will get

picked up for a series. Following is a summary of the pilots that might get picked up, some of which definitely are more interesting than others. Thanks to thefutoncritic.com for most of this info.

Century City (CBS) A legal drama set in 2053 created by **Paul Attanasio** (*Homicide: Life on the Street*) and **Katie Jacobs**. Cast includes **Hector Elizondo** ("*Chicago Hope*"), **Nestor Carbonell** ("*The Tick*"), **Ioan Gruffudd** ("*Horatio Hornblower*"), **Eric Schaeffer** ("*First Years*"), **Viola Davis** ("*Antwone Fisher*") and **Kristin Lehman** ("*Go Fish*")

Chasing Alice (WB) A female inspector from Scotland Yard (**Sophie Winkleman**) who moves to New York to find her missing sister, Alice; along the way, the character encounters characters inspired by the "*Alice in Wonderland*" mythology.

Family Curse (WB) From **Dan Angel & Billy Brown** ("*Night Visions*"), **Mel Gibson**, **Bruce Davey**, **Greg Coote & Jeff Hayes**. It is about married archeologists and their teenage kids, who must track down creatures from folklore they accidentally release from a Pandora's box. Cast includes **Ted McGinley** ("*Married... With Children*"), **Lindsay Frost** ("*The Ring*"), **Brian Sites** ("*Eight Simple Rules*") and **Britt Irvin** ("*Taken*").

Fearless (WB) - **Rachael Leigh Cook** ("*She's All That*") has the lead role in a drama based on **Francine Pascal's** series of young-adult novels about a girl born without the gene for fear. Also cast are

(Cont'd on page 8)



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SF Tube Talk (cont'd from page 7)

Eric Balfour ("Veritas"), **Ian Somerhalder** ("Young Americans") and **Bianca Lawson** ("Save the Last Dance").

Joan of Arcadia (CBS) Present day Joan of Arc sees God in a different form each week. Produced by **Barbara Hall** (*Judging Amy*)

Future Tense (NBC) From **Javier Grillo-Marxuach** ("The Chronicle," "Charmed") and **Joel Silver** ("the matrix"). It revolves around an elite law enforcement unit in the future.

Heroine (FOX) described as a cross between "Run Lola Run" and "Groundhog Day," the drama revolves around a woman who graduates from college and discovers that she's able to save lives by changing the course of events. Stars **Eliza Dushku** (*Buffey, Angel*) and **Shawn Reaves** (*Auto Focus*). Produced by **Rob Cohen** (*XXX*) and others. Looks to be a good bet for a pickup. Fox has supposedly ordered additional scripts beyond the pilot.

Kamelot (UPN) Drama in which King Arthur is resurrected as a hip revolutionary who reigns supreme in a Camelot-like future society.

Maid of the Mist (FOX) It's described as "Amelie" meets "The Royal Tenenbaums," and features a twenty something woman (**Caroline Dhavernas**) to whom inanimate figures offer cryptic info on how she can intervene in the lives of others. **Todd Holland** ("Malcolm in the Middle") and **Bryan Fuller** ("Star Trek: Voyager") are behind the series.

N.Y.P.D. 2069 (FOX) From **Steven Bocho** (*NYPD Blue*) - A drama that revolves around a present-day New York City cop (**Josh Hopkins**) who finds himself transported to 2069.

The Ripples (NBC) - **Diane Farr** ("The Job") and **Adam Arkin** star in a comedy about a couple who has been married for 4,000 years -- and their 3,985-year-old son, who looks like he's 15.

Spellbound (NBC) A romantic

comedy about a male witch (**Richard Ruccolo**) who falls in love with a mortal (**Andrea Anders**).

Still Life (FOX) Family drama told from the point of view of a recently deceased 20-year-old son (**Jensen Ackles**). **David Keith** ("Daredevil"), **Audrey Marie Anderson**, ("Providence") and **Susanna Thompson** ("Once & Again") also star.

Tarzan (WB) A contemporary take on Tarzan (**Travis Fimmel**) who as a young man is brought from the jungle to his childhood home, New York, by his uncle, the head of powerful Greystoke Enterprises, and centers on Tarzan's relationship with Jane (**Sarah Wayne Callies**), a fiery police detective. Also stars **Miguel Nunez, Jr.** ("Juwanna Mann"), **Sarah Jane Potts** ("Felicity"), and **Mitch Pileggi** ("The X-Files")

Then Came Jones (ABC) A western set at the turn of the century when technology is taking over. Stars **Melissa Gilbert** and **Sean Patrick Flanery**. Might have some fantasy/sci-fi elements.

Weapon X (UPN) A geeky N.S.A. tech guy (**Christopher Gorham**) who's accidentally infected with "nanobot" technology that turns him into the agency's top weapon. Also stars **Marina Black** as Gorham's love interest.

Young MacGyver (WB) A new version of the 1985-92 ABC series focusing on MacGyver's nephew (**Jared Padalecki**) who is brought into the fold of the Phoenix Foundation, the good-guy organization his uncle belonged to, on a lark. Also cast are **Kiele Michelle Sanchez** ("That Was Then") and **Ron Canada** ("Philly").

SFTV on DVD - The Dam Breaks - An Overview of SciFi & Fantasy TV on DVD

We've finally gotten to the point where there's plenty of genre TV series being released on DVD that fans have to really start making decisions about what they want to buy. With the home DVD market taking off faster than any other

new home entertainment technology, it has gotten to where the market is big enough that a studio can likely make more money from putting a series out on DVD than they can bring in through syndication. With scheduled releases and those that have already hit the stores, we're just beginning to see the start of TV fans dreams come true. Some studios are asking fans online which series they would like to see on their web sites and making use of feedback from sites like tvshowsondvd.com to help decide what shows to release next.

The leader has been FOX, which was the first studio to starting bringing one of their series to DVD with *The X-Files*. Starting with Season Six, FOX began releasing *The X-Files* in wide-screen format. Season 7 will hit the stores in mid-May. FOX has also started releasing many of their other genre series, with *Buffey the Vampire Slayer* and now *Angel* coming out about every six months. *Buffey* Season Four will hit the stores in June and Season Two of *Angel* soon after that. Just out from FOX is *Futurama* Season One (March) and *Dark Angel* Season One is due in mid-May.

Paramount started their *Star Trek* TV franchise with DVDs of the original series with two episodes per release spread out over a couple of years. Starting with *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, they released season sets on a schedule to put the entire series out in one calendar year. They are repeating this schedule with *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* this year and will likely do so next year with *Star Trek: Voyager*. It is likely at some point they will release season sets of the original series as well as the animated series.

ADV films took on *Farscape* as a test to expand beyond their Anime releases and have been successful with that series. Their initial releases of *Farscape's* first season were similar to Paramount's handling of the *Original Trek*. However with season two, they have started doing two-DVD releases with four or five

episodes in a release. They also picked up *Andromeda* and have been releasing it in that format, too. Their next releases will be *Farscape* Vol 3.1 in early April. ADV recently announced that they will also be releasing *Mutant X* and *Beastmaster* on DVD starting later this year.

Acorn Media has been busy releasing *Lexx* to DVD, putting three to four episodes on each single DVD release and are currently up to Season 4, Vol 2. Other short-run series such as *Kindred: The Embraced*, *Ultraviolet*, and *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* have seen DVD releases. MPI Home video is releasing *Dark Shadows* on DVD in 4 DVD collections with 40 episodes per set. That's still going to take a lot of DVDs to release the entire series.


For classic shows, A&E Home Video has been making use of the ITV Catalog releasing *The Prisoner*, *The Avengers*, *The New Avengers*, *the Saint*, *Secret Agent Man (aka Danger Man)* and working their way through all of the Gerry Anderson productions, live action (*UFO*, *Space: 1999*) and Super Marionation (*Thunderbirds*, *Fireball XL-5*, *Stingray*, and *Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons*). There's also been Season One of *The Outer Limits* from MGM. Image Entertainment has been releasing *Twilight Zone* in various collections plus there is a gold collection that contains all 156 episodes in chronological order over 49 DVDs for \$399 list.

One of the more anticipated series on DVD has been *Babylon 5*. Warner Bros did an initial release of the re-mastered pilot "The Gathering" with the "In the Beginning" TV movie as a test and based on the response gave the go-ahead for a Season 1 Box set. That was released late last year and did much better than Warner Bros. expected. Look for Season Two in late April and the remaining seasons about every six months or so.

MGM has also been releasing *Stargate SG-1* in widescreen format about one season set a year (with individual multi-episode DVDs) separately. Season Three is scheduled for June. Anchor Bay has started releasing *Highlander: The Series* (Season 2 - July), *Xena: Warrior Princess* (Season 1 - April, Season 2 - Sept) and *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys* (Season 1 - June).


For British SciFi fans, BBC Video has been releasing selected episodes of *Doctor Who* including the full Tom Baker Season with the Key to Time and will continue to release two/three stories every few months for the near future. They have also started releasing *Red Dwarf*, with the first two series having been released in February.

All of these releases have varying degrees of extras. Some have no commentaries, some have commentary on selected episodes and some, like *Red Dwarf*, have full cast commentary on every single episode. Future *Highlander* series releases will have out takes and deleted scenes culled from dailies that were kept by producers on the show. Others include bloopers, archival features as well as more in-depth features with recent interviews of cast and crew. For the true fan of a series, these DVD sets make for a much better way to be able to re-watch their favorite episodes.



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San Diego Comic-Con International 2002: I Wish I Were Cloned - Part 3 By Shane Shellenbarger

Making the assumption that you've read the previous two installments, you'll concede that the San Diego Comic-Con International Convention is huge and varied. Taking that as a given, I'll plunge ahead.

Next time:

12:00 p.m. Casting and Mold-making with Jeff Broz. This panel was very visual, detailed, informative, and rather advanced. The second link gives a great breakdown concerning the topics covered in the seminar.

<http://www.jdbgrphx.com/>

<http://www.jdbgrphx.com/castpage2.html>

1:30 p.m. Story Layers with Will Shetterly and Emma Bull. The couple hurries into room and get right to business. Bull puts forth her theory that most writers (including herself) write from instinct and that all stories can be boiled down into three types with some crossovers and overlapping: 1) The Brave Little Tailor http://www.flv.vcu.edu/grimm/schneider_e.html, 2) Boy Meets Girl like Romeo and Juliet <http://www.wsu.edu:8000/~brians/love-in-the-arts/romeo.html>, 3) The Man Learns A Lesson such as King Midas <http://www.phrygians.com/midas.html> and The Gift of the Magi http://www.auburn.edu/~vestmon/Gift_of_the_Magi.html. Bull stated that the three prime elements to any story are 1) Plot, 2) Relationships, and 3) Transformation (or lack thereof.) Bull believes that a good story contains all three elements in proper balance. An audience member offered the 4th element: A wider reference. The well-read reader will pickup on veiled references by the author, such as the repeated retelling of the story of Christ, or on a more pedestrian level it might be called the "in-joke" story where only certain readers will be in on the joke.

The two writers' then began to examine the elements that make up a story such as the beginning, jumping off points, and the author's goal in telling the story. What question or theme does the author wish to explore, is the character fictional or historical, what will the dialogue sound like in the readers mind, what is the setting, what is the plot?

Shetterly commented that a story should have implications, but don't be blatant about sending your message. "If you want to send a message, use Western Union." On the web, this quote is attributed to:

Samuel Goldwyn (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, credited the most frequently 1882-1974) Louis B. Mayer (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, 1885-1957)

Jack Warner (Warner Bros. 1892-1978)

Harry Warner (Warner Bros.)

Walter Kerr (Theater critic, 1913-1996)

Cecil B. DeMille (Director, 1881-1959)

D.W. Griffith (Director, 1875-1948)

Shetterly continued, saying that if you want to send a message, write an essay.

Bull turned to the subject of point-of-view. "My character doesn't know something and he needs to find out or he

knows something and needs to have his knowledge tested. The information is filtered through a characters biases and their senses," Bull said.

Shetterly indicated *The Maltese Falcon* and *The Big Sleep* as good examples of P.O.V. He said that Aristotle's *On Poetics* gave one of the finest and simplest explanations on how to write: Start at the beginning, work toward the middle, proceed to the end and finish the story.

<http://homepage.mac.com/emdawill/>
<http://www.player.org/pub/flash/people/emma.html>

<http://www.player.org/pub/flash/people/will.html>

<http://www.qnet.com/~raven/w-eroom.html>

<http://www.staugustine.net/AristotleonPoetics.html>

2:30 p.m. Spotlight on Todd McFarlane

Moderated by **Larry Marder**, president, McFarlane Toys

McFarlane grabbed up a wireless microphone and plunged ahead for what turned into a frenetic hour. He thanked the audience for their enthusiastic welcome and for making possible the tenth anniversary of Spawn. He also stated that this was the twentieth anniversary of his first pilgrimage to the San Diego Comic-Con. He hasn't been to Comic-Con in five years because the dates have always fallen during the time he takes his family from their Phoenix home for a month long vacation in Canada.

McFarlane wanted to give the audience some background into his comic book work. In 1984 he got his first job after six hundred submissions. He viewed rejection letters as a way to get the autographs of his favorite editors. That first job was a ten-page backup in *Coyote* written by Steve Englehart as part of *Epic*, a Marvel Comics line of comic books. He next worked on *Infinity, Inc.* with Roy Thomas in 1985, commenting that books containing teams drove him crazy. McFarlane said that when he started working with Peter David and read one of David's plots McFarlane suggested that the issue be split in two so that he could draw the Hulk big.

McFarlane's talk had a stream-of-consciousness quality to it that allowed for interesting detours such as this bit of advice: Never follow a class act. Don't follow Frank Miller, Jim Lee, Jack Kirby, Neal Adams, Jeffery Scott Campbell, or any hot artist. Before he began working on *Spider-Man* several editors at Marvel told him that the Spider books were inconsistent, a shambles, and that he should stay away from them. McFarlane told the audience that telling him what to do is what caused him to leave home at seventeen and that telling him "no" just makes him want a thing even more.

For McFarlane, the fun of *Spider-Man* was in finding the artistic voice for the character. For McFarlane, John Romita, Sr was the Norman Rockwell of *Spider-Man*. When McFarlane started on the book the emphasis was on spider-MAN, heavy emphasis on the MAN. He wanted to flip that and put the emphasis on the SPIDER. He started by enlarging the costumes eyes, adding more webbing on the suit, changing the blue to a blacker color, and he returned to the webbing in the armpit that had been originated by Steve Ditko. McFarlane especially wanted

to modify the webbing. Before he came on the book, Spider-Man's webbing usually appeared as three lines with "X's" in-between each line, which he felt looked unconvincing. When the webbing was shot toward camera, McFarlane wanted webbing that was more organic and natural, webbing that would appear as if a man-sized spider had actually spun it. While drawing on a 2-d plane, McFarlane attempted a three dimensional appearance through the use of foreground, mid-ground, and background work.

McFarlane emphasized that static shots require motion, which is one of the reasons that he gave Spawn a cape, the other being that it allowed him to "cheat" the anatomy. He feels that there is a fine line between cheating and style. When Spider-Man is swinging through New York the view is mostly of Spider-Man and just bits and pieces of the cityscape. McFarlane would bring in the border an inch and that would create the illusion that Spider-Man was bursting out of the panel and it also meant that he had one less inch all around to draw. When he was writing, penciling, and inking Spawn he began to feel that he was cheating too much. Other factors in his life were taking away too much time from his art so he brought in Greg Capullo on the theory that one less job would give him more free time. Alas, it was not to be. "Capullo's pencils were so detailed that I had to add more inking and it took me even longer to do an issue," McFarlane said.

McFarlane began to talk about being one of the founders of Image Comics. "Image is ten years old when the competition didn't give us a year," he stated with more than a bit of pride. He then proceeded to explain how Image works differently than Marvel, DC, or Dark Horse. A writer/artist team submits and idea to Image and publisher/founder Jim Valentino reviews the work and if he likes it the proposal is passed around the office and if it passes that level of scrutiny it goes to the weekly staff meeting. If the proposal is accepted Image will require a flat fee to offset the costs of solicitation to distribution outlets, printing, shipping, accounting, etc. However, the creators retain all rights to the material. Image doesn't fund the artists, but neither do they own any part of the idea.

McFarlane told the story of his run in with a Wal-Mart buyer at Toy Fare. Year after year the buyer would walk past McFarlane's line of horror toys like Clive Barker's Tortured Souls series, just shake his head and say, "Todd, if only you would use your powers for good." When McFarlane started his sports series of figures the Wal-Mart buyer hailed him as a superhero. In addition to NHL and NBA releases for 2003, McFarlane Toys will be putting out Alien, Predator, a H.R. Giger line, and a Spawn Reborn series of figures. McFarlane's philosophy is to lead in the direction that the competition isn't heading and his motto could well be this: Non-traditional toys in non-traditional places, such as Virgin Records. McFarlane feels that he may have hit a fork in the road and he's unsure which path to take. Does he expand the safe line of toys such as sports or does he continue to sell the less main stream and the more outrageous series of figures like Tortured Souls? If the audience reaction to the latter were any indication, my money would be on the odd and unusual.

McFarlane threw the floor open to questions from the audience and here are his rapid-fire answers: His current drawings are aimed at final product sketches for his toy lines. He has a sketchbook filled with over two hundred monster heads. He's enthusiastic and supportive of the work of young artists. If a toy line was dropped it's because it didn't sell or because a store buyer didn't continue to buy that toy line, but it may be available at an alternative outlet. Color variants in the toy line are almost exclusively due to the factory not taking care and they drive him crazy. McFarlane has no plans to do a Pinhead figure. Following the HBO third season ender Spawn's alter ego, Al Simmons, will return, but with limitations. HBO has taken the fourth season of Spawn in-house and McFarlane will be closely involved. <http://www.spawn.com/interface.html>
<http://www.spawn.com/features/spawn100/themainevent.page1.html>
<http://www.imagecomics.com/>
<http://www.imagecomics.com/cgi-bin/index.cgi?main=about&sub1=faqs#q04>

Next Time in part 4:

3:30 p.m. One-on-One: J. Michael Straczynski and John Romita Jr. <http://babylon5.warnerbros.com/cmp/bios.htm>
<http://worldsofjms.com/>
<http://www.geocities.com/romitapage/home.htm>
http://home.wanadoo.nl/pafrankn/jtj_intro.htm

And more. To Be Continued . . .

Screening Room

Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers by Marguerite T. Murray

The Two Towers is the second of the three Lord of the Rings movies to be released. Filming the middle of a three-part novel is not an easy task. The first movie held together well as reasonable story even though it, of necessity, did not reach a definitive conclusion. It covered the activities of the united Fellowship. The Two Towers lacks this edge. It covers the separated activities of various fellowship members from the end of *The Fellowship* to the beginning of *The Return of the King*. It did not give you any feeling of having a beginning, a middle, and an end. This is inherent in the source book and not the fault of the movie makers.

The film was extremely well executed, but it did not follow the book nearly as well as *The Fellowship*. The added scene with Arwen and Elrond was unnecessary and interfered with continuity. The added scene with Elrond mind-speaking Galadriel was very distracting and contributed nothing to the story. From a technical perspective, the Battle of Helms Deep was executed flawlessly, but it should have been closer to the battle in the original book. The extensive changes in terrain and strategy were unnecessary. The battle as written would have filmed just as well. Certain elements left out of *The Two Towers* are carried into *The*

(Cont'd on Page 15)

The Costume Closet



Dark Fantasy Costuming by Tasha Cady

The theme for the Masquerade at this May's LepreCon 29 (See ad in this issue) is "Dark Fantasy." Here Tasha analyzes the concept of Dark Fantasy and makes some suggestions for Dark Fantasy Costumes.

Dark Fantasy turns "heroic" fantasy on its head. The people/things normally considered "bad guys" become the heroes.

Dark Fantasy should not be confused with normal fantasy that has dark elements. Tolkien is not Dark Fantasy.

Sauron and the orcs are definitely evil. They are not sympathetic characters at all. Neither would the *Thomas Covenant* series be considered Dark Fantasy, despite the fact that the protagonist could be considered something of a "bad guy". He is not heroic. We don't admire him. Sterling's *Draka* series could be considered Dark Science fiction. He calls it a "distopia." The "bad guys" definitely win.

There is overlap between Dark Fantasy and other sub-genres. Because the protagonists of Dark Fantasy are often the creatures of nightmare, there is an overlap with Horror. The elements of the fantastic/unearthly in Dark Fantasy overlap with Gothic. However, the emotions evoked by Dark Fantasy are not necessarily scary, terrible or horrific. Neither is the setting limited to the ruinous castles in remote locales so prevalent in Gothic tales.

Where you draw the line between Dark Fantasy and other types of fantasy partly depends on your own world-view. Dark Fantasy takes the normally repressed side of our nature and brings it to the fore. How comfortable are you with the story's hero/heroine engaging in "forbidden" sex? Should the protagonist

be (relatively) pure? Does the end justify the means when the "good guys" use coercive magic? or is coercion always bad?

Having given some idea of what Dark Fantasy is, and isn't, we can try to describe how to costume in the genre. This is as difficult as the original definition. Dark Fantasy can be "period", contemporary, futuristic, or simply "other". It is easiest if you try to recreate a specific story. That will define the setting, and thereby the fashions of the story. Ann Rice and Laurell Hamilton come to mind as eminent authors of Dark Fantasy. What is your skill level and interest for making a costume? Do you feel up to panniers or cravats? Rice's vampires, and their friends and victims, exist in many eras: the French Revolution to modern times. Movies based on her books include *Interview with the Vampire*, *The Vampire Lestat*, and *Queen of the Damned*. Hamilton's stories all have modern settings. Her descriptions of what her characters wear is very detailed in places, if you want to do a recreation.

However, given the previous caveats, a few ideas on generic Dark Fantasy costuming are possible. First, this is Dark Fantasy. Go for dark colors. Not

just black. Purples and deep blood reds evoke a similar atmosphere. Think of white, for an innocent victim, or a predator pretending innocence. Another option would be a pale green, possibly with yellow overtones. Green is the traditional color of magic and poison. The Queen of Elfland is usually described as dressed in green. In Dark Fantasy there may be elves, but Tolkien's elves would deny any kinship with them. Elves in Dark Fantasy tend to be evil, erotic or both.

Erotic is another aspect of generic Dark Fantasy. Given the strong puritanical residue in our culture, blatant eroticism is "bad". But Dark Fantasy lets us enjoy the "bad". Figures of fear – vampires, were-wolves, shape changes, etc become sympathetic characters or even heroes. The fascination with the "forbidden" is at the heart of dark fantasy and Dark Fantasy costuming.

Tasha Cady is an experienced convention committee member, masquerade director and contestant. She often appears on stage with husband and sons. The Cady clan is also active and fully garbed in the Southwest Costumers Guild, Society for Creative Anachronism, and Single-Action Shooting Society.

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...Fantasy is just the beginning...



July 25-27, 2003

www.hexacon.org

Arizona's Largest Gaming Convention! Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, AZ

Gaming starts at 10:00 a.m. Friday, July 25 and runs non-stop until Sunday, July 27th at 3 p.m.

Hexacon is pleased to bring you all of our regular features plus as many new events as we can think of. We'll have **Special Events** on Thursday night, July 24th, including a special **Barry Bard Movie Previews** session for pre-registered members. We will also have a **Prize Drawing** from among those who both pre-register with HexaCon 13 and pre-register with the hotel. Prizes include a **free room night**, or **two memberships** to HexaCon 14.

\$5 Discount for Computer Use Donations

Bring in your computer to be available for use as part of our Computer LAN Party, you are eligible for a \$5 membership discount. Check out the HexaCon 13 web page or <http://langaming.abcmgmt.biz> for more details.

Speed Painting Contest

Ever look at a painted figure, and say, "I could do that... if I had as much time as this person did." Think you can paint good, and quickly? Time to put your thoughts into action. This year at HexaCon 13 will be the first annual Speed Painting Contest. A timed event, everyone will be given the exact same figure, you bring the paints and brushes; we provide the stress.

When the sand runs out of "Ye Old Hourglass" will your miniature be on top of the heap, or the bottom of the pile?

Hotel Information:

Embassy Suites Phoenix North

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Executive Suites \$94 S/D/T/Q

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Planned events include but are in no way limited to:

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Chess Federation Sponsored Chess Events including Speed Chess

CCG Tournaments - Sanctioned Magic the Gathering, Magi Nation Duel

Computer LAN Party - Aliens vs. Predator 2, Jedi Knight 2, The Half Life Series, Quake 3

Dealer's Room - Atomic Comics, Game Depot, Imperial Outpost, Samurai Comics and many others

Live Action Role Playing Games - Amtgard, Harry Potter, Mind's Eye Theater and more

Miniature Games - Battle Tech, Cry Havoc, Warhammer Fantasy & 40K

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Membership Rates:

\$20 thru June 30, 2003

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Email: Hex13chair@casfs.org

Web: www.hexacon.org



LepreCon 29

May 16-18, 2003

Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, AZ

A Journey Through the Dark Forest



LEPRECON 29 PROGRAMMING

Want to learn how to beat the Dungeonmaster? Or, become invincible in your favorite single-shooter computer game? Do you want to find out what's hot in Japan in Anime and Manga, before it gets to the U.S.? How about a hands-on demonstration of body-painting, or how you can set up a home computer network, cheap? Or, do just want a chance to have a roundtable discussion with other fans and pros?

At Leprecon 29 we will have programming using different formats - some of it interactive, some of it traditional - all of it fun and exciting! We plan two tracks of programming, as well as a track of readings and interactive games, discussions and demonstrations. We'll even set up a special room for evening roundtable discussions led by a moderator, where YOU talk about subjects ranging from world-building and space exploration, to alternate lifestyles and vampires.

Confirmed participants include Barry Bard, Christine Beaucage, David Beaucage, Earl Billick, Frances Burns, Chuck Cady, Mike Cassidy, Sarah Clemens, Rick Cook, John Davis, Janeen DeBoard, Deborah C. Dedon, Carla Emery, Joseph Formichella, Adrienne Foster, Ty Gorton, Mark Greenawalt, Hugh S. Gregory, Bonnie Grezlik, MaryAnn Harris, Emily Hogan, Ernest Hogan, Angel Hungerford, John Lakey, Laura Lakey, Paula Susan Lary, Jacqueline Lichtenberg, Jeffrey Lu, Lubov, Don Markstein, Alice Massoglia, Benjamin Massoglia, Marty Massoglia, Kitty McDonald-Neal, Henry Melton, Michael Mennenga, Marianne O. Nielsen, William E. Priester, Bill Purcell, Gary Raham, James Reade, Andy Rodriguez, Annis Shepherd, Mark Siegel, Ken St. Andre, David Summers, Paul Tanton, Kit Townsend, Larry Vela, Diana Vick, Ron Walker, Wendy Wheeler, Lee Whiteside, Randall Whitlock, David Williams, and Mike Willmoth. Please check our website at www.leprecon.org for info on all of our participants and any additions to this list.

Although the official convention program begins at noon on Friday, we will schedule some special Thursday night activities open only to pre-registered attendees and guests.

If you have special topics or events you would like to see at Leprecon 29, please email LepreCon Programming at leafarr@att.net.

www.leprecon.org

LEPRECON 29 ART SHOW

We are proud to announce Larry Elmore as our Artist Guest of Honor. Our local Artist Guest of Honor will be Madame M. We are planing a guided tour of the art show Friday evening hosted by Larry Elmore and Madame M. Our plan is to offer the best of science fiction and fantasy art to the fans of Phoenix.

LepreCon has the largest science fiction and fantasy art show in the southwest and features hundreds of original artwork and limited edition prints for sale and up for bid. The most popular items will go to the Art Auction on Sunday afternoon. We will take all major credit cards for art show and art auction sales.

Artists that have reserved space include Ruth Thompson, Larry Vela, Nene Tina Thomas, Amy Schulz, Theresa Mather, Betsy Mott, James T. Wappel, L. A. Williams, Lubov, Gus Talbott, Sylvana Anderson, Cathy Wappel, R. Merrill Bollerud, R. Stephen Adams, Margaret Carspecken, Ralph J. Ryan, Monika Livingstone and many more old favorites. New artists that have reserved space: Quynh Mai Nguyen, Allison Mitchell, K. Lowe and Callista Cleary.

We are asking that artists planning to hang art limit it to originals and limited run prints. Art show panels (a panel is 4 ft. X 4 ft. flat brown pegboard) may be reserved for a fee of \$5.00 per panel. 3D artwork can be displayed on 6 ft. x 2.5 ft. tables, for a fee of \$10.00 or \$5.00 for 1/2 table. The convention will take a 12% commission on these sales. We will feature a print shop -- an area for artists to sell multiple prints of some of their more popular work, with the convention taking 15% commission on these sales. There is no fee to display in the print shop.

We are anticipating a great art show this year, so be sure to come down and see the pride of a lot of super artists. If you have any questions, or if you are interested in reserving display space, please contact Ray Gish at : 2527 N. Silverado, Mesa, AZ 85215 or call 480-641-3997 or email at RGASAS@aol.com

Music & Filk at LepreCon 29

Our Musical guest is **Karen Willson**, an individual whose Filk credits go clear back to the release of the "Children of the Future" cassette in 1978. This was the first Filk tape generally available to the public. Karen Willson also is creator, publisher and editor of A Girl's World Online Clubhouse, www.agirlsworld.com, the busiest site for young women in the world. Her extensive background in the entertainment world includes writing, producing and helping manage a wide range of projects for children and adults. With her writing partner, husband Chris Weber, she has scripted more than 50 children's television episodes including episodes of He-Man, GI Joe, Transformers and others. She will be participating in panels and performing in a Filk Concert on Saturday afternoon.

We are having a Concert on Friday night from **Author Guest of Honor, Charles de Lint** and his wife, **MaryAnn Harris**. Their music will be mostly their original songs with some Folk and Celtic traditional songs as well. They perform a mix of their own original songs and instrumentals, as well as traditional Celtic music, and they cover contemporary songs by the likes of Fred Eaglesmith, Steve Earle, Mike Plume, Julie Miller and many other fine songwriters.

There will also be a Filk Suite open during most of the convention with a nightly Filk Circle, a Filk Jam on Sunday afternoon and other activities.



LepreCon 28 Highlight Video Now available

Relive the highlights of LepreCon 28 with a special video (VHS or Video CD) prepared by Velavision. For full details, check out the LepreCon website to pre-order a copy for pickup at LepreCon 29.



Leprecon 29

May 16-18, 2003

Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, AZ

Artist Guest of Honor: LARRY ELMORE

Renowned artist of *Dungeons and Dragons*, *Dragonlance*, creator of the *Sovereign Stone* series, plus many novel covers for Baen Books, Bantam, Warner Books, Del Rey & more.



Author Guest of Honor: Charles de Lint

Award winning Fantasy author of over 50 published works including *The Little Country*, *The Onion Girl*, & *Forests of the Heart*

Local Artist/Author Guest: Madame M
Creator of *Creepy Little Bedtime Stories* & *Eerie Little Bedtime Stories*

Media Technical Guest: Richard Coyle
Movie Prop Designer, editor of Propmaker magazine

Music Guest: Karen Willson
(sponsored by the Phoenix Filk Circle)



LepreCon 29 Events and Activities

Art Show & Auction, Art Demos, Dealer's Room, Charity Auction to Benefit Reading is FUNDamental and the Maricopa Library, Computer LAN Party, Gaming, LARP, Video Room, Anime Room, Hospitality Suite, and more!

**Special Music Concert with
Author GoH Charles de Lint and
MaryAnn Harris on Friday Night!**

**The largest Science Fiction and Fantasy
Art Show in the Southwest**

\$5 Discount for Computer Use Donation
We are offering a limited number of \$5 discount for members donating a computer for use with the Computer LAN Party. For full details, visit our web page at www.leprecon.org



Other LepreCon Activities and Events

Masquerade - Whether you're doing it for the first time or the 29th time, show off your abilities and imagination in the LepreCon 29 Masquerade. As an extra incentive, The Southwest Costumer's Guild has will be awarding a Black Velvet Cloak for the best Dark Fantasy costume this year.

Velavision - We will be showing the news of the convention and video of past masquerades, interviews with artists, writers, and special guests. We will also be showing film making behind the scenes clips. These will be shown on video/ TV combinations at various locations in the hotel.

Junk Box Wars - If you like to solve problems and build things, "Junk Box Wars" is a game that is based on the cable show "Junk Yard Wars" but on a smaller scale and will be hosted by Velavision.

SciFi Jeopardy - Test your SciFi knowledge in a Jeopardy style group game presented by The United Federation of Phoenix.

Movie & TV Previews - We'll have our regular editions of Barry Bard's Movie previews with all the latest trailers and giveaways and Lee Whiteside's SF Tube Talk with all the news on the current and upcoming genre TV shows.

Hotel Room Rates

(including Breakfast & Happy Hour)
\$89 S/D, \$99 T, \$109 Q (plus tax)

Embassy Suites Phoenix North
2577 W. Greenway Rd, Phoenix, AZ
(602) 375-1777

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Christy A. Moeller
Masel

Memberships:

\$35 until 4/30/03, \$40 at the door
Children 12 & under half price,
Kids 6 & under free with adult membership

Contact Leprecon 29 at:

LepreCon 29, PO Box 26665
Tempe, AZ 85285
(480) 945-6890
lep29@leprecon.org

Calendar of Events - April - May 2003

To have your event or meeting listed please email calendar@casfs.org (This is a free service. All release dates are tentative)

April

April 1 - Tuesday

Video Game - Sniper for Xbox
DVD - Star Trek DS 9 Season 3 vol 1

April 4-5 - Friday-Saturday

6PM-Vampire Event Quality Inn
South Mtn. Weekend long Vampire game
www.secundusurrectum.com

April 4 - Friday

Movie - Cowboy Bebop
TV - Scare Tactics on Sci Fi

April 5 -Saturday

10AM-5PM Arizona Book Festival
Hall of Fame Museum
www.azbookfestival.org

April 8 - Tuesday

Video Game - Tropico 2: Pirate Cove
for PC
Video Game - Splinter Cell for PS2
Video Game - Run Like Hell for Xbox

April 11 - Friday

Movie - House of 1000 Corpses
DVD - Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets

April 13 - Sunday

9AM-3PM Phoenix Cactus
ComicCon Glendale Civic Center
GoH: Todd Nauck
www.phoenixcomicon.com

April 15 - Tuesday

DVD - Spirited Away
DVD - New Avengers Season 1

April 16 - Wednesday

Movie - Bulletproof Monk

April 19 - Saturday

11AM-12AM Anime Festival
Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback
www.samuraicomics.com
2PM Hexacon 14 Meeting JB's I-17 & Indian School Joanne -
crimsonmiss@cox.net
4PM Westercon 57 Meeting JB's I-17 & Indian School Craig -
craig@dovertkeep.com

April 22 - Tuesday

DVD - Speed Racer collectors Edition
DVD - Andromeda Season 2 Vol 1

April 23 - Wednesday

Border's SF Book Discussion
Border's 75th Ave & Bell Rd This
Months book: TBA Tanya 623-487-9110

April 24-26

Thursday-Saturday
Space Access Conference
Mike - 480-945-6890
mwillmoth@compuserve.com

April 25 - Friday

8PM CASFS Meeting JB's I-17 &
Indian School Stephanie -
leigh@dovertkeep.com
Movie - Identity

April 27 - Sunday

1PM SW Costumers Guild
Meeting Stephanie's house
Chemise & Basic seams
webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.com

April 29 - Tuesday

DVD - Babylon 5 Season 2
DVD - Xena Warrior Princess Season 1
DVD - Treasure Planet

April 30 - Wednesday

Video Game - BattleBots for multiple
gaming platforms

May

May 2 - Friday

6PM Western SFA Quarterly
Meeting Stephanie's house Craig -
dyer@dovertkeep.com
Movie - X2

May 3 - Saturday

9AM-12AM Free Comic Book
Day Samurai Comics, 7th St &
Camelback Free Comics & autographings
www.samuraicomics.com

May 10 - Saturday

4PM Westercon 57 Meeting JB's
I-17 & Indian School Craig -
craig@dovertkeep.com
7PM Leprecon Inc Quarterly
meeting JB's I-17 & Indian School Mike
- 480-945-6890,
mwillmoth@compuserve.com

May 13 - Tuesday

DVD - X-Files Season 7

May 14 - 16

Wednesday - Friday
Electronic Entertainment Expo
Los Angeles Convention Center
www.E3expo.com

May 15 - Thursday

Movie - Matrix Reloaded

May 16-18 - Friday-Sunday

Leprecon 29 Embassy Suites Phx.
North GoHs Larry Elmore & Madame M
www.leprecon.org, lep29@leprecon.org

May 16 - Friday

Movie - Pokeman Heroes (limited)

May 20 - Tuesday

TV - Buffy Series Finale
DVD - Children of Dune
DVD - Farscape Season 3 Vol 2
DVD - Star Trek Nemesis

May 23 - Friday

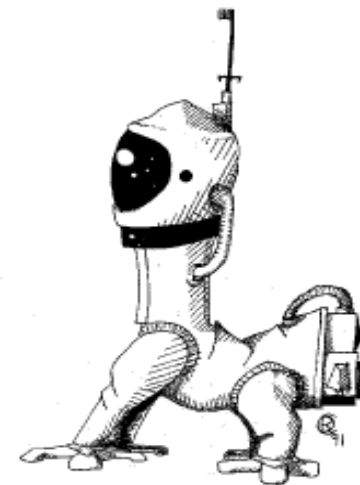
Movie - Bruce Almighty

May 25 - Sunday

1PM SW Costumers Guild
Meeting Stephanie's house Charity
Hats
webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.com

May 30 Friday

8PM CASFS Meeting JB's I-17 &
Indian School Stephanie -
leigh@dovertkeep.com
Movie - Finding Nemo



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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 3 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 meetings@casfs.org

Ongoing Events

Wednesdays	6pm	Hero Clix Tournamets	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samurai.comics.com
	6pm	Mech Warrior Tournaments	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samurai.comics.com
Thursdays	6pm	Canarilla Anarch Game	Kiwanis Park	www.titheofsoils.com
	6pm	Dragonball Z Tournaments	Atomic Comics-Phoenix	www.atomiccomics.com
Fridays	6pm	Hero Clix Tournamets	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samurai.comics.com
		Rocky Horror Picture Show	Spectrum Theatre (Spectrum Mall)	www.azrocky.com
Saturdays*	3pm	Mage Knight Tournaments	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samurai.comics.com
	4pm	Magic Tournaments	Atomic Comics-Paradise Valley	www.atomiccomics.com

*Except April 19th

Pointless Meanderings by Brandon Huigens

Whether you read comics or not, it's worth mentioning as a prelude to this column, that while the comics community has a reputation both within and outside the medium as being ridiculously negative and critical. I'm here to tell you, though, that when the \$%%& drops, we take care of each other.

I'm not talking about the big company execs hugging "superstar" creators in front of hundreds of drooling conventioners-I mean that comics readers (and creators) relate to one another in a way that doesn't make sense to people that don't read comics. This relationship is not a bond out of some assumed lonely necessity, but rather a common interest in something that many of us feel is a genuine and original form of art. We take care of each other to preserve the medium, but we give a damn about each other, both from the fan's perspective and the creators', if only because we simply love comics.

Example: In April of 2002, Top Shelf Productions' book trade distributors filed Chapter 11 Bankruptcy, leaving Top Shelf in a position to suspend publishing for a long, long time; perhaps for good. Top Shelf happens to employ some of the best creators the industry has to offer, (including one of my personal heroes, James Kochalka) and they produce several of the very best comics in the industry. As these events unfolded, Chris Staros, one of the big guys behind the company, posted an honest call for help on the internet, and in under 12 hours, thanks to comics readers, Top Shelf overcame a \$20,000 hurdle and are publishing award-winning independent comics right this second.

Okay-I'm off my "the people that love heroes are heroes, too" soapbox. Moving along...

A few months ago, a couple of young fellas in New York were looking to get their creation, *Teenagers From Mars*, into comic book stores. Let me back up here and tell you:

Teenagers From Mars is this: a John Hughes-ish story about a group of wayward teenagers meandering through life in a little Southern town called Mars. The book reminds me of *Catcher in the Rye* rendered in sequential art (which means I really like the series since *Catcher* is my favorite book). The characters and the town are vibrant and so real it's ridiculous; both writer and artist capture the details of misdirected adolescence brilliantly and the read is exciting and very, very real.

Samurai Comic's own evil genius, Mike Banks, (thanks to customer extraordinaire and international man of leisure Greg Dunnion, who told us about the book), helped to get Diamond Comics to begin carrying Rob and Rick's little book, and since then, it's been a smash independent hit, garnering fans and acclaim throughout the industry. So here at Samurai, we feel like a tiny piece of the

Teenagers from Mars puzzle-they're living the dream, and we helped 'em get there a tiny bit-the guys have sent out pins and signed books for our customers, and they've been really appreciative. But that's not the story here-it's just a precursor to what you're about to read, and I'm sorry to say, it ain't happy news.

TFM artist Rob G, who is also penciling an upcoming Batman project for DC with TFM writer Rick Spears, lost all his possessions in an apartment fire on Wednesday, January 22. Thankfully he, his roommate, and his cat all made it out alive, but as for everything else, including the Batman story, all the TFM art, and Rob's comics and computer, nothing was saved.

This guy IS US. He's young and he's making comic books for a living-a talented individual starting a very successful career in an industry he loves. What else is there to say but: let's help?

After I read about Rob's misfortune online, I felt very happy to be a part of this community because of all the incredibly kind offers of help from readers around world (yes, **world**-a publisher from Italy's even offered help). Check out what his dad had to say following this www.newsarama.com posting and feel the love:

I am Rob's dad, or "Pops," as he likes to say. I just want say that I've discovered on this message board that Rob, who is one of the finest human beings I know, is clearly in good company, with people like you. Your expressions of kindness, generosity and concern for Rob, especially those who are yourselves in a hard place, is so awesome that I can't find the words.... I can tell you that what you and the many others that have given kind and helping hands in the last couple of days has had a very profound effect on Rob. I think you have restored his belief that there are many good people left on this planet, after all. And you did that for me, too. Thank you all, ten thousand times. - Dave Goodridge

After all this, of course I feel compelled to do something-**anything**-and

I'd really like you, the readers, to pitch in. We'll be setting up a donation fund at Samurai Comics; feel free to contact us to see if there've been any updates about Rob's situation. Here's what you can do to help:

Donate clothing. Rob's about 5'11 and skinny. You can donate through Samurai, or you can send 'em straight over to Rob at Rick Spear's place:

Rick Spears
609 President St. #2
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Donate trade paperbacks and comic books. As any comic reader knows, losing your comics is a pretty devastating experience; for Rob I'm sure it's no different. Rick Spears said that Rob is a huge manga fan, and really likes *Akira* and *Ghost In the Shell*. If you want to donate, contact me via e-mail at brandon@samuraicomics.com to find out what we've already got and what we still need.

Donate and send any and all art supplies. Let's keep this guy excited and motivated to continue his comics work!!

Get into a comics shop and buy *Teenagers from Mars*. It's a great book, and now there's even more reason to buy it!

E-mail him with kind words. rick@teenagers-from-mars.com is the best place to e-mail him at this point. Let him know we give a damn.

Donate money. Duh.

Visit their website: www.teenagersfrommars.com and order stuff, or just find out what the book is like if you haven't read it.

Being online, seeing the avalanche of positive feedback for Rob has been really inspiring and stirring. Since this column went up online a few weeks ago, we actually had a woman come in who'd never been in a comic shop and buy Rob a book! Yes!! It makes me proud to be a part of the comics community, and I hope that we can help him.

It's nice to know assuredly that we'll do our best. Let's get started. - **Brandon Huigens**

Screening Room (cont'd from page 9)

Return of the King. These elements needed to be established for the story to continue as originally written by the author. -

New Line Cinema

Executive Producers: Saul Zaentz, Bob Weinstein, Harvey Weinstein

Producers: Peter Jackson, Barrie M. Osborne, Tim Sanders

Directed by Peter Jackson, John Mahaffie
Writers: Peter Jackson, Fran Walsh, Philippa Boyens, Stephen Sinclair

The cast of *The Lord of the Rings:* **Frodo Baggins**, Elijah Wood; **Gandalf**, Sir Ian McKellen; **Samwise Gamgee**, Sean Astin; **Aragorn** Viggo, Mortensen (replaced Stuart Townsend); **Arwen**, Liv Tyler; **Eomer**, Karl Urban; **Bilbo Baggins**, Sir Ian Holm; **Peregrin Took**, Billy Boyd; **Fon Meriodoc Brandybuck**, Dominic Monaghan; **Denethor**, John Noble; **Gollum's voice**, Andy Serkis; **Eowyn**, Miranda Otto; **Theoden**, Bernard Hill; **Gimli**, John Rhys-Davies; **Legolas**, Orlando Bloom; **Boromir**, Sean Bean; **Faramir**, David Wenham; **Saruman**, Christopher Lee; **Galadriel**, Cate Blanchett; **Celeborn**, Marton Csokas; **Gil-galad**, Mark Ferguson; **Grima Wormtongue**, Brad Dourif; **Elrond**, Hugo Weaving; **The Mouth of Sauron (Black Lieutenant)**; Bruce Spence; **Ted Sandyman (Sam's nemesis)** Brian Sergent; **Haldir of Lorien**, Craig Parker; **Treebeard**, John Rhys-Davies (voice only); **Ugluk**, Nathaniel Lees (or Jay Laga'aia); **Hama**, John Leigh; **Lotho Sackville-Baggins**, Paul Sutura; **Eleanor Gamgee**; Alexandra Astin (Sean's daughter); **Gamling the Old**, Bruce Hopkins; **Sauron**, Michael Hughes; **Rose Cotton Gamgee**, Sarah McLeod; **Gorbag**, Stephen Ure; **Lurtz**, Lawrence Makoare; **Isildur**, Harry Sinclair.

Things For Thinkers!

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Videophile

Signs

**Walt Disney, 106 mins, PG-13
VHS \$22.99, DVD \$29.99**

Mel Gibson is a widower living on a rural Pennsylvania farm with his two children (Rory Calkin, Abigail Breslin), and his brother (Joaquin Phoenix). One fateful morning large crop circles appear in his cornfield and the family dog tries to attack his young daughter. Soon they learn that the crop circles have mysteriously appeared all over the world. By the next day the circles are followed by the appearance of alien spacecraft. We watch as the lapsed minister confronts both his own personal crisis of faith as well as the threat to his family posed by the aliens.

This is possibly the most realistic vision of an alien invasion I've seen and certainly the most frightening. There are no whizz bang special effects, aside from the aliens themselves, but the atmosphere is taut as the tension grows towards the climax, sort of an Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* meets *War of the Worlds*. The family behaves much as you or I might. The children are glued to the TV watching worldwide coverage of the crop circles, the first sighting of an alien and the hovering space craft. Their father at first tries to pass off the circles as a hoax and then does his best to keep his children from being frightened and then desperately striving to keep them safe as it becomes obvious the aliens are hostile.

This is one of the best movies I've seen in a while, it will certainly remain a favorite. I urge you to add this to your collection. The DVD includes Making Signs - Exclusive six-part documentary exploring the movie from idea to marketing and five deleted scenes. The deleted scene "The Third Story" should have been included in the movie in my opinion. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Ice Age

**20th Century Fox, 81 mins, PG
2 Disc DVD Special Edition
VHS \$24.98, DVD \$29.99**

Ice Age is a take off on the old Western classic *The Three Godfathers* but, instead of being set in the old West, we have a really old setting, the Paleolithic era, 20,000 years ago. Our heroes are Manfred the lonely mastodon (voiced by Ray Romano), an annoying sloth named Sid (John Leguizamo) and a saber-toothed tiger, Diego (Denis Leary). The trio find a dying human mother and her chirpy toddler and decide to return the child to his tribe. Along the way the trio learns to trust and then rely on each other and find that sometimes herds are defined by love.

The extras on the DVD, from the short "Scrat's Missing Adventure" to the deleted scenes are a pure delight. Definitely a worthwhile addition to any family's collection *Ice Age* can be enjoyed by the whole family. - **Stephanie Bannon**

**Monsters, Inc
Collectors 2-Disc DVD
Disney, 93 mins, G
VHS \$ 24.98 DVD \$29.99**

James P. "Sulley" Sullivan (voiced by John Goodman) is a scare-monster in the hidden world of Monstropolis, where scaring children is the energy source that keeps the entire city running. Along with his assistant, the one-eyed Mike Wazowski (Billy Crystal) he is the best in

the business until one night a child follows Sully back through the door into Monstropolis. As the two try to return the child, dubbed "Boo" to her own world they learn that all is not as it appears in the relationship between the real world and theirs.

The story is great and can be enjoyed by both adults as well as children, in fact we've watched it three times at our place with only adults present. The DVD extras are wonderful, fully as much fun as the feature itself. The two shorts, "Mike's New Car" and "For The Birds" are worth the price alone. Add to that the out takes and the behind the scenes look at Pixar make this the best deal around. I highly recommend this as an addition to your collection. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

**Reign of Fire
Touchstone, 102 mins,
PG-13
VHS \$106.99, DVD
\$29.99**

Reign of Fire is billed as a post-apocalyptic action thriller that pits humans against dragons in a battle that only one will survive. In the England of 2020 the earth has been scorched both by the newly awakened dragons and the use of nuclear weapons in an attempt to destroy the dragons.

The story was weak but the special effects are stupendous, the reptilian fire-breathers are utterly convincing. I enjoyed just watching the dragon. If you can pick it up on sale do so. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

**E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial
2 Disc Limited Collectors Edition
Amblin, 121 mins, PG
DVD \$29.98**

Steven Spielberg's 1982 hit about a stranded alien and his relationship with a fatherless boy has become a classic. We are all familiar with the story of Elliot (Henry Thomas) who finds the lost alien

and brings him home. Along with his brother and sister (Robert MacNaughton and Drew Barrymore) they protect E.T. from those searching for him and help him return to his family. This special 2-disc set contains both the 1982 and 2002 versions of the film as well as a documentary on the making of the film. The sound and picture for the film were restored and the only thing

(Cont'd on page 17)

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Videophile (cont'd from page 16)

missing is a commentary by Steven Spielberg. Universal plans to discontinue this title on December 31, 2002 so I urge you to pick one up for your collection while you still can. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Stephen King's It Warner Bros, 187 mins, NR VHS \$14.95, DVD \$19.98

After viewing *Stephen King's It* you will never view clowns quite so nonchalantly again.

With *It* we have two connected stories. Part one brings us the story of the seven kids who meet and form The Losers Club and the fateful summer they took on Pennywise the Clown, a force of pure evil, in their Maine home town. As part one ends the kids have defeated Pennywise but promise to reunite if he ever returns.

In part two we skip forward to present day Derry, the kids have all grown up and moved on, except for Mike Hanson (Tim Reid) who has stayed in Derry and become the town librarian. When a series of child murders and mutilations makes it clear to him that Pennywise has returned Mike contacts the other members of the Losers Club and one by one they return to Derry to take on Pennywise and put an end to the evil once and for all.

The story is one of King's better efforts and it translates to the mini-series format well. With Tim Curry as Pennywise the Clown, Henry Anderson (Richie Tozer), Dennis Christopher (Eddie Kaspbrak), Richard Masur (Stan Uris), Annette O' Toole (Beverly Marsh), John Ritter (Ben Hascom), and Richard Thomas as (Bill Denbrough) we have an exceptionally strong cast.

The only extra on the DVD is the feature-length Audio Commentary by Dennis Christopher, Tim Reid, John Ritter, Richard Thomas, and Director Tommy Lee Wallace but it is still highly recommended as an addition to any fan's collection. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Battle Beyond The Stars New Concorde 103 mins, PG VHS \$14.98, DVD \$19.98

This space opera version of *The Seven Samurai* is definitely a B-film complete with cheesy special effects but it is still a fun romp for a lazy Sunday afternoon as Roger Corman delivers clever dialogue (script by John Sayles) and some surprisingly good performances.

Our story finds the evil dictator Sador (John Saxon) threatening the planet of Akira with his super weapon, the Stellar Converter. Akira's pacifist population is unfit to fight Sador but young hero Shad (Richard Thomas) decides to fight back even if no one else will. He borrows the ship of notorious mercenary Zed the Corsair and goes off to recruit a band of mercenaries, each of whom has a personal reason to join the fight. He manages to hire a lizard-like humanoid

(Morgan Woodward), a space cowboy (George Peppard), a zaftig female warrior (Sybil Danning), and brooding killer-for-hire Gelt (Robert Vaughn, reprising his Magnificent Seven role). With its strong cast, script by John Sayles and Roger Corman touch *Battle Beyond the Stars* (including space ships designed by *Titanic* director James Cameron) is a delight for repeat viewers as well as newcomers.

The DVD has been digitally remastered and features commentary by scriptwriter John Sayles and assistant production manager, Gale Anne Hurd (*Terminator 2* producer) as well as theatrical trailers. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Highlander Season One Anchor Bay. NR DVD \$89.95

The first Highlander the film, starring Christopher Lambert as Connor MacLeod hit theaters in 1986. Six years later we got Highlander The Series starring Adrian Paul as Duncan MacLeod, a clansman of Connor. For those unfamiliar with the premise, Highlander (both movies and series) tell the tale of a race of Immortals who battle one another throughout history. They compete by taking the heads of other Immortals, thus gaining all that Immortal's knowledge and power, with the ultimate goal being to be the last one standing. "There can be only one!"

This set of 9 discs brings us the complete first season, all 22 episodes, in their longer form (48 minutes) which includes footage shown in Europe and Canada but not in syndication here in the USA. Each episode has commentary by producer Bill Panzer as well as "Watcher" notes. Disc 8 includes nearly 20 minutes of Bloopers while disc 9 has all the first season scripts in Flash format. Additionally there is a half hour documentary that was used to promote the series before it debuted in 1992.

This is a must have set for the Highlander fan. While this set was released last year on the Official Highlander site, www.highlander-official.com, reports seem to indicate that the Anchor Bay version is a higher video quality and much less expensive plus it is a more compact package. (With the original Davis/Panzer release apparently all the disks had their own box which made the entire set an most a foot wide, just a touch smaller than the original VHS box set) In checking the site today I note they are selling the Anchor Bay DVDs now for the stated \$89.95 price.

I eagerly await Season 2. The official website indicates it is now available (although the bbs implies that nobody has actually _received_ one yet ...) They also have all six seasons on VHS plus the only season of Highlander: The Raven - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Musical Notes

by Tom Tuerff

Lotsa stuff this month, so let's get going: **Dr. Demento's Hits from Outer Space** (Laugh.com)

This is the first release by Dr. D on **George Carlin's** new Laugh.com label. And while the good doctor thankfully forgoes yet another release of *Purple People Eater* in lieu of songs from the last 25 years, the package is still somewhat wanting. Which is not entirely his fault. Laugh.com, in an effort to put out budget-priced CDs, spends very little in the way of printing, so an accordion foldout of short bios about the artists that accompany the Doctor's other CDs is not to be found here.

That said, the musical selection is very good, and there's a very exciting local connection. The CD contains not one but two songs by Phoenix's own **Leslie Fish**. *Carmen Miranda's Ghost*, a song about the title character inhabiting a spaceship, and the ultimately inescapable, inevitable *Banned* from both appear here. This Argo is short as versions of this song go, clocking in at well under ten minutes. And the bluegrass accompaniment by the Dehorn crew is unexpected and wonderful.

Along with Leslie, you get just a few too many Star Trek songs, some Star Wars songs, and a couple of really weird things, like Boots Walk's bizarre *They're Here* and the *Ballad of William Robinson*, by none other than **Bill Mumy**, who of course would someday go on to become half of Barnes and Barnes and a Dr. Demento staple. This CD is definitely entertaining but I think Dr. D. could have thought a little harder about the song selection, at least as far as the Final Frontier goes...

Four Shillings Short: Of Labour and Love www.art.net/4ss)

The latest release from California's **Aodh Og O Tuama** and wife **Christy Martin** may be their best set yet. This studio CD really showcases the amazing musical fusion that these two are so ably capable of in concert. I don't know which


side of the political spectrum you fall, and I don't much care, but this is a band that is very much on the left at times. Which leads me to my favorite song here, *Have a Nice Day* by **Mark Graham**, a tune that could embarrass a fundie at 100 yards. **Christy Martin's** musical talent is indeed incredible. From sitar to dulcimer and virtually everywhere in between, she and the hubby truly create beautiful music together. And you ought to get into it soon.

The Bringers and Friends: Ramblers and Rovers (self-produced) **Michi Regier: Curved Space** (self-produced)

Hurrah and huzzah and all that's The Bringers are back! And back big time. This time, the nucleus Drummer **Vash**, Fiddler **Michi** and digeridue **Byron** are joined by folks the Bringers met while playing renaissance festivals. The results are simply fantastic. Highlights include *The Kiss Set*, a rousing round of reels to get things going, *Fire Down Below*, a song made to be sung by a bunch of drunk-sounding boars, receives the correct treatment here. Some critics reviewing the Bringers first CD complained that the group appeared incapable of playing slowly. Such rumors come to rest with this CD. The band almost purposely includes slow songs on this CD in order to please those who like that sort of thing. But by the end of the CD, the group is blazing along in fine Bringers fashion, so don't be discouraged if the first few songs aren't fast enough for you they're coming, for sure.

Michi, the Bringers amazing fiddle player, has released a homemade CD as well, highlighting her formidable classical and traditional folk chops. From Bach to Paganini, from Hungary to Sweden, **Michi's** incredible sense of tone and timing make this a very interesting CD. She also includes a few of her own compositions, and they're all quite good.

You can pick up both CDs from the Bringers at their shows, or at their website, www.thebringers.com. *Tom Tuerff reviews CDs for ConNotations. If you have a filk-related CD for him to review, send him one, give him one, play it live over the phone, he doesn't care.*



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Gamer's Corner

Video Game History 101: In The Beginning By Shane Shellenbarger

The birth of the modern video game arrived on a day in 1958, when *Tennis For Two* was born. The proud parents, William Higinbotham and the physicist's team were working at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Suffolk County, Long Island, New York. Brookhaven was also the home of the Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor and the Cosmotron, the first billion-electron-volt particle accelerator that would later go on to achieve a Nobel Prize-winning discovery. The problems for Higinbotham were the Russians and 50's horror films: the Cold War was heating up and atomic radiation was being blamed for everything from giant ants to the end of the world. The community that surrounded BNL was generally of the opinion that the Laboratory posed a clear and present danger to the health and welfare of the people in the area. BNL attempted to allay the fears of the local public by hosting a visitor's day where the interesting – but non-threatening-research being conducted could be demonstrated. The guests came, were generally bored by the blinking lights and whirring sounds generated by the mainframe computers, and they left. Their blasé attitude inspired Higinbotham into action. "I knew that from past visitor's days that people were not much interested in static exhibits, so for that year, I came up with an idea for a hands-on display-a video game," said the late Willy Higinbotham. Using his background as an advanced radar systems physicist for the Manhattan Project, Higinbotham gathered together his team to create the necessary elements for what he would ultimately name *Tennis For Two*.

They programmed the trajectory of a blip of light on an analog computer, and then added two control boxes, each with a "serve" button and a knob to control the movement of the ball, and the game was displayed on a 5" monochromatic oscilloscope screen. Debuting in the Instrumentation Division display at the next visitor's day the game was an instant hit with people waiting hours to play. Higinbotham never marketed nor patented the device, and while it was programmed on a computer and used an oscilloscope, there can be little doubt that *Tennis For Two* was the early ancestor to the video game that started the fad that hasn't faded, *Pong*.



The next major step along the road involved the contribution of the pulp space opera writer, E.E "Doc" Smith. That's not to say that Smith set out to invent video games or even that he knew that his writings were inspiring those people who would be inventing video games, but without Smith and his literary legacy the landscape of modern video games, a multi-billion dollar industry, might not exist. "Doc" Smith's *Lensman* and *Skylark* novels were a major influence in 1961 on three MIT students, Wayne Wiitanen, Stephen "Slug" Russell, and J.M. Graetz. Combine Smith's imagery, the imagination and technical innovation of three college students, and the 4 bay PDP-1 solid state mini-computer donated to MIT from Digital Equipment Corporation and you get the worlds first video game to use stratagems: Spacewar! When the trio wasn't discussing Bergenholm Inertialess Drives, DeLameters firing simultaneously at zwilnik strongholds, and incomprehensible gigawatts of energy flooding force screens as they flared into the ultraviolet, they devoured the latest Toho releases that depicted atomic monstrosities breathing radioactive death over a fleeing Japanese populace. That was the atmosphere in which fermented the ideas that became the forty pages of paper-punched program code inputted into the PDP-1 when it was first translated from TX-O after it was created and translated from MACRO and FLIT. In addition to Wiitanen, Russell, and Graetz, contributions were made by LISP specialist Dan Edwards; MIDAS (successor to MACRO) writer Robert A. "RAS" Saunders; and Peter Sampson, who got the PDP-1 and Tixo to play Bach.

After the software was written and tested, hardware problems needed to be resolved. Try to imagine two QUAKE players hunched over one keyboard where one incorrectly pressed key would restart the game and you'll have some idea what challenges the developers faced. Members of the Tech Model Railroad Club, Bob Saunders and Alan Kotok, made their way to the TMRC room and scavenged materials. Some cobbling time later, two control boxes were created. Add a CRT and connect everything to the PDP-1 and the boys were in business.

A simple yet elegant game, Spacewar! originated with two spaceships, a depleting fuel supply, and phosphor dot torpedoes. It evolved when later elements included accurate constellations with fifth magnitude and higher stars, a gravity-well "Heavy Star", and Hyperspace. Players could use the gravity-well in combination with their propulsion system to whip around the Sun and catch their opponent unawares. Of course, when both players used the same move it produced the "CBS opening" display as both ships turn slightly away from the Sun, use their thrusters, and then rotate their ships back into a position to fire torpedoes at the enemy player.

The game became so popular and interrupted the computer lab so much that it could only be played during lunch hour

and after 5 p.m. Students and faculty alike came from all over MIT to see what the fuss was all about and then stayed to wait for their crack at the game. It fit like a hand in a glove that Spacewar! would be a part of the annual Science Open House in May of 1962. Scoring was added to limit matches to a certain number of points and a laboratory CRT was connected to the computer as a secondary display to provide a view for anxious onlookers. In that same month, at the first DECUS (Digital Equipment Computer Users' Society) meeting, J.M. Graetz presented the first paper on the subject, entitled "Spacewar! Real-Time Capability of the PDP-1." This may have been a form of justification of the hundreds of hours spent on the game. Russell considered ways of commercializing the game, but given the cost of the system, he and the rest of the innovators settled for disseminating it to everyone they could think of who had access to a computer or a programmable CRT. Spacewar! went on to take up

residence on nearly every PDP built by DEC, made it as Atari founder, Nolan Bushnell's Computer Space into the 1973 film "Soylent Green", and released to arcades everywhere in 1978 by Cinematronics as Space Wars. Modifications would later spawn games like Asteroids, Lunar Lander, and Tempest, but that's another story for another time.
<http://www.lucyfan.com/cbseye.html>
<http://www.pong-story.com/thefirst.htm>
<http://www.pong-story.com/atpong1.htm>
<http://www.jitterbug.com/origins/doc.html>
<http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/gaming/>
<http://www.classicgaming.com/museum/pong/>
<http://www.humnri.com/Enter/games/default.asp>
<http://www.osti.gov/accomplishments/videogame.html>
<http://www.stanford.edu/~jjshed/spacewar/index.html>



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In Our Book

Star Wars: New Jedi Order Series Destiny's Way by Walter Jon Williams October 2002; 480 pages

With the fourteenth installment of the New Jedi Order series by Del Rey, *Destiny's Way* has a rounded out cast of twenty-four characters as well as their intertwining subplots. This book has several themes running through the story; the most significant themes concern the destiny of Jacen Solo and the turning point of the war with the Yuuzhan Vong.

As the story unfolds, the reader learns that the New Republic is still fighting skirmishes and introducing new ways to circumvent the Yuuzhan Vong advantage. The New Republic government is falling apart as elections begin for a new Chief of State. The Skywalkers, Solos and their comrades begin to collaborate on how to preserve the tattered government and win against the Yuuzhan Vong as odds dictate against an amicable solution. Resentment between the military officers and government officials escalate, causing desperate friends to resolve! the issues with the military, politicians, and Jedi.

After elections, the Jedi Council reforms, with some modifications, and becomes the High Council; all the while, a secret biological weapon is being developed for future use by the New Republic. Later the High Council rejects the use of such a weapon but the Chief of State overrides their vote with his authority. Master Skywalker again finds himself in the political arena in order to diffuse a dangerous situation.

Amid the chaos, Jacen Solo returns to the loving embraces of his friends and family after his escape from the Yuuzhan Vong with his friend and teacher, Vergere. Many are skeptical of her motivations and Vergere becomes a prisoner of the New Republic.

In his quest to understand Jacen, his ordeal, his new friend, and the Force, Master Luke Skywalker questions Vergere in her prison cell intensely. There in confrontation with the avian, Luke finds a perspective he had not realized before about the nature of the Force and himself. Though not convinced of her intentions, Luke has the avian stay in the Skywalker apartment and far away from Jacen Solo.

After taking an imposed, but well needed, vacation by Master Skywalker, Jacen then reenters the war. With Jacen directing the battle from his mind, the Jedi fighter pilots melding with one another in coordination, the New Republic sets a trap for their invaders. The bait of Jaina and Jacen Solo proves to be wise as the Yuuzhan Vong fall into the ambush easily. A decisive victory for the New Republic forces echoes loudly and the Yuuzhan Vong flee from their failure.

Walter Jon Williams does a wonderful job explaining the answers to many of the questions that have arisen in the New Jedi

Order series. There are a few surprises and returning characters. In addition to seeing Mara in action, Lando and Karrade being inventive businessmen, and the makings of a romance between Jacen and Danni Quee, the reader is not disappointed save one: Ben Skywalker. Holovids and pictures of the youngster is not enough, will Luke and Mara ever become participants in their baby's life? Readers, especially this one, would like to see this family dynamic developed.

I read this book in less than two days. However as with any novel, too many subplots and characters causes the story to feel slow in places and much needed character interactions are written as exposition. Overall, the novel is well written and enjoyable. Entertaining and enlightening, I recommend this novel to anyone reading in the Extended Universe.
- Dawn Mullan

Star Wars: New Jedi Order Series Traitor by Matthew Woodring Stover Del Rey July 30, 2002; 292 pages

This book is the thirteenth addition to the New Jedi Order series in the Star Wars Extended Universe. Devoted mainly to Jacen Solo and a cast of five other characters, this story is not only intriguing but also perplexing. Fluid and omniscient, the author, Matthew Woodring Stover, demonstrates an acute knowledge of the Star Wars Universe as well as the ability to entertain and mortify concurrently.

From the first page, the book entices the reader to learn more about Yuuzhan Vong culture, religion, and politics. We learn that the Yuuzhan Vong are a highly religious people whose main goal is to suffer. Pain intensive activities are especially pious for the Yuuzhan Vong. These aliens believe suffering brings them closer to their gods.

Their belief system suppresses original thought and creativity. The religion has evolved into a severe controlling entity producing a strict caste system, an oligarchic regime of priests, shapers, and warlords. Those Yuuzhan Vong, who are found unworthy of glory by reason of failure or physical deficiency, become members of the lowest caste called the Shamed Ones. These lowly subjects are the slaves of the society leading some Shamed Ones to resent their upper caste contemporaries.

One ally to the aliens is a strange avian-like creature and Jedi Knight, named Vergere. Throughout the story this mysterious and treacherous being tortures Jacen Solo, so that he may extend his current comprehension of the Force. Both physically and philosophically, Vergere employs her unique and devious means of instructing the young Jedi Knight. The Yuuzhan Vong believe Vergere is teaching Jacen their True Path. she is – but not the path he was expected to take. She leads Jacen to the path he must take to fulfill his destiny.

As he grows more mature by the hour, the young Solo son learns about the strange alien species that has declared

war on his galaxy. Even though he suffers many unforgivable and heinous experiences, he finds he does not hate the Yuuzhan Vong nor does he resent his tormentor, Vergere. In the midst of his torture and refinement, Jacen Solo begins to understand his true nature. With his lessons learned, Jacen and Vergere escape to the New Republic.

Matthew Woodring Stover handles many subplots converging onto one another creatively with a passion and detail unrivaled in the Extended Universe. The novel is a strong psychological thriller as well as a science fiction novel. Traitor did not leave the reader confused. Rather, the reader becomes more infatuated with every turn of the page and is committed to reading the entire book instantly. - Dawn Mullan

We are not amused, Sir Guillaume by Scott Farrell Shining Armor Enterprises, \$12.99

I have sometimes heard short, humorous essays described as, "Good bathroom reading." This is literally the case with *We are not amused, Sir Guillaume*. The folks selling the book at the recent "Estrella War" posted excerpts inside the doors of the porta-johns, at reading position for those comfortably seated. Excellent advertising, and handy if the T.P. runs out. Sir Guillaume (who has served as Baron of Califia and King of Caid) is sort a "Dave Barry" among the medieval re-creationists of the Society For Creative Anachronism (SCA). The book is a collection of his humor columns from the Caid newsletter, "Crown Prints."

The stories are rollicking accounts of SCA life and fractured medieval histories, always with a warm heart and returning to the ideals of chivalry and friendship. My copy should properly be called "Kung Pao Guillaume," because of the stains from the many spit-takes it induced during lunchtime reading.

Look for the book at larger southwestern SCA events; order it from Shining Armor Enterprises, 8539 Dunwoodie Road, Santee CA 92071; or www.sirguillaume.com. The price is \$12.99 plus \$3.50 Shipping. - Randall Whitlock

Night Watch by Terry Pratchett Harper-Collins Hardback \$24.95

A friend passed me a reviewer copy of this, Terry Pratchett's latest Discworld novel. I guess I'm morally obligated to write a review. Don't worry, the hard cover edition is already on the shelves.

Things are going very well for Sam Vimes, commander of the Anhk-Morpork City Watch. Since we first met him years ago in *Guards Guards* he has been elevated to Duke and built the city watch from a dispirited bribe mill into an effective and honest police force. He and Lady Sybil are expecting the birth of their first child at any moment. Still, Vimes sometimes longs for the old days, when he was just a plain copper who knew

every brick of the city streets by its feel beneath his boots. Be careful what you wish for, Sam. In hot pursuit of a cold-blooded cop-killer across the rooftops of Unseen University's library of magical books, lightning strikes nearby. Vimes awakes to find himself in the city as it was thirty years ago, right before a dangerous period of civil unrest - and the killer has traveled with him!

Vimes must assume the role of his mentor, Sergeant John Keel, and with the help of sweeper Lu Tze of the History Monks (seen in *Thief of Time*), must make sure that history follows its proper course.

I enjoyed the book thoroughly, as I have the entire Discworld universe. Mr. Pratchett never seems to run out of ideas in his highly varied world. Sam Vimes and the coppers of the watch are some of my favorite characters. With them, Mr. Pratchett has built an excellent series of police procedurals, adapted to humor fantasy. **Randall Whitlock**

Wondrous Beginnings Edited By Stephen H. Silver and Martin H. Greenberg DAW, Approx. 316 pages, PB \$6.99

Wondrous Beginnings, a DAW January 2003 mass market paperback, is a Wonderful collection of first Science Fiction publications by well known authors in the field. Most authors, Orson Scott Card, for example, wrote stories almost exactly like their later output.. Others like Barry Malzberg wrote stories quite unlike their later efforts.

Stephen H. Silver provides a wonderful introduction to the book. He compares the Launch of an author's career to the launch of ships through history, the Vasa, The Shuttle Columbia and the HMS Beagle. He holds the unspectacular launch of the Beagle to be very like that of a new author for much time passed before the Beagle achieved fame. He draws the distinction between first publication and first sale. Some authors have sold up to two stories only to have their third sale actually achieve print first. That is their first publication.

Take note of L. Sprague de Camp's "Isolinguals" for it has been reprinted only once before. It may be new to many fans. It contains themes which de Camp re-visited in "A Gun for Aristotle" and "Lest Darkness Fall."

The stories are all readable. Most are excellent. The book includes an introduction by the author if he or she is still with us. If the author is unavailable, someone close to the author writes it. In the back of the book are mini-bios of all contributors.

Authors included are Murray Leinster, Ann McCaffrey, Hal Clement, Arthur C. Clarke, Gene Wolfe, George R.R. Martin, Howard Waldrop, Jack McDevitt, Jerry Oltion, Lois McMaster Bujold, Stephen Baxter, Catherine Asaro, Michael A. Burstein and Julie E. Czerneda.

The book is fascinating for the capsule of insight it gives into the history and

(Cont'd on page 20)

In Our Book (cont'd from page 19)

thought processes of the authors. The editors are to be commended. This is an example of what the alliance of an academic (Silver) and a experienced anthologist (Greenberg) can achieve. They should do it again. - **Gary Swaty**

Cold Streets

By P.N. Elrod

Ace Books, Approx. 316 pages, PB \$6.99

Cold Streets, an Ace Books January 2003 mass market paperback, is a Gritty Detective novel set in Depression Era Chicago at the Lady Crymsym Night Club. Our Detective/Nightclub owner is one Jack Fleming, a Vampire. The book evokes all the wonderful imagery of the period's night life, all the action and suspense of the period Detective novel and all the horror associated with Vampires and the supernatural.

Jack combines his two vocations well. The action is continuous throughout. Our detective gets no break. He solves a kidnaping, resolves personnel problems at the Nightclub, confronts the New York Mob representatives and on and on. The action carries you from start to finish. You can't put the thing down.

The characters are well drawn. The Bohemian performers at the club are especially satisfying. Bobbi Smythe, the

nightclub singer/girlfriend, Adelle, the former silent screen star(now in clubs and on radio), Faustine Petrova (Russian Ballerina), Myrna (the dead barmaid) and others. The gangsters are believable. The brutal kidnapper, Dugan is villain anyone would love to hate.

I would recommend this book to detective fans, Horror fans and Fantasy Fans. It is suitable for mature teens and adults. - **Gary Swaty**

Angelica

by Sharon Shinn

ACE, 496 pages, \$23.95

Over two hundred years ago the god Jovah brought the people to Samaria and enjoined them to live in harmony. For two hundred years the Angels, city dwellers and the nomads have tried to follow the strictures of god. They gave up all technology to prevent the development of the weapons. They hold the Gathering each year so that all the different people could meet and mix.

All was well until suddenly small groups of people started to be incinerated. How was it being done? Who was doing it? How could the people protect themselves? No one knows and everyone is afraid.

Angelica is a return to the world of Samaria, home of the Archangel trilogy. A rich and well textured world, interesting and likable characters, and the masterful interweaving of the two

suspense filled plot lines makes Angelica an excellent novel. Sharon Shinn's newest novel is a welcome addition to my library and I would recommend it as a good fantasy novel. The press release that came with this book claims that it is "A rich fantasy with crossover appeal to romance readers." Sense I read action adventure and sci-fi instead of romances I don't know how it compares to other romance novels but it is definitely a rich fantasy. - **William B. Whitmore**

The Other Wind

by Ursula K. Le Guin

Ace Trade Paperback, 273 pp, \$13.95

The Other Wind is a continuation of the Earthsea series and is the first new Earthsea novel in over a decade. Alder, a maker, fears sleep because of dreams of his deceased wife reaching out to him across the wall that divides the living from the dead. He realizes that the dead want him to free them from the prison of not being reborn. He seeks advice from Ged, the former archmage, who, in turn sends him to the king to organize the mages to deal with the incipient change. The dragons are now returning, enraged that their contract with humankind has been broken. Alder must remake the world, free the dead to be reborn, and the dragons to return to the other wind.

Like any work of Le Guin's, *the Other Wind* speaks to us on many levels, not only the relationship of man to magic, to

power, and materialism, but to the very meaning of life and death. Is it a tome where philosophy is argued to death and the reader to sleep? Or is it a tale that holds your interest and carries the reader to the conclusion with quiet passion. Obviously the latter, but with depth in passing that makes one think, and dream. This is a must have for anyone who loved the Earthsea series. If you haven't read them, you'll want to go back and do so. Writing this pure, and truthful demands it. In a five star rating system it deserves a 10. - **Pam Allan**

The Sword of the Land

by Noel-Anne Brennan

ACE, 368 pages, \$6.99

Princess Rilsin is eight years old and her world is being turned upside down. Her cousins the Milisin's have staged a coup and now her whole family is being slaughtered in a civil war. The last surviving Becha she is spared the fate of the rest of her family and is raised in the Milisin household. She is oath bound and trained to become her cousins first minister. But as they grow it becomes obvious that her cousin is not fit to rule. What can Rilsin do? The very land sings in her blood calling out to her for help, but she is oath bound to support her cousin. How can she heal the land? How can she help the people? How can justice be restored?

Sword of the Land is a well written

COPPERCON 22

THANK YOU!!! to our hard-working volunteers who made this convention better. We are pleased to give complimentary memberships to CopperCon 23, September 5th-7th, 2003 to the following people. If you do not see your name on this list, and feel that it should be, please contact us: CopperCon, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ, 85082, or email: CopperconComps@casfs.org

Pass-thru memberships are neither transferable nor refundable and are only available for CopperCon 23 in 2003.

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Terri Spencer
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Adam Tuerff
Susan Uttke
Larry Vela
Alex Verducco
Jim Webbert
John Wheeler
Janet White
Lee Whiteside
Craig Wilcox
Ashley Wiley
Mike Willmoth
Elizabeth Woodward

In Our Book (cont'd from page 20)

sword and sorcery novel. It has a well constructed story line, interesting characters and a distinct "Arthurian" flavor. This is not a gore soaked hack and slash. It is a realistic moral dilemma where Rilsin has the hard task of choosing the "least bad" of her many very bad options. This book was enjoyable to read and I would recommend it to all. - **William B. Whitmore**

The Speed of Dark
by Elizabeth Moon
Ballantine Books, 340 pp, \$23.95

The Speed of Dark is a departure from Elizabeth Moon's usual excellent science fiction although it takes place in the future. Lou Arrendale was born to reap the benefits of a medical science where genetic defects can be removed at birth. As one of a small group of high functioning autistic adults, he is a productive worker with a pharmaceutical company defining fractal patterns into programs, a talent inherent in the very defect that defines his autism. He has friends, a car, and a passion for fencing. He lives a contented, low key, independent life and tries to be as normal as possible. A new manager comes in and wants to remove all the supports necessary to employ the autistic workers, despite their high productivity. He wants them to take an experimental treatment

that may reverse the effect of autism in adults. He wants them to be just like everyone else. "Normal" [whatever that is] Lou must decide if he wants to take the treatment and if he does who will he be. Will he lose the way he views the world, and the very essence of who he is.

This a brilliant book, provocative, told poignantly through the eyes and mind of an autistic person as he struggles to define his identity and the act of changing into the unknown person he might become. Well written, and thoughtful, its theme is universal. It is also a darn good read. I recommend it highly to all those readers in need of something beyond space opera. - **Pam Allan**

Redshift
edited by Al Sarrantonio
ROC, 665 pages, \$7.99

Redshift is the best collection of short stories I have ever read. The Theme of this collection is "extreme visions of speculative fiction" and Mr. Sarrantonio has collected 30 new stories for this book. With authors ranging from Michael Moorcock to Ursula K. Le Guin to Joyce Carol Oates this book covers a wide range of writing styles. In On K2 with Kanakaredes by Dan Simmons we go mountain climbing in the Himalayas with a friendly alien. A slow Saturday Night at the Surrealist Sporting Club by Michael Moorcock gives us an irreverent

conversation with God, while Black Tulip by Harry Turtledove offers a unique theory about why the soviets lost in Afghanistan. This is an extremely good collection of short stories written by some of today's finest authors specifically for this anthology. I strongly recommend this book and predict it will become a favorite in any library it joins. - **William B. Whitmore**



© Sherlock

CASFS Business Report

Supernal Readers

On Saturday April 5, 2003 CASFS and LepreCon Inc. will have adjacent tables at The Arizona Book Festival. Our activities at The Festival have greatly expanded this year. We have a corner booth with premium display space for the LepreCon Art, Barry's Freebies plus autograph tables. We got a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council to bring in David Brinn. We also have Doranna Durgin, Diana Gabaldon, Ernest Hogan, Lee Hogan, Dennis L. McKiernan, Adam Niswander, Jennifer Roberson, Michael A. Stackpole and John Vornholt. We have 90-minutes of stage time as well as our tables where the authors will gather, converse with readers and sign autographs.

Progress continues on HexaCon 13 (July 25-27, 2003). Work is proceeding apace on CopperCon 23 (September 5-7, 2003) where we have Connie Willis as our Author, David Mattingly as our Artist, and Larry Warner for Filk.

Final Financial Reports for HexaCon 12 and 22 are still pending, but the numbers are good. It is a matter of income tracking. Where did the money come from rather than where did it go.

Until next time
The Busy Scribe

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WORLD HORROR CONVENTION 2004 APRIL 8-11, 2004

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WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION 2004

October 28-31, 2004

Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, Arizona

Guests To Be Announced

Memberships are \$100 through 4/30/03, \$110 after

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For info, contact Chair Mike Willmoth at:

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Club Listings

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Please check your club listing for errors. Please send corrections and updates to the editor in writing to P.O. Box 62613, Phoenix AZ 85082 or via email at clubs@casfs.org)

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.

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@earthlink.net Web: <http://www.lanparty.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 TusCon Convention annually. Webpage: <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa> Email: basfa@earthlink.net

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

C.R.O.F.T. Celtic Reenactment of Fellowship and Trades is Phoenix based Reenactment group specializing in the western European renaissance. As an organization, it is our goal to promote fellowship while researching lifestyles and trades concurrent with the Celtic Peoples from 400 BC until 1746 AD. Although most members claim Scots, Irish or Welsh ancestry and do Celtic reenactment, it is our intent to open participation to anyone with an interest in period crafting and entertainment, no matter what his/her ethnicity. The sense of being a real village surrounding Croft is vital to promote a feeling of family and fellowship which was a reality in earlier times. Croft is a family-oriented and kid-friendly organization. C.R.O.F.T. members can be found demonstrating in events such as the Highland Games, Scarborough Fair, and the Arizona Renaissance Festival. Web page <http://www.crofters.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 www.darkones.org

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, belly dance, 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>

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 Bart Smith (Phoenix) (602)937-6995 or Leonard Bird (Tucson) (520)742-2432 Web: www.galandor.org

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, 480-945-6890, Email mwillmoth@compuserve.com www.leprecon.org

MIB The Men in Black is the official organization of field operatives for Steve Jackson Games. They attend local conventions to demonstrate and promote products of Steve Jackson Games. They also schedule demos in local gaming stores. If you have a gaming store or convention that you would like to have official Steve Jackson Games representation at, please contact the MIB Arizona Cell Leader at justjessie@mindspring.com.

ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB meets last Wednesday of every month (except Dec.) We frequently have author guest speakers. You're all welcome to come if you're in the area. We meet in Fullerton, about 5 miles north of Disneyland. For more details ph. Greg at [949] 552-4925 or send a message to our listserve OCSF@yahoo.com

PAREx is a non-profit, just for fun organization dedicated to the proliferation of robotics as a hobby. Monthly meetings will be held and will be announced under the Meeting Information page, <http://www.parex.org/meetinfo.htm>. All interested persons are invited to participate. We are currently in the process of getting organized and becoming an official organization with tax status. Web page: <http://www.parex.org/> E-mail Contact: John Kittelsrud, johnkit@teamdroid.com

THE PHOENIX FANTASY FILM SOCIETY

A Phoenix based club interest-ed 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.

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 AZ 85202-3144 or 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 8159 W. Weldon in Phoenix every Sunday from 3pm-9pm (except during conventions and other special events). Open to new members - call (602) 849-9515. www.rawgames.org

REBEL LEGION - JUNDLAND OUTPOST The Jundland Outpost is a small band of Rebels which form a part of the rapidly growing Rebel Legion. While it's main focus is Star Wars costuming, much like it's 501st counterpart the Dune Sea Garrison, the Jundland Outpost's mission is to brighten up the lives of children and Star Wars fans of all ages across the Phoenix Metro area and eventually other parts of Arizona as well. Members also make appearances with other Star Wars organizations as part of a joint effort to help with Charities and events around Arizona. If you have an event you would like us to appear at, please contact us at azrebellion@cox.net.

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 South-western 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 Klingon Vessel). A Klingon Bird of Prey, roaming 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/>

Club Listings (Cont'd from page 22)

SHADOWKEEP BBS Intelligent conversation, awesome graphics, stupendous door games, unworldly filebank, RPG forums, QWK message system and online RPG BBS-mode-rated 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: myrddina1@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 costume. Members are often seen on stage and behind the scenes at local and regional Science Fiction Convention masquerades. They meet on the last Sunday of each month at various members' homes in the greater Phoenix area. For details. Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix, AZ 85609 or Randall Whitlock at costumers@casfs.org or www.southwestcostumersguild.org

SPACE ACCESS SOCIETY Space Access Society's sole purpose is to promote radically cheaper access to space, ASAP. We think it's possible within ten years, with a little luck and a lot of hard work. Join us and help us make it happen! SAS membership is \$30 for one year, which gets you emailed Space Access Updates the instant they pass final edit, plus discounts on our annual conference on the technology, politics, and business of radically cheaper space transportation, featuring leading players in the field. Email us at: Space.Access@Space-Access.org Web page: www.space-access.org/

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

SUPERSTITION SPACEMODELING SOCIETY is Arizona's club for builders of model and high_power rockets and those who love to see them fly. Launches are held on the second Saturday morning of each month in Rainbow Valley. SSS

hosts the annual G. Harry Stine Memorial Rocket Launch every October. Visit www.sssrocketry.org for membership information, directions to the launches and meetings, and to read the monthly newsletter, "Newton's Minutes."

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 2243 W Wagon Wheel Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85021, 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 money order out for \$12.50 to: Official TekWar Fan Club (Membership section), 2522 N Sparkman Blvd., Tucson AZ 85716-2417

T.H.E.M. is ASU's science fiction and fantasy club. Weekly meetings are held on the Arizona State University campus, with dates and places to be announced after the semester starts. For more information, them@themonline.org www.themonline.org

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

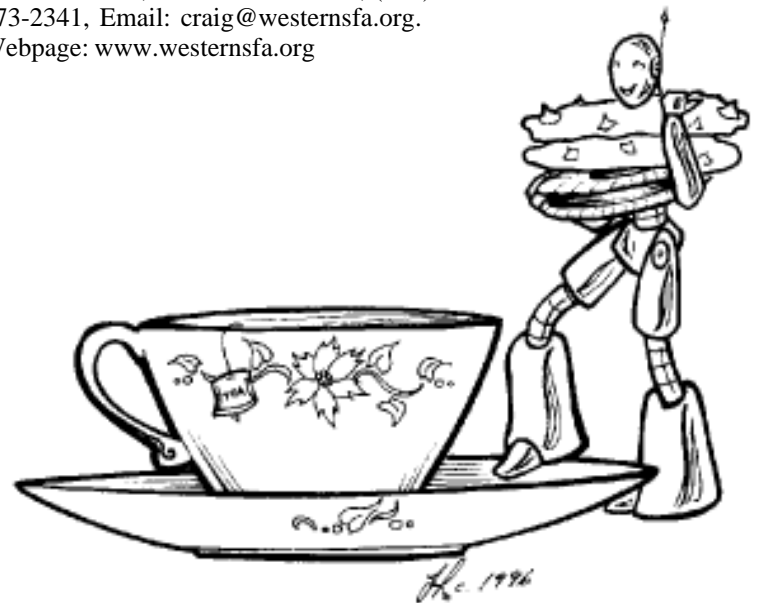
USS STORMBRINGER The Stormbringer is a correspondence Star Trek fan club chapter of Starfleet, Intl. based out of Tucson AZ. The chapter was commissioned as the USS Stormbringer NCC-74213, attached to Division 31, Starfleet Covert Operations, on 10/31/98. As of 11/29/98 there were 32 members. There are no dues other than the \$15 for joining Starfleet Intl.. Members are scattered world wide but the primary clusters are in Tucson, AZ and Plano, TX. They don't meet on a regular basis since they are a correspondence chapter. Their web site is: <http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Vault/9505/> and their contact/CO is Capt. Dave Pitts, thepitts52@hotmail.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 25 years of continuous activity. Dues are \$15/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

WESTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION (WesternSFA) A non-profit corporation that sponsors the ConRunners seminars and is sponsoring the 2004 Westercon. Dedicated primarily to educational activities relating to literature, music, and visual and performing arts, especially in the genres of science fiction, fantasy, costuming, gaming and science. Applicants for membership in WesternSFA must be sponsored by a current active WesternSFA member. Dues are \$10 yearly plus a \$5 non-refundable application fee. General Meetings are held on the first Friday of February, May, August and November, usually at the home of a member. Guests are welcome. For more info contact Craig Dyer at WesternSFA, PO Box 87457, Phoenix AZ 85082, (602) 973-2341, Email: craig@westernsfa.org. Webpage: www.westernsfa.org



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

JB's

is family

2560 W. Indian School Rd.

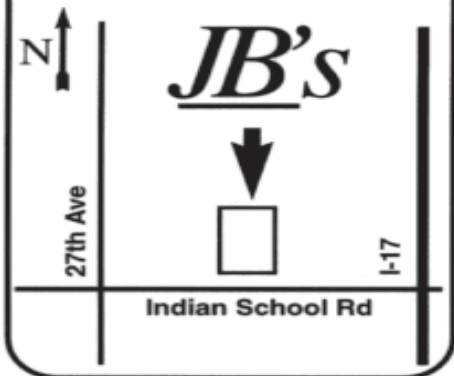
JB's Family Restaurant

wishes to thank
CASFS
for their patronage
over the years.

Our banquet room is
available for large groups.
Call to make reservations!

(602) 264-3608

Kenny & Maureen Borden



Convention Listings

Phoenix Cactus Comic Con (Phoenix AZ) **Sunday April 13th, 2003** 9 AM to 3 PM Location: Glendale Civic Center 5750 W. Glenn Drive, Glendale, AZ Info: phoenixcomicon@aol.com.

LepreCon 29 (Phoenix, AZ) **May 16-18, 2003** Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, AZ Artist GoH: Larry Elmore; Local Artist/Author GoH: Madame M; Media Technical Guest: Richard Coyle; Author Guest: TBA; Music Guest: TBA Memb: \$25 until 8/31/02, \$30 until 12/31/02 Hotel: info: Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 W. Greenway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85023-4222, (602)375-1777 Room Rates: \$89 S/D, \$99 T/Q (plus tax) Info: LepreCon 29, P.O. Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285 Phone: (480)945-6890 Email: lep29@leprecon.org Web: www.leprecon.org

ConRunners 5 (Phoenix AZ) **June 14, 2003** A day long seminar on fan-run science fiction conventions. Are there things you would like to see at local conventions? Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes in planning a convention? Then this is the place for you! Come, let your ideas be heard and pick up some tips from others. Registration opens at 8:30AM. Our Morning Session will be from 9AM to 1PM and the topic is Convention Security. Lunch Break 1PM-2PM Afternoon Session 2PM to 4PM: Guest Liaison; 4PM-6PM Post LepreCon 29 discussion. We will provide soda, coffee, tea and light munchies Membership: \$15 For more info: ConRunners, PO Box 67457, Phoenix AZ 85082 or call 602-973-2341 ConRunners@westernsfa.org www.westernsfa.org

Westercon 56 (SeaTac, WA) **July 3-6, 2003** Doubletree Seattle Airport Hotel. Guests: Writer: Bruce Sterling, Artist: Lisa Snellings, Toastmaster: Connie Willis, Science: Dr. Michio Kaku Science, Fan: Saul Jaffe, Editor: Claire Eddy Membership rates thru May 1, 2003: \$65 attending, \$30 Supporting Hotel: Doubletree Seattle Airport Hotel. 18740 International Blvd in Seatac, WA Room rates are \$109.00 per night plus tax

for up to 4 people. (206) 246-8600 for reservations Info: Westercon 56, PO Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111 Phone: (206) 723-9906, Email: info@wester56.org Web: <http://www.wester56.org/>

Bubonicon 35 (Albuquerque, NM) **August 22-24, 2003** Howard Johnsons East. Guests: Author: Charles De Lint, Artist: TBA, Toastmistress: Melinda M. Snodgrass Memb: \$22 thru May 26. Hotel Howard Johnson East, 15 Hotel Circle NE (Eubank & I-40) Albuquerque NM (296)4852 or 800-877-4852 Rates: \$55 S/D/T/Q Info: NMSF Conference, PO Box 37257, Albuquerque NM 87179

CopperCon 23 (Phoenix, AZ) **Sept 5-7, 2003** Literary oriented SF/F Convention Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, Arizona Guests: Author GoH: Connie Willis, Artist GoH: David Mattingly; Music GoH Larry Warner Memb: \$30 thru 4/30/03, \$35 thru 8/25/03, \$40 at the door Hotel Rates: Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 E. Greenway Rd, Phoenix, AZ (602) 375-1777. Rooms: \$79 S/D, \$89 T, \$99 Q (plus tax) Info: CopperCon 23, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082, Phone (480) 423-0649, Email: cucon@casfs.org ; Website: www.casfs.org

Conjecture 2003 (San Diego, CA) **Oct 3-5, 2003** DoubleTree Mission Valley Hotel, San Diego CA. GoH: Robert Charles Wilson Memb: TBA Info: ConJecture, Box 927388, San Diego CA 92192 email: info@conjecture.org website: www.conjecture.org

TusCon xXx (30) (Tucson, AZ) **Nov 14-16, 2003** InnSuites Hotel, Tucson AZ Guests: TBA Memberships: \$35 until 5/18/03, \$40 until 9/07/03, and \$45 after that and at the door. One-days are \$15/30/15 for Fri/Sat/Sun. Children (ages 3-12) are 1/2 current adult rates. Hotel: InnSuites Hotel, 475 North Granada, Tucson AZ 85701 Per night rates are \$69 (studio room) or \$79 (2-room suite). Reservations: 1-877-446-6589, Fax: 520-623-8922, Local: 520-622-3000 Info: TusCon, PO Box 27307, Tucson AZ 85726-7307 FAX us at: 520-571-7180, or call Cristi at 520-881-3709 or Rebecca at 520-293-1455 Email: basfa@earthlink.net Web: <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/>

Loscon 30 (Burbank CA) **November 28-30, 2003** Burbank Hilton and Convention Center hat we have departed Writer Guest: Fred Saberhagen; Artist Guest: Teddy Harvia; Fan Guest: Jack L. Chalker. Membership: \$35 thru 7/31/03 Hotel Rates: Burbank Hilton, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank CA (818)843-6000 Rooms: \$98 S/D/T/Q Suite \$118 S/D/T/Q. Info: Loscon 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601 Phone: (818) 760-9234 [LASFS Clubhouse; leave message E-mail: Loscon30.info@loscon.org Web: <http://www.loscon.org/loscon/30/index.html>

DarkCon 2004 (Phoenix, AZ) **Jan 9-11, 2004** Winter Gaming & SF/F Convention Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, AZ Memb: \$20 Hotel Rates: Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 E. Greenway Rd, Phoenix, AZ (602) 375-1777. Rooms: \$79 S/D, \$89 T, \$99 Q (plus tax) Info: (623) 435-9700; Email: darkcon@darkones.org; website: www.darkones.org

Gallifrey One's Fifteen Minutes of Fame (Los Angeles, CA) **Feb 13-16, 2004** The Airtel Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles, CA Guests: Colin Baker, Peter Davison + many more Memb: \$30 thru 5/31/03, \$35 thru 8/31/03, \$40 thru 11/30/03, \$45 thru 1/31/04 and \$50 at the door. Info: Gallifrey Conventions, Post Office Box 3021, North Hollywood, CA 91609 Email: info@gallifreyone.com

World Horror Convention 2004, (Phoenix AZ) **April 8-11, 2004** Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, AZ Guests: Editor Guest of Honour: Stephen Jones; Toastmaster: David Morrell; More To Be Announced Memberships: \$100 thru 3/31/03, \$110 after Hotel Rates: \$88 S/D/T/Q (plus tax); Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 E. Greenway Rd, Phoenix, AZ (602) 375-1777 Info: World Horror 2004, c/o LepreCon, Inc. PO Box 26665, Tempe AZ 85285; (480) 945-6890; e-mail: whc2004@leprecon.org; website: www.leprecon.org/whc2004

ConKopelli, Westercon 57 (Litchfield Park, AZ) **July 2-5, 2004** Wigwam Resort, Litchfield Park, AZ Guests: Author GoH: C.J. Cherryh; Artist GoH: David Cherry; Music GoH: Heather Alexander ; Fan GoH: John Hertz Info: Arizona in 2004 PO Box 67457 Phoenix, AZ 85082 Email: info@conkopelli.org Web: <http://www.conkopelli.org>

World Fantasy Convention 2004 (Tempe, AZ) **Oct 28-31, 2004**, Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ Guests: To Be Announced Memberships: \$100 thru 5/30/03, \$110 after Hotel Rates: \$155 S/D/T/Q (plus tax); Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ (800) 547-8705 Info: World Fantasy 2004, c/o LepreCon, Inc. PO Box 26665, Tempe AZ 85285; (480) 945-6890; e-mail: wfc2004@leprecon.org; website: www.leprecon.org/wfc2004

Musty Tomes

Wild Cards
edited by **George R.R. Martin**
Bantam, 408 pp
\$14.00, oversized softcover, I-Books

Wild Cards was originally published in 1986. Recently, these treasures have been reissued in the softcover oversized paperback. This is the very first book of what looks like an infinite series. Martin teamed up with a group of writers to produce what has been termed a "mosaic" book. Essentially, it is a novel composed of short, interrelated stories written by different writers. What is remarkable is how seamless the stories are and difficult it can be to determine where one writer left off and the next began.

In 1946, a group of aliens decided to test out a new virus on Earth before using it on their own planet. One of their own argued against the ethic of it and tried to stop them. He was not successful. The virus was released over New York City. And the world was never the same.

The virus opened up the human mind and caused changes - really dramatic changes in many. It caused death to many more. The ones that lived had to learn to live with those changes. Some of the changes were beneficial, even miraculous. Some were horrible beyond belief making monsters of the victim. Others were relatively mild and innocuous. But it seemed random chance that defined the degree. A turn of the cards, so to speak. And so the ones who benefitted were named Aces and the less fortunate were Jokers. The Aces became Super-Heroes and the Jokers were relegated to a ghetto.

And so we are introduced to Dr. Tachyon, the alien prince who tried to stop the experiment and Croyd Crenson, the Sleeper, whose wild card changes every time he falls asleep so he tries not to sleep for as long as possible. We also meet The Turtle, a mysterious man who flies inside a metal shell and becomes a great hero only to fall into disrepute. There was Golden Boy who was a real Superman and poor Blythe, also named "Brain Trust" who took people's memories and abilities. And as the series progresses chronologically, so do the players. These are absolutely wonderful and addicting stories. If you have never found them before, take advantage of these new issues to get acquainted. Anyone who has ever loved comic books and heroes will find these stories irresistible.- **Catherine Book**

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