

ConNotations

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August/September
2004

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

A Conversation with Todd Lockwood By Larry Vela & Velavision

Larry Vela of Velavision interviewed Todd Lockwood. We are privileged to print a transcript of that interview in ConNotations with the gracious permission of Mr. Lockwood and Velavision. Transcript of Todd Lockwood interview.

Larry Vela: Todd Lockwood, you are the guest of honor for CopperCon 24.

Todd Lockwood: Thank you very much. I'm looking forward to it.

LV: Todd, everybody has their start, what's your story?

TL: Oh what's my story? Well, that's not a short story, unfortunately.

I graduated from Colorado Institute of Art in 1981. And I planned to just head straight to New York City and start looking for book work. And my wife said "You don't really want to go to *New York*, do you?" Well, no, not really. So I stuck around Denver and it was just the wrong market for me. I was doing advertising, lottery tickets, Coors beer cans; I did a lot of satellite dishes. It just got to where I was doing crap work for people who had no clue; frustrated illustrators themselves. I had to get out. Meanwhile, I had agents in New York, and other places, and they didn't want to sell to this market. I'd had enough and about '94, kind of by chance, I got an opportunity to fill in for Chris

Moore on an Asimov's cover that he couldn't do. My agent was also his agent and the editor Terri Checkko (sp?) was very pleased, and she gave me another one, and was very pleased. And I asked how can I get more of this type of work? She said "hang your stuff at a science fiction fantasy convention."

I said "A what?" I really had no idea; I had never been to one. I had heard of GenCon, the gaming convention, but I wasn't interested in going. I enjoyed the game, but I wasn't willing to give up vacation time to travel somewhere and be that immersed in it. Although, I was plenty immersed in it in our own gaming group.

But I took her advice and went to Winnepeg in '94, with some stuff and (put it in) the art show. Some of it was very well received. Michael Whelan stopped me in the hall to tell me how much he liked "Cereberus." That was my convention right there. I went home inspired, and started going to more conventions and that was really the genesis. I met some of the right people at the right time, and was in the right place when TSR was looking for more artists to replace some guys who had left. It still kind of amazes me how fast it all

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CASFS Business Report

Salutations,

May

WesternSFA requested use of our art flats
and other convention supplies for
Westercon. Approved.

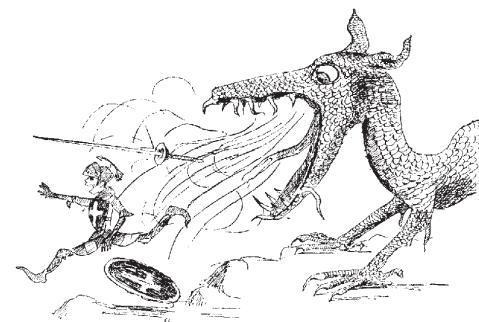
June

We turned over some badge laminates and
clips to Westercon.
We will be ordering a new badge punch.

We had nominations and elections for
various corporate offices. Here are the
results

Board of Directors -- Mark Boniece,
David Hungerford, and Lee Whiteside.
President -- Mark Boniece.
Vice President -- Lee Whiteside.
Treasurer -- Stephanie Bannon
Secretary -- David Hungerford
CopperCon 26 Chair -- Mark Boniece
CopperCon 26 Banker -- Kim Martin
HexaCon 16 Chair -- Sean Martin
HexaCon 16 Banker -- Stephanie Bannon

No Longer The "New" Guy



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SF Tube Talk

TV News & Previews

By Lee Whiteside

A few notes on some sad news in the genre TV area to start off with this issue. First of all, actor **Richard Biggs**, who portrayed Dr. Franklin on *Babylon 5*, passed away from an apparent heart attack on May 22, 2004. He was only 44 years old and leaves behind his wife and two children. A memorial fund has been set up for his children and donations can be sent to The Benefit of the Children of Richard Biggs, c/o Washington Mutual Bank, 840-N. San Fernando Blvd., Burbank, CA 91502. It was also recently announced that **James Doohan**, Scotty on the original *Star Trek* series, has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, which in addition to pulmonary fibrosis, Parkinson's and diabetes he has been fighting, has left the 84 year old actor in failing health. He will be awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at the end of August and special tribute convention is being held in Los Angeles with him and the other surviving original series cast members participating. For more information on the convention, visit <http://planetxpo.com/doohan>.

The *Stargate* Franchise expanded in July with the addition of *Stargate Atlantis* to the SciFi Channel schedule on Friday nights. As expected, lots of viewers tuned in making SciFi and MGM very happy in their expansion into new territory. There will be new episodes of each series on Friday nights through the end of August.

Stargate SG-1 sees the episode *Icon* where Daniel is stranded on another planet after the team's arrival on an alien world sparks a violent conflict between two nations, in *Avatar* Teal'c is trapped in a virtual reality simulation, in which he must defend the base from a Goa'uld super-soldier incursion. *Affinity* deals with the private lives of Teal'c and Carter when Teal'c finds himself in the middle of a dangerous dispute and becomes a murder suspect when he moves into an apartment off-base and Carter has second thoughts about maintaining a committed relationship with Pete Shanahan. *Covenant* sees a businessman threaten to expose the secrets of alien life to the world, forcing Stargate Command to bring him into the loop. **Charles G. Shaughnessy** guest stars as Alec Colson in what may end up as a recurring role.

Over on *Stargate Atlantis* during August, after a series of run-ins with the Wraith, the team begins to suspect their Athosian allies of having a spy in their midst in *Suspicion*, in *Childhood's End*, Sheppard and the team visit a world where no one is over 24 years old — because of a ritual suicide practice they believe keeps the Wraith at bay, in *Poisoning the Well*, the Atlantis team gates to another world used by the Wraith as a feeding ground — but whose people are on the brink of a discovery that may make them immune to their enemy, and in *Home*, McKay's efforts to harness the energy of an alien planet's at-

mosphere allows for a return trip to Earth — but the team may not be able to return to Atlantis.

Coming up on October 17th will be the return of *Farscape* to the SciFi Channel with the four hour miniseries *Farscape Peacekeeper War*. The movie picks up following the end of season four when SciFi cancelled the series. Due to the fan outcry and support, The Jim Henson Company and Hallmark Entertainment partnered with some other backers to produce the four hour miniseries with SciFi picking it up for broadcast after it was finished. Returning will be all the main cast (**Ben Browder** as Crichton, **Claudia Black** as Aeryn Sun, **Anthony Simcoe** as D'Argo, **Gigi Edgley** as Chiana, **Melissa Jaffer** and Noranti, **Wayne Pygram** as Scorpius, **Paul Goddard** as Stark, **Raelee Hill** as Sikoze, and **David Franklin** as Captain Braca) plus a few returning favorites such as **Tammy McIntosh** as Jool, **Kent McCord** as Jack Crichton, **Rebecca Riggs** as Commandant Grayza and possibly a few surprises they aren't admitting to. The miniseries will quickly resolve the situation that John and Aeryn found themselves in at the end of the fourth season and find them trying to get some peace and quiet while waiting for their baby to arrive. Needless to say, that doesn't last very long and John's wormhole knowledge drags them into a full-scale war between the Peacekeepers and the Scarrans. The budget for the miniseries allows for more special effects and lots of explosions.

USA Network will be wrapping up its genre shows in August getting ready to share Olympics coverage with their new owner, NBC. Their short run series, *The 4400* will finish up its last two episodes on Sunday nights before awaiting word on if it will be brought back. *The Dead Zone* will

quickly wrap up its season with double episodes on the last two Sundays of the series' summer run. There's no advance press information on these episodes, but expect things to ramp up with Greg Stilson and company as well as some revelations about the death of Rachel.

Following the success of the 20 episode micro-series *Star Wars Clone Wars*, the Cartoon Network will partner with LucasFilm for another set of episodes next March in advance of the release of *Star Wars Episode III*. Once again **Genndy Tartakovsky** will serve as director, co-screenwriter and executive producer of a new series of five 12 minute *Star Wars* epi-

(Continued on page 4)

24 Frames

Movie News

By Lee Whiteside

Boffo Box Office So Far For Summer

Kicking things off in June, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* debuted with a record weekend haul of over \$93 million in the U.S., the best of the three movies so far, and it looks on par to end up with total box office comparable to the second movie's take of \$262 million. *The Chronicles of Riddick* debuted strong with over \$24 million its opening weekend but has faded fast and definitely won't recoup its \$105 million production costs unless they sell an awful lot of DVDs. As anticipated, *Spider-Man 2* jumped out of the gate breaking records for movie box-office and looking to outdistance the first movie. With a Wednesday opening on a long holiday weekend, the movie set a new record for the first week with \$192 million, \$35 million above the prior record holder *Matrix Reloaded*. The end of *Spider-Man 2* made it quite clear that things are well under way for setting up *Spider-Man 3* planned for May 2007.

In the Works

Currently filming in London is **Tim Burton's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**, a new adaptation of the **Roald Dahl** book of the same name with **Johnny Depp** starring as Willy Wonka. Expect this movie to be more faithful to the original book and not to be a musical like the 1971 *Willy Wonka* movie. Look for it in July 2005. **Tim Burton** is also

working with Will Vinton Studios on a new stop-action animated movie, *The Corpse Bride*, for October 2005 release. Based on a Russian folk tale, it is set in a 19th century European village and deals with a young man (**Johnny Depp**) who gets married to the corpse of a murdered bride (**Helena Bonham Carter**), who is then resurrected.

Filming on **Peter Jackson's** remake of *King Kong* is expected to start in New Zealand in August. **Andy Serkis** will provide the reference for the title character as he did with Gollum in the *Lord of the Rings Trilogy*. Other casting announced are **Naomi Watts** (Ann Darrow), **Jack Black** (Carl Denham), **Adrien Brody** (Jack Driscoll), **Thomas Kretschmann** (Captain of the Venture), **Colin Hanks**, and **Kyle Chandler**. December 2005 is the target date for the movie's release.

Star Wars Episode III is well into post-production with some additional filming scheduled this summer with some of the cast. No official title has been released, but rumors seem to be leading towards *Rise of the Empire* or maybe *Revenge of the Sith*. Look for a larger role by Yoda including more lightsaber action with him and a big opening space battle. The big villain in the third movie will be General Grievous, who is described in the official Star Wars magazine as "part non-humanoid alien, part custom-designed druid, General Grievous hunted Jedi for sport and proudly displayed his victims' lightsabers around his belt as trophies of his conquests. His unorthodox fighting form and mechanical enhancements gave

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SF Tube Talk (Continued from page 3)

sodes to start airing March 21, 2005. We'll see more of Anakin, Obi-Wan, Mace Windu, Yoda and an expanded role of the new Episode III villain General Grevious who made an impressive debut in chapter 20 of *Star Wars Clone Wars*.

In the near term, Cartoon Network has new episodes of *Justice League Unlimited* and *Teen Titans* through the beginning of September on Saturday nights.

The new roster of *Justice League Unlimited* includes some of the most famous superheroes around, like Green Arrow, Supergirl and Captain Atom. Other members may be a bit more obscure. Hawk & Dove are siblings with a very different take on conflict resolution techniques. B'wana Beast is a jungle man-turned-superhero, a combination of the Bronx and the Bronx Zoo. The Atom is the world's smallest superhero. Booster Gold, a glory-seeking hero from the future, joins the Justice League, as does Zatanna, a beautiful magician and sorceress. While there is a universe filled with new threats, a few classic villains return, including Lex Luthor, Soloman Grundy and Mongul. We'll see episodes including *For the Man Who Has Everything*, based on the classic **Alan Moore** comic story where Batman and Wonder Woman visit Superman on his birthday at his Fortress of Solitude only to find him immobilized by a special gift that Mongul has brought to him. *Hawk and Dove* will see the pacifist/aggressive superhero duo join Wonder Woman on a mission to stop a war between two neighboring factions. *Fearful Symmetry* features Supergirl, who starts having disturbing dreams and seeks help from Green Arrow and The Question. *Kids Stuff* finds Superman, Wonder Woman, Batman and Green Lantern transformed into 8-year-olds in an attempt to save the world from the magic of Mordred.

Teen Titans will wrap up the second season and move right into the third season with episodes such as *Fractured*, where Robin is visited by a short little weirdo from another dimension known as Larry the Titan! But unlucky for Robin, Larry's reality-bending powers cause more problems than they fix. The two part *Aftershock* sees Slade and Terra returning with Slade ordering Overload, Cinderblock and Plasmus to launch a series of attacks on the city and the Titans are MIA. Kicking off the third season of the show right away will be *Deception* where the Titans go undercover at the Hive Academy to find out what their rivals, Gizmo, Jinx, and Mammoth are up to. Later in the new season we will see new Titan characters including Bumblebee as well as a return of Aqualad and Speedy as well as some more villains not yet seen in animated form.

Across the pond on the BBC, they have cast the Doctor's companion. Playing Rose Tyler will be pop singer/actress **Billie Piper**. Her career started with pop success as a teenager in the UK ala **Britney Spears**, but her move into acting has gone much better than her U.S. counterpart. She has recently won acclaim for a role in British TV series *The Canterbury Tales*. The other big news

for the new series, starring **Christopher Eccleston**, is that negotiations broke down with the **Terry Nation** estate over story lines and thus the Daleks will not be making an appearance in the new series. That didn't stop BBC comedy series *Coupling* from placing one in the sci-fi/horror book shop of their new character, Oliver, though. *Coupling* creator **Steven Moffat** is also writing a couple of episodes of the new *Doctor Who* series.

Over on the networks, there's a limited amount of new genre shows for the fall, with ABC keeping *Alias* on hold until January so the series can run mostly straight through without any breaks for repeats or pre-emptions.

NBC will debut their new CGI animated series, *Father of the Pride*, on August 31st and will likely be promoting it heavily during the Olympics. From DreamWorks Animation, producer of *Shrek* and *Shrek 2*, this a new CGI-animated comedy series goes beyond the glitz of the iconic **Siegfried & Roy** show to glimpse the off-stage antics and the suburban life of the performing white lions. Played very much for laughs, the producers will also address more serious issues including the near fatal attack that happened in real-life. Voice talent includes **John Goodman** as Larry, the pride's father and **Cheryl Hines** as Kate, the head lioness. **Carl Reiner** is the aging headliner Sarmoti, who is always butting heads with Larry. CGI versions of Siegfried and Roy will also appear, voiced by **Julian Holloway** and **Dave Herman**. This will be the first television show with feature film-quality CGI animation (no, *Tripping the Rift* doesn't count), and NBC is banking on it being a hit.

Star Trek Enterprise will return for a fourth season, but will move to Friday nights on UPN as part of a special deal worked with Paramount. UPN was reluctant to renew *Star Trek Enterprise* for another season following the lower ratings it has gotten in the last season. In order to keep the show on the air, UPN will pay a much lower license fee to Paramount and will move the series to the second hour of programming on Friday nights where they have normally ran low rated movies. Paramount is willing to make this arrangement with the idea that they will recoup the losses on DVD sales and syndication sales with the additional season. For the new season of *Enterprise*, returning Sept 17th, **Manny Cotto** will be taking on a more prominent role in the series allowing **Rick Berman** and **Brannon Braga** to work on some other projects. **Berman** has indicated that they will possibly wrap up the whole Temporal Cold War storyline early in the season and have shorter, high-concept, story arcs spanning a few episodes instead of the whole season like last year. They are also looking to arrange some special guest star roles, including the possibility of **William Shatner** as one of Kirk's ancestors and **Brent Spiner** playing an ancestor of Dr. Noonien Soong.

Opening up the season will be *Storm Front*, which finds Archer and the Enterprise in an alternate time line in 1944 with

the Nazis overrunning North America with the help of the alien seen in last season's finale. On the Enterprise, time traveler Daniels is in sick bay with his body in a state of temporal flux and the crew needs to track down Silik to try to figure out how to get the timeline back on track.

Over on ABC, the new **J. J. Abrams** series, *Lost*, will debut on September 22. It's about a group of 48 survivors of a plane crash on a pacific island that have to learn to work together and survive. It's "an action packed adventure that will bring out the very best and the very worst in the people who are lost." There are also mysterious creatures on the island stalking the jungle. Leading the cast is **Matthew Fox** as Jack, with **Dominic Monaghan** (Hobbit Alert!) as Charlie, **Evangeline Lilly** as Kare, **Ian Somerhalder** as Boone, and **Daniel Dae Kim** as island native Jin. Not much has been revealed about further storylines beyond the pilot, but other writers on the series include **David Fury**, fresh from *Buffy* and *Angel*.

Smallville returns Sept 29 and how things will be resolved with the different predicaments isn't very clear, but indications that there will be a couple of new recurring characters appear early in the season. First of all will be a new boy for Lana Lang, named Jason Teague, a 21-year-old college junior whom she meets while in Paris, and follows her back to Smallville. **Jensen Ackles** (*Days of Our Lives* and *Dawson's Creek*) will play Jason, described as the "stubbornly independent heir to a rich Metropolis financial firm who becomes romantically involved with Lana Lang." The bigger news is that Lois Lane will turn up for four episodes, investigating the apparent death of her cousin, Chloe Sullivan. Rumored casting is **Erica Durance**, who has appeared on *Mutant X* and *Tru Calling*.

Charmed will return to the WB on Sept 26 and will have a special guest for a few episodes in singer/actor **Nick Lachey**, who will play someone hired as a ghost writer for witch Phoebe Halliwell's advice column who ends up romantically involved with her

"One of the most moving pieces I've seen all year."
- John Petrakis, Chicago Tribune

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PAK FILM AND SHOTWELL MEDIA PRESENT
A ROBOT STORIES PRODUCTIONS FILM "ROBOT STORIES" TAMLYN TOMITA SAB SHIMONO WAI CHING HO GREG PAK co-starring JOHN CARIANI CINDY CHEUNG BILL COELUS ESA DAVIS RON DOMINGO
TIM KANG JULIENNE HANZELKA KIM JAMES SAITO casting by KIM IMA animation by DANIEL M. KANEMOTO sound design by NELSON NUDD hair/makeup by LEO WONG costume design by KITTY BOOTS
production design by SHANE P. KLEIN music by RICK KNUTSEN edited by STEPHANIE STEINER cinematography by PETER OLSEN
co-produced by KAREN CHEN produced by KIM IMA and GREG PAK written and directed by GREG PAK

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24 Frames (Continued from page 3)

him an edge in close-quarters combat, and his strategic ingenuity and flawless cunning rendered him almost invincible against the Jedi." Greivous was featured in the 20th chapter of the Star Wars Clone Wars micro-series on Cartoon Network and will also be featured in the new series scheduled to debut in March.

The next big Marvel adaptation will be *Marvel's The Fantastic Four*, scheduled to hit the screens next July. Filming will start later this summer and we've got official news on most of the main cast. Leading the team as Reed Richards (aka Mr. Fantastic) will be **Ioan Gruffudd**, Johnny Storm (aka The Human Torch) will be portrayed by **Chris Evans**, and **Michael Chiklis** (*The Shield*) will be Ben Grimm (aka The Thing). At press time, casting for Sue Storm (aka Invisible Woman) has not yet been announced but those in the running include **Jessica Alba**, **Rachel MacAdams**, and **Keri Russell**. **Tim Story** (*Barber Shop*) will direct, from a script by **Simon Kinberg**.

Batman Begins will be filming exterior shots for Gotham City locations on location in Chicago. According to an official Chicago press release "Chicago will be standing in for Gotham in this version being directed by **Chris Nolan** (*Memento*) whose brother lives in Chicago. When the script called for an underground road he immediately thought of Lower Wacker, which brought the project to Illinois. The work has expanded to include the Amstutz Highway in Waukegan and various Chicago area locales for 15-plus days." Some lucky Chicago area fans may end up being extras in the outdoor shots.

On the *Superman* front, actor **Shia LaBeouf** reported that he interviewed with director **McG** for the role of Jimmy Olsen. He said that **McG** is now planning on casting an unknown for the role of Superman/Clark Kent and is trying to get **Scarlett Johansson** for Lois Lane and **Johnny Depp** for Lex Luthor. There are also rumors that **McG** is now off the project and that **Michael Bay** and **Bryan Singer** are possibilities for directing now. Indications are still that the **J. J. Abrams** script is what will be used for the movie. Someday, Warner Bros will actually get this movie into production and will have to lock down the directors and actors.

Small Screen to Big

A live action movie based on *Aeon Flux* starts filming in Berlin this summer. Taking on the lead role is **Charlize Theron**, who has been undergoing several months of intensive training to get ready for the role. **Frances McDormand** has joined the cast as Aeon's Handler. The movie is described as "In the 25th century, a rampaging virus has forced the remnants of humanity into the seclusion of a final city surrounded by a disease-

proof bubble. There is great political conflict within, however, and this is the story of an acrobatic assassin, Aeon Flux, whose latest target is the government's top leader."

Bewitched is now coming to the big screen next summer with most of the cast having been lined up in preparation for filming to begin. **Nicole Kidman** will be witch Samantha Stephens, **Will Ferrell** as her husband Darrin Stephens with **Shirley MacLaine** as Endora and **Michael Caine** as Maurice. No official details have been announced on the manner of the adaptation, but expect it to lean towards the romantic side, being penned by **Nora Ephron** (*Sleepless in Seattle*, *When Harry Met Sally*). Also in the works is a movie adaptation of *I Dream of Jeannie*, with **Lindsey Lohan** rumored for the role of Jeannie.

The *Joss Whedon* *Firefly* movie, *Serenity*, now has an April 22nd release date. The movie will follow on from the show's mythology, with The Alliance assigning an agent known only as "The Operative", played by British actor **Chiwetel Ejiofor**, to track down Simon Tam and his sister, River. According to actor **Alan Tudyk** (Wash), the movie will be bigger and better, and will feature much improved sets from the TV series. Initial reports that *Angel* star **David Boreanaz** was appearing in the movie appear to have been false or premature.

Rumblings have started about what might come to the big screen next in the *Star Trek* universe. In a recent interview, producers **Rick Berman** and **Brannon Braga** indicated they would like to have the next *Trek* film to be a prequel, set before the Original Series, but after *Star Trek Enterprise*. The subject of the movie would be the original war between the newly formed Federation and the

Romulan Star Empire, first mentioned in the Original Series episode "The Balance of Terror." As for the possible *Babylon 5* movie, indications from creator **J. Michael Straczynski** are that things are still moving forward but that some changes will be needed following the death of **Richard Biggs**, who played Dr. Franklin in the *Babylon 5* TV series.

News Flash - Warner Bros. has confirmed that **Bryan Singer** will be directing the *Superman* movie and indications are that he will start from scratch with a new script. There's also a strong rumor that **Jack Black** will take on the role of Green Lantern for a comic take on the superhero.

Future Releases

Code 46 is a love story set in an eerily possible near-future where cities are heavily controlled and only accessible through checkpoints. People cannot travel unless they have a "papelles," a special travel insurance. Outside cities, the desert has taken over and shanty towns are jammed with non-citizens - people without papelles whose lives are severely restricted. William (**Tim Robbins**) is a family man who works as an insurance investigator. When his company sends him to another city to solve a case of fake papelles, he meets a woman named Maria (**Samantha Morton**.) Although he knows she's been creating the forgeries, he falls completely in love with her. He hides her crime and they have a wild, passionate affair that can only last as long as his papelles: 24 hours. Back home, William is obsessed with the memory of Maria. He tries to see her but is refused the necessary papers to travel. Desperate, he uses one of the fake papelles he kept from his investigation. He eventually tracks her down, only to discover she has been accused of a Code 46 violation.

Alien vs. Predator - The iconic monsters from the two franchises battle each other on Earth - no matter who wins, we lose. In the present day, the discovery of an ancient pyramid buried in Antarctica sends a team of scientists and adventurers to the frozen continent. There, they make a terrifying discovery: two alien races engaged in an ultimate battle, the Aliens and the Predators. **Sanaa Lathan** (Lex Kline), **Lance Henriksen** (Charles Weyland), **Raoul Bova** (Sebastian Wells), and **Ewen Bremner** (Miller). Directed by **Paul W.S. Anderson**.

Yo-Gi-Oh! - The ancient Egyptians played dangerous "Shadow Games" using cards that could summon forth all varieties of mythological monsters and magical forces to become manifested as pawns in the game. The Shadow Games eventually led to a war that nearly destroyed the entire world until the secrets of the game were locked away in artifacts called the Millennium Items. 5,000 years later, Yugi is a teenager with spiky blonde hair who has unlocked the secrets of the Shadow Game as part of a game called Duel Monsters. Now, Yugi becomes engaged in a new sort of card game challenge... Based on the popular cartoon and card game.

Exorcist: The Beginning - It tells the tale of Father Merrin's (**Stellan Skarsgaard**) journey as a young missionary priest to post-WWII Africa, which led to his first encounter with demonic forces. Directed by **Renny Harlin**, this is actually the second attempt at this prequel. A version directed by **Paul Schrader** was shelved but may end up being made available as part of the DVD for this movie.

Hero - In a distant war-torn land, a ruthless emperor is rising to power with an iron fist and his massive armies. To control everything, he will stop at

(Continued on page 6)



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24 Frames (Continued from page 5)

nothing. International action star **Jet Li** is a fearless warrior with no name on a mission of revenge for the massacre of his people. Seeing limited release in August.

Anacondas: The Hunt for the Blood Orchid - A scientific expedition is sent to the jungles of Borneo to search for a rare black orchid by a powerful pharmaceutical company that hopes the orchid can be

used to unlock the secrets of youth and immortality. What they discover is that the orchid is already being used by a powerful group... a swarm of giant snakes that derive their super strength, size and vitality from the flowers, and extremely large snakes are also extremely hungry snakes... Stars **Johnny Messner, Morris Chestnut, Eugene Byrd, Nicholas Hope**, and **Peter Curtis** and a lot of snakes.

Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow - Famous scientists around the world have mysteriously disappeared and Chronicle reporter Polly Perkins (**Gwyneth Paltrow**) along with ace aviator Sky Captain (**Jude Law**) are on the investigation. Risking their lives as they travel to exotic places around world, can the fearless duo stop Dr. Totenkopf, the evil mastermind behind a plot to destroy the earth? Aided by Franky Cook (**Angelina Jolie**), commander of an all-

(Elle Hudson), **James Brolin, Portia de Rossi, Ileana Douglas, Jesse Eisenberg** (Jimmy Myers), **Shannon Elizabeth** (Becky), **Omar Epps, Robert Forster, Judy Greer, Joshua Jackson** (Jake), **Mya, Kristina Anapau** (Brooke), **Michael Rosenbaum, James Callahan** (Mark), **Scott Foley, Shashawnee Hall, Michelle Krusiec** (Debbie), **Eric Ladin** (Louie), **Milo Ventimiglia** (Bo) plus a few surprise cameos.

Resident Evil: Apocalypse - Picking up where the end of the first movie left off, an elite military agent, Alice (**Milla Jovovich**), finds herself stranded in the ruins of Raccoon City following a virus outbreak which has turned the city's inhabitants into bloodthirsty zombies. Searching for a way to contain the virus, Alice also teams up with other survivors, who include Jill Valentine (**Sienna Guillory**), who finds herself being hunted down by a massive monster called Nemesis with ties to Alice. Expect lots of mayhem and video game violence in this one.

Sharks - This mafia movie, set in the world of saltwater fish, is the story of what happens when the son of the shark boss (**Robert De Niro**) of a fish crime family is killed (by a dropped anchor), and a bottom-feeder named Oscar (**Will Smith**) is found at the scene of the crime. Hoping to win favor with the enemies of the ganglord, the fast-talking hustler poses as the killer known as the "sharkslayer", but soon learns it's a dangerous game in a world where the big fish generally eat the little fish... Other voices include **Renee Zellweger, Angelina Jolie, Jack Black, Peter Falk** and **Kevin Pollak**.

female amphibious squadron, and technical genius Dex (**Giovanni Ribisi**), Polly and Sky Captain may be our planet's only hope. Directed by **Kerry Conran**. **The Forgotten** - A single mother, Telly Paretta (**Julianne Moore**), whose 8-year-old son has recently disappeared during an airplane crash (and whom she fears might be dead), seeks the help of a psychiatrist (**Gary Sinise**) to cope with the pain of her grief, only to be told that her son is merely a figment of her imagination, with her mind making up eight years of false memories. When she meets a father (**Dominic West**) who has had a similar experience with his own disappearing daughter recently, the two team up to try to find the answers behind what appears to be some sort of otherworldly case of mass kidnapping (by aliens? or... something else?).

Cursed - An estranged brother and sister living in Los Angeles, mourning the recent loss of their parents, are brought together by a savage werewolf attack, forcing them to fight for survival, against both the beast and the dangers of its virulent curse... Written by **Kevin Williamson** (*Scream* movies), directed by **Wes Craven** (*Nightmare on Elm Street*, *Scream* movies), and stars **Christina Ricci**



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Author Guest of Honour Gwyneth Jones

Gwyneth Jones is a writer and critic of Fantasy and Science Fiction and also writes as Ann Halam, a writer of teenage fiction. She has been awarded two World Fantasy Awards, a BSFA short story award, the Children of the Night Award from the Dracula Society, the 2001 Arthur C. Clarke award for *Bold As Love*, and is a co-winner of the Tiptree award.

Artist Guest of Honor Janny Wurts

Janny's award winning paintings have been showcased in many exhibitions of imaginative artwork and she has been awarded three Chesley awards by The Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists (ASFA). She is also the author of eleven novels, a collection of short stories, and the internationally best selling Empire trilogy written in collaboration with Raymond E. Feist.

Editor Guest of Honor: Ellen Datlow

Award winning editor of many fantasy, horror and science fiction anthologies including *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror* for sixteen years. She has won the World Fantasy Award six times, the Bram Stoker Award once, and the 2002 Hugo Award for Best Professional Editor. Datlow consults for Tor Books, was fiction editor for OMNI magazine for 17 years and is currently the editor for SCI FICTION, the fiction area of SCIFI.COM.

Publisher Guest of Honor: Betty Ballantine

Betty Ballantine and her husband Ian Ballantine were a team for over 50 years, helping to form Bantam Books in 1945, launching their own firm, Ballantine Books, in 1952 and becoming freelance consulting editors/publishers in the 1970s. Ballantine Books was one of the earliest publishers of original SF books, with authors ranging from Arthur C. Clarke, to Anne McCaffrey, and H.P. Lovecraft. They published the first "authorized" edition of J.R.R. Tolkien's works, the art book *Faeries*, and James Gurney's *Dinotopia*.

Toastmistress: Jennifer Roberson

Since 1984, Jennifer Roberson has published 22 solo novels, among them fourteen bestselling fantasy novels: the 8-volume *Chronicles of the Cheysuli*, about a race of shapechangers and a divine prophecy; the 6-volume *Sword-Dancer* saga the author describes as "Conan the Barbarian Meets Gloria Steinem," and *The Golden Key* with Melanie Rawn and Kate Elliott.

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Screening Room

In theaters now:

- ** **Catwoman**
- ** **The Bourne Supremacy**
- **** **Spiderman 2**
- *** **Around the World in 80 Days**
- *** **The Day After Tomorrow**

Coming Soon:

Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow

Second Opinions:

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
Van Helsing

Catwoman
PG-13, 104 minutes

The official synopsis from the website: "Catwoman is the story of shy, sensitive artist Patience Philips (Halle Berry), a woman who can't seem to stop apologizing for her own existence. She works as a graphic designer for Hedare Beauty, a mammoth cosmetics company on the verge of releasing a revolutionary anti-aging product. When Patience inadvertently happens upon a dark secret her employer is hiding, she finds herself in the middle of a corporate conspiracy. What happens next changes Patience forever. In a mystical twist of fate, she is transformed into a woman with the strength, speed, agility and ultra-keen senses of a cat. With her newfound prowess and feline intuition, Patience becomes Catwoman, a sleek and stealthy creature balancing on the thin line between good and bad. Like any wildcat, she's dangerous, elusive and untamed. Her adventures are complicated by a burgeoning relationship with Tom Lone (Benjamin Bratt), a cop who has fallen for Patience but cannot shake his

fascination with the mysterious Catwoman, who appears to be responsible for a string of crime sprees plaguing the city."

Ok, that is a good overview of the film's plot. I enjoyed the story line much more than the brief outline of Catwoman's creation in one of the Batman movies and it certainly makes the Catwoman character both more understandable and much more sympathetic. Add in Sharon Stone's appearance as Laurel Hedare, aging model and evil villainess, Lambert Wilson as her cheating husband Georges Hedare and Alex Borstein as Patience's friend Sally and we have all the ingredients of a really good adaptation of a comic book into a film. The problem, surprisingly, comes from the CGI portions, to a small degree the cat's movements but much more so the CGI Catwoman's movements. Anyone who has spent any time living with cats can see that the catlike movements of Catwoman are off, not a lot, but just enough to be distracting. Nor does Halle Berry really get the cat-like slink quite right, though it is hard to tell if it is actually her or the CGI-her.

Overall I enjoyed the film and will certainly pick it up when it is released on DVD but it could have been so much better with just a little more attention to the tiny details instead of going for the big special effects. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

The Bourne Supremacy
PG-13, 108 minutes

Jason Bourne (Matt Damon) and Marie (Franka Potente) have been living under assumed names in a small out of the way seaside village in India. But they stayed in one place too long; a rogue

assassin found them and then framed Bourne for a murder in Berlin. Jason travels from India to Germany to Russia to solve the mystery and get CIA to leave him alone.

First, other than the character's names and the title, this has absolutely no resemblance to the Robert Ludlum book on which it is supposedly based. The story is OK but the filmmakers were way too impressed with fancy cinematography. The chase scenes are too up close, just a bit out of focus and go on for way too long - they gave me a headache and distracted from what might have been a moderately interesting espionage story.

All in all, I suggest reading the book. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Spider-Man 2
PG-13, 127 minutes

In *Spider-Man 2*, Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire) is finding out the being a superhero isn't all that grand. He is flunking his college classes and can't pay his rent, he's even been fired from his deadend job as a pizza delivery man. To cap his really bad week, he finds that Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst) is engaged to an astronaut, kindly Aunt May is going to be evicted from the family home and his spider powers are starting to fail at the most inopportune moments. What is a young superhero to do?

Peter decides to quit - no more Spider-Man, no more stress, no more lies. Sure enough, his grades improve, and he finally starts to get his life back to normal. Peter's childhood friend Harry arranges for Peter to meet the brilliant scientist Dr. Otto Octavius and Peter is one of the witnesses to Dr Octavius' disastrous cold fusion experiment. When the once kindly scientist resurfaces as

- when Peter confesses to Aunt May that it was his fault that Uncle Ben was killed what we saw was a real human reaction from May, not the usual "I understand" that so often occurs in movies.

The film is just the right mix of plot, character development and special effects. So often these films get eaten up by spectacular effects to the detriment of the story but Sam Raimi's deft direction never sacrifices the characters for the easy-out of awesome special effects. Don't get me wrong, the effects are spectacular, Doc Ock moves seamlessly and the fight on the train is riveting as is the final confrontation between Spider-Man and Doc Ock but the effects are interspersed with the touches that make the movie so much more than the typical action film..... Aunt May forgiving Peter for his uncle's death, the people on the train who stand up for Spider-Man when he is injured.... these are the kinds of touches that make a movie a classic as opposed to just another summer action film.

The end of this movie leaves the door wide open for Spider-Man 3 and I, for one, can hardly wait to see where this franchise goes next. One can only hope the studio has the intelligence to keep the current cast and director for the third installment. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Around the World In 80 Days
PG, 120 minutes

This adaptation of the famous Jules Verne novel puts the focus on Passepartout (Jackie Chan) instead of Phineas Fogg (Steve Coogan). Chan's character is a thief, but an honest one, as he is only stealing back that which was stolen from his people. Fleeing from his robbery of the Bank of England, Chan becomes Fogg's manservant and maneuvers the bet that sends them off on a trip around the world in 180 days. In Paris, they acquire the obligatory female traveling companion, misunderstood artist Monique La Roche (Cecile De France). As the trip progresses Phineas learns to value friendships over science, Passepartout returns the stolen Buddha to his village and the trio works together to help Fogg win his bet.

Granted, this has little to do with the Verne story and is more of a showcase for Chan's martial arts prowess but all in all it is a pleasant little romp. The tone is light throughout, there are numerous cameos that are fun to watch for and the martial arts scenes are pure Chan at his best. A great way to spend an afternoon - the only thing missing was the typical Chan touch of outtakes interspersed with the closing credits. We'll have to wait for the DVD release for those. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

(Continued on page 8)



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Doctor Octopus with four metal tentacles sticking out of his back, Peter must decide which life path he will follow - normal life or Spider-Man?

This is one sequel that more than lives up to, if not surpasses, the first film. The characters have obviously grown and the relationships are true to life

Screening

Room

(Continued from page 7)

The Day After Tomorrow PG-13, 124 minutes

Professor Adrian Hall (Dennis Quaid) tries to warn the world's leaders about global warming but, of course, they choose not to listen. Then Mother Nature strikes with a series of disasters (tornadoes in LA, a blizzard in India) heralding the beginning of a new ice age. Adrian's son is trapped in New York when the rapid descent of the ice age first floods New York with giant tidal waves and then freezes everything. It is a race against time to reach New York and save his son.

OK, so the plot is predictable and the dialogue is nothing to write home about but this movie had two things going for it in my book:

First off I'll admit that I am a sucker for "end of the world as we know it" scenarios and I'm not too picky about the means with which the director decides to end the world. I understand the science in this film was unlikely, to say the least, and that many viewed it as a political slam at the current administration but any disaster film that starts out cracking the polar cap ice (and along the way reminding me vividly of the squirrel in *Ice Age*) has captured my attention in the opening minutes. Add the tremendous special effect and this gets my vote for a way to spend two hours of mindless fun. I can't wait for the DVD to see some behind the scenes on the effects. -

Stephanie L Bannon

Coming Soon:

Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow

**Starring: Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow,
Angelina Jolie**

OK, this is just from the trailer and a bit of internet followup. Why? To tip you off to catch this on the big screen before it goes away. Imagine an old Gernsback magazine cover turned into a movie. This one is called retro, camp, a homage to old serials. The appeal is nostalgic, the color is tinted black and white. Set in 1939 New York City, an invasion of giant robots is fought by a fighter pilot and a female reporter. They go to Nepal to defeat the mad scientist. If you want imagery to escape into, this looks like a new standard. Mainly CGI, and ILM did help with it. Move over, Star Wars. Official website at skycaptain.com. Join the resistance! -

Mike Griffin

Second Opinions:

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban PG-13, 141 minutes

Different style and mood are noticeable modifications made by the new director, Alfonso Cuaron. This film is dark and foreboding, and Harry soon discovers that nothing is as it seems. The escaped convict Sirius Black, whom most in this magical world believe helped Voldemort kill Harry's parents, is believed to be innocent by Harry, Hermione and Ron who must save him from imprisonment. All the while, Ron's rat familiar is the actual culprit when he is in human form. Though Harry desperately tries to find a way to save Black so Harry no longer must depend on the Dursleys for a home; he must reconcile his fate and let Sirius go into hiding away from their world.

The darker points of this film range from tea leaf readings, werewolf encounters, and Dementor hunger. Some visuals are not for small children and some concepts are beyond the PG-13 rating.

As the third installment and a reproduction of a larger novel, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* is a good movie, hitting only highlights of the book, but not as nearly as fun and exciting as its predecessors. Hopefully, an extended version will be released and answer some plot questions. Until then, this film should keep audiences satisfied until the next movie reaches theaters late next year. -

Dawn Mullan

Van Helsing PG-13, 145 minutes

Monster mayhem as the Wolfman, Frankenstein's Monster, Dracula and his brides, and Igor take over a Romanian town. Gabriel Van Helsing is called in to save the town and the young beauty, Princess Anna Valerious. Her clan's immortal souls are in danger of falling from grace since none of them will be allowed into heaven if Dracula remains alive.

Nice set up. No follow-through. This movie feels like a carnival ride and not a classic horror movie. There is no character development. Everyone is static. We find out interesting facts about the chief characters, but tidbits are not enough.

Moviegoers want to be thrilled and excited. Dracula and Igor's quips give the audience a taste of what the film could have been: witty and interesting. Alas, we are not thrilled and excited. Instead the audience is bombarded with action sequences one right after another. Special effects should enhance the film, not be the film. Hollywood has not gotten that concept yet.

- **Dawn Mullan**

IN MEMORIAM

Woody Harper August 11, 1963 - June 9, 2004

Woody was admitted to the hospital Monday afternoon, June 7th, with dehydration, liver failure, renal failure and high potassium. In spite of aggressive treatment with IV fluids, he lost consciousness and his heart stopped Monday night; he was resuscitated after much effort, and put on a ventilator and mild sedative. Tuesday he was diagnosed with fulminant hepatitis, but his kidneys were starting to look better. By the morning his vitals and lab tests were looking better, though he was still in critical condition and still had not regained consciousness. He was taken off the sedative, but after 8 hours had not regained consciousness, so he was taken for a CT scan and was found to have suffered massive brain damage. He was



determined to have no brain function left, and at 9:20 p.m. he was taken off the respirator. He passed away peacefully within minutes, surrounded by friends and family.

Woody was only 40 years old, and left behind his wife, his mother Jeannette, his stepchildren, Janella, Daniel, and Benjamin, and three grandchildren, Janet, Damon, and Ashlynn.

A memorial service for Woody was held Wednesday, June 16, in Tacoma. The family asked that, in lieu of flowers,

contributions be made toward funeral expenses. Please contact Alice at acoleen2@aol.com should you wish to contribute.

Vladimir 3/1/85 - 6/21/04

At 10:41PM on June 21, 2004 Count Vladimir Felis lost his battle for life, he was 19 years, 3 months and 21 days old. Vladimir had been ill for the past couple months, the vet diagnosed lymphoma. Vladimir was a regular at conventions from 1988 - 1993. His first convention being Westercon 41 in 1988 and his last



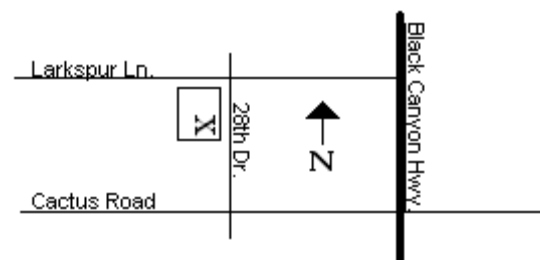
(official) convention was CopperCon 13 in 1993.

Condolences and written memories of Vladimir can be sent to Diana McClure. Email: DianaLMcClure@aol.com or snail mail 3738 E. Pershing Ave, Phoenix, 85032.

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“Robot Stories”

The critically acclaimed Robot Stories is coming to Phoenix exclusively at Pollack Tempe Cinemas. Winner of over 30 awards, “Robot Stories” is science fiction from the heart, four stories starring Tamlyn Tomita (“Joy Luck Club,” “Babylon 5”) and Sab Shimono (“The Big Hit,” “Suture”) in which utterly human characters struggle to connect in a world of robot babies and android office workers. The stories include:

“My Robot Baby” Before they can adopt a human child, young professionals Marcia (Tamlyn Tomita) and Roy (James Saito) must prove themselves by taking care of a robot baby. But when Roy leaves on a business emergency and the robot begins to malfunction, Marcia must confront her fears of the machine - and of motherhood itself.

“The Robot Fixer” Bernice Chin (Wai Ching Ho) has never really known her estranged son Wilson. Now a car accident has put Wilson into a coma. And the only clue he’s left behind is a box of twenty-year-old toy robots. As her daughter Grace (Cindy Cheung) presses her to deal with Wilson’s deteriorating condition, Bernice becomes obsessed with Wilson’s toys, as if repairing the robots will help her connect with her unreachable son.

“Machine Love” The latest component of the digital office, the Sprout G9 iPerson is a walking, talking coding machine programmed to fit seamlessly into its work environment by learning from its human co-workers. But when he finds himself in an oppressive office surrounded by dysfunctional people, a G9 named Archie (Greg Pak) learns just how much he needs love.

“Clay” In John Lee’s world, technology allows people to scan their memories - and thus their consciousness - into computers. John (Sab Shimono), an old sculptor, struggles to complete his design for a major public square project, but his body is falling apart. His doctor, his son Tommy (Ron Domingo), and his digitized wife Helen (Eisa Davis) all tell him the same thing - it’s time to get scanned. Then he’ll merge with all human knowledge and experience, achieving perfect love, perfect art. But John resists, fighting for the right to struggle and die. John Petrakis of the Chicago Tribune calls the film “one of the most moving pieces I’ve seen all year” while Entertainment Insiders calls it “the kind of science fiction sophisticated audiences crave and deserve.” Robot Stories opens for a special engagement as part of a local independent film series in Tempe on Saturday Sept 18, 2004. There are only 4 shows, so purchase tickets in advance at:
www.foundfootagefilm.com/robot

Haunted History Never Alone By Dawn Mullan

Beautiful and majestic mountains surround Douglas, Arizona which lies one mile north from the U.S.-Mexican border. Overcast sky allowed bursts of sunlight to illuminate this small historic town. In 1901, Phelps Dodge established a copper smelter on the site and named it after Dr. James Douglas. The place grew up around the copper giving the town such historical markers as Church Square and the Gadsden Hotel.

There are plenty of stories of paranormal activity in the buildings of this early western town. Douglas, in the time of cowboys, was a railroad town on the way to and from California. Many people entered and exited the town during that time. Most were the affluent giving rise to three different theaters and a grand hotel.

The Gadsden hotel was built in 1907. The hotel caught fire and was rebuilt in 1929. All was quiet in the hotel until 1988 when the Gadsden underwent restoration. Ever since, a headless ghost in a khaki army outfit has made his presence known to staff and guests.

The medium that went on this investigation could sense presences when arriving in the lobby of the hotel. Though the medium did not see the headless soldier, the medium did have someone play with her cheek and hair in several locations in the hotel, especially at bedtime. Others on the investigation tried to catch a glimpse of the apparition but the ghost was not forthcoming in making an appearance for them either.

In addition to the Hotel’s headless guest, there are other entities that roam the halls of this establishment. At least, to the acknowledgement of the medium, there is a woman who also patronizes the hotel from the otherside. This female entity walks the halls, favoring the fourth floor. Another entity, that of a young Native American boy, stands on the second floor Mezzanine which is locked at night and likes to pull pranks on guests. The medium does not know which presence made her ill and a companion feel stabbed in the chest on the second level in the breakout room next to the balcony, but the sensations were intense.

Down the road from Douglas is the Pirtleville Cemetery, one of the most active sites in Arizona. There, contact was made from the otherside from or about “Pedro.” First the medium thought Pedro was trying to communicate and searched the cemetery for his grave. With no luck finding the tombstone, the medium believes that a person’s name wasn’t the reference but rather someone may have drown in the San Pedro River not far from the location of the cemetery. The victim wanted someone to know

what had happened to them. Many pictures taken from the site confirm that paranormal activity was taking place in the cemetery with images of orbs and mists.

This town has history and personality. When visiting this quaint western location, remember to bring a camera for the wonderful landscape and buildings. Also, visitors should be ready to document sightings of the supernatural; in historic Douglas no one ever stands alone.

Next stop is the John Slaughter Ranch Museum fifteen miles from downtown Douglas... a tale for another time.

The Shinkansen Has Left The Station: Microsoft’s Xbox pulls in third place in the race for the Japanese market

By Shane Shellenbarger

I have a friend named Tom who hates seafood due to a misspent summer as a youth gutting fish. If he were starving I firmly believe that he would eschew eating anything and everything that had spent most of its life in any body of water. Apparently, Japanese gamers feel about Xbox games the way Tom feels about fish.

On a recent trip to Japan, I came across an article in *The Japan Times* written by Desmond Hutton detailing Microsoft’s failure in marketing the Xbox to the world’s second-largest videogame console market. Sony’s Playstation 2 console outsells Microsoft’s Xbox by a ratio of 48-to-1 due in no small part to the vast divide in games available to the Japanese: fewer than 160 Xbox games compared to 6,165 PS2 games. Even Nintendo’s GameCube has 191 games available in the Japanese Market.

Microsoft’s console numbers have been trailing, as well. Last fiscal year, consumers in Japan bought about 60,000 Xboxes compared to 2.9 million PS2’s. Microsoft cut prices by a third to ¥16,800 (about \$157.00 U.S. Dollars) in November, but sales in Japan slid by two-thirds when the sales year ended on March 31, according to Enterbrain Inc. Outside of Japan, Microsoft has fared better, selling between 13.5 million and 16 million consoles as of June 30th, while Nintendo has sold about 14.5 million GameCube consoles and Sony has sold about 70 million PS2 consoles, both as of March 31.

Some would argue that Microsoft doesn’t understand the Japanese gamers mind. At E3 (Electronic Entertainment Expo) in Los Angeles, Pete Moore, Microsoft’s vice president of retail sales and entertainment suggested that early introduction of role-playing games similar to “Final Fantasy” would have been more in keeping with the Japanese sensibilities. First-person shooters, vastly enjoyed in the United States, are received coolly in Japan. Square Enix Co., the No. 2 game publisher

in Japan, has made no games for the Xbox, but is considering making games for the next Xbox, said Michiro Sasaki, general manager for corporate planning. No statement was made concerning the “Final Fantasy” series, currently a PS2 exclusive produced by Square Enix Co. Another fault in Microsoft’s planning was in failing to lineup resident game makers. Konami Corp. exclusively released “Air Force Delta 2” for the Xbox during the consoles debut, but the follow-up is exclusive to PS2. Capcom Co. plans to release 25 games this year, only one of which will be compatible with the Xbox. Microsoft’s own development team in Japan plans to release only three new games in the coming year.

While many of the Japanese game developers are interested in Microsoft’s plans to gain on Sony with the next version of the Xbox, even Microsoft concedes defeat with the current version. Norm Cheuk, head of Microsoft’s game development division in Tokyo recently stated that it was too late to be number one with the current console, but he has plans for the next incarnation of the Xbox. Cheuk, who moved from Microsoft’s Redmond, Washington headquarters to Tokyo last September, stated that Microsoft will develop and release games tailored for Japanese gamers; they will be working to convince Japanese game publishers to make more titles for the new system, and he has replaced some of his 100 game developers and engineers with new Japanese talent. For the current Xbox, Cheuk’s Tokyo-based development team will be releasing in November, “Magatama” – a game set in an ancient Japanese city starring a sword-swinging monk who fights supernatural forces to free the enslaved city. Microsoft will also release the role-playing game, “Sudeki” by the end of 2004, along with two more games by mid-2005. Microsoft has made no projection of a release date for the next generation of video game console.

While Tom may never take a liking to seafood, perhaps the Japanese can better stomach future Microsoft game consoles.

<http://quote.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000101&sid=a6lnGKueKIro>
Enterbrain, Inc.

http://www.enterbrain.co.jp/en/c_outline/mark.html#

Market Scale Transition

http://www.enterbrain.co.jp/en/c_outline/img/mkt-trans1.gif

Market Share

http://www.enterbrain.co.jp/en/c_outline/img/mkt-share.gif

Sales Share

http://www.enterbrain.co.jp/en/c_outline/img/sales-share.gif

Software Sales sorted by genre

http://www.enterbrain.co.jp/en/c_outline/genre_sales.html

Manufacturer Software Sales

http://www.enterbrain.co.jp/en/c_outline/sales.html

<http://xbox2.gamegossip.com/>

Videophile

- ***** **Walt Disney Treasures: Tomorrowland**
- ***** **Walt Disney Treasures: On The Front Lines**
- ***** **Walt Disney Treasures: Mickey Mouse in Living Color Part 2: 1939 - Today**
- ***** **Walt Disney Treasures The Chronological Donald Duck 1934 - 1941**
- ***** **Kill Bill Vol 1**
- ***** **Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King**
- ***** **Bubba Ho-Tep**
- ***** **Ghosts of the Abyss**
- ***** **Paul McCartney The Music & Animation Collection**
- *** **Scary Movie 3**

Spectre's Quick Takes:

- Summer of Fear**
- Wishmaster 4:**
- The Prophecy Fulfilled**
- Bloody Murder 2:**
- Closing Camp**
- Shadows Run Black**
- Halloween: Resurrection**

- Walt Disney Treasures: Tomorrowland: Disney In Space and Beyond**
240 minutes, G
- On The Front Lines**
210 minutes, G
\$32.99 each

Disney has released from its vaults a new series of DVDs called "Walt Disney Treasures." Each one covers an area of Disney's past releases. Some of the material contained in these DVDs has not been seen in over 50 years. Two of them are:

Tomorrow Land—This is the name of one of the four areas that Disney's original TV show, Disneyland, covered. Tomorrow Land was said to be about the 'promise to things to come' and was on science and the future. These are narrated by Leonard Maltin, produced and directed by Ward Kimball. Presented on this DVD are four episodes:

Man In Space - Aired March 9, 1955, it profiled people like Werner Von Braun, Wiley Ley and Heinz Haber and a lot of animation to project what man's past fascination and future involvement in space travel would be like.

Man On The Moon - Aired December 28, 1955, Werner Von Braun presents using animation and models man's past and present fascination with the moon and how man will travel there in the near future.

Mars And Beyond - Aired December 4, 1957, Werner Von Braun, Wiley Ley present the future of space travel.

Our Friend The Atom - Aired January 23, 1957, Dr. Heinz Haber presents a very idealistic view of scientific history to the atomic energy and some of the uses of atomic energy.

Also:

An interview with Walt Disney's old friend Ray Bradbury.

EPCOT - The futuristic city that Walt wanted to build but was never done.

Eye In Outer Space-30-minute featurette released June 1959; shows how satellites were and would be in the future

predicting weather around the world.

These give us a wonderful view of how the future space and atomic energy were viewed in the mid-1950's. This is absolutely recommended for any science buff.

The second set is:

On The Front Lines—Disney during World War II. During WWII the military almost completely took over the Disney Studios. Joseph Goebel was so impressed with Disney films that he based some of the Nazi propaganda films on the way Disney had produced theirs. This DVD shows how Disney helped the war effort.

Topical Cartoons—

These were regular cartoons with a war theme. Five included in video.

Educational Shorts—

This group are films to support the war effort such as War Bonds or Food Drives. Includes five films.

Propaganda—Anti-Nazi propaganda films, includes the short *Der Fuehrer's Face*, hit song by Oliver Wallace. There are four films.

Training Films—Some of the training films done by Disney. Include 2 full films and a montage of partial other films. My only complaint is I would like to see the full films that are in the montage.

Victory Through Airpower—Full length film released in 1943, it is based on a book by Major Alexander de Seversky calling for an overhaul of priorities

making the long-range bomber the allies' chief priority. Winston Churchill prodded FDR into see this film after which the US committed fully to long-range bombers. The complete film has not been seen since WWII.

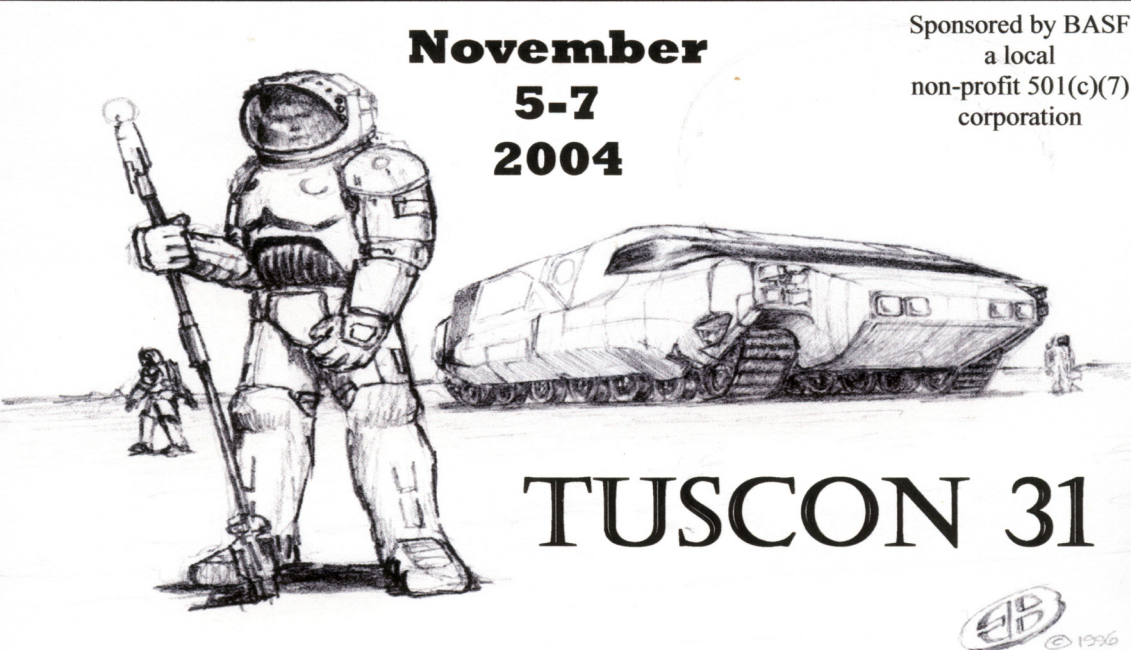
This is a wonderful example of how the film industry was used for the war effort. Many of these films have not been seen since WWII and need to be seen by any military buff. - **Barry Bard**

Walt Disney Treasures: Mickey Mouse in Living Color Part 2 1939 - Today
Disney, 345 minutes, G
DVD \$32.99

From the back cover "The celebration of Mickey's color capers continues in this second volume of shorts — from "Society Dog Show" in 1939 to his last short, "The Simple Things," in 1953 — and

(Continued on page 11)

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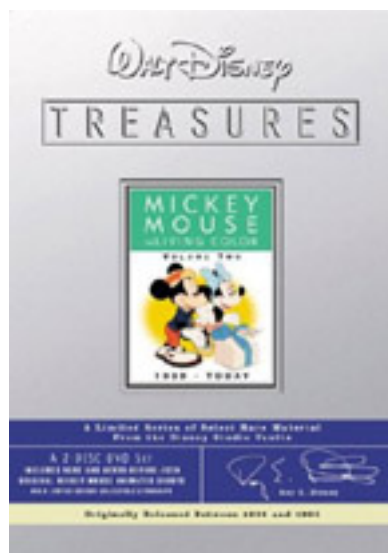
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LARP; Computer Gaming; Game Room (EXPANDED)

Videophile (Continued from page 10)

feature film appearances, giving you a decidedly colorful history of the most famous mouse in the world. This outstanding review of Mickey's color career spotlights some very special features, including his groundbreaking performance in "The Sorcerer's Apprentice."



You'll also get an inside look at Mickey's recent career through the eyes of his most recent animators, Mark Henn and Andreas Deja, and voice actors Wayne Allwine (Mickey) and Russi Taylor (Minnie). Featuring exclusive introductions by film historian Leonard Maltin, this is a timeless collection from generations past for generations to come"

The constant explanations by Leonard Maltin are bearable only because they are what convinced the studio to release the older material unedited. In this era of "political correctness" I guess being treated as if we are too stupid to recognize that the past had different values is a cross we all have to bear if we want to actually see the shorts as they were made.

These sets, however, remain a testament to Disney's creativity - the fact that the cartoons are enjoyable 60plus years later says a lot about the quality that people used to put into their work.

This set, along with *Walt Disney Treasures Mickey Mouse in Living Color*, is a must for the Disney fan and the Mickey Mouse fan. I strongly recommend getting this, and all the Walt Disney Treasures titles. There were only 175,000 of these sets produced so get one soon. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

**Walt Disney Treasures:
The Chronological Donald Duck
Volume 1: 1934-1941
Disney, 275 minutes, G
DVD \$32.99**

From the back cover: "It was 1934 when the irascible Donald Duck came to life in a teeny bit of a part in "The Wise Little Hen" and proceeded to steal the show. From that point on nobody could

hold him back, and the much loved cranky character went on to be the most prolific of Walt's "fabulous five." Now for the first time, you can enjoy the Donald in all of his solo starring shorts from "Donald And Pluto" in 1936 to "Chef Donald" in 1941. This volume also includes a loving tribute to the man who achieved immortality by inventing the voice of Donald Duck — and performing as his alter ego for 50 years — Clarence "Ducky" Nash. Featuring exclusive introductions by film historian Leonard Maltin, this is a timeless collection from generations past for generations to come."

This is a wonderful collection of early Donald Duck cartoons, the digital remastering makes them crisp and the colors are so clear it is as if they were made yesterday. The 36 shorts on these two discs are just the start of Donald's career and we can watch how the character grew and developed - from the initial sort of ugly Donald with fat legs and a much longer beak to the sleek Donald we know now. Where Micky was the idealist, Donald is "everyman" and we can all identify with him.

Adults will enjoy this collection for the nostalgia - remembering the days of our childhood when life seemed simpler. Children will just enjoy Donald from his sputtering temper tantrums to the disasters that are sure to follow him every where he goes.

A must for the Disney fan and all children (and the child in all adults) Only 165,000 sets were issued so get yours quickly before they are gone. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

**Kill Bill, Volume 1
Miramax, 111 minutes, R
DVD \$29.99**

From the back cover: "The acclaimed fourth film from groundbreaking writer and director, Quentin Tarantino (*Pulp Fiction*, *Jackie Brown*), *Kill Bill*, Volume 1 stars Uma Thurman (*Pulp Fiction*),



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Lucy Liu (*Charlie's Angels*, *Chicago*) and Vivica A Fox (*Two Can Play That Game*) in an astonishing, action-packed thriller about brutal betrayal and an epic vendetta! Four years after taking a bullet in the head at her own wedding, The Bride (Thurman) emerges from a coma and decides it's time for payback....with a vengeance! Having been gunned down by her former boss (David Carradine) and his deadly squad of international assassins, it's a kill-or-be-killed fight she didn't start but is determined to finish!"

The back cover doesn't lie. While I don't generally enjoy movies of this genre I thoroughly enjoyed this one and couldn't wait for Volume 2 (now I can't wait for Volume 2 on DVD so we can watch the entire story, beginning to end, in one sitting.) The climatic fight scene with Lucy Liu is a classic - the choreography and the photography are fantastic. While I saw the cliff-hanger at the end coming almost from the beginning it didn't detract from the film. This is a definite "must have" for anyone who enjoys action films. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

**Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King
New Line, 200 minutes, PG-13
DVD \$29.95**

The eagerly awaited conclusion to the Lord of the Rings trilogy was released on May 25. From the back cover: "The final battle for Middle-earth begins. Frodo and Sam, led by Gollum, continue their dangerous mission toward the fires of Mount Doom in order to destroy the One Ring. Aragorn struggles to fulfill his legacy as he leads his outnumbered

followers against the growing power of the Dark Lord Sauron, so that the Ring-bearer may complete his quest."

Many critics have described the entire trilogy as the greatest fantasy epic of all time and it is an apt description. When we got the DVD we immediately sat down and watched *The Return of the King* and then the following weekend we did the whole trilogy - the only thing that will be better is when the extended version of *The Return of the King* is released.

The extras on the DVD set are impressive, as well; including three documentaries, six featurettes and a 6-minute trailer for the trilogy. This is definitely a must-have for the fantasy fan - both the theatrical releases as well as the extended versions. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

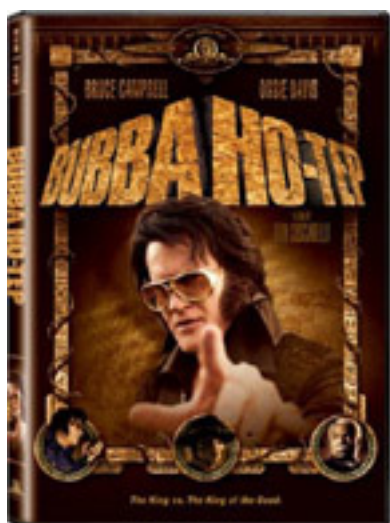
**Bubba Ho-Tep
MGM, 95 minutes, R
DVD \$27.99**

Bubba Ho-Tep is based on the Bram Stoker Award nominee short story by cult author Joe R. Lansdale. The film gives us the "true story" of what really happened to Elvis (Bruce Campbell) who is now an elderly resident of an East Texas "old folks" home. Seems Elvis switched places with an Elvis impersonator before his "death" and then lost the chance to switch back. His best friend in the nursing home is Jack (Ossie Davis) who believes himself to be President John F. Kennedy - "they" dyed him black and removed his brain for reasons of national security. Elvis and JFK realize that something is going on when the other residents start dropping like flies. They

(Continued on page 12)

Videophile (Continued from page 11)

discover an Egyptian cowboy mummy is sucking souls out of the residents since no one would notice if a few old people



kicked off. The two elderly heroes decide to stop the mummy and the battle is on....

Apparently its theatrical release in the US was limited, which is a shame since I would have loved to have seen this on the big screen. This is a wonderful film; Bruce Campbell's "Elvis" is terrific. I love Bruce Campbell movies and this one is as much fun as my favorite *Army of Darkness*. The DVD extras are stupendous, as well; and, while I don't usually turn on the commentary track, we

made an exception for the "Elvis." *The Making of Bubba Ho-Tep* documentary is a four part 45-minute behind the scenes look at the film and its success on the festival circuit. Other features include deleted scenes, music video and Joe R. Lansdale reading from his short story. This is a must for either a Bruce Campbell or Elvis fan - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Ghosts of the Abyss
Buena Vista, 119 minutes, PG
DVD \$29.99

I have always been fascinated by the Titanic and James Cameron's documentary was the first IMAX feature I ever went to see. This documentary is possibly the best recreation of the sinking and exploration of the wreck itself that I have ever seen. The animation is flawless and the technology that enables us to see the wreckage with crystal clarity is awe inspiring.

On this DVD, the documentary is presented in the 61-minute IMAX version (without the 3-D) and an expanded 92-minute version. Several scenes of the wreckage are expanded and there are new scenes about the Titanic's captain as well as life on the research vessel. The expanded documentary alone is worth the cost of the DVD but there are even more features - a half-hour *Reflections of the*

Deep feature that delves into how the cameras were used, how the shots were created as well as extra scenes of the wreck. *The ROV Experience* takes 10 minutes of one dive and lets you choose to view it from one of six different camera angles. This is a must-have for any collection. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Paul McCartney The Music & Animation Collection
Miramax, 103 minutes, NR
DVD \$29.99

I grew up with the Beatles and Paul McCartney was always my favorite - the one I always felt was the most talented. These three shorts films which span Paul's career from 1985 to 2000, are a must for the Beatles fan or for parents looking for entertainment they can share with the whole family.

Rupert and the Frog Song from 1985 follows Rupert the Bear as he goes exploring one night and finds a gathering of frogs.

Tropical Island Hum (1997) was produced by Paul and his late wife Linda and they do nearly all the voices. It is the story of an island where abused animals find refuge from those who abuse them or hunt them.... including the one-legged frog that lost his leg to "some French

guys." It is a gentle telling of Linda's vegetarian message and is also one of the last animated features produced totally by hand.

Tuesday (2000) follows a group of frogs as their lily pads take off like flying carpets and fly them into town for an evening of fun. It is based on the book by David Wiesner. There is little dialog (though the voice talent is Dustin Hoffman) but the musical score is beautiful.

Extras include an interview with Paul McCartney where he talks about the background of each feature and some plans he has for the future. There is also a documentary on the making of *Tuesday* and *Tropical Island Hum*. The only thing that would have made this collection better would be the inclusion of *Oriental Nighthawk* and *Seaside Woman*. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Scary Movie 3
Miramax, 90 minutes, PG-13
DVD \$29.99

The third entry in this series follows Cindy, a ditzzy newscaster, who believes that a deadly video tape (ala *The Ring*) is linked to mysterious crop circles (ala *Signs*). Also parodied are *8 Miles*, *The Others* and *The Matrix* along with cameo

(Continued on page 13)

HE'S DEAD!
JIM

OOO

Bring Back
Buffy
THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

Have you seen me?
Missing: UFO PILOT
Last seen: 1947
Place: Roswell N.M.
Color: Gray
Eyes: Black
Ht: 4'5" Wt. 80lbs.
Sex: ?
Age: ?

If you know any info
Call 800-LOSTUFO

E
Tee's

We are currently scouting for our new store location, but you can still buy our top quality T-Shirts. Simply visit us at <http://stores.ebay.com/E-Tee-Shirts> We offer sci-fi and medieval related designs. We also have a select choice of items outside of T-Shirts. Have a club? We can make and screen print shirts to fit your needs. Write us at drobertsartist@lycos.com

Videophile (Continued from page 12) appearances by Queen Latifah, George Carlin, Simon Cowell, Denise Richards, Pamela Anderson, Jenny McCarthy, Jeremy Piven, Camryn Manheim, Ja Rule, dozens of rap stars, and Leslie Nielsen as the President of the U.S. This is parody at its best - a truly silly way to fritter away a lazy evening.

The extras are almost as much fun as the movie. There is an extended alternate ending, two "making of" features - one real, one parody -, deleted scenes and more. A great evening of fun. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Spectre's Quick Takes

"Summer of Fear"
Artisan, 94 minutes, PG-13
DVD \$14.98

Pros - A nicely remastered movie put out in the late 70's; one of Linda Blair's horror movies (for all of you pop culture buffs.) All in all, for the time frame, it is a good B horror film. Oh and I forgot, it has a pre-op and young Fran Drescher from TV's "The Nanny" ... yes, she has always sounded like that.

Cons - Linda Blair's hair ... you will find yourself wishing she would get a haircut or stop blow drying her PERM ... 'can you say white afro?' The use of a "witch" as the bad guy/girl.

Reviewer's note - I don't think I can ever watch a Linda Blair movie without seeing her walking down stairs like a spider ala "the exorcist". Here we find young Linda, a horse-loving country girl, who has nothing more than her boyfriend and the annual dance to look forward to ...but then (enter the villain) Julia (Lee Purcell) shows up and the -fit hits the shan- she's a witch and she doesn't like anyone really. A few Blah Blah Blahs later - everyone finds out and she tries to kill everyone ...something goes wrong, the witch dies and everyone lives happy ever after ...the end? Well, not really. Like in any other horror movie, do you think a little thing like driving off a cliff and bursting into a fireball and flying down the rock face is gonna stop our villain? Ummmmm, well, it should have ... but no, just like any other horror film the bad guy lives ... that's why we have sequels so we can try again ... so what else can you say about this movie? Nothing - it is what it is ... 1978 B horror ... every one has a perm and no-one ever uses profanity (not even the bad guy).

"Wishmaster 4: The Prophecy Fulfilled"
Lionsgate/Fox, 92 minutes, R
DVD \$14.98

Pros - the FX in the movie were well thought out and executed ... (I think that is where the budget went.)

Cons - The fact that there was only one pro should tell you something ... Acting was horrid and the plot was weak at best ... and the fact the horror movies should be twisted and scary and *not* a predictable B movie tragic romance is something we can all agree on. All that was missing was for every one in the movie to die.

Reviewer's note - Not unlike the rest of the Wishmaster series, this installment had little plot and even less acting ... It took only 2 min. and 58 sec. for the first "adult" scene to show up and that is including the prolog ... the "hunter" seemed to be an afterthought to what little plot there was. The fight scene with the "hunter" looked like a VERY bad Highlander rip-off in slow-mo. Finally, last and most definitely least, I have seen better dialog in 5th grade school plays ... please understand that I love horror movies; even B horror movies can be good; however, were it not for the fact that I am the one to review this movie I would have tuned it off 2 min. and 58 sec. into the film.

"Bloody Murder 2: Closing Camp"
Artisan, 92 minutes, R
DVD \$14.98

Pros - Ummmmm... a very small piece of dialog at the start of the film slamming movies like this one.

Cons - Bad editing, bad cinematography, bad acting, No plot ... and even the "death" scenes were boring.

Reviewer's note - Lets just say that even a fan of B movies would spend more time counting the rip-offs than paying attention to how bad this film was. Myself, I counted 8+ ... this movie is a must see for all of you who wish to make even a B horror film, in that it shows you what *not* to do, and to top this little jewel off ... the best character in the film is the first to die, poor 'whatever his name was.'

"Shadows Run Black"
Lionsgate/Fox, 89 minutes, NR
DVD

Pros - Kevin Costner is in this movie but not listed in the credits ... that's right - Kevin's first movie ... I bet they thought that he would not get anywhere so they just didn't list him.

Cons - The movie and the sound track were done separately, no plot, no explanation to speak of, random introduction of people without any reason ... except to be just someone for the bad guy to kill.

Reviewer's note - Lets be honest ... no one ... not a single one of the people in this movie could act (not even Kevin. People just show up on the screen only to be killed and the people they were with just vanish ... this movie will have you wondering what happen to that guy that was there a sec ago ... why didn't he

help? ... or if he died, why didn't the intended victim find the body before dying? ... I feel that most of the people that were on film were there for no other reason than they were friends of the producers.

As for the editing of the movie... the editor botched his role "save vs. bad editing" ... for that matter so did I "save vs. bad movie" I rolled a 1 ... let just face fact ... there is no saving this movie; I don't think even M.S.T.3K would touch this one.

"Halloween: Resurrection"
Dimension, 94 minutes, R
DVD \$19.99

Pros - Good cast, fair acting, very well done set design, the perfect horror ending.

Cons - Think of what would it look like if you were to put a horror spin on "the Real World" meets "Blair Witch" ... yes, it really is that campy at times ... some of the dialog was so-so ... ok, *most* of the dialog, but, hey, this is a horror movie ... after you hear the first few screams you can't hear all that well anyway.

(Continued on page 15)

Books for Soldiers Care Packages for the Mind

What does a soldier do with his down time when he's stationed in the Middle East? If he's lucky, he has a book to read.

Since mid-April, The Bent Cover Bookstore, 12428 N. 28th Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85029, has been doing its best to make sure that each and every soldier has something to read. June, owner of The Bent Cover Bookstore, is donating the books and both she and the branch post office in Linda's Hallmark at 51st Ave. and Olive in Glendale, AZ, are collecting postage money from anyone who will donate. Peoria High School students and teachers collected more than \$900 to donate to the program.

What can you do? You can make out a check to the Postmaster and send it to June at The Bent Cover. A donation of \$5 will send a box of 15-20 books to a military person to read and share with his/her tentmates. A donation of \$10 will send a 25-pound box of books - and that's a lot of books!! So far more than 7,000 books have been sent from The Bent Cover to military personnel in the Middle East. We need your help and your donations. If you have questions, call June at 602-942-3778 or email Jan at jj@amug.org.



Art by Todd Lockwood

COPPERCON 24

Sept 10-12, 2004

**Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, AZ
ANNUAL LITERARY SCIENCE FICTION
& FANTASY CONVENTION**

Author Guest of Honor: Alan Dean Foster

Acclaimed Best-Selling Author of hard science-fiction, fantasy, horror, detective, western, historical, and contemporary fiction including Star Wars, Star Trek, and the Spellsinger series.

Artist Guest of Honor: Todd Lockwood

Chesley Award Winning (9 times) Illustrator for Wizards of the Coast & Dragon Magazine.

Local Author Guest of Honor: Catherine Wells

Author of *Beyond the Gates*, *Mother Grimm*, & many short stories, plays, and historical fiction

Music Guest: Leslie Fish (sponsored by the Phoenix Filk Circle)

Nationally renowned Filk and Music Artist heard on Dr. Demento (*Banned from Argo*)

CopperCon 24 will feature an Art Show and Auction, Gaming, Hospitality Suite, Masquerade, Video Room, Anime Room, Charity Auction to benefit the Thomas J. Pappas School for the homeless, a Dealer's Room, and special events on Thursday night for pre-registered members. We will be back at the Embassy Suites where you get spacious two-room suites with a microwave and mini-fridge plus a free breakfast and nightly happy hour.

CopperCon 24 Art Show

We are proud to announce Todd Lockwood as our Artist Guest of Honor. We are planning a guided tour of the art show Friday evening hosted by Todd Lockwood.

Our plan is to offer the best of science fiction and fantasy art to the fans of Phoenix. 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, with a fee of \$10.00 per table, 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 a 15% commission on these sales. There is no fee to display in the print shop.

Artists that have reserved space: Todd Lockwood, Betsy Mott, Mai Q. Nguyen, Sylvana Anderson-Gish, R. Merrill Bollerud, Deborah Woods, Ellisa Mitchell, Monika Livingstone, Daniel Cortopassi, Charlene Taylor D'Alessio, Jessica Douglas and Kathleen Lowe,

We will accept Visa, MasterCard as well as cash and checks.

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, call 480-641-3997 or email RGASAS@aol.com

CopperCon 24 Programming

We'll be having panels featuring our guests as well as many other authors, artists, scientists and other experts and participants.

Confirmed program participants include Jaqueline Lichtenberg, John Wheeler, Adam Niswander, Michelle Welch, Ben Massoglia, Janeen O'Kerry, Paula Lary, Bennie Grezlik, Pat Broussard, Joseph Formichella, Allison Mitchell, Murray Farr, Dave Duncan, Paul Tanton, Dr. David Williams, Mark Kreighbaum, Alice Massoglia, Robin Roberts, Michael Stackpole, C.F. Yankovich, David Perrine, Christopher Turco, Jeff Mariotte, Maryelizabeth Hart, David Lee Summers, David Beaucage, Christine Beaucage, Marty Massoglia, Rachel Amberson, Kit Townsend, D.F. Sanders

CopperCon 24 Charity Auction We're happy to present our annual Charity Auction to benefit the Thomas J. Pappas elementary school. The school has a mission to provide equitable education, particularly to homeless children. Some items available at auction include: signed photos of TV & movie stars, Star Wars collectibles, Transformers posters, grab bag of 30 paperbacks - many collectible - over 50 years old, artwork, 35mm movie trailers and signed books from David Weber, John Ringo, Selina Rosen, Kevin J. Anderson and Orson Scott Card.

Book Donations There will be a collection box in the fan table area to accept your donations of books for homeless children. We particularly need S-F and fantasy genre paperbacks for children and young adults. But we're not real finicky - we'll take everything you bring us.

Handicap Access Handicap Liaison will be at CopperCon24 for any and all in need yet all spare wheelchair requests need to be mentioned before the convention. Contact the Handicap Liaison at zain@cox.net.

Memberships

\$35 thru 8/27/04,

\$40 at the door

Kids 7-12 half price*

Kids 6 & Under Free*

* with Adult membership

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Room Rates: \$84 S/D/T/Q +tax

2577 W. Greenway Rd., Phoenix, Arizona

(602) 375-1777

www.coppercon.org

Contact CopperCon 24 at:

Write: CopperCon 24,

PO Box 62613

Phoenix, AZ 85082

Phone: (480) 423-0649

Email: cu24@coppercon.org

Videophile (Continued from page 13) Lockwood (Continued from page 1)

Reviewer's note – Well, I, for one, am glad to bring you this review; the pros definitely out-weigh the cons in this movie. Though she had a small part to play in the movie, Jamie Lee had a great death scene and it started the movie off nicely. Busta ... man ... you go, boy ...NEVER, I have never seen a better job of delivering only mediocre one-liners ... but it just goes to show that you can make up for dialog with acting. I must say putting real world views on what the public wants as entertainment was good. “Who wants to see a group of people go into a old house with nothing in it, that is just boring” I, like most of the people that would watch this movie, want blood ... lots of it ...The perfect horror ending with a hint of ... “that’s just cool” on top of a big helping of ... the Michael we all know and love.

It was without a doubt a great movie, a must have for all horror fans

Until next time, go away...I'm watching a movie,

Spectre

spun around. In '96 I was working as a staff artist for TSR. This little window opened and I dived through and it snapped shut behind me. Now those jobs are gone forever, 'cause once Wizards bought TSR and Hasbro bought Wizards, they eliminated all the art staff. They out-source all that stuff now.

LV: Did you have a chance to work with Larry Elmore?

TL: He left before I started. But I'd always admired his work, and Jeff Easley. They all had kind of an impact on my thinking. But my biggest influence was probably Michael Whelan; I just felt the way he thinks. The amount of thoughtful process that goes into every one of his paintings really said a lot to me. And before him, of course, (was) Frank Frazetta. And, to a much lesser extent, Boris Vallejo. There were a lot of illustration artists I admired, like David Wilcox and others whom I've sort of forgotten since then. I had their names to tell you but I just can't remember them right now. But Michael Whelan was probably the biggest influence so not only meeting him in Winnepeg but having him stop me and offer encouragement was really a big deal.

(I was) nearly seven years at TSR, actually it was just over seven years.

Going in, I thought I'd stay a couple of years then see what happened. It was pretty brilliant. I learned a lot. I learned more in those seven years than I did in art school and the fifteen years between. So... I was talking about that once to Jane Frank and said pretty much that. And she said that “it's a great school isn't it?” and I said “yeah it is a really good school.” And this is a good school too. You come here and talk to Donato (Giancola), or Tom Kidd, Don Maitz, all these guys. The energy you get from communing, it's wonderful. It's a very supportive industry too. In advertising, man, you don't get secrets, you don't get hints, tips, they're all secretive and jealously guard their clients. It's not that way in this industry. Everybody's helpful and encouraging. They're willing to tell you how they did anything, introduce you to people. It's like finding a family. Very uplifting.

LV: Do you have any inspiration that really stands out as your most (or) greatest source as far as family, animals, travel?

TL: It comes from every one of those sources and more, dreams, memories, books you've seen, or hanging out at the National Gallery all day the other day, and the persons or (unintelligible) this morning. Seeing great art from masters. (It) gives you ideas. Yeah, I grew up on Walt Disney and science fiction movies and “Lost in Space” and “Star Trek”, and “G.I. Joe”, I mean all those things, they're all in my work to some extent or another. The first movie I remember seeing was “Sleeping Beauty” ...because of the dragon. I think I was a year old when it came out but I remember seeing that when I was tiny, tiny.

LV: We can see to your left that you have several pictures that are dragons.

TL: Dragons, go figure.

Both: (chuckling, and laughter)

LV: But, would you say that every artist has to have that dragon in the bag, so to speak,

TL: Sure, Sure

LV: There a way of drawing a dragon to make theirs stand out from the crowd?

TL: In fact that was one of my biggest professional thrills, getting to design the look of the dragons for (Dungeons and Dragons) third edition. I got to fix every pet peeve I'd ever had about dragons. I've given them musculature for the wings, which is something you never see. It's sort of something just stuck in the side of a lizard's body. What's lifting them into the air? I want to see something beefy under their arms.

LV: So what is it about the anatomy, what do you use for a reference point?

TL: There is a lot of references. But the one that jelled in my head even before I was aware of it was that personality-wise they are more like cats than any other animal. Just that disdainful, wrapping themselves in their own superiority, that's

cats, that's not lizards. Iguanas don't do that, they're just (dopey voice) “Where's the sun?”

That's not a dragon. A dragon is proud, athletic, lithe, and arrogant. Everything that the king of beasts has - dragons should have. That's the way I see it. So I start from a cat's anatomy for some of the structural details of the dragon. Even their heads tend to have a more cat-like proportion than a lizard-like proportion. (They) just have a long neck, and a tail, different claws. But some of its lizard, bird scale patterns, but they're more advanced than some side-walking lizards. So I started with a cat, the ultimate predator on this planet. That's how I see dragons.

LV: Do you use any computer tools as far as aiding you in figuring out a painting, as far as...

TL: Yeah, actually I do a lot of digital paintings these days just for time and speed. And 'cause a lot of clients demand digital files - don't want to be bothered with shipping and insuring and photographing and scanning paintings and crating and shipping them back. They just want you to upload something to them, and that's kind of the way it's going. Some artists are still painting, but then having digital shots done and just sending the digital files. Which is something I would do more of. But most of the time if it's going to be a digital painting; it starts digitally and ends digitally.

I started this painting on the computer, and did the drawing on the computer, printed it out in two pieces, taped them together, and took them down to Kinkos and used their big document printer and copied it on to watercolor paper. Which is I how I was doing my drawings before. Then mounting it on masonite and sealing it and going over it with oils. Unlike most collaborations, this started digitally and finished traditionally; which I much prefer. I like to have a painting when I'm done.

LV: With the accessibility through the internet, do you worry about image theft?

TL: All the time; it can be a real problem. I have to go back to my website and remove some images that are too big because they can be downloaded and printed out. I've even had people download images, print them out, and mail them to me and ask (for) them to be signed. You have to draw the line somewhere, 'cause that's ... in essence, that's theft. They want value for nothing. Recently, right before I went to London for EuroGencon, my webservice provider went out of business. And I had to get a new server in a hurry, and within two weeks they dropped me for bandwidth over-usage. Well I had five gigabytes of bandwidth, that's more than the New York Times uses. They said “well, you exceeded that.” And I got my web guy on it and we got to looking into it and we

(Continued on page 16)

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discovered that D&D fans were hot-linking to my site to get pictures of their characters to attach to every email they sent. And they were in these forums doing this, sending e-mails back and forth. Within two weeks (they used) five gigabytes at fifty kilobytes a pop. Itty-bitty little images by the thousands; it shut me down. It cost me like two hundred dollars to get back up and in business. And that's theft, they took two hundred dollars out of my pocket. It's a problem.

The flip side is accessibility, of course; I get letters from all over the world. That's great! That's a real thrill. That art and the game of Dungeons & Dragons transcended borders and brought people together, that's just an amazing thing. The internet is a really powerful tool for community. So there is a trade out sure, and so I'm willing to accept some of that loss. And plus, people can buy prints online, can buy my book online. So there is some benefit.

If you downloaded a bunch of my images, if you have a desktop full of my images, send me ten bucks.

(Laughter)

LV: Have you had any unusual humorous adventure at a convention?

TL: Yes

LV: Go ahead

TL: Well, the ones that come to mind immediately, I really don't want to share (Chuckle). They involve late nights and ... well let's leave it at that.

(Laughter)

TL: There was one kind of fun story, it's in my book. There was a cover I did for a Tanith Lee collection, "The Mask of Venus." I had done an illustration for her before in "Realms of Fantasy" magazine. She actually wrote me through the publisher to tell me how happy she was with it. We talked a little bit and I really liked her so when the opportunity came to do this cover I jumped at it 'cause I really enjoyed her. I didn't have time to read the book and they didn't have an outline they could give me. So I called Tanith, I really wanted to pick her brain for information on her book. We talked for a good hour and a half, and I took a bunch of notes, it was very pleasurable and I thanked her, then put the notes aside and finished the project I was doing. A month later I was ready to start her cover and I couldn't find my notes, I looked and looked and looked, they were gone. I don't know what happened. So I kind of sheepishly called her back. I got her husband I guess it was, on the phone. I said is Tanith there? He said she is but she can only talk for a minute, she just found out five minutes ago her father died. (Long pause) OH! I felt so bad, 'cause I had to tell her look 'I lost your notes, I was hoping we could talk again.' She said 'I really can't talk now I'll see if

I can come up with some notes for you.' She got my fax number and we hung up. I felt like the dictionary definition of a heel. Just a complete schmuck. But the next Saturday in my fax suddenly came three pages of detailed notes about the book. It blew me away. And I took those and did a nice cover. I was very grateful and thought "wow, what a lot of class!" Well, forward a couple of years to World Fantasy in Providence. I took that painting, along with some others, and it was the only painting I dared put a price on. The others needed to go to other shows or were committed to somebody else or I just didn't want to part with them, but I thought if I could sell one of these to cover my costs to be here, I should. So reluctantly I put a price on the "Mask of Venus" piece. And the next day Ron Dalotski (SP?) came up to me and said there's some lady that wants to buy that painting and she's looking for you. I

thought "well...ok." Cause I had been thinking "You know if this is still kicking around in a year I'm going to send it to Tanith. I'm just going to give it to her, 'cause she was so sweet. And I feel like I owe her that much." But here's someone wanting to buy it. Oh well, shoot.

Turns out it was, and I may get her name wrong, Ellen Asher (Sp) maybe? It was the woman who edited the book and wanted to buy the cover as a gift for Tanith. So it worked out perfectly. 'Cause I got to cover the cost of the trip, she got to give the perfect gift, and the painting wound up where I wanted it. Very cool!

HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM...

Hello, fellow fen: I'm Leslie Fish. For those of you who know me, I won't ask how many of you first heard of me by way of my most notorious song, "Banned From Argo". For those of you who don't know me, go see "Trekkies 2" when it comes out; that damned song is featured in it – and so am I.

Now to the problem. In early May I caught a really nasty kidney infection that kept me bouncing in and out of the hospital (two of them, actually) for the next couple months while the doctors searched for (and ultimately found, thank Ghu) an antibiotic that would kill the infection without killing me. Those of you who saw me perform at WesterCon may have noticed that I spent most of my performance-time sitting down – and there's a reason for it; over those two months, either the infection or the antibiotics or a combination of both stripped all the tone out of my muscles – ALL my muscles, with the exception of my heart, thank Goddess. For the last several weeks I've been trying to recover my strength, but it's taking for-bloody-ever. Meanwhile, I'm weak as the proverbial kitten; I can't sit up and work at the typewriter/computer very long, can't stand up for very long either, and can't walk far. Among other things, I can't stand up long enough to do housework, let alone repairs, or even cook for myself.

Well, it's time to see how many friends I've got in the valley, because what I badly need now is to live with a friend or two, not just indifferent tenants.

Is there anybody out there who's willing to move in with me and take over a good bit of the housework and maintenance – in exchange for reduced rent (the landlord won't let me make it for free) and...tutorials?

Let me put it this way: if you'll move in and help me take care of this place I'll give you a total rent-plus-utilities of \$360 per month – and I'll teach everything I know about music, Sci-Fi writing, and...magic.

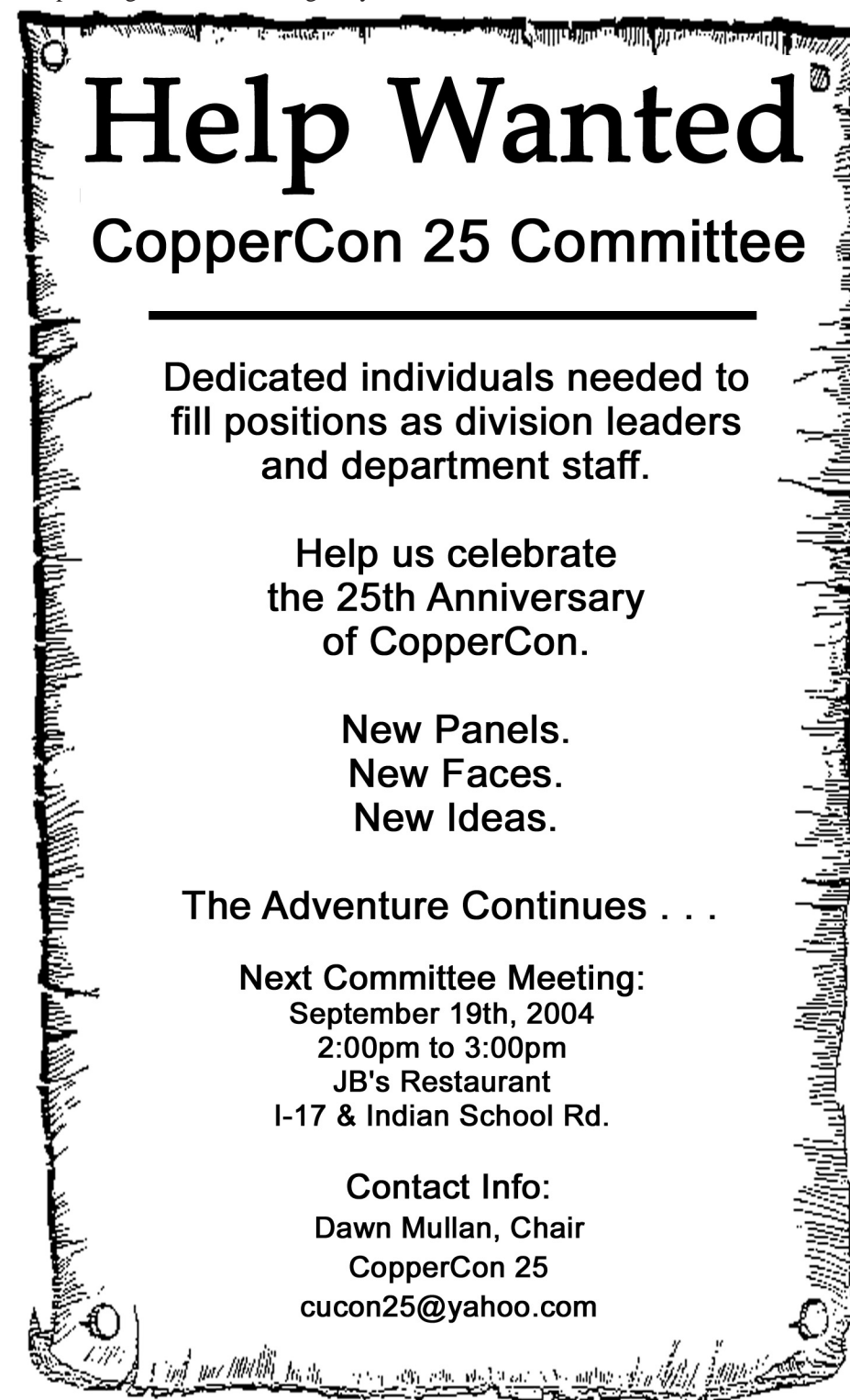
Caveats: the landlord insists (after bad experiences with deadbeats) that you prove you have a job or at least a reliable income, and that I talk to your previous landlord. Also, you must be capable of putting up with smoking, cats, and evaporative cooling.

I do, however, have Cox cable-modem – which can expand to serve up to seven computers in one house. Yes, it's as fast and reliable as you've heard and has its own virus-filtering system.

If interested, phone me at 623-247-7809, or email TheFish@LeslieFish.com.

Yes, this is for real, folks.

So, how many friends have I got out there? --Leslie (<);))><



Help Wanted

CopperCon 25 Committee

Dedicated individuals needed to fill positions as division leaders and department staff.

Help us celebrate the 25th Anniversary of CopperCon.

**New Panels.
New Faces.
New Ideas.**

The Adventure Continues . . .

**Next Committee Meeting:
September 19th, 2004
2:00pm to 3:00pm
JB's Restaurant
I-17 & Indian School Rd.**

**Contact Info:
Dawn Mullan, Chair
CopperCon 25
cucon25@yahoo.com**

Calendar of Events - August/September 2004

To have your event or meeting listed please email calendar@casfs.org - **Deadline for October/November Submissions - September 15, 2004**
(This is a free service. All release dates are tentative)

August

August 3 - Tuesday

TV/DVD: Sliders Season 1/2, STTNG
The Picard Collection

August 6 - Friday

Meeting: CASFS - 8PM at JB's at I-17 &
Indian School Info: info@casfs.org
Movie: Code 46 (LA/NY)

August 7 - Saturday

Meeting: UFP Pool Party

August 8 - Sunday

TV: The 4400 marathon & Season Finale
- USA

August 10 - Tuesday

TV/DVD: Alf Season 1, Highlander
Season 5, Andromeda Vol 4.1

August 13 - Friday

Movie: Alien vs. Predator, Yu-Gi-Oh!

August 15 - Sunday

Meeting: CopperCon 24 Hotel Walk Thru
at Embassy Suites North Info:
the_lop@doverkeep.com

August 17 - Tuesday

TV/DVD: Babylon 5 Movies Set,
MutantX X Vol 2.3

August 18 - Wednesday

Book Discussion: 7PM at Barnes &
Noble Metro Center. Book: Howling
Stones by Alan Dean Foster Info:
books@casfs.org

August 20 - Friday

Event: Fannish Open House at Craig &
Stephanie's place - Info:
laetitia@doverkeep.com
Movie: Exorcist: The Beginning, Hero

August 21 - Saturday

Meeting: Video Production

August 22 - Sunday

Meeting: CopperCon 25 Committee
Meeting 2PM at JB's at I-17 & Indian
School Info cu25@yahoo.com
Meeting: HexaCon 14 Wrap Up 4PM at
JB's at I-17 & Indian School Info: Mike
Willmoth
<mwillmoth@compuserve.com>

August 24 - Tuesday

TV/DVD: Farscape Season 3, Futurama
Season 4, Harsh Realm Complete Series,
Munsters Season 1

August 27 - Friday

Meeting: CASFS - 8PM at JB's at I-17 &
Indian School Info: info@casfs.org
Movie: Anacondas: The Hunt for the
Blood Orchid

August 28 - Saturday

Signing - Brian erbert & Kevin J Ander-
son, Poisoned Pen Bookstore,
www.poisonedpen.com

August 28 - Sunday

Meeting: SWCG 1PM - Info
webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org
Meeting: CopperCon 24 Committee 2PM
at JB's at I-17 & Indian School Info

August 31 - Tuesday

TV: Father of the Pride Debut - NBC
TV/DVD: Star Trek TOS Season 1,

September

September 4 - Saturday

Meeting: UFP Elections, Video

September 7 - Tuesday

Movie/DVD: Star Trek Generations
Collectors Edition
TV/DVD: Alias Season 3, Angel Season
4, Twilight Zone (2002) Complete Series,
Martian Chronicles

September 10-12 - Friday-Sunday

Event: CopperCon 24 - Embassy Suites
North www.coppercon.org

September 12 - Sunday

TV: Charmed Season Premiere - The WB

September 15- Wednesday

Book Discussion: 7PM at Barnes &
Noble Metro Center. Book: So You Want
To Be A Wizard by Diane Duane Info:
books@casfs.org

September 17 - Friday

Event: Fannish Open House at Craig &
Stephanie's place - Info:
laetitia@doverkeep.com
Movie - Sky Captain and the World of
Tomorrow
TV: Enterprise Season Premiere - UPN

September 18 - Saturday

Meeting: UFP Calendar Planning

September 19 - Sunday

Meeting: CopperCon 25 Committee
Meeting 2PM at JB's at I-17 & Indian
School Info cu25@yahoo.com

September 21 - Tuesday

Movie/DVD: Star Wars Trilogy Box Set
TV/DVD: Andromeda Vol 4.2

September 22 - Wednesday

TV: Smallville Season Premiere - The
WB
TV: Lost Season Premiere - ABC

September 24 - Friday

Meeting: CASFS - 8PM at JB's at I-17 &
Indian School Info: info@casfs.org
Movie: The Forgotten
TV: Joan of Arcadia Season Premiere -
CBS

September 26 - Sunday

Meeting: SWCG 1PM - Info
webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org

September 28 - Tuesday

Movie/DVD: Van Helsing
TV/DVD: Star Trek Voyager Season 4,
Dark Shadows Collection 14

Upcoming Events

October 1 - Friday

Movie: Cursed, Resident Evil: Apoca-
lypse, Shark Tail

October 3 - Sunday

Meeting: ConNotations Labeling & Pot
Luck 4PM at Craig & Stephanie's place -
Info: laetitia@doverkeep.com

October 6 - Wednesday

Meeting: ConNotations Staff Meeting -
JB's (I-17 & Indian School) 7PM Info:
editor@casfs.org

October 8 - Friday

Meeting: CASFS - 8PM at JB's at I-17 &
Indian School Info: info@casfs.org

Ongoing Events

Wednesdays

6pm New Comics Arrive!
6pm Hero Clix Tournaments
6pm Mech WarriorTournaments
6pm L5R CCG

Thursdays

6pm Camarilla Anarch Game
6pm Mechwarrior Dark Age Tournament
6pm Magic ThG type 1.5 Tournament
6pm Warmachine League

Fridays

6pm Magic the Gathering DCI Sanctioned
7pm HeroClix Tournament
7pm Magic: The Gathering Tournaments

Saturdays*

AllDay Warhammer Fantasy & 40K
Noon Hack Tournament
Noon Duel Masters Tournaments
3pm YU-GI-OH Tournaments
6pm Anime Club Meeting

Sundays*

Noon YU-GI-OH Tournaments
3pm Dragonball Z CCG Tournament
6pm Dragon Page Live Fire SF/F Radio Talk Show -

Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback
Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback
Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback
Imperial Outpost, 49th Ave & Thunderbird
Kiwanis Park
Imperial Outpost, 49th Ave & Thunderbird
Imperial Outpost, 49th Ave & Thunderbird
Imperial Outpost, 49th Ave & Thunderbird
Imperial Outpost, 49th Ave & Thunderbird
Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback
Imperial Outpost, 49th Ave & Thunderbird
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CASFS Book Discussion

The CASFS Book Discussion is held monthly at the Barnes & Noble bookstore at Metrocenter, 10235 N. Metro Parkway East. We will be meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at 7PM

On **August 18** we will discuss *Howling Stones* by **Alan Dean Foster**, CopperCon 24's Author Guest of Honor, on **September 15** we will discuss *So You Want To Be A Wizard* by **Diane Duane**, and on October 20 we will discuss *A Scanner Darkly* by **Philip K Dick**.

For more information contact Catherine <books@casfs.org>

Book Signing

Saturday August 28 - 12PM at the Poison Pen Bookstore located at 4014 N Goldwater in Scottsdale. - Brian Herbert signs *The Forgotten Heroes* (Forge \$25). Brian, son of *Dune* author Frank Herbert, has written about WWII's Merchant Marine, one of whom is Dean Beaumont of Scottsdale who figures prominently in the book and will be at the event along with Herbert. Also Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson will together sign *Dune: The Battle of Corrin* (Forge \$28).



In Our Book

Dead Until Dark
by **Charlaine Harris**
ACE, 260 pp, \$5.99

It seems vampires went public just a few years ago. Things are easier for them now that synthetic blood is available and one can usually find a willing "Fang Banger." They claim the blood craving and allergies to silver and sunlight are caused by a virus. Are they really? Sookie Stackhouse is a waitress at the local watering hole in a small Louisiana town. Being born a telepath gave her a rather limited social life until she met Bill Compton, a civil war veteran and her vampire paramour. Now somebody is killing women who consort with vampires. Sookie fears she may be next.

The book has well-drawn characters, good atmosphere, and an engaging mystery plot. It's the first of the "Southern Vampire Series," which now includes four volumes. This was the June selection for the CASFS Book Discussion Group. Come join us on the third Wednesday evening of every month at the Barnes & Noble store at Metrocenter in Phoenix.

That term "southern vampire series" kind of stuck in my mind. May Ms. Harris and Mr. Foxworthy forgive me for what follows. - **Randall Whitlock**

You May be a Redneck Vampire If

1. They call you "Colonel Dracula" or "Boss Feratu."
2. Your crypt is decorated with NASCAR posters.
3. You are repelled by garlic, but attracted to cayenne pepper.
4. Ironically, crosses now burn YOU.
5. There are tobacco juice stains on your fangs.
6. You can turn into a possum, alligator, or raccoon.
7. Your ghoulish servant subsists on june bugs and boll weevils.
8. Moonshine turns you into a howling beast. (Heck, it does that to ever'body.)
9. Your favorite songs include "Southern Nights," "Bad Moon Rising," and "Elvira."
10. There are several half-junked hearses parked in front of your castle. The one that still runs has nekkid lady mudflaps and a Bela Lugosi bobblehead on the dash.
11. Your three brides wear denim short-shorts and plaid shirts tied up in the front.
12. Your victims wake up complaining about "them dadgum big skeeters."
13. Your place was haunted until the ghosts moved out, muttering something about "property values."
14. You ask for O Negative syrup at the Waffle House. It comes with a side of grits.
15. You can't get into the blood bank, so you try the payday advance place.

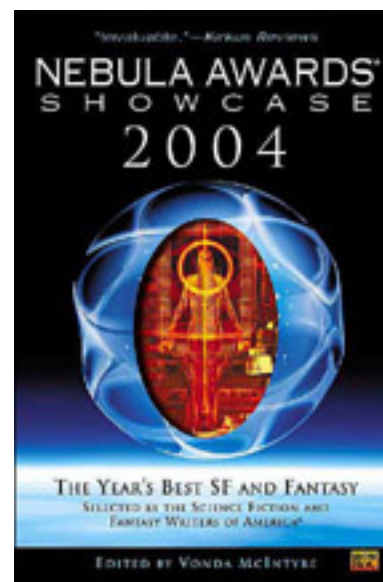
Crawlers
by **John Shirley**
Del Rey, 384 pp, \$14.95

John Shirley has been called "one of the most original voices in fiction today." It surely wasn't for this book. He may have won the Horror Writer's Assn. Bram Stoker Award and others like it but it couldn't have been for this book. This book was utterly unremarkable except for the fact it was so durned clichéd. I know I've seen this story done many times before both in print and on the small screen. I could even tell how it would end and what the characters would do before I was half finished.

Military project goes awry, nasty little nano-technology bugs go berserk and take over humans. They take over a town, starting with the adults/parents. Military quarantines the town to take notes. Rogue military officer takes matters into his own hands to put right what went wrong. Teenagers are last to be affected, only ones to see that something's wrong. Token adults, savvy teens and military officer combine forces to defeat the buggers just before the military tries to bomb them out of existence to stop the inevitable spread and takeover of the whole planet. There's even a scene where the officer has to plant the killer device right in the spot where the 'mother' creature is nested. Is everyone nodding their heads and saying, "Yep, seen that, read that..."? - **Catherine Book**

Nebula Awards Showcase 2004
edited by **Vonda N. McIntyre**
ROC Books, 281 pp., \$14.95

This trade paperback's subtitle sums it up well: the year's best SF and fantasy, selected by the Science Fiction Writers of America. Stories by Ursula Le Guin, Neil



Gaiman, Ted Chiang, Richard Chwedyk, Jack McDevitt, Charles Stross, Adam-Troy Castro, Megan Lindholm, Michael Swanwick, Katherine MacLean, and Carol Emshwiller. Of these eleven tales, five involve genetic engineering - a trend? Non-fiction entries include the 2003 final Nebula

ballot and all past winners, remembering Damon Knight, Molly Gloss intros Le Guin's story, and Sharon Lee intros MacLean's story.

You really should read this collection, to see how good the best really is. These stories inspire sense of wonder and other emotions, too, while taking your imagination in flight. Well done. - **Mike Griffin**

the boys are back in town
by **Christopher Golden**
Bantam Spectra Dark Fantasy, 347 pp,
\$12.00

Will James' tenth high school reunion should have been a fun romp down nostalgia lane except that his old buddy Mike wasn't there as they had planned the week before. And, when he mentioned Mike to their other friends, he wasn't prepared for their shocked reaction. After all, everyone remembers the hit-and-run that killed Mike in their senior year. Will doesn't remember it that way... at first. Now, his memories are changing and he's not only losing Mike, but his very best lifelong friend, Ashleigh, is changing in front of his eyes. But it takes a great deal more to happen to Will and his friends before he remembers why; and why he chose to forget what happened in his senior year. Once he understands what's been put into motion, he frantically tries to prevent the tinkering someone is doing to his and his friends' past. But that someone is always one step ahead of him and his best efforts are worthless.

This is not science fiction, this is beautifully plotted horror. I personally hate gratuitous violence that is currently marketed as horror. This little book is a gem. The reader's involvement escalates in pace with our would-be hero's. I felt his horror as he gained understanding. Mr. Golden doesn't have a superfluous word in the whole book; it's a wonderful plot with well-defined characters. The 'horror' is subtle yet insidious. The ending rushed up at me and (warning, cliché imminent...) I literally couldn't put the book down. Now I gotta go find more of this guy's stuff... - **Catherine Book**

House of War
by **Judith Tarr**
Roc Trade; 376 pp., \$16.00

Poor me. To have a better handle on what was happening in this latest Judith Tarr novel, I had to read her previous work, *Devil's Bargain*.

What a terrible trial, to be sure. NOT!

I love Judith Tarr's works. I love the way she deals with magic, mages and elves. As a matter of fact, she has written the best books about elves, outside of Tolkien. (Try her Hound and the Falcon series. Fabulous!)

(Continued on page 19)

In Our Book (Continued from page 18)

Anyway, there are no elves in these two books (sigh), just the larger-than-life Richard the Lionheart, his respected opponent, Saladin and a host of other wonderful characters. *House of War* deals with the struggle between the Dark and the Light and the fate of Jerusalem.

Characters from the previous book are all here: Ahmad, sultan of Cairo and married to Richard's half sister, the very fey Sioned who is a healer and a mage (as is Ahmad.) The very clever and subtle Mustapha, "the King's Dog," a Muslim that has given his loyalty to Richard. And of course, the nasty, nasty baddie Sinan, the Old Man of the Mountain—the head of the deadly assassins.

There are new characters too: Sioned and Ahmad's daughter, Teleri and the master healer and mage Judah's son, Benjamin. Berengaria, Richard's abandoned wife plays a pivotal role. And for Mustapha, a wonderful Roman mage who becomes his lover, and the holder of a very important secret, which proves crucial to Sinan's war on all who oppose him, and on Jerusalem and Richard, specifically.

Oh, wait, there is also the Ark of the Covenant. You might remember its awesome power from the movie *Raiders of the Lost Ark*....

The Ark is used to full force here and becomes the heart of the struggle between the Old Man of the Mountain (who just

won't stay dead) and the amassed might of Muslim, Christian and Jewish soldiers and their respective mages. Sinan wants the Seal of Solomon (which was central to the previous book) AND the Ark of the Covenant. With these two immensely powerful relics, he would be able to swallow the whole world in darkness and despair.

And to start off the conflict, the Old Man strikes at the heart of Ahmad and Sioned by attacking their children.

There will be hell to pay, as it were.

Ms. Tarr sets the mood and the environment of her tales. I have been to Egypt, but not Israel or the surrounding countries. Ms. Tarr makes the landscape so vivid and real, the dryness, the broken, rocky *wadis* and canyons and the occasional oasis. And the dust. But equally fine are her fragrant, colorful gardens and the hustle and bustle of large cities.

I love being there.

Her characters are so well drawn out, flaws and all, that you really root for them and get caught up in their concerns.

And historically, her flavor is very telling and convincing; even though this is a "historical fantasy romance."

But "House of War" is fascinating and engrossing and so smoothly and stylishly written.

I can't wait for the next book. - **Sue Martin**

Star Wars: New Jedi Order Force Heretic III: Reunion Sean Williams and Shane Dix Del Rey, 432 pp, \$6.99

The *New Jedi Order, Force Heretic III: Reunion* is book 17 and the last of the Force Heretic Trilogy by Sean Williams and Shane Dix. This novel represents the apex of the Zonoma Sekot storyline in this trilogy and the best hope the galaxy has for defeating the Yuuzhan Vong.

The multiple story lines are given detail and attention that make Star Wars a great read.

From Luke, Mara, Jacen, Danni, Saba, and Tekli finding Zonoma Sekot to Han, Leia, Tahiri, Jag, Jaina, and C-3PO saving Esfandia, readers are taken on a journey across the galaxy. Nom Anor is as malevolent and self-serving as ever. Tahiri has a breakthrough with her multiple personalities. The Imperials engage the enemy at Zonoma Sekot and Esfandia in epic battles.

On Zonoma Sekot, the native people, known as the Ferroans, do not appreciate the newcomers. Their apathy turns to aggression when Danni is kidnapped. In an attempt to rescue her, Jacen follows. Leaving the others behind, Luke tries to negotiate with the natives and the living planet, but discovers that the Zonoma Sekot is curious about its own consciousness as well as tests its new Jedi visitors.

On Esfandia, Han and Leia meet the unlikely of creatures, the Cold Ones, floating in the atmosphere of Esfandia. Bargaining with the creatures in order to stop the Yuuzhan Vong, Han and Leia must find a way to stop the destruction of the communications relay stations. The Cold Ones become an unusual ally in their efforts.

Though the book is better than the preceding two, there are bad points with the good. Nom Anor and the heretics' arc do not progress. Rather this element seems a bit of a side story. Tahiri's mending of her split personality is predictable but turns out to be a better storyline than expected. She becomes one with her polar opposite personalities. She is not perfect, but not insane. I do wish someone besides Timothy Zahn could write Mara instead of making her one dimensional. The best part of the novel besides the Zonoma Sekot storyline was Droma and the Ryn spy network. These aliens are so diffused that their spy network actually works against the Yuuzhan Vong.

This novel became a fast paced, genuine story in which the characters are not even convinced what the ending will be. Concept is insightful. The reader gets more familiar with the thought processes of the characters. The story combination is a truly intriguing formula and sets up the next stand alone book in the New Jedi Order series nicely. - **Dawn Mullan**

Star Wars: New Jedi Order The Final Prophecy by Greg Keyes Del Rey, 320 pp, \$6.99

The *New Jedi Order, The Final Prophecy* is book 18 by Greg Keyes. This book read better than his duology of the series: *Edge of Victory I and II*. In *The Final Prophecy*, Keyes flourishes even with a sluggish beginning to this story. The action and characters are developed and executed well.

The story opens with Tahiri on Dagobah on a personal quest and finds the Yuuzhan Vong searching the planet. In the jungle, a Shamed One gives her another duty to fulfill: take the news of the prophesied world to the Prophet. Tahiri returns to keep her promise while maintaining her Jedi allegiance.

The Galactic Federation of Free Alliances has other plans. Tahiri will accompany Corran Horn to Zonoma Sekot. Unfortunately, some Yuuzhan Vong decided they should go along too: Nem Yim, Harrar, and the Prophet (aka Nom Anor.) Corran Horn and Tahiri take the three to the living world. There, Nem Yim finds the parallels between the planet and her people. Harrar comes to terms with the knowledge of the planet. The Prophet unveils himself as Nom Anor killing the other two Yuuzhan Vong and reporting his position to the Supreme Overlord's forces and sabotaging the living planet.

Meanwhile, General Wedge Antilles, Admiral Pelleon, and Pash Cracken set up an ambush for the Yuuzhan Vong at Bilbringi to retake the system. The problem is that Pelleon and Cracken await General Antilles's orders to join the fight and, with the communication relays down, Wedge was going to be waiting a long time for reinforcements.

The Final Prophecy lends its storylines to the series while setting up for the end novel nearly flawlessly. Though I would have liked Corran, Tahiri, and the Yuuzhan Vong's presence to have been more quickly adapted into the storyline, the book is a good read and a fantastic showing by Keyes. The highlights in this novel are numerous from Nom Anor's betrayal of Nem Yim, Harrar and sabotage of the planet to Corran Horn and Tahiri's shaky relationship growing into a new mentorship. Star Wars fans should be satisfied with this one. - **Dawn Mullan**

Holder of Lightning The Cloudmages #1 by S.L. Farrell DAW, 618 pp, \$6.99

The mage lights have returned to the sky - those magical lights that allow the holders of a Cloch to perform wonders beyond belief. Jenna Aoire is just a simple 17-year-old peasant girl who has found a pretty stone lying on the ground. Who could ever

(Continued on page 20)

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In Our Book (Continued from page 19)

imagine that such a little stone could turn her life upside down? For her little pebble is the Lamh Shabhala, the key to reawakening all the cloches. The rich and powerful want her stone but Jenna can't give it up. Oh, how is a poor little peasant girl going to defend herself against the power, deceit and treachery of the most powerful lords in the land?

This novel is billed as the first story in a multi-generational saga set in a Celtic milieu. The main character is well developed and interesting. The villains tend to be shallow, undeveloped, and colorless. The author's attempt to use dialect is a disaster. If you are really into long-running sword and sorcery epics you might want to pick up a copy of this book when it goes onto the discount table but I cannot recommend paying full price for this book. - **William B. Whitmore**

Mage of Clouds
The Cloudmages #2
by **S.L. Farrell**
DAW, 514 pp, \$23.95

Meriel is the daughter of Jenna Aoire MacEagan, the first holder of the Lamh Shabhala. Meriel is not like her mother, she does not want to become a holder of Lamh Shabhala. Kidnapped by her uncle, Meriel is forced to become more than she ever thought she could be. With stubborn determination, Meriel wins through to a very surpassing conclusion.

This is the second book in the Cloudmages series. Billed as a multi-generational saga this book is an improvement over the first book. The villains are better developed, the supporting characters are more believable but the author still has not mastered the use of dialect. This novel should appeal to the fans of epic sword and sorcery sagas. - **William B. Whitmore**

Devlin's Justice
by **Patricia Bray**
Bantam Spectra, 388 pp, \$6.50

Devlin's Justice is Book # of the *Sword of Change* series.

Devlin of Duncar has retrieved the Sword Of Light. But while he was doing so, dark forces took over the Jorsk Court. Devlin is betrayed, and he and the sword are turned over to the enemy. Jorsk comes under attack, and Devlin must escape his captors and assemble his own guerilla army. But the invaders are only the first wave of evil that will force Devlin to sacrifice everything to prevent Armageddon.

The Devlin series each stand alone. They are page turners, making an excellent read. Definitely worth the time. A good addition to your Fantasy Library. - **Pam Allan**

Taking Time
by **Lynn Abbey**
ACE, 328 pp, \$6.50

Taking Time is part of the "Time" series featuring Emma Merrigan, librarian and curse hunter. In *Taking Time*, Emma must travel back through time and discover the origin of a curse that has plagued a family for generations. With the help of an on-again, off-again mother and her friends, she must tread a fine line between guidance and interference, avoid the Contro; a sort of a curse hunter's association, and allow a disaster to happen to save the future. Oh, and handle personnel problems and budget cuts at the college library.

The book is fun and hard to put down, good characters and action, a definite addition to contemporary fantasy libraries. - **Pam Allan**

Star Corps
Book One of the
Legacy Trilogy
by **Ian Douglas**
EOS, 453 pp, \$7.50

John Garroway joined the Marines to get away from an abusive father. He just didn't realize how far away he would get. Eight light years away, the An have attacked. The shattered remnant of a once great star-spanning empire, the An have dreams of recreating their past glory and it is up to the Marines to teach them the errors of their ways.

Set two hundred years after the Heritage Trilogy, *Star Corps* is a good action adventure. The characters are well-developed, the combat is believable, and the history is explained enough to make this a stand-alone story. I greatly enjoyed this novel and eagerly look forward to the next two in the series. - **William B. Whitmore**



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Dime Store Magic

by **Kelly Armstrong**

Bantam Spectra. 414 pp, \$6.99

Dime Store Magic is part of the *Women of the Otherworld* series which includes *Bitten*, and *Stolen*. Each one stands alone.

Paige Winterborne, 23-year-old witch and web page designer, has adopted an exceedingly powerful 13-year-old witch following the violent death of her mother. She

is also the leader of the American Coven of Witches who disapprove of her and her ward, Savannah; and want no one to know they exist. Paige must survive the attacks of multiple otherworld minions of the sorcerers' Cabal while dealing with a budding romance with a sorcerer. Through lots of hair-raising episodes she must out-wit her enemies, control her smart mouth and Savannah while overcoming long odds.

(Continued on page 21)

In Our Book (Continued from page 20)

Dime Store Magic is both stylish and full of action done with humor and humanity. Gotta love it. - **Pam Allan**

Across the Sea of Suns by Gregory Benford Aspect, 506 pp, \$6.99

Across the Sea of Suns is Book 2 of the *Galactic Center* series. Like *In the Ocean of Night*, it can stand alone.

The year is 2076. Earth's first starship, Lancer, is on a mission to find new civilizations. Although aging astronaut Nigel Walmsey may be the expert, nobody believes his theory that machines are the dominant intelligence in the universe, and they are out to eliminate organic life.

After they discover once-living planets where only machines survive, and survivors hide from lethal AI warships, views begin to change. But the machines have discovered Lancer, and are attacking Earth.

Once again, Benford makes an exciting hard science fiction adventure with my favorite virtues, good characters, tight plotting, and a sense of thoughtful analysis that hold a reader to the last page. This series deserves space in every library. - **Pam Allan**

The Zenith Angels by Bruce Sterling Del Ray, 306 pp, \$24.95

Derek Vandever, computer wizard, is living large. Happily married, with a new son and making more money than he can spend, he has everything but furniture when the planes hit the towers, and the S*** hits the fan. Co-opted by the government, he finds himself a financially poor cyberwarrior defending the nation's cyberware from enemies foreign and domestic

Sterling has written an often comic novel of info-war, homeland security, and politics. His insights may be scary, but the dry humor and suspense make a darn good read. You'll enjoy this one while wondering about the state of the cyber-union - **Pam Allan**

Sleeping with Shubert by Bonnie Marson Random House, 377 pp, \$21.95

Lisa Durbin, Brooklyn real estate attorney, is suddenly overcome by the urge to play the piano in Nordstrom's shoe department. She displays a never-before-heard, by her,

virtuosity. It turns out that she has been invaded by the spirit Franz Shubert wanting to tie up loose ends. As the world learns her secret, her family and others take over her life, planning concert tours and selling her to the public regardless of her wishes.

Lisa must try to hold onto her identity, and come to terms with what has happened. Poignant, funny and sometimes downright suspenseful by turns, the author's first book takes you on a roller coaster ride through the craziness of the arts and media. Worth a read. - **Pam Allan**

Musty Tomes

The Martian Sphinx by Keith Woodcott (John Brunner) Ace Books, 1965

There's a large polyhedral object on Mars that beckons to man, an object called the Sphinx. Also lurking on Mars is a pretty woman and a race of far-traveling aliens. Then another alien species arrives, and battle is joined with the earthmen. Here's an interesting name coinage: "Got to think of some other label than just 'alien' to refer to them. How about grays? We have blacks and browns and yellows among us, and a white; gray, a good neutral color for creatures who can't go by the distinctions we find all-important." This seems like a source pilfered by the UFO crowd. Still, writers have been putting Egyptian ruins on Mars since the old pulp magazines, so such ideas are common motifs. Mixed in with the space opera are salient comments by

Brunner on the decline of the west, war, race relations, and human motivation. It's fun on so many levels, nowadays. - **Mike Griffin**

The Caves of Steel by Isaac Asimov

So, you probably know that *I, Robot* is on the big screen now - so, here's the story that started it all (well, at least the title...). Set on a future Earth where the population is so large that huge underground cities house people who never see the sun or feel the wind on their face. Some have left Earth for the stars and are now considered separate from earthmen. Both 'races' have strengths and weaknesses that can either be their undoing or their salvation. These differences contribute greatly to the 'feel' and reasoning of the story.

Robots, an integral part of the Spacers' way of life, contribute to a luxurious standard of living. Robots are barely tolerated

(Continued on page 22)

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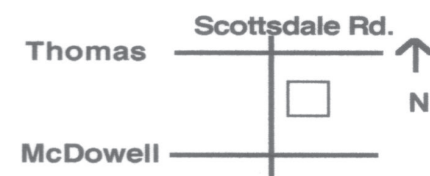
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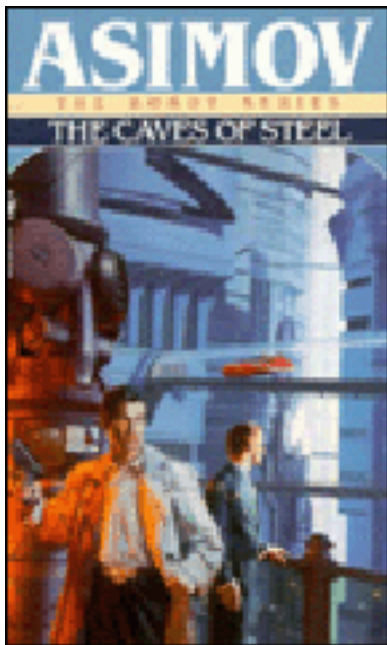
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at more and more jobs. Enter our hero – an Earthman Police Detective, Elijah Baley. Baley has been directed to investigate a dreadful murder which will have dire consequences for Earth and unexpected ones for the Spacers. The Spacers wish to have one of their own participate in the investigation; but, because of their lack of immunity to just about every germ on Earth, they send a robot – a very special robot that looks exactly like a human man. Despite Baley's issues with the robot, they do satisfactorily solve the murder. The ramifications of their partnership are the basis for several novels by Asimov. The author wrote several short stories and novelettes on this theme, coining the term 'robotics' along the way. Taken as a whole, these stories are a fascinating peek into our own genre history and a basis for many robot-themed stories. This is a highly recommended read. - **Catherine Book**

**The Color of Magic
by Terry Pratchett**

Harper Paperbacks, 227 pp, \$6.50

A reprint of the start of the Discworld series, now in its fifteenth or so novel. It contains four novellas, all on the misadventures of an incompetent wizard, his naive tourist buddy, and the tourist's luggage - made of sentient pearwood, self-walking on little feet, indestructible and able to devour all foes. Twenty years after publication, this book is still funny on my first time reading it. The wit is not dated, though some parodied characters may be. We get appearances by not-really-disguised Conan, Fafhrd, the Gray Mouser, with allusions to Amber. Most useful is a sixteen-page supplement on people, places, and a bibliography of the whole series. This is the perfect guide, so you have no excuse not to get started on this any more. - **Mike Griffin**

Club Listings

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.

Aerial Mirage Jugglers. Meets Wednesday 7-10pm in Encanto Park, 15th Avenue, south of Encanto. No dues, everyone welcome. All levels skill exchange in many areas of object manipulation Dave Davis <aerialmirage@gnerds.com>, 602-955-9446; or Ron Harvey <rbh1s@yahoo.com>, 602-863-0284 for more info or impromptu juggling sessions.

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 Local Tucson science fiction group that puts on TusCon. Contact us at PO Box 2528, Tucson AZ 85702-2528 or basfa@earthlink.net.

our website at home.earthlink.net/~basfa/

CENTRAL ARIZONA SPECULATIVE FICTION SOCIETY, INC. (CASFS)

The non-profit corporation that puts on CopperCon conventions, SmurfCons, HexaCons, occasional regional cons, and publishes Con-Notations. 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 re-enactment, 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

HELLMOUTH CENTRAL, a new group for fans of Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Angel, as well as the characters and actors who play them, is being formed in Central Phoenix. For additional information, call Jane at 602-266-7007

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 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 MIB.6361@cox.net

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@yahoogroups.com

PAREx is a non-profit, just for fun (Continued on page 23)

Club Listings (Cont'd from page 22)

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 interested in the entire realm of SF, Fantasy and Horror film. PFFS has been in existence for 25 years, meeting every 6 weeks in member's homes. Dues are \$10 per year. Membership includes newsletters, an annual film awards and various outings. For information, contact PFFS, P.O. Box 34023, Phoenix, AZ 85067 or call David Storck at (602) 274_7404, e_mail: Menzeez@aol.com.

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.

SAMURAI OTAKU ANIME CLUB The Samurai Otaku is a group of fans of anime, manga, and Japanese pop culture. Meetings are held every Saturday night at 6pm at Samurai Comics, 5024 N. 7th

St.. Mem-bers discuss anime and manga, work on a web comic, discuss fund raisers, and schedule club events. After each meeting the club views selected anime DVD's and plays games. Open to new members. Contact Moryha Banks—(602)265-8886, moryha!samuraicomics.com

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/>

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/

SUPERSTITIION 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 Interna-

(Continued on page 24)

JB's

is family

2560 W. Indian School Rd.

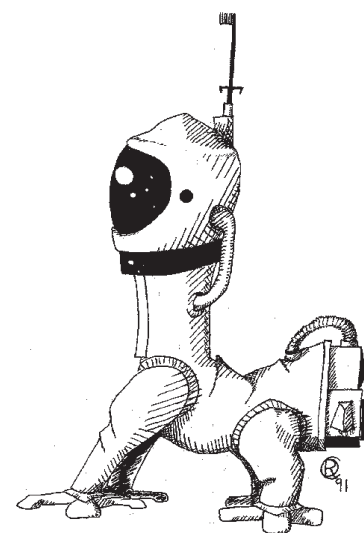
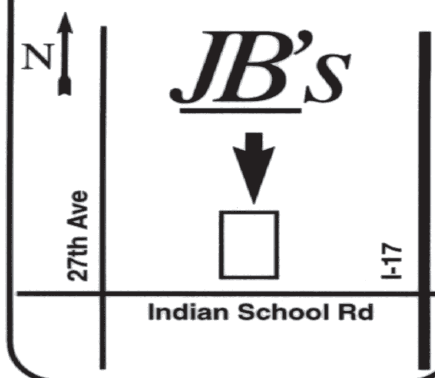
JB's Family Restaurant

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

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Kenny & Maureen Borden



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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

Club Listings (Cont'd from page 23)

tional 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 news-letter, *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 DMitchell@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 Star-fleet 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

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

Convention Listings

ArmadilloCon 26 (Austin TX) **August 13-15, 2004** Hilton North, Austin, TX; 1-512-451-5757; rms: \$99 sngl-quad. GoH: Sharon Shinn; FGoH: Chaz "Hazel" Boston Baden; TM: K.D. Wentworth; EGoH: Stan Schmidt; AGoH: Charles Vess; SGoH: TBA. Theme: Literary SF&F. Memb: \$35 until 7/25/04; \$40 after and at the door. Info: ArmadilloCon 26, PO Box 27277, Austin, TX 78755; 1-512-565-0637; armadillocontx@yahoo.com

Bubonicon 36 (Albuquerque NM) **August 27-29, 2004** Wyndham Airport Hotel, 2910 Yale Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, NM; 1-800-227-1117; rms: \$69 sngl-quad. GoH: Connie Willis; AGoH: David Mattingly; TM: Gardner Dozois. Theme: SF&F. Memb: \$27 until 8/14/04; \$30 at the door; Youths (12-16): \$15. Checks to: NMSF Conference. Info: PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176; 1-505-266-8905, 1-505-232-2892; bubonicon@att.net.

CopperCon 24 (Phoenix, AZ) **Sept 10-12, 2004**; Literary oriented SF/F Convention Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, Arizona Guests Author GoH Alan Dean Foster, Artist GoH Todd Lockwood; Local Author GoH Catherine Wells; Music Guest Leslie Fish Memb\$35 thru 8/27/04, \$40 at the door Hotel Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 W. Greenway Rd, Phoenix, AZ (602) 375-1777. Rooms\$79 S/D, \$89 T, \$99 Q (plus tax) Info CopperCon 24, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082, Phone (602) 973-2341, Emailcu24@coppercon.org; Website www.coppercon.org

Conjecture 3, (San Diego CA) **October 1-3, 2004** DoubleTree Club, Mission Valley, San Diego, CA Writer Guest of Honor C.S. Friedman Gaming Guest of Honor Jess Heinig Memberships\$35 thru 9/15/04, \$45 after and at the door Hotel Room Rates \$99 S/D/T/Q, 1-800-489-9671, or 619-881-6900 Emailinfo@conjecture.org Web www.conjecture.org

VegaCon (Las Vegas NV) **Oct 15-17, 2004 - CONVENTION CANCELLED** - A Fan Gathering with Author GoH Steven Brust may still happen - Info at www.vegacon.com or email vegacon@hovc.com

World Fantasy Convention 2004, (Tempe AZ) **Oct 28-31, 2004**, Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ Guests Author Guest of Honor Gwyneth Jones; Artist Guest of Honor Janny Wurts;

Editor Guest of Honor Ellen Datlow; Publisher Guest of Honor Betty Ballantine; Toastmistress Jennifer Roberson Memberships US\$160 currently at the door Hotel Rates\$155 S/D/T/Q (plus tax); Tempe Mission Palms, 60 E 5th St, Tempe, AZ 85281 (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.wfc2004.org

TusCon 31 (Tucson AZ) **Nov 5-7, 2004** - InnSuites Hotel, Tucson AZ Guests Fantasy Author GoH Barbara Hambly; Science and SF Guest of Honor William K. Hartmann, Fan Guest of Honor Carol De Priest; Toastmaster Ed Bryant Memberships \$40 until 9/07/04, and \$45 after that and at the door. One-days are \$15/30/15 for Fri/Sat/Sun. Children (ages 3-12) are ½ current adult rates. Hotel InnSuites Hotel, 475 North Granada, Tucson AZ 85701 Per night rates are \$79 (studio room) or \$89 (2-room suite). Reservations 1-877-446-6589, Fax 520-623-8922, Local 520-622-3000 Info TusCon, PO Box PO Box 2528, Tucson AZ 85702-2528 FAX us at 520-571-7180, Email basfa@earthlink.net Web <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/>

LepreCon 31 (Carefree AZ) **May 6-8, 2005** - Carefree Resort, Carefree, AZ Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention with an emphasis on art Artist GoH Dave Dorman; Author GoH Kevin J. Anderson; Special Artist Guest Bear Burge; Local Artist GoH Sarah Clemens; Room Rates\$89 S/D, \$99 T, \$109 Q (plus tax and \$9 resort fee per room) (480) 488-5300 or (888) 488-9034 Memberships are \$25 thru 8/31/04. \$30 thru 12/31/04; ; Kids 7-12 half price, Kids 6 & Under Free (with Adult membership) Write LepreCon 31, PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285, Phone (480) 945-6890, Emaillep31@leprecon.org Web <http://www.leprecon.org/lep31>

